



Issues Briefs

Event title	Leaving no one behind - investing in local action and empowering those most at risk
Rationale	<p>Disasters are not equal in their impacts. The poorest and most marginalised people and communities are often the worst affected by disasters. Especially if a disaster occurs in a fragile or conflict and violence affected country. Their coping capacity may be limited due to structural inequalities embedded in society. Issues such as gender discrimination, inaccessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons, poverty, conflict and the economic consequences of disaster losses may have longer term economic impact, perpetuating or increasing the inequality gap.</p> <p>The aim to leave no one behind and to reach the most marginalised is at the core of the 2030 Agenda and a core responsibility of the Agenda for Humanity. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 underscores the importance of leaving no one behind.</p> <p>Despite this, those most disproportionately impacted by disasters are often not receiving the most investment in disaster risk reduction and response, and in particular women and the poorest and most marginalized are often excluded. There's a disparity between those contexts where disasters occur most and where international funding is being channelled, like in Somalia and Afghanistan. Most of the funding is spend on response and little for disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Whilst the attention is often focused on aspects such as exclusion and increased losses experienced by these communities, the disaster risk reduction community must also recognise the particular knowledge and skills that marginalised groups bring to disaster risk reduction. Achieving inclusion will mean a more equal and effective process for all those impacted.</p>

	<p>Investment in disaster risk reduction that supports the poorest and marginalized, especially in fragile and, conflict-affected context is crucial if the global targets of Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework are to be achieved and the core responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity to be taken seriously. High level engagement and political will is essential for this, and the 2019 Global Platform of Disaster Risk Reduction is the ideal opportunity to promote concrete action in terms of regulatory and policy frameworks, investment and programmatic action by all actors.</p>
<p>State of Play and Opportunities</p>	<p>There is significant interest in the concept of leaving no-one behind, and analysis of what needs to be done better, including investing in disaster risk management in the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, better disaster risk reduction, engaging and empowering local communities. Yet implementation is poor.</p> <p>Countries and communities are currently updating their national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, developing National Climate Adaptation plans, disaster laws and other legal and policy frameworks. These actions often fail to engage with the very communities they're designed to help and because of this, their development or implementation does not prioritize the most at risk populations and do not take into account fragile and conflict affected conditions. But the development of laws and policies, a "do-no-harm" approach and peace building measures as well as the interest in support for climate adaptation and ecosystems management (eco-drr) offer an opportunity to ensure that these frameworks are designed and implemented in an integrated manner that ensures no one is left behind.</p>
<p>Way Forward</p>	<p>To reach those most at risk of being left behind, it is critical to have a better understanding of the reasons for marginalisation, not just in times of crisis, conflict or disaster. It is critical to have the tools to understand and map who is most at risk, or marginalised and to understand the pathways to exclusion as a foundation for decreasing disproportionate impact and achieving greater inclusion.</p> <p>There is need to strengthen disaster risk governance by involving and empowering marginalised and at most risks groups, participation of women, youth is particularly key in the development, implementation, and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, regulations, strategies, and plans. Often times, these marginalized populations have developed tools to address their state of risk, and, in turn, they possess unique capacities and knowledge of how to leave no one behind.</p>

National and local disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as related frameworks (climate adaptation plans, disaster and human rights laws etc.), should explicitly aim to meet the needs of the poorest, most marginalised and highly at risks. Some countries and communities have made good progress in establishing multiple stakeholder groups to develop disaster risk reduction strategies.

The next milestone is to ensure that their national and local strategies and plans are interlinked and are developed through inclusive processes that engage, support and optimize the capacities of communities, local actors and persons typically considered vulnerable, marginalised and the most at risk to increase resilience and improve outcomes for the whole community.