Series overview

This series of self-paced learning modules aims to build understanding about how to design and implement disaster risk reduction planning and preparedness strategies that are inclusive for all. Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) entails the authentic involvement of the whole community. It is characterized by the integral involvement of persons with disabilities throughout the planning, implementation and recovery phases. In other words, "Nothing about us, without us."

The modules are primarily targeted at disaster risk reduction policymakers and practitioners so that they may better understand how to prepare and implement Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction strategies in their specific context. The modules are also available for anyone interested in learning more about 'whole community' disaster risk reduction.

Each module includes articles, videos, infographics and a series of self-marking questions. The content is a mixture of original material as well as material developed by experts from across the globe, demonstrating promising and good practices for disability inclusion before, during and after disasters.

You can download the complete set of titles in this self-paced series from ESCAP’s site, Make the Right Real! You are currently interacting with Module 2 in the series. The complete series includes:

1. Module 1: The Case for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
2. Module 2: Transforming Policy into Practice
3. Module 3: Designing Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Plans
4. Module 4: Implementing Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Plans
5. Module 5: Inclusive Disaster Recovery
6. DIDRR Coursebook (.docx file) and DIDRR Contactbook (.xls file).

DIDRR Coursebook

Throughout the Modules, you will see the following image each time there is a DIDRR Coursebook Activity to complete. The DIDRR Coursebook is where you can write reflect, write and plan for the specific needs of your community using the content from each Module. There is also a DIDRR Contactbook which will be used to collate useful contacts.

Disclaimer

- All third-party content quoted, embedded or linked to in these modules remains the property of those agencies, entities or individuals.
- Any reference to commercial entities in the modules does not in any way imply any support of or sponsorship from those entities.
- The use of inclusive language is an important way to reflect the diverse nature of non-discriminatory language. It avoids perpetuating false assumptions about people and helps to promote respectful relationships. A commitment to inclusive language is an important attribute of these modules and of a modern, diverse, inclusive and well-prepared society.
Module 2 objectives

1. Identify key global and regional frameworks for inclusive DRR strategies
2. Identify required national policy which supports inclusive DRR strategies

Introduction

Plans and policies are important instruments for "whole community inclusive disaster risk reduction". These are even more useful if they guide transformation into actionable and measurable practices.

Whole community actionable inclusive practice requires: Planning for all hazards, rather than narrowly focusing on a specific type of disaster. This must be coupled with planning with and for all elements of the community.

"Engagement and inclusion of the whole community is a critical foundational element of a successful transition from policy to practice. This includes moving from viewing persons with disabilities as liabilities in a disaster to integral and valued community members who are assets and a key element of the solution.

In any emergency or disaster, people with disabilities are usually among those who are most significantly affected.

Reasons for this include: often pre-existing poverty among persons with disabilities; inaccessibility of early warning messages, search and rescue plans, evacuation plans and emergency shelters; loss and damage of assistive devices; disruption of support networks; low expectations of self-direction and problem-solving by emergency responders and increased difficulty in accessing basic humanitarian operations.

People with disabilities and their organizations are rarely consulted at any stage of the emergency cycle, from Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through preparedness to emergency response, recovery and building back better. Without their input, full community inclusion will not be possible and whole community resilience is not possible." Adapted from CBM
**Before you begin - Question 1**

*What do you already know about the topics discussed in this module? Try this small quiz. You may be pleasantly surprised!*

In any emergency or disaster, persons with disabilities are always among those who are most significantly affected.

a. ○ No

b. ○ Yes.

c. ○ Sometimes

Submit
Before you begin - Question 2

Which Article of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) deals with situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies?

a. Article 9
b. Article 7
c. Article 11
Before you begin - Question 3

The Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda both seek to build upon the achievements and fill the gaps of the Millennium Development Goals.

a. ○ True.

b. ○ False
Activity 1

Understanding current context

Action

1. Watch the two videos, "Understanding Disaster Risk" and the excerpt of Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed address at 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Check your understanding of the videos by answering some questions about them.

As we saw in Module 1, the impacts from natural disasters are on the rise, and disasters pose a growing threat to national economies and all people’s lives. We need to be able to identify risks rapidly, rigorously, and regularly. The key to a consistent approach is good policy that can be applied in any context.

Video - Understanding disaster risk

Video transcript

Impacts from natural disasters are on the rise around the world. Hurricanes, droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions pose a growing threat to economies and the lives of millions.

