Annex 5

Detailed regional findings
1. Africa

Overview of key findings

- 89 per cent of respondents from the Africa region reported not having a personal preparedness plan.
- 32 per cent would face a lot of difficulty or would be unable to evacuate immediately and without assistance, falling to 13 per cent in case of early warning.
- 29 per cent reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats. This was considerably higher than the reported global figure of 11 per cent.
- A lack of government commitment and awareness regarding disability inclusion were cited as primary reasons for no significant improvement in awareness of national- and local-level disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans among persons with disabilities (only 21 per cent were aware of national DRR plans and 9 per cent of local DRR plans in 2023, compared to 19 per cent and 9 per cent in 2013).
- 80 per cent of respondents reported not participating in DRR-related decision-making at the community level. Limited or inaccessible mechanisms for participation were reported.
- 91 per cent of respondents indicated their willingness to participate in DRR-related decision-making and planning. This was the highest of any region.
- Designated government leadership roles for disability inclusion in the region were reported by 39 per cent of respondents; however, limited disability expertise among personnel holding these positions was also reported.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 69 per cent of respondents.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

A total of 89 per cent of respondents did not have a personal preparedness plan for disasters, which is slightly higher than the 2013 data (86 per cent). Of the 11 per cent who did have a plan, most focused on evacuation, increasing preparedness capacity, and disaster mitigation.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

The largest number of respondents (42 per cent) reported having some difficulty evacuating immediately. Roughly one third of respondents (32 per cent) had a lot of difficulty or were unable to evacuate immediately, consistent with the 2013 results (32 per cent).
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Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

In 2023, similarly to 2013 and following global trends, 87 per cent of survey respondents reported little to no difficulty evacuating with sufficient warning. However, 13 per cent would still face significant difficulty or be unable to evacuate, which is consistent with the 2013 data.

Assistance planning for evacuation

A total of 84 per cent of survey respondents reported having someone to assist them with evacuation before a disaster, either sometimes or always. However, 16 per cent of respondents still reported that they would never have assistance during evacuation, with a slight difference compared to 2013 (13 per cent).

Availability and accessibility of risk information

A total of 25 per cent of survey respondents reported dissemination of risk information in accessible format, while 42 per cent reported partial dissemination in accessible format. This indicated more than half of survey participants in 2023 reported some form of accessibility of information. However, the survey did not provide specific examples of these accessible formats, limiting further analysis.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

In both 2013 and 2023, most respondents were unaware of national DRR plans (55 per cent in both 2013 and 2023), and local DRR plans (59 per cent in 2013, 54 per cent in 2023). However, the awareness of local DRR plans increased slightly from 2013 to 2023. Respondents reported a lack of accommodation for accessibility and addressing functional needs of persons with disabilities in both national and local plans, as well as poor government commitment and engagement of persons with disabilities in DRR planning.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

A total of 39 per cent of African respondents reported designated leadership roles for disability inclusion and accessibility, while 36 per cent reported their absence, and 26 per cent were uncertain. However, only 17 per cent of respondents reported a disability-inclusive management expert holding available leadership positions, and 34 per cent noted a lack of staff expertise in disability-inclusive disaster management and risk reduction.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

In 2023, 78 per cent of respondents were affiliated with self-help groups or organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), compared to 37 per cent in 2013. However, the majority of respondents in 2023 (63 per cent) reported not being members of disability-led organizations or OPDs.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

The percentage of persons with disabilities participating in decision-making processes regarding community disaster management and risk reduction has slightly increased from 10 per cent in 2013 to 20 per cent in 2023. However, the majority of persons with disabilities (80 per cent) are still excluded from decision-making due to various reasons.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

In the 2023 survey, 69 per cent of respondents reported the absence of mechanisms for persons with disabilities to participate in community-based DRR, while 24 per cent reported the presence of inaccessible mechanisms.
Willingness to participate

A vast majority of the respondents (91 per cent) showed interest in community-based disaster management and risk reduction efforts, indicating a 10 per cent positive shift compared to the 2013 survey (82 per cent).

