

Central African Republic. Persons with Disabilities Left Behind

People with Disabilities in the Central African Republic



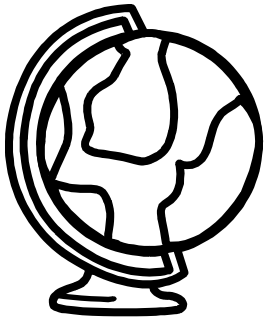
April 2015





Who we are

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.



What this report is about

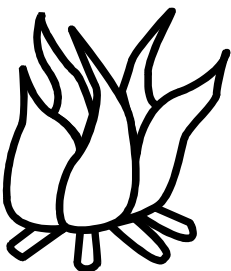
This report is about people with disabilities in a part of Africa called the Central African Republic.

In 2013 big problems started in the country.

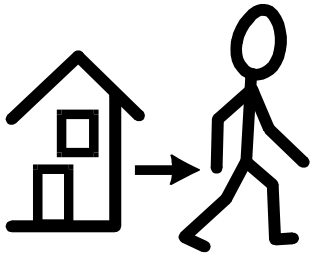


There was fighting between different groups.

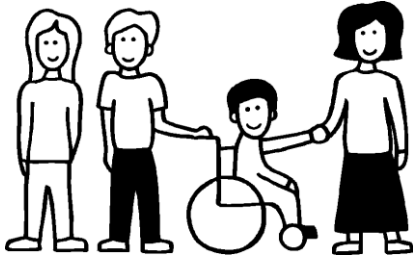
Bad things happened in towns and villages.



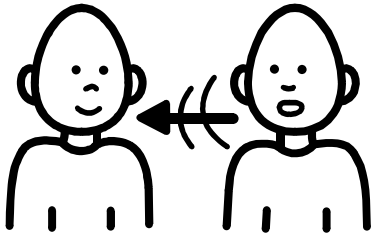
Many people were killed and their homes were burned.



Many people had to leave their homes.

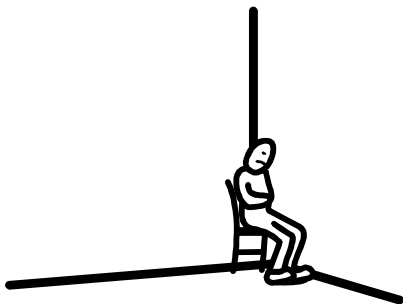


This report is about what happened to people with disabilities.



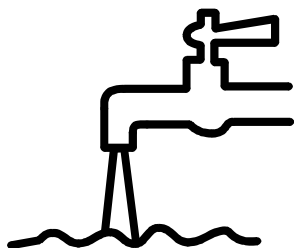
We talked to people with disabilities and other people about what happened.

What happened to people with disabilities



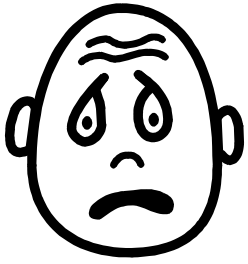
Many people with disabilities could not leave their homes when the problems started.

It was harder for them to leave because of their disability.



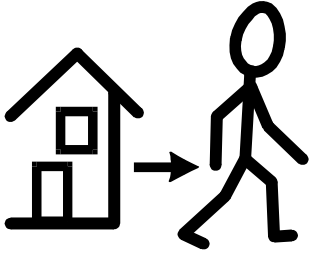
Some people with disabilities were killed.

Many people did not have enough food or water.



People in danger

In 2013 and 2014 lots of people were in danger.



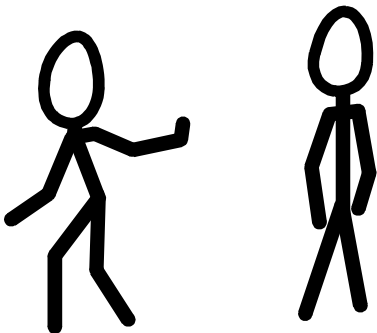
They had to leave their homes very quickly.



Many people went to live in special camps.

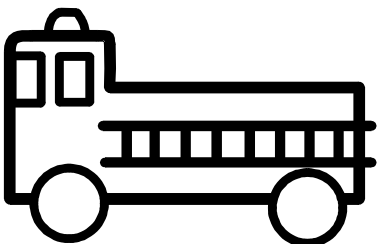
The camps are for people who have nowhere to live.

Things were very hard for people with disabilities.

