

Nothing about us without us: Disasters and disabilities



Photo: Sesame Workshop

April 13, 2023

CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY

CDP



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Accessibility:

- Visual descriptions.
- ASL to English interpretation is available.
- Captioning.

Submit questions.

Use Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.

Complete the survey.

Use #CDP4Recovery to tweet along.

Follow CDP: @funds4disaster

Photo credit: [Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative](#)

Thank you to our co-sponsors



Land Acknowledgment

“Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.”

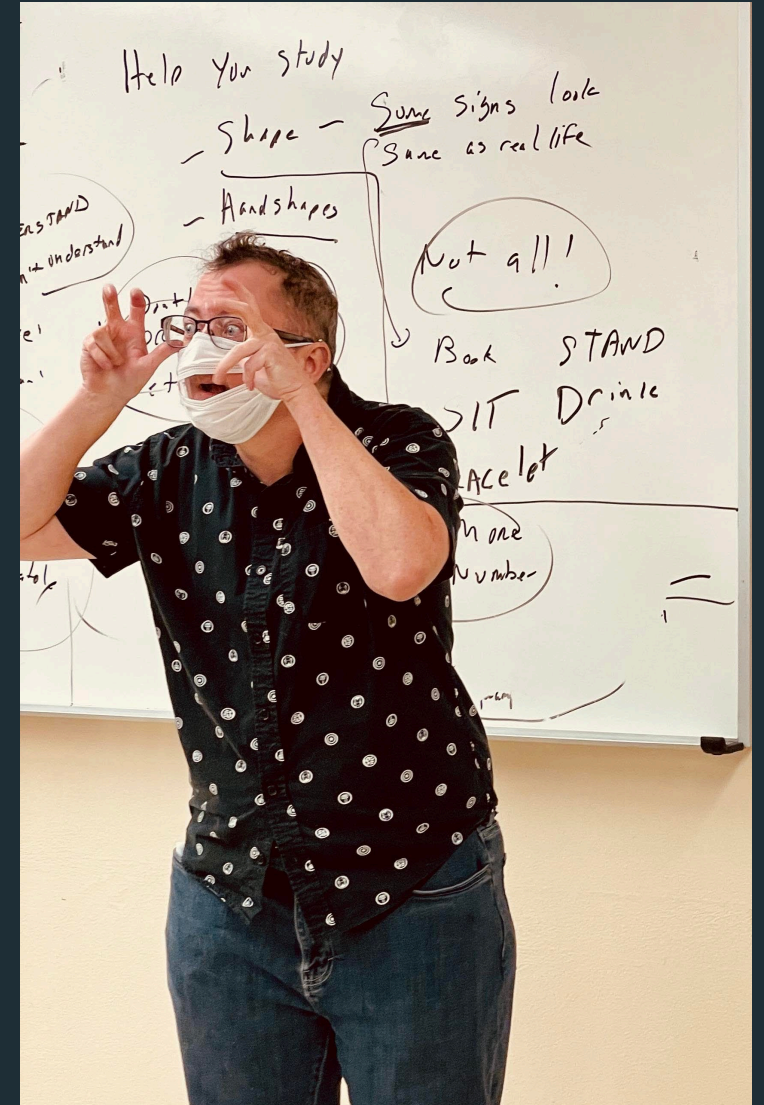
<https://usdac.us/nativeland>

CDP’s Land Acknowledgment is inspired by Dawn Knickerbocker, Native Americans in Philanthropy.

GOALS

At the end of the webinar, grantmakers and funders will:

- Be aware of how disabilities and disasters intersect.
- Understand how disability inclusion can improve outcomes in complex humanitarian settings.
- Learn about one state's initiatives to be inclusive in its disaster response and recovery.



Speakers

Thank you to our guests for joining us today.

