

# COLLABORATION DURING CRISES

**Research on the success factors in collaboration efforts for support for CYWD in the contexts of Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Bangladesh.**

Children and young people with disabilities (CYWD) are highly vulnerable to consequences of climate change and conflicts, which are increasingly common in today's world, yet their rights are often not met. This paper is one of the three summary papers describing lessons learned from four humanitarian - development nexus research projects funded by Liliane Fonds. The paper is based on conflict-related insights from Burkina Faso and Cameroon and climate change-related insights from Bangladesh and Indonesia. Success in addressing the consequences of climate change and conflict on CYWD relies on collaboration among a wide range of actors.

## FORMS OF COLLABORATION NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE SUPPORT

### CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION & MULTI-LEVEL COORDINATION



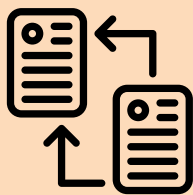
Successful interventions require the integration of disability inclusion across sectors such as health, education, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). In Bangladesh, inclusive DRR was achieved through joint planning between local disaster committees, schools, and youth clubs, ensuring accessible infrastructure and early warning systems. Indonesia's experience in Timor Tengah Utara (TTU) and Ternate demonstrated the need for provincial-district coordination to operationalize inclusive climate adaptation. In both countries disability inclusion is present on paper, in policies, yet shows a gap in terms of implementation. Vertical collaboration between national, provincial, and local actors can help to fill that gap and ensure policy coherence and effective implementation.

### INCLUSIVE PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING



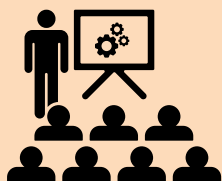
Meaningful participation of CYWD and their caregivers in planning processes is essential. In Burkina Faso, inclusive budgeting and participatory governance were promoted by involving persons with disabilities in municipal planning and monitoring. Cameroon highlighted the importance of community-based consultations and peer-led advocacy to ensure that lived experiences inform policy.

## DATA AND EVIDENCE SHARING



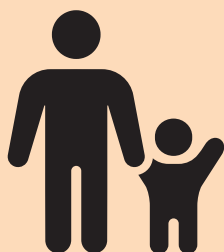
Collaborative data systems are vital for identifying needs and tracking progress. CYWD are an understudied group within research DRR or emergency response. Thus, the importance of disability-disaggregated data in climate vulnerability mapping and service delivery was stressed in all four studies as a tool for effective service delivery, as well as advocacy efforts. Cameroon's actor mapping, for example, revealed gaps in service coverage that could be addressed through shared data platforms.

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND JOINT TRAINING



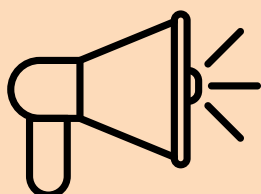
Joint training of humanitarian responders, educators, and health workers at community-level on disability inclusion enhances service quality. For example, partners in Bangladesh trained Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers and school brigades on inclusive emergency response. Similarly, partners in Cameroon collaborated with schools to train teachers, not only in inclusive education, but also in disaster preparedness.

## KEY ACTORS TO INCLUDE IN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS



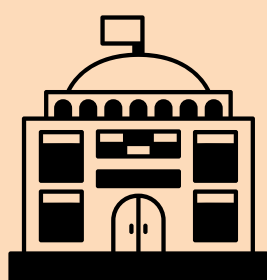
### PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CYWD

Parents/caregivers and more generally families of CYWD are an integral stakeholder to be included in collaborative efforts to reduce the effects of climate change and conflict on their children. For this reason, parents/caregivers were included in the interviews and focus group discussions in all studies.



### ORGANIZATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OPDS)

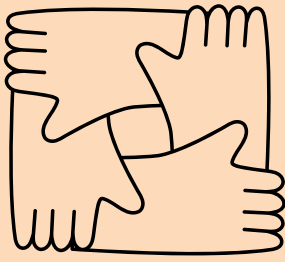
Across the board, OPDs were mentioned as central actors to ensuring representation and accountability. They can take up roles in terms of advocacy and awareness raising, but also in identifying and monitoring needs.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are pivotal in implementing inclusive infrastructure and services. In Bangladesh, Local Disaster Management Committees included persons with disabilities in planning and preparedness. They developed accessible disaster plans and ensured early warnings in multiple formats. In Indonesia, Regional Disaster Management Agencies (BPBDs) led school-based mitigation and worked with OPDs and NGOs to integrate disability perspectives into disaster response planning.

## HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT NGOS



While humanitarian and development NGOs have entirely different visions, missions and approaches, their collaboration is essential, especially in protracted crises. Given the current weak synergy between them, their impact could be enhanced greatly if they work together. For example, in Indonesia, NGOs led participatory risk assessments and inclusive climate action and Burkina Faso's tripartite technical committees facilitated alignment between humanitarian, peace, and development actors.

## HEALTH AND EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONALS



Schools and health centres must be equipped to serve CYWD during crises. As mentioned before, schools are an important actor in promoting disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and climate mitigation. Cameroon's inclusive education centres and Indonesia's school-based health programs exemplify this role. At the same time, schools and hospitals often function as shelters during an emergency. Thus, they can play a pivotal role both in both pre -and post-disaster services.



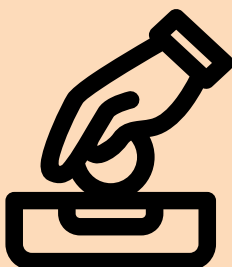
## COMMUNITY LEADERS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

These actors foster trust and mobilize grassroots support. The partners in Indonesia and Burkina Faso leveraged community leaders to promote inclusive climate adaptation and social cohesion. During a crisis, these actors are also essential in providing quick data about the households with CYWD in their communities.



## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

In a similar vein, most of the contexts studied had a form of community response mechanisms. These are local systems that come into action during an emergency. In Bangladesh, these were more institutionalised programmes such as the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, whereas in Burkina Faso, such solidarity mechanisms provide spontaneous support. Given the vital role of first responders, their awareness and knowledge of disability can literally save lives.



## DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Donors must fund disability-inclusive programming and support capacity building. Indonesia's recommendations to donors included embedding disability-responsive metrics and supporting local innovation.

## CONCLUSION

Collaboration across sectors, levels, and actors is not optional; it is foundational to ensuring that CYWD are not left behind in climate change -and conflict-related crises. Knowing which actors to engage and what approaches to take will ultimately reduce the dire effects of climate change and conflict on CYWD. The research from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Indonesia is a first effort to provide data, best practices and practical pathways to achieve this.



This brief was developed as part of the Nexus Project,  
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