



Disaster Management Community



Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community Consolidated Reply

Query: Disability and Disasters - Advice; Referrals

Compiled by G Padmanabhan, Resource Person and Nupur Arora, Research Associate
Issue Date: 13 March 2008

From [Ashok Hans](#), Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC),
Bhubaneswar
Posted 8 January 2008

My organization, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC) actively works on inclusion of disabled in disaster response. SMRC has initiated an international campaign for inclusion of disabled in disasters and has been involved in getting it on many agenda's and platforms, but there is still a long way to go.

On this background, it is proposed to organise a Conference on Disabilities and Disaster – Bhubaneswar with participation from key actors working on the issue of disability and disasters from across the country on the 28th and 29th of January 2008 at Bhubaneswar.

This conference is in pursuance of the recently rectified UN Convention for the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in disasters (Article 11). The main objective of the Conference is to identify the actions needed across all stakeholder groups to ensure the inclusion of disabled people in disaster preparedness, response, management and governance. The Conference aims to explore required actions relevant to legislation, policies, programmes, service delivery and practices that would ensure the safety, health, well-being, and human rights of disabled peoples within the context of disasters.

I would be grateful if the members of the Disaster Management Community could assist providing:

- Specific Issues within the gamut of disability and disasters that need to be addressed at the workshop.
- References of Development Practitioners/Organisations who could be invited to participate in the Workshop or be made a part of the campaign at some point.

The above information would be useful to design the workshop in order to focus on relevant aspects, as well as to get the appropriate resource persons and compile background material.

Responses were received, with thanks, from

1. [Rahul Banerjee](#), Amity Humanity Foundation, Noida
2. [H. S. Brahma](#), National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi

3. [Surat Sandhu](#), Fundraising Consultant, Gurgaon
4. [V. Gangi Reddy](#), Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
5. [Nupur Arora](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi
6. [Manish Thakre](#), Pragmatix Research and Advisory Services Pvt Ltd, Gurgaon
7. [Kumar Tikku](#), United Nations Development Programme, Kabul

Further contributions are welcome!

[Summary of Responses](#)

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Summary of Responses

Members applauded the idea of organizing a Conference on Disabilities and Disaster. They felt that inclusion of disabled during any emergency is an important issue and this international conference provides a good opportunity to share the issues of disabled and planning for how to include in future disasters.

While discussing specific issues within the gamut of disability and disasters that need to be addressed at the workshop, respondents started by expressing their concerns over the fact that disabled communities are often excluded during disasters and do not have enough support system as access to opportunities and services available. They also offered a number of suggestions:

- Conduct preparedness programmes for disabled to give them skills to save themselves during disasters
- Make available detailed data on disabled people in every government administrative authority (corporation, municipal or panchayat), in order to help officials to reach disabled individuals when there is a disaster
- Carry out special recovery and rehabilitation drives for disabled individuals after any disaster
- Sensitize Government as well civil society organizations about having special task forces within their organizations to ensure the rights and of the disabled are met
- Encourage the media and activists to play a central role in shining light on the struggles of differently abled during both pre and post disaster times (especially during the evacuation and relief distribution periods)

Along with suggestions, members highlighted various issues, including the problem of lack of funds for initiating programmes on the issue of including disabled during disasters, need to place special emphasis on differently abled children, importance of including the disabled in disaster preparedness policies and need to provide relief, rehabilitation and livelihood support equally to the disabled.

Responding to SMRC's request, members references of Development Organisations/Practitioners/ who could be made a part of the campaign at some point. Some of them are:

Among others, members recommended organizations like National Disaster Management Authority, Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, Action Aid: works on tribal, dalit, disability and gender issues, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People and Action for Autism etc. Experts

Respondents also recommended contacting Mihir Bhatt, Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad, Nalini Keshavraj, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC), Chennai, Manish Mehta, Plan International, Bangkok and Uma Tuli, Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, New Delhi.

Finally, respondents agreed that addressing the issues of the disabled before, during and after disasters is a pertinent issue and this workshop is would be a milestone event in providing for the needs of disabled individuals.

Related Resources

Recommended Documentation

From [Nupur Arora](#), Research Associate

Integrating Disability into Development Programmes

Guidelines; By Sue Stubbs; Save the Children; United Kingdom; 1993

Available at http://www.eenet.org.uk/theory_practice/integrat.shtml

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/31_56.htm

The guidelines are prepared by Save the Children on integrating disabled at all levels of their project formulation and implementation.

Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Disabilities

Poster; National Organization on Disability; United States of America

Available at <http://www.nod.org/resources/PDFs/epips1disability.pdf> (PDF Size 167 KB)

The poster prepared by National Organization on Disability contains checklists and other resources for preparing people with disabilities for emergencies.

Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Mobility Disabilities

Poster; National Organization on Disability; United States of America

Available at <http://www.nod.org/resources/PDFs/epips4mobility.pdf> (PDF Size: 169 KB)

The poster prepared by National Organisation on Disability contains checklists and other resources for preparing people with mobility disabilities for emergencies.

Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Sensory Disabilities

Poster; National Organization on Disability; United States of America

Available at <http://www.nod.org/resources/PDFs/epips2sensory.pdf> (PDF Size: 170 KB)

The poster prepared by National Organization on Disability contains checklists and other resources for preparing people with sensory disabilities for emergencies.

Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Developmental or Cognitive Disabilities

Poster; National Organization on Disability; United States of America

Available at <http://www.nod.org/resources/PDFs/epips3cognitive.pdf> (PDF Size: 166 KB)

Information Flyer contains checklists and other resources for preparing people with development or cognitive disabilities for emergencies.

Why and How to Include People with Disabilities in Your Emergency Planning Process?

Guidelines; by June Isaacson Kailes; Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions Western University of Health Sciences; California ; 2004

Available at http://www.nobodyleftbehind2.org/findings/why_and_how_to_include_all.shtml

Guidelines for organizations working on emergency management focusing on why and how to effectively include disabled individuals in their emergency planning process

Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities

Americans with Disability Act, U.S. Department of Justice; United States of America
Available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm>

Americans with Disability Act Guide helps local governments make Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs accessible to people with disabilities

Recommended Contacts and Experts

From [Nupur Arora](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi

Mihir Bhatt, Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad

411, Sakar Five, Near Nataraj Cinema, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009; Tel: 91-79- 26586234;
dmi@icenet.co.in

He has been working actively in the field of Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness for several years and has experience dealing with equity Issues

Nalini Keshavraj, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC), Chennai

5, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600034 Tamil Nadu; Tel.: 91-44-28264141/515;
nalini@tntrc.org

She advises NGOs on DM and provided technical assistance during the reconstruction period after the tsunami; has experience dealing with equity and issues during emergencies

Manish Mehta, Plan International, Bangkok

75/24 OCEAN Tower-II, 18th Floor, Sukhumvit Soi - 19, Khlongtoey Nue, Wattana, 10110 Bangkok, Thailand; Tel: 66818173152; manish.mehta@plan-international.org

He has been working on disaster management and did the "School and Clinic Program" for USAID in Afghanistan which include disabilities norms in school & clinic building designs.

Uma Tuli, Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, New Delhi (from [Kumar Tikku](#), United Nations Development Programme, Kabul)

Karkardooma, Vikas Marg, New Delhi 110092; Tel: 91-11-22375205/2173; Fax: 91-11-22372521;
amarjoti@del2.vsnl.net.in

An acknowledged leader in the disability and rehabilitation sector in India and works to provide rights to disables; can be useful to understand their needs during emergencies.

Recommended Organizations and Programmes

National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi (from [H.S. Brahma](#), National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi)

Centaur Hotel, Near IGI Airport, New Delhi 110037; Tel: 25655012

Being apex body on disaster management in country, NDMA supported the workshop and has taken and plans various initiatives to tackle the problem of disability during disasters.

From [V. Gangi Reddy](#), Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, Andhra Pradesh

Maruthi Nagar, Nellatur Post, Nellore District, South India, Gudur 524102, Andhra Pradesh; Tel: 918624222589; Fax: 91 252110; rrds111@gmail.com, rrds111@yahoo.com

Organisation works for the empowerment of vulnerable communities and has experience of working with them during disasters.

