

## TIP SHEET:

# Post-disaster needs assessments

## DISABILITY INCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

When thinking about post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs), it is crucial to remember the full diversity of the affected population and ensure that:

- ✓ The **process** of the PDNA is adapted to make it inclusive and accessible.
- ✓ The PDNA tools are adapted to ensure the needs data collected can be **disaggregated by disability** (as well as sex and age).
- ✓ The PDNA tools are adapted to **add specific disability-focused questions** which will allow information on the specific needs of people with disabilities to be collected.

## THINGS TO DO TO ENSURE THE PROCESS OF THE POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT IS INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

- ✓ Create an inclusive PDNA data collection team. Include a person with a disability on the team. Or, if this is not possible, include a disability inclusion advisor or a person/people with experience in communicating with people with disabilities (e.g., someone who can communicate in local sign language) in the team.
- ✓ Train all PDNA team members. Ensure all PDNA data collection team members are sensitised on disability inclusion issues, and are trained on aspects including:
  - How to talk about disability in a respectful and person-first way and using appropriate language to create a safe and welcoming environment for respondents.

- How to communicate with people with various impairment types.
  - How to ask the Washington Group Short Set questions (see below - in relevant languages), including the importance of not using the word “disability” when asking the questions, reading out all six questions and not skipping questions, reading out all category responses for each question, and not changing the response categories to “yes”/“no” options, etc.
  - Data collection ethics such as informed consent, self-representation, and the importance of not attempting to label/“diagnose” respondents.
- ☑ Utilise inclusive sampling methods to include the diverse perspectives and experiences of people with disabilities. Consider purposive sampling to identify people with disabilities, including “snowball” sampling from existing OPD (Organisations of People with Disabilities) networks. Also consider how the PDNA survey can be used to identify the locations of people with disabilities for later follow up. This requires a way of identifying respondent household and locations and asking permission to follow up.
  - ☑ Include disability informants in the PDNA data-collection process. Conduct assessments in accessible locations where everyone feels they can contribute safely to the discussion. Ensure the PDNA data collection team conducts home visits to reach people with disabilities or older people who have difficulties travelling to data collection sites. Conduct specific focus group discussions/consultations/interviews with people with disabilities, ideally separating men and women. Include diverse respondents across all age groups, genders, and impairment types. Conduct interviews with key informants from local OPDs and disability service providers.
  - ☑ Pay particular attention to ensuring that women and girls with disabilities are included in the PDNA process.
  - ☑ Present PDNA findings in multiple accessible formats.
  - ☑ Include resources in the budget to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities in the PDNA team and as respondents. Reasonable accommodations to facilitate the active participation of individuals with disabilities may be required. This could include provision of accessible transport or travel allowance, providing interpretation, enabling a support person to accompany, etc. These reasonable accommodations must be included in a budget.
    - Note that in relation to support persons, some people with disabilities may choose to have a support person or personal assistant to assist them with communication during consultations. The person with a disability should decide who this support person will be.



# THINGS TO DO TO ENSURE THE POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA CAN BE DISAGGREGATED BY DISABILITY

- ✓ Add disability identification questions into PDNA tools: To be able to know how many of the affected population are people with disabilities, to know where they are located, and to compare the post-disaster needs of people with and people without disabilities, the internationally recommended Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability should be added into PDNA survey/questionnaire tools (note these questions are already included in Kobo Toolbox data collection tool as a question set):

## Q1. The next questions ask about difficulties you [or anyone in your household] may have doing certain activities because of a HEALTH PROBLEM:

- a) Do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

- b) Do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

- c) Do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

- d) Do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

- e) Do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

- f) Using your [their] customary language, do you [or anyone in your household] have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?
- No – no difficulty
  - Yes – some difficulty
  - Yes – a lot of difficulty
  - Yes – cannot do at all

# THINGS TO DO TO ENSURE THE POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT WILL GATHER USEFUL AND RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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- ✓ Add disability-specific questions to ask people with disabilities into PDNA tools. To identify the needs and capacities of people with disabilities, specific questions to ask people with disabilities should be added to the PDNA survey/questionnaire/FGD/interview tools. Organise a review of the disability-specific questions by OPDs or disability inclusion advisors. The following kinds of questions could be added:

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**Do you [or anyone in your household] need an assistive device to help you perform daily activities?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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*If yes or don't know:*

What assistive device(s) do you need, either for the first time or because your device was lost/damaged?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Hand-powered tricycle
  - Wheelchair
  - Crutches
  - Walking stick
  - Hearing aid
  - White cane
  - Glasses
  - Magnifier
  - Orthotic device (to support legs, arms or spine)
  - Artificial limbs
  - Communication boards (e.g. a board which people use to point to and express themselves)
  - Pill organisers
  - Commode chair
  - Other (please specify) .....
  - None of these
  - No response/don't know
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**Do you have specific rehabilitation needs?**

- Yes  
 No
- 

*If yes:*

Which rehabilitation needs do you have?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Physical rehabilitation  
 Occupational therapy  
 Speech and language therapy  
 Orientation training for visual impairments  
 Sign language training  
 Psychosocial support/counselling  
 Other (please specify) .....
- 

**Do you normally need someone like a personal assistant or caregiver to support you to do your daily activities?**

- Yes  
 No
- 

*If yes:*

Do you still have that help now?

