



# Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR)

**A Quick Reference Guide for Practitioners in  
Europe and Central Asia**

**October 2021**

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## Introduction

## Background

Persons with disabilities make up at least 15% of the global population<sup>1</sup> yet continue to be among those most impacted by disasters<sup>2</sup> and more likely to be excluded from decision-making processes<sup>3</sup>. This is true in Europe and Central Asia as it is anywhere else in the world. The majority of the countries in this region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and are therefore obliged to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk. They have also adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which outlines the measures required for resilience building and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

## Objective and target audience

**The primary objective of this tool is to guide Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and civil protection professionals to the practical information they need to ensure that their work is fully inclusive. It will be of use not only to hands-on practitioners, but also to policymakers, and it refers to information that is applicable at local, regional or international levels.**

This tool can also be used by persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (DPOs/OPDs) for policy advocacy and collaborative action.

## How to use this guide

This is not a stand-alone toolkit. It is a reference guide to the most up-to-date and relevant resources in this field.

- Readers should first refer to the Quick Guide (page 5) and identify what their own priorities are, and which tools would be most suitable for their requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> WHO and World Bank, [World Report on Disability](#) (2011)

<sup>2</sup> [IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) (2019)

<sup>3</sup> Twigg, J. Kett, M. Lovell, E. [Disability inclusion and disaster risk reduction: Overcoming barriers to progress](#) (2018)

- They can then read more about the specific tools they have identified (pages 7 to 18), and using the links provided, visit the actual tools, guidance and resources.

## Updates and accessibility

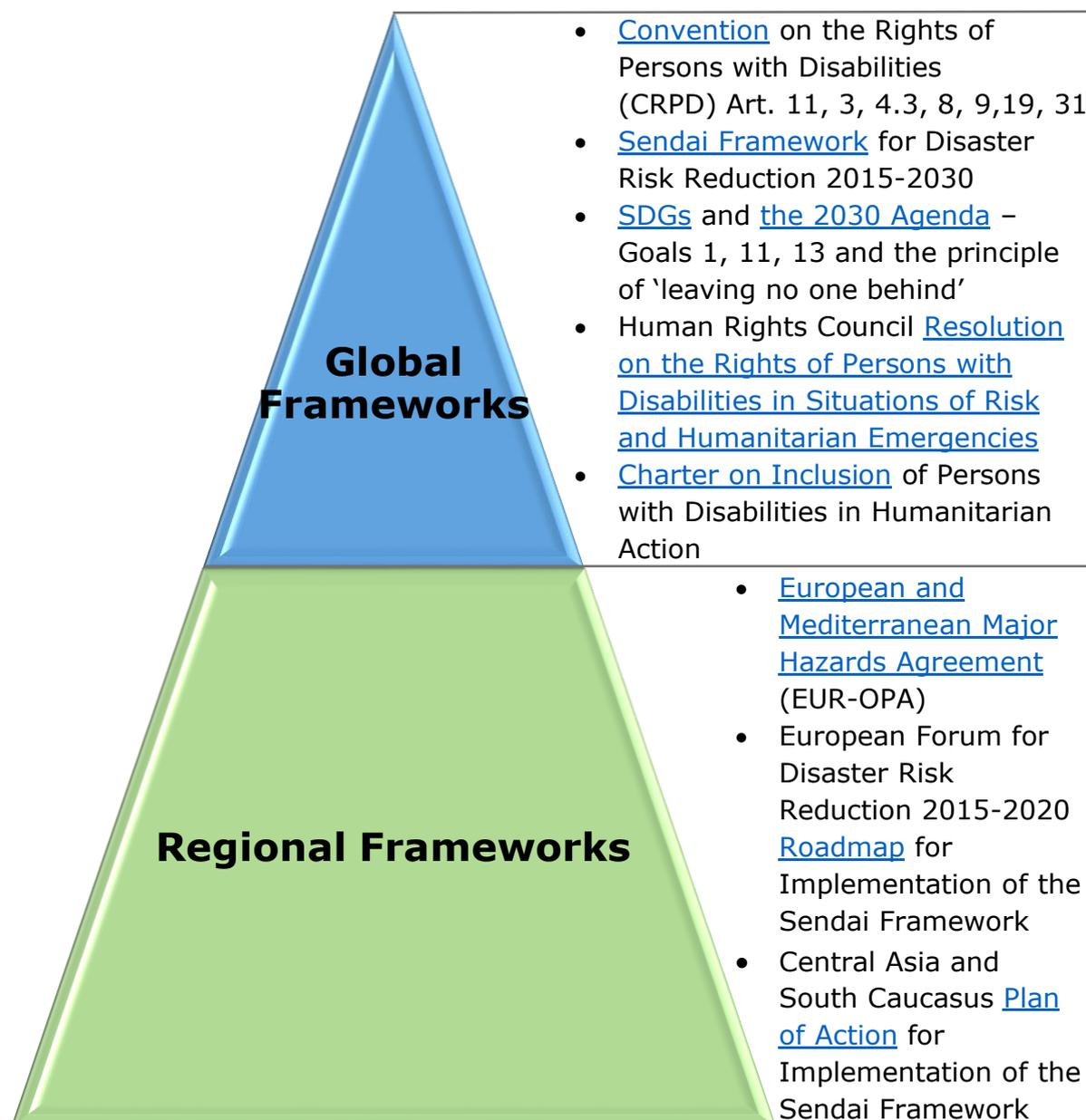
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## Quick guide - finding the most relevant tool for you

