



7. How disaster-ready is your programme?

Sanitation kits and household essentials being given out in Assam, India as part of an inclusive flood response from CBM India and partner DIYA Foundation. ©CBM/Asapalli

Disasters often happen because contexts, systems and also programmes are not adequately prepared and resilient. And community development programmes are no exception!

Gauging disaster-readiness involves posing a number of questions that are pertinent from the planning stage all the way through to evaluation. The key overarching question is: how disasterready is your programme?

The checklist below can help get you started.

Disaster-readiness: a fluid checklist for reflection
Are your organisational strategies, policies, processes and practices disaster-inclusive?
Do your programmes and projects account for disasters, including disaster resilience right from design and planning? (For example, has a project on livelihoods infused disaster resilience in design? Or has an inclusive education project considered disaster education in schools or the building of earthquake resistant schools?)
Are your programmes and those of your partners likely to collapse as a result of a hazard?
Are other programmes (e.g. by government or other civil society organisations that are relevant to yours, likely to collapse?
Have you conducted consultations that are wide enough and representative around disasters as part of your programme planning?
Do you have a budget in place for DIDRR-related activities as part of your regular development activities?
Are contingency funds in place to cope with a hazard and prevent a collapse in your programmes?
Do you have the required human resources and technical knowledge on disasters and disaster risk reduction? Where are the gaps?
Is a percentage of DIDRR work included in regular programmes? How much?
Have you actively considered persons with disabilities who are disproportionately exposed and vulnerable to disasters?
Do you know where they live, and have you taken steps to include them in your programs?
Is information on disasters a part of your regular work? Are you generating data of your own? Is this data disaggregated by gender, age, location, race etc.?
Do local partners, OPDs and communities understand the importance of mainstreaming DIDRR in community development? Have you communicated this with everyone?
Are official duty-bearers prepared to adopt a disability inclusive approach to DRR?



Disaster-readiness: a fluid checklist for reflection

Are you and your partners familiar with DIDRR, methodologies and approaches? And where are the knowledge gaps?

Are you familiar with the monitoring of hazards in your area and beyond? What are your sources of information?

Are you informed about early warning systems and how they work?

Do you know where evacuation routes are, if these are accessible and how evacuation systems operate in your project areas?

Have you consulted with persons with disabilities, families and communities? Are they aware of hazards and potential disasters? Are they prepared? Are they also prepared to lead DIDRR interventions? Where are the gaps?

Do you have a plan in place to communicate and plan for disasters with persons with disabilities, their families and communities?

Are you familiar with the risks faced by persons with disabilities and what their needs are?

Have you started working with and strengthening OPDs to lead on the process?

Have you tracked, mapped and consulted with DRR specialists and stakeholders who can assist with educating about disasters and infusing DIDRR in community development?

Are there disaster management plans in place (e.g. by governments or emergency services)?

Do you know who the key stakeholders are in DRR, i.e government ministries, departments etc.? Do you know who does what and where these are located? Do you have a means of establishing contact with them and resources to do so?

Have you considered a system of educating third parties about disasters as part of your work e.g. schools, places of employment and so on?

Have you started an active plan to target and also educate mainstream DRR stakeholders on disability and why persons with disabilities need to be actively included in DRR?

Have you reflected on your own projects and whether these can also contribute to increased disaster risk? And have you introduced measures to minimise these risks?

Is DIDRR mainstreamed across all your advocacy work? (e.g. inclusion in education).

If you have answered no to most of these questions, then it might be a good time to take a hard look at your community development work with a fresh 'disaster-inclusive' lens and start making some changes where it matters, that is in design and planning. It is at this point that action planning based on identified areas can be a good start through a consultative process with your team.

Equipped with this information, you can then embark on developing inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies and seeing that these are implemented, monitored and evaluated for disasterinclusiveness, effectiveness and sustainability. Asking these questions is not a one-off!