2. Identify the main hazards and the potential for disasters in your area

People who saw their homes flooded in Niamey, Niger trying to save the little they have left (September 2020). ©CBM/Galadima

Different places are exposed to different hazards, levels of vulnerability and capacity to withstand shocks. This means varying probabilities and scale of potential disasters. Some places are therefore more disaster-prone than others.

The first step is to know the territory you operate in, to assess what is in place and what can potentially happen and set out to ask a few questions as part of your routine community development work.

Remember that contexts change over space and time, and so do hazards, especially with climate change and volatile political contexts, so these questions need to be re-evaluated and asked over and over. This table may help with organising some of this information.

COLLECT DISASTER INFORMATION ON YOUR AREA
What are the main hazards in your programme locations?
What are the main hazards in the region and in the country?
Are they natural, human-induced or a combination of both?
How are they interlinked? (for example, drought in one area can trigger human displacement and lead to conflict in another)
What is their frequency?
Where are they concentrated?
Are they slow (e.g. drought) or quick onset (e.g. flash floods)?
What is the level of poverty and vulnerability of areas hit by these hazards?
How many communities, persons with disabilities and families in your programme radius live close to or in the epicentres of such hazard locations?
How are they being impacted (e.g. by drought)? Consider: material, social, economic, cultural and other factors here.
How are they coping?
What community mechanisms are in place to prevent and/or build resilience to a disaster (e.g. indigenous knowledge and methods, community volunteers for rescue etc.)?
What formal DRR measures (if any) are in place in project locations to avert a disaster and where are the gaps? (e.g. early warning systems)
Who is doing what and where? Are these efforts coordinated? (see next page)
Do existing actors in DRR have policies, concepts and practices for disability inclusion in place? How accessible are these? (see next page)

3

MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING AND PRACTICE

These questions are far from comprehensive. Hazard identification is a critical and ongoing task that needs to be performed at multiple points, starting from project design stage, through to implementation and also evaluation.

The box below lays out some easy ways to start gathering this information. Many of these can be done as part of your routine CBID work.

HOW TO GATHER DISASTER INFORMATION IN CBID: SOME POINTERS

Speak to families and communities and ask them, including about changes they have observed e.g. in crop output, rainfall etc.

Listen to radio, follow updates on TV (e.g. weather changes), join and scan local and regional groups on social media (e.g. community groups on Facebook) regularly and systematically for alerts.

Check basic things like infrastructure, housing (e.g. materials and location relative to hazard epicentres), transportation, evacuation routes (if any) and early warning systems. Do they function as they should and are they accessible for all?

Investigate previous reports and gather data, for example on accidents in the area as a result of natural hazards. Note: mainstream media may have well reported these.

Observe: for example, increasing numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) in one place may pose a strain on natural and other resources in another. Some common signs of imminent problems include tension building in project areas.