SWISS NGO DRR PLATFORM
Climate & Disaster Resilience

TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Collecting and using disability data in DRR projects

Why this Tipsheet?

This tipsheet aims to help DRR project activities capture information on disability inclusion, using disability-disaggregated data. It provides key entry points for collecting, monitoring, and evaluating disability data.

Who is this Tip sheet aimed at?

This tip sheet is for people planning and implementing DRR projects who understand that persons with disabilities need to be systematically included, not Disability inclusion is not just a 'nice to have'. This tip sheet offers some practical advice on how to do this.

What is disability data?

Disability data is information from different sources **about people with disability and their lived experiences**. The collection of disability-disaggregated data enables us to understand how people with disabilities are accessing, participating and benefitting from activities or services.

When collecting data in DRR projects, it's important to ensure that you collect data on disability, gender, and age. **To 'disaggregate' means to break down collected data from a wider population, into smaller groups so that differences between groups can be seen and analysed.**

This way you can disaggregate the data to specially analyse the responses for people with disabilities, which helps to identify gaps, barriers, and exclusion that may not be visible otherwise.

What is the purpose of capturing disability data in DRR projects?

The key purpose of capturing and reporting disability data in DRR projects is to understand **whether people with disabilities are benefiting equally to people without disabilities in relation to disaster preparedness**.

Disability-disaggregated data should be used to identify where people with disabilities face heightened disaster risks, barriers to preparedness, or reduced access to DRR activities, and to **inform actions** within the project to address these gaps. Collecting disability data at critical points in the project cycle helps ensure that DRR interventions contribute to preparedness for everyone.

When and how to collect disability data across the project cycle

At the Baseline stage

At the baseline stage we are **collecting and disaggregating data in order to understand who experiences the most risks and disadvantages to disaster preparedness efforts**, in the project location area. Disaggregating the data by disability, gender, and age at the baseline stage allows us to identify and analyse this, so we can determine who is most at risk and how to address heightened risks through the project.

Baseline data is also used as a 'baseline' to compare with the endline results, to demonstrate what has been achieved through the project. You will **use the same quantitative survey questions for baseline, mid-term, and endlines** to ensure data consistency and enable comparison over time.

At the baseline stage, disability data should be collected to understand whether people with disabilities experience heightened risks and barriers in relation to disaster preparedness, access to early warning information, participation in preparedness activities etc, in comparison to people without disabilities. **Baseline data should allow any differences to be identified between people with and without disabilities in preparedness levels and exposure to risk.**

How to collect the data:

Quantitative data should be **collected by integrating the Washington Group Questions (WGQs) into baseline surveys, household questionnaires, or registration and profiling tools**. We recommending using WGQs at the start of a baseline survey or household questionnaire and then use this to disaggregate the responses from the questions. Using the WGQs provides a consistent and non-stigmatising way to identify people with disabilities based on functional difficulties.

- **Qualitative data** can be collected through methods such as focus group discussions, interviews, or participatory activities with people with disabilities **to explore lived experiences and barriers related to the aims of the DRR project.**
- Disability data should be **disaggregated alongside age and gender** to identify intersectional exclusion.

At the Mid-term review stage

At the mid-term review stage, we are collecting and disaggregating data to understand how disaster preparedness is being achieved through the project, and whether different groups are benefitting equally from DRR efforts. **Disaggregating data by disability, gender, and age at mid-term allows us to assess whether people with disabilities are benefitting equally in comparison to people without disabilities**, and to explore gendered differences in preparedness outcomes (for example, women compared to men, and women with disabilities compared to men with disabilities).

Mid-term data is used to compare progress against baseline findings, and to identify whether the project is effectively reducing disaster-related risks and barriers for groups who were identified as most at risk at the start of the project.

At the mid-term stage, disability-disaggregated data should be used to assess whether preparedness gaps are narrowing or persisting for people with disabilities, including differences in accessibility of early warning information, participation in preparedness activities, and ability to act on preparedness measures. This analysis helps identify where people with disabilities, particularly women or other groups facing compounding disadvantages, may continue to face heightened risks, and to **identify what adjustments are needed** within the project to address these gaps.

How to collect the data:

- **Quantitative data** can be collected by continuing to apply the WGQs through surveys, monitoring tools, and attendance records, to track progress. You will **use the same quantitative survey questions** at baseline, mid-term, and endline to ensure data consistency and enable comparison over time. **Disability, gender, and age should be included as standard disaggregation variables so that preparedness outcomes can be compared** between:
    - people with disabilities and people without disabilities,
    - women and men, and
    - women with disabilities and men with disabilities.

    This allows analysis of whether disaster preparedness gaps identified at the baseline are narrowing, persisting, or widening.

- **Qualitative data** should be collected again through focus group discussions with people with disabilities. It should be used to understand how people with disabilities experience the project in practice, including any changes in accessibility, participation, provision of reasonable accommodations, and any ongoing barriers that affect people's ability to prepare for disaster.

- Mid-term data collection should support reflection on **why some groups may still face heightened risks or barriers and inform practical adjustments to project activities to improve preparedness** for those groups during the remainder of the project.

