



## Disability & Disaster Risk Reduction CELEBRATING DRR DAY

### IN THIS EDITION

1. Examples of activities, projects and trainings on the integration of disability in DRR programming from different organisations and teams.
2. Material to a way forward and inspiring initiatives
3. Useful publications
4. Celebration of DRR Day around the world
5. Videos, pictures, interview

### An introduction to the theme of Disaster Risk Reduction with inclusion of Disability

No one is truly safe from disability. Disasters, whether they are caused by manmade conflicts or natural hazards, do not only affect people with already existing disabilities but also create new generations of people with disabilities. Some handicaps can be visible, others not. The ideal is to identify and support but also empower any person or group that is affected by a disability. Within a disaster prone community, some groups - including children, people with disabilities and older people - need special attention and specific care. Fortunately, the inclusion of disability in Disaster Risk Reduction programming is gaining much importance. By sharing their experiences, organizations from the International Development sector are proving the benefits of their practices in this regard.

At the occasion of the Global Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which brings focus on and questions the inclusion of disability, the CARE International Disaster Risk Reduction Community of Practice (CI DRR CoP) is proud to discover and share the progressive work of many organisations, partnerships and potential partners.

### STORIES – When persons with disabilities are helped and involved in DRR trainings & programming and become active helpers in their own community

#### Floods: My name is Kazol Rekha from Bangladesh | END THE CYCLE

**END THE CYCLE**  
OF POVERTY & DISABILITY



Living in the district of Ghaibandha, Bangladesh, Kazol Rekha tells the story of how her role shifted from the one of a passive and vulnerable person with a disability to the ones of an active president of the Ward Committee on Disaster and leader of a sub-committee on cleanliness during floods. People from GUK, a local organisation, identified and supported her to make her an independent young woman and a source of help to the community. Provided with a wheelchair which facilitates her mobility, trained and involved in DRR preparedness, Kazol is now useful to the whole community.

**Video – Kazol's story;**  
made by CBM Australia,  
Centre for Disability in De-  
velopment (Bangladesh),  
DRIK Bangladesh and  
Room3 Australia

"I was always afraid when there was a prospect of flooding but now we know what to do, so I'm not afraid anymore. If there is a flood, I can face it. I feel proud with my role in the community: people didn't know what to do and now I'm there to help them learn. I feel good!" [\(See full article and pictures\)](#)

## Floods: Never again left behind, Danh's story from Vietnam | Malteser International



Malteser International

Danh is an 11-year-old boy who was born with a disability and needs constant assistance to walk. His disability makes him and his family especially vulnerable to disasters. Because their state lacks awareness from the community, people with disabilities are often left behind when an emergency arises.

Malteser International conducted a training session on flood preparedness for persons with disabilities and their families in Danh's village. Danh attended with his father. "Danh was the only child in the training, but he pointed out many things which I did not think of," his father recalls. Enthusiastically, the 11-year-old boy shares what he learned with other people from his community: "Persons with disabilities need to evacuate earlier than other villagers, so they can be safe. If there is water on the road, it's already too late!"

**Danh (11 years old) participated in a training of people with disabilities on Disaster Preparedness, conducted by Malteser International**

Danh has become an active participator in his local planning processes. This proves to be an important step to increase awareness, acceptance and understanding of what affect people and families with disabilities. The most important change is in people's minds, says project manager Dung Mai. "Inclusion starts with patience and understanding, and genuine care for one another – with or without disability," she adds. "At first, I was skeptical about what persons with disabilities could contribute. But as I got to know to some of them and saw them in action, I was amazed at how much they could achieve. With the right knowledge and opportunities, they can go all the way! I learned a lot from them."

As seen with Kazol Rekha, Danh is another perfect example of this kind of empowerment as he also states the following: "I am not scared anymore! If other children want to learn about flood preparedness, I can teach them too." ([See full articles with more details and pictures](#))

## DRR Planning: Nothing about us without us, Disability in DRR | Malteser International



Malteser International

Nothing About Us Without Us

In a film, Malteser International shares the work it does on enabling a comprehensive and inclusive community-based disaster risk management with populations from 47 villages situated along the rivers Vu Gia and Thu Bon (Central Vietnam). Those villages are flooded up to four times per year. This situation poses a great danger to people with disabilities, since mobility constraints, the lack of access to information and their marginalization in society makes them especially vulnerable. To include their needs and wishes into disaster preparedness plans, persons with disabilities have to be involved directly in planning. After all, they and their families know best what kind of support they need. The motto of the Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), Nothing About Us Without Us, guides Malteser International in its work.

**Video– Inclusive DRR**

## Inclusive Disaster Preparedness: Experience from Bangladesh | CDD

In Bangladesh, 72% of the population is living in rural areas. The large scale poverty in Bangladesh leads to food insecurity. Although Bangladesh is often affected by natural and human induced hazards, it is well known for its experience on disaster management. The Government and NGO sector are active to prepare the nation against disasters. A pilot project entitled Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) was implemented in a flood prone community in Sreepur, Gaibandha - a northern district of Bangladesh - by Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) in association with a local partner Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) with the support of CBM;



**Description of DiDRR**

"This pilot project has contributed in initiating an empowerment process of the community and people with disabilities on DiDRR. It is also an example on how persons with disabilities can participate meaningfully if their capacities are built; opportunities are created and they are shown equal respect and dignity." (Quoting Nazmul Bari).

