



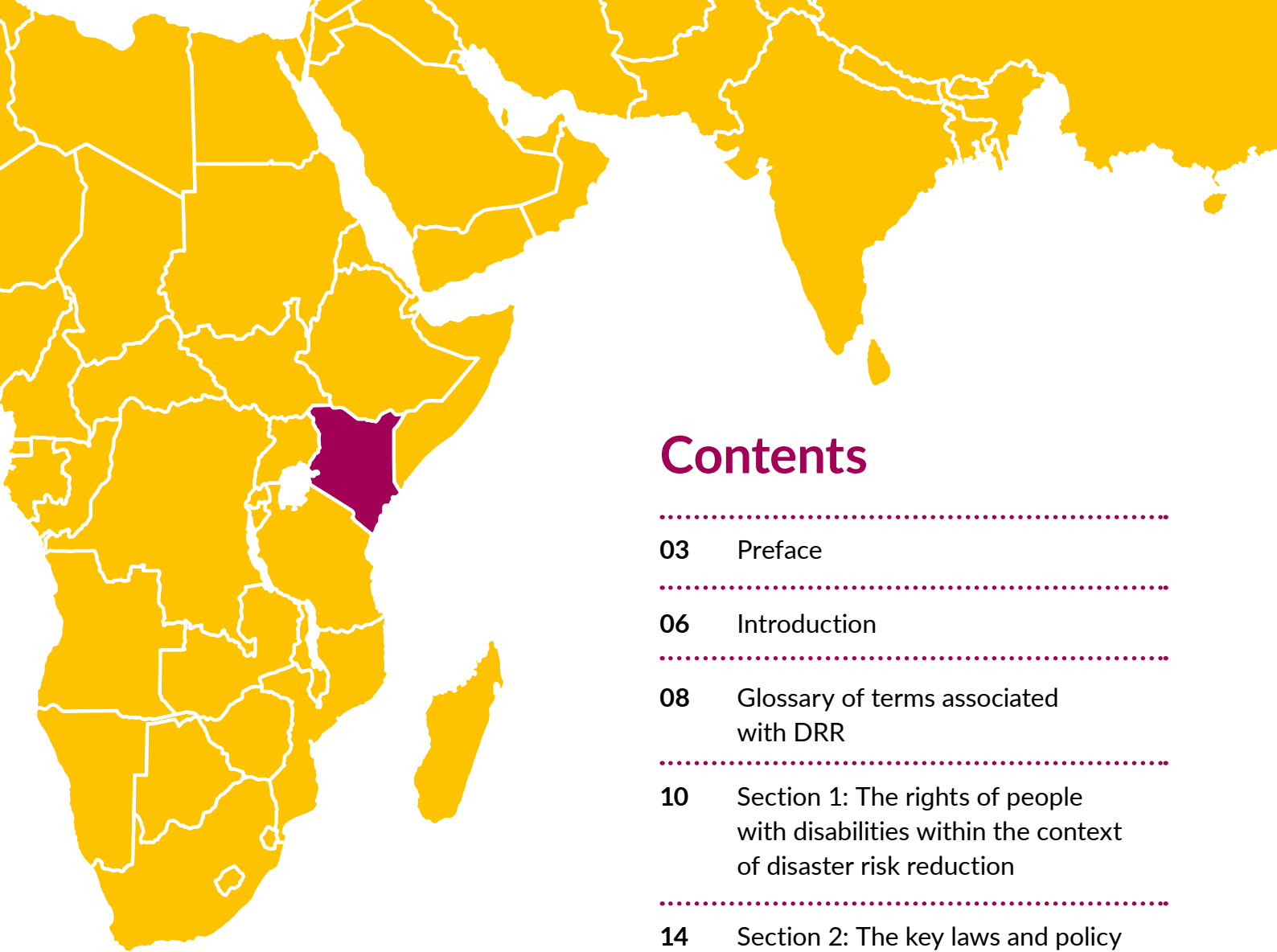
Disaster risk reduction in Kenya

A guide to ensuring inclusion, rights and obligations for people with disabilities using the disability inclusive approach to social accountability (DASA)

July 2025



Sightsavers



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Cover image:

Wambui a physically disabled businesswoman standing outside her new shoe shop in DC Kibera Nairobi. March 2025.

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Preface


Why was this guide developed?

This guide was developed to support efforts to ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programmes are inclusive for people with disabilities. Evidence shows that men and women with disabilities, across all age groups, are among the most disproportionately affected by climate change and disasters, yet they remain significantly underrepresented in planning and response structures.

A desk review conducted by Sightsavers - along with key partners under the Hear Me See Me (HMSM) project - and a pilot initiative in Nairobi County aimed at empowering women with disabilities to influence climate policy, particularly around DRR, both identified critical gaps in how the rights and needs of people with different types of impairments are addressed in existing DRR frameworks.

While rights, as well as legal and policy frameworks, support and promote inclusive disaster risk management, the reality of the

experiences of people with disabilities during disasters does not always reflect this. The HMSM project interrogated the incoherence between policy and implementation realities in order to develop this guide. The guide aligns with Kenya's policy environment - which aims to enhance the participation, protection and resilience of people with disabilities in the context of climate change and disaster preparedness. It also serves as a strong reference to the Kenyan policy landscape on disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction.



The Ngong River, which passes through Chokaa, Njiru town in Nairobi County. The river experience extreme during the April 2024 El Niño rains which destroyed some local residents homes. March 2025.

What is this guide about?

This guide is part of the Hear Me See Me project, a flagship initiative led by Sightsavers, Lensational, and the Gifted Community Centre. The project uses the disability-inclusive social accountability (DASA) approach to help amplify the voices of women with disabilities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Kenya - making their experiences visible and impactful for policymakers. Through photovoice and social accountability tools, such as the disability accountability approach to social accountability (DASA), the project supports community-led advocacy and enhances the capacity of organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) to influence inclusive governance.

While Kenya has strong policy commitments to disability-inclusive DRR - anchored in its constitution, national policy frameworks, and international treaties such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Sendai Framework - implementation remains uneven, especially at the local level. People with disabilities still face significant barriers in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This guide offers practical tools and policy insights to help bridge the gap between rights on paper and actual inclusion in practice.

What does it include?

- **Rights and entitlements overview:**
A breakdown of what people with disabilities are entitled to during all phases of disaster management - before, during, and after, emergencies.
- **Policy mapping:**
A concise summary of key Kenyan laws and global treaties that require inclusion in DRR, and how to use them to advocate for change.
- **The DASA Tool:**
A participatory social accountability approach that helps communities, especially organisations of people with disabilities, to evaluate the inclusiveness of DRR policies and services.
- **DASA Scorecard:**
A practical tool to score and reflect on key indicators that are essential to inclusive DRR - such as early warning systems, infrastructure, access to services, and government responsiveness.

What Is the DASA Tool and why does it matter?

A disability inclusive approach to social accountability (DASA) bridges the gap between policy and practice. It is a generic tool/process that can be used in different contexts and countries. As part of the Hear Me See Me project, it has been used in the DRR context in Kenya.

DASA enables communities to collect evidence, highlight gaps, and collaborate with service providers and the government to drive improvement. The DASA is a participatory social accountability method that empowers people with disabilities, especially women and marginalised groups, to assess the extent to which disaster risk reduction policies are inclusive and monitor implementation of disability inclusion commitments in disaster risk management. It brings together community members, OPDs, service providers, and local government, and provides a structured way for OPDs and local authorities to jointly assess performance, share perspectives, and build action plans to strengthen inclusive disaster preparedness and response.

DASA is a five-step method developed by Sightsavers to empower people with disabilities, particularly women and girls,

to assess the extent to which DRR services are inclusive and responsive to their needs. It involves:

1. Planning and preparation
2. Community-based scoring
3. Dialogue between citizens and duty bearers
4. Joint action planning
5. Follow-up and advocacy

Why it matters:

DASA bridges the gap between policy and practice. It enables communities to collect evidence, highlight gaps, and collaborate with service providers and the government to drive improvement. By enabling this kind of engagement, DASA helps transform inclusive disaster risk management from written commitments into real, lived change.

How can this guide be used?

- **For OPDs and communities:** To understand their rights and protections, evaluate service gaps, and advocate for inclusive change.
- **For government officials:** To assess performance, co-create solutions, and build trust with the communities they serve.
- **For NGOs and donors:** To support community-led accountability and strengthen inclusive DRR programming.
- **For DRR practitioners:** To design and deliver accessible, rights-based responses across all phases of disaster management.

