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Disaster Risk Management for All

The inclusion of children, elderly people and
persons with disabilities





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Foreword

Disasters affect entire populations – but how do our risk management as well as rescue systems respond? Extreme natural events such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods, cause disasters again and again, especially in developing countries. The problem is exacerbated by climate change. It is the greater vulnerability of the population of developing states that turns extreme natural events into disasters more frequently in these parts of the world.

But not all sections of the population are equally badly affected. The victims often include a very high number of children, elderly people and persons with disabilities. Today we know that about one third of the approximately 220,000 people who lost their lives in the tsunami that swept the Pacific in December 2004 were children. The disastrous earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 hit disproportionately many persons with disabilities. There is often no barrier-free access to shelters; assistance reaches these groups too late if at all. The reason is that these groups are all too rarely involved in disaster risk management measures. But they are the ones that know best about their own situation, and if they are enabled to participate in the planning of disaster risk management and recovery, their knowledge can be incorporated into measures.

This publication explains the links between disasters, disaster risk management and particularly vulnerable sections of the population and is seen as a contribution to the implementation of the Ministry's "Action Plan for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities" that was launched in January 2013. It gives an overview of our experience to date and provides some practical suggestions how to meet



the needs of all people on an equitable basis through disaster risk management.

I very much hope that this brochure proves useful to practitioners and fosters the inclusion of persons with disabilities, children and elderly people in our partner countries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gudrun Kopp'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and 'K'.

Gudrun Kopp
Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal
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1. Inclusion – disaster risk management for all

Time and time again, extreme natural events such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods cause disasters, especially in developing countries. Climate change is exacerbating the potential threat, as changes are predicted in the intensity, duration, frequency and geographical reach of extreme weather events. The enormous economic damage and loss of human lives result primarily from the greater and increasing vulnerability of the people. But not all sections of the population are equally at risk from the consequences of disasters.

Extreme weather events threaten above all those sections of the population who are forced to lead a marginal existence, have little opportunity to become involved in decision-making, and are rarely able to exercise their rights. Children, elderly people and persons with disabilities are particularly badly hit, since they generally have no income of their own and are not adequately covered by social security systems.

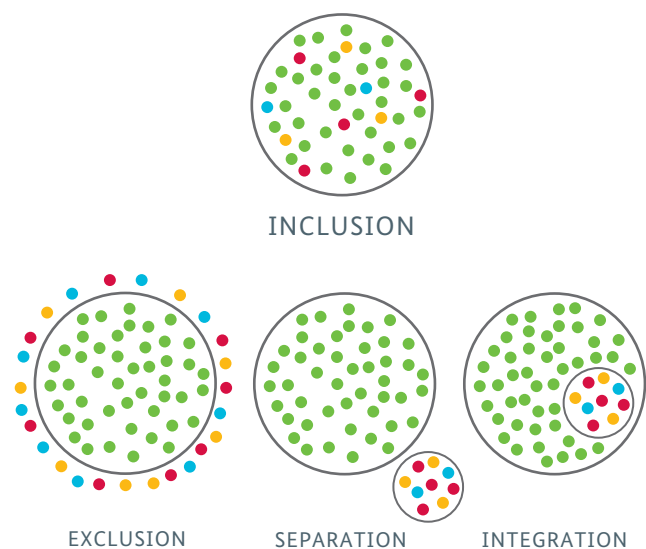
Within society, their interests are often overshadowed by the competing interests of what is perceived as the *normal* population. Girls and women are often even more excluded from social processes and decision-making than men. Stigmatisation and discrimination come to the fore when disasters strike.

The exclusion suffered by these groups, and their low level of participation within society can result in their needs being overlooked in disaster risk management measures. Their various physical, sensory or intellectual impairments mean that children, elderly people and persons with disabilities have very special needs, which have not hitherto been adequately taken into account. Many of these people are dependent on trusted individuals, emotionally, physically or to help them communicate, but when disasters strike, the trusted individual is not always there. Elderly people

and persons with disabilities often find it difficult or impossible to access shelters. Help frequently does not get through to them.