In the document linked above, Nazmul Bari, Director of CDD Bangladesh, highlights the experiences and views of all parties involved in the pilot project, including people with disabilities and their families. A link to a brochure produced in the same context can be found in the Read More! Know More! Section, page 5 of this CI DRR CoP Newsletter.



**Reporting on Helene Gayle's - president and CEO of CARE USA- visit to East Amman Refugee Centre | October, 2013. Quote:** "I've met with the Queen and the Prime Minister of Jordan, and a number of donors during my visit here. These meetings highlighted that CARE's work is known, and many people and organisations are genuinely impressed by our work. CARE is seen as a leader in women's empowerment and emergency work in Jordan."

Esraa, 29 years old and mother of five, lost her two legs when her family's house was bombed in Syria. Soon after the incident, she fled to Jordan with her family, in December 2012. Thanks to CARE's referral, she will soon be getting prosthetic legs. Quoting Majed- Esraa's husband: "CARE has helped with providing mattresses, clothes, and money so that we can cover rent and basic costs."

Rawda Qanber, widowed mother of five children amongst which is her disabled son Ezaldeen, gets support from CARE Jordan to continue covering the emergency needs. A CARE visit brought attention to the family's situation and a community members helped enroll two of her children in school. Quoting Rawda: "I thank CARE for what you've done. My hope is that CARE continues to support us, and help with my son's health care."

[\(See more quotes and full articles on Minerva\)](#)

**A way forward- potential partners and initiatives**



Founded in 1980, Liliane Fonds, an INGO based in the Netherlands aims at helping and improving lives of children with disabilities around the world.

**Quote:** "Disasters have a considerable impact on people with disabilities who can hardly protect themselves and/or rescue themselves when needed. Special attention should be devoted to them but unfortunately, the people most at risk and most vulnerable are often disregarded or not enough included by DRR policy makers and practices. DRR is important for our target group and is should be developed with our partners." (Willie Houben, Team Asia)



The Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) was established in 1996 with the aim to develop a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities. CDD works in partnership with a network of over 350 organisations both nationally and internationally.



To celebrate World Sight Day on the 10th of October, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Launched the campaign " Share you light and save eyesight". Link to the campaign's website: [www.worldsightday.net](http://www.worldsightday.net). You can also [subscribe](#) for the organisation's newsletter on Inclusive Development.



Malteser International is a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Europe and America. The organization's General Secretariat as well as its European headquarters are located in Cologne, Germany. **Quote:** "Cooperation and participation are vital elements of our approach to humanitarian aid. Through a close collaboration with local communities, national and international partners as well as our donors, we ensure our projects are sustainable and efficient. Transparency, accountability and the compliance with international standards of humanitarian aid are the fundamental basis for the quality of our programs." (from Malteser International's mission statement)



Handicap International is an independent international aid organisation which work focus on situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. It shares a great amount of information online and in many different forms (manuals, policy papers, guidelines, etc) on disability. (Please click on the logo to visit the website.)



## Of Community Contingency Plans, Evacuation Drills and Inclusion

Interview with Celso Dulce  
CARE Nederland in the Philippines

**1. How many community contingency plans are organized every year?** During the past 18 months, we needed to develop 36 community contingency plans, 54 school contingency plans, and 14 municipal contingency plans. The process of developing contingency plans [...] starts with participatory risk assessments, followed by training on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and training on disaster preparedness. Contingency planning workshops follow, where participatory risk assessment outputs as well as knowledge and skills acquired from the series of trainings are used to formulate a contingency plan. Once a contingency plan is drafted, a community or school drill is conducted. The drill aims to test the effectiveness of the plan as well as to improve the familiarity of community members – or of students and teachers in the case of schools – of the different parts of the contingency plan. The drill also serves to increase public awareness of the plan.



In July, we conducted 36 school evacuation drills in commemoration of the National Disaster Consciousness Month. Last October 1, we conducted a community evacuation drill, where 410 community members had to travel by boats for 30 minutes, and then by trucks for another 30 minutes. His Excellency Guy Ledoux, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines joined the drill in Palo, Canaman municipality, Camarines Sur province, along with around 80 observers coming from municipalities of five provinces in the Bicol Region.

**2. Who do they most often concern? Who gets involved?** A community drill targets the population most at-risk in the community. However, a drill mobilizes stakeholders within and outside the community, as more often than not, high-risk communities lack the resources needed to ensure the safety of its members.



