

7th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
New Delhi, India
02-05 November 2016

Stakeholder Action Statement from the
Organizations and Individuals working on disability-inclusion

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The Disability Stakeholder Group represented by:

- *The Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN): ASB; CBM; Centre for Disability in Development (CDD); Handicap International (HI); Malteser International (MI); Pacific Disability Forum (PDF); South Asian Disability Forum (SADF)*
- *International Disability Alliance (IDA)*
- *The Nippon Foundation (NF)*
- *Rehabilitation International (RI)*
- *Disability Rights Fund*
- *UNESCAP*

I. Preamble

The realization of an inclusive and all-of- society approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires transforming the commitment of governments and stakeholders made in Sendai into regional, national and local actions, and setting the course to accelerate implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR) 2015-2030.

Inclusion and due recognition of disproportionately at risk groups including women, children and youth, older people and persons with disabilities, as key contributing stakeholders to DRR at all levels is fundamental for building resilient societies, nations and communities. Therefore, inclusion needs to be addressed as a cross-cutting issue of shared concern and responsibility within DRR and resilience building.

While the SFDRR establishes broader recognition of the disproportionate risk that persons with disabilities face and acknowledges persons with disabilities and Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) as lead actors in DRR, the disability stakeholders are concerned that after the first year of the SFDRR, progress towards transforming commitments to an inclusive and all-of-society approach to DRR into action has been hesitant at best. While there are notable initiatives towards

strengthened collaboration between the governments and DPOs to implement inclusive DRR in the region, the existing systems at local, national and regional levels still need to ensure the meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in decision making processes within DRR.

Additional policy initiatives provide impetus for Governments for timely action. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) position persons with disabilities as one of the key groups, and its goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities is linked to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. In Asia and the Pacific, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific supports 58 Governments to take forward disability-inclusive development. Its stand-alone goal 7 on disability-inclusive DRR requests member States to mainstream the disability perspective in disaster risk reduction measures. In 2017, all ESCAP member States are expected to submit Incheon Strategy indicators for the midpoint review of the current Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

The predominant challenge remains in translating the policy into practice and removing barriers to reduce the impact of disasters on persons with disabilities. The importance of linking disability-inclusive DRR with the SDGs based on the understanding that inclusion builds the resilience of the whole society, safeguards development gains and minimizes disaster losses, also needs to be further emphasized.

Furthermore, the importance of data disaggregated by disability needs to be fully addressed within the Asia Regional Plan as without fulfilling the SFDRR commitments to disability-disaggregated data, disaster risk cannot be understood, and the realization of the inclusive and all-of-society approach to DRR will be severely curtailed.

In order to provide guidance for practical implementation of the SFDRR and the Asia Regional Plan for DRR, the role of persons with disabilities and DPOs as contributing actors and recognized SFDRR stakeholders should be emphasized. Outcome documents of international and regional events that support the implementation of the Sendai Framework are notable in this regard. In particular, the Dhaka declaration supports SFDRR implementation by identifying concrete actions to roll-out the framework with meaningful participation and contribution by persons with disabilities and their organizations in DRR planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting processes.

II. The Disability Stakeholder Group action statement and call on governments and partners for the joint commitment and actions

We, the Disability Stakeholder Group,

Refer to Sendai Framework principles of all of society engagement in disaster risk reduction;

Draw on continued engagement for DRR in Asia through the IAP and AMCDRR as self-organized stakeholder groups;

Build on commitments to the Sendai Framework, as expressed in the Statement of Commitment at the 6th AMCDRR;

Hereby commit to the following actions within the next two years (2017-2018) in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

1. Provide technical support to governments and other mainstream actors for fostering cross-sectoral engagement and planning, implementation and monitoring of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) from community to regional levels.

Indicators:

- 1.1. At least 5 national and sub-national level DRR-related policies, strategies, guidelines and plans reviewed for disability-inclusion
- 1.2. At least 3 multi-stakeholder mechanisms/ platforms established and/or supported for cross-sectoral engagement for inclusive-DRR
- 1.3. Initiatives to institutionalize disability-inclusive DRR into the national training curriculum/ systems begin in at least 3 countries

2. Strengthen capacities of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to support their meaningful contribution to DRR-related policy development, implementation and monitoring.

Indicators:

- 2.1. At least 3 countries create pool of resource persons on DiDRR including facilitators and trainers with disabilities
- 2.2. Accessible DiDRR training tools made available in at least 5 countries
- 2.3. Progressive qualitative and quantitative increase in the meaningful participation, and representation, of persons with disabilities in regional, national and sub-national DRR platforms and forums, reporting and monitoring processes

3. Contribute to building evidence through setting up effective mechanisms and standardized tools for collecting and using data on disability, gender and age for risk sensitive decision making.

Indicators:

- 3.1. At least 2 countries in the region set up an effective mechanism and guidelines to compile gender, age and disability disaggregated data to be used for DRR planning and programming
- 3.2. Research and knowledge sharing on disaggregated data and the relation between disability and disaster risk initiated at national, sub-national, regional and global levels

4. Strengthen community resilience through promoting meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including women, children and older persons in community-based DRR initiatives.

Indicators:

- 4.1. At least 2 countries develop or adapt inclusive community risk assessment and DRR planning frameworks
- 4.2. Resource materials on inclusive-CBDRR available in accessible formats and their use promoted in at least 5 countries
- 4.3. Progressive qualitative and quantitative increase in meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR initiatives

5. Promote Universal Design and assistive technology in DRR for accessible physical infrastructure, communication and services to ensure participation and reduce risk for all.

Indicators:

- 5.1. At least 2 countries in the region take action to enforce accessible and resilient infrastructure models including schools, hospitals and shelters following the principles of universal design
- 5.2. Progressive qualitative and quantitative improvement in access to DRR information, communication and services (e.g. early warning systems, evacuation plans, etc.) for persons with disabilities
- 5.3. At least 2 countries in the region ensure support to replicate accessible and affordable technology, device and equipment for inclusive DRR

6. Promote disability-inclusive disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Indicators:

- 6.1. Good practices in inclusive BBB documented and promoted
- 6.2. At least 2 countries ready to practice inclusive BBB
- 6.3. At least 3 national level policies and plans for preparedness for response are made inclusive
- 6.4. First responders sensitized and trained on disability-inclusive response in at least 3 countries
- 6.5. Persons with disabilities included in post-disaster assessments

Means of verification for the above 6 commitments:

- Sub-national and national reporting on SFDRR implementation
- UNCRPD and Incheon Strategy progress reporting by member states
- CRPD country and shadow reports, CRPD committee recommendations
- Stakeholder group reporting to government in-country
- ISDR progress and thematic reports
- Programmatic interventions and analysis of I/NGO, DPO, etc. reports

- SDG country reports
- Surveys, focus groups, interviews, literature review and academic research

We further call on governments and other partners for the joint action to support the aforementioned commitments as a contribution to the implementation of the SFDRR and the Asia Regional Plan towards an inclusive, people-centered and all-of-society approach to resilience building.