Development cooperation was marked for a long time by a sort of welfare mind-set, which saw children, elderly people and persons with disabilities as helpless or needy.

Today we are increasingly taking a human rights-based approach in all our work, thanks in part to the coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008). The core elements of the new approach are equal opportunities for all, involving the respective sections of the population along with their families and organisations in realising their rights, and equal access to public services including health care and education, to the labour market and to public life.



Source: <http://www.inklusion-olpe.de>

Inclusion is based on the idea of a Society for All, in which all people are equally free to develop their own potentials, to contribute to the common good in line with their individual abilities, and to make use of the benefits offered by society.

In disaster risk management this means that especially at-risk groups take decisions that affect them jointly with local, national and international decision-makers, and that they are involved in planning and implementing the pertinent activities.

WHAT IS DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT?

Disaster risk management comprises the whole systematic and conceptual framework of measures that are closely linked to each other and that are taken before a natural hazard occurs with the aim of limiting or avoiding adverse impacts of a natural event on society. The central aim is the reduction of the disaster risk for people living in the regions that are exposed to natural hazards. Reducing disaster risk involves, firstly, reducing the vulnerability of the population itself to events such as earthquakes, floods and storms and, secondly, preventing the occurrence of new hazards, such as landslides caused by inappropriate land use or floods caused by deforestation along the upper reaches of rivers (BMZ 2010: 6).



2. Particularly vulnerable groups in disaster risk management

Children, elderly people and persons with disabilities are heterogeneous groups, whose needs do display many similarities but are nevertheless divergent in some ways. We can only go into a few of the group-specific differences here because each group is extremely heterogeneous, with needs varying depending on a large number of factors such as age, gender, poverty, type of disability, level of education, social and cultural background, support and integration within society.

What the above groups do have in common is that their marginalisation often means that they are particularly vulnerable when disaster strikes, and that they need special assistance. This may be because they live in high-risk areas such as slums built on steep slopes, or because they have little chance to protect themselves against disasters, or again because the lack of support available means that they are practically unable to respond appropriately to the consequences of disasters. However, since they face higher risks, they are often also aware of the measures that would be needed to reduce their specific risks.

Students take shelter under a desk as part of a disaster simulation at Wadoi Primary School in Nabire District of Papua, Indonesia. Nabire was struck by an earthquake in 2004 that killed over 130 people, injured hundreds and left over 1,000 residents homeless.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the beginning of the 21st century the world's population included around 600 million elderly people – three times as many as in the mid-20th century. It is estimated that this group will once again triple in size by 2050, to almost 2 billion people. The number of elderly people is thus currently growing significantly faster than any other age group (UN 2001: 4). About 80% of the world's over-65-year-olds will live in developing countries by the middle of this century (DZA 2008:6).

Recent WHO and World Bank estimates put the number of persons living with some form of disability at over one billion, or about 15% of the world's population. Some 190 million of them are living with serious impairments (WHO/World Bank 2011). The vast majority of these people live in developing countries.

One special challenge faced by children and persons suffering mental disabilities is that they have limited opportunities to become involved in decision-making, depending on the national legislation in place in their country and the degree of their disability. Elderly people by contrast often enjoy greater authority and thus more decision-making power than other citizens: it is not unusual for councils of elders to be involved in selecting beneficiaries of aid in the aftermath of disasters, for instance. Disaster risk management should then make use of the local knowledge and experience of older people. This could, for example, allow us to more accurately assess potential risks in certain areas.



PROJECT EXAMPLE 1

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL: SHARPENING PERSPECTIVES IN INDIA

In India, a Malteser International project, funded by the European Commission (DIPECHO), supported community disaster task teams – responsible for rescue, first aid and early warning – and the overall communities with regard to disaster risk reduction. As part of the project, task teams and communities were sensitized for the specific vulnerabilities of traditionally marginalised groups whether based on caste, gender, disability or age. In this way, vulnerable groups were better identified and special efforts were made for their inclusion and vulnerability reduction. Participatory methods were used and inputs were tailored for even an illiterate or neo-literate audience. Real life caselets illustrated vividly specific vulnerability in disaster situations.

