

ACCESSIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS – CENTRAL PLAYGROUND ON MAIN ROAD
DARASHAKRAN CAMP - ERBIL– DECEMBER 2014
TO PROMOTE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INJURIES AND OTHER VULNERABILITIES

Access to play (for development and learning) is a right for all children, including those with temporary limitations or permanent disabilities. Children with disabilities usually represent at least 15% of children and this is often higher in emergency settings¹. Access to playgrounds should be promoted through barrier-free features as well as positive staff attitude towards encouraging children with particular disabilities to use playgrounds. Parents with disabilities should also be able to access playgrounds to watch their children play and as needed monitor their safety, so accessibility for parents is necessary also for protection purposes.

Below we have noted some barriers existing in the current playground set-up and for solutions to overcome them. HI will be able to support the funding of modifications, upon acceptance of the service to these recommendations by camp management as it seems the Ngo that build the playground is not longer operating in Darashakran camp.

Main concerns of the playground is that it has a very poor entrance/entry pathway (down a steep hill). Secondly, there are several pieces of broken equipment pieces in playground that do not seem to be maintained as the NGO that build the playground left. HI will approach camp management to discuss safety of playground.

¹ WHO and World Bank, 2011

BARRIER AND DIFFICULTIES	PICTURE	Potential Solution
<p>Playground is at the bottom of a steep hill. Persons using wheelchairs or mobility aids cannot come down safely. As you can see in picture, a boy with a disability is crawling down the hill and his mother has parked his wheelchair at the top of the hill (red circles).</p>		<p>Need to have an accessible path that has 1:12 incline (for 1 cm of height, 12 cm of length of ramp) that can be used by wheelchair users, as well as having a handrail. Will need to have a zig-zag pathway with platform (green square) for persons to rest while coming to access space.</p> 

Due to lack of accessible pathway in playground areas (as well as inaccessible entry path/door), you see a mother carrying her son around playground.



Need to have a continuous pathway from door to various playground equipment (slides, swings) that is accessible).

The concrete pathway of playground is interrupted in some areas and not in other areas, this is not a good design for children who use mobility aids or who have visual impairments and who need to follow a path.

Consider installing a **CONTINUOUS** path (1.5m width or 90cm minimum) from door to connect with rest of concrete path (see green lines).

Lack of accessible playground due to lack of accessible path.



Ensure perimeter of playground has paved path that can access various areas of it. 90cm minimum in width, ideally 1.5 m wide.



Key parts of playground should be accessible by path (green lines)



Consider a continuous accessible pathway for children with mobility issues/equipment to be able to use.

Must be minimum 90cm in width, but ideally 1.5 metres.

Lack of accessible pathway within playground where children with disabilities can use.



Consider a continuous accessible pathway for children with mobility issues/equipment to be able to use.

Must be minimum 90cm in width, but ideally 1.5 metres.

Rocking elephant not accessible for all children with disabilities.



Have various 'ROCKING' EQUIPMENT, that provides hand hold, body support and foot hold for children with less ability to sit up (see picture below).

Also make rocker equipment with a longer and deeper seat so that an adult can sit behind child and rock with child for support, if needed. Rocker should be able to handle the weight of an adult.



Rocking equipment not universal and not accessible by all children.



Consider having rocking equipment used in group play, where children with less mobility sit inside the rocker area in the middle – see picture below.

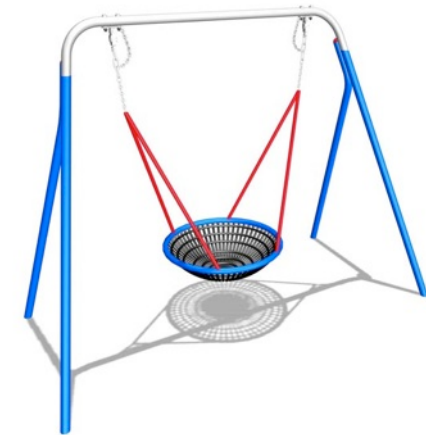


The yellow swing seat is a nice design to support children with sitting balance difficulties.

Pink columns are bright and visible color (good feature)



As seen later in this report, can consider swings of other designs. Large bowl shaped swing below with circular swing is good. It can be accessed by children with many different abilities.