4. Regional priorities

The 2023 survey shows that policy change and actionable planning are the top priority for persons with disabilities in the African region, highlighting the need for strong leadership and effective policies for integrating disability-inclusive approaches into DRR initiatives.

Education, capacity development, and provision of funding and resources for disability-inclusive DRR are also crucial for improving preparedness and resilience. Addressing physical barriers through accessible infrastructure, facilities, and transportation is also a priority.

However, despite being critical components, the availability of assistive devices, collaboration across stakeholders, and improving disability data all rank low, possibly due to the lack of awareness, resources or expertise, or because these issues are viewed as less important compared to policy change and capacity development.
2. Americas and the Caribbean

Overview of key findings

- Of the 2,782 survey responses from the Americas and the Caribbean, 1,941 were from Colombia.
- 89 per cent of respondents from the Americas and the Caribbean do not have a personal preparedness plan for disasters.
- 41 per cent would have a lot of difficulty evacuating independently or would be unable to evacuate at all in the event of a disaster. This could drop to 28 per cent with sufficient early warning.
- 11 per cent reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats.
- Only 8 per cent of 2023 respondents were aware of national DRR plans and 11 per cent were aware of the existence of local DRR plans, representing a decrease compared to 2013 (17 per cent and 21 per cent respectively).
- While over half of respondents (56 per cent) expressed the desire to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, the majority (91 per cent) reported being excluded from DRR-related decision-making, mainly due to the lack of mechanisms for participation.
- 16 per cent of participants reported that there are designated government leadership roles for disability inclusion in the region; 40 per cent of these participants said the positions were staffed by disability-inclusive emergency management experts.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 78 per cent of respondents.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

In the Americas and the Caribbean, the majority of persons with disabilities (89 per cent) reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters, which is significantly higher compared to the 2013 survey results (73 per cent). Of the 11 per cent who did have a plan, their focus was on evacuation, increasing preparedness capacity, family readiness, addressing specific disability needs, and helping others.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

The overall distribution of ability for immediate evacuation remained similar between the 2013 and 2023 surveys, following the global trend. However, a significant number of respondents (41 per cent) reported experiencing a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately, which is slightly higher compared to the 2013 survey data (35 per cent).

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1 In 2023, a much larger number of responses were received from the region compared to 2013 (2,781 v. 1,697), largely due to the high number of responses from Colombia. To determine the impact of Colombian responses on the overall results, the research team excluded Colombia from the analysis; however, the results remained largely unchanged.


Annex 5. Detailed regional findings

Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

The majority of respondents (72 per cent) reported having no or some difficulty evacuating with sufficient time and warning, which is lower compared to the 2013 data. However, the situation has somewhat worsened, as 28 per cent would still face a lot of difficulty or be unable to evacuate at all, which is significantly higher than in 2013 (17 per cent).

Assistance planning for evacuation

In the Americas and the Caribbean, most respondents (72 per cent) reported having someone to assist them with evacuation before a disaster. The figure was significantly higher in 2013 (89 per cent). A considerable number (28 per cent) reported never having anyone to assist them, also considerably higher compared to the 2013 survey (11 per cent), indicating a negative trend.

Availability and accessibility of risk information

A minority of respondents (11 per cent) reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats, and a larger percentage (39 per cent) reported partial dissemination. While this indicates a good start, there is a lack of information regarding the specific accessible formats used, which limits further analysis.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

There was a significant decrease in awareness of national DRR plans between 2013 and 2023, with only 8 per cent of respondents in 2023 being aware of their availability, compared to 16 per cent in 2013. The majority of respondents in both surveys reported not being aware of the national plans (63 per cent in 2023 and 55 per cent in 2013). Respondents also highlighted the lack of accommodations for accessibility and disability inclusion in the plans, with existing accommodations being perceived as insufficient.

