

Accessible and Disaster Prepared Communities



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) goes beyond disaster preparedness; it is about building resilient communities to mitigate the impact of natural hazards

DRR is needed to ensure Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID; also known as CBR) and contributes to sustainable and resilient communities that can withstand disasters without collapsing. Concurrently, CBID work is a vehicle for building resilient communities. Similar to CBID work, the path to resilience is highly contextual, but always requiring a participatory approach. The components for building resilience vary markedly according to context: from planned evacuation schemes, elevation of housing above flood levels, building food security to ensuring sustainable livelihoods and preventing the breakdown of systems. Only by working with persons with disabilities, one can identify what is actually needed to increase resilience and reduce the risks in that context.

Not everyone faces the same risk from disasters. People with disabilities, older people, pregnant women, children and other at-risk groups are often forgotten in DRR and left behind when disaster happens. They are excluded from disaster preparedness measures and accessible information and trainings and are invisible when it comes to community mapping or evacuation planning. Due to environmental and social barriers, they find it harder to access communication, shelters and safe spaces and receive inadequate or inappropriate relief and support when they suffer from disaster loss.

The international policy framework is in place for inclusive DRR

The international community recognises inclusion as a guiding principle of DRR. This is reflected in the **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-30), which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly. It acknowledges that DRR requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership, which promotes the empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation of all people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. Effective DRR thus requires a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices.

Article 11 of **CRPD** requires that States Parties ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities at risk in natural disasters, armed conflict and other humanitarian crises. DRR and humanitarian situations and persons with disabilities is an increasingly important theme among Member States and UN agencies.

Disaster risk reduction cuts across different aspects and sectors of development and this is clearly reflected in **Agenda 2030**. There are 25 targets related to disaster risk reduction in 10 of the 17 SDGs, firmly establishing the role of disaster risk reduction as a core development strategy. DRR therefore is relevant to all elements of CBID.

Disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation are increasingly seen as fundamental elements of inclusive development practice, and can contribute to resilience, saving lives, and laying the foundations for more effective humanitarian response

Disaster risk reduction, formerly implemented in the humanitarian space, is increasingly recognized as a development issue and thus an essential part of community development in a world threatened by and increasingly experiencing climate change and other related disasters. Addressing the causes that contribute to environmental degradation and climate change involves taking action, including in communities. Further, reducing risks and ensuring households and communities are prepared for disaster saves lives and strengthens the efforts of humanitarian responders when disaster strikes.

At community level CBID/CBR has a vital role to play in building disaster preparedness and resilience

CBM firmly believes that its CBID work in disaster prone areas must include an inclusive disaster risk reduction component. This work is supported through technical advice at the global and regional levels and is strengthened by implementing partners in a number of countries who are leading efforts for iDRR in their countries and, with our help, documenting processes, lessons learned and success stories.

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