Introduction

Kenya is one of the most natural disaster-prone countries in the Greater Horn of Africa, with around 70 per cent of natural disasters in the country directly resulting from extreme climatic events such as floods and droughts. These events can severely disrupt people's lives, and the existing situation will only get worse because of climate change. In terms of the human impact, an estimated three to four million Kenyans are negatively affected each year by both natural and human-made disasters, sometimes with devastating consequences.¹

Kenya's disaster profile is dominated by a combination of drought, fire, floods, terrorism, technological accidents, diseases and epidemics that can severely disrupt people's lives, destroy the country's infrastructure, divert the planned use of resources, interrupt economic activities and stall development.

What is disaster risk reduction?

Disaster risk reduction refers to the process of reducing the harm created by disasters such as floods, storms, earthquakes, or fires. It achieves this by finding ways to keep people safer from these natural disasters. This can include pre-emptive measures such as promoting useful safety advice and improving preparation for potential emergencies before disasters happen, as well as providing vital assistance after a disaster has occurred.

Disaster risk reduction should involve everyone in society, including people with disabilities. Sightsavers, along with our key partners, strongly advocate for disaster risk reduction that is fully disability inclusive.

¹ Kenya: National disaster risk management policy 2017

This resource is divided into four main sections:



Section 1

Highlights the **rights and entitlements of people with disabilities** to be fully included in the provision of disaster risk reduction policies in Kenya.



Section 2

Summarises **the laws and policy frameworks** that underpin the rights outlined in section one by asking key questions about them in relation to people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction.



Section 3

This section includes a brief explanation about Sightsavers' **Disability Inclusive Approach to Social Accountability (DASA)**, as well as a concise summary of how people with disabilities can ensure disaster risk reduction policy



Section 4

Provides a **Disability Approach to Social Accountability (DASA) Scorecard on disaster risk reduction**. This is a practical assessment tool developed by Sightsavers that can be used by organisations of people with disabilities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of disaster risk reduction policies.

Using the tool will help identify any key gaps, that can then be discussed with key decision-makers in order to help build relationships and improve service provision within this important field.

Images

(Top) At her home, Maria a resilient, hard-working woman living with epilepsy reflects on her near-death during the April 2024 flooding episode. Kangemi, Nairobi.

© Sightsavers/
Patricia Kamanthe

(Second) Teresiah a wheelchair user, shows the hole on the wall of her compound which was damaged due to severe flooding in April 2024 Riruta Satellite, Dagoretti south Nairobi

© Sightsavers/
Caterina Nyambura

(Third) Simon a father with a physical impairment, his wife Mary, and the children stand in the remnants of their house in Kibra Laini Saba, Nairobi. Despite the loss of their house and properties due to extreme flooding, they remain hopeful and strong.

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Christine Atieno

(Bottom) Samson a youth leader takes part in a youth led clean-up initiative on the Kariobangi South river, Nairobi. Samson hopes to involve more youth with disabilities in the initiatives.

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Glossary of terms associated with DRR

The Sendai Framework Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction promotes a common understanding and usage of disaster risk reduction concepts and assists the disaster risk reduction efforts of authorities, practitioners and the public².

Affected

People who are affected, either directly or indirectly, by a hazardous event. Directly affected are those who have suffered injury, illness or other health effects; who were evacuated, displaced, relocated or have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets. Indirectly affected are people who have suffered consequences, other than or in addition to direct effects, over time, due to disruption or changes in the economy, critical infrastructure, basic services, commerce or work, or social, health and psychological consequences.

Disaster

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

Disaster risk

The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

Disaster risk reduction

Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new, and reducing existing, disaster risk and managing residual risk - all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and, therefore, to the achievement of sustainable development.

Disaster risk assessment

A qualitative or quantitative approach to determine the nature and extent of disaster risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of exposure and vulnerability that, together, could harm people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

Early warning system

An integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activities, systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events.

Preparedness

The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters.

²Disaster risk reduction terminology

Prevention

Activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks.

Reconstruction

The medium and long-term rebuilding and sustainable restoration of resilient critical infrastructures, services, housing, facilities and livelihoods required for the full functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster - aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better', to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

Recovery

The restoring or improving of livelihoods and health - as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities - of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better', to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

Rehabilitation

The restoration of basic services and facilities for the functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster.

Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors, or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

Section 1

The rights of people with disabilities within the context of disaster risk reduction

This section briefly highlights the rights and entitlements of people with disabilities to be fully included within the provision of disaster risk reduction policies in Kenya.

Entitlements are the rights, benefits, or services that individuals are legally or morally guaranteed - based on laws, policies, or international agreements. They represent **what people are owed** and form the basis for holding governments and institutions **accountable**.

Obligations are the duties and responsibilities that governments or other duty-bearers are legally or morally required to fulfil, especially under national laws, policies, or international agreements. These obligations reflect **what the government must do** to uphold human rights and deliver services fairly and inclusively.

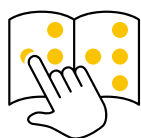
Entitlements of people with disabilities in disaster contexts in Kenya

Under Kenyan law, both before and during any disasters, people with disabilities have the right to:



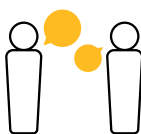
Be included

People with disabilities have the right to be part of disaster planning and decision-making.



Understand information

All alerts and instructions should be clear and easy for people with disabilities to access (for example, made available in braille, or using sign language).



Access help

Rescue, shelters, and services must be available and suitably designed for everyone, including people with disabilities.



Obtain support

Assistance such as transportation or personal care should be available to people with disabilities when needed. This might include, for example, special healthcare, rehabilitation services, and assistive devices to aid recovery and participation in society.



Stay safe and respected

The safety, dignity, and rights of people with disabilities must always be protected – before, during and after any disaster and emergency situations.

Following any disaster, people with disabilities also possess the following rights:



The right to safety

People with disabilities should be safe and have access to shelters and emergency services that fully meet their needs.



The right to information

People with disabilities should receive disaster information in ways they can understand - such as, for example, braille, sign language, or audio.



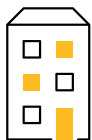
The right to participate

People with disabilities should be fully included in planning, decision-making and recovery processes.



The right to healthcare

People with disabilities should have adequate access to health care, including therapy and special equipment such as prosthetics.



The right to housing

People with disabilities should have safe, accessible, homes following any disaster.



The right to jobs

People with disabilities should be able to find jobs and receive support to rebuild their lives.



The right to fair aid

People with disabilities should receive equitable help during post-disaster relief efforts.

Government obligations to people with disabilities in disaster contexts in Kenya

Under Kenyan law and international commitments, government institutions have a duty to:

Before and during disasters:

- **Include** people with disabilities in disaster planning and decision-making.
- **Communicate** alerts and instructions in accessible formats (for example, braille, sign language, audio).
- **Ensure access** to rescue, shelter, and emergency services that meet diverse needs.
- **Provide support** such as accessible transport, personal assistance and rehabilitation.
- **Protect rights** by upholding safety, dignity, and non-discrimination at all stages.

After disasters

- **Ensure safety and shelter** through accessible emergency housing and services.
- **Share recovery information** in formats that everyone can understand.
- **Include people with disabilities** in recovery planning and implementation.
- **Guarantee healthcare access**, including therapy and assistive devices.
- **Support livelihood recovery** by promoting inclusive employment.
- **Deliver fair aid** by ensuring equal access to relief and recovery services.



Section 2

The key laws and policy frameworks that underpin the rights of people with disabilities

This section summarises the laws and policy frameworks that underpin the rights outlined in section one by asking key questions about them in relation to people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction.

It's important to stress that the rights of people with disabilities outlined in section one are just that – rights – and are enshrined within Kenyan law and policy frameworks. This section summarises these policies by asking key questions about them in relation to people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction. The accompanying answers highlight the laws and policies that apply to that specific situation. It's important for people with disabilities and their representatives to know which policies apply so that they can refer to them with decision-makers if they feel these rights aren't being provided.

Background context

Kenya is a signatory to several global and regional instruments, including the **Sendai Framework** and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**. The UNCRPD explicitly mandates that the rights of people with disabilities should be fully integrated into disaster risk reduction. Within the UNCRPD, Article 11 focuses on the importance of protecting people with disabilities during emergencies, such as natural disasters, wars, or other crises. It stresses the importance of ensuring the safety and protection of people with disabilities during situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including the following key considerations:

- **Safety first**
Governments must take steps to protect and assist people with disabilities during emergencies.
- **Equal treatment**
People with disabilities should receive the same level of help and support as everyone else.