Main focus of tool	Name of tool	Type and format of tool
Practical guidance on DiDRR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparedness</li> <li>• Prevention and mitigation</li> <li>• Risk assessment and risk transfer</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Inclusive DRR Hands-on-Tool</a> (p.7)	Web/mobile application (available online and offline)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case for inclusive DRR</li> <li>• Transforming policy into practice</li> <li>• Designing and implementing inclusive DRR plans</li> <li>• Inclusive recovery</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction – a Whole Community Action</a> (p.8)	E-learning course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key ideas, context, and linkages between disability, risk, and DRR</li> <li>• Application and practicalities or the 'how to'</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Disability inclusion and disaster risk: principles and guidance for implementing the Sendai Framework</a> (p.9)	Guidance in downloadable PDF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal context for DiDRR</li> <li>• 'Design for All' in DRR</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Major Hazards and People with Disabilities</a> (p.10)	Good practice toolkit in PDF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model for putting people with disabilities at the center of DRR at the community level</li> </ul>	<a href="#">The Gaibandha model for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction</a> (p.11)	Good practice publication in downloadable PDF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local DRR planning</li> </ul>	<a href="#">DiDRR Framework and Toolkit</a> (p.12)	Toolkit in PDF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case and key approaches for inclusive DRR</li> <li>• Disability inclusion in disaster risk management investments</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management</a> (p.13)	Report in downloadable PDF format
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and interventions for inclusive risk management</li> <li>• Understanding and addressing disaster risks faced by persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Five Actions for Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Management</a> (p.14)	Report in downloadable PDF format
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key principles for disability-inclusive recovery</li> <li>• Disability data for post-disaster needs assessment and recovery</li> <li>• Policies, legislation and institutional mechanisms for disability-inclusive recovery</li> <li>• Financing and implementation</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Disability-inclusive Disaster Recovery</a> (p.15)	Guidance in downloadable PDF format
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in DRR and humanitarian action</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Identification and Use of Disability Data Based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions</a> (p.16)	Practical guide downloadable in PDF format
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tips for working with people with diverse disabilities in emergencies</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Tip Sheets for First Responders</a> (p.17)	Tip Sheets in downloadable PDF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability inclusion in hospital disaster risk management</li> </ul>	<a href="#">INGRID-H</a> (p.18)	Methodological guidance in PDF

## Global and regional context

This section provides an overview of some of the most relevant frameworks and obligations for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in Europe and Central Asia.



**Figure 1:** Global and regional frameworks for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction

## Key resources on disability-inclusive DRR

### 1. Inclusive-DRR hands-on-tool

#### **Purpose**

This progressive web application aims to contribute to improving the quality and inclusiveness of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction programs by providing practical tips and guidance on how:

- To ensure persons with disabilities can access all DRR programs.
- Persons with disabilities can participate meaningfully in developing, implementing and monitoring DRR programs.

Once [downloaded](#), the Inclusive-DRR Hands-on-Tool tool works without an internet connection. The tool conforms to the Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 and is updated regularly.

#### **Target Audience**

This tool has been designed for DRR practitioners based on the compilation of good practices and guidance from various organizations working on DRR as well as disability-specific organizations. This tool will be particularly useful for practitioners with limited experience in disability inclusion and it should be consulted at various phases of programming.

