

Press Statement: 4th Global Platform DRR

Prepared by DiDRRN partners: ASB, CBM, CDD, Handicap International, Pacific Disability Forum, South Asian Disability Forum

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The World Report on Disability (World Health Organisation, World Bank; 2011) estimates that between 15-20% of the world's population are people with disability. The issue of disability, and these 1 billion people themselves, are not accounted for within the current international framework on disaster risk reduction (DRR); the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015 (HFA).

The DiDRRN network was established at the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Indonesia last year. The network consists of 'mainstream' and disability focused organisations and disabled people's organisations. The aim of DiDRRN is to ensure that people with disability are accounted for, and actively contribute to, DRR policy and practice post-2015 (HFA2).

DiDRRN partners are highly concerned that the disproportionate impact of disasters on people with disability demands urgent attention.

The 4th Global Platform is the key international DRR event before the launch of HFA2 at the World Conference on Disasters to be held in 2015 in Japan. In previous Global Platforms, disability had not been on the agenda.

With support from UNISDR and other partners DiDRRN members hosted the following events at the Global Platform:

- Stakeholder consultation on disability
- Side event in disability
- Participation in health feature event
- Participation in children feature event
- Performances on the Ignite Stage and in the Education Space including the showing of CBM's award winning film 'Kazol and the Flood' and performances by members of the Deaf Art Community, Indonesia.

For the first time disability was highly visible at the Global Platform and was mentioned in the official statements of governments including Bangladesh, Germany, Georgia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Uganda and the United States.

Overall, the outcome of the Global Platform was highly positive in terms of raising the issue of disability within DRR. Alongside, reference to disability by several governments in their final statements, the draft Chair's Summary of the Global Platform (released 23.5.13) is the first outcome statement from the Global Platform to mention disability.