- **Accessibility**
Emergency services and safety information must be easy for people with disabilities to access and use.
- **Engaging with organisations of people with disabilities**
The full involvement of organisations of people with disabilities is vital to ensuring that the specific challenges faced by people with disabilities during disasters are fully understood and planned for.

The concluding comments of the CRPD Review Committee, in 2015, urged Kenya to ensure that disaster management policies and responses explicitly include the needs of people with disabilities. This is to ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities at all stages and levels of disaster risk reduction policies, in both their planning and implementation.

Further reading

Sendai Framework

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

Whether you have a disability yourself, or are someone who is involved in disaster risk reduction work, it's important to have a good understanding of the key laws and policies. This knowledge can then be used to help ensure the rights of people with disabilities within this vital area.

The following are a list of key questions and answers, which can be referred to when correcting and educating anyone who questions or denies these rights:

Do disaster risk reduction policy frameworks in Kenya consider people with disabilities?



Yes. In Kenya, when disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies are aligned with disability-focused policies, they recognise the importance of including people with disabilities in disaster planning, response, and recovery. This alignment helps ensure that people with disabilities can remain safe and access the support they need during emergencies. However, the extent of inclusion varies across DRR policies, and not all DRR frameworks provide clear and consistent provisions for people with disabilities. Key DRR policies that reference disability inclusion include:

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010

This states that county governments are responsible for managing disasters and, within this duty, must ensure that people with disabilities are safe and supported in disaster situations. Article 54 of the constitution states that people with disabilities are entitled to 'reasonable access to all places, public transport and information'.

The National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, 2009

This policy specifies that people with disabilities should be included in disaster planning. It states that everyone should be protected and supported during disasters, especially those who are more vulnerable, such as people with disabilities.

Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025

This Act recognises the rights of people with disabilities to protection in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters. Section 18 of the Act requires every institution, whether public or private, to maintain an inventory of all people with disabilities within their establishment and for institutions engaged in emergency or humanitarian services to give priority and specific attention to people with disabilities, in all situations of risk - while taking appropriate measures to ensure the safety and protection of people with disabilities. The Act promotes the use of disaggregated data, universal design, and accessible early warning systems, aligning well with the international disability rights obligations set out in Article 11 of the UNCRPD.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy focuses on promoting **resilience** and **equity** for people with disabilities by ensuring their **rights and safety** are protected in all emergencies, their **voices and experiences** are represented in disaster governance, and barriers to **accessing services and aid** during recovery are eliminated. Through **section 2.26** the Government undertakes to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of people with disabilities in diverse disaster risk situations - including floods, climate change, pandemics, drought, terrorism, accidents, and political conflicts that result in internal displacement. The policy commits to:

- **Sensitise** people with disabilities on preparedness in risk and emergency situations.
- Take measures to ensure that people with disabilities and their representative organisations are meaningfully and **actively consulted and involved in all steps of disaster risk and humanitarian emergencies**.
- Collect and disseminate **disability disaggregated data** in situations of risks for planning purposes.
- **Build the capacity of humanitarian workers** and train rescue teams on the rights of people with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.
- Ensure the protection and safety of people with disabilities in situations of risk, through the provision of the necessary assistive devices and technologies, accessible shelters, relief, and facilities.
- **Provide information in accessible formats** on situations of risk and humanitarian emergency to people with disabilities, especially to people with visual, hearing, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.
- Take measures to ensure that **post-emergency rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction, and rebuilding processes are inclusive and accessible** to people with disabilities through the application of universal design principles.

This policy reflects Kenya's commitment to implementing CRPD Article 11 and SDG 11.5 and 13.1 on inclusive disaster resilience.

Do any other policies indirectly cover people with disabilities in relation to disaster risk reduction without specifically mentioning them?



Yes. These include:

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD)

This policy recognises that disasters impact women, children, and marginalised groups, including women with disabilities, more severely. It includes **cross-cutting principles** that can be **interpreted to support the inclusion of people with disabilities**, especially women and girls with disabilities, in the context of DRR. The policy recognises that women and girls with intersecting vulnerabilities (for example, disability, poverty, rural location) face **heightened risks** during emergencies and calls for **inclusive planning and budgeting** to ensure marginalised women and girls are protected in all development and humanitarian efforts.

The policy encourages **mainstreaming of gender in emergency planning**, providing a strategic **entry point to advocate for consideration of the intersectional risks** faced by women and girls with disabilities during disasters and the need for their inclusion. It also advocates for the collection of disaggregated data (by sex, age, location, etc). While disability isn't always named, this principle supports calls for disability-disaggregated data in DRR.

The Nairobi City County Gender Mainstreaming Policy

The Nairobi City County Gender Mainstreaming Policy, as outlined in Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, emphasises general principles of inclusivity and affirmative action, aiming to ensure that county programmes and services are accessible to all marginalised groups, including people with disabilities. The policy aims to achieve this through gender mainstreaming, integrating gender considerations into all county functions and services; through disability mainstreaming and affirmative action, by ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equitable access to county programmes and services; and through programmes for vulnerable groups, by developing and managing initiatives that support children, women, and people with disabilities, among others. This is specifically found under the section titled Affirmative Action and Special Catalytic Funds. This framework is particularly relevant for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and post-disaster recovery, where inclusive planning and response mechanisms are critical.

To further its commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that women with disabilities are adequately supported and represented, Nairobi City County needs to ensure future revisions of the policy to address the unique challenges faced by women with disabilities to promote targeted interventions. Mechanisms to collect disaggregated data on women with disabilities need to be put in place to inform policy decisions and programme design, while promoting collaboration with organisations representing women with disabilities to ensure their perspectives are incorporated into policy formulation and implementation. This framework is particularly relevant for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and post-disaster recovery, where inclusive planning and response mechanisms are critical.

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023

While it lacks sufficient detail, this Bill covers many aspects of disaster preparedness and response, including some points on disability inclusion. It requires the inclusion and participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including people with disabilities, in disaster management governance and management through the County Disaster Risk Management Committees (Section 36) and Disaster Risk Management Volunteers (Section 44).

While these provisions highlight an intent to include people with disabilities in disaster risk management frameworks, the Bill could benefit from more detailed guidelines on ensuring accessibility and active participation of individuals with disabilities in all phases of disaster management.

Are policy frameworks in Kenya aligned with international frameworks?



Yes. The laws and policies in Kenya align with global commitments on disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction. These focus on making sure that people with disabilities are involved in all steps of disaster planning, response, and recovery. These commitments aim to ensure people with disabilities are protected, have access to services, and can fully participate in disaster management. Key global policy frameworks include:

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030

This calls for people with disabilities to actively participate in disaster risk reduction processes, including decision-making and policy development.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

As mentioned earlier, Kenya is a signatory to the UNCRPD. This commits it to ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, including adequate access to disaster risk reduction measures.

Do disaster risk reduction policies in Kenya include provisions for building community awareness on disasters in ways that are accessible and inclusive?



Yes. These include:

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy includes a commitment to sensitise people with disabilities and the public on preparedness in risk and emergency situations. It also commits to providing information in accessible formats on situations of risk and humanitarian emergency to people with disabilities within communities - especially to people with visual, hearing, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This Act recognises the importance of promoting the participation of women, youths, and marginalised groups in disaster planning and response – including conducting risk assessments to identify disaster-prone areas to inform mitigation strategies. It establishes a **Disaster and Emergency Management Council**, with the mandate of promoting public awareness and education on disaster preparedness

and response and coordinating with various stakeholders to ensure effective disaster management. The Act also establishes the **Nairobi County DRR Directorate** who are, in part, tasked with facilitating community participation in disaster management activities, conducting training and capacity-building programmes for communities, and establishing and maintaining effective communication systems for disaster warnings and information dissemination.

These general provisions can be interpreted to encompass all community members, including people with disabilities, even though they are not explicitly mentioned.

The Nairobi County Gender Mainstreaming Policy

This policy emphasises broader principles of inclusivity and affirmative action, advocating for disability mainstreaming and the development of programmes supporting the wellbeing of individuals with disabilities.



Julie a woman living with a skin condition called vitiligo seeks shade under a tree, describing how the heat made her vitiligo flare painfully March 2025.

Are people with disabilities, and/or their representatives, included in policies which refer to the process of designing, implementing and monitoring disaster risk reduction strategies as part of the disaster risk reduction policy frameworks?