At the hamlet level, Hamlet Development Committees (HDCs) – citizen collectives – have been organized. They meet once a month to discuss the development issues of their hamlets including disaster risk reduction and response. HDCs comprise members from different castes, gender, age, members of panchayats, and people with disability. Further, a training module, called Social Inclusion and DRR, was developed and 75 members from disaster task forces and representatives from NGOs have been trained to date. The training material is available at: <http://www.dmr.sahbhagi.org/publication.html>

Source: Malteser International 2012

Participatory risk analysis in a rural community in India: Real life examples illustrate specific vulnerability in disaster situations. Local development committees set up within the scope of the project meet once a month.

The different needs of the various groups become particularly evident during disasters. It would thus make sense to cater for these different needs and challenges when planning and realising disaster risk management activities. We must move away from the one-size-fits-all approach. Only then will we be able to further reduce the risks posed by disasters for the respective sections of the population and alleviate the impacts of disasters.

The following factors can be relevant:

Impaired sight and hearing / illiteracy: Elderly people and persons with disabilities often suffer from impaired sight and hearing. In developing countries, illiteracy is also widespread among this group. Warning systems must take these impairments into account, because this group will otherwise often fail to understand early warning signs. Literacy rates are often higher among children than among older age groups which is why they can act as important communicators of information regarding risks, forecasts and warnings, if they are involved in measures.

Limited mobility: Elderly people and persons with disabilities might suffer from limited physical mobility. Escape routes and evacuation centres must be designed to avoid unnecessary physical barriers and should have appropriate aids available, including walking aids and wheelchairs. Children, by contrast, tend to be mobile and, once they are old enough, can play an important part in early warning and evacuation procedures if they are involved at an early stage.

Need for protection and support: It is not uncommon for widows and widowers, childless couples and older people who have lost their families through wars or expulsion to live in outlying, isolated areas. Children and persons with intellectual disabilities can lose their families as they flee, and find themselves at the mercy of their environment. They are not always able to comprehend what has happened and draw the appropriate conclusions, or make the right decisions regarding their own safety. In comparison to older people, children also tend to be more traumatised in the wake of disasters and are more likely to be abducted and abused in these situations. This makes it vitally important that disaster preparedness measures make appropriate provision for supervision and care for these population groups. Specific supervision and support must be provided in evacuation centres.

3. Approaches for including the needs of vulnerable groups, and their contribution to disaster risk management

Currently the needs of especially vulnerable groups are not fully taken into account in disaster risk management. Nonetheless, positive examples do

exist that contain valuable lessons learned, and on which we can build.

WHAT DOES DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT INVOLVE?

Disaster risk management consists of the following elements:

- Risk analysis
- Disaster prevention and mitigation
- Disaster preparedness and
- Disaster-resilient recovery.

There is a risk of disaster when a society is exposed to natural hazards but lacks adequate means and ability to protect itself from potential negative impacts (vulnerability).

The risk analysis examines the natural hazard in relation to the society's vulnerability, in order to first evaluate potential damage and losses. This involves calculating the probability that a natural hazard will occur, identifying vulnerability factors in society, drawing up damage scenarios and evaluating measures for rapid recovery in the event of a disaster. A society's ability to continue to function while dealing with a hazard is described as resilience.

Prevention and mitigation covers activities whose long-term aim is to mitigate the possible adverse

impacts of a natural event and its consequences and provide permanent protection against its effects. Prevention and mitigation measures may be constructional (e.g. dykes) or normative and non-material (e.g. land use restrictions).

Appropriate preparedness enables a rapid and effective response to be made to an imminent disaster. Important elements are emergency plans, the availability of rescue and emergency services, emergency medical care, rapid and efficient transmission of warnings and the availability of means of communication. Early warning systems as a component of good preparedness can significantly reduce the impact of disasters. A good early warning system will promptly identify and assess a hazard. Warnings are issued to the affected population and institutions, who respond appropriately.

Disaster-resilient recovery aims to draw appropriate lessons from the natural disaster and to include disaster reduction criteria and measures directly in the reconstruction process (e.g. through building codes BMZ 2010:8).