Global disaster losses have risen sharply from (over) the last few decades, totaling 4.2 trillion dollars since 1980. Moreover, the poor are suffering the most over the last 20 years. Low-income countries experienced just over a quarter of flood events but suffered nearly 90 percent of related casualties.
Investments in preparedness and resilience can keep these natural hazards from becoming human catastrophes. With drivers like rapid urbanization and climate change, however, disaster risk is evolving rapidly in today’s world to know where and how to make investments before disaster strikes. We need to be able to identify risks rapidly, rigorously and regularly, from individuals and communities to governments and businesses.

Understanding disaster risk is everyone’s business and with technology making the tools and information more accessible than ever, people all over the planet are pitching in. Citizens in Nepal are crowdsourcing more accurate maps of their neighborhoods using open data. Universities from around the world are collaborating on multilingual films to spread awareness of volcanic risk to communities in the East Caribbean and the Pacific. Government agencies are even using social media to better understand flood patterns in the Philippines.

Universities from around the world are collaborating on multilingual films to spread awareness of volcanic risk to communities in the East Caribbean and the Pacific. Government agencies are even using social media to better understand flood patterns in the Philippines. In today’s world, you don’t have to be a disaster expert to make a difference. Whether you are a scientist, a politician or a concerned citizen, we can all help better understand our risk and make steps toward lasting resilience.
What will you do to learn more?

2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed speaking at the opening ceremony of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico said that while the response to natural disasters has improved in many countries thanks to stronger institutions and better preparedness and improved early warning systems, economic losses continue to escalate, threatening the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Video

Video transcript

Annually, disasters are costing the global economy more than $520 billion and push more than 26 million people into poverty. Economic losses from disasters can wipe out the entire gross domestic product of low income countries overnight.
and force millions from their homes.

Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and the Pacific have all agreed on adopting the plans to implement the Sendai Framework with a clear focus on shifting the paradigm from managing disasters to managing disaster risk. This is vital for progress of key targets for Sendai Framework including reducing mortality, reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters, reducing economic losses and reducing damage to critical infrastructure.
Activity 1 - Question 1

Check your understanding

Investments in preparedness and resilience can keep these natural hazards from becoming human catastrophes.

1. ○ Yes
2. ○ Sometimes
3. ○ No

Submit
Activity 1 - Question 2

Drivers like rapid urbanization and climate change, impact upon disaster risk and as a result, knowing where and how to make investments before disaster strikes.

1. o No
2. o Yes
3. o Sometimes

Submit
Activity 2

Identifying key mandates and policy drivers

Action

1. Read the notes and watch the videos. Then reflect upon how the content applies within your context.
2. Check your understanding by answering a self-marking quiz.

Overview - Connecting mandates and policy

Video transcript

Good policy is all about impact.

It helps to build and sustain shared understanding and consistency of responses.

There are three key international mandates and policy initiatives that directly influence regional, state, and local policy. In particular, they influence the development of disability-inclusive disaster risk strategies.

The three policy drivers are:

1. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD.
2. Incheon Strategy.
Article 11 of the CRPD focuses on States Parties taking all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy took the commitments in the CRPD and added specifics around the need for disability-inclusive DRR plans, training for all relevant service personnel, emergency shelters and disaster relief sites.

Sendai Framework - Nuanced the work of the CRPD and Incheon Strategy to recognise and build upon the knowledge and leadership skills persons with disabilities locally as essential for building resilient, inclusive and equitable societies.

The CRPD, Incheon Strategy and Sendai Framework draws upon global and regional thinking and influence national planning and strategies, which in turn drives provincial and local responses.

Unpacking mandates and policy drivers

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

**States Parties** will take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including military conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters.

**Video - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Human Rights Forum**

*Note: Article 11 begins at 8m11s*

What's an article? Much as if you're reading a book divided into chapters, we divide treaties into things called articles, same thing. Article 11 says you have the right to be safe in this kind of a situation and to do that governments and people
with disabilities they need to plan ahead. (And) If you're not prepared in an emergency your chances of survival can be very minimal or none at all. You think, 'well if that were really happening, what would I want to have with me to go, what about work?' If you've got a natural disaster going on you probably can't get to your job, right? So you're not enjoying your right to work and if you're not working maybe you're not earning money you need; money for other things. Those human rights are all connected with each other. So, human rights are kind of like dominoes, when one of those human rights falls they hit other human rights and they fall. So when you don't enjoy one human right it's really important it's not just that human right you're losing out on.

