

Disaster Risk Reduction Capability Statement

Valued partner of UN Agencies, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Donors and INGOs, and trusted ally of the Disability Movement.

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Who we are

The [Inclusion Advisory Group \(IAG\)](#) is a global network of disability-inclusion advisors within CBM Global. We work alongside organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actors to translate policy into practice across risk analysis, early warning and early action, preparedness, and risk-informed recovery – aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sendai Framework.

IAG in brief

- **Global network:** a network of advisors and associates operating both internationally and nationally, many with lived experience of disability.
- **Ways of working:** our technical expertise is informed by years of disability-inclusive DRR programming, partnering with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in blended, multi-disciplinary teams within a proven, [independently evaluated approach](#).
- **Offer:** capacity development, technical advice, policy and systems strengthening, organisational change facilitation, research and evidence, joint programming.
- **Sectors:** disability-inclusive DRR policy, governance, and financing; as well as disaster prevention, early warning, anticipatory action, response readiness, and recovery.
- **Trusted by:** UNDRR, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, the Australian Government, IFRC, INGO's like Caritas and CRS, as well as national civil society organisations and DRR authorities. A significant share of our engagements are repeat business or client referrals.



Why our work matters

Disasters amplify existing inequalities. When risk analysis, early warning systems, shelters, and governance exclude persons with disabilities, the result is higher mortality, greater loss, and slower recovery.

[UNDRR's 2023 global survey](#) found that 86% of respondents with disabilities had not participated in community DRR decision-making, and only 8% said local DRR plans addressed their needs.

We work to change this. Our advisory approach demonstrates that disability inclusion is a non-negotiable standard for effective DRR. Through technical assistance and partnerships DRR actors, delivered together with the disability movement, we aim to embed disability inclusion into every layer of the DRR system – from national policy and financing to community-level preparedness and recovery.

This ensures that disaster risk reduction is not only risk-informed but rights-based, leaving no one behind.



Our offer

Commitments to action

We help DRR actors turn disability-inclusion commitments into measurable results – taking action to improve access and participation at every stage.



Strategy

We co-define how disability inclusion underpins DRR impact; set bespoke KPIs; integrate OPD roles into governance and decision-making; and align policies and SOPs with the UN CRPD and Sendai Framework.



Context & risk analysis

We map barriers and capacities with OPDs; integrate disability risks into community capacity assessments and contingency planning; and identify leverage points for inclusive preparedness and recovery.



Planning

We translate inclusion goals into DRR plans, budgets, and timelines; schedule accessibility audits and co-design sprints; and ensure inclusion is operationalised from design to supervision.



Procurement

We embed accessibility criteria into tenders and contracts; review shelter/site designs and retrofits for universal design; and support supplier compliance mechanisms.



Budgeting

We promote inclusive budgeting, tagging resources for accessibility, reasonable accommodation, assistive technology, and OPD engagement—using templates for tracking at project and portfolio levels.



Design

We apply universal design principles to physical and digital systems; run inclusive design labs to surface practical fixes early; and tailor guidance for shelters, evacuation routes, and public facilities.



Stakeholder engagement

We broker sustained OPD roles in governance and delivery; make participation safe, accessible, and resourced; and convene Communities of Practice bridging DRR and disability actors.



Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

We integrate disability-disaggregated data into MEL systems; apply adaptive learning cycles and real-time reviews; and connect project-level data to national dashboards.



Communication and advocacy

We produce accessible, plain-language and multi-format outputs; position OPD leadership and lived experience in narratives and policy spaces; and facilitate knowledge exchange on inclusive DRR.



Inclusive solutions for climate-related disasters. During monsoon flooding in Gaibandha, Bangladesh, a disability-inclusive rescue boat ensures people with disabilities are safely evacuated alongside families, livestock, and vital belongings. © CBM / CDD

Applied to the DRM cycle

We focus on priority interventions at each phase of the DRM cycle where our networks, OPD partnerships and tools help clients to make their DRR programming more disability inclusive.



Prevention & mitigation

Inclusive risk reduction at source through land-use planning, safer site design, retrofits, and nature-based solutions. We advise on accessibility of critical services (education, health, WASH) and public spaces, conducting audits and phased retrofit guidance with OPDs. We also support disability inclusion in large-scale inclusive climate-resilient livelihoods programmes, linking inclusive risk reduction to sustainable income and food security. We work with OPDs to influence DRR policies and practices and ensure their leadership in prevention and mitigation planning.



Preparedness & early action

We strengthen last-mile, multi-hazard early warning systems, accessible risk communication, and anticipatory action triggers. Our support includes inclusive drills, evacuation planning, assistive device pre-positioning and co-designed SOPs for shelter, health, and protection. We promote active engagement of persons with disabilities in CRAs, simulations and preparedness planning and we enable OPDs to co-design preparedness plans and early action measures.



Recovery

We enable inclusive recovery frameworks and Build Back Better policies; advise on housing/site planning standards; and integrate disability-disaggregated data and barrier analysis into learning and scale-up. We work with OPDs to shape recovery policies and ensure persons with disabilities are represented in decision-making and monitoring processes.

Our work in action

Impact with clients

DFAT

Australian Humanitarian Partnership & Disaster READY



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

We strengthened relationships between DRR actors and OPDs, ensuring people with disabilities are included in disaster response and preparedness training. Simultaneously we supported OPDs across Pacific islands (e.g. [Fiji](#)) to engage confidently in disaster response after emergencies.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Accessible shelter and evacuation centres



In partnership with the Australian Red Cross, IOM, and other actors, we developed the [All Under One Roof guidance](#) and training package, embedding disability inclusion into shelter/settlement responses. In response to a request from [IOM Nepal](#), we worked with Nepali OPDs to audit evacuation centres for access barriers and provided actionable retrofit recommendations. These informed upgrades ahead of monsoon season and improved standards for inclusive shelter design.

Red Cross Movement

Technical support to strengthen programmes and institutional capacity



Through our [collaboration](#) with IFRC and National Societies, we worked with OPDs to embed disability inclusion in shelter and settlement guidance and delivered training modules on preparedness. In partnership with Abilis Consulting and the Finnish Red Cross we reviewed and improved disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction tools for the [Nepal Red Cross Society](#) and delivered a short training module for staff.

Catholic Relief Services (Philippines)

Disability-inclusive DRR portfolio review



We assessed disability inclusion across [CRS DRR projects](#), from municipal practice and local implementers to overall project design and delivered actionable recommendations and orientation training for staff. The findings equipped CRS leadership and programme teams to embed inclusion in future proposals and operations, strengthening work with partner municipalities and Caritas Philippines.

In one of Bangladesh's most hazard-exposed districts, we worked with INGO partners and Caritas Bangladesh to strengthen disability inclusion across DRR systems. We analysed barriers and enablers in early-warning systems and mapped risk-governance structures; trained consortium staff and volunteers; produced practical [guidance](#) to engage OPDs; and advised on inclusive [community risk assessments](#). Our work also included accessibility audits of cyclone shelters and key public service sites which informed upgrade plans and investment choices.

Gaibandha Model: Scalable practice for inclusive DRR

Piloted in 2009 in flood-prone Gaibandha District, Bangladesh, this [model](#) empowers self-help groups of persons with disabilities to lead inclusive community risk assessments, operate early-warning systems, and advocate for accessible shelters and dedicated DRR budgets. It links preparedness to resilient livelihoods through skills training and flood-proof asset protection.

Impact: Greater OPD leadership, universal-design infrastructure, and gender-sensitive protection—now distilled into our [guidance for OPDs](#) and replicated in Nepal and the Pacific.

How we strengthen DRR systems

Disaster risk reduction operates across multiple layers – from national policy to community action. Our advisory work connects these layers, so inclusion is embedded end-to-end:



National level: We help authorities integrate disability inclusion into DRR policies, budgets, and early warning systems, as well as training and monitoring frameworks.



Subnational level: We support provincial and municipal actors to localise procedures, strengthen OPD participation, and improve procurement. We also work with OPDs to co-design inclusive simulations, risk and capacity assessments, accessibility audits, anticipatory action triggers, and feedback systems.



Community level: Alongside OPDs, we co-facilitate inclusive risk assessments, barrier mapping, and last-mile risk communication, making preparedness and evacuation plans practical and safe for all.

This systems approach ensures that inclusion is not an add-on but a core feature of DRR governance and delivery.

Our technical resources

We develop practical, ready-to-use resources drawn from years of advisory work, collaboration with OPDs, and our own programmes and advocacy, enabling DRR actors to move from commitments to disability inclusive DRR practice with confidence.

Practical tools for field teams



CBM i-DRR app

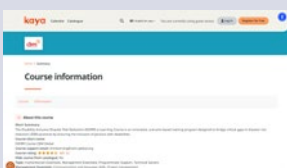
A smartphone app that provides quick access to inclusion standards and checklists in places without internet connectivity.



Disability inclusive DRR tip sheets

- Community Disaster Preparedness Committees
- Community Mapping: Vulnerability and Capability Assessments
- Community Preparedness Plans
- Early Warning Systems
- Evacuation Procedures and Simulations
- Integrating Climate Change into Disaster Planning
- Post-Disaster Needs Assessments
- Psychosocial Support in Disaster Events
- School Disaster Preparedness and Management
- Shelter and Evacuation Centre Accessibility

Learning and capacity building



Free e-learning for DRR practitioners

Short, practical course on disability inclusive DRR shaped by years of programmatic experience.



Interactive games

Choose Your Own Adventure (CYOA) is an interactive game to encourage participants to think about opportunities for disability inclusion in DRR projects across the project cycle. There are region-specific versions tailored for [Africa](#), [Asia](#) and the [Pacific](#).