#### **Practical Application**

The i-DRR app includes specific sections and recommendations relevant to the following: Preparedness; Prevention and Mitigation; Risk Assessment and Risk Transfer. It also contains cards with general concepts on accessibility, barriers, data collection, and advocacy which are essential for consideration while designing and implementing any disaster risk reduction intervention.

Finding the tips you need:

- 'Sections' group related advice cards together.
- 'Cards' describe tasks or processes and how to make them inclusive.
- You can also search for words (e.g. 'access symbols' or 'data disaggregation') for suggestions of cards giving you tips and advice.
- Add cards to your Favorites page.

#### **References:**

[Inclusive DRR Hands-on-Tool](#). CBM Global Disability Inclusion

## 2. E-learning course on inclusive disaster risk reduction

### **Purpose**

This e-learning course is aimed at building understanding about how to design and implement disaster risk reduction and preparedness plans and strategies that are inclusive for all.

### **Target Audience**

The course is targeted at DRR policymakers and practitioners so that they may better understand how to prepare and implement disability-inclusive DRR strategies in their specific context. The modules are also available for anyone interested in learning more about 'whole community' DRR.

While the course provides examples from the Asia and the Pacific region and refers to respective regional frameworks (e.g. the 'Incheon Strategy'), the majority of the modules are applicable in all contexts and can be used by DRR practitioners from across the globe.

### **Practical Application**

The course includes five self-paced learning modules with articles, videos, infographics and a series of self-marking questions. The content is a mixture of original material as well as resources developed by experts from different parts of the world, demonstrating promising and good practices for disability inclusion before, during and after disasters.

The learning modules:

1. **Module 1:** The Case for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction ([EPUB-English](#))
2. **Module 2:** Transforming Policy into Practice ([EPUB-English](#))
3. **Module 3:** Designing Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Plans ([EPUB-English](#))
4. **Module 4:** Implementing Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Plans ([EPUB-English](#))
5. **Module 5:** Inclusive Recovery ([EPUB-English](#))

The course is complemented by a Coursebook ([.docx](#)) and Contactbook ([.xlsx](#)) for reflections and application of the content learned.

### **References:**

[E-learning Course on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction – a whole community action](#). ESCAP

### 3. Disability inclusion and disaster risk: principles and guidance for implementing the Sendai Framework

#### **Purpose**

These guidelines aim to provide a common understanding for both disability and DRR actors in order to deliver on the Sendai Framework commitments and to promote and foster collaborative solutions. These guidelines also aim to highlight and emphasize the contribution that DPOs can make to DRR. It is hoped that this will contribute to increasing partnerships between Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (DPOs/OPDs) and DRR actors over the years to come.

#### **Target Audience**

Firstly, these guidelines are for DPOs who may be new to DRR. The guidelines introduce common DRR terms and ideas that may be new to DPOs. The guidelines draw on examples of tested tools and approaches that can be used to further disability inclusion in DRR. Suggestions for how DPOs can contribute under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are also included. Secondly, the guidelines are for DRR actors who want to make their work more disability inclusive. That is, to fulfil the Sendai Framework commitments.

#### **Practical Application**

The guidelines begin by introducing key ideas, establishing context, and showing the linkages between disability, risk, and DRR. The introductory chapters are also helpful for those concerned with advocacy and who need to talk the language of DRR. The middle chapters provide a bridge between context and application. The final chapters focus on practicalities or the how to.

#### **References:**

[Disability Inclusion and Disaster Risk: Principles and Guidance for Implementing the Sendai Framework](#). Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD), the Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) and the National Union of Disabled People of Uganda (NUPIDU). (2017)

## 4. Major hazards and people with disabilities. A toolkit for good practices

### **Purpose**

This toolkit aims to support DRR practitioners and decision-makers make informed choices and adopt a more evidence-based approach to disaster risk reduction.

### **Target Audience**

This document is intended for use by disaster risk reduction and civil protection professionals and decision makers, people with disabilities, their representative organizations and families to ensure the active involvement of people with disabilities in DRR. While the focus is on Council of Europe and EUR-OPA member states, other examples from around the world are also included to give a wider perspective. However, the evidence the toolkit contains is a supplement to, rather than a substitute for, professional and political judgment, and it provides no guaranteed solutions nor quick fixes.