- Yes  
 No
- 

**Have you been able to access shelter and distributed shelter materials as much as others in your community?**

- Yes  
 No
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**Can you easily enter, exist, and move around inside your shelter?**

- Yes  
 No – some difficulty  
 No – a lot of difficulty  
 No – cannot do at all
- 

*If no:*

What is the issue hindering you entering, existing and moving around your shelter?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Entrance too narrow  
 Steps  
 Bed too high or low, cannot access independently  
 Floor area too small, no space to manoeuvre around with wheelchair, crutches etc.  
 Insufficient lighting  
 Other (please specify) .....
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**Have you been able to access food distribution?**

- Yes  
 No
-

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**Do you face any difficulties in accessing food distribution?**

- No – no difficulty
- Yes – some difficulty
- Yes – a lot of difficulty
- Yes – cannot do at all

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*If yes*

What has hindered your access to food distribution?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Do not know where to go to access
- Difficult getting to/from distribution point
- Nobody to assist me
- Cannot stand for long/no priority lane
- Negative attitudes toward me when I went
- No sign language translation
- Can't carry food home
- Other (please specify) .....

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**Do you have specific nutrition needs related to a health condition?**

- Yes
- No

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*If yes:*

What specific nutritional needs do you have?

Please specify

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**Can you access safe drinking water?**

- Yes
- No

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**Have you faced any difficulties in accessing drinking water?**

- No – no difficulty
- Yes – some difficulty
- Yes – a lot of difficulty
- Yes – cannot do at all

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*If yes:*

What has hindered your access to water?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Do not know where to go to access
- Difficult getting to/from water point
- Water point not physically accessible
- Nobody to assist me
- Cannot stand for long/no priority lane
- Negative attitudes toward me when I went
- Can't carry water home
- Family did not want me to go to the water point
- Family can't help me access the water point
- Other (please specify) .....

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**Have you been able to access a toilet/latrine?**

- Yes
  - No
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**Have you faced any difficulties in accessing a toilet/latrine?**

- No – no difficulty
- Yes – some difficulty
- Yes – a lot of difficulty
- Yes – cannot do at all

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*If yes:*

What has hindered your ability to access and use the toilet/latrine?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Do not know where to go to access
- Difficult getting to/from Toilet/Latrine
- Toilet/Latrine too far
- Toilet/Latrine not physically accessible
- Nobody to assist me
- Negative attitudes toward me when I went
- Latrine/Toilet uncleanliness
- Feel unsafe using it
- Other (please specify) .....

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**Do you need medical hygiene supplies such as uridomes, catheters, diapers, etc.?**

- Yes
- No

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*If yes*

Which medical hygiene supplies do you need?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Diapers
- Sanitary pads
- Urine bags
- Catheters
- Uridomes
- Other

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**What factors would help you get access to the support you need?**

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Provision of information in formats I can access (specify the format)
  - Provision of transport
  - Outreach from service providers
  - Support from family/support person
  - Support from service providers/ volunteers to help me transport shelter/ food/non-food provisions
  - Psychosocial support
  - Support from a disability advocacy organization
  - Receiving an assistive device
  - Other (please specify)
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**How would you like to receive information about post-disaster aid distribution, evacuation shelter/camp updates, recovery updates etc.?**  
*(Tick all that apply)*

- Written
- Word of mouth
- Loudspeaker
- Radio
- Telephone
- Sign language interpreter
- Picture messages
- Signs/posters
- Sign language interpretation
- Home sign language
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.)
- Accessible electronic format
- Braille
- Television
- Aid workers visit your location
- Other (please specify) .....

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**Do you require support to help you communicate with assistance service providers and other people?**

- Yes
- No

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*If yes:*

What sort of support for communication support do you need?

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Pen and notebook
- Text messages
- Hearing aid
- Sign language interpreter
- Assistant to accompany
- Other

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- Complement the information gathered from people with disabilities with other information gathered through direct observations, and gathered from disability-related key informants like OPDs or disability service providers:
    - Map existing disability services, such as rehabilitation providers, assistive device providers, and disability advocacy groups like OPDs and self-help groups. A list of these services may be obtained from OPDs or the Ministry of Health/Ministry of Social Welfare etc. Assess whether these services have incurred damage and determine what may be required to support these services/organisations to resume operations.
    - Ask eyewitnesses, make observations, or consult with disability groups: Are people with disabilities visible in the affected area? What does the status of people with disabilities seem to be?



- Take pictures of water points, food distribution points, hospitals, and other services in the area, to analyse the level of accessibility.
- Ask first responders including health service providers: Has the disaster led to injuries and any likely increase in the number of people with impairments and disabilities? Use this information to plan for referral to and provision of support to people with newly acquired impairments, including rehabilitation, specialised health services, assistive device provision, psychosocial support, and advocacy group support.