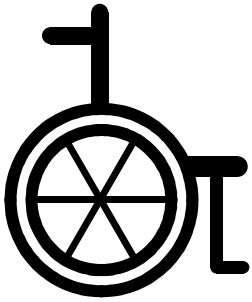


For example:

- people did not get help to leave their homes



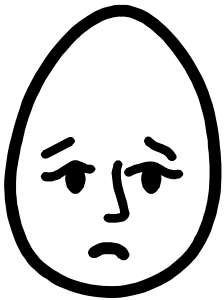
- the trucks that took people to the camps were hard for people with disabilities to get in to



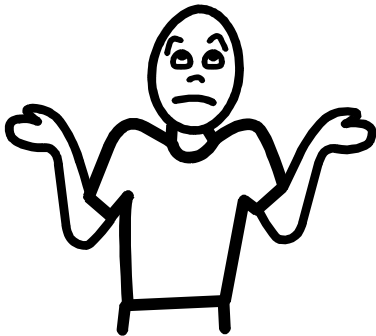
- there was no room for wheelchairs or things that people with disabilities need

- some people decided to stay at home

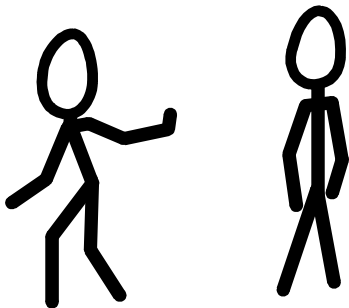
They did not want to go without their wheelchairs



- some people lost their wheelchairs or had them stolen



- some people with disabilities did not know what was happening



It is hard for families to make the right decisions when they are in danger and may be killed.

Some families had to leave people with disabilities behind.



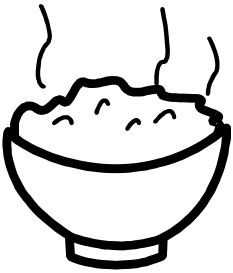
Life in the camps for people with disabilities

Many people moved to camps because they had nowhere else to go.



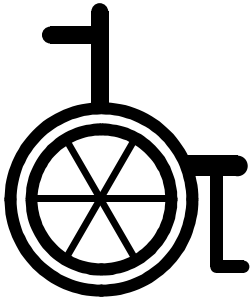
Life in the camps is hard for everyone.

But it is harder for people with disabilities.

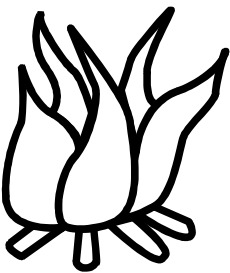


For example:

- people may not get food because the food places are hard to get to

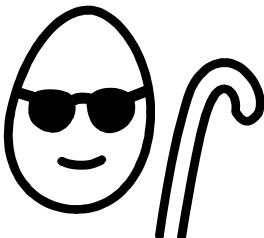


- many toilets do not have room for wheelchairs

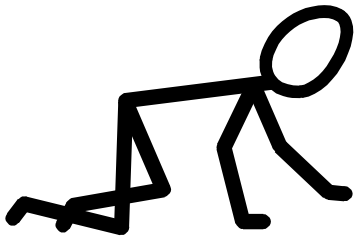


The camps can be dangerous for people with disabilities.

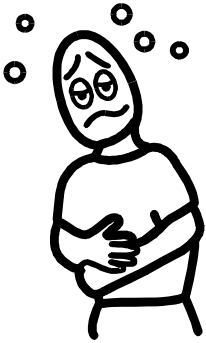
For example, there are lots of fires burning and holes in the ground.



This is dangerous for people who cannot see.

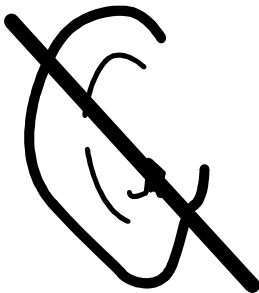


Some people cannot use their wheelchairs so they have to crawl on the ground which is very dirty.



This can make them very ill.

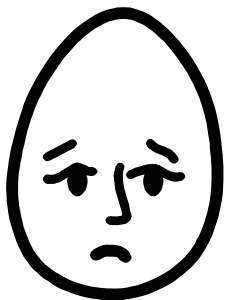
Some people got very ill or even died because of these problems.



There are other problems.

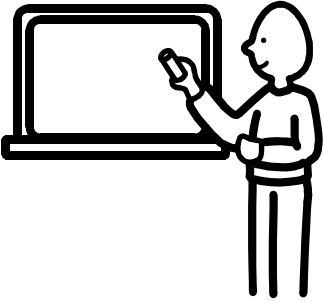
For example:

- it is hard for deaf people to understand what health people like doctors say



- there is not much support for people who need mental health care. For example, if they feel very upset or worried

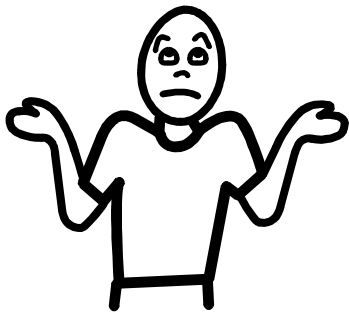
Schools



Many children with disabilities in the camps do not go to school.

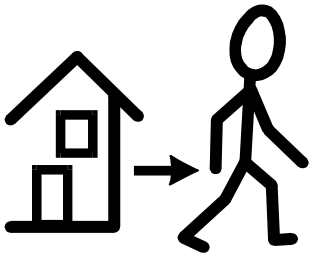
It can be very hard for them to go to school.