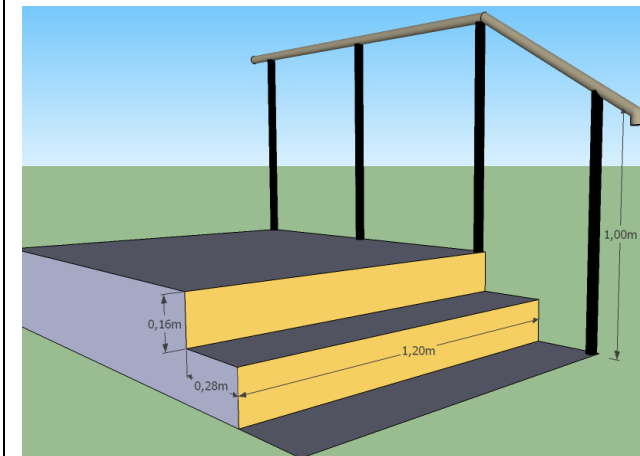
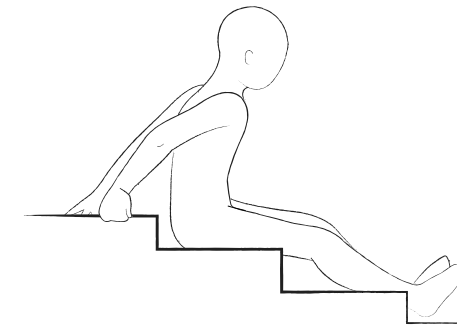
When designing steps in playground, consider children with mobility issues who will be using these steps (can be good form of physical therapy if stairs are not too challenging). Stairs of this playground are TOO STEEP (red arrow)

Rocky terrain of playground hard for children with balance issues to use.



Consider paving playground with soft cork-like surface (instead of rocks)

When building stairs, try to make them as short as possible, so children with different abilities can use them and also climb them using their bums (see picture below). Ideally steps should be 10cm high only (if not possible, no higher than 16cm with 28cm of depth and a handrail to accompany).



Circular slide is broken and has fallen over (large red circle). There is large platform that can be fall hazard for child (small red circle).



Do regular maintenance of playground.
If NGO has left ensure that someone take responsibility for its maintenance if it will be used by children (as a protection mechanism).

Fix broken pieces immediately or remove them and block of hazardous areas where children may fall.

Broken teeter-totter, is a trip/fall hazard.

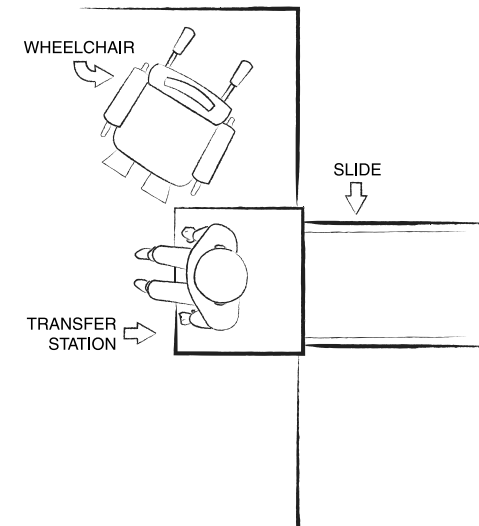
No accessible pathway to green slide area of playground



The white beam, which is a broken piece of teeter-totter, should be removed as it is a fall/trip hazard. Discussions with camp management on safety of playground should be had.

The NGO that made the playground left and now there are various hazards that are concerns to safety of children with and without disabilities.

Next to green slide, have a space where children can park wheelchair/pathway that leads to bottom of slide (to make it easier for caregiver to access)- as per drawing below and **green color on picture.**





Benches are missing parts/damaged and are too low.



Ensure bench height is at least 50-55cm high for parents with disabilities who may come to watch children play.

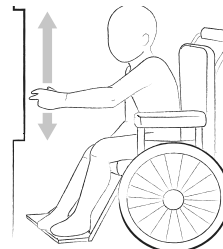
Below are considerations for building accessible playgrounds and spaces for consideration by Save the Children and based on what could be made or found locally.