At Endline Evaluation stage

At the endline evaluation stage, we are collecting and disaggregating data to understand the overall disaster preparedness outcomes achieved through the project, and whether these outcomes have been achieved equitably. **Disaggregating data by disability, gender, and age at endline allows us to assess whether people with disabilities are benefitting equally in comparison to people without disabilities**, and to analyse differences between women and men, including comparisons between women with disabilities and men with disabilities.

Endline data is compared with baseline and mid-term data to demonstrate what has been achieved through the project and how disaster preparedness has changed over time for different groups.

At the endline stage, disability disaggregated data should be used to understand whether remaining risks and barriers to disaster preparedness persist for people with disabilities, and whether the project has contributed to more equal levels of preparedness, access to early warning information, and participation in DRR activities. Endline analysis should highlight where preparedness outcomes are still unequal, identify why these gaps remain, and generate learning to inform future DRR projects so that preparedness efforts better support everyone to be ready for disasters. At this endline stage, disability data should be collected to assess outcomes and understand whether people with disabilities have benefited from the project on an equal basis with others. Endline data supports learning, accountability, and documentation of both successes and remaining gaps in relation to disability inclusion.

How to collect the data:

- **Quantitative data** should continue to use the same survey questions and indiocators as baseline and mid-term to ensure consistency and allow comparison over time. **Preparedness outcomes should be analysed using disability, gender, and age disaggregation to assess:**
    - whether people with disabilities have achieved similar preparedness outcomes to people without disabilities,
    - how DRR efforts have become more inclusive for people with disabilities or how their knowledge and capacity on disaster preparedness have strengthened through the project, and
    - what differences remain between women and men, including comparisons between women with disabilities and men with disabilities.
- **Qualitative data** should be gathered through focus group discussions, interviews, and participatory workshops with people with disabilities to **understand their experiences and if they think DRR activities and processes are now more accessible and inclusive,** and if they have strengthened confidence, knowledge and capacity on disaster preparedness efforts.
- **Endline data collection should enable clear comparison with baseline and mid-term findings** and support analysis of what contributed to more equal preparedness outcomes, as well as what constrained progress, to inform learning for future DRR projects, in relation to disability and gender.

Tips on how to conduct inclusive Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Before the Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

- **Contact people to understand what their accessibility requirements / reasonable accommodation are**, to enable meaningful participation. It is recommended to seek support from an Organisation of Persons with Disability (OPDs) on how to ask about peoples' accessibility requirements, and to engage a local OPD or OPD partner to co-facilitate the FGD. Without providing reasonable accommodation, people with disabilities cannot meaningfully participate.
- **Ensure staff and volunteers are trained in inclusive communications and conducting accessible facilitations**, which can be provided by an OPD or disability organisation.
- **Ensure accessibility of FGDs** by holding them in an accessible location, and having a copy of the FGD questions printed for each participant in plain language, with no more than 6 questions.

During the Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

- **Capture information from all disability types to understand the barriers that people with different disabilities experience,** and to understand which are receiving more / less support to remove barriers on DRR. This is important as people from under-represented disability groups, such as people who are deaf, or have a cognitive/intellectual or psychosocial disability; experience heightened risks and barriers in comparison to other disability types. You can capture this by:
    - Going through questions in the FGD and asking about the experiences across different disability types.
    - Write down the different disability types as headings on a large piece of paper / screen / board, and record the key barriers and challenges, as well as solutions, under each of the disability types. This approach can help to identify which disability types may be less engaged in DRR efforts and require additional efforts.
- Conduct separate focus group discussions for women and men, or for different disability types.

After the Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

- Use various feedback approaches to **seek feedback from people with disabilities on accessibility and reasonable accommodations provided in the FGD**. This could be achieved by:
    - Talking to people with disabilities at the end of the FGD (as a final FGD question or individually)
    - Asking them to complete an anonymous, accessible short survey to give their feedback
    - Using a reasonable accommodation assessment form (if available) to ask about reasonable accommodation and if any changes are required.

Suggestions for disability-specific indicators to include in DRR projects:

Quantitive:

- Percentage of people with disabilities that have a personal disaster preparedness plan
- Number of community-based risk reduction plans that include specific provisions and measures for disability inclusion
- Level of satisfaction among people with disabilities that they were supported to actively participate in the DRR activity (on a scale of 1-5)
- Percentage of participants with disabilities who report having meaningfully contributed to the [insert DRR activity]
- Percentage of enumerators trained on disability-inclusive data collection and consultation methods
- Number of early warning systems disseminating early warnings in accessible formats
- Number of DRR tools and methods adapted to be accessible for different disability types.

Qualitative:

- Satisfaction among people with disabilities that DRR policies / processes are addressing disability barriers and meeting their needs
- Satisfaction among people with disabilities so that they can access early warnings in accessible formats
- Satisfaction among people with disabilities that project activities were made accessible so they could meaningfully participate.

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform is a network of professionals from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) dedicated to increasing the resilience of women and men, communities, and governments through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It strives to enhance the quality of services delivered by Swiss NGOs related to disaster risk and climate change, promotes the development of know-how and experience, provides guidance to increase effectiveness and advocates for risk-informed development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in order to increase resilience.

Swiss NGO DRR Platform | September 2026 | www.drrplatform.org

With financial contribution from:

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