



Tips on how to undertake a disability-inclusive community risk assessment (CRA)

Key summary:

- People with disabilities are frequently excluded from CRAs, despite experiencing significantly higher disaster risks.
- It is essential to **engage people with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in all stages of the CRA process**, to ensure physical, communication, attitudinal, and institutional barriers are identified, addressed, and removed in DRR contexts.
- Ask OPDs which parts of the CRA process they would like to be involved in. **Encourage community members with disabilities to participate** in the CRA process by asking them what barriers they might experience when trying to evacuate, and what changes they would need in place so they could evacuate safely.
- **Hold focus group discussions and co-design DRR action plans with people with disabilities and OPDs**, to ensure disability barriers and enablers are captured correctly.

What is a community risk assessment (CRA)?

- A community risk assessment (CRA) is **a community-led processes to identify and analyse potential disaster risks**, and to understand how that might impact people in the community.
- After the CRA is conducted, the community then works together to identify the disaster action plans to address the risks they identified.

Importance of making the CRA disability-inclusive

- **People with disabilities are often excluded from participating in CRAs** due to stigma that they will not be able to meaningfully participate. UNDRR's 2023 global survey on disability and disasters found that 86% of people with disabilities were not involved in CRAs or decision-making preparedness plansⁱ.
- Disasters affect people in various ways, however, **people with disabilities experience significantly higher disaster risks**. People with disabilities are four times more likely to be killed or injured during a disaster, in comparison to people without disabilities.
- People with disabilities are not at greater risk due having a disability, rather, **people with disabilities face increased risks due to being frequently excluded** from participating in disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, plans, and processes. Inaccessible

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environments, inaccessible communications, and negative attitudes of disability creates further barriers for people with disabilities to participate in DRR efforts.

- **Disability inclusion efforts improves overall accessibility for everyone**, including children, pregnant women, and older persons. It is not only a rights-based imperative, but also improves the overall effectiveness, sustainability, and community ownership of the CRA process and the disaster preparedness plans.
- It is therefore **important to include people with disabilities in the CRA to address their heightened disaster risks**, by removing the barriers that may prevent them from being able to prepare for a disaster or evacuate safely before a disaster occurs.
- When people with disabilities are included in CRAs, their heightened risk is reduced and **the whole community benefits** from being more prepared in the event of a disaster.

Involving people with disabilities in CRAs:

- Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and **people with disabilities and can play an important role** in the CRA process, by helping to identify and remove barriers.
- It is important to **engage people with disabilities and OPDs so they can actively participate and contribute in all stages of the CRA**, from initial planning to final decision-making processes, to genuinely reflect their needs and perspectives.
- The tools used for the CRA must be able to **identify and remove physical, communication, attitudinal, and institutional barriers**, ensuring that the CRA effectively captures and addresses the diverse needs of people with diverse disabilities.

Steps for making a CRA disability-inclusive:

The table below summarises the **CRA steps and corresponding tools**, outlining clear recommendations on how each step can be made disability-inclusive.

This structured approach is **adapted from the Bangladesh Government's official guidelines on conducting CRA**, enriched with practical disability-inclusive actions. It ensures that people with disabilities are meaningfully included in all aspects of risk assessment, from initial data gathering and hazard mapping, to the development and validation of community action plans.

| CRA Steps | CRA Tools | Disability-inclusive tips |
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| Step 1: Involve people with disabilities and OPDs | Contact via email, referral, or phone call | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before you begin the CRA process, contact local OPDs to ask if they would like to be involved, and which steps of the CRA process they would like to be involved in. • Any of the following activities can be conducted, co-developed, or led by OPDs. • When engaging with OPDs and people with disabilities, be sure to ask and |

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| | | <p>provide reasonable accommodations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessible venues and transport ○ Information in their required accessible formats ○ Support persons or sign language interpreters. |
| Step 2: Analyse available data | Secondary data collection, census data, hazard maps, information on disaster risks, reports or research conducted by OPDs or disability organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data on people with disabilities, and disaggregate all data by disability – as well as gender, age, indigeneity etc., where possible • Capture and analyse the barriers people with disabilities experience in DRR efforts within the community. |
| Step 3: Transect walk | Physical community tours, direct observations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include people with disabilities to participate in the transect walk • Ask people with disabilities what accessibility requirements they may need to fully participate • Encourage people with disabilities to identify barriers by asking them what barriers they might experience when trying to evacuate (possible barriers could be inaccessible roads, evacuation centers, or evacuation signs) • Co-develop a simple accessibility audit checklist with OPDs to use during transect walks, focusing on key infrastructure (e.g., roads, sidewalks, paths, shelters, evacuation signage). |
| Step 4: Participatory mapping | Mapping exercise of the community, mark key evacuation routes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include people with disabilities directly in mapping exercises • Ask people with disabilities what accessibility requirements they may need to fully participate • Use accessible and low-cost mapping tools, such tactile maps or digital tools with screen reader capabilities, pictures, paintings, sand or clay map models |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people with disabilities to identify accessible evacuation routes and accessible shelters • Mark the locations of accessible evacuation routes and accessible shelters. |
| Step 5: Focus group discussions | Group discussions, voting or ranking exercises. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold focus group discussions (FGDs) with OPDs and people with disabilities to ensure disability barriers and enablers are captured correctly • Ask people with disabilities if they would like to have separate FGDs with people with different disability types (e.g., people with physical disabilities or people who are deaf, etc.,) and consider having separate FGDs for women with disabilities and people with disabilities from ethnic minority groups if they exist in the community, and adapt facilitation methods accordingly • Ask what DRR actions or strategies need to be implemented to address the disability-related barriers • Ensure the FGD venue is accessible or near the households of people with disabilities • Ensure discussions are accessible, by providing sign language, interpreters, braille, large print, audio versions, use pictures, and other accessible formats • Prioritise the issues raised by people with disabilities when developing the DRR action plan • If using participatory decision-making exercises (such as voting or ranking) ensure that these reflect the diversity of needs across different disability types. |

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| Step 6: Develop the DRR action plan | <p>Action planning workshops, co-design DRR action plans.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the DRR action plan and include actions that address disability-related barriers • Invite people with disabilities and OPDs to co-design DRR actions so they are disability-inclusive • Share the draft action plan with people with disabilities, and engage OPDs to lead accessible feedback sessions • Consider validating the DRR action plan by conducting simulations or mock drills that actively involve people with disabilities, to test the effectiveness and accessibility • Share the DRR action plan with local government representatives for resource allocation on DiDRR. |
| Step 7: Monitor progress | <p>Data collection, analysis and review of data, conduct case studies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the progress of the DRR action plan • Capture learnings and report on how disability-related barriers have been addressed and removed • Develop simple monitoring indicators specific to disability inclusion (e.g., the number of DRR actions that address disability-related barriers) • Monitor and capture good practice case studies of the CRA process which has actively involved people with disabilities. Share these case studies with others • Record findings and conduct semi-annual reflections with people with disabilities and OPDs to improve • Update the CRA tool over time to improve on disability-inclusive DRR, based on lessons learned. |

ⁱ UNDRR (2023). '[2023 Global survey report on persons with disabilities and disasters](#)'.