

About this document



This is an **Easy Read** document.

Easy Read uses pictures to communicate information.



We have written some words in **blue**.

This means we explain what these words mean.

They are also at the back of this document.



The ideas in this document are split into two groups:

- **practical ideas**. These are things you can do right away in disaster projects
- **policy ideas**. These are bigger plans and rules for a long time.

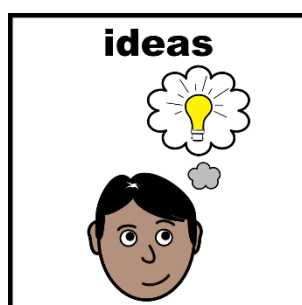
Introduction



This document was developed by organisations that work on disability and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. We call these **OPDs**.

OPDs are organisations that:

- are run by people with disabilities
- have members who are mostly people with disabilities
- work on disability rights issues.



This document is a summary of the ideas OPDs and disability organisations shared.

It shares important ideas about how to help people with disabilities when there are **disasters**.



A disaster is a dangerous event like:

- a flood
- a cyclone
- an earthquake
- a big fire.



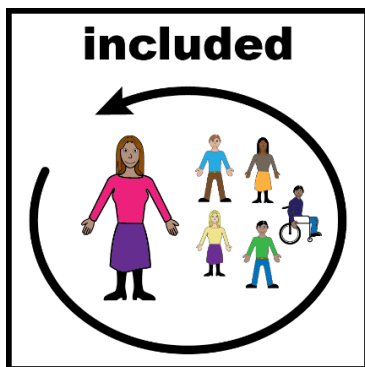
When a disaster happens:

- people might get hurt
- homes might be damaged
- **assistive technologies** might get lost or broken.

Assistive technologies are tools or equipment that help people with disabilities do things more easily, like:



- wheelchairs
- crutches
- screen readers
- communication boards.



Assistive technologies can help people with disabilities access information and be included in their community.

Assistive technologies also help people with disabilities stay safe, especially during disasters.



These ideas will be shared at a big meeting called GPDRR.

During this meeting, people from different countries will talk about **disaster preparedness**.



Disaster preparedness is about getting ready for when a disaster might happen.

It means learning or doing things before a disaster.



Disaster preparedness helps people to:

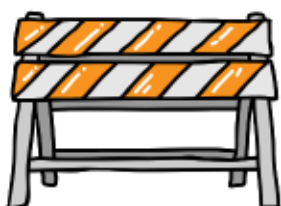
- stay safe
- know what to do
- protect their family or their home.

Practical ideas



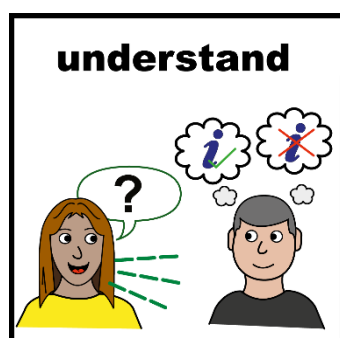
1. Work with people with disabilities and OPDs when planning for disasters.

It is important to ask people with disabilities and OPDs what they think from the very beginning.



People with disabilities know a lot about **barriers**.

Barriers are things that make it hard for people with disabilities to do something or be included.



Barriers can make it hard for people with disabilities to:

- understand or access information they need to be prepared for a disaster
- understand or access disaster warnings
- know where to go during a disaster if it is not safe at home
- access physical spaces, such as evacuation centres or other buildings.



People with disabilities know a lot about how to keep themselves safe.



People with disabilities and OPDs can help others to:

- understand the barriers
- fix the barriers.

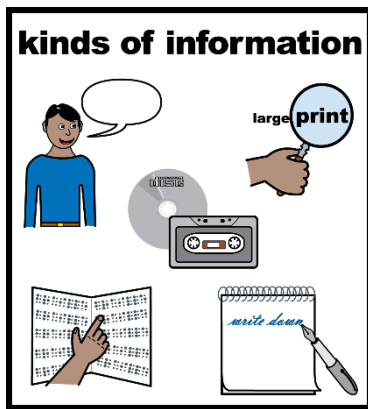


2. Make sure all disaster information and warnings are **accessible** for everyone.

When something is accessible it means that everyone can access it equally.

