

Event Report

Launch of E-Learning Toolkit for Inclusive Disaster Management Now! in Pakistan



INTRODUCTION

On 03 May 2024, the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), launched a groundbreaking e-learning toolkit aimed at empowering disaster management professionals. This toolkit focuses on equipping these professionals with essential skills and knowledge to effectively address the needs and concerns of Persons with Disabilities (Persons with disabilities) during all phases of disasters and across various disaster types. The event, attended by 146 participants from diverse disability stakeholders, including National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government including Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), Ministry of Planning and Development, International and Civil Societies Organization, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (ODPs) and persons with disabilities to marked a significant step toward inclusive disaster management.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

→ Event Introduction

Ms. Zulekha from the General Coordination Cell (GCC) of NDMA provided an introduction, outlining the event's objectives and emphasizing the importance of inclusive disaster management. She detailed the primary goals, including launching the e-learning toolkit, raising awareness about the needs of persons with disabilities in disaster management, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Ms. Zulekha emphasized that incorporating inclusive practices is both a moral obligation and a practical necessity for enhancing the effectiveness of disaster response and recovery. She praised the collaborative efforts of STEP, NDMA, and UNESCAP in developing the toolkit and organizing the event, and encouraged participants to actively engage with the toolkit and apply its principles to create a more resilient and inclusive society.

→ Welcoming Address

The event commenced with a warm welcoming address by Mr. Lt General Inam Haider Malik, Chairman NDMA. He emphasized the significance of this collaborative effort and the critical need for inclusive disaster management strategies. They highlighted the importance of integrating the needs of persons with disabilities into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery plans to ensure no one is left behind during emergencies.

→ **Keynote Speech**

Ms. Aiko Akiyama, representing UNESCAP, delivered a compelling keynote speech that underscored the pivotal role of preparedness and inclusivity in reducing the adverse effects of disasters on vulnerable populations, especially Persons with Disabilities. Ms. Akiyama eloquently outlined ESCAP's commitment to disaster risk reduction and highlighted its comprehensive approach to ensuring inclusivity in disaster management.

She provided insights into ESCAP's extensive work in the Asia-Pacific region, emphasizing the organization's strategies for enhancing resilience and addressing the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities during disasters. Ms. Akiyama's address underscored the importance of integrating the needs of persons with disabilities into disaster risk reduction frameworks and encouraged stakeholders to utilize resources like the newly launched e-learning toolkit to foster a more resilient and inclusive approach to disaster management.

→ **Address by Muhammad Atif Sheikh, STEP**

Muhammad Atif Sheikh from STEP delivered a comprehensive address on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), where he also provided an overview of the newly launched e-learning course. He emphasized the importance of including persons with disabilities in all phases of disaster planning and response, highlighting specific strategies and best practices.

He explained how the e-learning course is designed to equip disaster management professionals with essential skills and knowledge to effectively support persons with disabilities during emergencies. His address aimed to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities in disasters and underscored the significance of accessible training in promoting their resilience and inclusion in disaster preparedness efforts.

→ **Launch of the E-Learning Toolkit**

The launching of the E-Learning Tool by NDMA, UNESCAP, and STEP marks a significant step towards disability inclusive disaster management. This online course is about incorporating disability perspectives into all phases of disaster risk reduction: prevention; preparedness, response, and recovery. We call this: Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR). This course was developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan (NDMA).

Attendees were provided with a live demonstration of the e-learning toolkit, showcasing its user-friendly interface and interactive features. Participants had the opportunity to explore the toolkit and engage with its content firsthand. The demonstration highlighted how the toolkit

can be used to train disaster management professionals effectively and ensure they are equipped to support Persons with disabilities during emergencies.

