Including Climate Change in Disaster Planning in the Pacific Region

Climate change is causing more disasters across the Pacific.

People with disabilities are often affected more by disasters because they may face barriers that make it harder to get information, services, support, and opportunities.

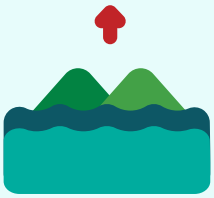
Disasters can also cause injuries and health problems that may lead to disability.



Climate change can affect people with disabilities and their communities in many ways:



More storms, floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events.



Loss of land due to sea level rise.



Less access to roads, transport, shelters, and important services in a disaster.



Having to leave their homes and move to another place.



Less food to eat and a higher risk of poor nutrition.



Loss of jobs, income, and ways to earn a living.



More difficulty getting the information, support, and services they need.

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What can we do?

Disaster response and disaster prevention planning needs to **consider different ways** climate change affects people with disabilities. It should also **help remove barriers** that make it harder for people with disabilities to access protection, services, and decision-making.

To build strong and inclusive communities, people with disabilities need to be included in disaster planning, preparedness, and climate change activities.

Good practice tips:

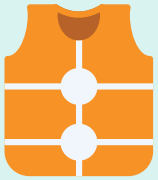






- ✓ **Include people with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** in all climate change and disaster planning.
- ✓ Make sure people with disabilities **can take part in decisions from the start.**
- ✓ **Provide information about climate change and disasters in a variety of ways** so everyone can access and understand. *(Ask OPDs*





- ✓ **Make all meetings, activities, consultations, and services accessible** for people with different disabilities.
- ✓ Support people with disabilities to **prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.**

Key Message



Communities are safer and stronger when people with disabilities are included in climate change action and disaster planning.

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