Similarly, in 2023 only 11 per cent of respondents were aware of local DRR plans, while the majority in both surveys reported not being aware (58 per cent in 2023 and 55 per cent in 2013). Respondents felt that poor government commitment and awareness on disability inclusion, as well as the lack of engagement of persons with disabilities in DRR planning, contributed to the lack of accommodations. Any accommodations that did exist were reported as partial and requiring further reinforcement, including physical accessibility, emergency facilities, and stakeholder capacity development.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

A total of 30 per cent of respondents in the 2023 survey reported the absence of a designated leadership role for disability inclusion, access, and functional needs at any level of government. Only 16 per cent of respondents reported the existence of such a role, and 9 per cent reported that the position was staffed by an expert in disability-inclusive emergency management.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

In 2023, only 16 per cent of respondents reported affiliation with a self-help group or OPD, a significant decrease from 2013 (48 per cent). Regarding membership in disability-led organizations, 88 per cent of respondents reported not being members, with only 12 per cent reporting membership.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

In the Americas and the Caribbean, most persons with disabilities (91 per cent) reported being excluded from DRR decision-making due to a lack of information or invitation, mobility barriers, or lack of commitment to disability inclusion from DRR actors.
Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

The majority of respondents (77 per cent) reported the absence of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, while a minority (15 per cent) noted the existence of such mechanisms, but pointed out that they were inaccessible.

Willingness to participate

More than half (56 per cent) of persons with disabilities expressed their willingness to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, while a minority were unsure or indifferent (29 per cent) or not interested (16 per cent), reflecting trends observed in 2013.

4. Regional priorities

Accessibility of infrastructure, facilities and transportation; knowledge, education and capacity development for disaster preparedness resilience-building; and addressing needs with regards to disability and functioning, were viewed as top priorities by persons with disabilities from the region. The least prioritized areas were disaster mitigation, addressing psychosocial consequences of displacement, and documenting best practices and knowledge-sharing. Surprisingly, removing barriers was also given less priority despite the importance of physical accessibility.
3. Arab States

Overview of key findings

- 78 per cent of respondents from the Arab States reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters.
- 30 per cent of respondents reported having a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately and without assistance in case of a disaster, whereas the percentage dropped to 16 per cent for ability to evacuate in case of sufficient early warning.
- 17 per cent reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats. This was higher than the reported global figure of 11 per cent.
- The governance considerations highlight the lack of awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans, with only 14 per cent of respondents being aware of those at both levels.
- Designated government leadership roles for disability inclusion in the region were reported by only 10 per cent of respondents, with 71 per cent of these reporting availability of disability expertise among personnel holding these positions.
- 78 per cent of respondents reported not participating in DRR-related decision-making in their communities, whereas 73 per cent expressed desire to participate.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 73 per cent of respondents.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

A majority of persons with disabilities (78 per cent) from the Arab States reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters. For those who did have a plan, their plans focused on evacuation, advocacy for protection, displaced/refugee planning, and keeping important documents.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

While most respondents (70 per cent) reported some difficulty or no difficulty in evacuating immediately during disasters, a considerable number (30 per cent) would have difficulty or be unable to evacuate immediately.
Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

Given sufficient time and warning, a great majority of survey respondents (85 per cent) reported having no difficulty or some difficulty in evacuating. However, 16 per cent reported that they would still face a lot of difficulty or be unable to evacuate at all.

Assistance planning for evacuation

Most respondents (79 per cent) reported that there is sometimes or always someone to assist them with evacuation before a disaster, but a significant minority (21 per cent) reported that there would never be anyone to assist.