Yes. Some of the key disaster risk reduction policy frameworks state that the active engagement of people with disabilities in implementing and monitoring disaster risk reduction strategies should be compulsory, especially at county level. These include:

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD), 2019

This policy emphasises the need to enhance resilience through capacity-building and the inclusion of women in disaster risk planning and response; this includes women with disabilities. Chapter 4 of the policy highlights the need for the active participation and recognition of women's unique vulnerabilities in disaster contexts. It notes Kenya's commitment to gender equality which requires that the views, needs, interests and rights of women, girls, men and boys, and those of the special interest groups, shape the development agenda to ensure that all participate and benefit equally.

Through Section 4.9, the Government commits to build the capacities of development agencies in gender mainstreaming into environment and climate change laws, policies and programmes and ensure that women, men, girls and boys participate in, contribute to and benefit from climate resilient programmes and projects. They also commit to support interventions aimed at equitable participation of women, men, girls and boys in the sustainable utilisation of natural resources for economic benefits, including opportunities for carbon trading.

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023

This Bill recommends that people with disabilities be included in disaster planning through groups such as the National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA) and County Disaster Risk Management Committees. This will help ensure that people with disabilities and their representative organisations are meaningfully and actively consulted, and also involved, in all steps of disaster risk and humanitarian emergencies.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy stresses the importance of consulting with, and involving, people with disabilities and their organisations in all steps of disaster planning and emergency response. Through it, the Government commits to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of people with disabilities in disaster risk situations - including floods, climate change, pandemics, drought, terrorism, accidents, and political conflicts that result in internal displacement. This will be achieved through sensitising people with disabilities on preparedness in risk and emergency situations and proactively consulting people with disabilities and their representative organisations on all steps of disaster risk and humanitarian emergencies.

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

The act includes public participation, with reference to community involvement and public awareness in disaster preparedness and response. It reserves representation from civil society and marginalised groups within the Disaster and Emergency Management Council and the County Disaster Management Structure. The structure also includes the Kenya Red Cross Society or

similar humanitarian focused organisations which may include vulnerable groups if partnerships are inclusive in practice.

While the Act **provides a framework for public involvement and has potential entry points** for inclusive practice, it could be further strengthened with **explicit mention and commitments** to people with disabilities and the participation of people with disabilities at all levels of DRR.

In terms of decision-making, are there provisions to ensure the representation of people with disabilities in local and national disaster management committees?



Yes. Some of the key disaster risk reduction policy frameworks state that people with disabilities should be represented in both local and national disaster management committees. This inclusion is vital as it helps ensure their needs are addressed within disaster risk reduction planning, response, and recovery. The key consideration is for everyone to have equal protection and access to resources during emergencies.

These frameworks include:

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD), 2019

This policy allocates resources to ensure women, including those with disabilities, can take part in decision-making and leadership in disaster management. It notes Kenya's commitment to gender equality that requires that the views, needs, interests and rights of women, girls, men and boys, and those of the special interest groups, shape the development agenda to ensure that all participate in and benefit equally from development.

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023

This policy suggests including at-risk communities in disaster planning, and that people with disabilities should be specifically included in disaster management frameworks and key groups such as the National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA) and local committees. In establishing the County Disaster Risk Management Committee, county Governors will be required to observe the principles of gender equity and representation of marginalised communities, youths, and people with disabilities.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy is aimed at ensuring representation of people with disabilities within the multi-agency committee on disaster risk management and humanitarian emergency response.

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This Act establishes the Disaster and Emergency Management Council with the overarching responsibility of disaster management coordination within the county. It emphasises the importance of decentralising disaster management efforts to enhance responsiveness at the local level and provides the framework for operationalisation of ward-level committees or services. This structure allows for localised disaster preparedness and response, ensuring that the unique needs and vulnerabilities of different wards are addressed effectively.

Do the policy frameworks require early warning systems to be accessible in sign language, braille, or audio?



Yes. Some of the policies specifically describe accessible early warning systems, while some others are more general in their approach but still emphasise that disaster risk reduction communications should be inclusive. Policies that highlight the importance of inclusive communication include:

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023, emphasises the importance of inclusive disaster preparedness and response strategies. While the Bill does not explicitly detail specific provisions for the inclusion of people with disabilities, it establishes a framework that promotes comprehensive disaster risk management that balances prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Efforts to influence the progression of the Bill to enactment should be heightened to strengthen the overall legal framework for disaster management in the country and ensure compliance with the UNCRPD and the SENDAI Framework.

National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, 2009

This policy outlines key principles such as inclusivity and community participation, and highlights the importance of effective communication in disaster management. It does not, however, explicitly require the use of specific accessible formats such as sign language, braille or audio for early warning systems. It is anticipated that the policy will be reviewed once the National Disaster Management Bill is enacted to promote coherence, including with other relevant frameworks such as the Persons with Disabilities Act (2025) and the National Disability Policy of 2024.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy requires disaster risk related information to be provided to people with disabilities in accessible formats - especially targeting people with visual, hearing, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD), 2017

The NPGD emphasises the importance of inclusivity and non-discrimination, including the need for equal participation of all genders in development processes. It underscores the need for inclusive communication but does not specifically require that early warning systems be provided in accessible formats.

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This policy encourages the development of early warning systems that are community-centred and accessible to all, including people with disabilities. It mandates the Disaster and Emergency Management Council to develop early warning systems and public education on disaster preparedness. The Act does not require that these early warning systems be made available in accessible formats; this remains a key area for advocacy in the upcoming review of the Act.

In terms of physical access, do national and local policies stress the need for accessible evacuation centres as well as other accessible infrastructure considerations?



Yes. Some of the key policies, especially those that are disability-focused, emphasise the need for accessible infrastructure. They state that emergency shelters should be designed to accommodate people with disabilities - including accessible bathrooms, ramps, and suitable transport. The policies include:

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy helps ensure the safety of people with disabilities in emergencies by providing assistive devices, accessible shelters, and relief services. It also focuses on making post-emergency recovery and rebuilding processes inclusive and accessible, by utilising universal design principles. It calls for disability-friendly evacuation centres and encourages the design of shelters that everyone can access.

The National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, 2009

This policy addresses inclusivity in general terms. Under the code of conduct, the policy requires that provisions are made to ensure mainstreaming care for the visually, physically and mentally challenged; the elderly; women and children; widows and orphans; the sick; and those in need of psycho-social support, forensic/health services, and other specialised needs/services during and after disasters. This could be interpreted to champion responses that promote inclusivity; an explicit mention of the same should be advocated for in future review of the policy.

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025

This Act mandates that public buildings be accessible to people with disabilities, which encompasses facilities such as evacuation centres. Section 18 further requires that construction and reconstruction emergency or humanitarian programmes and activities undertaken by the Government, and any other establishment whether public or private, be undertaken in consultation with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to ensure the accessibility requirements of people with disabilities are considered and met.

The Nairobi County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This Act does not explicitly mandate that evacuation centres be physically accessible. It does, however, promote inclusive disaster preparedness and response, which implies the need for accessible facilities as required in the Nairobi County Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015. The County Disability Act provides an explicit directive regarding accessibility through the provision of barrier-free and disability-friendly environments, which will help ensure access to buildings, roads, and other social amenities. The Adjustment Orders in Section 17 of the County PWD Act empowers the County Board for Persons with Disabilities to issue adjustment orders to proprietors of public buildings, which require modifications to make premises accessible to people with disabilities.

**Do the policy frameworks mandate training for emergency responders on disability inclusion?
Are there initiatives to educate communities about inclusive disaster risk reduction practices?**



Yes. Some policy frameworks require training for emergency responders on disability inclusion and initiatives to educate communities about inclusive disaster risk reduction practices. This is important, because it ensures that emergency responders can effectively assist people with disabilities during disasters and that communities are as prepared as possible to support everyone, making disaster management more inclusive and accessible for all. The frameworks include:

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy encourages building the skills of emergency workers and rescue teams on the rights of people with disabilities in emergencies. It also requires disaster preparedness training for people with disabilities and their caregivers, while encouraging collaboration between disability organisations and disaster risk reduction agencies.

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD)

This policy states that training programmes should equally empower women and men in disaster preparedness and response. The policy also supports community awareness campaigns that focus on the needs of women and girls during emergencies. It emphasises the importance of integrating gender perspectives into all aspects of national development, including disaster risk reduction (DRR). While the policy does not explicitly mandate training for emergency responders on disability inclusion, it underscores the necessity of inclusive approaches in DRR initiatives.

The Nairobi County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This Act mandates general capacity building on inclusive disaster preparedness and response, which implies the need for accessible facilities and services for all community members, including people with disabilities. The expectation is that inclusive practices are built into the overall training programmes for emergency responders.