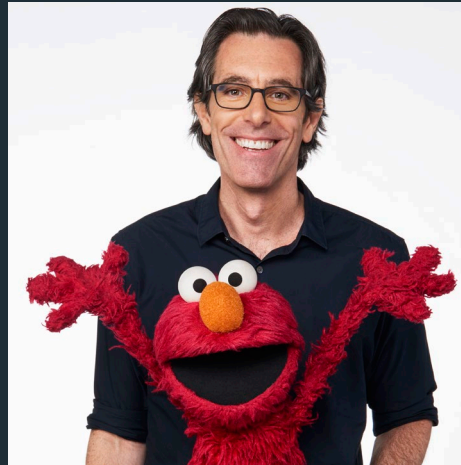
#CDP4Recovery



Luis "Vance" Taylor

Chief, Office of Access
and Functional Needs

California Office of
Emergency Services
(Cal OES)



Scott Cameron

Executive Producer,
International Impact

Sesame Workshop



Nikki Brown-Booker

Program Officer, Disability
Inclusion Fund

Borealis Philanthropy

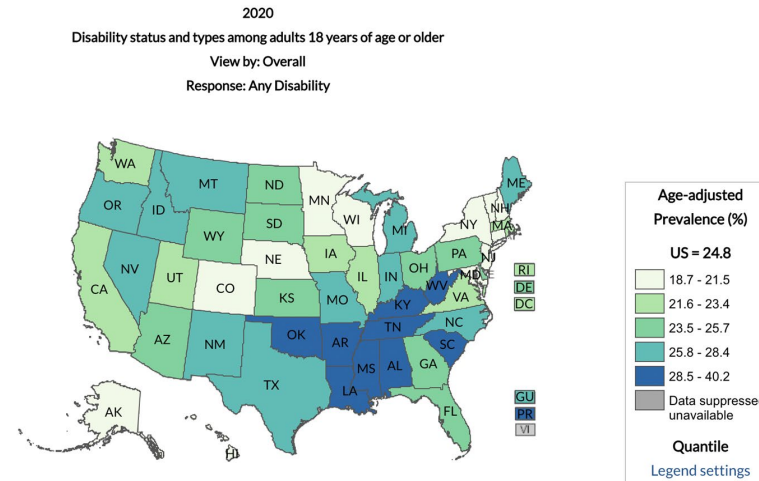
Programming in California

- Partnership-based approach.
- The California Foundation for Independent Living Center's Disability Disaster Access & Resources program.
- Providing backup batteries, free transportation, hotel vouchers, gas cards, etc.



The DIF's grantmaking priorities

- Fund new and emergent groups who are more likely to experience barriers to unrestricted grants.
- Strengthen disability justice ecosystems across the country, specifically in the south.
- Advocacy and policy priorities of grassroots disability justice groups.



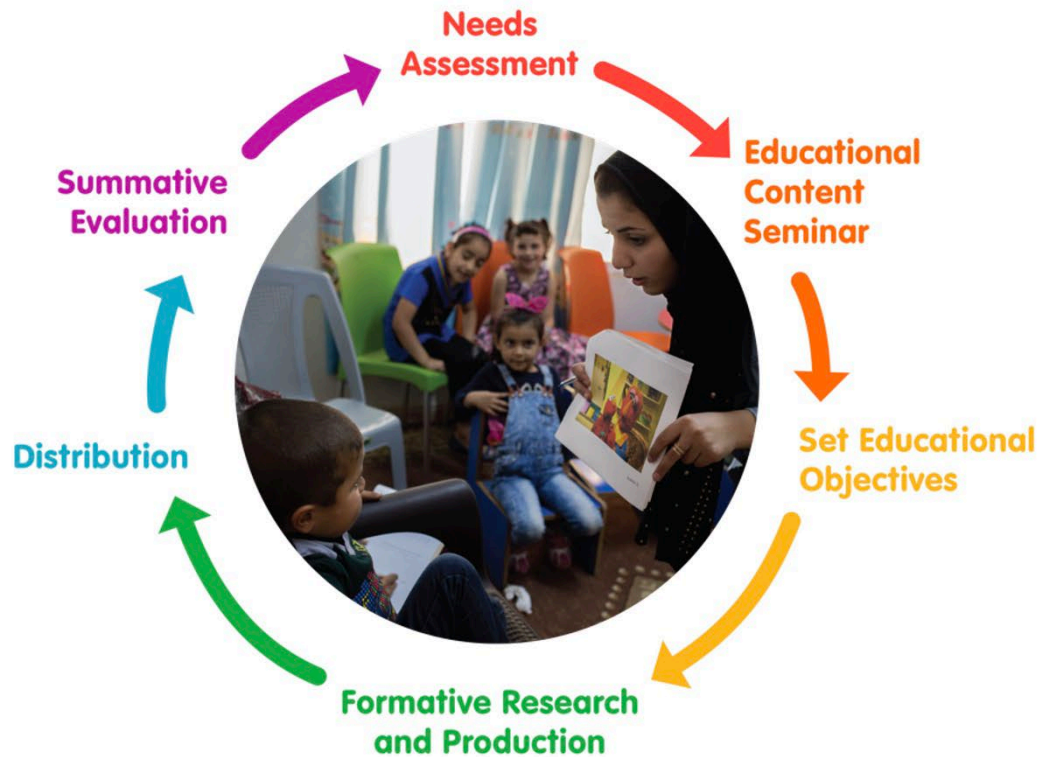
[*This map and most recent data comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)