Incheon Strategy

The Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific provides a disability-specific, multisectoral development framework to promote disability-inclusive development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Disability-inclusive development underpins the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, a disability-specific regional development framework that guides disability work in the third and current Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities between 2013 and 2022. The Incheon Strategy provides the region and world with the first set of regionally-agreed disability-specific development goals and targets, accompanied by indicators to enable progress tracking. Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy focuses on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management. In particular,

- 7.A Strengthen disability-inclusive DRR.
- 7.B Strengthen timely implementation of measures and appropriate support to persons with disabilities in responding to disasters.

Core indicators of success for Goal 7 include:

- 7.1. Availability of disability-inclusive DRR plans.
- 7.2. Availability of disability-inclusive training for all relevant service personnel
- 7.3. Proportion of accessible emergency shelters and disaster relief sites.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is founded on the human rights-based principle of “leaving no one behind” so that “all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality”, addressing the cross-cutting social, economic and environmental dimensions of development.

The 2030 Agenda includes five goals that explicitly refer to disability, and another six that link indirectly to disability-related issues. Yet, the accessibility and societal barriers faced by persons with disabilities to equally participate in society leaves them left behind or excluded from the mainstream development process. As such, a twin-track approach – involving complementary disability-specific and disability-integrated efforts – is required to ensure that sustainable development is disability inclusive.

The synergies between Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

The Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda both seek to build upon the achievements and fill the gaps of the Millennium Development Goals. The Incheon Strategy has 10
goals and 27 targets that underscore the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and reducing the inequality of opportunity they face. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides 17 Sustainable Development Goals to set the world on a resilient path of development between 2015 and 2030.

Accomplishing Incheon Strategy goals and targets directly supports achieving those of the Sustainable Development Goals, in the context of addressing overarching issues in global development that impact persons with disabilities. In fact, the Incheon Strategy indicators inform Sustainable Development Goal progress-tracking.

The following graphic demonstrates the synergies between the targets of the Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The live website includes an interactive infographic.

**Sendai Framework**

Recognizes that not only are persons with disabilities disproportionately affected by disasters but – crucially – that their knowledge and leadership skills are essential for building resilient, inclusive and equitable societies.

The **Sendai Framework** reinforces that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard, inclusive and accessible to be efficient. When governments design and implement DRR policies, engaging all relevant stakeholders is necessary for inclusion and effectiveness.

The **Sendai Framework 2015-2030** establishes **INCLUSION** as an inseparable element of Disaster Risk Reduction.
Key points of Sendai Framework

"Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards.” -

*United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - 2015-2030*

**Video - Sendai Framework**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was approved by the international community in 2015 with the aim of making development more sustainable in the face of challenges encountered by the world.

*Note: Article 7 begins at 1m46s*

**Video transcript**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was the first post 2015 framework approved by member states. It has 70 targets to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses by 2030. The Sendai Framework was followed by the development agenda which identified 17 sustainable development goals to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development in the next 15 years. Disaster Risk Reduction is essential to achieve these goals. Target 1 wants to reduce global disaster mortality. Target 2 wants to reduce the number of affected people. These targets embrace all SDG's for a universally safer world. Target 3 is to reduce direct economic losses in relation to global GDP along with all the SDGs. This aims at ending poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work for all.

Target 4 aims to reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. This intends to increase everyone’s health and well-being, access to education, resilient infrastructure and to make human settlement sustainable and safe. Target 5 is to increase the number of countries with national and local Disaster Risk Reduction strategies by 2020. Making habitats safer internationally, will assist in ending poverty and hunger. Target 6 is to enhance international cooperation to developing countries covering all SDGs.
This is key to the betterment of everyone wherever we live. Target 7 is to increase access to multi hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information. It converts climate change and it impacts a disaster risks rise if the targets are achieved. The Sendai framework will help make the sustainable development goals a reality for you.
Activity 2 - Question 1

Check your understanding of the video by undertaking this self-paced quiz.

Good policy is all about impact.

1. ○ Sometimes

2. ○ No

3. ○ Yes

Submit
Activity 2 - Question 2

The three core indicators of success for Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy (Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management) are:

1. Decrease in mortality rate of Persons with a disability.

2. Availability of disability-inclusive DRR plans.

3. Availability of disability-inclusive public transport systems

4. Availability of disability-inclusive training for all relevant service personnel

5. Proportion of accessible emergency shelters and disaster relief sites.

Submit
Activity 2 - Question 3

Disasters expose ....................