**Are there specific budget allocations for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction measures?
Do the policy frameworks provide for the distribution of assistive devices during emergencies?**



Yes. This is mentioned in a few of the key policies, which state that disaster relief funds should be set aside to meet the needs of people with disabilities – including the provision of mobility aids or special medical care. Some policies state the need to ensure that people with disabilities are included in recovery programmes and community rebuilding efforts, so they are not excluded following any disaster. These include:

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD)

This policy focuses on strengthening social protection systems to help support vulnerable groups during and after disasters, including particular help for women and children. It also emphasises gender-responsive budgeting in disaster risk reduction programmes and allocates resources for women’s participation in decision-making and leadership in disaster management.

The National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, 2009

While this policy does not outline specific financial provisions for disability-inclusive DRR, it underscores the necessity of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development processes. This approach suggests that DRR activities should consider the needs of all community members, including people with disabilities. The policy recommends that five per cent of the annual national budget be allocated to disaster management activities. It highlights the challenges faced by vulnerable groups - including people with disabilities, the elderly, and the sick - during emergencies and stresses the need for special provisions to cater to these segments of society in emergencies. Future reviews of the policy should include distribution of assistive devices during emergencies.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy emphasises the importance of economic empowerment, which also applies to post-disaster economic recovery for people with disabilities. Through Section 2.19.2, the policy mandates the Government to develop policies and programmes to facilitate the provision of affordable and quality assistive devices, technologies, and support services to people with disabilities.

In order to ensure the safety of people with disabilities in disaster risk situations - including floods, climate change, pandemics, drought, terrorism, accidents, and political conflicts that result in internal displacement - the policy requires the Government to provide the necessary assistive devices and technologies, accessible shelters, relief, and facilities.

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

This policy includes the establishment of a Disaster Management Fund to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction. It encourages partnerships with businesses, NGOs, and international organisations, to raise funds and focuses on rebuilding infrastructure and restoring livelihoods after disasters. Future reviews of the Act should earmark funds for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction measures such as the distribution of assistive devices during emergencies.

The Nairobi City County Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015

This Act establishes the framework to promote the rights and welfare of people with disabilities within the county. It establishes the **Nairobi County Board for Persons with Disabilities** under Section 4, which is tasked with advising the county government on matters related to disability. This Board ought to advocate for the inclusion of disability considerations in disaster management planning and budgeting.

In Kangemi, Nairobi houses are built closer to one another making it difficult for persons with disabilities to move around. March 2025.



Do the disaster risk reduction-related policies include measures for collecting disaggregated data on people with disabilities who have been affected by disasters?



Yes. Disability data disaggregation is now a requirement across ministries and development priorities at the county and national level. Some of the frameworks include:

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025

This Act establishes the National Council for Persons with Disabilities with a key mandate of advising the Government on the systematic collection, analysis and use of national statistics and disaggregated data on issues relating to people with disabilities. Section 18 of the Act requires every institution, whether public or private, to maintain an inventory of all people with disabilities within its establishment and to submit this inventory to the national and county governments, as well as any other agencies responsible for disaster management.

The Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

This policy emphasises the need to collect and share data on people with disabilities during risk assessments for planning purposes, in order to help with planning. Analysing this data helps assess their vulnerabilities, so that disaster risk reduction can be as effective as possible and takes their needs into account.

Are systems in place for people with disabilities to report any barriers or challenges they encounter during disasters?



No. This type of system does not exist within a sufficiently structured format. While there are policies aimed at including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction planning, there is no specific, centralised system for reporting any barriers or challenges they face during disasters at either county or national level.

However, people with disabilities can report such barriers or challenges during disasters via some other systems. These include:

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities

The Persons with Disabilities Act (2025) empowers the National Council to appoint an inspector who shall be empowered to investigate and recommend prosecution or other remedy against any person or persons whose conduct is in violation of the Act, or any regulations made under the Act.

The Kenya National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)

The NDMA has mechanisms for receiving feedback and complaints, including from people with disabilities, about challenges encountered during emergencies.

Various disability organisations

These include the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) and the Kenya Union of the Blind. Both of these organisations play a key role in advocacy, helping people with disabilities raise issues they face during disaster situations.

Community-based feedback mechanisms

Local disaster management committees and community health promoters often act as channels for people with disabilities to report their difficulties, helping ensure their voices and needs are heard.

Hotlines and helplines

Some government and NGO initiatives provide accessible communication channels, such as text or voice helplines, where individuals with disabilities can report challenges during a disaster.

Enhancing these mechanisms would require the further development of accessible reporting systems and the active involvement of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation. The active involvement of people with disabilities is a key aim of the DASA initiative, which is outlined in section three.



Section 3

DASA overview - a disability inclusive approach to social accountability

This section includes a brief explanation about Sightsavers' Disability Inclusive Approach to Social Accountability (DASA), as well as a concise summary of how people with disabilities can help ensure disaster risk reduction policy provisions are put into practice in Kenya.

As outlined in section two, it's clear that the rights of people with disabilities in relation to disaster risk reduction are enshrined within Kenyan law and policy frameworks. However, in reality, these laws and policies aren't always implemented. In fact, it's sometimes not done at all or, even if it is, not sufficiently. While this is a common issue in many countries, not just Kenya, this is still a situation that needs correcting. Public services, especially for the poor and people with disabilities, are often low quality, rudimentary and dysfunctional. It's vital for this situation to be improved.

The **Disability Inclusive Approach to Social Accountability (DASA)** was developed in 2023 by Sightsavers to help equip people with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, with the capacity to assess policies for their inclusivity as well as the ability to evaluate their implementation at the ground level and use this information to influence decision-makers to address the gaps.

The main objectives of DASA are to:

- Develop a participatory monitoring approach led by organisations of people with disabilities to ensure greater accountability among those with responsibility for implementing best practices.
- Ensure national legislation and policies are aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Work effectively within the context of different countries.
- Influence policy implementation at national level, while making use of evidence from a local level.
- Include a strong element of policy analysis led by organisations of people with disabilities.

Social accountability is a pre-requisite for good governance. Traditional accountability mechanisms have failed in terms of minimising corruption and improving access to quality public services. Social accountability holds governments and service providers to account for the standard of services they deliver to **all** members of society.

The four pillars of social accountability

For social accountability to work, four main factors are required:

Organised and capable citizen groups

With the capacity to organise, along with the required technical and negotiation skills.

A responsive government

That is receptive to citizens' participation.

Context and cultural appropriateness

Determined against political, socio-cultural, legal and institutional factors.

Access to information

For this, relevant public data needs to be reliable and available.

Further information

Short film: [What is social accountability?](#)



When should DASA be used?

- Before, during, or after disaster risk reduction programme implementation to ensure accountability.
- When there is a need to strengthen citizen engagement and feedback mechanisms.

Where should DASA be used?

- **Local government and policy implementation**
Municipalities and local councils where policies and programmes require community feedback, especially on disability inclusion.
- **Disaster-affected areas**
Evaluating humanitarian aid and disaster response effectiveness, especially for particularly vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities.

Who should use DASA?

- **Community members**
Service users, including people with disabilities - especially women with disabilities.
- **Service providers**
Healthcare workers, first responders, municipal staff and NGO field officers.
- **Local government representatives**
Officials responsible for service delivery and governance.
- **Civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs**
Organisations that advocate for policy changes with a focus on disaster risk reduction.
- **Donors and development partners**
Agencies funding or supporting social accountability initiatives.

DASA: Main steps

DASA is a participatory social accountability tool that enables communities and service providers to assess and improve services. It follows a four-step process that includes the perspectives of both people with disabilities, and providers, leading to joint action planning.

Step 1 Planning and preparation

Objective:

Identify the focus of the scorecard and prepare stakeholders.

Key activities:

- Identify the services to be assessed (for example, disaster risk reduction, healthcare, education).
- Select target groups (for example, women with disabilities, local authorities, NGOs).
- Form a facilitation team to guide the process.
- Develop key indicators based on disability inclusion priorities.

Example of disaster risk reduction (DRR):

- Accessibility of early warning systems.
- Inclusion of women with disabilities in DRR planning.

Step 2 Conduct the DASA indicator scoring

Objective:

Gather perspectives of people with disabilities on service quality as well as service providers' perspectives on their own performance.

Key activities:

- Develop a **DASA Indicator Scorecard** with performance indicators. Rate services using simple scoring (1-5 scale, symbols for accessibility).
- Collect qualitative feedback through storytelling or photography.
- Service providers assess their own service delivery and identify challenges and successes from their perspective.
- Share findings with people with disabilities and include their perspective on disability inclusion.

