

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

3 – 6 July 2018

Statement of Actions:

Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities: Thematic Group on DRR

1. Major achievements and challenges observed in the last two years

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 includes significant references to inclusion of most at-risk groups including women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. The Sendai Framework recognises that DRR practices need to be inclusive in order to be effective and efficient. There has to be active engagement and more collaborations between Governments and relevant stakeholders at different levels including through the leadership of most at-risk groups for the realisation of inclusive DRR.

The recent 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management hosted by the Government of Bangladesh in collaboration with UNISDR in May 2018 provided great opportunities for Governments from 32 countries, private sectors, as well as representative organisations of persons with disabilities and disability and development actors to report progress, identify gaps and discuss the way forward to promote disability-inclusive DRR (DiDRR) practices at all levels. The Dhaka Declaration 2015+ resulted from consultations during the conference presents the significances and ‘how to’ of DiDRR. It serves practical guideline for States to implement and report on inclusion in the framework of implementation of 2030 Agenda for DRR and sustainable development.¹

In the same year, Sphere Executive Board officially adopted the updated Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities (HIS)² as part of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership. We believe that DRR stakeholders should use HIS as a key element to reduce the DRR, development and humanitarian divide to ensure access, safety and dignity of older persons and persons with disabilities and other most at-risk groups who are traditionally often excluded in humanitarian assistances.

We are aware from recent developments that global commitment on inclusion of persons with disabilities and especially in DRR is growing. It was observed through global and

¹ <http://dkconf18.modmr.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dhaka-Declaration-2018.pdf>

² HIS were developed by Age and Disability Capacity Programme (ADCAP). More info about ADCAP <http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/emergencies/adcap-age-and-disability-capacity-building-programme/>

regional consultations, development of relevant guidelines, tools and frameworks for DRR with participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities agreed to serve as one of key targets and indicators. These commitments have also been materialised at local level. Sincere appreciation is extended to the 8 Governments in Asia and the Pacific Region including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam for close collaboration with the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities in improving inclusive risk assessment and analysis; developing inclusive DRR plans; and strengthening DiDRR practices through capacity building and widened multi-stakeholder networks and collaborations³. Thanks to the realisation of commitment to promote knowledge and leaderships of persons with disabilities in DRR processes and decision making, capacity building activities for personnel as well as for persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are supportive in the establishment and development of pool of resources in DiDRR in the said countries.

Despite notable progress in DiDRR, recent UNESCAP assessment on progress of the Incheon Strategy Goal 7, to “Make the Right Real’ for persons with disabilities in DRR, reported that inclusion of disability perspectives in DRR planning and management remains low⁴. We noted that some significant gaps including the lack of disability disaggregated data hinder broader practices and further progress of DiDRR. Sex, age, and disability data collection and disaggregation remain perceived as an option. Accordingly, formal and regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms in DRR were often failed in fully capturing progress, gaps and opportunities for broader inclusive DRR. The Sendai Framework establishes persons with disabilities and representative organizations as key stakeholders, however there aren’t yet many organizations of persons with disabilities effectively participating in development and implementation of DRR worldwide that are based on Asian Governments experiences shared with peers across the globe.

2. Key opportunities identified

Disability is often perceived as a technical, stand-alone issue. Thus, full inclusion in the implementation of the Sendai Framework remains limited and not fully reflected in mainstream DRR plans and programmes. However, growing commitment across relevant stakeholders at all levels provides great opportunities to increase awareness on disability as a cross-cutting issue as well as to better understand close relation between disability, disaster risks and broader development.

³ Reference: DiDRRN and Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities partners report on Progress of the Stakeholder Statement of Action 2016 – 2018

⁴ Building Disability-Inclusive Societies in Asia and the Pacific: Assessing Progress on the Incheon Strategy, UNESCAP, 2018

Sharing knowledge and transferring capacities drawn from existing good practices in the Asia Pacific Region will serve as point of departure to widen DiDRR practices across the Region. Multi-stakeholder networks which are committed to transform all-of-society approach in DRR means increased resources for DiDRR. The growing networks will secure forums for continued consultations, collaborations, peer learnings as well as knowledge exchange in inclusive DRR. Further, through collaboration across levels and/or countries, the established pool of resources including experts with disabilities will support enhancement of DiDRR practices in the Region.

3. Commitments to implement the Asia Regional Action Plan 2018-2020

Noting the above progress, challenges and opportunities to inclusive DRR, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities calls on States to collaborate to strengthen inclusive DRR practices through the implementation and report on Dhaka Declaration 2015⁺ by integrating the targets defined in the Declaration in the design and the realisation of Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework 2018-2020. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities through its regional and global focal points will continuously consolidate its resources to extend support to strengthen knowledge exchange in DiDRR, including through capacity building of all relevant stakeholders on inclusion, to better understanding risks within community and sharing existing good practices to foster DiDRR at all levels (Priority 1) The Stakeholder Group through its members in the Region will also continuously support national and local governments to mainstream disability-inclusion for universal and accessible DRR plans and programme for more accountable and effective DRR governance (Priority 2) as well as to promote use and adherence to Universal Design in disaster resilient infrastructure (Priority 3). In line with actions mentioned under Priority 4, the Stakeholder Group will promote and support the implementation of 9 key inclusion standards of HIS for inclusive and effective preparedness and response (Priority 4).

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities will contribute to monitoring and reporting on inclusion and will extend technical assistance to States and other stakeholders to ensure inclusive implementation of the Regional Plan. Technical assistance provided by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities will include facilitation for consultations and collaboration mechanisms, support to the development of inclusive DRR planning and programming, capacity building for DRR and disability actors and promotion of leadership of persons with disabilities in all aspects of DRR. Further it will include the provision of supporting approach and tools to monitor DiDRR and collect disability disaggregated data at all levels. It is expected that by the end of 2020 there are at least 15 countries in the Region receiving technical assistance from the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and eventually are able to demonstrate evidence of strengthened DiDRR.