Six-year-old Van Lyna planting a small tree on “Green Day” in Prey Veng province in southeast Cambodia. The planting of trees can contribute to the reduction of damages caused by flooding and strong winds.

3.1 CHILDREN

Although the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulated twenty years ago that, “States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child,” children are still involved in decision-making and other processes within society to only a very limited extent. In disaster risk management too the focus is on adults, although we are now witnessing a shift in emphasis. This is partly thanks to the Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School campaign launched by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in 2006 and 2007. Against the backdrop of the huge number of children who fell victim to the 2004 tsunami in the South Pacific and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, the campaign was particularly topical.

It is now generally recognised that getting children to rethink their attitudes to disasters is a good way to lay the foundations for a new culture of risk awareness within society, a culture based on disaster prevention. The challenge is first and foremost to take greater account of children’s need for a safe environment, and to see children as direct partners.

Disaster risk management should aim to afford children the best possible protection against disasters so that they can grow up in a safe environment. This might involve practising what to do in the worst case scenario in the form of a game (disaster training, how to protect yourself). In the Mekong area, for instance, which is permanently threatened by flooding, school classes are being offered swimming lessons and lessons on what to do in an emergency.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- The global campaign One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals, initiated by UNISDR, aims to better protect places of learning and health care facilities against the impacts of natural hazards. The Initiative is part of UNISDR's Building Resilient Cities – My city is getting ready! (2010 – 2015) campaign and is seen as the successor of the Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School campaign (2006 – 2007, see above) and the Hospitals Safe from Disasters campaign (2008 – 2009).
- The focus of the International Day for Disaster Reduction in 2011 was on children and young people. It underscored the important role they have to play in disaster risk management. In 2012 attention was drawn to the important role played by girls and women.
- In 2011, within the framework of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction the 'Children's charter: an action plan for disaster risk reduction for children by children' was presented for the first time. More than 600 children from 21 countries were surveyed and their responses compiled in the form of five calls for action. The initiative is sponsored by UNICEF, PLAN International, World Vision and Save the Children. The Charter can be accessed at: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=19894>

Another option is for specially trained carers to take responsibility for children during a disaster and in the immediate aftermath, or again to create a *safe* environment for them, i.e. an environment that is less vulnerable to disasters. Children should also be involved in decisions that affect them.

In developing countries children account for about one third of the population, and thus offer a huge potential for achieving change. During their schooling in particular, children can learn to use foresight to deal with risks, and to act swiftly, correctly and in a considered manner in high-stress situations. Children are also eager to learn more, and want to discover and understand their environment. That is why it is important to foster their capabilities, to involve them at an early age in decision-making, and to give them the chance to grow up in an environment that protects them from disasters and conflicts.

The foundations for children's development are laid in the family and at school. Therefore this must be the starting point for disaster risk management. Children's need for protection and safety can be

In 2010 Haiti was hit by a severe earthquake registering 7.0 on Richter Scale. Outside a collapsed hospital in Port-au-Prince a woman prays for people who were injured or killed.

satisfied by getting them involved in disaster risk management measures through working groups at school, youth organisations and environmental clubs. They also act as multipliers of knowledge since they have the credibility to pass on information to their families and friends. Depending on their age, children can also become active members of local disaster protection organisations and committees.

3.2 ELDERLY PEOPLE

Elderly people offer a great deal of potential for stimulating development efforts. They have local knowledge and experience, which can also be harnessed for disaster risk management. They are also respected in the community, and are thus in a position to influence decisions and conflict resolution processes. This makes it important to take more account of elderly people and their needs in disaster risk management, and to actively involve them in the planning and design of activities. This is the only way to tap their knowledge so that it can be used in disaster risk management. In



rural communities in particular, where data on previous disasters tends to be sparse where it exists at all, it is vitally important to involve older people in the risk analysis. They should also be offered support to help them make their environment more disaster-resilient.

