

A young man with short dark hair and a mustache, wearing a maroon button-down shirt, is smiling broadly and gesturing with his right hand, holding a silver pen. He is in a crowd of people, with another person in a checkered shirt visible in the background. The image has a red banner at the bottom containing text.

3. Educate yourself and others about disasters, climate change and DIDRR

Students taking part in a panel discussion about inclusion at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) in Huye, Rwanda, in November 2022. ©CBM/ Hayduk

Knowledge building and potentially training on DIDRR and climate action is critical at all levels, starting from CBID programme management all the way to organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), partner organisations and communities.

Here are some themes of relevance, which can provide the basis for a systematic approach to learning. We hope that by partnering with others, you yourselves will eventually be able to contribute to or lead on such training!

POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR DIDRR TRAINING
Conceptual basics of disasters and disaster risk reduction and climate change, for example hazards, risks, exposure, vulnerability etc (see terminology section above).
Who does and is responsible for what in the DRR and humanitarian chain to be able to map these (government authorities, humanitarian organisations, voluntary emergency personnel etc.).
How disasters impact communities and persons with disabilities: emphasis needs to be placed on areas that may not be so disaster prone, but where climate change is affecting everyone. An example is when drought leads to reductions in production of maize, lack of water and health problems.
The disaster cycle: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
The effects of disasters on community development programmes and how these interrupt or reverse development gains, and why DIDRR therefore needs to be infused within CBID.
Communities and their roles in DIDRR (because they are the first ones to actually respond).
How to conduct a rapid risk assessment using local resources (see below).
How to generate basic disability data (see below).
How to track and communicate disaster information in accessible ways to others (e.g. radio, television, social media etc.) especially those in more remote areas.
What disability is and why it is a priority in DRR.
How to identify and map persons with disabilities in vulnerable situations, how to keep an up-to-date list, and how to communicate this with first responders.
Methods of assessing early warning systems and evacuation routes for accessibility and how to advise authorities responsible for these on themes such as universal design.
How to integrate DIDRR in all CBID programmes, for example by combining a focus on inclusive early warning systems and coordination with authorities responsible for evacuation within a programme on inclusive education; or how to prepare for the possibility of drought across livelihood activities you are working on.
How to communicate with and lobby those engaged in DRR and humanitarian sectors.

Many of these topics will be fleshed out in the other action points.