

TIP SHEET:

Integrating climate change in disaster event planning

DISABILITY INCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

When thinking about integrating climate change into disaster event planning, and mitigating against other impacts of climate change, it is important to remember that people with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, ensure the following:

- ✓ People with disabilities are included in climate action and planning for inclusive activities.
- ✓ Adopt more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- ✓ 'Nothing about us without us'.
- ✓ Ensure accessible information and activities.
- ✓ Celebrate achievements.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- ✓ Climate change disproportionately affects the world's poorest and most at-risk people.
 - 20% of this group are people with disabilities, who are the most at-risk to the impacts of accelerating climate change.
- ✓ People with disabilities and their communities are living with significant climate-related issues including increasing storms; floods and landslides; coastal inundation; droughts; wildfires; degradation of land, resources, infrastructure and living environments, extremes of temperature, and growing unpredictability and uncertainty.

- ✓ People with disabilities in Pacific coastal communities are specifically at heightened risk to climate change impacts including:
 - Increased emergencies due to extreme weather events (e.g., Tropical Cyclone Harold in 2020).
 - Reduced access to infrastructure, shelter, and services.
 - Increased displacement, migration, or necessary migration.
 - Decreased food security and resulting malnutrition.
 - Impacts on employment, livelihoods and income.
 - Increased impairments leading to disability.

HOW TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

An increasing number of DFAT investments, as well as programs and organisations in the Pacific, demonstrate that disability-inclusive climate action can happen now; often by reorientating existing approaches rather than massive expenditure.

- ✓ **Awareness:** Recognise that because people with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change, they must be included in climate action and planning for inclusive activities.
- ✓ **Commitment:** Adopt more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to limit the impacts of climate change on people at heightened risk, especially people with disabilities in coastal Pacific coastal communities.
- ✓ **'Nothing about us without us':** Ensure the substantive participation of people with disabilities and their representative Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) in climate change action.
- ✓ **Accessible information and activities:**
 - Ensure that all activities, processes, and consultations are made accessible to people with diverse disabilities.
 - Strengthen the capacities of people with disabilities to respond to climate change by ensuring they receive accessible information about climate change and its impacts.
- ✓ **Celebrate achievements:** Celebrate the important first steps made in considering and making approaches to climate change more disability inclusive.

