

Charter 14 for Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction

Resilience is for Life

Charter 14 for Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) focuses on the adoption of three key principles of an inclusive approach to DRR. It calls for stronger commitment from governments, donors and organisations to act on the shortcomings in DRR policies, strategies and practices that often insufficiently respond to older people's disaster risks. They must acknowledge and fulfil older people's rights and engage older people's capacities and contributions. This Charter has been developed through consultations with governments, NGOs, DRR and ageing experts as well as older men and women.

An ageing world at increasing disaster risk

The world is ageing. Globally, approximately 700 million people or 10 per cent of the world's population is already over the age of 60, and by 2030, there will be more people over 60 than under 10. While this represents a triumph of development, the combination of more extreme climate and disaster events coupled with the failure to adapt DRR responses to the ageing demographic trend has the potential to increase older people's vulnerability to risks and disasters. Yet, the specific requirements and strengths of older people are often not given appropriate consideration in DRR.

Charter 14 calls for an inclusive approach whereby DRR responds to older people:

1. **In need:** Older people have specific requirements which must be understood and responded to within all DRR activities.
2. **Invisible:** Older people's vulnerabilities and capacities are often overlooked; the collection of data on people's age and sex is essential to ensure older people and other people at risk are visible and supported in DRR.
3. **Invaluable:** Older people have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom which are invaluable assets in DRR and must be acknowledged, valued and engaged by supporting older people to participate in DRR.

Fourteen minimum standards which underpin the three key principles have been developed. These are categorised as easy-win 1-star actions to best practice 3-star actions. Those signing up to Charter 14 are asked to identify how they are already reaching some of these standards and to commit working towards others. A commitment to at least one minimum standard is required for Charter 14 signees.



Photo: Artemio Andaya/COSE

Standard	Minimum Standard	Signature
★	Older people are specifically mentioned in national disaster management and climate policies, requiring direct action in planning, budgeting and training.	
★	Older people have been consulted in the development of national and local disaster and climate risk assessment and their vulnerabilities and capacities included.	
★	Early warning signals and information are available, accessible, understandable and actionable by older people.	
★	Evacuation plans at community level have specific actions to ensure older people can evacuate and are protected during these operations, including actions specific to mobility, sight, hearing and mental impairments and isolation.	
★	Disaster supplies and stockpiles include specialist items, medication and food required by older people and are accessible to older people in emergency distributions.	
★	Evacuation and rest centres are age responsive, with off-floor seating, wheelchair accessible facilities, handrails and privacy for men and women.	
★★	Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data is collected including for the following older age groups: 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80+ years in all disaster management and analysed in regard to the impact of all disaster risk reduction initiatives.	
★★	Emergency personnel in health, search and rescue, management, coordination and protection and livelihoods have been trained in working with older people and addressing their specific needs and strengths in emergencies.	
★★	Older people's knowledge, skills and contributions to disaster risk management are publicly acknowledged and promoted.	
★★	Older people have access to cash transfers and livelihood recovery initiatives following disasters.	
★★	Resilient and climate-smart livelihood initiatives are inclusive of people who continue to work into old age.	
★★★	Older people are represented in DRR management and governance from the community to the national level to ensure that their voice is heard.	
★★★	Social protection systems such as pensions are available and can be accessed within days of a disaster and utilised as emergency cash transfer mechanisms.	
★★★	Older people have access to affordable disaster insurance and risk-transfer mechanisms.	

By signing up to Charter 14 your government or organisation can pledge to demonstrate support to improve the situation of older people around the world both today and for growing future generations of older people.

I/We hereby pledge to include older people in disaster risk reduction, addressing their needs and vulnerabilities, increasing their visibility and valuing and supporting their contributions. I/we will take direct action on a minimum of one action and report on this commitment at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) 2015 and progress on this action at the following Global Platform.

Let the world know your commitment and achievements in including older people in DRR through including Charter 14 in your government announcements and voluntary commitments in support of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction under UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/211.

Make the announcement and voluntary commitments here: <http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/commitments>



For further information and to sign up to Charter 14, please contact **Clare Harris** (charris@helpage.org), DRR & Resilience Advisor with HelpAge International, or your local HelpAge International or UNISDR office.