1. ○ environments

2. ○ people.

3. ○ vulnerability.

Submit
Activity 3

Case Study - Australia

Action

1. Read the notes and then reflect upon how the content applies within your context.
2. Complete the required tasks in your copy of the DIDRR Coursebook.

Overview

Many countries have implemented a Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk reduction strategy that is influenced by the CRPD, Incheon Strategy and Sendai Framework. In the process of translating policy into practice, it is important that the strategy is inclusive, built on sustainable goals and everyone knows what part they need to play. One such example is Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (19 pages).

About the national strategy

Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (PDF) was approved by the Council of Australian Governments in February 2011. This framework is built on a concept of shared responsibility to create community resilience and thereby reduce risk in the face of natural hazard emergencies and disasters. The concept of shared responsibility includes the role of all layers of government (federal, state / territory and local), as well as the role of business, non - government organisations and volunteers, and individuals in each and every community.

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is a division 's within the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department and is the lead agency for disaster and emergency management. EMA works closely with state and territory governments and the international emergency management community, EMA delivers critical programs, policies and services that strengthen and maintain Australia's national security and emergency management capability.

Guided by the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (PDF), EMA ensures Australia is best placed to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies. It is also the Australian Government focal point for the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015:2030—the global blueprint and 15-year plan to build the world's resilience to natural disasters.

While state and territory governments are responsible for emergency management in their jurisdictions, EMA coordinates Australian Government support, both physical and financial.

EMA is also home to the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC)—an
all-hazards, 24/7 facility that provides whole-of-government situational awareness to inform national decision-making during a crisis. The CCC also coordinates physical Australian Government assistance during disasters and emergencies and manages the National Security Hotline, a vital component of Australia’s national counter-terrorism efforts.

In 2015, the Australian Government established the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR), to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience. AIDR is a disaster resilience knowledge centre, that coordinates and promotes the development, sharing and use of information for anyone working with, or affected by, disasters. AIDR builds on extensive knowledge and experience in Australia and abroad, working with government, community, research, education partners and the private sector to enhance disaster resilience through innovative thought leadership, professional development and knowledge sharing.

To support inclusive communications and strategies Handbook 5 - Communicating with People with Disability: National Guidelines for Emergency Managers was introduced. It is based on the following communication principles:

- Always put the person before the disability
- Avoid using patronising or demeaning phrases, labels or stereo types
- Provide relevant information in a range of formats (e.g. Easy English, pictures, video and audio visual)
- Face and speak directly to the person, even if they have an interpreter or carer
- Make sure there is enough time for the person to absorb information and respond on their own
- Always respect the person’s dignity, individuality and desire for independence
- Always ask before providing assistance

Summary

The Australian Strategy is built on a concept of shared responsibility and aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015:2030 as does Australia’s international aid programme. It is a coordinated and consistent approach that is well received in the Australian community. That said, no one system is ever perfect and there is always room for ongoing improvement as circumstances change and better data comes to light.

EMA support resources

To successfully implement and sustain the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Australia’s EMA has developed a series of support resources and activities. These include:

Emergency Management Australia Podcast

EMA Podcast is an in-house production dedicated to issues surrounding emergency management. Since launching in 2013, EMA Podcast has covered natural disasters in Australia and overseas, interviewed experts in the field and covered the latest developments in emergency management. Episodes are free to download from podcast apps including Buzzsprout and iTunes.

Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection
The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) was appointed custodian of the handbooks and manuals in the series in 2015. AIDR continues to provide guidance on the national principles and practices in disaster resilience in Australia through management and publication of the Handbook Collection. The current list of Handbooks as at 27th February 2018 includes:

**Handbook 1 - Disaster Health**

**Handbook 2 - Community Recovery**

**Handbook 3 - Managing Exercises**

**Handbook 4 - Evacuation Planning**

**Handbook 5 - Communicating with People with a Disability: National Guidelines for Emergency Managers**

**Handbook 6 - National Strategy for Disaster Resilience: Community Engagement Framework**

**Handbook 7 - Managing the Floodplain: a guide to best practice in flood risk management in Australia**

**Handbook 8 - Lessons Management**

**Handbook 9 - Australian Emergency Management Arrangements**

**Handbook 10 - National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines**

**Handbook 11** - renamed Practice Guide 10-1 in the Handbook 10 Collection

**Handbook 12 - Communities Responding to Disasters: Planning for Spontaneous Volunteers**

**Handbook 13 - Managing the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection**

**Handbook 14 - Incident Management in Australia**

**Handbook 15 - Safe and Healthy Crowded Places**

**Handbook 16 - Public Information and Warnings**

**Resilient Australia Awards**

The Resilient Australia Awards is a national program that recognises and promotes initiatives that strengthen community disaster resilience across the nation. By celebrating innovation and exemplary practice, the awards showcase work that is often unseen, motivating others to think about how they can be better prepared and more disaster resilient. The awards program started in 2000, and has a solid history in Australia's emergency management sector.

**Related Australian Government resources**

There is consistency in philosophy and approach between Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Australian Government's international aid programme managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). "Development for All

To support inclusive humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction, the DFAT states they will:

- consider, include and support people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian planning and implementation, as outlined in DFAT’s humanitarian and disaster risk reduction policies, such as the Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework, and in line with the Accessibility Design Guide
- work to integrate disability inclusion and disaster risk reduction into international humanitarian response frameworks
- build the disaster resilience of persons with disabilities through programs and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

**DIDRR Coursebook activity**

As this case study has shown, how a country responds to the CRPD, Incheon Strategy and Sendai Framework depends upon it's context. What is shared, is a need for the DRR strategy to be disability inclusive. We can learn a lot from critically analysing the efforts of other countries. and then comparing and contrasting them to the efforts in our own country.

1. Identify your nation's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.
2. What are the key elements of your national strategy?
3. How does your strategy align with CRPD?
4. How does your strategy align with Incheon Strategy?
5. How does your strategy align with Sendai Framework?
6. What is unique about your national strategy?
7. What coordinated resources and initiatives are in place to support your national strategy?
8. Now critically compare and contrast your nation's strategy with that of another country. (ie: What are the strengths and weaknesses of each strategy?) You can use either:

- Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (19 pages) OR
- Choose one from UNISDR's list of countries and national platforms implementing disaster risk reduction strategies to help build resilient communities.
Recap

In undertaking this module you have extended your understanding of DIDRR through:

1. Identifying key global and regional frameworks for inclusive DRR strategies
2. Identifying required national policy which supports inclusive DRR strategies

In the next module you will deepen your understanding of DIDRR through identifying:

1. core elements of an effective inclusive disaster plan
2. required people to design an inclusive disaster plan
3. required processes to design an inclusive disaster plan
4. the steps for a notice and no notice event
Resources

Core resources

- Sendai Framework
- Disability Inclusive Meetings: An Operational Guide
- Inclusive Consultation (PDF)
- Inclusive consultation and engagement (PDF)
- Microsoft's Inclusive Design Toolkit (PDF)
- Quick Risk Estimation (.xlsm)
- Inclusion Counts - The Economic Case for Disability-Inclusive Development (PDF)

Additional resources

- How to make cities more resilient: a handbook for local government leaders (PDF)
- Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015
- Promoting the Inclusion of People with Disabilities In Disaster Management In Indonesia (PDF)
- Guideline on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Early Warning and Accessible Broadcasting (PDF)
- Guideline on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Disabilities and Disasters (PDF)
- Emergency Management Australia Podcast via Buzzsprout and iTunes.

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction global leadership organizations

- ASB
- CBM
- Center for Disability in Development
- Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network
- Handicap International
Language influences behaviour

Listed below are key phrases that will assist with consistent messaging.

- Access and functional needs and functional needs, universal accessibility, most integrated setting, reasonable accommodation and modification NOT special needs
- Whole community NOT special populations
- Disproportionate impact NOT vulnerable or at-risk populations
- Individuals NOT special populations
- Resilient communities are only possible through commitment to universal design standards
- Planning with NOT planning for
- Essential for some, useful for all
- Nothing about us, without us
Glossary

Accessibility

- The qualities that make an experience open to all.
- A professional discipline aimed at achieving No. 1.

An important distinction between accessibility and inclusive design is that accessibility is an attribute, while inclusive design is a method. And while practising inclusive design should make your products and services more accessible, it's not a process for meeting all accessibility standards. Ideally, accessibility and inclusive design work together to make experiences that are not only compliant with standards, but truly usable and open to all.

