

اجتماع الشراكة العربية التاسع للحد من مخاطر  
الكوارث

2023 23-21 نوفمبر  
مصر

**9<sup>th</sup> Arab Partnership Meeting for  
Disaster Risk Reduction**

21 – 23 November 2023  
Egypt

**overview on UNDRR  
efforts to support PWDs**

**towards an inclusive  
climate action**

**Dr. Mostafa Attia**



- Regional Report on Disability Mainstreaming in DRR Planning in the Arab Region
- Guideline DIDRR strategies Arab Region
- The ARAB PWDs organizations group for DRR

## Current Status:

### **(A) POLICY VS. PRACTICE**

- Theoretically effective policies are poorly implemented and thus rendered ineffective in practice. Often with a lack of accountability. There is a tendency towards implementing ineffective and unsustainable short-term projects.

### **(B) ABLEISM**

- Ableist approaches to disabilities are embedded within societies and organizations, serving to exclude PWD and significantly increase their vulnerability.
- Ableism is not adequately recognized within institutions and structural change is required.



**Regional  
Report on  
Disability  
Mainstreamin  
g in DRR  
Planning in  
the Arab  
Region**

## **(C) INTERSECTIONALITY AND INDIVIDUALISM**

- The intersectionality of disability is not fully recognized
  - PWD are not treated as individuals with rights that should be empowered and therefore the decisions made about them do not reflect their heterogeneous experiences.

## **(D) DATA AND DEFINITIONS**

- PWD are 'invisible' to policy makers as they are underrepresented in statistics due to both a narrow understanding of disability and the social stigma associated with it, all of which makes people reluctant to be identified as disabled.

### **(E) Responses To Emergencies:**

- Arab countries' responses to emergencies and disasters focus on supporting those who lost their homes or are in severe medical conditions which limits their capacities to support marginalized populations such as children, PWDs, and older people.

### **(F) Budget :**

- none of the Arab countries' DRR and climate change programs have defined how frequently a specific budget will be allocated to support the provision of adequate accommodation for PWDs

### **(G) Awareness :**

- Their understanding of reasonable accommodation accessibility measures was also found to be variable. Some were aware of the physical, environmental, and other criteria that should be accessible to promote PWDs' empowerment, while others focused on specific factors while ignoring others.

- **Among several guidelines available to support the mainstreaming of PWDs within DRR this Guideline decided to contextualize these to fit within the Arab socioeconomic cultural situations**

Several benefits can be realized by mainstreaming PWDs' demands in DRR plans and strategies through inclusive design principles. among these benefits:



**Guideline  
for DIDRR  
strategies  
Arab  
Region**

- **Accessibility:** Inclusive design ensures that all individuals obtain access to emergency response systems, communication channels, evacuation routes, shelters, and other vital facilities. This enables PWDs to receive timely warnings and alerts during disasters and safely evacuate.
- **Participation:** Inclusive design encourages PWDs to actively participate in disaster preparation activities. Their unique viewpoints can be incorporated when building mitigation strategies by incorporating them in planning processes and decision-making forums. risks.



- **Empowerment:** Inclusive design empowers people with disabilities by recognizing their rights as citizens. It empowers them to take charge of their own safety during emergencies by making information about hazards, preparedness actions, and available support resources easily accessible.
- **Resilience:** Including PWDs in DRR strategies improves overall community resilience. The overall effectiveness of disaster response and recovery operations can be improved by considering the special requirements and dangers encountered by PWDs.
- **Social cohesion:** Inclusive design promotes social cohesiveness by encouraging all individuals to have a sense of belonging and equitable engagement. It contributes to the removal of obstacles and preconceptions, resulting in a more inclusive and united society.

## Needed steps and procedures to include PWDs in in the design and implementation of early warning systems :

- **meaningful participation:**

Without meaningful participation of PWDs and DPOs, research, programs and policy cannot adequately address their needs and desires

- **Ensure inclusion of PWDs in community training schemes for EWS and DRR**

conducted by large international organizations such as IFRC and UNDRR (in past training schemes and reports, PWDs are hardly ever mentioned)

- **Ensure DRR processes are communicated in multiple formats to meet the needs of PWDs**

- **Ensure DRR meetings are held in accessible locations at opportune times, or make the effort to meet PWDs or their DPOs where they are to include them in DRR processes**

- ensure PWDs' equal representations of physical, visual, hearing, and intellectual impairments
- the provision of necessary reasonable accommodations and assistance
- Work alongside local DPOs in all DRR processes. Identify what is already being done within a community and work to enhance these programs
- Do not assume the hazards and vulnerabilities PWD experience. Ask them what they consider their vulnerabilities are
- Revising current regional and national DRR Policies from the perspective of PWDs through the listing of their demands is an essential milestone to ensure their mainstreaming.

- It is recommended for the national DRR strategies to follow the same SDGs methods by presenting disability inclusion throughout the strategy sections.
- Fostering cooperation and coordination between government and civil society organizations especially those working in /or representing PWDs. This includes the representation of DPOs in the National DRR Platforms.
- Building the capacities of focal points and other authorities working in the fields of DRR is a must. This includes developing their disability inclusion knowledge, including definitions and terminologies along with providing them with the best practices to mainstream PWDs in DRR activities.
- Fostering cooperation between the UNDRR disability efforts at the global level and the UNDRR ROAS would inform the focal points of the latter with the global effort disability mainstreaming, including public guidelines and reports

## Further procedures to be taken :

- Conducting regional and national workshops with representatives working in the field of DRR, including PWDs and their organizations
- Provide basic training and education for first-responders of disasters, which mainly include the police forces, firefighters, emergency medical and rescue teams on disability so that they are aware of their presence and are prepared to safely respond to their circumstances and needs
- develop a toolkit and training to equip DRR employees in each country with mechanisms for guidance, such as budgets, accommodations, and recommendations, to ensure systemic support for PWDs and to disseminate this across early warning systems.
- Applying the twin-track approach through raising PWDs awareness of issues related to DRR as well as enhance the community accessibility and preparedness

## ■ Goals :

- To empower PWDs and ensure that they are actively included in DRR policymaking and action planning
- To raise awareness of specific challenges experienced by PWDs during disasters
- To ensure that PWDs are represented in the design of DRR policies
- To ensure that PWDs' demands and perspectives are taken into consideration throughout the entire DRR policy-making process
- To increase the public awareness of the special barriers that PWDs encounter in times of disaster

The ARAB PWDs  
organizations group  
for DRR

## Suggested formation for the “ Arab PWDs organizations group”:

"Arab Persons with Disabilities Organizations Group for DRR"(APDOG) group is an informal voluntary group where members are self-organized. The group shall relay on designing a participatory TOR determining the interrelation within the group and the cross-relation between the group and other alliances. The group shall have chairs and co-chairs on a rotational basis sometimes



**THANK YOU**