### **Practical Application**

The content of the toolkit is based on the concept of “Design for All” in DRR and provides the following seven steps for its successful implementation, emphasizing that suggested activities should take into consideration human diversity in a holistic way:

1. Political commitment
2. Coordination and continuity
3. Networking
4. Strategic planning
5. Knowledge management
6. Identification and optimization of resources
7. Communication

The toolkit also provides an overview of the legal context for disability-inclusive DRR, including references to relevant articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA).

### **References:**

[Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. A Toolkit for Good Practices.](#)  
Council of Europe. EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement. (2015)

## 5. Saving lives and leaving no one behind: the Gaibandha model for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction

### **Purpose**

This documentation of good practice is based on the experience of CBM and its partners in implementing disability-inclusive, community-based disaster risk reduction programs in some of the most flood-affected communities in Bangladesh. It aims to support the readers develop and implement high-quality disaster risk reduction programs as part of a larger community-based inclusive development work.

### **Target Audience**

CBM Member Associations, Country Offices, Advisors and Partners as well as other organizations and practitioners working in disaster risk reduction.

### **Practical Application**

This publication outlines a model for putting people with disabilities at the center of disaster risk reduction, and while it reflects on the specific risk context in Bangladesh, it can also be adapted and replicated in other risk contexts, particularly at the community level.

### **References:**

[Saving Lives and Leaving No One Behind: The Gaibandha Model for Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction](#). CBM. (2018)

## 6. Disability-inclusive DRR framework and toolkit

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the toolkit is to support the stakeholders from the disability, local community, and emergency services engage in the collaborative co-design of tools, resources, and activities for enabling disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR).

### **Target Audience**

The toolkit is targeted at local disaster managers, persons with disabilities and community and disability support services.

### **Practical Application**

This toolkit provides actionable guidance to local disaster managers on how they can work together with the community stakeholders, including people with disabilities and their representative organizations, to enable more inclusive approaches to DRR. It also includes recommended actions that people with disabilities, and community and disability support services can take for collaborative action on DiDRR. While designed for the Queensland communities, the practice tips and examples included in the toolkit may be applicable to other local contexts as well. The toolkit also includes a companion resource providing quick access to the tools that enable the advancement of DiDRR practices at the community level.

### **References:**

[Disability-inclusive and Disaster Resilient Queensland: Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction \(DiDRR\) Framework and Toolkit](#). Villeneuve, M. Dwine, B., Moss, M., Abson, L., & Pertiwi, P. The Centre for Disability Research and Policy. The University of Sydney. (2019)

## 7. Disability inclusion in disaster risk management: promising practices and opportunities for enhanced engagement

### **Purpose**

This report presents the results of a comprehensive review (best practices and opportunities) of the state of practice in disability-inclusive disaster risk management undertaken by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) with an aim to enhance the implementation of disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction and management.

### **Target Audience**

Although the report is intended primarily to assist the World Bank staff in mainstreaming disability in their ongoing work, it will also be of interest / use to other development actors, including donor community and other key DRR stakeholders.

### **Practical Application**

The report is divided into the three main parts, where the first part speaks to the importance of promoting disability inclusion in disaster risk management. It explains the key barriers faced by persons with disabilities and refers to relevant international policy frameworks for disability-inclusion.

Part two describes key approaches to disability-inclusive DRR which are aligned with the four priorities of the Sendai Framework. It also provides a number of useful examples from different countries highlighted in text boxes.

The last part of the report includes recommendations and entry points for ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management investments of the World Bank and GFDRR. Although targeted primarily to the World Bank staff, most of these recommendations may also be applicable to other development actors and donors working on disaster risk reduction.

### **References:**

[Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management: Promising Practices and Opportunities for Enhanced Engagement](#). Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. (2017)

## 8. Five actions for disability-inclusive disaster risk management

### **Purpose**

The aim of this document is to help realize disability inclusion in disaster risk management.

### **Target Audience**

The publication is intended for the development institutions and governments, as well as their partners and stakeholders concerned with disaster risk management.

### **Practical Application**

The recommended five actions are accompanied by practical examples from several countries highlighted in text boxes.

Particularly interesting is an annex on 'Policies and Interventions to Promote Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Management' (pgs. 17-19) which identifies the following four key domains to understand and address the increased disaster risk faced by persons with disabilities, and strengthen their resilience:

1. Social and economic capital
2. Accessibility of infrastructure
3. Access to services
4. Agency and participation

These domains capture the individual, community and system level factors that interact and collectively shape how persons with disabilities may be impacted during disasters and how they may benefit from disaster risk management. These four domains are complemented by examples of policies and interventions to promote disability inclusion.

