

Seven ways to strengthen the collective capabilities of diverse community stakeholders in DIDRR

1



Inclusive understanding of needs

Community services, disability representatives, and advocates have an intimate understanding of the unique needs and support requirements of individuals with disability and the structural barriers to their inclusion in emergency management planning and disaster risk reduction. Integrating their insights ensures that individual, organisational, and community-level emergency plans are aligned to address these specific considerations.

2



Holistic approach

Emergency services provide valuable disaster risk information and planning advice, focusing on the broader community. Incorporating the expertise of people with disability and their supporting services helps emergency services to tailor risk information and planning advice. It facilitates a holistic approach that addresses the diverse needs of all community members. This collaboration creates a more comprehensive and inclusive disaster risk management strategy.

3



Targeted support

Collaborating with diverse community-based services allows for the identification and provision of targeted support for individuals with disability and increases reach with other groups like people with chronic health conditions, people from different culture and language backgrounds, and people experiencing homelessness. This includes considerations for accessible communication, evacuation strategies, transportation needs, and recovery services that are crucial for the safety and well-being of everyone during emergencies. Combining efforts customises support for individuals, enhancing the efficient mobilisation of human and material resources during emergencies.

4



Effective communication

Peer leaders, health care providers, community services, and disability organisations have established communication channels with the people they support. By coordinating efforts, emergency services can leverage these channels to disseminate crucial information, warnings, and guidance. These groups can also assist in customising risk communications to formats that are accessible and understandable for the target audience, enhancing effectiveness.

5



Building trust

Collaboration between community organisations and emergency services helps build trust within the community. People with disability and other groups may be more inclined to engage with emergency planning processes when they see a coordinated effort that takes their specific needs into account. This trust is vital for effective communication and cooperation during emergency situations.

6



Ensuring representation

Involving people with disability, their representatives and advocates as key community service partners supports representation of the diverse perspectives and experiences of people with disability in the emergency planning process. This representation is crucial for creating individual, organisational, and community-level emergency plans that are effective and inclusive.

7



Removing barriers

When targeted support is delivered through collaborative efforts involving government and emergency services in partnerships with people with disability and their support services, it helps to identify gaps that may escalate disaster risks.