In the evacuation drill carried out in Palo barangay (village), the barangay disaster risk reduction and management committee (DRRMC) was responsible for leading the community in implementing the different tasks and responsibilities defined in the contingency plan. (The various responsibilities included warning and dissemination, communication, transportation, health, search and rescue, and relief distribution, among others.) The important role of schools in raising public awareness on disaster risk reduction was demonstrated during the drill's planning and execution. The municipal authorities provided invaluable support to the evacuating barangay Palo, by communicating warnings, providing transportation support, and general technical assistance to the barangay DRRMC. There was also private sector support, with a seamen's

school opening its facilities to serve as evacuation centre for the drill, as well as for real evacuations.

The evacuation drill of barangay Palo was one of the most systematic, orderly and successful drills conducted so far. The success is attributed to the high level of community participation, competent community leaders, and strong support from the municipal authorities and the education and private sectors.

**3. To what extent are they inclusive?** Inclusion permeates the whole contingency planning process. In the risk assessments, participation of women, children, elderly, persons with disability (PWDs) and the poorest segments of the population are ensured. They participate as well in the succeeding training and planning workshops. This way, their voices heard in matters that directly affect their safety and security, their specific needs are identified and addressed, and their participation helps create community ownership of the contingency plan.

Part of the contingency plan is a "masterlist" of all individuals residing in the community. The list identifies whether an individual is a child, elderly, PWD, female or male. During an evacuation, the family is mainly responsible for taking care of the needs of members belonging to the most vulnerable groups. However, the contingency plan also identifies families where support of one or more of the barangay DRRMC action teams is needed.

In the Palo evacuation drill, evacuation teams assisted persons with serious disabilities. The PWDs were also provided separate transportation arrangements. Small children, meanwhile, stayed with and were taken care of by their parents. It was His Excellency Guy Ledoux who made the observation that the number of children participating in the drill was statistically high. In the contingency plan, each family is assigned to a specific room in the evacuation center. A list [...] provides information on the status of individuals, whether a particular person belongs to one of the most vulnerable groups.

Participatory approaches employed in all stages of the contingency planning process is the main ingredient for success in contingency planning, drills, and eventually in real-life evacuation. Community members learn by actually doing each step of the planning process. The Palo evacuation drill is also the first time for CARE where communities and schools have combined to conduct a joint exercise. [...] The joint exercise has shown that the school has an important role in making drills successful. CARE is also getting technical assistance from Handicap International to make contingency plans and evacuation drills more inclusive. [\(See full document with more details & pictures on Minerva\)](#)

# CARE Papua New Guinea– Case Study on Community Profiling



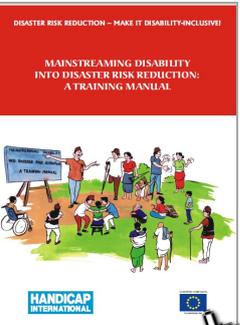
CARE Papua New Guinea (CARE PNG) is implementing a community based climate change adaptation programme in the Nissan District of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. The objectives of the programme are to 1) enabling vulnerable women, men and young people in Nissan District to increase their adaptive capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change 2) improving the capacity to incorporate a climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into local planning and policy development. [...]

People with a disability experience increased vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks and are therefore an important target group under CARE’s objective one. However, on Nissan it can be difficult to identify and engage with people with a disability as

few formal support structures currently exist to support people living with disability. There is a lack of participation from-, representation of- and data about people with disabilities.

To address these gaps, as well as gaps in knowledge of the wider community demographics and resources, CARE has introduced Community Profiling to the District. Community Profiles are a simple data collection system using questionnaires to get information about a community’s make-up and resources. CARE provided training on data collection and community engagement to representatives from all 21 villages on Nissan and Pinipel Islands. Trained representatives then returned to their villages with the tools to identify vulnerable members of their village including persons with a disability. [\(Full article on Minerva\)](#)

## Read More! Know More!



Published by Handicap International with support from ECHO, the training manual ‘Mainstreaming Disability into Disaster Risk Reduction’ gathers many practical exercises for CARE staff, partners and communities. It promotes the inclusion in DRR programming and empowerment of people with disabilities.

[Find more publications on Inclusive DRR for Handicap International.](#)



“Humanitarian Aid All Inclusive” is an encouraging reader that provides guidelines for practitioners on how to make interventions more inclusive and break the hesitation some organisations have when it comes to working overtly on disability. It underlines the necessity and benefits of inclusion, which is often overlooked. The production of this document was led by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe with support from the European Union.



Produced in Bangladesh, within the Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) project (see more details page 2 of this DRR CoP Newsletter), this 15 pages brochure gathers the project’s case stories and examples with the intention to portray some of the aquired learning and good practices.

## DRR DAY around the world:

### Uganda



CARE International in Uganda initiated the creation of key messages to promote and celebrate Global DRR DAY 2013. The three following messages were selected:

- Support Persons with Special Needs to Cope with Disasters
- Build Collective Responsibility for Disaster Resilience
- Integrate Disaster Risk Management in Development

### The Philippines



During the celebrations of Global DRR Day 2013 in the Philippines, the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Lubomir Frebort in behalf of Ambassador Guy of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines.