



Disaster risk management and disability

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People with disability and disasters

- One billion people with disability globally with 80% in developing countries
- Vulnerability of people with disability and their families
- Physical and information barriers
- Cultural and social attitudes
- Disaster planning has not included people with disability



Critical issues

- Persons with disability face higher risks than the general population in a natural disaster
- Mortality rate of people with disability proportionally over twice as high as the general population
- People with disability are more likely to be left behind in an emergency
- Humanitarian response to people with disability may be less due to environmental, physical and social barriers
- Natural disasters may lead to injuries resulting in long-term disability



Pacific region

- Extremely large area with small landmass
- Relatively small populations
- Majority are small island developing states
- 22 countries or territories
- Transport and infrastructure costs are high





Case study - Fiji

- Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston (2016) recorded as the one of the strongest storms in the Southern Hemisphere
1. Persons with disabilities missed out on the distribution of humanitarian aid as:
 - 1.1. Distribution points were not accessible
 - 1.2. Information circulated on the distribution points were not inclusive of, or accessible to, all persons with disabilities
 - 1.3. Transportation and roads or means to access the distribution points were not accessible and available.
 - 1.4. Mobility aids were destroyed or damaged in the cyclone



Case study - Fiji

2. Lack of disability disaggregated data
3. Some inaccessible venues for cluster meetings – Lack of participation means that issues concerning persons with disabilities were not voiced and addressed
4. Information on warnings and other disaster related information and updates need to be inclusive of all persons with disabilities. For the Deaf community, information should be circulated via text messages or through captioned videos or sign interpreters on screen

(Data collected by Fiji Disabled Persons Federation)



Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DIDRRN)

- Focus on raising awareness about:
 - Physical infrastructure
 - Disaster response service
 - Public service announcements
 - Emergency exits and evacuation centres
- Five Pacific Island countries involved & coordinated by Pacific Disability Forum



Role of Pacific Disability Forum

- Pacific Disability Forum is a regional disability advocacy body based in Fiji
- Capacity training for disability organisations on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management
- Engaging with governments on inclusion of people with disability in disaster risk management



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Signed and ratified by over 100 countries
- Obligations include:
 - implementing measures to design, develop, produce and distribute accessible ICT at an early stage, so these become accessible at minimum cost for people with disabilities. (Article 9)
 - taking all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters" (Article 11)

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=269>



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)

- Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
“To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information”



Role of stakeholders

- Governments have primary responsibility for reducing disaster risk and should work together with relevant stakeholders. This includes a range of NGOs.
- “Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design” (Sendai Framework 2015-2030)



World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016)

- Report of survey and consultation of 769 respondents (people with disability, disability organisations and humanitarian providers) - Handicap International
- Launch of Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action



Asia Pacific issues of concern

- Need for increased data
- More support needed for participation by disability organisations in disaster risk management planning
- Need for end-to-end early warning system inclusive of people with disability



Early-warning systems

- Information is vital
- Standard systems make sense
- Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)
 - XML-based system for exchanging public warnings between alerting technologies
 - ITU Rec. X.1303



Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

- Content can be delivered in many different formats (audio, video, text) to mobile phones, radio, TV and sirens as appropriate
 - Can incorporate multi-modal accessibility features
 - Multi-lingual
- Adopted in USA, Canada, Italy and Australia with implementations in Sri Lanka & Thailand
- CAP Implementation Workshop (23-24 August 2016) in Bangkok

<http://www.ait.ac.th/news-and-events/2016/events/cap-workshop-2016-flyer-23.pdf>



International cooperation

- Share information on current issues with emergency alert systems including use of CAP
- Promote cooperation on various software and hardware solutions including content creation and distribution on national level to enhance access to systems for disaster risk reduction



Thank you!

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