Availability and accessibility of risk information

Only 17 per cent of respondents reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats, while 41 per cent reported partial dissemination in accessible formats. This indicates a good start, with over half of the survey respondents in 2023 reporting availability of some forms of accessibility of information. However, there is no sufficient information as to examples of the accessible formats, which makes further analysis limited.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

In 2023, only 14 per cent of survey respondents were aware of the availability of national- and local-level DRR plans. Qualitative responses indicated that some countries lacked DRR plans altogether, while others had plans with limited accommodation for accessibility and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Similar results were found for local-level DRR plans, with political and resource issues identified as major barriers to inclusion in the Arab States.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

Over half of the survey respondents (52 per cent) reported the absence of a designated leadership role for disability inclusion, accessibility and addressing functional needs of persons with disabilities at any level of government, with only 10 per cent reporting availability of such a role. Only 15 per cent of these reported that this position was staffed by a disability-inclusive emergency management expert, while a large majority (68 per cent) replied that they did not know if this position was equipped by someone with such expertise.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

A total of 51 per cent of respondents in the Arab States reported belonging to self-help groups or OPDs, with the same percentage confirming membership in disability-led organizations or OPDs, where persons with disabilities make up the majority of staff and board leadership.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

In the Arab States, 78 per cent of persons with disabilities reported being excluded from DRR decision-making due to various factors such as lack of invitations/involvement/information, absence of DRR plans, lack of commitment to disability inclusion, lack of interest in participation, and monopolization of discussions by politicians.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

The majority of respondents (73 per cent) reported the absence of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, while 21 per cent noted the existence of such mechanisms but highlighted their inaccessibility.
Willingness to participate

Most respondents (73 per cent) expressed their willingness to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, with 21 per cent being unsure or indifferent, and only a small percentage (6 per cent) showing disinterest.

4. Regional priorities

Persons with disabilities have identified their top three priorities, including addressing their needs related to disability and functioning, promoting attitudinal change in order to create a welcoming environment, and implementing universal design and accessible infrastructure, facilities and transportation. On the other hand, the three least-identified priorities were documenting best practices and encouraging knowledge-sharing, improving disability data, and addressing the psychosocial consequences of displacement.
4. Asia

Overview of key findings

- Of the 2,976 survey responses from Asia, 2,322 were from Bangladesh.²
- 79 per cent of respondents in Asia do not have a personal preparedness plan for disasters.
- 39 per cent reported having a lot of difficulty evacuating immediately and without assistance or being unable to evacuate at all, whereas the percentage dropped to 20 per cent for evacuation in case of sufficient early warning.
- The level of awareness regarding national and local DRR plans remains low and represents no significant change over the past 10 years (only 14 per cent were aware of national DRR plans and 17 per cent of local DRR plans in 2023).
- Apart from a few exceptions, reasonable accommodations were lacking in most of the plans.³
- 15 per cent of respondents reported designated government leadership roles for disability inclusion in the region. Half of these respondents said these roles were staffed by disability-inclusive emergency management experts.
- Participation in decision-making and planning remains limited, with the vast majority of respondents (83 per cent) reporting exclusion despite their willingness to participate (over half of the respondents confirming their desire to participate).
- The absence of mechanisms for participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, lack of awareness and information, and mobility barriers were cited among the key reasons for exclusion.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 72 per cent of respondents.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

In Asia, the majority of persons with disabilities (79 per cent) reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters, which represents a small improvement compared to the 2013 data (74 per cent).

Of the respondents who reported having a plan, it focused on evacuation planning, preparing a disaster kit and supplies, increasing preparedness capacity, and social connectedness.

² Large credit goes to targeted outreach efforts by key DRR stakeholders, including the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), which organized a national-level webinar to promote the survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Shuchona Foundation, and UNDRR. Over 650 persons with disabilities participated.

³ For example, a few respondents from the Philippines reported that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020–2030 is cognizant of the accessibility and functional needs of persons with disabilities, similarly to the responses from Bangladesh and Indonesia.
Annex 5. Detailed regional findings

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

Over half of the respondents (62 per cent) reported having no or some difficulty in evacuating immediately, which is a 10 per cent change or improvement from 2013 (54 per cent). However, 38 per cent still reported having a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately in case of a disaster.

Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

The great majority of respondents (80 per cent) reported having no or some difficulty in evacuating with sufficient time and warning, which is significantly higher compared to the 2013 survey results (68 per cent). However, 20 per cent would still face difficulty or be unable to evacuate in case of early warning.

Assistance planning for evacuation

A majority of respondents (71 per cent) reported that someone would sometimes or always assist them with evacuation before a disaster, which is considerably less compared to 2013 (85 per cent). A significant number (29 per cent) reported that there would never be anyone to assist them in evacuation.

Availability and accessibility of risk information

Only 11 per cent of respondents reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats, and 25 per cent reported partial dissemination in accessible formats. A total of 53 per cent did not know if information is disseminated in accessible formats.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

The level of awareness regarding national DRR plans did not change significantly between the 2013 and 2023 surveys, with only a small percentage (14 per cent) of respondents in the 2023 survey being aware of their availability. While the majority of respondents in the 2023 survey reported not knowing about the national DRR plan (38 per cent), this was a decrease from 2013 when the majority answered that they were not aware (45 per cent). In 2023, 34 per cent respondents reported not being aware of national DRR plans.

The majority of respondents reported that the national DRR plans address the access and functional needs of persons with disabilities. However, in some countries, such accommodations were non-existent or partial and required reinforcement for better implementation.

Regarding local-level DRR plans, only 17 per cent of respondents in the 2023 survey were aware of their availability, which is similar to the 2013 data (15 per cent). Responses showed poor government commitment and lack of engagement of persons with disabilities as leading causes of inadequate accommodation for accessibility and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Some reported that such accommodations were partial and needed reinforcement for better implementation. Examples of accommodations included physical accessibility, emergency facilities, capacity development of stakeholders, accommodation for awareness campaigns, and widened participation of persons with disabilities.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

A total of 62 per cent of respondents were unaware of any government leadership role for disability inclusion and only 15 per cent confirmed its availability. Only 12 per cent reported that disability-inclusive emergency management was handled by an expert, with 79 per cent unsure.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

The number of respondents affiliated with self-help groups and/or OPDs differed significantly between the two surveys. In the 2023 survey, 45 per cent reported being affiliated with such, compared to 71 per cent in 2013. More respondents in the 2023 survey (53 per cent) reported not being affiliated with such groups/organizations than in 2013 (29 per cent). Additionally, the majority of respondents in the 2023 survey (70 per cent) were not part of a disability-led organization or OPD where persons with disabilities are required to be in the majority of staff and board leadership, while only 30 per cent reported membership.
3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

Most persons with disabilities in Asia (83 per cent) reported being excluded from DRR decision-making due to various reasons such as lack of awareness, mobility barriers, absence of mechanisms, and lack of commitment from DRR actors. This is similar to the 2013 data.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

The majority of respondents (72 per cent) reported no mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR. Only 19 per cent said such mechanisms exist but are inaccessible.

Willingness to participate

Over half of respondents (55 per cent) were willing to participate in community DRR, a 10 per cent increase from 2013. A total of 28 per cent were unsure or did not care, while only 17 per cent were not interested, a decrease of 15 per cent compared to 2013.

4. Regional priorities

The top three priorities identified by persons with disabilities from Asia include addressing underlying risk factors such as livelihoods, education and capacity, followed closely by the need for universal design and accessible infrastructure, facilities and transportation. The third priority identified is knowledge, education and capacity development to improve preparedness and resilience.

