

TIP SHEET:

Community mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessmentsⁱ

DISABILITY INCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

When thinking about community mapping and including vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs), 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:

- ✓ Plan from the start to include people with disabilities in the mapping/VCA process. Ask local Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) to help and include budget allocations for the provision of reasonable accommodations.
- ✓ Ensure the mapping/VCA process gathers information about the specific needs and barriers faced by people with disabilities in disasters.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- ✓ As the aim of the community mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessments is to map specifically vulnerable communities and households, as well as their capacities to deal with a disaster, it is essential that people with disabilities are mapped during these activities.
- ✓ If people with disabilities are not included in community mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessments there is a high risk that they won't be included in all the subsequent steps, and that information on disability will be missing from early warning systems, evacuation plans and training, etc.

- ✓ People with disabilities face multiple barriers to accessing information, services, and support, frequently experience greater levels of isolation and poverty, and are often less able to respond independently in the event of a disaster. Disability therefore strongly influences vulnerability, shaping the ability of a person and household to survive and cope with a disaster.
- ✓ People with disabilities also have capacities (knowledge, skills, and assets) that can be built on and utilised in the event of a disaster. To focus only on vulnerabilities reduces the opportunities for people with disabilities to participate, undermines their autonomy and doesn't capture the overall capacity of the community.

HOW TO ENSURE COMMUNITY MAPPING AND VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS ARE DISABILITY INCLUSIVE

- ✓ An inclusive community mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessment process begins in the planning. Include disability as a consideration during initial discussions with the community on the VCA process and include disability issues in training for volunteers and staff. This will ensure disability has a place on the agenda for later discussions and makes a clear commitment to including people with disabilities.
- ✓ Include local OPDs and self-help groups as stakeholders in the VCA process and ask for their support. They may help inform and encourage participation of people with disabilities as well as provide support and valuable inputs into the data collection process.
- ✓ Allocate budget to cover reasonable accommodations to enable people with disabilities to participate.
- ✓ Use diverse methodologies to collect data (e.g., focus group discussions, individual household surveys) for comprehensive information and to cross-check.
 - Focus groups should be representative: they should include people with different types of impairment (or their representatives) to ensure information provided is related to different types of impairments.
- ✓ Make disability issues visible in reports. Findings related to people with disabilities must be visible throughout the analysis and not just limited to statistics on the numbers of people with disabilities.

ⁱ This resource has been developed based on information from the following resources: Handicap International (2009) [Mainstreaming disability into Disaster Risk reduction: A training Manual](#); and Handicap International (2012) [Disability Inclusive Community Based Disaster Risk Management](#).