

TIP SHEET:

Community disaster preparedness committeesⁱ

DISABILITY INCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

When thinking about community disaster preparedness committees, it is important to remember that people with disabilities are the experts in issues of inclusion and accessibility and should be included as members of committees. Therefore, ensure the following:

- ✓ Have at least one person with a disability on the committee.
- ✓ Plan and include budget allocations for the provision of reasonable accommodations.
- ✓ Raise the disability awareness of other committee members and the broader community to help create a welcoming and inclusive environment.

WHY INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEES?

- ✓ People with disabilities are experts regarding their needs and inclusion. Their active participation in the committee is key to greater accessibility and including the whole community in disaster preparedness.
- ✓ By participating in the committee, people with disabilities will be better informed about their risks and be able to take practical measures to reduce of risk at the household and community level.

HOW TO INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEES

- ✓ Have at least one person with a disability on the committee:
 - This may require working with a local Organisation of People with Disabilities (OPD) or self-help group to identify people with disabilities in the community, engaging with people with disabilities to explain why it is important to have a person with lived of disability on the committee, and building their confidence to take on this role.

- ✓ Identify roles and responsibilities for people with disabilities on the committee. This could include:
 - Helping the committee identify people with disabilities.
 - Gathering feedback from people with disabilities for the committee to consider.
 - Disseminating information to people with disabilities living in the community about committee meetings and decisions.

- ✓ Plan (and include budget allocations) for reasonable accommodations to facilitate the active participation of committee members with disabilities.
 - Remember that reasonable accommodation is about making adaptations or providing support to a specific person, so what is needed will vary based on individual requirements. Possible reasonable accommodations include providing transport to and from meetings, enabling a support person to attend the meeting with the committee member with a disability, providing sign language interpretation during meetings, etc.

- ✓ Create a welcoming environment by raising the awareness with other committee members and the broader community about the importance of having people with a disability on the committee.

¹ This resource has been developed based on information from the following resources: Handicap International (2014) [Empowerment and participation: Good practices from South & South-East Asia in disability inclusive disaster risk management](#); Islamic Relief Worldwide (2013) [Disability inclusive disaster risk reduction: addressing the need of one tenth population of Bangladesh](#); Oxfam (2017) [Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction: Experiences of people with disabilities in Vanuatu during and after Tropical Cyclone Pam and recommendations for humanitarian agencies](#); Oxfam, Disability Inclusion Checklist for CBDRR Programs.