On the other hand, the three least-identified priorities are disaster mitigation, assistive devices and psychotherapy. Collaboration across stakeholders and addressing needs with regards to disability and functioning are also important priorities.
5. Europe and Central Asia

Overview of key findings

- The majority (91 per cent) of persons with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia do not have a personal preparedness plan for disasters.
- 43 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately without assistance, whereas the percentage dropped to 22 per cent in case of sufficient early warning.
- There is a large gap in dissemination of risk information in accessible formats, with only 10 per cent respondents confirming its existence.
- The awareness and accessibility of national and local DRR plans remain low, with only 9 per cent of respondents being aware at national level and 11 per cent at local level.
- There are designated government leadership roles for disability inclusion in the region as reported by 22 per cent of respondents. However, organizations were rarely staffed by disability-inclusive emergency management experts.
- Participation in decision-making and community-based DRR remains a challenge, with a majority (88 per cent) remaining excluded, whereas 62 per cent expressed willingness to participate.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 76 per cent of respondents.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

The majority (91 per cent) of persons with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia do not have a personal preparedness plan for disasters, a higher proportion compared to the 2013 survey. Only 9 per cent reported having a plan, mostly focused on evacuation planning.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

In Europe and Central Asia, 43 per cent reported having a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately at all in case of a disaster, similarly to the 2013 survey data (41 per cent).

Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

When given sufficient time and warning, a great majority of survey respondents (78 per cent) reported having no difficulty or some difficulty in evacuating, which is somewhat lower compared to the 2013 survey results (84 per cent). However, 22 per cent would still face a lot of difficulty or would be unable to evacuate at all.

Assistance planning for evacuation

While 73 per cent of respondents reported having assistance with evacuation before a disaster, this is lower compared to 2013 results (91 per cent). A total of 27 per cent reported never having assistance, which is considerably higher than 2013 results (9 per cent).
Availability and accessibility of risk information

Only 10 per cent of respondents reported that risk information is disseminated in accessible formats, and 30 per cent reported partial dissemination.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

Awareness of national DRR plans remained low between 2013 and 2023 surveys, with only 9 per cent of 2023 respondents being aware, and 64 per cent in both surveys being unaware. Some respondents (20 per cent in 2023) were unsure if they knew about the plans. Qualitative responses highlighted the need for better accommodation of accessibility and functional needs of persons with disabilities in national DRR plans.

Awareness of local DRR plans also remained low between 2013 and 2023, with only 11 per cent of 2023 respondents being aware of the plans, and the majority (64 per cent) being unaware. Poor government commitment and awareness on disability inclusion and disaster management were identified as the main reasons for lack of accommodation for accessibility and functional needs of persons with disabilities in the qualitative responses. Partial accommodations were reported in some countries, but reinforcement was needed for better implementation.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

Only 21 per cent of respondents reported a designated leadership role for inclusion of disability, access and functional needs in any level of government, while 57 per cent were unsure if such a role existed. Furthermore, only 10 per cent of respondents reported that this position was filled by an expert in disability-inclusive emergency management.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

The percentage of persons with disabilities affiliated with self-help groups or OPDs has decreased from 2013 to 2023. In 2023, 52 per cent of respondents reported affiliation, whereas 47 per cent were not affiliated. In contrast, 51 per cent of respondents reported membership in disability-led organizations or OPDs, while 49 per cent were not members.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

Persons with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia remain excluded from DRR-related decision-making (88 per cent), which is similar to the 2013 survey results. The main reasons for exclusion are lack of awareness/information on DRR discussions, not being invited or involved in the discussions, and absence of DRR plans and mechanisms for engagement of persons with disabilities.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

A majority of respondents (76 per cent) reported that there are no mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, whereas 16 per cent stated that such mechanisms exist but are inaccessible.

Willingness to participate

A total of 62 per cent of respondents expressed a desire to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, while 12 per cent were not interested and 26 per cent were unsure or indifferent. These trends are similar to those observed in the 2013 survey.