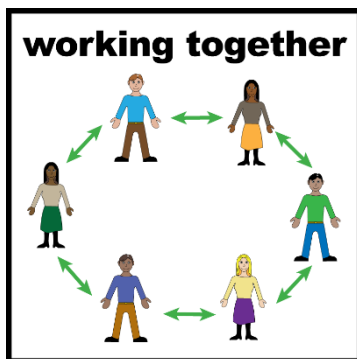


Governments and organisations need to spend money on making disaster warnings accessible for everyone.



This means making them in accessible formats like:

- sign language
- captions (words on videos)
- pictures
- Easy Read
- braille.



They also need to work with OPDs and people with disabilities to create and share disaster warnings.

This is important to make sure people with disabilities have a say in decisions that affect them.



3. Help people with disabilities be leaders in disaster committees.

Disaster committees are community groups that work together to plan for disasters.



We need to:

- help people with disabilities and OPDs get more involved in disaster committees
- provide training to help people on the disaster committees know how to communicate with people with disabilities
- involve people with disabilities to show that they can do important work.



4. Put aside money in the budget to make disaster preparedness activities accessible.

We need to make sure there is money in disaster preparedness activities to make it accessible for everyone.



When there is no money in the budget for accessible locations or accessible information, people with disabilities cannot join in or stay safe.

sign language interpreter



Make sure enough money is put aside in disaster preparedness activities.

This includes things like:

- sign language interpreters
- accessible locations
- accessible transport
- information in pictures
- information in Easy Read.



5. Encourage the use of assistive technology to make disaster preparedness activities accessible.

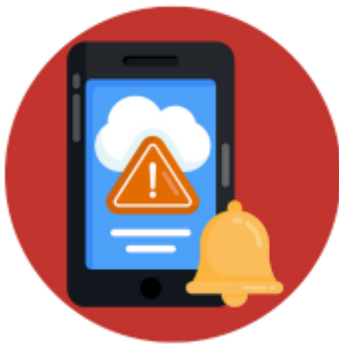
Encourage governments and organisations working on disaster preparedness to use assistive technologies.

Using assistive technologies helps people with disabilities to:

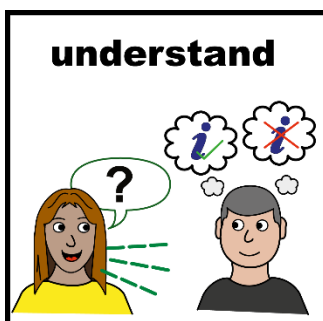


- take part in disaster preparedness activities
- get ready for disasters
- evacuate safely in a disaster.

Governments and organisations can help others to use accessible information like:



- text message alerts that can be read out loud by screen readers
- accessible phone apps
- community radio in local languages that is easy to understand.



Governments and organisations should help people with disabilities access assistive technologies.

This will help them understand disaster warnings.



These include:

- tools to hear more clearly or alert someone using vibrations
- tools to help people communicate – like communication boards.



OPDs can help identify what tools or supports people with disabilities need.

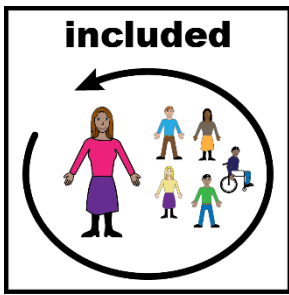


6. Give money and support to OPDs so they can fully participate in disaster preparedness activities.

OPDs should be paid for their time to support people with disabilities.



It is important to give money and support to OPDs in different ways for different tasks.



This helps them to:

- be included
- join in many different activities.



OPDs and people with disabilities know a lot about disability inclusion.

But they might not know about preparing for disasters.



It is important to give OPDs money and support to help them learn about disaster preparedness.

**understand
new information**



This helps OPDs to:

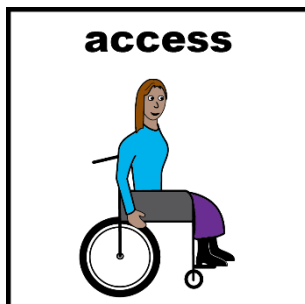
- understand new information
- do their job well.



7. Offer more trainings for people who work in disaster preparedness about including people with disabilities.

This training should teach them:

- how to communicate with people with different types of disabilities
- how to make sure people with disabilities can join in without any barriers
- how to provide **reasonable accommodations**.



Reasonable accommodations are changes that can help make things more accessible for someone.

There are different types of reasonable accommodations.

It depends on what someone needs.

Providing reasonable accommodations is a good way to remove barriers for people with disabilities.