Example:

- Women with disabilities rate the **accessibility of evacuation centres** on a scale of 1 to 5, providing real-life experiences.
- Disaster management officers evaluate their performance in **inclusive emergency response efforts**.

Step 3

Interface meeting and dialogue

Objective:

Facilitate discussion between people with disabilities and service providers to compare perspectives and identify solutions.

Key activities:

- Present scorecard to people with disabilities and service providers.
- Facilitate a structured **dialogue to discuss gaps and possible improvements**.
- Promote mutual understanding and accountability.

Example:

People with disabilities might highlight barriers in **emergency evacuation** while service providers discuss **resource constraints**.

Step 4

Joint action planning and follow-up

Objective:

Develop solutions and ensure continuous improvement.

Key activities:

- Develop a **joint action plan** with commitments from both sides.
- Assign responsibilities and set deadlines.
- Establish a follow-up mechanism to track progress.

Example:

Action plans could include installing ramps in evacuation centres and training emergency responders on disability inclusion.

In conclusion, how can people with disabilities ensure disaster risk reduction policy provisions are put to use in Kenya?



People with disabilities can:

- **Speak up for their rights**
They should ask for their needs to be included in disaster planning, such as accessible shelters and suitable warning systems.
- **Be part of the decision-making process**
By joining county disaster management committees to ensure their voices are heard.
- **Be included in disaster planning**
By getting involved in local disaster planning to help ensure their needs are considered.
- **Ask for support**
By using the policy provisions to request help during disasters, such as suitable transportation or healthcare.
- **Help build greater capacity for disaster risk reduction**
By asking for, and participating, in training to better prepare for and respond to disasters.
- **Educate others**
By raising awareness within their local communities about how to include people with disabilities in disaster management.
- **Access resources**
By using disaster relief funds for vital resources such as assistive devices and medical care.
- **Help ensure policies are followed**
By checking if the government is properly following the rules designed to help protect them during disasters and asking for sufficient improvements if needed. Also, by reporting any challenges they face - helping to improve future disaster plans.

While people with disabilities can, and should, do all of the above things, if necessary, responsibility always lies with governments and service providers. In an ideal world people with disabilities should not have to fight for equality with the rest of society.



The house where two women with disabilities Harriet and Wambui used to live in Laini Saba Kibera. The house would later be washed away by floods. February 2025.



Section 4

Disability Approach to Social Accountability (DASA) Scorecard for disaster risk reduction

This final section provides a Disability Approach to Social Accountability (DASA) Scorecard on disaster risk reduction. This is a practical assessment tool developed by Sightsavers that can be used by organisations of people with disabilities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their disaster risk reduction policies.

Using the tool will help identify any important gaps, that can then be discussed with key decision-makers in order to help build relationships and improve service provision within this vital field.

Ideally, the scorecard should also be used by government representatives, who possess important knowledge and insight on how well, or not, disaster risk reduction policies are being implemented for people with disabilities.

The scorecard includes ten different categories for assessment. Within these ten categories are sub-indicators, each of which should be given a score between one and five (one being the worst possible and five being the best possible). The average scores for all of the sub-indicators in each category is the overall score for that category.

Once the scorecard has been completed, ideally by both people with disabilities and government representatives, the total scores for each category can then be used to pinpoint and identify the key strengths and weaknesses of disaster risk reduction planning for people with disabilities. These findings can form the basis for discussions and future planning to address any failings and shortcomings. The final page of the scorecard includes a blank action plan for each of the ten categories, on which should be added the following:

- **What needs to be done?**
- **Who needs to do it?**
- **When should it be done by?**

This concise action plan, covering key areas for disaster risk reduction planning, can then serve as a useful reference point as initiatives and discussions take place for improvements. The categories that scored the lowest should be especially prioritised.

1. Awareness

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation(s)
Awareness of the existence of the disaster risk reduction programme among communities of people with disabilities.			
Awareness of the provisions/ entitlements under the programme.			
Efforts from the government and other entities to build awareness of disaster risk reduction.			
Awareness of the role of the community in disaster risk reduction planning.			
Awareness and understanding of early warning signals from people with disabilities.			
			Average score for awareness:

2. Reach

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation(s)
Availability and reach of appropriate informational materials on disaster risk reduction for people with disabilities.			
Reach of suitable early warning signals available to people with disabilities.			
Reach of physical assistance available during disasters to people with disabilities.			
Reach of insurance payments made to people with disabilities.			
Reach of financial compensation for post disaster recovery and reconstruction available to people with disabilities.			
			Average score for reach:

3. Usage

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation(s)
Level of usage of the programme benefits by people with disabilities.			
Ease of processing post-disaster benefits for people with disabilities – including factors such as documentation, waiting times, accessibility of relief offices, etc.			
Role of caregivers in assisting with accessing and using disaster relief benefits.			
Role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in enabling access to post-disaster relief aid and benefits for people with disabilities.			
Level of participation of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction planning.			
			Average score for usage:

4. Adequacy

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
In terms of quantity, adequacy of the financial assistance provided to people with disabilities for disaster relief.			
In terms of quantity, adequacy of materials provided to people with disabilities for disaster relief.			
Extent of preparedness (including early warning systems for people with disabilities) in place for any potential disasters.			
			Average score for adequacy:

5. Effectiveness

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Fully functioning early warning systems that sufficiently warn all people in the community, including people with disabilities.			
Availability and readiness of emergency services for people with disabilities.			
Quality of disaster relief provided to people with disabilities during and after disasters.			
Timeliness of the relief provided to people with disabilities during and after disasters.			
Extent of corruption (if applicable).			
Availability and functionality of any mechanisms for airing disaster relief-related grievances or complaints.			
Effectiveness of coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector, during disaster response.			

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Post-disaster rebuilding efforts designed to enable fully inclusive community resilience for any future disasters.			
Efficiency and comprehensiveness of post-disaster assessments.			
			Average score for effectiveness:

6. Attitude of officials

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
General behaviour towards people with disabilities (is it supportive and appropriate)?			
Awareness of disability etiquette, and appropriate attitudes and behaviour, among officials when interacting with people with disabilities.			
			Average score for attitude of officials:

7. Infrastructure

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Availability of required (inclusive) infrastructure – such as disaster-proof housing and shelters, roads, bridges, water supply, communication systems - for adequate response during disasters.			
Quality of the available infrastructure.			
Adequacy of the available infrastructure.			
			Average score for infrastructure:

8. Preparedness

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Availability and effectiveness of early warning systems suitable for different types of hazards (for example, floods, earthquakes, etc).			
Community awareness and understanding of early warning signals.			
Timeliness, accuracy and suitability of early warnings signals provided to people with disabilities.			
Adequacy of training on early warning signals for people with disabilities.			
Preparedness of health facilities in terms of their suitability for people with disabilities.			
			Average score for preparedness:

9. Availability of resources to make immediate disaster response fully inclusive

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Human resources			
Financial resources			
Logistical resources (for example, ambulances, water sanitation, etc).			
			Average score for availability of resources to make immediate disaster response fully inclusive:

10. Existence of risk reduction measures

Performance indicator	Score (1 to 5)	Reason for score	Recommendation
Extent of hazard mapping and risk assessment.			
Representation of people with disabilities on the disaster management council.			
Participation of people with disabilities in hazard mapping.			
Existence of land use and environmental management.			
Participation of people with disabilities in land use and environmental management.			
Existence of resilient livelihood programmes for people with disabilities.			
			Average score for existence of risk reduction measures:

Average scores

Indicator	Score from people with disabilities	Score from government representatives	Consensus scores
1. Awareness			(Maximum possible score – 5)
2. Reach			(Maximum possible score – 5)
3. Usage			(Maximum possible score – 5)
4. Adequacy			(Maximum possible score – 5)
5. Effectiveness			(Maximum possible score – 5)
6. Attitude of officials			(Maximum possible score – 5)
7. Infrastructure			(Maximum possible score – 5)
8. Preparedness			(Maximum possible score – 5)
9. Availability of resources to make immediate disaster response fully inclusive			(Maximum possible score – 5)
10. Existence of risk reduction measures			(Maximum possible score – 5)

Action plans for improvement – what, who, when?