4. Regional priorities

According to the survey results, the top three priorities for persons with disabilities are policy change and actionable plans; knowledge, education and capacity development; and addressing needs with regards to disability and functioning. On the other hand, the lowest three priorities include assistive devices, collaboration across stakeholders, and improved disability data.
A man in his wheelchair down an easy access ramp with his dog.
6. Pacific

Overview of key findings

- In 2023, 60 per cent of respondents from the Pacific reported not having personal preparedness plans.
- 31 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately without assistance in case of a disaster, which dropped to 10 per cent in case of sufficient early warning.
- The Pacific shows a significant difference in awareness and accessibility of national and local DRR plans. In 2023, 32 per cent were aware of national plans, the highest among regions, but 31 per cent were not aware. For local DRR plans, only 18 per cent were aware, and 46 per cent were not aware.
- Reasonable accommodations in DRR plans were reported to be partial and requiring further reinforcement.
- 79 per cent continue to be excluded from DRR decision-making processes, a slight improvement compared to 2013 (89 per cent). Not being invited to or informed about DRR discussions were cited as primary reasons for exclusion.
- There is a lack of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, as reported by 66 per cent of respondents.
- Only a little over half of the respondents (52 per cent) have expressed a desire to participate in disaster management and risk reduction processes.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

In the Pacific, 60 per cent did not have a plan in 2023, an improvement from 71 per cent in 2013. Of the 40 per cent who reported having a personal preparedness plan, the focus was primarily on evacuation planning, preparing a disaster kit and logistical supplies, and disaster mitigation.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

The distribution of the level of ability for immediate evacuation generally remained unchanged between the 2013 and 2023 surveys, which is in line with global trends. 31 per cent had difficulty or were unable to evacuate immediately in 2023, compared to 35 per cent in 2013.
Annex 5. Detailed regional findings

Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

90 per cent reported having no or some difficulty evacuating with sufficient time and warning in 2023, an improvement from 82 per cent in 2013.

Assistance planning for evacuation

72 per cent had someone to assist them during evacuation in 2023, compared to 83 per cent in 2013.

Availability and accessibility of risk information

18 per cent reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats in 2023, and 24 per cent reported partial dissemination.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

There is a significant difference in the awareness and accessibility of both national- and local-level DRR plans in the Pacific. In the 2023 survey, 32 per cent of respondents were aware of the national plans, which is the highest percentage compared to other regions. However, 31 per cent of respondents were not aware of the national DRR plans in their country, while 32 per cent were unsure and 4 per cent did not know about the national plans.

Similarly, in the case of local-level DRR plans, only 18 per cent of respondents in the 2023 survey were aware of the plans, which is much lower than the percentage in 2013 (29 per cent). In addition, 46 per cent of respondents were not aware of the local plans, while 34 per cent were unsure and 3 per cent did not know about the plans.

Many respondents reported that both national- and local-level DRR plans lacked accommodations for accessibility and addressing functional needs of persons with disabilities. However, some respondents also mentioned that such accommodations existed but were only partial and needed further reinforcement to improve implementation. The accommodations mentioned were often specific to a particular disability or hazard, and included accommodations for physical accessibility, information and emergency facilities.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

A total of 28 per cent reported the presence of a designated leadership role for inclusive disability, accessibility and addressing functional needs in 2023, with only 9 per cent reporting that the position was staffed by an expert in disability-inclusive emergency management, while 76 per cent were unsure if such an expert was in the role.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

A total of 47 per cent reported affiliation with self-help groups or OPDs in 2023, compared to 76 per cent in 2013.

The majority of respondents (62 per cent) reported not being part of a disability-led organization or OPD where persons with disabilities are required to be in the majority of staff and board leadership. The remaining 38 per cent reported membership in such organizations.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

In the Pacific, 79 per cent of respondents reported being excluded from DRR decision-making, lower than the 2013 data (89 per cent). Reasons include not being invited/involved/informed and lack of awareness/information.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

The majority (66 per cent) of respondents in the Pacific reported the absence of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR, while 18 per cent reported the availability of such mechanisms that were inaccessible.
Willingness to participate

A total of 51 per cent of individuals with disabilities expressed willingness to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, while 29 per cent were uncertain or indifferent and 19 per cent indicated no interest. These trends align with the 2013 survey, with a slightly higher percentage of individuals expressing disinterest in participation in 2023 compared to 2013 (13 per cent).