From [Nupur Arora](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi

Action Aid, Bhubaneswar

331/A, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar 751007 Orissa; Tel: 91-674-2544503/2544224;
<http://www.actionaidindia.org/ori.htm>

Action Aid works on tribal, dalit, disability and gender issues in villages and also manages homes for single women and children affected by the Tsunami

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, New Delhi

A-77, South Extension Part II, New Delhi 110 049; Tel: 91-11-26265647/48; Fax: 91-11-26265649;
secretariat@ncpedp.org; <http://www.ncpedp.org/>

Organisation runs a site, which is designed to be accessible to visually impaired persons, and aims to be a complete resource on issues pertaining to disability.

Action for Autism, New Delhi (from [Manish Thakre](#), Pragmatix Research and Advisory Services Pvt Ltd, Gurgaon)

Sector 5 Jasola Vihar, Behind Sai Niketan, New Delhi; Tel: 91-11-65347422, 40540991/2; Fax: 91-11-40540993; autism@vsnl.com; <http://www.autism-india.org/>

Provides support and services to persons with autism and those who work with them in South Asia and can be useful to understand their needs during emergencies

National Organization on Disability, USA

910 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 600 Washington; Tel: 202-293-5960; Fax: 202 293-7999
ability@nod.org; <http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageID=11>

Organisation carries out Emergency Preparedness Initiatives for people with disabilities and has a rich data base of resources on addressing disability issues in disasters.

Recommended Communities and Networks

Disabled Peoples' International, Thailand (from [Nupur Arora](#), Research Associate)

<http://v1.dpi.org>; Contact Saowalak Thongkuay; Assistant RDO; Tel: 66-2984-1007; saowalak@dpiap.org

A network of organizations or assemblies of disabled, established to promote human rights of disabled through full participation, equalization of opportunity and development.

Recommended Portals and Information Bases

From [Nupur Arora](#), United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi

PrepareNow.org, abagOnline, United States of America

<http://www.preparenow.org/prepare.html>

The portal provides the tools, expertise and access to resources to assist anyone engaged in disaster planning for individuals with special needs.

The International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet, United States of America

<http://www.icdri.org/>

A global knowledge base of quality resources and best practices on disability, provides education and training based on these core resources including disaster management

Related Consolidated Replies

Social Equity in Disaster Management, from Rama Kashyap, United Nations Development Programme, Chennai (Experiences; Referrals). Disaster Management Community. Issued 6 July 2007

Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/cr-se-drm-24050701.pdf> (PDF, Size: 171 KB)

Shares experiences and examples of tools or methodologies used to address social equity issues in disasters and provide referrals of people/organizations working on Equity issues.

Addressing Disability Issues in Disaster Management, from Ashok Hans, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC), Bhubaneswar (Experiences; Referrals). Disaster Management Community. Issued 29 August 2007

Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/cr-se-drm-27070701.pdf> (PDF, Size: 87 KB)

Brings out case studies and experiences on addressing disability issues during all disaster management phases and provide referrals of people/organizations working on Equity issues.

Responses in Full

[Rahul Banerjee](#), Amity Humanity Foundation, Noida

Disabled itself is a wrong approach in term of right and in the time of disaster they can be stuck to clarify their rights for seeking relief and rehabilitation. I think it is the most challenging job in terms of disaster management. In my personal opinion there are some important issues to be addressed:

- Preparedness of disabled in order to save themselves at the time of disaster. Like there should be special capacity building programme for disabled person to tackle any worst situation.
 - In each and every government administrative authority (Corporation, municipal or panchayat), there should be a detailed data of disabled people as it can help them to reach in time of disaster.
 - Conducting Special force for rehabilitation of disabled after any disaster.
 - Sensitization of both Government as well civil society organisation who address relief work on special task for challenged people
-

[H.S. Brahma](#), National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi

NDMA has already processing your request. We have asked Government. Of Orissa to give us certain clarification. You may also request them to expedite.

[Surat Sandhu](#), Fundraising Consultant, Gurgaon

As I had mentioned earlier there is always an acute and increasing need for Funds. Without this very little of all that we are planning will be possible. There is a very important aspect. I shall be glad to take on a session or two in this regard.

There is plenty around and needs to be harnessed.

[V. Gangi Reddy](#), Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

Thank you very much for your mail about inclusion of disable community. The SMRC planning to organize international campaign for disability and disasters. This is very good idea to organize campaign for disability. This international campaign provides a good opportunity to share the issues of disable and planning for how to include in future disasters.

Issues:

The disable communities excluded from the disasters. They have not got any support during disasters. They have also un-organized they are not having access to resources mobilization.

