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.

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.