4. Regional priorities

The following were the top three priorities identified by persons with disabilities for disability-inclusive DRR: improving knowledge and capacity development with regards to preparedness and resilience-building; addressing needs related to disability and functioning; and universal design and accessible infrastructure. Interestingly, the least prioritized were assistive devices, provision and sharing of funding and resources, and documenting best practices.

Credit to UNDRR, Pacific

A blind man carrying a white stick crosses a bridge in a lush landscape in a Pacific island State.
7. Stateless persons

Overview of key findings

- The conclusions drawn from the below data may have limited validity due to the small sample size of respondents (only 10 stateless individuals participated in the survey). There is no data on stateless persons available from 2013 for comparison.
- The majority (92 per cent) of stateless individuals reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters.
- 23 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or being unable to evacuate immediately without assistance during a disaster and 15 per cent would be unable to evacuate with sufficient early warning.
- The availability and accessibility of risk information were reported to be inadequate.
- There is a lack of awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans, with no respondents in the 2023 survey being aware of the national DRR plan.
- There is also a lack of designated leadership roles for disability inclusion, access and functional needs at all levels of government.
- Participation in DRR-related decision-making and planning at community level also remains limited, with the vast majority (92 per cent) reporting not having participated in any of such activities, mainly due to the absence of mechanisms for participation.

1. Individual preparedness and risk information

Existence of personal preparedness plan

A large majority of 92 per cent of stateless respondents reported not having a personal preparedness plan for disasters.

Ability to evacuate immediately without assistance

A total of 77 per cent of stateless respondents reported having no difficulty or some difficulty evacuating immediately during a disaster, while 23 per cent would face a lot of difficulty or be unable to evacuate at all.

Ability to evacuate in case of early warning

A majority of 85 per cent of stateless respondents reported having no difficulty or some difficulty evacuating when given sufficient time and warning, while 15 per cent would be unable to evacuate at all.

Assistance planning for evacuation

Only 23 per cent of participants reported that they always receive assistance, 54 per cent have assistance sometimes, and 23 per cent reported that there is never someone to assist them to evacuate before a disaster.
Availability and accessibility of risk information

Only 15 per cent of stateless respondents reported that risk information was disseminated in accessible formats, while 59 per cent reported partial dissemination in accessible format.

2. Governance considerations

Awareness and accessibility of national- and local-level DRR plans

No respondents in the 2023 survey were aware of the national DRR plan, and only 8 per cent were aware of the local DRR plan.

Leadership role for disability inclusion, access and functional needs

A total of 46 per cent of respondents reported the absence of a designated leadership role at any level of government for inclusive disability, access and functional needs.

Membership of organizations of and for persons with disabilities

54 per cent of respondents in the 2023 survey reported affiliation with self-help groups and/or OPDs.

3. Participation

Participation in decision-making and planning

The vast majority (92 per cent) of stateless respondents reported that they had not participated in any decision-making or planning related to community disaster management and risk reduction measures. This was due to reasons including the lack of awareness or information on DRR discussions, the absence of DRR plans and mechanisms to engage, and the lack of interest to participate.

Mechanisms for participation in community-based DRR

The 2023 survey results showed that the majority of respondents (69 per cent) reported the absence of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR. However, a small percentage reported the existence of such mechanisms, although they were inaccessible.

Willingness to participate

The majority of stateless persons with disabilities (54 per cent) expressed a desire to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes, while 31 per cent were either unsure or indifferent and 15 per cent were not interested.

4. Regional priorities

The top priorities for disability-inclusive DRR by stateless individuals are addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and improving accessible infrastructure, facilities and transportation, followed by the need for actionable policies and plans, and effective dissemination of information and early warnings.
Disability is NOT inability at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development in 2013.

Credit to UN and UNDRR, photographer Paulo Figueiras

Photo with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighting text Disability is NOT inability at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development in 2013.