Preparedness with Us

- **Preparedness programs for people with disabilities**
- **Preparedness for caregivers and family**
- **Appropriate response systems in place**

Sesame Workshop reaches children and families in disaster and crisis settings by creating locally relevant content and distributing it through broadcast and direct services provided by local partners.

Sesame Workshop's Development Process



Mass media distribution

allows us to reach millions of children at scale. *Ahlan Simsim* in MENA has reached 23 million children via television.



Direct Services

with partners such as the International Rescue Committee, BRAC, Save the Children, WorldVision, and many others incorporates the content and characters into center-based programs, educational group activities, playful learning activities. Videos are accompanied by storybooks, games, and puzzles. For caregivers, home visits and group parenting sessions are designed to highlight educational content and offer strategies for managing their own stress.

Research & Advocacy

Sesame regularly conducts formative research to guide content creation. When funding allows, we work with independent evaluators – e.g. on *Ahlan Simsim*, Sesame Workshop and the IRC have worked with NYU's Global TIES for Children Center to develop, test and refine program model, including a massive RCT in Jordanian schools.





Photo by [Elevate](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Building Trust

- Bring everyone to the table.
- See one another.
- Develop meaningful programs, projects, and products

Sesame Workshop's model for content creation is designed to ensure that a variety of experts advise the creation at all phases.

Advisors for Sesame Workshop content include:

- early childhood educators
- art therapists
- play therapists
- sign language experts
- disability advisors
- child psychologists
- language experts
- advisors in gender equity and inclusion

During creative development, producers work with writers and advisors to ensure that the stories represent a variety of children's experiences and abilities - and are sensitive to disaster and crisis contexts.

Example: In children's media, food is a common way to create relatable storylines and teach foundational skills (e.g. using bananas to teach counting to 10). But sensitivities to food scarcity and/or cultural norms about "playing with" food often leads to alternate storylines or to novel approaches (e.g. characters might engage in imaginary play with cardboard fruit instead of real fruit).

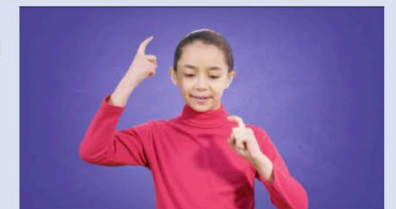
Sign Language in Sesame Content



In *Takalani Sesame*, the South African version of Sesame Street, each episode is aired five days a week (in a different national language each day). Some episodes include a professional sign language interpreter who appears in scenes with characters and families, as well as throughout some fully-signed episodes where possible.