See this website for more information: http://psidata.playworldsystems.com/Marketing/1-PERM/PSI_WEB/Inclusive/InclusivePlayDesignGuide.pdf



Assumptions and appropriate reach ranges

	6 yr old	10 yr old
Upper reach range	38.3"	43.5"
Lower reach range	19.4"	21.1"





‘SPINNING’ EQUIPMENT (LEFT) can be installed, and children with different abilities can use (either standing, sitting or lying on them- see picture below). Install larger spinning equipment than what seen on picture.

SWINGS, can be of various shape and swinging motion. Have at least one swing that is made for a larger child who needs trunk support (accessible child swing picture far right). Large circular motion swings (see middle picture below) are also easier for many children compared to traditional swing.



- Have sensory experiences, so children with visual impairments can touch objects in play area of various textures →
 - Vary flooring/materials of play area – smooth, soft, hard, grainy, rough, etc.
 - Consider other toys that can be used by children who move with a wheelchair (and put at the right height for child to use).



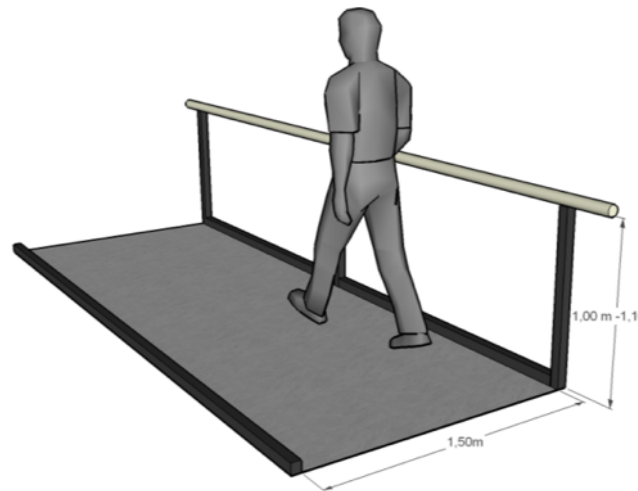
OTHER GLOBAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Ensure all hazardous areas are marked as well and fenced.

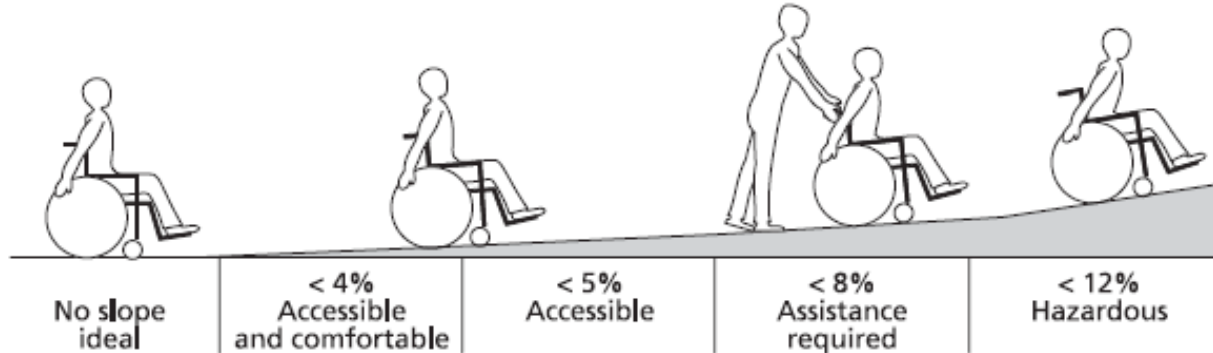
- Use universal pictograms in order to ensure comprehension by all:



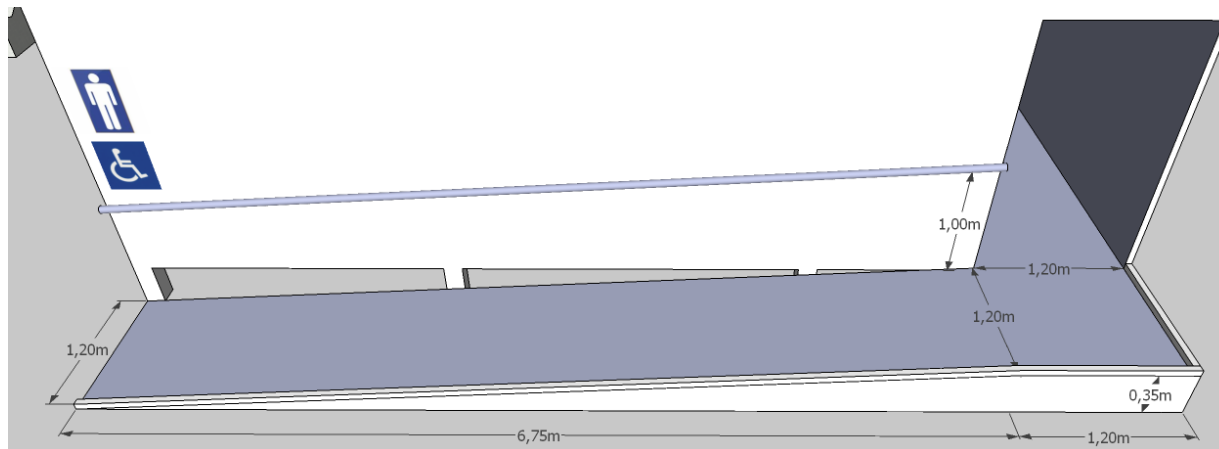
- Ensure all information is disseminated using appropriate and various communication means to consider people with visual, hearing, intellectual and mental impairments. (e.g. Large print, using loudspeakers / radio announcements, using simple, language, sketches and diagrams etc).
- Information should be communicated ideally **24 point size Arial font**, black on yellow paper provides good contrast.
- Good lighting along the CFS, especially for night time.
- Grab rails to accompany any ramps as seen below



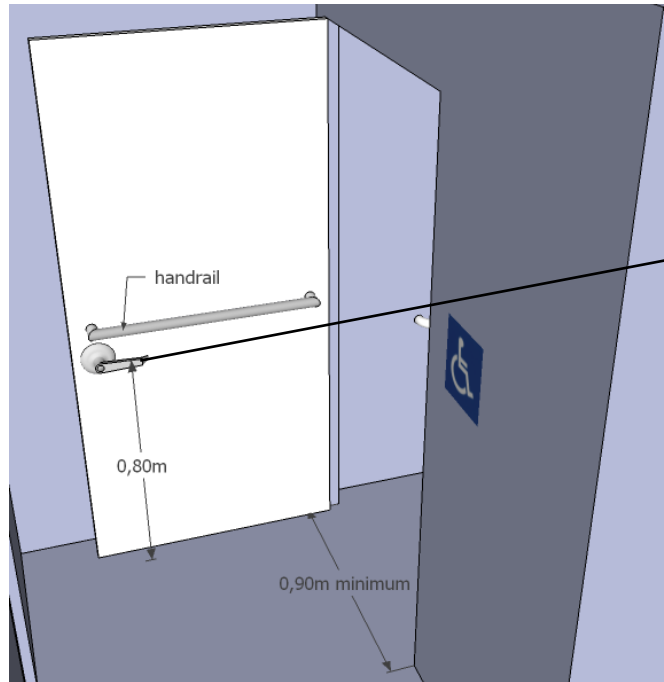
- A ramp is always better than stairs, the ideal gradient should be five per cent (5%) and it should have a smooth and non-slip surface.



- There should be a level platform space at the end of the ramp to allow the person to stop and turn.



- Door's width should be minimum 90cm.
- Doors should open outwards to increase usable space inside.
- Doors' handle should be easy to use (no knob-round handle)



- The door's lock should be also easy to handle for people with problems of grip. An adaptation of the handle could be done on the existing locks

D. Hand wash facilities



References:

- “Prise en compte de l’accessibilité dans les camps de réfugiés” – Handicap International – Eric PLANTIER – ROYON – Juillet 2006
- “Promoting Universal Access to the Built Environment - Guidelines” – Christoffel Blind Mission – 2005
- “Shelter, Public Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation : *A Guide for Including People with Disabilities and Injuries*” – *Handicap International*
- “Water and Sanitation for Disabled People and Other Vulnerable Groups”, Hazel Jones, Water and Engineering Dept, Loughborough University, 2005
- “The Sphere Project 2011” - Practical Action Publishing
- “Inclusive Play Design Guide”- accessed on-line December 13, 2014 at http://psidata.playworldsystems.com/Marketing/1-PERM/PSI_WEB/Inclusive/InclusivePlayDesignGuide.pdf