

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO CONFLICT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Liliane
Fonds

see the
strength in
every child

Lessons learned from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon & Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Children and young people with disabilities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and conflict, both increasingly common in today's world, yet their rights remain unmet. This paper is one of three summaries capturing lessons from four humanitarian and development nexus research projects funded by Liliane Fonds. These projects focused on conflict-related contexts in Burkina Faso and Cameroon, and climate change-related contexts in Bangladesh and Indonesia. Across all four countries, climate change and conflict pose distinct but overlapping challenges that exacerbate vulnerabilities for Children and Youth with Disabilities. Below, six rights-based approaches are highlighted to support the inclusion of Children and Youth with Disabilities in climate and peacebuilding efforts.

COMMON INCLUSIVE NEXUS APPROACHES

The following six common approaches emerged from the pilot projects and can serve as a guide to inform inclusive program design in settings affected by conflict and climate change.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Why it matters: Disasters and conflict disrupt access to healthcare, education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and rehabilitation, services that Children and Youth with Disabilities rely on for *survival and development*.

Program design implication: Prioritize continuity and accessibility of services in emergencies, with mobile outreach and inclusive infrastructure.

Mobile outreach:

Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers in Bangladesh trained in disability inclusion deliver alerts via SMS and sirens, while mobile clinics and assistive devices reach remote areas. Similar community-based strategies in Indonesia, Burkina Faso, and Cameroon enhance preparedness and resilience for CYWD.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION STRENGTHENS FAMILIES AND FUTURES



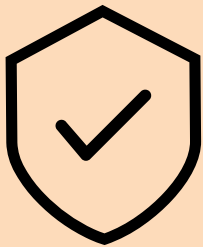
Why it matters: Economic insecurity of families with Children and Youth with Disabilities increases vulnerability. Inclusive livelihoods reduce dependency and support long-term resilience.

Program design implication: Integrate inclusive livelihoods into climate adaptation and recovery programs, with tailored support for caregivers and youth.

Vocational training & access to land:

Displaced youth and women with disabilities in Burkina Faso received training in weaving, soap making, tailoring, and livestock rearing. Combined with access to land and income support, these initiatives fostered autonomy and inclusion through practical skills and livelihood opportunities, despite limited resources.

PROTECTION SYSTEMS MUST BE INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE



Why it matters: Children and Youth with Disabilities face heightened risks of exclusion, violence, and neglect. Social protection systems must be inclusive and responsive to their needs.

Program design implication: Strengthen inclusive social protection systems with targeted outreach, accessible benefits, and protection mechanisms.

Inclusive and adaptive social safety nets:

In Bangladesh, families of children with disabilities receive disability allowances and social safety support, easing monthly care costs of 4,161 BDT for children (€29.34) and 3,822 BDT for youth (€26.93). Indonesia promotes disability-inclusive disaster policies and accessible infrastructure. Both countries stress targeted outreach and community-based support to meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES ARE LEADERS, NOT JUST BENEFICIARIES

Why it matters: Children and Youth with Disabilities must be seen as active agents, not passive recipients. Their participation improves program relevance and fosters dignity and resilience.

Program design implication: Create platforms for Children and Youth with Disabilities to lead and contribute, including youth forums, peer education, and leadership training.

Engagement of Organisations of Persons with disabilities (OPDs)



OPDs in Burkina Faso advocate for inclusive budgeting, co-design projects, and promote disability rights. Their partnerships with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have enabled vocational training, assistive device access, and better services, positioning OPDs as vital actors in inclusive humanitarian and development efforts, despite funding and coordination

PREPAREDNESS SAVES LIVES, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE MOST AT RISK

Why it matters: Children and Youth with Disabilities are disproportionately affected by disasters due to mobility, sensory, and communication barriers. Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) ensures their safety and participation in preparedness and response.

Program design implication: advocate and implement inclusive DRR and peacebuilding in national and local plans, ensure accessible infrastructure, and involve Children and Youth in simulations and planning.

Comprehensive, inclusive DRR planning:

The nexus research in Bangladesh led to a 12 point multisectoral steps to enhance inclusive disaster risk reduction. Starting from inclusive data collection, inclusion awareness raising to sector specific actions for disaster and conflict preparedness and response. Steps can be adapted to different context depending on the situation.

WHAT GETS MEASURED GETS INCLUDED

Why it matters: Without disaggregated data and inclusive policies, Children and Youth with Disabilities remain invisible in planning and response.

Program design implication: Invest in inclusive data systems, ensure Children and Youth with Disabilities are counted, and advocate for disability-inclusive policy framework.

Consequences of the lack of data

In Cameroon, poor data left 43% of children and youth with disabilities unregistered, excluding them from services and increasing vulnerability to abuse. In contrast, Bangladesh used Washington Group Questions to collect inclusive data, enabling targeted support such as disability allowances, assistive devices, and inclusive disaster planning, reaching 100% of surveyed children and youth with disabilities.

CONCLUSION

Inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience are essential to protect and empower children and young people with disabilities. Lessons from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Indonesia show that integrating inclusive planning, economic empowerment, accessible services, and data-driven policies can significantly enhance resilience and participation. These strategies must be adapted to local contexts and sustained through collaboration with communities and organizations of persons with disabilities.

This brief was developed as part of the Nexus Project,
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