

Disability and Climate Resilience

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9th January 2018



Presentation Outline

- Background to review
- Literature review
- Online survey
- Qualitative research
- Kenya
- Bangladesh
- Findings
- Recommendations

Disability and Climate Resilience– some facts and figures

- Approximately 15% of the worlds population lives with a disability – majority in low and middle income countries
- Disability and poverty often linked: barriers to opportunities and services can lead to poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty
- Persons with disabilities constitute one of the most marginalised and socially excluded groups within any society, despite the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008)
- This exclusion can be exacerbated by other forms of inequalities e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, geography
- Very limited focus on disability in many of the international frameworks for climate action (e.g. Paris Agreement)
- However, there has been an increased focus in disaster risk reduction-related frameworks (e.g. Sendai; Dhaka Declaration)

Disability and the SDGs

- **Goal 13 : Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**
- **Indicators** include governments implementing DRR strategies, and national mitigation, adaptation and early warning plans, which **MUST** be inclusive of persons with disabilities to be effective



Literature Review Findings

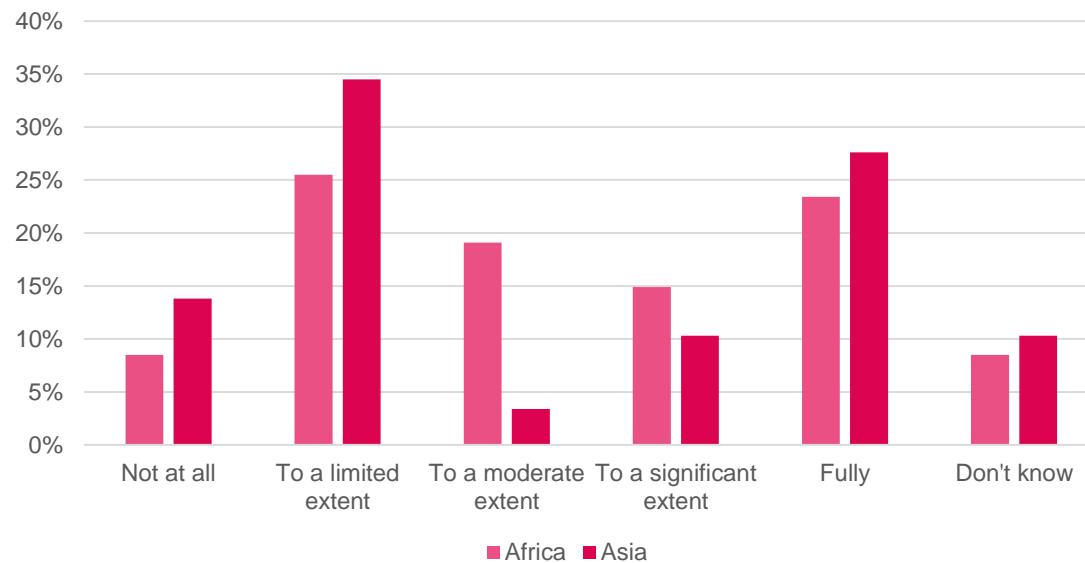
- Literature highlights the links between CCA, DRR and disability.
- The available data demonstrate heightened vulnerability for at-risk people.
- There are some lessons to be learnt from disability-inclusive DRR and humanitarian practice.
- Intersectionality of climate resilience and specific populations is a growing field in climate research.
- There was a shortage of concrete examples of building the resilience of people with disabilities to climate risks.

Online Survey Findings

- The survey generated 100 responses from 28 countries
 - 49% Africa; 31% Asia
- Over half of the sample (58%) had attended disability training
 - Does this convert into action/inclusion?
- Definitions and understandings of vulnerability
 - Children and persons with disabilities were the most common second option choice, and people with disabilities and people living in extreme poverty were the most likely third option.
 - Regional variation: people with disabilities were higher priority in Asia than Africa
- Respondents reported limited representation in climate resilience policymaking or implementation.
 - A large proportion of the respondents did not know about representation in policymaking.

