



**HANDICAP
INTERNATIONAL**

**A BASIC GUIDE TO
DISABILITY
AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Together Prepared!

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY

Definition of Disability: “is an evolving concept, resulting from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.

(United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNCRPD, 2006)

Definition of Impairment: Any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure or function.

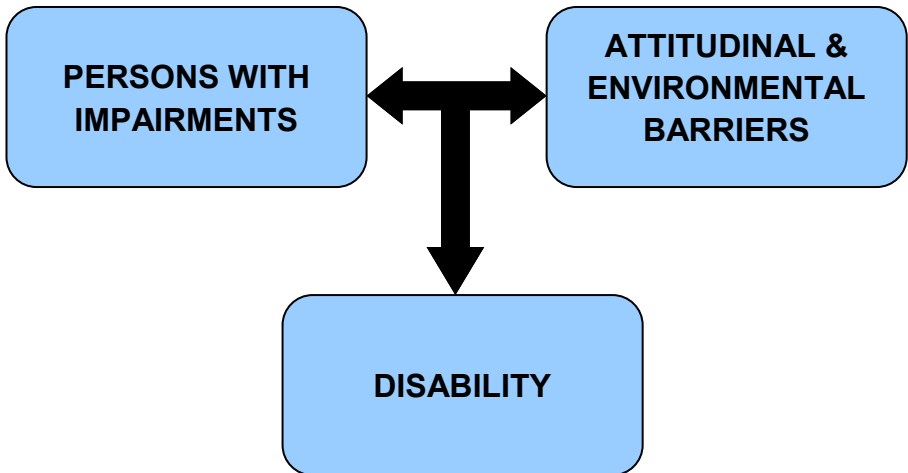
Examples of impairments:

- ◆ Physical - such as an amputation
- ◆ Sensory - such as low vision
- ◆ Intellectual - such as learning difficulties
- ◆ Psychological - such as schizophrenia

Attitudinal and Environmental Barriers:

- ◆ Physical (natural, structural)
- ◆ Social (ethics, norms, peers)
- ◆ Cultural (beliefs, attitudes, behaviour)
- ◆ Political (policies, legislations)
- ◆ Economics (financial resources)
- ◆ Religious (teachings, dogma)

Persons with Disabilities (PWD): “include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation with society on an equal basis with others”.(UNCRPD)



- **Persons with disabilities** have the **same basic human desires and needs** as persons without disabilities
- Persons with disabilities **have capacities, abilities and ideas**
- Persons with disabilities **may have some specific needs** that families, communities and government should provide to ensure **equal access and participation**
- Persons with disabilities are among the **most vulnerable in society** and are especially **at risk when disasters strike**
- Persons with disabilities are especially **vulnerable** because they are **neglected, marginalized, and invisible in society**

Philippine Laws

Magna Carta for Disabled Persons or R.A. 7277 (1992)

“An Act Providing for the Rehabilitation and Self Reliance of Disabled Persons and their Integration into the Mainstream of Society and for Other Purposes”

Accessibility Law or B.P. 344 (1982)

“An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Access Facilities and other Devices”

For the full Philippines’ disability laws, please refer to the National Council On Disability Affaires (NCDA) web site: <http://www.ncda.gov.ph>

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) (2006)

The Philippines signed the UNCRPD on 27 September 2007 and ratified on 14 April 2008.

Article 1. Purpose:

The convention’s purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Article 11. Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies: States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

For the full UNCRPD, please refer to the web site: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BMF) (2002)

Policy framework for Asian and Pacific Region, where States have agreed to work towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities. At the mid-term review in 2007, an explicit strategy was introduced to recognize the importance of disability-inclusive disaster management:

Strategy 23: “Disability-inclusive disaster management should be promoted. Disability perspectives should be included in the Implementation of policies and initiatives in this area, including the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Universal design concepts should be integrated into infrastructure development in disaster-preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction activities.

For more information, please refer to the web site: <http://www.unescap.org/>

DISABILITY AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

KNOWING THAT:

- **RA 10121: Philippines Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Act 2010 states**, “Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups are defined as those that face higher exposure to disaster risk and poverty including, but not limited to, women, children, elderly, differently-abled people, and ethnic minorities”
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concerns the whole community. This means that vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, must be included. Indeed, the inclusion of persons with disabilities is a fundamental right – just as it is for all community members.**
- **Early Warning Systems are effective only if all community members are reached by it!**
- **It is important to focus on the abilities and capacities of persons with disabilities.**

- **It is important to plan together with persons with disabilities in preparing for disasters. Persons with disabilities are themselves the experts in identifying their needs.**
- **Persons with disabilities, along with other vulnerable groups, have to be brought to the forefront in DRR efforts to ensure an inclusive and comprehensive approach to reduce disaster vulnerabilities.**

HOW TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION?

- **ENSURE THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, IN THE COMMUNITY, ARE IDENTIFIED AND INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROCESS!**
- **ENSURE THAT VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS (VCA) INCLUDES PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

As the aim of the VCA is to map specifically vulnerable communities and households, as well as their capacities to deal with a disaster, persons with disabilities need to be mapped during a VCA. Otherwise, the inherent objective of a VCA is not fulfilled. By including persons with disabilities in VCA and subsequent activities, persons with disability will require less assistance and attention when a disaster occurs

- **DEVELOP A DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS)**

Information must be provided in both auditory and visual forms and include mechanisms to cover the entire community. A disability-inclusive EWS could include:

- ◆ Auditory signals or alarms (sirens, bells, drums, etc.)
- ◆ Visual signal systems (flags, posters written with large characters, pictures that are colour contrasted, turning light off and on frequently)
- ◆ Clear and brief announcements
- ◆ Text messages
- ◆ Door to door notification for persons pre-identified in VCA

Disability-inclusive EWS need to be developed in preparedness phase, with the support of persons with disabilities and/or disability actors, and be field tested.

- **DESIGN FOR PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY,**



Design and build accessible structures. Public buildings, schools, hospital, parks, bridges, and pathways must be built according to the guideline mandated by the Accessibility Law (Batas Pambansa 344). Evacuation centres should be located in a safe place and designed to be used by all community members, including persons with disabilities.

These practical recommendations mentioned are not exhaustive. It is essential that in order to ensure disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction persons with disabilities must be included in the whole planning process.

TOGETHER PREPARED!

Handicap International is an independent, international, non-profit, non-political aid organization working in situations of poverty, exclusion, conflict and disaster. Working alongside persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups throughout the world, our action and testimony are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for dignity and their fundamental rights

Project: Mainstreaming Disability in Disaster Risk Management Initiatives, in Indonesia and Philippines supported by the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DIPECHO) and by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo.

Specific Objective: To increase the capacities of key DRM stakeholders of Philippines and Indonesia (local authorities, local NGO and International NGO) in mainstreaming disability in their activities.

Partners: in Philippines ACF-Spain in Catanduanes and Simon de Cyrene in Albay.

Location in Philippines: Metro Manilla, Bicol region: Catanduanes Province (Municipalities of Caramoran and San Miguel) and Albay Province.

Handicap International—Philippines Program

12th Floor Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo village, Makati City,
Philippines.

Tel:+63 2 812 6990;

E.mail mla-ofc@handicapinternational.ph

Project Office, 388 Immaculate Street, San Isidro Village, Virac, Catanduanes,
Email: dr_r_projectmanager@handicapinternational.ph
www.handicapinternational.ph

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