

# The Empowerment of People Affected By Natural and Man-made Disasters to Reduce Inequality

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## Addressing the Differential Impact on Persons With Disabilities, Older Persons and Youth



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The mission of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies is equal access to emergency programs and services and full inclusion of the whole community before, during and after disasters.

We achieve our mission through:

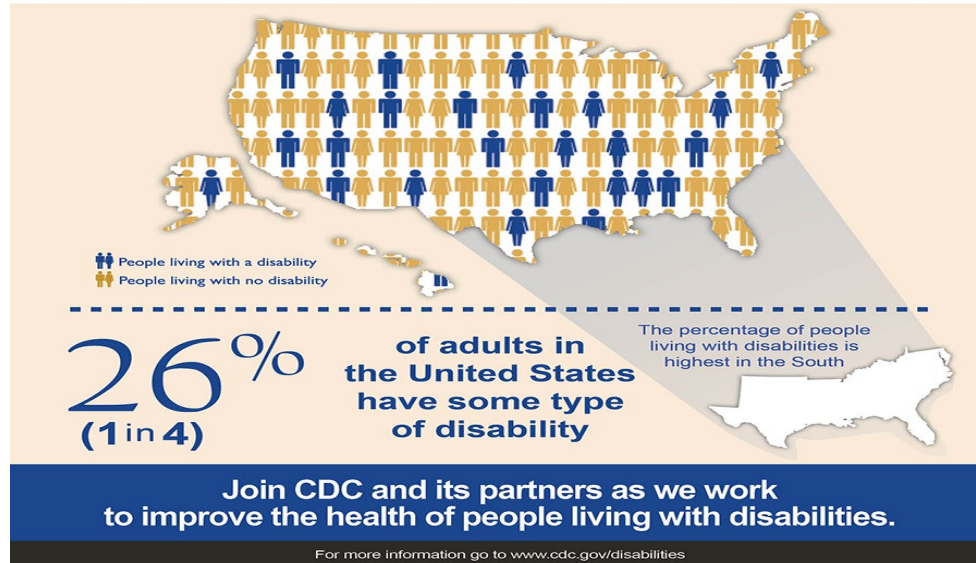
- Unwavering support for local disability organizations
- Community engagement, organizing and leadership development
- Advocacy and public policy
- Training and education
- Research and technical assistance



# Disability Impacts **ALL of US**



61 million adults in the United States live with a disability



Globally, over 1 billion people live with some form of disability.

What happens to them has a direct impact not only on them but on the rest of the society, especially their families and communities.

-World Report on Disability 2011



# WHOLE COMMUNITY



# Access and Functional Needs

## Who is disproportionately impacted?

- Children, youth and adults with physical, mobility, sensory, intellectual, developmental, cognitive or mental health disabilities
- Older Adults
- People with chronic or temporary health conditions
- Women in late stages of pregnancy
- Women and girls experiencing gender discrimination
- People with limited language proficiency, low literacy or additional communication needs
- People with very low incomes
- People without access to transportation
- People experiencing homelessness
- People experiencing food insecurity
- Others



# THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

Recognizes that not only are women and persons with disabilities disproportionately affected by disasters, but – crucially – that their knowledge and leadership skills are essential for building resilient, inclusive and equitable societies.



# Major Gaps

- Bias, stigma, misunderstanding
- Absence of disaggregated data
- Inadequate indicators for assessing the implementation of the Sendai Framework
- Presence of environmental, communication and institutional barriers
- Persons with disabilities and older persons are two to four times more likely to be injured or die in a disaster.
- Similar gaps for all disproportionately impacted individuals... youth, families and communities.





# INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION- A Whole Community Action

An ESCAP e-learning tool on inclusive disaster risk reduction

<https://www.maketherightreal.net/learning>



# UN Inter Agency Standing Committee on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action:

- Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
- Assists humanitarian actors, governments and affected communities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions that will contribute to fostering the effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of humanitarian action, resulting in the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- Aims to change practice across all sectors and in all phases of humanitarian action
- Spans UN agencies, humanitarian actors, NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and includes Member States as observers.
- Co-Chairs: The International Disability Alliance, UNICEF & Humanity and Inclusion



# Whole Community Impact:

What happens to persons with disabilities, older persons and youth in disasters and humanitarian situations has a direct impact not only on them but on the rest of the society, especially their families and communities.



# Community Resilience

Resilience is the ability to anticipate risk, limit impact, and bounce back rapidly through survival, adaptability, evolution, and growth in the face of turbulent change.

True resilience is only achievable with a full commitment to equal access and whole community inclusion.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Inclusion must be more than words.

We must

1. work together to reduce risk, eliminating silos that deplete our power as agents of change.
2. Introduce accessibility protocols ensuring effective and appropriate participation of youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, disproportionately impacted women and men and their families, leaving no one behind.
3. Transform the commitments made in Sendai into truly inclusive actions at all levels, as inclusion saves lives and is key to resilience!



# NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US





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