Leaving No One Behind...Strategies for Effective Communication Accessibility Before, During and After Disasters

WID
World Institute on Disability

Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration (GADRA)

Marcie Roth Executive Director & CEO

WID's global mission is to continually advance the rights and opportunities of over one billion people with disabilities.

We do this through our core services:
- Accessibility and Universal Design Solutions
- Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience
- Policies, Tools and Services for Global Community Living

Our vision is a world in which people with disabilities live freely where access, inclusion, equity, and resilience are embedded throughout every global community

Our Guiding Principles

Disability-Led: Valuing lived experience, with 51% or more of our Board and Staff identifying as people with disabilities.

Accelerating Inclusion: Leading a global effort to eliminate barriers and advance policies that eliminate exclusion and drive inclusion.

Pan-Disability Movement Solidarity: Pursuing equality, inclusion, and accessibility for all people with any disability.

Intersectional and Cross-Cultural Competency: Including the full spectrum of identities and the range of privilege, marginalization, and oppression that impact how disabled people are treated.

Ethics, Integrity, and Accountability: Directing our focus and uncompromising standards to the needs of everyone with disabilities, especially people who are most marginalized.
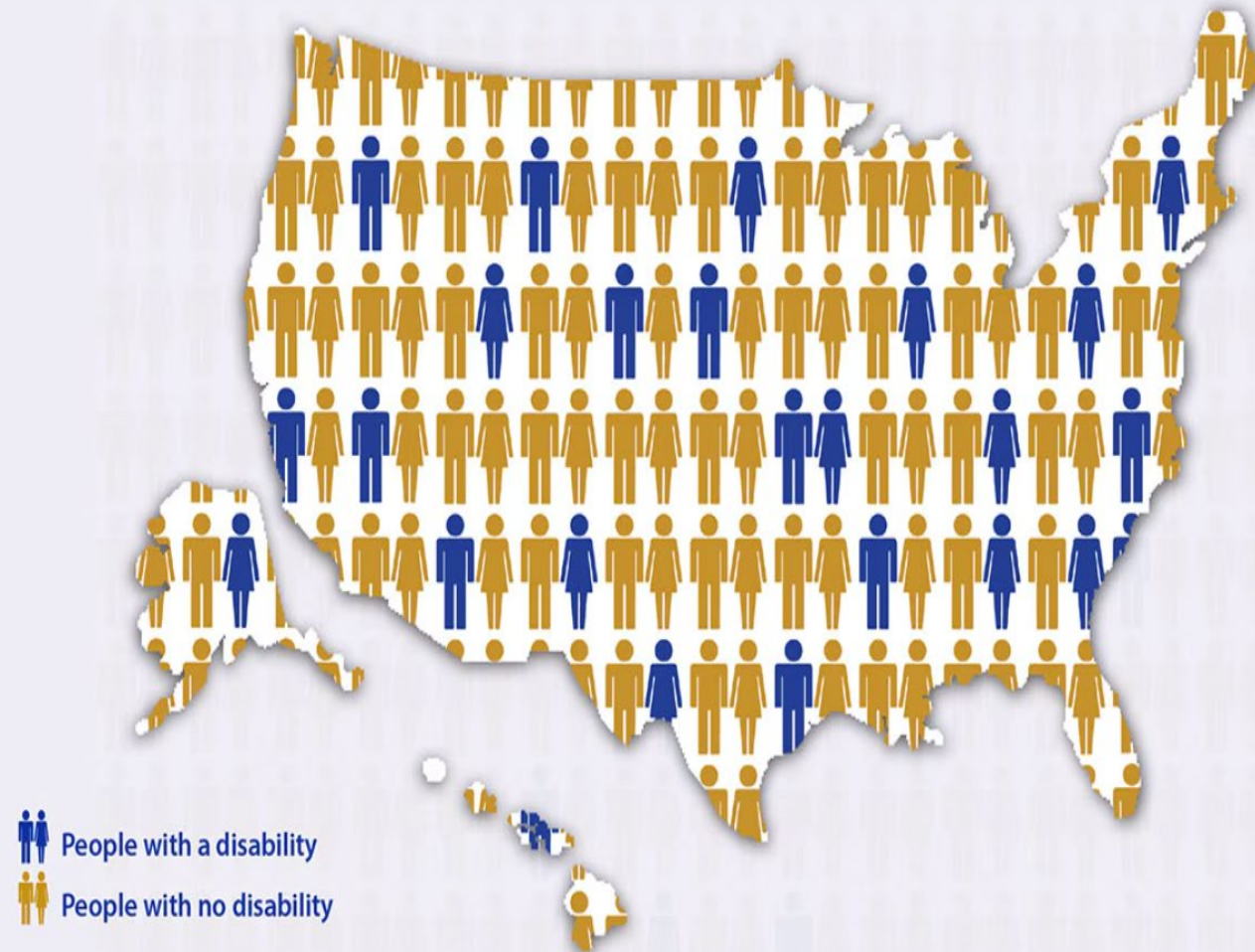
Advancing Human Rights and Supporting Disability Justice Across the Lifespan: Securing and enhancing independent and interdependent livelihoods for the whole community.

