



4. Why the need to mainstream DIDRR: some arguments for reflection with your team

Mainstreaming DIDRR goes beyond mere token inclusion. Indeed, it means that DIDRR is infused in and crosscuts community development at all levels. But let's take a step back: what do we mean by 'mainstreaming'?

UNESCAP defines mainstreaming of DRR in development as the process of:

“...looking critically at each programme, activity and project that is being planned from the perspective of reducing risks and minimizing the potential contribution of development towards creating new risks. Mainstreaming thus has the dual purpose of ensuring that (1) development is protected from existing and future disaster risks and (2) development does not create any new risks of disasters or exacerbates the existing risks.”⁹

CBID means a cross-sectoral approach to community development and includes providing or ensuring access to a range of structures and services from informal grassroots to more formal and professional levels. Hence, by mainstreaming DIDRR, we adopt a comprehensive approach to multiple hazards while strengthening our ability to provide a multi-sectoral, comprehensive and inclusive response.

The need to mainstream DIDRR is a question of necessity. Here are a few arguments that can help you in your advocacy, including that within your organisation.

MAINSTREAMING DIDRR AS PRIORITY

Disasters disrupt multiple community development activities, be they livelihoods, education, health, rehabilitation or advocacy.

Disasters can lead to losses of gains made through regular development work over many years, often to never be recovered again.

Disasters, including climate change, impact community support systems.

Disasters create a new set of demands, stresses as well as costs on programmes, for example as happened with COVID-19. This is especially the case when programmes are not resilient enough or are caught off-guard.

Disasters pose an additional strain on partners, including OPDs, and which in turn impact their ability to sustain their community development work. This may compromise implementation at all levels.

Most importantly, disasters impact persons with disabilities and their families disproportionately, including through injuries or interruptions in services (e.g. healthcare) and may even lead to loss of life. This means it is better to anticipate and avert a crisis! These impacts are discussed further below.

⁹ UNESCAP (2017) [Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: A Guidebook for the Asia-Pacific](#). UNESCAP