Include us. We want to talk about disasters
Disasters in our area

We live in the Asia Pacific area. Like

- Fiji
- India
- Cambodia.
There are lots of disasters in our area. Like

- floods

- cyclones

- earthquakes

- volcanoes.
It may be

- the air is bad. It is **not** safe to breathe

- hot weather. We call it a heat wave.

  It is hot for a long time. It can be

  - 2 days

  or

  - more than 2 days. Like 15 days.

- COVID 19.
Our project asked people with disabilities

- how do you get ready for disasters?
- what makes it hard for you?
- how can you be safe?

We talked to people in

- 2020
- 2021.

We talked to people

- face to face
- and
- online.
What did people with disabilities say?

Most people have been in a disaster.

There are more disasters. People said

- we will not be safe

and

- it is hard to get to a safe place.

Like there is lots of water.

We can not use our wheelchair.
Planning for disasters

Lots of people with disabilities want to plan for disasters.

It may be

- planning meetings

  or

- we practice how to get to a safe place.

  We call it a disaster drill.

But

People with disabilities did not get to do this.
Only 4 in 10 people with disabilities say they were part of any planning.

People with disabilities did not go.

We were

- **not** invited.

- **did not** know about the planning.

Or

We did **not** have help.

Like we need

- to use sign language

- help from people who speak your language.
The information was hard to understand.

Some people need

- papers that are easy to read
- information in braille.

We said it was hard to join in. Like

- it costs lots of money
- we can not get there

- the meeting place only has stairs.

It is hard to get a wheel chair in.
Some people with disabilities do not get to a safe place. Other people forget to help us.

Lots of women and girls have this problem.
Warnings

Some people can **not** get the warnings.

It may be

- we live away from other people.

  Like on a farm. It is **not** near a town.

- it is hard for us to get information.

  Like we use sign language.

- our family does **not** tell us about warnings.
People with disabilities like to get information from people we know. Like

- family
- friends
- people in our community.

Many people do not use

- radio
- TV
- social media. Like Facebook
- texts on a phone.
What is needed? What do people with disabilities want?

1. Give warning information in a way we understand

Like

- a person we know tells us

- tell us in a way we understand.

We may need it in

- sign language
- braille.
2. Make safe places easy to use

We call them evacuation centres. We need

- ramps
- lots of space
- bathrooms that are easy to use.

3. Help us get to a safe place

We may need help to get there.

We may need help from

- family
- friends.
4. Ask us to come to meetings

We want to

• talk about disasters
• plan for disasters.

We have lots of good ideas.

5. Have money in the budget

It is to help us in disasters. Like money to

• build places that are safe for us to use
• get us to a safe place

and

• have the things we need in a disaster. Like
  - people who can use sign language
  - things to help us. Like a wheelchair
  - information that is easy to understand.
Our ideas for COVID 19 plans

Ask us about what we need.

Make sure people with disabilities can still get help to do things. Like go to the doctor.
Make COVID 19 information

• easy to get. Like family and friends tell us

• easy to understand.
Lots of people made this report.

People with disabilities worked on the report.
The groups are

- CBM Global Disability Inclusion, Inclusion Advocacy Group.

- International Disability Alliance

- Pacific Disability Forum

- Australian Aid.

They paid for the project.
This report is based on Our lessons: An approach to disability inclusive disaster risk reduction.

Based on consultations with people with disabilities in the Asia Pacific regions.

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Access Easy English wrote the Easy English.

May 2022.