

- **Policy Support:** Strengthen policies and laws to support disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action in both, retrofitting existing policies, and planning new policies. The revised National Disaster Management Act calls for making more detailed rules.
- **Research and Documentation:** Conduct research and document best practices on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action to inform policy and practice in all states with the help of CSOs and local authorities.

Some key partners and initiatives that can support disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and humanitarian action in India include:

- **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP):** Collaborating with AIDMI and Sphere India on a study to strengthen the humanitarian system in India.
- **CBM India:** Working on inclusive humanitarian action and disability-inclusive disaster preparedness initiatives.
- **Sphere India:** Partnering with AIDMI and WFP on humanitarian system strengthening initiatives.

"The true measure of our humanity lies in how we care for the most vulnerable among us, including persons with disabilities, in times of disaster and distress."

Way Forward

To strengthen disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and humanitarian action in India, it's essential to:

- **Promote Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between government agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, and community organisations to develop inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies matched with mitigation funds.
- **Build Capacities:** Invest in capacity-building programs for humanitarian stakeholders on disability-inclusive disaster response and recovery at the district and city level in each state on a monthly manner before summer and monsoon.
- **Support Research:** Encourage research and documentation on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action to inform policy and practice on the ground with CSOs and authorities.

By working together, we can strengthen disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and humanitarian action in India and ensure that persons with disabilities receive the support they need to thrive.



Photo: AIDMI.

Strengthening Disability Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Humanitarian Action: AIDMI Experience and Suggestions for Building Agenda for India*

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has been working towards bridging the gap between policy, practice, and research related to humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. AIDMI's work encompasses various areas, including extreme heat, floods, and disability-inclusive disaster preparedness. The AIDMI experience is used here to develop suggestions for building an Agenda for India.

"Let us care for one another, especially those with disabilities, and work towards a world where no one is left behind."

* Submitted by AIDMI to UN Resident Coordinator in India at 2-Day Co-Creation Workshop on Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Humanitarian Action in New Delhi, June 4-5, 2025.

AIDMI's Experience

- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction:** AIDMI has been working with local communities to develop and implement disaster risk reduction strategies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities since the Gujarat Earthquake in 2001.
- **Inclusive Humanitarian Action:** AIDMI has been promoting the rights of disaster-affected victims, including persons with disabilities, and ensuring that they receive equal access to essential services and support since the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.
- **Extreme Heat:** AIDMI has been working on extreme heat projects, focusing on small businesses and vulnerable communities. This includes developing resources for evaluating extreme heat projects, conducting case studies, and collaborating with local governments, NGOs, and communities to develop and implement heat action plans. Almost always, persons with disability come up in such work since 2014.
- **Floods:** AIDMI has been working on flood risk reduction initiatives, including developing flood risk management plans, conducting research on flood-related health risks, and promoting the use of flood-resistant infrastructure since 1997. Surat floods, where evacuating the disabled population was a major challenge.

State-Specific Initiatives

AIDMI's work in various states has demonstrated the importance of disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and humanitarian action. Some examples include:

- **Kerala:** AIDMI has worked with the Kerala government and local communities to develop seven sector plans for departments where disability-inclusive disaster preparedness, particularly in the context of floods and landslides has come.
- **Assam:** AIDMI has implemented flood risk reduction initiatives in Assam, including developing flood risk management plans and promoting the use of flood-resistant infrastructure for schools in each district and challenge of disabled children has come up in the planning process.

- **Uttar Pradesh (UP):** AIDMI has worked with the UP government and local communities to develop heat disaster risk reduction agriculture plans, focusing on vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities in the monitoring and evaluation process.
- **Gujarat:** AIDMI has implemented disaster risk reduction initiatives in Gujarat, including developing disaster preparedness plans and promoting the use of disaster-resistant infrastructure at district level with communities and access and ownership for disable population has been at the centre of the process.

Humanitarian Justice and Disability Inclusion

Humanitarian justice in India is not possible without including persons with disabilities in each stage of disaster risk reduction. Disability inclusion is essential to ensure that humanitarian action is equitable, effective, and just. Persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected by disasters and humanitarian crises, and their needs and perspectives that are overlooked must be taken into account in humanitarian planning and response.

Agenda for India

Based on AIDMI's on the ground experience and AIDMI's existing policy research, here are some suggestions for an agenda for India:

- **Inclusive Disaster Preparedness:** Develop and implement disability-inclusive disaster preparedness plans, incorporating the needs of persons with disabilities. Make disable central to City and District Disaster Management Plan.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training and capacity-building programs for humanitarian stakeholders on disability-inclusive disaster response and recovery not only in each State Disaster Management Institutes attached with State Disaster Management Authority but conduct monthly training programmes before summer and monsoon.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with local communities, including persons with disabilities, to develop context-specific disaster risk reduction strategies at school and hospital.

"Let us not forget the most vulnerable among us, including persons with disabilities, in our efforts to build a more just India."

"Where the winds of disaster blow, let us stand together, hand in hand, and ensure that no soul, especially those with disabilities, is left to face the storm alone."