

TIP SHEET:

Community preparedness plansⁱ

DISABILITY INCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

Community disaster preparedness plans must identify and respond to the specific needs of community members with disabilities. Key steps are:

- Plan and include budget allocations for the provision of reasonable accommodations to enable people with disabilities to actively participate in the preparation, testing, and implementation of the plan.
- Ask people with disabilities to review the draft plan and incorporate their feedback in revisions.
- Disseminate the plan in multiple accessible communication formats.

THINGS TO DO TO ENSURE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS PLANS ARE DISABILITY INCLUSIVE

- Include people with disabilities in the planning, development, and implementation of community preparedness plans.
- Budget or resource to cover any reasonable accommodations needed for people with disabilities to participate in the preparation and implementation of community preparedness plans.
- When assigning roles and responsibilities identify opportunities for people with disabilities to take on positions of responsibility.

- Disability-inclusive community preparedness plans should include (ideally identified through community mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessments):
 - Indications of dwellings where people with disabilities live.
 - Needs of people with disabilities in times of disaster and how to address them.
 - Roles that people with disabilities and/or their caregivers can play during hazards.
 - How to reach out to the dwellings of people with disabilities with early warning and relief equipment needed for rescue.
 - Identification of volunteers to provide early warning or relief materials for people with disabilities.
 - Evacuation plans which consider the needs of people with disabilities.
 - Steps to reunite people with disabilities and their families/caregivers before, during and after the disaster.

- Ask people with disabilities and Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) to review the draft plan and to offer feedback and advice on how to make the plans more inclusive.

- Make the contents of the plans accessible to all. Examples include:
 - Illustrate evacuation routes on wall murals or place on signposts around the community indicating routes to take.
 - Use leaflets, posters, or street theatre to communicate important messages, and raise awareness of services available.
 - Ensure all communications are in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language, easy to read and visual formats.
 - Put up lists and photos of people who have specific responsibilities in the event of a disaster.
 - Visit the houses of people with disabilities to explain the community disaster preparedness plan.

ⁱ This resource has been developed based on information from the following resources: Handicap International (2012) [Disability Inclusive Community Based Disaster Risk Management](#); Liliane Fonds (2016) Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management toolkit, Oxfam Disability Inclusion Checklist for CBDRR; [Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management toolkit](#).