

VOICES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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CAN Conference, Lusaka 8TH May,2018



21 June 2017, SAFOD ROUNDTABLE, South Africa

Outline



- Background
- Objectives
- Problem
- Methodology
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

Objective of Study

- How do persons with disabilities view DRR interventions in Southern Africa?
- What role do persons with disabilities have in addressing the challenges of exclusion in disaster risk reduction interventions?
- What recommendations can be made to mainstream actors to strengthen the integration of DIDRR in the development agenda?

Problem ???

- Person with disabilities are unseen, unheard & unaccounted for in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Floods in Malawi



Problem ???

A person with disability - Lesotho

“if development is not disability inclusive, how can we expect DRM and DRR to be inclusive?”

A Director in the Department of Disability Management Affairs - Malawi

“.....there are so many groups of people who would want to be mentioned in policy. The policy would be congested.....”

A Humanitarian Response Officer - Zambia

“[...] even if we give [persons with disabilities] wheelchairs, they cannot get around [in the villages] because the environment is not accessible”.

Missing Principles

- ❑ Inclusion
- ❑ Equality
- ❑ Non discrimination

Methodology

- The **World Risk Index** - assess and estimate the disaster risk of a country, compared to other countries.
- Participatory Workshop (Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi & Mozambique)

Structural Components and Indicators of the World Risk Index

- 1. Exposure 2. Susceptibility 3. Coping Capacity 4. Adaptive Capacity

EXPOSURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Cyclones
- Floods
- Droughts
- Sea level rise

Lesotho

- **Vulnerability 61,65 %**
- **Susceptibility 49,66 %**
- **Lack of Coping capacity 78,50 %**
- **Lack of Adaptive capacity 56,80 %**

Malawi

- **Vulnerability 66,53 %**
- **Susceptibility 60,68 %**
- **Lack of Coping capacity 83,14 %**
- **Lack of Adaptive capacity 55,78 %**

Zambia

- **Vulnerability 66,95 %**
- **Susceptibility 62,78 %**
- **Lack of Coping capacity 80,30 %**
- **Lack of Adaptive capacity 57,76 %**

General Findings

- **Persons with Disabilities** are amongst the poorest - disempowering stigmas, discrimination and marginalization.
- **Women and girls with disabilities** are at greater risk of violence, physical abuse and sexual exploitation after disasters
- The perception of seeing persons with disabilities as **objects of care** is high among mainstream actors

- Little empirical evidence on the challenges when responding to hazards and disasters
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 -2030) yet no pathways of achieving targets.
- *DRR stakeholders have little knowledge on how to support DiDRR and lack the skills and capacity needed.*

