



# Embedding Disability Inclusion in the Global Goal on Adaptation

## Key Messages



Beyond normative inclusion, GGA should institutionalise disability-specific indicators according to sex, age, and disability disaggregated data to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are visible in national reporting and climate finance



Climate adaptation must shift from a purely technical exercise to a socially just process that prioritizes universal accessibility in infrastructure and early warning systems, driven by the meaningful participation of OPDs

## Current Gaps

Currently, there are no proposed metrics specifically addressing the accessibility of adaptation services, including early warning systems, or the participation of OPDs in governance

## Executive Summary

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) outlined under Article 7 of the Paris agreement seeks to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. However, adaptation action is guided by principles requiring it to be country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and fully transparent. This necessitates the active involvement of those most affected, including persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities face heightened climate risks due to socio-economic and structural barriers, yet adaptation policies often group them under broad vulnerable groups, which erases their distinct needs. A human rights-based approach, aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is essential to remove exclusionary barriers and promote equity.

The failure to embed disability inclusion in the core tracking mechanism, the UAE–Belém Work Programme on Indicators, risks leaving it unmeasured, unfunded, and unimplemented. Therefore, inclusion, accessibility, and participation must be explicitly reflected in indicators and metadata to require disability-disaggregated data. Without this, countries will not collect or report disability data.

The adaptation indicators set is heavily weighted toward biophysical metrics (e.g., hazard frequency) while neglecting social vulnerability and adaptive capacity. This ignores barriers like inaccessible shelters and communication gaps

There is no clear guidance on how developing countries can integrate disability data into national systems without creating an undue technical burden



# Policy Recommendations



P1

## Embed disability across all GGA targets and indicators

Adapt measurable metrics that reflect resilience and adaptive capacity for persons with disabilities, and integrate these metrics in the IVRA, planning, implementation and MEL frameworks. This will help measure whether systems and communities are becoming more inclusive and resilient.

P2

## Strengthen measurement, metadata, and global alignment

Operationalise disability inclusion by implementing practical reporting tools and clear metadata standards. This includes templates, proxy measures, and progressive improvement pathways for countries with evolving systems. Global alignment with SDG disaggregation standards and UNFCCC principles will ensure comparability and prevent systemic exclusion, making disability a visible and measurable dimension of adaptation progress.

P3

## Accessible multi-hazard early warning systems

Design early warning systems for universal accessibility, requiring visual, auditory, sign language, tactile, SMS, and plain language formats. These systems should disaggregate data by hazard type such as floods, cyclones, heatwaves, disease and by social category, including disability. A multi-disciplinary integration with health, agriculture, and ecosystem information systems alongside last-mile strategies will ensure that persons with disabilities receive timely, actionable alerts.

P4

## Ensure coherence across frameworks and thematic areas

Harmonize GGA disability indicators with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Clarify the division of labor with the Loss & Damage (L&D) framework. GGA should focus on disability-inclusive adaptation processes and resilience, while L&D should track disability-differentiated impacts.

P5

## Integrate Disability into Implementation Systems

Integrate disability across adaptation implementation systems to prevent fragmentation and ensure effectiveness. Track disability-inclusive adaptation finance, cost accessible infrastructure and early warning systems, require accessible technology transfer and assistive solutions, institutionalise disability-inclusive capacity-building with OPDs, introduce participation indicators, monitor inclusive access to services, require multi-format early warnings, and track disability outcomes in ecosystem-based adaptation.



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