The challenge in rural areas – where elderly people account for a disproportionately high percentage of the population – is mainly to find a large enough able-bodied workforce to undertake disaster prevention and mitigation measures involving construction work, and to organise disaster preparedness activities. Elderly people also often have no organised bodies to represent their interests, which makes it difficult to find recognised representatives of this group and get them involved in disaster risk management activities. Recovery is another challenge. The lack of recorded land titles and birth certificates often makes it difficult for elderly people to establish their entitlement to aid.

3.3 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) pursues a human-rights-based inclusive development approach when dealing with persons with disabilities. When it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, the German Government took a step towards ensuring that this concern is taken into account in all international cooperation projects and programmes, and that development cooperation projects are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Their needs should be taken into account in particular during disasters and post-disaster recovery. They should be given a say on measures that affect them, should be involved in decision-making and should play an active part in designing such measures. The special knowledge that persons with disabilities have,

regarding their own vulnerability, should be used to reduce the risks to which they are exposed.

The challenges faced when seeking to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management measures include enabling them to help prioritise and plan precautionary measures, and paying closer attention to their disaster preparedness needs. At present, however, one major obstacle to greater participation is the low level of organisation of persons with disabilities. In many developing countries, an influential and powerful organisation representing their interests that can be involved in planning processes exists at best only in the capital city.

Support thus needs to be provided to develop local capacities for representing these interests. Involving individuals with disabilities in disaster risk management committees can also be an appropriate approach. A further option is to use reconstruction as an opportunity to build or rebuild barrier-free infrastructure.

At present, efforts often fail because development experts and project partners overlook these target group-specific needs, because they lack both the sensitivity and the training to deal with these issues. There is also a lack of appropriate instruments and tools, for instance to include the needs of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness measures. Furthermore, the alignment of construction standards with the demands of inclusion has been marginal at best – one reason being that higher costs for disabled-friendly construction act as a deterrent. These fears are often unfounded, however, because many construction measures (e.g. wider doorways) do not generate additional costs, or generate only low additional costs (e.g. ramps instead of steps), provided they are taken into account during the planning phase (GTZ 2004c:12, GTZ 2010).

PROJECT EXAMPLE 2

CHRISTOFFEL BLINDENMISSION: INCLUSIVE LOCAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH

Since 2010, the Christoffel Blindenmission has supported its partners, the Centre for Disability in Development and the Bangladeshi NGO Gana Unnayan Kendra, in the implementation of a disability-inclusive disaster risk management project in Bangladesh. After a participatory baseline survey was conducted on both disaster risks and disability, the local communities set up disaster management committees at ward level, including persons with disabilities as full members. A special task force on and for women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups was formed to ensure that the specific needs and knowledge of these groups was taken into account in all project activities. As a result, local, disability-friendly early warning mechanisms were developed and put into practice. They used flag poles, coloured pillars and megaphone

announcements. Safe, disability-friendly evacuation processes including accessible shelter areas were developed. To ensure that everyone is aware of the contingency plans and the evacuation processes, mock drills, court yard meetings and street theatre performances were conducted with disabled community members. In addition, these activities proved to be a good way to raise awareness and inform everyone about disaster risks and how to ensure that the whole community is safe. In all about 38,000 people benefited from the project. All project activities ensured that of the persons involved, 10% were persons with disabilities and 50% were women. By the end of the project these groups accounted for even higher percentages in some activities.

Source: Centre for Disability in Development, Christoffel Blindenmission, Gono Unnayan Kendra (2011)



At a court yard meeting members of a Bangladeshi community are informed about emergency and evacuation plans. At least 10% of the target group of all project activities are persons with disabilities.

PROJECT EXAMPLE 3

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ): INCLUSIVE RECOVERY IN HAITI

The earthquake that struck on 12 January 2010 seriously damaged the town of Léogâne and the surrounding area in the west of Haiti, where about 90% of homes were destroyed. On behalf of the BMZ, temporary accommodation was put up for 2,200 families in the municipalities of Léogâne and Gressier. Persons with disabilities are expressly taken into account in the selection process and the temporary accommodation is being modified in line with their needs.