What are agencies doing?

To what extent do you think disability is a priority area in the climate change policy?



NB: only the two regions are presented had sufficient sample size to show trends

Kenya

- Kenya is party to international conventions including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; as well as the UNCRPD. The GoK is developing a National Action Plan (NAP) on Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure coordinated action and responses to both manmade and natural disasters (mostly attributed to climate change).
- Inclusion is a key tenet of Kenya's constitution, but policies, strategies and plans fall short of providing specific and targeted interventions to ensure persons with disabilities become more 'climate resilient'.
- Most of the representatives of national and local government ministries were not engaged on issues of disability and climate change, seeing this as either something beyond their mandate or that they do not have the capacity to deal with.



Kenya – findings from the field

“Government should have programs to assist PWDs recover from losses when there [are] calamities.” (Female FGD participant, Kisumu)

“This mainstreaming is making our issues not to be heard. They tend to focus on things in general and disability as a component is not given much attention. Mainstreaming is not working for us. It is like a river that has been running and then you drop something into it. So the disability component has just been dropped in such that even if it gets stuck they will just proceed. People talk about mainstreaming disability but you find that the disability part of it is not working for us.” (Female FGD participant, Kisumu)

Kenya – findings from the field cont...

“...when these problems are being addressed; there is usually no clear framework like which group is being targeted, they just do it general for all that are affected whether persons living with disabilities or those living with disabilities... It is very hard to find that the government is coming up with a proper program during disaster to target only persons living with disabilities and that is where the insensitivity comes in. The support program is there only it may not have specific programs for PWDs”
(Male FGD participant, Isiolo)

Kenya

- Some of the challenges identified by stakeholders included: funding; prioritisation; capacity deficiencies; lack of disability ‘champions’ in the climate sector; lack of policies at county level; and poor monitoring and evaluation of interventions.
- Some key recommendations at national level were: mainstreaming of disability issues, capacity building and awareness creation for DPOs on climate change issues to strengthen advocacy; inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning, decision making and implementation of climate strategies.

Bangladesh



Fieldwork findings

- Whilst there are some policies in place in both countries, these are rarely effectively monitored or funded, reducing their impact at the local level
- More focus on DRR than CCA
- Disability issues tend to get silo-ed within one ministry
- Disability inclusion is not seen from a rights perspective (this was particularly the case in Bangladesh)
- Disability issues linked to wider issues of vulnerability, but this can result in disabled people becoming invisible within mainstream programmes
- Lack of diversity in economic activities (both countries).
- Little awareness or support for people to adapt their livelihoods – yet households of persons with disabilities had less capacity to adapt or move to accommodate changes

Fieldwork findings cont...

- Over-reliance on one model (including microcredit loans) – therefore less resilience to shocks
- Barriers to accessing social protection and finance (e.g. may not be ‘poor enough’)
- Just because the facilities are there does not actually mean they are being used
- Need for better data to facilitate planning in both countries
- Persons with disabilities often don’t know what they are missing out on, so they need to be better informed to make informed choices – and be better represented

Recommendations

- There needs to be more focus on rights within the climate and resilience discourse – rights enhance resilience too!
- There needs to be more comprehensive monitoring of policy implementation; as well as budgetary allocation for disability-focused programmes, and also for mainstreaming of disability in general programming.
- More cross-sectoral linkages and cross-departmental communication around these intersecting issues
- The links between CCA and DRR need to be strengthened – learn from good practice;
- Persons with disabilities need to be supported to diversify livelihood strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change
- Social protection mechanisms can be an important source of resilience, but need to be effectively assessed and provided;
- Twin track – mainstreaming AND targeted approaches

Questions?

Thank you

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/leonard-cheshire-research/research/active-research-programmes/disability-climate-resilience>