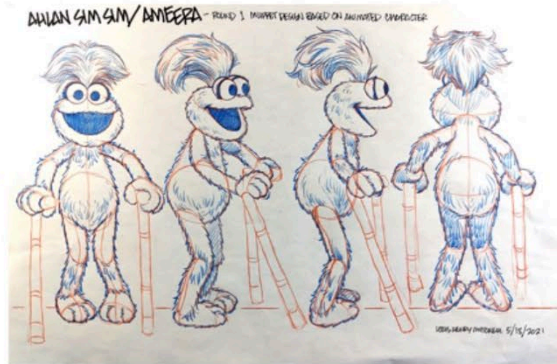
Each episode of *Ahlan Simsim* (in the Middle East North Africa region) includes a segment featuring a girl teaching how to sign a new word. Although other segments feature a hybrid of dialects and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), the words in these segments are solely in MSA.



AMEERA

is an 8 year-old who loves to make you laugh with her warm wit and playful observations about the world around her. She knows a lot about science and enjoys helping younger children learn about STEM.

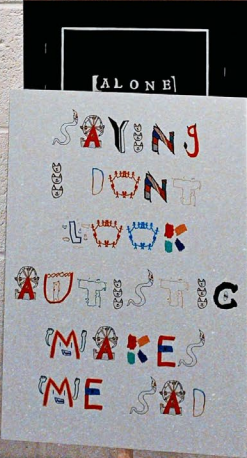
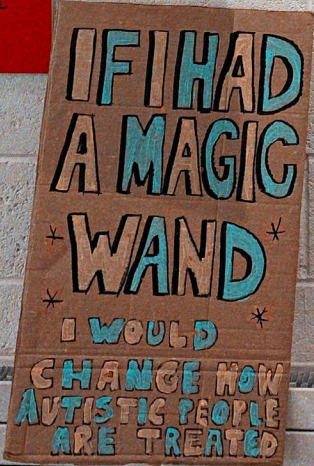
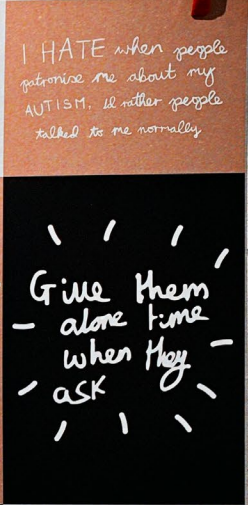
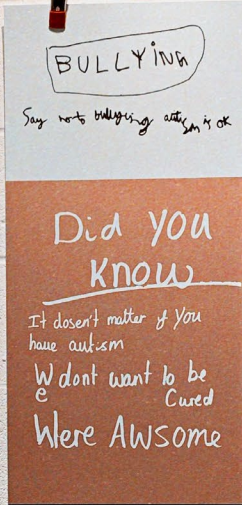
Advisors suggested that we show Ameera using crutches and a wheelchair. Her movements are based on those of an 8 year-old girl with a spinal cord injury. Advisors review early animation designs and episodes to ensure that her range of motion is accurate and appropriate.



Nothing About Us Without Us

- Based on our lived experiences, we all see things differently
- We need to meet people where they are
- We need to plan with people, not for them
- Integrate our places of work





NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

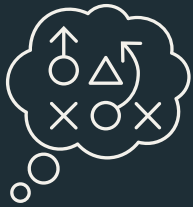
Disability inclusion identifies issues in advance.

People with disabilities are people, first.

Fund disability-led organizations.

Photo credit: [Unsplash](#) - Toa Heftiba

Expert Resources



Disaster Philanthropy Playbook



Website

- Blogs, Issue Insights, Disaster Profiles, Weekly Disaster Updates



Webinars



Special Reports

- Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy
- COVID-19 and Philanthropy
- U.S. Household Disaster Giving Report



CDP Staff

- Speaking engagements, Analyses, Opinion Pieces, Consulting Services



disasterphilanthropy.org



Photo credit: HelpAge International

OUR UPCOMING WEBINARS

Older adults and disasters: Overcoming stereotypes and strengthening inclusion

May 11th at 12 p.m. ET

Survivor and community-led response: Putting people first in a crisis

June 8th at 2 p.m. ET

disasterphilanthropy.org/events

Thank You

For additional information, contact:

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia

Tanya.Gulliver-Garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org

CONNECT WITH US

DISASTERPHILANTHROPY.ORG

@FUNDS4DISASTER

