Disability and disaster risk management

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Disability

- People with vision loss/blindness
- People with hearing loss/Deafness
- People with physical disability
- People with intellectual disability
- People with mental illness
Disability statistics

- 15% of world’s population has a disability (WHO 2010) = One billion people
- High proportion in Asia Pacific region
- Many in developing countries
Disability as a social model

- Medical model: A person needs to be fixed
- Social model: The community needs to reduce barriers to include people with disability
- The Internet plays a key role
  - Communication
  - Employment
  - Participation
Inclusive design

- Designing for the whole community
  - Kerb ramps on streets for wheelchair users, delivery carts & prams
  - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - Right to equitable access to ICT
  - The Internet is for Everyone (ISOC motto)
Capacity-building in the Pacific

- ISOC Community Grants
  - Capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops
  - PacINET invites people with disability to demonstrate their use of the Internet
People with disability and disasters

- Vulnerability of people with disability and their families
- Physical and information barriers
- Cultural and social attitudes
- Disaster planning has not included people with disability
Regional issue of concern

- First time disability was included in the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2012
  - Need for increased data
  - Need for end-to-end early warning system inclusive of people with disability
  - More support for participation by disability organisations in disaster management planning
Role of Pacific Disability Forum

- Pacific Disability Forum is a regional disability advocacy body based in Fiji
- Capacity training for disability organisations on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management
- Engaging with governments on inclusion of people with disability in disaster risk management
Early-warning systems

- Information is vital
- Standard systems make sense
- Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)
  - XML-based system for exchanging public warnings between alerting technologies
  - ITU Rec. X.1303
Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

- Content can be delivered in many different formats (audio, video, text) to mobile phones, radio, TV and sirens as appropriate.
- Can incorporate multi-modal accessibility features.
- Multi-lingual.
- Adopted in USA, Canada and Australia with trials in Sri Lanka.
Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

Consideration for the Pacific?

- Involvement of Pacific organisations
  - Research
  - Inclusion of all parts of community in planning
  - Analysis of appropriateness
  - Possible adaptations
  - Policy
Thank you!

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