For example:



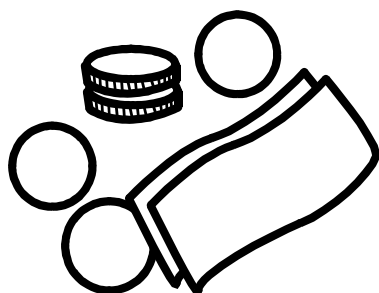
- the schools can be hard to get to
- teachers cannot give them the support they need for their disability

Moving back home



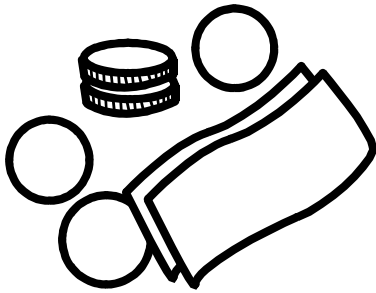
There is a camp in a place called Bangui, the main city.

People will soon leave the camp and move back home.



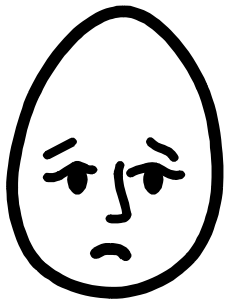
They will get some food and money and other support.

People with disabilities must get this support too. They may need other support as well.

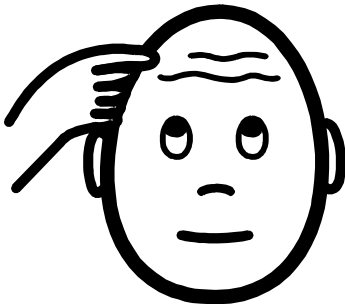


Other things that are happening

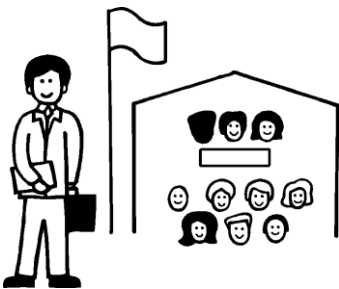
The Central African Republic does not have enough money to give everyone the help they need.



People with disabilities do not get the support they need because of this.



The United Nations will do more to help people in the Central African Republic.



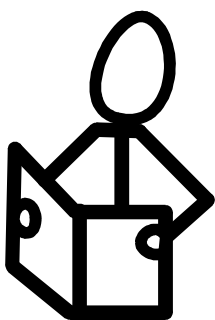
The United Nations is a group of countries that work together to make the world a safer place.

They will check to make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly.

What we want to happen next

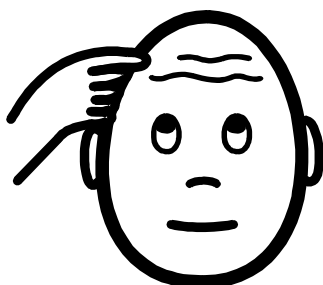


These are things for the government in the Central African Republic, the United Nations and other groups to do.



1. Make sure there is good information about people with disabilities and what they need.

This will help people make good plans and decisions.



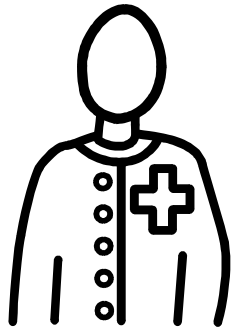
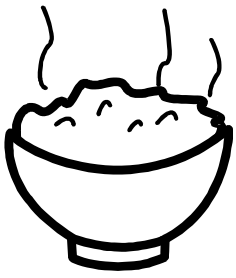
At the moment, people do not always think about what people with disabilities need.



2. Make sure people with disabilities:

- can help make plans and decisions
- get the support they need
- are treated well
- are safe

There should be a plan about this.



What we want to happen next

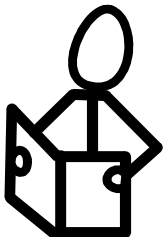
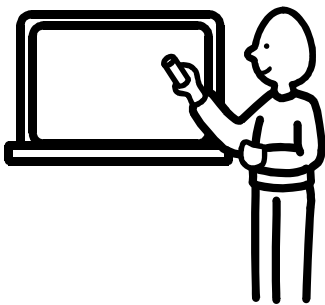
3. Make sure people with disabilities get the things they need like:

- food
- medical care if they are ill
- mental health care if they feel upset or scared

4. Make the camps easier for people with disabilities to live in.

For example:

- make it easier for people to move around
- make toilets, medical care and schools easier for people with disabilities
- make sure people with disabilities have a say in decisions about the camp
- make information easier





- give staff better training about what people with disabilities need

Ambroise's story

Ambroise is 27. He has a disability.

He is from a city called Bangui.

A group came to his local area.

They started killing people.

Ambroise was asleep. He woke up when he heard people shooting guns.

His family had left without him.

Ambroise was on his own. He started shouting for help but no one was there.

Ambroise stayed on his own for a day.

Then he saw a young boy go past.

Ambroise cried and asked the boy to help him.

The boy was worried about Ambroise so he carried Ambroise on his back to the nearest camp.

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