Policy ideas



Policies are written rules or plans that guide how things should be done.

Policies can be made by:

- community groups
- governments
- organisations.



Policies help to:

- make plans for the future
- make sure everyone knows what to do
- make sure everyone knows how to act
- guide how things should be done
- make sure things are done in a fair way
- reach important goals.





8. Give money for people with disabilities and OPDs to attend important disaster meetings around the world.

This money should pay for all their travel and accommodation costs when they go to these meetings.



It is important to provide this support for people with disabilities and OPDs from poorer countries.

They may not have any money to travel to attend big meetings.



The money should also pay for:

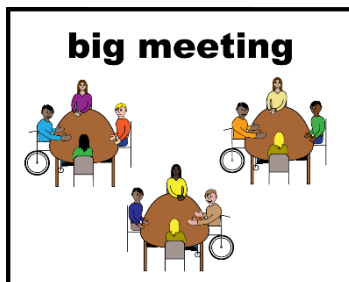
- support people
- sign language interpreters.



Without them, some people with disabilities may not be able to participate fully.



This helps to make sure people with disabilities can be part of important **discussions** on disaster preparedness.



A discussion is when people talk together about something.

It is like a big meeting.



The goal of a discussion is to:

- share ideas
- listen to what others think
- understand something better
- make a plan
- solve problems.



9. Make sure disaster plans and policies are created with people with disabilities and OPDs.



Work with people with disabilities and OPDs to set clear goals.

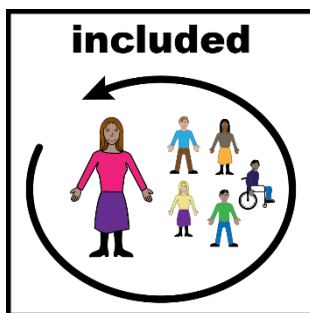


These goals will explain how to include people with disabilities in disaster preparedness.



Make sure OPDs and people with disabilities are involved to:

- create ways for people with disabilities to give feedback
- check if these goals are being met.



This helps make sure that people with disabilities are really being included in disaster preparedness activities.



10. Collect and use information about disabilities to help plan and check disaster efforts.



We need to collect information on people with disabilities.

This helps us to know if people with disabilities are participating in disaster preparedness activities.



This kind of information should be:

- collected in a safe and fair way
- collected with OPDs.



OPDs should be involved to check this information often.

OPDs can help to:

- find what is missing
- understand what has changed
- give ideas on how to better include people with disabilities
- make sure people do what they said they would.



Word List



Accessible

When something is accessible it means that everyone can access it equally.

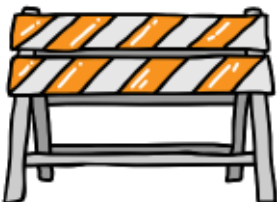
Assistive technologies

Assistive technologies are tools or equipment that help people with disabilities do things more easily.



They include:

- wheelchairs
- crutches
- screen readers
- communication boards.



Barriers

Barriers are things that make it hard for people with disabilities to do something or be included.



Disaster

A disaster is a dangerous event like:

- a flood
- a cyclone
- an earthquake
- a big fire.



Disaster committees

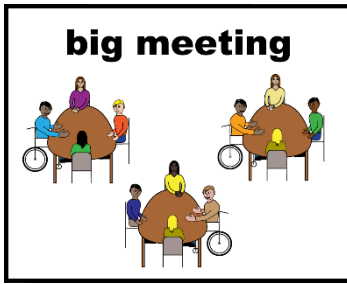
Disaster committees are community groups that work together to plan for disasters.



Disaster preparedness

Disaster preparedness is about getting ready for when a disaster might happen.

It means learning or doing things before a disaster.



Discussions

A discussion is when people talk together about something.

It is like a big meeting.



Easy Read

Easy Read uses pictures to communicate information.



OPDs

OPDs are also known as Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

OPDs are organisations that:

- are run by people with disabilities
- have members who are mostly people with disabilities
- work on disability rights issues.



Policies

Policies are written rules or plans that guide how things should be done.



Policy ideas

Policy ideas are bigger plans and rules for a long time.



Practical ideas

Practical ideas are things you can do right away in projects.



Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are changes that can help make things more accessible for someone.

CBM Global wrote this Easy Read document. It was written by Claudia Bailey, who is a person with cognitive disabilities.

Some images were sourced from the [Learning Disability Service – Image Bank](#).

Other images were creating using [Canva](#).