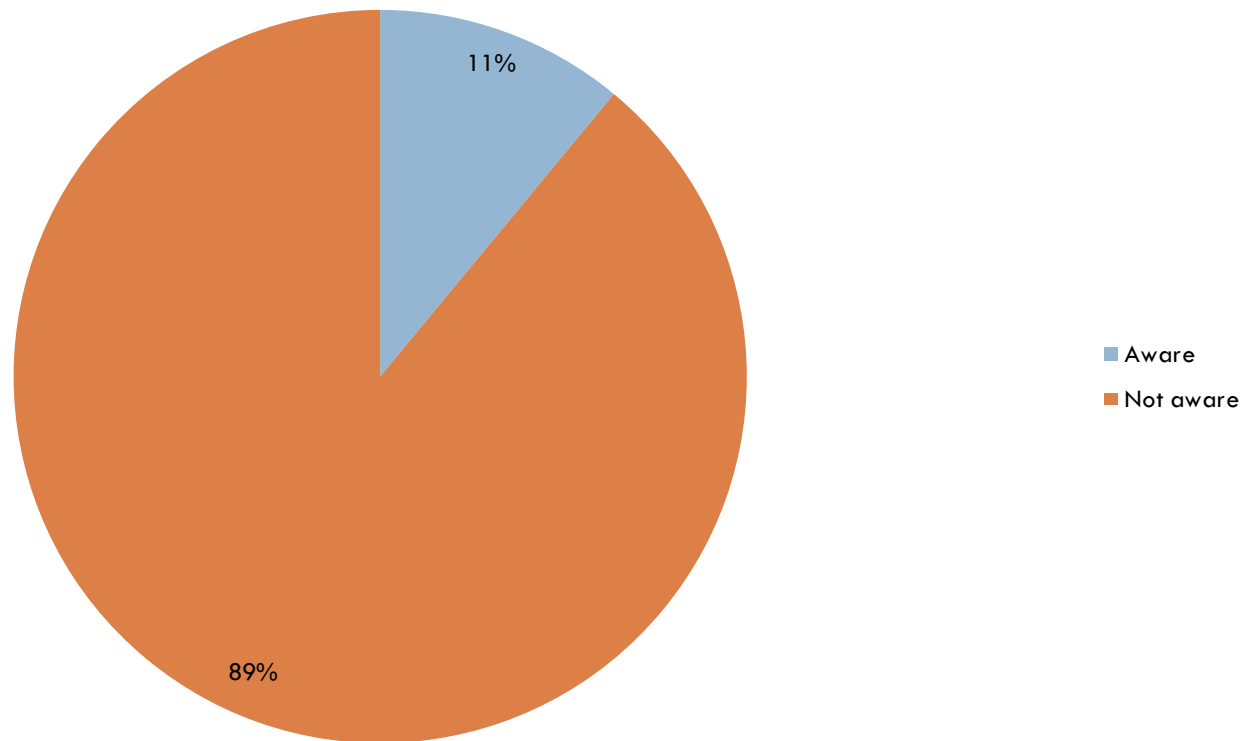
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- Few platforms to link DRR stakeholders with those who have the skills and knowledge they lack – Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

Findings : Challenges



- Structural Inequalities
- Lack of knowledge
- Inaccessible information
- Absence of self representation
- Laxity in enforcement

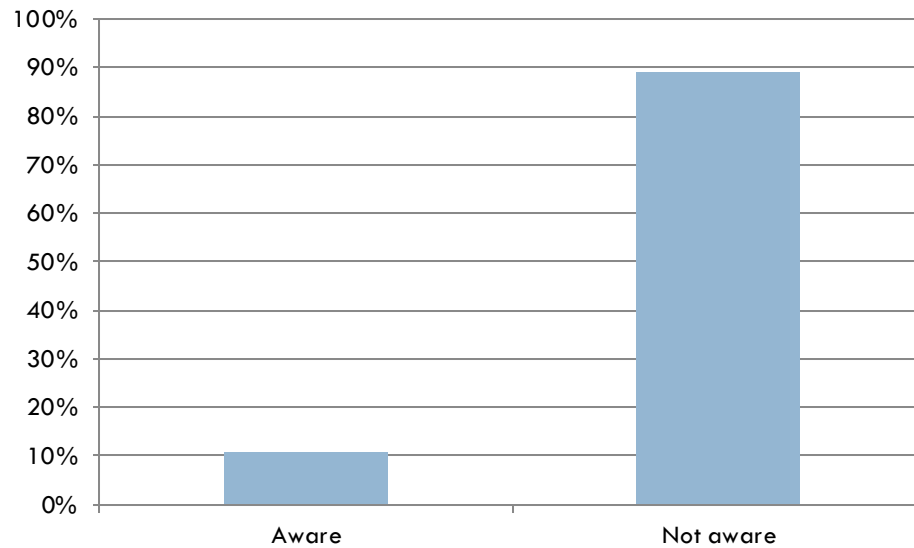
Findings : Preparedness



Awareness



Findings: Awareness





Recommendations

Taking a systems approach, we will create change via three interconnected pathways:

1. Knowledge & skills
2. Attitudes & belief systems
3. Inclusive governance

Recommendations



Recommendations

- Awareness and sensitization of disability issues;
- Capacity building of DPOs and mainstream actors;
- Active participation and involvement of persons with disabilities in mainstream interventions;
- Comprehensive accessibility audits of all mainstream interventions; and
- Twin track approach, combining integration of disability issues in mainstream interventions with specialized services.



NATOTELA !!!!!

ZIKOMO !!!!!

SIYABONGA !!!!!

OBRIGADO !!!!!

KE A LEBOGA

TATENDA !!!!!

THANK YOU !!!!!