

# DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND BEYOND

## PROMOTE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

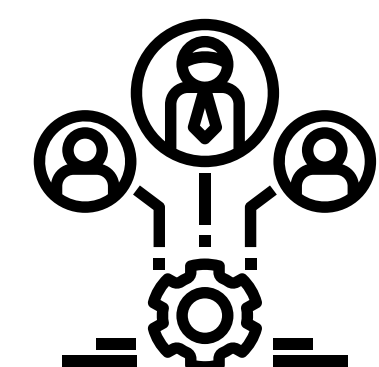
It is critical to include people with disabilities in humanitarian and emergency agenda setting, decision-making and implementation.



Recognise that people with disabilities have the knowledge and skills to ensure humanitarian action and emergency preparedness, response and recovery are inclusive.



Involve people with diverse disabilities in all stages of humanitarian action and emergency preparedness, response and recovery; this includes peacebuilding activities in fragile and (post-) conflict settings.



Engage with civil society, particularly with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), to support meaningful participation of people with disabilities in preparedness, response and recovery.

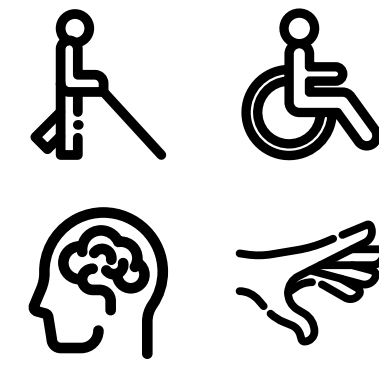


Be accountable to people with disabilities by supporting them to participate in and feed back on response activities, to monitor data and implementation, and to challenge and ask questions of responders.

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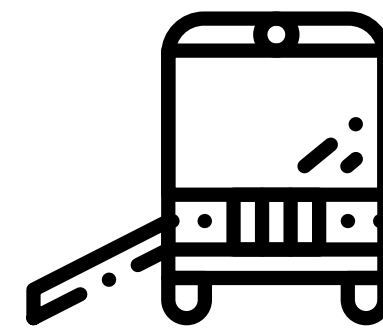
## RECOGNISE AND ADDRESS DIVERSE NEEDS

One size fits all approaches to disability inclusion in humanitarian and emergency response are not enough.



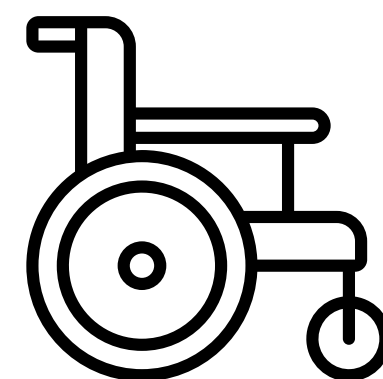
Recognise diverse needs of people with different types and degrees of impairment. Physical, sensory, cognitive, psychosocial and multiple disabilities, and disabilities associated with chronic disease, will shape individual needs.

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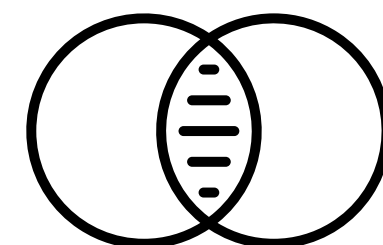
Design humanitarian and emergency services – including shelter, food, transportation, healthcare, and sanitation – in ways that people with different types and degrees of impairment can easily access.

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Ensure emergency adaptations are made to services that some people with disabilities may depend on day-to-day. Also support sustained access to assistive equipment, related to feeding or mobility for example.

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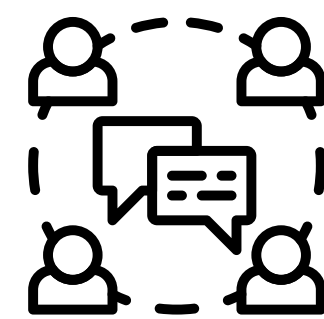


Recognise disability may intersect with other aspects of identity (e.g., gender, age, income, caste or minority status) to shape vulnerability. For instance, women and children with disabilities face disproportionate risks of abuse.