Indicator	Action plan	Who takes action?	When?	Short, medium and long-term action
Awareness				
Reach				
Usage				
Adequacy				
Effectiveness				
Attitude of officials				
Infrastructure				
Preparedness				
Availability of resources to make immediate disaster response fully inclusive for people with disabilities				
Existence of risk reduction measures				

DASA scoring criteria

1. Awareness

Score	General awareness	Communication and information
1 – Very low	No awareness of disaster risks or preparedness.	Unaware of emergency alerts or communication barriers prevent access to DRR information.
2 – Low	Limited understanding of disaster risks and response.	Occasionally receive DRR information but struggle with accessibility (for example, no sign language, no braille, complex language).
3 – Moderate	Basic awareness of risks and emergency procedures.	Can access DRR information, but with some difficulty (for example, need assistance).
4 – High	Strong understanding of DRR, including specific risks for women with disabilities.	Receive and understand DRR messages through accessible formats (sign language, braille, easy-read materials).
5 – Very high	Expert-level knowledge of DRR, integrating disability-inclusive strategies.	Advocate for inclusive DRR communication and ensure all formats are available.

2. Reach

Score	Availability and reach of DRR information materials	Reach of suitable early warning signals	Reach of physical assistance during disasters	Reach of insurance payments	Reach of financial compensation for post-disaster recovery
1 – Very low	No DRR materials designed for people with disabilities. No disability-inclusive content.	No early warning systems adapted for people with disabilities (for example, no visual, auditory, or tactile alerts).	No physical assistance available. No priority given to women and girls with disabilities.	No insurance coverage available for people with disabilities.	No financial compensation system for post-disaster recovery for people with disabilities.
2 – Low	Some DRR materials exist but are not widely accessible (for example, complex language, no braille, no sign language).	Some warning signals exist but are not widely accessible (for example, only audible alarms, no visual/tactile alerts).	Limited assistance, often informal or community-based, with no structured government support.	Insurance exists but with barriers to access (for example, high costs, discrimination, lack of disability-specific coverage).	Financial compensation is available but difficult to access due to bureaucratic barriers or discrimination.

Score	Availability and reach of DRR information materials	Reach of suitable early warning signals	Reach of physical assistance during disasters	Reach of insurance payments	Reach of financial compensation for post-disaster recovery
3 - Moderate	DRR materials exist in some accessible formats (for example, braille, sign language, easy-read) but are not widely distributed.	Early warning signals include at least one accessible format (for example, text-based alerts for deaf individuals or sirens for visually impaired).	Some structured physical assistance is available, but coverage is inconsistent across regions.	Some insurance payments are made to people with disabilities, but the process is not disability-inclusive.	Post-disaster financial aid exists, but not all people with disabilities can access it easily.
4 - High	DRR materials are widely available in multiple accessible formats and actively distributed.	Early warning systems are mostly inclusive, using multiple formats (for example, sirens, text alerts, visual signals, radio alerts, community networks).	Well-organised assistance teams exist, prioritising women and girls with disabilities in emergency response.	Disability-inclusive insurance programmes exist, with relatively easy access.	Financial compensation is structured and most people with disabilities can access it but with some challenges.

Score	Availability and reach of DRR information materials	Reach of suitable early warning signals	Reach of physical assistance during disasters	Reach of insurance payments	Reach of financial compensation for post-disaster recovery
5 – Very high	DRR materials are fully inclusive, widely available in all necessary accessible formats, and proactively shared through government and community networks.	Early warning systems are fully inclusive, using all necessary formats (text, sirens, radio, tactile, sign language).	Dedicated, fully inclusive physical assistance programmes exist, with trained personnel, prioritising women and girls with disabilities.	Insurance payments for people with disabilities are fully implemented, accessible, and tailored to disability needs.	Financial compensation is readily available, fully accessible, and prioritises disability-inclusive rebuilding efforts.

3. Usage

Score	Usage of programme benefits	Ease of processing post-disaster benefits	Role of caregivers in accessing relief	Role of NGOs in enabling access to aid	Participation of people with disabilities in DRR planning
1 – Very low	Very few people with disabilities use DRR benefits due to major barriers (for example, lack of awareness, discrimination, inaccessible services).	Extremely difficult process - with excessive documentation, long waiting times, and inaccessible relief offices.	Caregivers receive no support in helping people with disabilities access aid.	NGOs play little or no role in supporting disability-inclusive DRR relief.	People with disabilities are completely excluded from DRR planning and decision-making.
2 – Low	Limited usage due to some barriers (for example, complex procedures, lack of outreach, fear of discrimination).	Post-disaster relief benefits exist but are hard to access (for example, long forms, delays, lack of disability-friendly offices).	Caregivers assist informally, but face significant challenges due to lack of structured support.	Some NGOs provide ad hoc support, but efforts are not systematic.	People with disabilities occasionally consulted but have no meaningful influence in DRR planning.

Score	Usage of programme benefits	Ease of processing post-disaster benefits	Role of caregivers in accessing relief	Role of NGOs in enabling access to aid	Participation of people with disabilities in DRR planning
3 – Moderate	Moderate usage, but not all eligible people with disabilities receive benefits due to administrative or social challenges.	Some improvements in accessibility (for example, fewer documents, shorter waiting times) but some offices remain inaccessible.	Caregivers play an active role, but support structures are inconsistent.	NGOs provide some structured programmes to assist people with disabilities with accessing benefits.	People with disabilities participate in some DRR discussions, but without leadership roles.
4 – High	Most people with disabilities can access programme benefits, with some remaining barriers.	Post-disaster benefits processing is largely accessible, with reasonable waiting times and accommodations.	Caregivers receive some formal support to assist with accessing aid.	NGOs play a consistent and organised role, bridging gaps in accessibility and advocacy.	People with disabilities regularly participate in DRR planning but are not fully leading on it.
5 – Very high	Full accessibility - most or all eligible people with disabilities successfully use DRR benefits.	Post-disaster benefits are fully accessible, with fast processing, minimal documentation, and disability-friendly offices.	Caregivers are well-supported by structured programmes that enable effective assistance.	NGOs play a major role in ensuring accessibility, advocacy, and policy engagement.	People with disabilities are fully involved in DRR planning, hold leadership roles, and influence policies.

4. Adequacy

Score	Adequacy of financial assistance (quantity and sufficiency)	Adequacy of materials provided (quantity and suitability)
1 – Very low	Financial assistance is extremely insufficient - many people with disabilities receive no, or minimal, aid. Funding does not account for additional disability-related costs (for example, assistive devices medical needs).	Materials provided are inadequate, generic, and not disability-inclusive (for example, no assistive devices, inaccessible food packaging, no mobility aids).
2 - Low	Financial aid exists but is far below the actual needs of people with disabilities. Delays and bureaucratic hurdles prevent timely distribution.	Some materials are available, but they do not meet the specific needs of people with disabilities (for example, shelters lack ramps, no priority for accessible hygiene kits).
3 – Moderate	Financial assistance covers basic needs, but not additional disability-related costs (for example, accessible transport, medical care, assistive technology).	Materials include some disability-friendly items, but accessibility gaps remain (for example, limited mobility devices, few accessible food options).
4 – High	Financial assistance is mostly adequate, covering general and some disability-specific costs. Distribution is relatively efficient but may still have some delays or gaps.	Materials provided are mostly inclusive - including assistive devices, accessible hygiene kits, and some accommodations for disabilities.
5 – Very high	Financial assistance is fully adequate, covering all essential and disability-related expenses (for example, rehabilitation, mobility aids, personal assistance, accessible transport). Distribution is fast and equitable.	Materials fully meet the needs of people with disabilities, including customised assistive devices, accessible packaging, disability-friendly shelter supplies, and inclusive sanitation kits.

5. Effectiveness

Score	Early warning systems	Availability and readiness of emergency services	Quality of disaster relief	Timeliness of relief	Lack of corruption	Grievance mechanisms	Coordination among stakeholders
1 - Very low	No inclusive early warning system; people with disabilities receive no or delayed alerts.	Emergency services lack preparedness for assisting people with disabilities.	Disaster relief is poor quality, inaccessible, and does not meet disability-specific needs.	Severe delays in providing relief; people with disabilities often left out.	Widespread corruption affects aid distribution.	No grievance mechanisms exist for complaints about disaster relief.	No coordination among government, NGOs, and the private sector.
2 - Low	Limited inclusive warning systems; some disability-friendly features, but not widely used.	Emergency services have minimal disability-specific training, leading to inadequate response.	Relief is generic, with some disability accommodations, but still insufficient.	Significant delays in delivering relief, with inequitable distribution.	Some corruption issues, affecting aid access.	A grievance mechanism exists but is not accessible for people with disabilities.	Some coordination, but gaps in communication lead to inefficiencies.