### **References:**

[Five Actions for Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Management](#). Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. (2018)

## 9. Disability-inclusive disaster recovery

### **Purpose**

This guidance note provides an action-oriented guidance to support the development of disability inclusive planning and programming across sectors, specifically during post-disaster recovery and reconstruction phase.

### **Target Audience**

The note is intended primarily for the government officials and decision makers with responsibility for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. It is also expected to be of interest to wider government and nongovernment actors, including Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) concerned with inclusive recovery.

### **Practical Application**

The document provides an action-oriented guidance and is organized action around the following topics:

1. Key principles for disability-inclusive recovery
2. Disability data for the post-disaster needs assessment and inclusive recovery
3. Enabling policies and legislation for disability-inclusive recovery
4. Institutional mechanisms for inclusive recovery
5. Financing mechanisms
6. Implementation arrangements

Key considerations and critical information for recovery planning are highlighted in text boxes. A summary and action points are provided at the end of each section.

### **References:**

[Disability-Inclusive Disaster Recovery](#). Disaster Recovery Guidance Series. World Bank Group. (2020)

## 10. Practical guide for identification and use of disability data based on the Washington Group short set of questions

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this practical guide is to promote the wider use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions (WG-SS) to identify persons with disabilities and facilitate inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response practices.

### **Target Audience**

The guide is intended for use by everyone who is interested in making their development and humanitarian programs more inclusive, including government institutions responsible for collecting data, DRR practitioners and humanitarian workers, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and other inclusive development partners.

### **Practical Application**

The guide demonstrates how the Washington Group Short Set of Questions may be used in the context of inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. It also provides some examples on how to use data collected using the WG-SS questions while designing and implementing specific interventions such as risk assessments, early warning systems, evacuation, response and recovery activities.

### **References:**

[Practical Guide for Identification and Use of Disability Data Based on the Washington Short Set of Questions on Disability](#). ASB Indonesia and the Philippines

## 11. Tip sheets for first responders

### **Purpose**

The Tip Sheets for first responders were developed in response to requests from first responders who wanted quick, easy-to-understand guidance on how to effectively work with people with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities in emergency situations.

### **Target Audience**

First responders

### **Practical Application**

The sheets include practical tips on how to assist:

- Older people
- People with service animals
- People with mobility impairments
- People with Autism
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- People who are blind or visually impaired
- People with cognitive disabilities
- People with multiple chemical sensitivities
- People who are mentally ill
- Childbearing women and newborns
- People with seizure disorders

### **References:**

[Tip Sheets for First Responders](#). The University of New Mexico

## 12. INGRID-H: disability inclusion in hospital disaster risk management

### **Purpose**

This document aims to support improving the level of inclusion of persons with disabilities in health disaster risk management, particularly in hospital preparedness and response to emergencies, thereby contributing to the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities, and efforts of countries to build a safer, more inclusive and resilient health sector.

### **Target Audience**

The INGRID-H methodology is designed for health personnel working in disaster risk management, as well as personnel in public and private hospitals. While INGRID-H was designed for use in hospitals with over 100 beds, it can also be applied to low-complexity health care facilities.

### **Practical Application**

This technical resource provides a step-by-step practical guidance for disability inclusion in hospital disaster risk management based on the following three phases:

1. Evaluation or establishing a baseline on the current level of inclusion that leads to the creation of an action plan for improvement.
2. Implementation, including visibility and participation activities (that aim to improve the visibility and representation of persons with disabilities in the hospital), autonomy activities (to enable persons with disabilities perform autonomously in the hospital), and strengthening response capacity activities (that aim to improve preparedness for response).
3. Verification, or establishing actions to assess the disability variable in the hospital plan through inclusive simulation exercises.

Particularly useful for practitioners is the 'Operational Framework for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Hospital Disaster Risk Management' (p.11) which outlines horizontal actions that should be carried out at different phases of disaster risk management cycle, as well as Annex 2 with practical suggestions for inclusive simulations exercises.

### **References:**

[INGRID-H: Disability Inclusion in Hospital Disaster Risk Management](#). WHO. (2018)

## Document credits

This document was put together by the European Disability Forum.



### **The European Disability Forum**

The European Disability Forum is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 100 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organization of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

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