

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

Saving Lives and Leaving No One Behind – Gaibandha, Bangladesh



5 key ways that communities can prepare for disaster, including people with disability

Start with this...

Strengthen groups of people with disability and their representative groups

Take time to understand the community and use existing networks to establish self-help groups (recognising they may have other priorities as well as disaster preparedness).

Work to include women and men with different types of impairment and their support network.

Ensure self-help groups know about their rights, legislation and government structures. Support them taking action to raise government awareness.

Look for ways for people with disability to show leadership in disaster risk reduction in the broader community.



Then...

Advocate with local government on disaster risk management



Self-help groups advocate about disability issues, disasters and broader community development issues, that benefit the whole community.

Work for improved accessibility of government offices as a starting point to broader changes. People with disability meeting with officials and being more visible, leads to more opportunities.

Successful action means people with disability are becoming more recognised within their communities and attitudes are changing towards people with disability.

And...

Build accessible infrastructure and involve community for inclusion in disaster risk reduction

Involve women and men with disability in community risk assessment processes. People with disability in the community and other at-risk people are identified so responders can reach them fast in case of disaster.

Make sure local disaster management committees are active, equipped, understand their roles and include women and men with disability.

Early warning systems need to be timely and accessible to everyone. Use both auditory and visual messages, and make home visits if needed.

Make evacuation inclusive and shelters accessible.



Also...

Work with schools to strengthen household and community awareness and preparedness



Work with schools to act as shelters and raise surrounding land to be a safe area. This also means classes can continue!

Students can share information with families and the community about preparing for disasters and making sure no one is left behind when disaster strikes.

Schools can host practice evacuations and this raises awareness of disability inclusion. Mock drills are fun!

And...

Promote and support sustainable, resilient livelihoods

Work with community members to identify livelihood options that can withstand disasters. A market analysis can help find new areas when traditional livelihoods are increasingly vulnerable to disaster.

Focus on abilities not disabilities. Work with people with disability to engage in the most promising and profitable livelihood activities.

Promote group-based income generation, bringing people with and without disability together.