130 Countries   6 Continents

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People with a disability
People with no disability

Globally 1.3 Billion People Have Disabilities

Health equity for persons with disabilities

1.3 BILLION people globally have significant disability

1 in 6 people

80% is the estimated number of persons with disabilities living in **low- and middle-income countries** where access to basic health services are especially limited for persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities experience health inequities

Many of them:

Are likely to die **20 years** earlier

Experience poorer health – having more than **double** the risk of developing conditions such as diabetes, stroke or depression

Have more limitations in functioning – for example inaccessible health facilities are up to **6 times** more hindering for them

Health inequities arise from unfair conditions that affect persons with disabilities disproportionally. These conditions are part of the socioeconomic and political context, social determinants of health, risk factors, and health system barriers

Investing in health equity for persons with disabilities means investing in Health for All, bringing high dividends to individuals and communities

There could be a

US$10 return per **US$1 spent**

on implementing disability inclusive prevention and care for noncommunicable diseases

Interventions such as family planning and vaccination could be highly cost-effective when provided in disability inclusive manner, despite the additional cost required

Achieving

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SDG 3

and the global health priorities of

pursuing universal health coverage

preventing and responding to health emergencies

promoting healthier populations

FOR ALL requires action to address health inequities for persons with disabilities

Countries are only 40 steps away from achieving health equity for persons with disabilities

All governments and health sector partners need to commit to **3 recommended principles** when implementing actions

Include **health equity** at the center of all actions

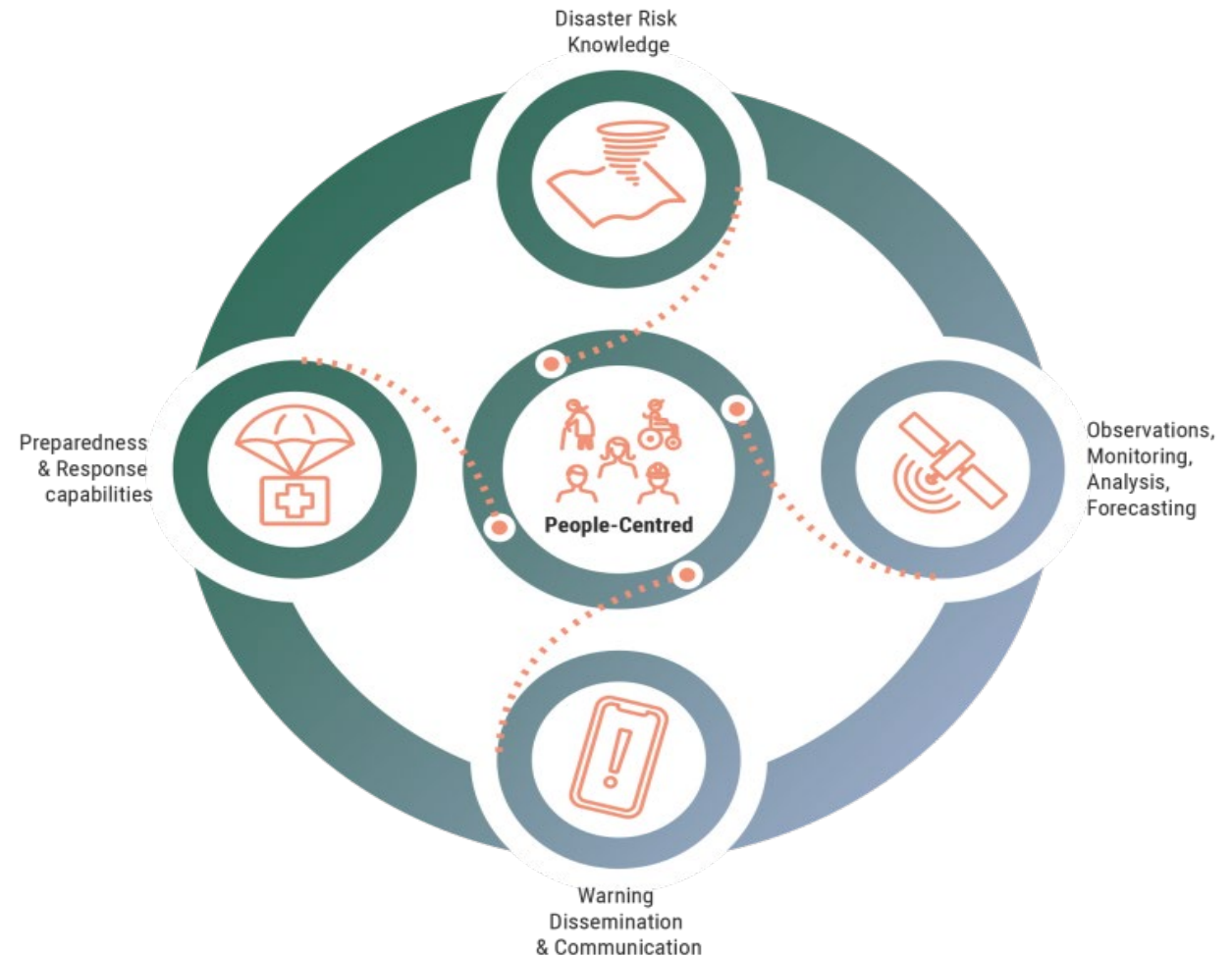**Empower and include** persons with disabilities

Monitor the impact of health section actions for persons with disabilities

World Health Organization

World Institute on Disability

United Nations Early Warnings for All Initiative

The Early Warnings for All initiative is a groundbreaking effort to ensure everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027.

The four pillars of Early Warnings for All

The Early Warnings for All initiative is built on four pillars to support countries in building and operating effective and inclusive multi-hazard early warning systems:

- Disaster risk knowledge - led by the [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)](#)
- Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting - led by the [World Meteorological Organization (WMO)](#)
- Warning dissemination and communication - led by the [International Telecommunication Union (ITU)](#)
- Preparedness and response capabilities - led by the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)](#)

EW4All
Resources

- [EW4ALL Video Introduction](#)
- [Early Warnings for All and the Executive Action Plan 2023-2027](#)
- [EW4 All Advisory Panel](#)

GADRA Virtual Emergency Operations Center

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