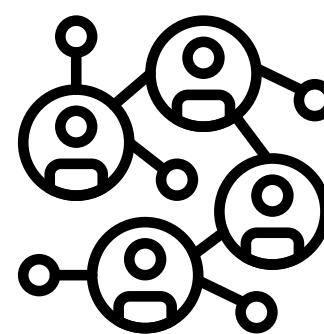
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## INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

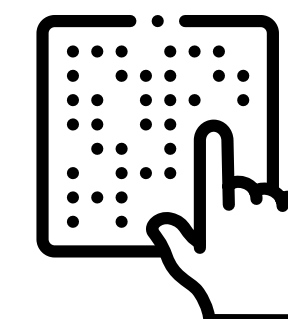
People with disabilities must be able to access life-saving information during emergencies.



Tailor communication for people with different disabilities to ensure they can access the information they need to protect themselves and others, and to access support in emergencies.



Engage carers and support networks to reach people with disabilities, especially those who may not be able to use common forms of communication.



Identify and use nationally or locally relevant sign languages and Braille systems. Use captioned and audio media, and plain language and Easy Read text formats, in locally relevant spoken languages.

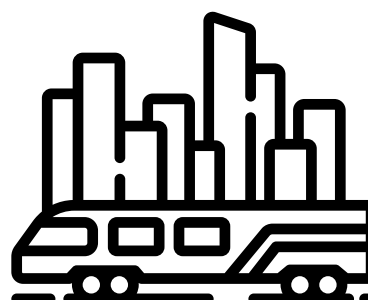
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## ENHANCE EVERYDAY INCLUSION

Inclusive humanitarian and emergency response requires building foundations of everyday inclusion for people with disabilities.



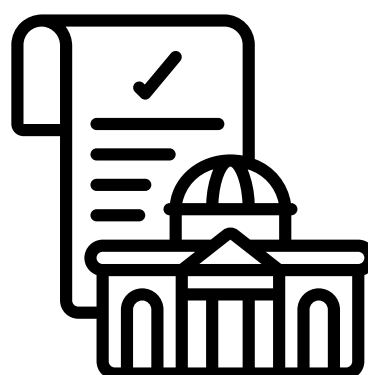
Collect comprehensive and internationally comparable quantitative data, and context-specific qualitative data, about people with disabilities. Include data about their diverse needs and priorities to support better planning and response efforts.



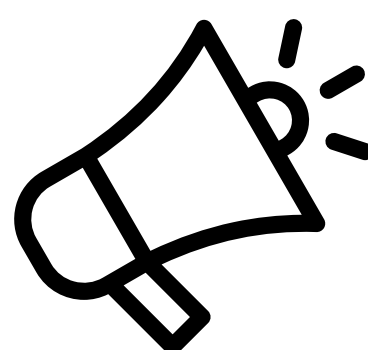
Support efforts to enhance infrastructure, transportation and communication systems, as well as social protection, education and health services, to be fully disability inclusive.



Address poverty, educational and economic exclusion, and social and physical isolation, which disproportionately affect people with disabilities.



Promote deeper understanding of the social model of disability among policymakers, service providers and the public to promote everyday inclusion and counter stereotypes.



Counter disability-related stigma through positive messaging. Recognise some people with disabilities, such as those from ethnic or religious minorities, or women and girls with cognitive disabilities, may face the greatest stigma, and this varies by context.



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## EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR NETWORKS

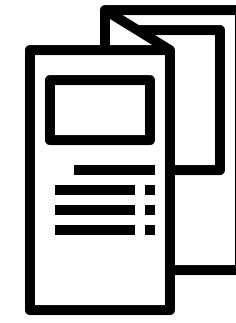
Meaningful inclusion requires empowerment – not only for people with disabilities, but those who care for them.

**SSHAP** | Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform

[www.socialscienceinaction.org](http://www.socialscienceinaction.org)

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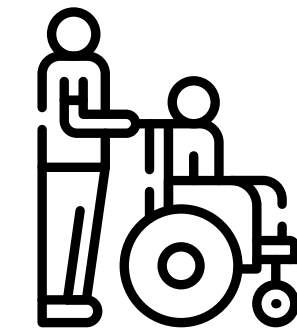
DOI: [10.19088/SSHAP.2023.020](https://doi.org/10.19088/SSHAP.2023.020)



Provide family members, friends and carers for people with disabilities with information and resources to continue providing care and support in a crisis, as well as to care for themselves.



Engage and work with civil society and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) at national and local levels to advocate for and support people with disabilities in their day-to-day life and during crises.



Work with people with disabilities and their households and communities to prepare their evacuation plans as they may be less likely to flee during a crisis.