In the second half of 2010, the BMZ commissioned the GIZ to implement a three-year recovery project that

improves the involvement of persons with disabilities in disaster-resilient recovery work on a cross-cutting basis. In Port-au-Prince a centre has been rented in conjunction with the Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) that strengthens the rights of persons with disabilities in the recovery process at both individual and collective levels. So far more than 150 people have taken part in awareness-raising measures (as at March 2012). Persons with disabilities are also being involved in fisheries and recycling activities, and cash-for-work measures, in line with their qualifications. Alongside these measures health posts and community houses are being rebuilt to ensure barrier-free access.



4. Principles of inclusive disaster risk management

A wide range of challenges remain, before inclusive disaster risk management can be said to be firmly mainstreamed in development cooperation. Compliance with the following principles can, however, bring us closer to this goal. The aim is to make it possible for all groups within society to participate equally in disaster risk management measures and processes, irrespective of their opportunities and limitations.

General principles

Think about the needs of vulnerable groups from the outset: As soon as planning work begins on projects and programmes, the situation of especially vulnerable groups should be taken into account. At this stage too, it should be considered what concrete action can be taken to respond to the specific needs of these groups during the implementation phase, and how the groups can be actively involved. In countries and regions that are frequently hit by disasters and in post-conflict states it is important to bear in mind the fact that there is often a very much higher than average proportion of persons with disabilities, orphans and elderly people living alone in isolated areas, when planning disaster risk management and recovery measures. This presupposes that project staff have been sensitised to the special concerns of these groups, and trained to find ways of including them.

Cooperation with bodies representing the interests of vulnerable groups: A highly practicable and efficient way of launching cooperation with vulnerable people is to deal with the bodies that represent their interests at local and national levels. These bodies voice the concerns of the respective groups regarding both disaster risk management and other areas. Their organisational structures and networks also allow us to achieve a broad impact fairly easily. In the case of children, schools are a particularly

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the needs and potentials of vulnerable groups?
- How can we respond to the various needs?
- How can vulnerable groups be involved, especially when they have no organised body to represent their interests?
- To what extent can processes and instruments be standardised yet still take into account group-specific features?

good way of making disaster risk management accessible to this vulnerable group. Many German humanitarian aid and development cooperation projects and programmes already make use of this potential (GTZ 2008).

Specific principles:

Risk analyses: The active involvement of vulnerable groups should be ensured when risk analyses are performed, so that local knowledge and experience can be taken into account along with the special needs of these groups. This presupposes that participatory elements are used to a greater extent when risk analyses are conducted.

Disaster drills: Vulnerable groups and their trusted contacts should take part in disaster drills so that their special needs in case of disaster can be identified and taken into account.

Construction standards: As part of disaster-resilient reconstruction, the barrier-free design of local infrastructure should be supported. Alongside hospitals and health facilities, schools, and care and support facilities can be rebuilt to ensure that they are accessible to everybody and that they can withstand even

extreme events while remaining functional. This should also apply to the reconstruction of homes, which in turn means that before construction work starts on any project it must always be determined what specific risk exists for the infrastructure project itself and for every group using it. The barrier-free reconstruction of infrastructure is based on minimum standards that will have to be expanded in line with the national legislation in place in each country. The establishment of construction standards of this sort that comply with the imperatives of inclusion is another matter for disaster risk management.

Access to income and employment:

Income-generating measures, food-for-work or cash-for-work programmes and employment promotion measures should be accessible for persons with disabilities, elderly people and relatives of high-risk individuals. The human resources policy of every disaster risk management project can itself be a good example of inclusion.