Challenges:

- To identified the disable issues and promoting CBOs
- To include the disable in disaster preparedness policies.

- To provide relief, rehabilitation and livelihood support

Organizations:

1. Rural Reconstruction and Development Society (RRDS)

Email: rrds111@gmail.com, rrds111@yahoo.com,

2. CARD

Email: cardmpolur@rediffmail.com

3. NAVAJEEVAN

Email: navajeevan_org@yahoo.co.in

4. Sree Sakthi Seva Sangam

Email: madhavicbit@yahoo.com

5. Sravanthi:

Email: sravanthi_raja@yahoo.com

We are looking forward to your further response for participation of international campaign of disability.

Nupur Arora, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi

I think there is a need to lay special emphasis on differently abled children. As it is children form the most vulnerable group of society and if they carry some form of functional needs, they suffer much more during emergencies.

I also feel that in order to encourage humanitarian agencies to integrate issues related to disabled in all development programmes, **media and activists** can play a very important role. They can bring in light the struggles of differently abled during both pre and post disaster times. (Especially during the evacuation and relief distribution time)

Therefore discussing these issues may add value.

I would also like to provide a few References of Development Practitioners and Organisations who could be invited to participate in the workshop or be made a part of the campaign at some point. (These have been shared by members during previous discussions on the Community)

Development Practitioners:

1. Mihir Bhatt, Director, Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad

411, Sakar Five, Near Nataraj Cinema, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009; Tel: 91-79- 26586234;
dmi@icenet.co.in

He has been working actively in the field of Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness for several years and has experience dealing with equity Issues

2. Nalni Keshavraj, Head, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC), Chennai

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nalini@tntrc.org

She advices NGOs on DM and provided technical assistance during the reconstruction period after the tsunami; has experience dealing with equity and issues during emergencies

3. Manish, Mehta, Bangkok

Plan International, 75/24 OCEAN Tower-II, 18th Floor , Sukhumvit Soi - 19, Khlongtoey Nue, Wattana, PIN 10110 ; Tel: +66818173152; manish.mehta@plan-international.org
He has been working on disaster management and did the "School and Clinic Program" for USAID in Afghanistan which include disabilities norms in school & clinic building designs.

Organisations

1. Action Aid

331/A, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneshwar-751 007; Tel: 91-674-2544503/2544224

<http://www.actionaidindia.org/ori.htm>

Action Aid works on tribal, dalit, disability and gender issues in villages and also manages homes for single women and children affected by the tsumami

2. National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, New Delhi

A-77, South Extension Part II, New Delhi 110 049; Tel: +91-11-26265647/48; Fax: +91-11-26265649 secretariat@ncpedp.org; <http://www.ncpedp.org/>

This Organisation runs a site which is designed to be accessible to visually impaired persons and aims to be a complete resource on issues pertaining to disability.

I wish the workshop a great success, and hope the points above help.

Manish Thakre, Pragmatix Research & Advisory Services Pvt Ltd, Gurgaon

As rightly pointed out by [Ms. Nupur](#) that there should be special emphasis on differently abled children. These special children or special people should be considered while drafting or planning disaster management plans. I would also like to provide a Reference of Organization known as Action for Autism (<http://www.autism-india.org/>) who could be invited to participate in workshop or be made a part of the campaign at some point. I am giving below the address of the organization-

Action for Autism
Sector 5 Jasola Vihar
Behind Sai Niketan
Tel: 91-11-65347422, 40540991/2
fax: 91-11-40540993
e-mail: autism@vsnl.com

Kumar Tiku, United Nations Development Programme, Kabul

Since members feel needs of special children should be high priority, may I suggest Mr. Hans should also liaise/get acquainted with the work of Mrs Uma Tuli. She is better known as someone who has for years been running a fabulous school across the Yamuna in Delhi, by the name of Amar Jyoti. The school admits almost an equal ratio of mainstream and special children and has built an impressive record of integrating the so-called disadvantaged children as productive and highly-motivated members of society. It might be worth knowing Amar Jyoti's approach to preparing these young, special minds to natural calamities.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!

If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community in India at se-drm@solutionexchange-un.net.in with the subject heading "Re: [se-drm] Query: Disability and Disasters – Advice; Referrals. Additional Reply."

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