

Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction: Developing theoretical model for gender responsive resilience and intersectionality

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

Bangladesh, South Asia

Context

Specific actions were recommended in the Dhaka declaration 2015+ to ensure the meaningful participation, inclusion and leadership of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at local, national, regional and global levels. This is to be achieved through the enhancement of collaboration among Government, development agencies, UN, NGOs, CBOs, persons with disabilities, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), professionals, active citizens, academic institutions, private sector and other key stakeholders so that they can work together and ensure the effective implementation of inclusion within the Sendai Framework. In doing so, this will, at all levels, assist in reducing vulnerabilities and prevent and reduce the consequences of disasters for persons with disabilities.

This action project is designed to prepare a theoretical model of “Meaningful participation and engagement of persons with disabilities in DRR” at the practice level to ensure people-centered approaches to integrate gender responsive resilience and intersectionality for future programming interventions and to establish recommendations for future programming.

Objectives

To develop a people-centered model through an effective Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) practice for integrating persons with disabilities into Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality.

- 1) To develop and document an Inclusive CRA (Community Risk Assessment) and URA (Urban Risk Assessment) Guidelines;
- 2) To ensure effective participation and engagement of persons with disabilities and women members at different level Disaster Management Committees in rural and urban areas.
- 3) To assist selected Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMCs) for the development and practice of “Contingency Planning” involving most at risk community members, focusing intersectionality in the community.
- 4) To document the good practices of DiDRR.



The Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Bangladesh organized a Local Level Validation Workshop at Southkhali Union Parishad and Sharankhola Upazila Parishad, Bagerhat in June under the awarded project.

Photo Credit: Abdullah Al Zubayer, Programme Assistant, GRRIPP South Asia

Findings:

- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Department of Disaster Management played a key role in adopting the Dhaka Declaration 15+, hence, they are committed to achieve its goals.
- The active role of the women CPP volunteers are very much appreciated by the community as they prioritize vulnerable groups, emphasizing gender-friendly disaster response.
- Elected representatives are motivated to support the marginalized groups, especially persons with disabilities.
- Self-Help Groups' advocacy enhances budget allocation and promotes disability inclusion in local government programs.
- Low awareness and utilization of CRA/URA, RRAP Guidelines, and contingency plans highlight the need for community-level discussions and updates.

Outcomes/Impact:

The project played a vital role to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in the CRA/URA, RRAP and contingency plan guidelines review analysis process. The project's interventions created opportunities for the self-



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Recommendations:

- a) The existing CRA and URA guidelines need to be updated by incorporating relevant instructions, recommendations, and issues related to gender and intersectionality.
- b) There should be a regular process to keep the Self Help Groups of persons with Disabilities to remain functional and provide capacity enhancement support;
- c) Intensive efforts must be given to enhance the capacity of the elected women representatives;
- d) Family counseling should be conducted at the family level, so that women CPP volunteers are able to participate in the disaster response activities;
- e) Concerned officials should take initiatives to discuss about the CRA/URA and Contingency Plan Guidelines at community level at least two times a year.

help groups of persons with disabilities to remain functional and advocate for the disability inclusion in the mainstream disaster risk management programs and government benefits. This project has also helped to open the door for women with disabilities to volunteer in the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP). The CRA/URA, RRAP and contingency plan guidelines review analysis will also support to make it more disability friendly.