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Annex 2: Specific activities to strengthen inclusive disaster risk management

CHILDREN

Disaster prevention and mitigation

- Educating children about disaster risks by getting them to attend information events that use appropriate teaching materials and by integrating disaster prevention into school curricula
- Involvement of children in risk analyses and the implementation of measures taken in their environment/ community to reduce risks from the outset and to draw attention to these risks
- Training for children to enable them to communicate disaster prevention and mitigation messages through youth groups
- Designing and fitting out children's facilities, especially schools, to ensure they are disaster-resistant and barrier-free (retrofitting)

Disaster preparedness

- Teaching children through games what to do in case of disaster
- Practical training for children and mothers, so that they know what to do in case of disaster (especially at school) and how to help as effectively as possible
- Establishment of safety teams at schools, involving teachers, students, parents and rescue services
- Holding school competitions in the field of disaster preparedness
- Gearing early warning systems to the needs of children so that they understand the signals and can take appropriate steps
- Participation in disaster drills

Emergency and transitional aid and disaster-resilient recovery

- Trained educators, psychologists and therapists to take care of traumatised children
- Taking into account the needs of children in emergency accommodation and first aid measures
- Ensuring that children are protected from violence and that their rights are respected in the aftermath of disasters
- Taking into account the needs of children with regard to safety and leisure time activities in the recovery process (e.g. safe school construction, community centres, orphanages)
- Involvement of children in the design and prioritising of disaster-resilient recovery (e.g. rebuilding in low-risk areas)

ELDERLY PEOPLE

- Harnessing the (local) knowledge of elderly people to open the eyes of the younger generation to potential hazards on the basis of past disasters (e.g. eye-witness reports in schools, theme nights on disasters)
- Active involvement of elderly people in risk analyses to identify risk zones and assess exposure (to a hazard)
- Involvement of elderly people in the implementation of planning and organisational activities so as to reduce risks from the outset
- Implementation of targeted measures to reduce the vulnerability of elderly people (e.g. supporting efforts to resettle these groups in lower risk areas, special protective measures in rooms and buildings)
- Sensitisation of elderly people's associations to the need for disaster risk management

- Training elderly people, especially those looking after children, so that they know what to do in case of disaster
- Practical preparations for elderly people and their relatives to ensure they know what to do in case of disaster and how to help as effectively as possible
- Preparation of retirement homes for evacuation and disaster preparedness
- Participation of elderly people in emergency drills
- Taking into account the needs of elderly people in early warning systems, to ensure that they understand the signals and can take appropriate steps (e.g. barrier-free infrastructure, information and communication materials)

- Taking into account the needs of elderly people in emergency accommodation, e.g. some elderly people cannot stand in line for food rations because of their limited mobility and need additional blankets to keep them warm
- Taking into account the limited options open to elderly people in food-for-work and cash-for-work programmes, as well as in other income-generating measures
- Taking into account the needs of elderly people in the recovery process (e.g. barrier-free access to public facilities and private homes)
- Rapid reconstruction of support and care facilities to make them more resistant to disasters
- Involvement of elderly people in the design and prioritising of disaster-resilient recovery

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Organisation of theatre performances by and for persons with disabilities to sensitise the entire population to the importance of disaster risk management
- Involvement of persons with disabilities in risk analyses so as to reflect the different degrees of vulnerability within a given society
- Implementation of targeted protective measures with and for persons with disabilities and their families (e.g. resettlement in lower-risk areas, special protective measures in rooms and buildings)
- Sensitisation measures in specialist services sectors (e.g. support centres, orthopaedic practices), health facilities and interest groups to raise awareness about disaster risk management
- Protecting public buildings (especially hospitals and support centres) and their staff from hazards

- Practical training for persons with disabilities, trusted individuals and rescue services, to ensure they know what to do in case of disaster and how to help as effectively as possible
- Taking into account the needs of persons with various impairments when designing early warning systems so that they can understand the signals and take appropriate steps (e.g. barrier-free infrastructure, information and communication materials)
- Participation of persons with disabilities in disaster drills

- Taking into account the needs and special vulnerability of persons with disabilities (especially women and children) in emergency accommodation, first aid measures and the distribution of aid
- Taking into account persons with disabilities and their relatives in food-for-work and cash-for-work programmes and in other income-generating measures
- Taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities in recovery (e.g. barrier-free access to public facilities and infrastructure and private homes)
- Rapid reconstruction of specialist support facilities so as to make them earthquake-resistant, and at lower-risk or risk-free locations
- Participation of persons with disabilities and organisations representing their interests in the design and prioritising of disaster-resilient recovery

Annex 3: Additional literature

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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