Score	Early warning systems	Availability and readiness of emergency services	Quality of disaster relief	Timeliness of relief	Lack of corruption	Grievance mechanisms	Coordination among stakeholders
3 - Moderate	Some inclusive warning systems exist, but not all disabilities are accounted for.	Emergency services have some disability-specific capacity, but coverage is inconsistent.	Relief includes some disability-friendly provisions, but not comprehensive.	Relief is provided within reasonable time but not prioritised for people with disabilities.	Limited corruption, but lack of transparency in aid distribution.	Grievance mechanisms exist and are partially accessible, but not widely known.	Coordination exists but is not fully streamlined, leading to inefficiencies.
4 - High	Early warning systems are mostly inclusive, with multiple formats for different disabilities.	Emergency services are generally well-prepared to assist people with disabilities.	Disaster relief is high quality, mostly accessible, and considers disability-specific needs.	Relief is provided in a timely manner, prioritising people with disabilities.	Minimal corruption, with transparent aid tracking.	Grievance mechanisms are functional and accessible, with some disability-inclusive features.	Government, NGOs, and private sector collaborate effectively, though some minor gaps exist.

Score	Early warning systems	Availability and readiness of emergency services	Quality of disaster relief	Timeliness of relief	Lack of corruption	Grievance mechanisms	Coordination among stakeholders
5 - Very high	Early warning systems are fully inclusive, reaching all people with disabilities effectively.	Emergency services are highly prepared, with specialised disability-inclusive response teams.	Relief is fully accessible, high quality, and tailored to different disability needs.	Relief is delivered immediately, ensuring full inclusion of people with disabilities.	No corruption - aid is fairly and transparently distributed.	Grievance mechanisms are fully accessible and widely used to improve services.	Seamless coordination ensures efficient and inclusive disaster response.

6. Attitude of officials

Score	General behaviour towards people with disabilities	Awareness of disability etiquette and appropriate interaction
1 - Very low	Officials display negative or discriminatory behaviour towards people with disabilities (for example, neglect, rudeness, dismissive attitudes).	Officials have no awareness of disability etiquette and frequently act insensitively (for example, using offensive language, failing to accommodate needs).
2 - Low	Officials are indifferent or minimally supportive, with occasional instances of bias.	Officials have some awareness, but often fail to apply appropriate behaviour and language.
3 - Moderate	Officials show basic respect and some willingness to assist, but lack a full understanding of disability inclusion.	Officials have some training in disability etiquette but apply it inconsistently.
4 - High	Officials are supportive and accommodating, with good awareness of disability needs.	Officials consistently use appropriate etiquette and show respectful, inclusive behaviour.
5 - Very high	Officials are highly supportive, proactive and inclusive - ensuring full dignity and respect for people with disabilities.	Officials are well-trained and fully apply disability etiquette, fostering an inclusive and accessible environment.

7. Infrastructure

Score	Availability of inclusive infrastructure	Quality of available infrastructure	Adequacy of available infrastructure
1 – Very low	No, or very limited, disaster-resilient and disability-inclusive infrastructure (for example, shelters, roads, communication systems, are inaccessible).	Infrastructure is poor quality, fragile, and not designed for disaster resilience.	Infrastructure fails to meet the needs of people with disabilities, with no accommodations (for example, no ramps, inaccessible shelters).
2 – Low	Some infrastructure exists, but it is not fully inclusive for people with disabilities (for example, few accessible shelters, no inclusive communication systems).	Infrastructure has major flaws, is vulnerable to disasters, and deteriorates quickly.	Infrastructure meets basic needs but lacks key accommodations for people with disabilities.
3 – Moderate	Moderate availability of disaster-resilient and inclusive infrastructure (for example, some accessible shelters and pathways).	Infrastructure is of acceptable quality, but is not fully disaster-proof.	Infrastructure meets some needs of people with disabilities but has accessibility gaps.
4 – High	Most key infrastructure is inclusive and disaster-resilient (for example, well-designed shelters, accessible communication systems).	Infrastructure is strong, reliable, and mostly disaster-proof.	Infrastructure adequately serves people with disabilities, with minor accessibility issues.
5 – Very high	All critical infrastructure is fully inclusive and disaster-resilient, ensuring full accessibility.	Infrastructure is high quality, durable, and well-maintained for disaster response.	Infrastructure fully meets the needs of people with disabilities, with universal design principles applied.

8. Preparedness

Score	Timeliness, accuracy and suitability of early warning signals	Adequacy of training on early warning signals	Preparedness of health facilities for people with disabilities
1 - Very low	Early warning signals are inaccessible or non-existent for people with disabilities.	No training is available for people with disabilities on early warning signals.	Health facilities are completely unprepared and inaccessible for people with disabilities.
2 - Low	Some early warning systems exist but are mostly ineffective or inaccessible for people with disabilities.	Limited training exists but is not tailored to the needs of people with disabilities.	Some health facilities attempt to be inclusive, but lack critical accessibility features (for example, no ramps, no sign language interpreters).
3 - Moderate	Early warning signals partially reach people with disabilities but have accessibility gaps.	Training programmes exist but only cover a portion of people with disabilities.	Health facilities have basic accessibility features, but preparedness for disability-inclusive emergency response is weak.
4 - High	Most early warning signals are timely, accurate and accessible for people with disabilities.	Training programmes are widely available and reasonably effective.	Health facilities are mostly prepared, with accessible infrastructure and emergency services.
5 - Very high	All early warning signals are fully inclusive, accessible, and effective, for people with disabilities.	Comprehensive and regular training is provided, ensuring full preparedness.	Health facilities are fully accessible and well-equipped to handle emergency situations for people with disabilities.

9. Availability of resources

Score	Human resources	Financial resources	Logistical resources (ambulances, water, sanitation, etc)
1 - Very low	No trained personnel available to support people with disabilities in disaster response.	No dedicated funding for disability-inclusive disaster response.	Critical logistical resources are completely inadequate or unavailable for people with disabilities.
2 - Low	Some personnel exist but lack specialised training on disability-inclusive disaster response.	Some funding is available, but it is insufficient and inconsistent.	Logistical resources exist but are not fully accessible (for example, no adapted ambulances, inaccessible sanitation).
3 - Moderate	There are trained responders, but not enough to provide full coverage for people with disabilities.	Moderate financial resources are available, but there are limitations in their allocation for inclusive disaster response.	Some accessible logistical resources exist, but many gaps remain in coverage and accessibility.
4 - High	A sufficient number of trained personnel are available, but with minor gaps in coverage.	Financial resources are mostly adequate, ensuring disability-inclusive response.	Logistical resources are largely inclusive, with only minor accessibility issues.
5 - Very high	Well-trained personnel are fully available and accessible to assist people with disabilities.	Dedicated financial resources are secure, sufficient, and well-allocated for disability-inclusive response.	Logistical resources are fully inclusive, ensuring accessible transport, sanitation, and emergency support.

10. Existence of disaster risk reduction measures

Score	Representation on Disaster Management Council	Participation in hazard mapping	Participation in land use and environmental management	Existence of resilient livelihood programmes
1 - Very low	No representation of people with disabilities.	No involvement in hazard mapping.	No participation in land use or environmental planning.	No livelihood programmes exist for people with disabilities.
2 - Low	Token representation, but no real decision-making power.	Occasional consultation, but not meaningful participation.	Minimal involvement, limited to information-sharing.	A few programmes exist, but they are not disability inclusive.
3 - Moderate	Some representatives of people with disabilities have limited influence.	Participation exists but is not systematic or comprehensive.	Some engagement, but not actively involved in planning decisions.	Programmes exist but lack sustainable funding or proper accessibility.
4 - High	Strong representation, but decision-making power is limited.	Regular participation in hazard mapping, but not fully integrated into official processes.	Actively engaged in discussions, but with some gaps in influence.	Well-established resilient livelihood programmes exist, but they need improvements in coverage or accessibility.
5 - Very high	Full representation, with decision-making power, on the Disaster Management Council.	Fully integrated participation in hazard mapping efforts.	Strong involvement in planning and environmental management decisions.	Well-funded, inclusive, and sustainable, livelihood programmes benefitting people with disabilities.

Relevant policy frameworks

Global

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

National

Constitution of Kenya, 2010

Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025

The National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya, 2009

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023

Persons with Disabilities National Policy, 2024

The Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGD)

The Nairobi City County Disaster and Emergency Management Act, 2015

We work with partners in low and middle income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities

www.sightsavers.org



@Sightsavers

Bumpers Way
Bumpers Farm
Chippenham
SN14 6NG
UK

+44 (0)1444 446 600

info@sightsavers.org

Registered charity numbers 207544 and SC038110

