

## Climate Change and Disability Impact

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and the biggest threat to human security ever faced by our species. The consequences of the climate crisis are manifold and wide ranging, including rising global temperatures, more frequent and severe extreme weather events, shifts in precipitation patterns, and rising sea levels. These effects, in turn, are already damaging ecosystems, disrupting the global food supply, and threatening human health, livelihood, and security. Indeed, climate change is a threat multiplier, meaning that the effects of climate change will increase the risk of conflict, political instability, civil unrest, and terrorism.

The need for GADRA's work will only rise as the consequences of climate change intensify. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change and disaster. Disabled people are more likely to live in countries and communities that are highly vulnerable to, and have a history of climate crisis impacts, have less access to resilience resources, have poorer health outcomes before disasters, frequently face barriers to evacuation and accessing shelters, and are the least likely to ever be able to return to their pre-disaster living. As a result, the number of unmet disaster-related disability needs will only increase as the climate crisis continues to escalate.

GADRA plays a crucial role in meeting those needs by matching disability-led organizations with existing partners to address specific needs of people with disabilities affected by disasters, and by helping local disability-led organizations ensure that resources are allocated effectively and inclusively. By facilitating these connections, GADRA increases the capacity of disability-

led organizations to provide targeted assistance and support when and where it is needed most.

At the same time, climate change also presents significant challenges to GADRA's work, as well as the work of humanitarian organizations more generally. The intensification and unpredictability of extreme weather events resulting from human-induced climate change can disrupt communication channels, restrict access to affected areas, separate people from natural supports, and place even greater strain on already limited resources. Moreover, climate change-induced displacement and migration complicates efforts to coordinate resource distribution for communities with the highest need, and governmental regulations impede on effective provision of aid, a particular challenge for local disability-led organizations.

In the midst of these rapid changes, GADRA remains committed to helping meet the disability-related needs of those impacted by disasters around the world. Through our ever-growing network of DLOs and partners, we are constantly working to support disability-led organizations impacted by human-induced extreme weather events and disasters.