



Changemakers in Action: Cutting-edge technologies for disability-inclusive early warning and preparedness

Event Synopsis

8 June 2021, 09.00-11.00 AM CET


Join the event here: [Zoom Link](#)

More information:
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SYNOPSIS

Persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population yet are disproportionately affected by climate change and disaster impacts. For many reasons – including information and communication barriers, social and cultural stigma, and exclusion – early warning systems are often not inclusive, preventing women, men, children and youth with disabilities from accessing timely early warning and risk information on an equal basis with others. Other reasons include the lack of accessibility of infrastructure and environment and lack or non-existence of support systems for persons with disabilities relating to impacts of climate change and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

UNDP and its partners have an opportunity to pilot and scale up game-changing solutions together with technology providers, persons with disabilities and grassroots organizations. We invite you to join a ground-breaking UNDP Development Dialogue which will provide a platform for an exchange of innovative ideas on early warning technology, and last mile services addressing the specific needs and rights of persons with disabilities to better manage risk and build resilience. The event will bring together persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, technology providers, global social media outlets, government, UN agencies and international cooperation partners.



Some of the topics to be discussed include the application of human-centered design to identify solutions by and for persons with disabilities, the use of collective intelligence through social media to deliver last mile services that reach everyone, successful public-private partnerships delivering technology-savvy solutions for disability-inclusive early warning and preparedness, and ensuring availability of appropriate resources, including assistive devices and support systems in times of a disaster.

PURPOSE

- Raise the profile of the agenda of disability-inclusive, risk-informed development
- Raise awareness on the importance and the need of appropriate support systems and service integration in disability inclusive development and disaster risk reduction
- Showcase UNDP's niche in promoting disability-inclusive, risk-informed development
- Use the event as a springboard for mobilization of partnerships

FORMAT

The event will be organized in a fire chat format whereby a moderator guides the discussion following a series of questions. Special guest representatives and the audience will be invited to ask questions in plenary or using the Zoom chat function. A team of disaster risk reduction and disability experts will facilitate the questions and answers interaction on the chat function.

The session is co-designed with the Pacific Disability Forum.

Specific arrangements for making this event accessible will be ensured, including simultaneous sign language interpretation and live captioning.



KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

- 1. How can a human-centered design be applied to identify solutions by and for persons with disabilities?**
 - What are some of the elements for the successful implementation of a human-centered design?
 - What is the role of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations?
 - What are some of the barriers and enablers towards applying a human-centered design in the development of data and digital tools for disability inclusive DRR and humanitarian action?

- 2. What are the most relevant cutting-edge technologies?**
 - What are the specific criteria that technologies should meet from the perspective of persons with disabilities (e.g. affordability, accessibility, usability, portability, etc.)?
 - How can persons with disabilities living in remote areas access and adopt the cutting-edge technologies?
 - How can the conventional early warning dissemination channels be upgraded to accommodate the specific requirements of persons with diverse disabilities (e.g. websites with speech enabled technology, smart phone applications, AI-powered assistive devices)?
 - With regards to early warning at the local/ community level, are there examples of good practices ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities?
 - What are some of the best practices in disaster affected areas from the perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations?

- 3. How can communication technologies and social media be used to deliver last mile services so that early warning and risk information reach everyone?**
 - How can persons with disabilities living in remote areas access and use social media and information for early warning and early action?
 - How can we reach everyone in the community? And what are the key enablers and barriers to this?
 - What role can communities play themselves for ensuring risk information reaches everyone?



SPEAKERS

Moderator

Mr. **Setareki Macanawai** – CEO, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)

Keynote remarks (video)

Ms. **Usha Rao-Monari** – Under Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP

Mr. **Haoliang Xu** – Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Speakers/Panel

- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs):
 - Mr. **Bimal Paudel**, National Project Coordinator, National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal (NFDN), national level
 - Mr. **Chintamani Paudel**, NFDN's federal board member and disability activist from Dang district, Nepal (video recording)
 - Mr. **Joshco Wakaniyasi**, Manager Inclusive Development, Pacific Disability Forum
- Tech companies:
 - Dr. **Charudatta Jadhav**, Head of Accessibility Center of Excellence, Research and Innovation Unit, Tata Consultancy Services
 - Ms. **Jenny Casswell**, Research & Insights Director, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, GSMA
- Government:
 - Ms. **Armine Hayrapetyan**, Sendai Framework National Focal Point, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia
- Academia:
 - Prof. **Mihoko Sakurai**, Center for Global Communications, International University of Japan
- UNDP:
 - Ms. **Céline Moyroud** – UNDP Resident Representative for Lebanon



Closing remarks

Mr. **Ronald Jackson** – Head, Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery for Building Resilience, Crisis Bureau, UNDP

Targeted invitees & special guests

The event aims to support advocacy within UNDP and beyond for the disability-inclusion agenda. As such, the event will target specific organizations as invitees (donor countries, OPDs, private sector). The event will also host special guests who will be available to contribute to the discussions in the Q&A session.