Learning and capacity building



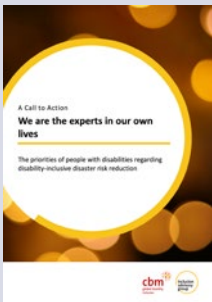
Disability-Inclusive DRR Guidance for OPDs

A guidance document for OPDs to orient themselves on disability inclusive DRR.



Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction

Experiences of people with disabilities in Vanuatu and recommendations for humanitarian agencies.



Call to Action. We are the experts in our own lives

Based on the experiences of people with disabilities working on DRR in Asia and Pacific regions, this resource provides good practice case studies and clear, actionable recommendations for DRR practitioners.



Participation of OPDs in disaster response and preparedness

This research explores the roles and impact of OPDs in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and identifies key challenges and enablers constraining and supporting OPDs' contributions to the disaster preparedness and response sector.



Our lessons from disaster-risk reduction programmes in the Asia Pacific

This report presents the stories and experiences of persons with disabilities captured in a large-scale consultation exercise.

Not all work done for clients and partners is publicly available. **Please check our website for more examples** of IAG's [projects](#) and [resources](#), and reach out for further information.



How to work with us

Whether you need practical advice on a single DRR plan or a longer-term partner to embed disability inclusion across disaster risk programming, we tailor the engagement to your context and team. From the outset we work with OPDs and DRR actors, so solutions are Sendai-aligned, practical, and locally-owned.

Our approach

- **We build the right team for each engagement**, blending local advisors, global specialists and OPDs. Our dedicated contract lead and a project manager are accountable for scope, budget, timeline, and day-to-day delivery, while adhering to our global quality assurance, safeguarding, and MEAL systems.
- **We bring wider networks and experience** through our work with the [Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction](#) and the [Thematic Group on DRR and Climate Action](#) (within the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development).
- **We broker OPD leadership** through DRR-related partnerships with the Pacific Disability Forum as well as national and sub-national OPDs, primarily in the Asia and Pacific regions.
- **We match modality to context.** Targeted consultancy, secondments, joint programming with partners, or on-call helpdesks are designed to build capability, not dependence.
- **Quality and ethics are embedded.** Quality assurance and risk management processes including peer reviews are applied from scoping to close-out.
- **We monitor what matters.** Our MEL tracks outcomes and systems change and feeds learning back into portfolios and communities of practice. Disability-disaggregated and barrier data are critical sources to inform our MEL.

Your options

1. **Capacity development.** Role-specific training, mentoring/coaching and clinics on disability-inclusive community capacity assessments and risk profiling, preparedness planning, accessible multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory action, evacuation drills, and universal design for public facilities—co-designed and co-facilitated with OPDs. Add-ons include DiDRR e-learning for wider reach and a light community of practice for sustained peer learning
2. **Technical advice.** Hands-on support to embed inclusion in DRR programmes and investments – such as inclusive log frames and indicator menus, barrier analysis for early warning systems, accessibility reviews of shelters and evacuation routes, and practical SOPs for capacity assessments, shelter, health/MHPSS, WASH, and protection.
3. **Policy and systems strengthening.** Translate DRR standards and commitments into operational procedures, checklists, and governance arrangements that formalise OPD roles. Upgrade national and local DRR plans to include disability data fields, barrier indicators, budgeting lines for accessibility and reasonable accommodation – aligned with the UN CRPD and Sendai Framework.

4. **Organisational change facilitation.** Conduct inclusion assessments of DRR actors with time-bound change plans; mentoring of focal points; and accompaniment through seasonal hazard cycles so findings translate into resourced OPD participation, accessible operations, and stronger accountability.
5. **Research and evidence.** Produce barrier and accessibility audits, after-action reviews and case studies on inclusive early warning, drills, and preparedness. Generate policy-shaping analysis to mainstream disability inclusion across DRR portfolios – produced with OPDs as co-researchers where possible.
6. **Joint programming.** Serve as the inclusion technical partner in DRR portfolios and consortia projects alongside OPDs and local actors: piloting and de-risking inclusive practices; packaging tools and training for scale; and aligning MEAL so disability and barrier data flow into existing dashboards and decisions.

Your results

- **Realise and evidence commitments** to the UN CRPD and Sendai Framework by embedding disability inclusion DRR in mandates, procedures, budgets, and governance, with OPD roles formalised and used in practice.
- **Improve delivery and reduce risk** through practical accessibility solutions in early action, evacuation and critical services improve reach, timeliness, and safety – tracked through disability disaggregated data and barrier indicators.
- **Strengthen reporting and funding confidence.** Audit-ready evidence, accessible outputs, and resourced OPD participation make it easier to report to boards and funders – and to scale what works across programmes and geographies.



Get in touch

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