



Key Messages: Accelerating Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction

Key Messages for the 8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

This document was prepared by the Stakeholders Group of Persons with Disabilities - Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action (TGDRRCA). It lists the **top 10 key messages on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) to share at GPDRR 2025**. It is split into 'practical recommendations' and 'policy recommendations'.

Practical recommendations for DiDRR, which can be implemented directly within DRR projects/programs or activities.

1. **Actively consult and engage people with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in DRR activities to identify and address climate and disaster risks.** To ensure effective early warnings and early action plans, we must actively engage OPDs and people with disabilities from the outset. Their lived experiences are crucial for identifying and addressing barriers in early warning systems, community risk assessments, early action plans, and personal preparedness plans, as they are experts in managing risks, and can assist to identify and remove barriers to enable effective disaster preparedness.
2. **Ensure all DRR information and early warning messages are communicated in multiple accessible formats.** Invest in mechanisms that develop and deliver early warning information in multiple accessible formats, such as sign language, captioning, pictorial formats, Easy Read, plain language documents, and accessible digital platforms and resources. Ensure disaster messages and inclusive disaster information-sharing systems are co-developed with OPDs and people with disabilities.
3. **Strengthen the engagement of people with disabilities in disaster management committees,** particularly in leadership roles at the local or community level. Actively promote and invest in the leadership development and capacity strengthening of people with disabilities and OPDs within national and local-level disaster management structures. Address barriers to inclusion in disaster management committees by conducting awareness-raising trainings on disability inclusion, and involving people with disabilities to demonstrate their capacities.



4. **Budget for accessibility and the provision of reasonable accommodations in all DRR initiatives.** Without dedicated resources to make environments or information accessible, people with disabilities will experience barriers that prevent them from engaging in DRR activities, or being able to keep themselves or their families safe during a disaster event. Ensure there is sufficient budget allocated in all DRR initiatives for accessibility and reasonable accommodations, (such as sign language interpreters, accessible venues and transport, information in Easy Read or pictorial format, etc.) This can be achieved by embedding a disability budget of 3 to 5 % of total costs.
5. **Leverage accessible and assistive technology to support disability-inclusive DRR.** Promote the use of accessible technologies and platforms—such as SMS alerts compatible with screen readers, accessible mobile apps, and community radio in local languages and accessible formats. At the same time, invest in assistive technologies that support people with disabilities to receive and act on early warning information, such as screen readers, hearing augmentation tools, and communication aids. Encourage innovation driven by OPDs to co-develop inclusive risk communication and preparedness solutions.
6. **Provide technical and financial support to OPDs to enable their meaningful engagement in DRR.** Embed flexible funding arrangements for OPDs to facilitate their effective engagement in various DRR activities, in comparison to a fee-for-service consultative approach. Recognise that OPDs and people with disabilities are experts in disability inclusion, and may require technical support to strengthen their knowledge on DRR. When preparing partnership agreements with OPDs, include funding and technical assistance to support them to understand new concepts and fulfil their role.
7. **Expand training initiatives and increase opportunities for DRR actors to access training on disability-inclusive DRR,** particularly focusing on understanding how to communicate with people with different types of disabilities, and how to provide reasonable accommodations so people with disabilities can participate in DRR projects without barriers.

Policy recommendations for DiDRR, which focus on establishing frameworks, guidelines, and long-term institutional and policy-level commitments.

8. **Provide dedicated funding mechanisms to enable the effective representation and meaningful participation of people with disabilities and OPDs in global and regional DRR platforms.** These mechanisms should explicitly cover the travel and



accommodation costs associated with attending DRR platforms, particularly for people with disabilities from the Global South who frequently operate without organisational funding including costs to cover essential support persons and sign language interpreters required for equitable participation.

9. **Ensure that DRR policies, frameworks, and strategies are developed and implemented in collaboration with OPDs and people with disabilities.** This includes working with OPDs to establish clear and measurable disability inclusion indicators within DRR policies and strategies, to assess the extent to which disability inclusion objectives are being met. Ensure that OPDs and people with disabilities are involved to lead and develop inclusive feedback and accountability mechanisms, to ensure monitoring efforts are accessible.
10. **Promote the collection, analysis, and use of disability-disaggregated data to inform the planning and monitoring of disability-inclusive efforts in DRR.** Integrate disability-disaggregated data collection as part of disaster management systems and in population censuses. Data should be gathered ethically and in collaboration with OPDs, and that OPDs are engaged periodically to review the data, identify gaps, track progress, ensure accountability.