

DOC-BOARD-19-11-13

## Humanitarian action

---

### Document for information and discussion

---

#### Purpose of this item

This item aims to update the Board on our work on international cooperation, following [EDF International Cooperation strategy](#) adopted in March 2019, and focusses now on inclusive humanitarian action. Board members will be updated on European and UN guidelines, and a dialogue with expert speakers aims to get the views of the board on the activities EDF should engage in 2020.

#### Questions for the board

- What is your organisation planning to do in 2020 in humanitarian action and where we could collaborate?
- What are the upcoming key dates where EDF should engaged in 2020?

#### Session at the Board

Two guests have been invited to talk at the Board on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. They are:

- **Ms Riikka MIKKOLA**, Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Policy and Funding, [Unit for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy](#), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Ms Mikkola will be speak about the work of Finland as the co-chair of the Humanitarian Action working group of the [Global Action on Disability \(GLAD\) Network](#). She will also update us on the launch of the “Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on humanitarian action and persons with disabilities”.

- **Ms Marjo Heinonen**, Executive Director, [Abilis Foundation](#).

Ms Heinonen will be speaking about the work Abilis Foundation is doing in humanitarian action.

## Context

In February, EDF Board adopted the new [EDF' strategy for international cooperation 2019-2022](#). Humanitarian action is part of objective five of the strategy, which focuses on “Innovation and learning”.

In 2019, EDF main activities related to humanitarian action was to focus on following up the ECHO guidelines on humanitarian action” as well as the “Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on humanitarian action and persons with disabilities”.

The [“ECHO’s guidance note on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operations”](#) is now finalised. EDF was consulted during the conception phase in 2018. This new guidance note was [launched](#) together with ECHO, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Humanity and Inclusion and EDF at the [European Development Days](#) in June 2019. EDF also officially asked ECHO to join the [Global Action on Disability \(GLAD\) Network](#) and contribute to the GLAD humanitarian action working group

We also are taking the opportunity of being in Finland to organise a session in this board to raise awareness among our members about humanitarian action work. In fact, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland is the co-chair of the [Humanitarian Action working group](#) of the GLAD Network and will be able to present its work and the progress made around IASC guidelines. As a reminder, EDF organised in December 2018, along with Human Rights Watch, the European consultation of the IASC guidelines. The guidelines will be launched at the United Nation in New York in mid-November and in Geneva at the of the year. Both dates need to be confirmed.