Disability

The WHO has moved toward a new international classification system, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF 2001). It emphasizes functional status over diagnoses. The new system is not just about people with traditionally acknowledged disabilities diagnostically categorized but about all people. For the first time, the ICF also calls for the elimination of distinctions, explicitly or implicitly, between health conditions that are 'mental' or 'physical.' The new ICF focuses on analyzing the relationship between capacity and performance. If capacity is greater than performance then that gap should be addressed through both removing barriers and identifying facilitators.

The WHO defines disability as a contextual variable, dynamic over time and in relation to circumstances. One is more or less disabled based on the interaction between the person and the individual, institutional and social environments. The ICF also acknowledges that the prevalence of disability corresponds to social and economic status. The 2001 ICF provides a platform that supports Universal Design as an international priority for reducing the experience of disability and enhancing everyone's experience and performance. Source: Adaptive Environments:

Effective communication

Persons with disabilities must be given information that is comparable in content and detail to that given to the general public. It must also be accessible, understandable and timely. Auxiliary aids and services may be needed to ensure effective communication. These resources may include pen and paper; sign language interpreters through on-site or video; and interpretation aids for persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have speech or communication disabilities. Persons who are blind, deaf-blind, have low vision, low literacy, learning disabilities or cognitive disabilities may need large print information or people to assist with reading and filling out forms.
Equal opportunity

Persons with disabilities must have the same opportunities to benefit from emergency programs, services, and activities as persons without disabilities. Emergency preparedness, response and recovery services and programs should be designed to provide equivalent choices for persons with disabilities as they do for persons without disabilities. This includes choices relating to short-term housing or other short- and long-term disaster support services.

Inclusion

Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in and receive the benefits of emergency programs, services, and activities provided by governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The inclusion of people with various types of disabilities in planning, training, and evaluation of programs and services will ensure that all people are given appropriate consideration during emergencies.

Inclusive design

A design methodology that enables and draws on the full range of human diversity. Most importantly, this means including and learning from people with a variety of perspectives. Designing inclusively doesn’t mean you’re making one thing for all people. You’re designing a diversity of ways for everyone to participate in an experience with a sense of belonging. Many people are unable to participate in aspects of society, both physical and digital. Understanding why and how people are excluded gives us actionable steps to take towards inclusive design.

Integration

Emergency programs, services, and activities typically must be provided in an integrated setting. The provision of services such as sheltering, information intake for disaster services, and short-term housing in integrated settings keeps people connected to their support system and caregivers and avoids the need for disparate services facilities.

No charge

Persons with disabilities may not be charged to cover the costs of measures necessary to ensure equal access and nondiscriminatory treatment. Examples of accommodations provided without charge to the individual may include:

- accessible transportation, ramps, bedding and hygiene modifications to address disability-related needs, a visual alarm, grab bars, additional storage space for medical equipment, lowered counters or shelves, Braille and raised letter signage, a sign language interpreter, a message board, assistance in completing forms or documents in Braille, large print or audio recording.

No one-size-fits-all

Persons with disabilities do not all require the same assistance and do not all have the same needs. Preparations should be made utilizing universal design and with
accommodations available for people with a variety of functional needs, including people who use mobility aids or other assistive devices, require medication or portable medical equipment, use service animals, need information in alternate formats, or rely on a caregiver.

**Physical access**

Emergency programs, services, and activities must be provided at locations that all people can access, including persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities should be able to enter and use emergency facilities and access the programs, services, and activities that are provided. Facilities typically required to be accessible include: parking, drop-off areas, entrances and exits, security screening areas, toilet rooms, bathing facilities, sleeping areas, dining facilities, areas where medical care or human services are provided, and paths of travel to and from and between these areas.

**Program modifications**

Persons with disabilities must have equal access to emergency programs and services, which may entail modifications to rules, policies, practices, and procedures. Service staff may need to change the way questions are asked, provide reader assistance to complete forms, or provide assistance in a more accessible location.

**Self-determination**

Persons with disabilities are the most knowledgeable about their own needs and must be allowed to determine how and where their accommodations are provided.

**State party**

A ‘State party’ to a treaty is a country that has ratified or acceded to that particular treaty and is therefore professionally bound by the provisions in the instrument.

**Universal Design**

The concept of designing all products and the built environment to be aesthetic and usable to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of their age, ability, or status in life.