→ Call for Action

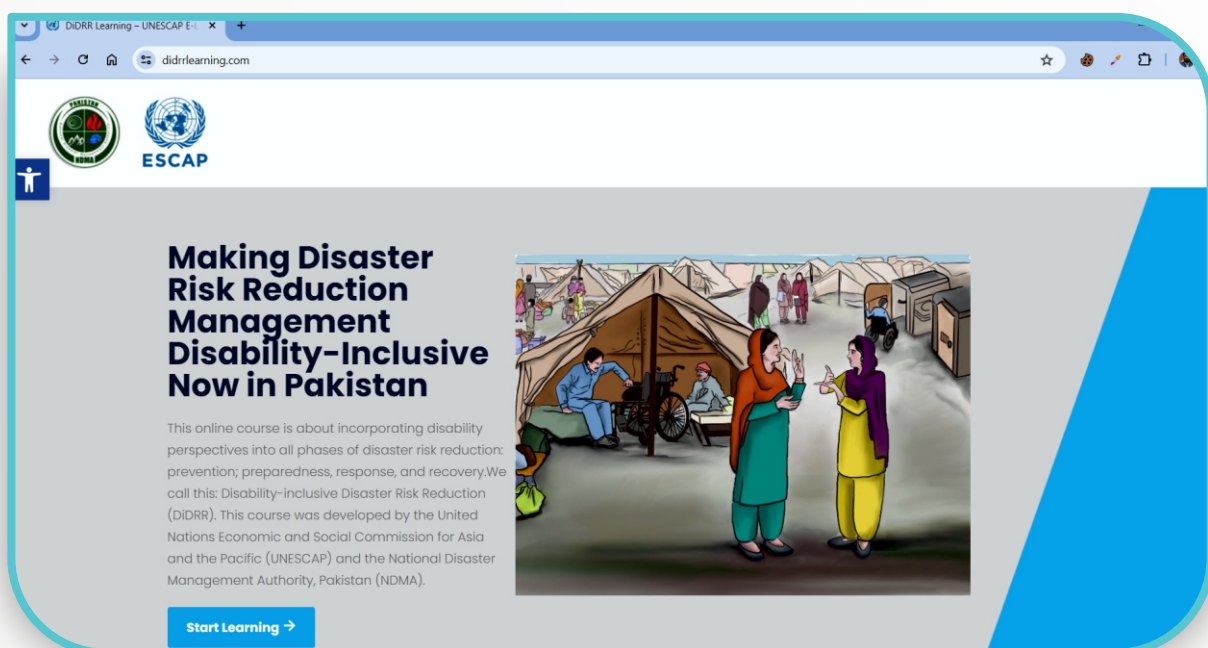
Ms. Abia Akram, a dedicated advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, calls for an inclusive approach in disaster management. As a representative of STEP, she emphasizes the critical need to ensure that all disaster management strategies and tools are accessible to everyone, particularly persons with disabilities. "Inclusive disaster management is not just a necessity but a right. We must ensure that our training modules, resources, and response mechanisms are designed to be fully accessible, allowing individuals with disabilities to actively participate in and benefit from these initiatives."

→ Closing Remarks

The event concluded with closing remarks from the NDMA by Ms. Ms. Zulekha, reiterating their commitment to promoting inclusive disaster management practices. She urged attendees to utilize the toolkit in their professional endeavors and to advocate for inclusive policies and practices in their respective organizations. The event ended on a high note, with a shared sense of purpose and determination to make disaster management more inclusive for Persons with disabilities.

DiDRR E-LEARNING PORTAL

<https://didrrlearning.com/>



EVENT PICTURES



GROUP PICTURE



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. <https://www.facebook.com/100044551624496/posts/1012945703533808/?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=qk6RjbOgdOAuabWL>
2. <https://x.com/govtofpakistan/status/1787378487155728767?s=48&t=bCrYOjEfccUQtDmPhml2Ww>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/share/fWZ1Z1K5GukVzPD9/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
4. <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6nj3DBKswb/?igsh=MXN5Z2U1MG5ocTR1Yg==>
5. <https://x.com/govtofpakistan/status/1787378487155728767?s=48&t=bCrYOjEfccUQtDmPhml2Ww>
6. https://x.com/NCRC_Pakistan/status/1787360563191804391?t=9lw2o50JRl3QvBUj_MJWuw&s=08
7. <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/pages/single-news/ndma-launches-e-learning-tool-kit-for-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-in-support-with-unescap-and-step>
8. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEvbAnKw6oQ>

ANNEXURE

Program Agenda



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



**Launch of Making Disaster Risk Reduction Management
Disability-Inclusive Now in Pakistan
(E-Learning Tool on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction)
May 3, 2024 | NEOC Islamabad**

PROGRAM RUNDOWN:

Time	Activity	Name
0930	Arrival and Registration of guests	
1000	Recitation from the Holly Quran	Video with sign language
1005	National Anthem	Video with sign language
1010	Introduction	Ms. Zulekha, GCC, NDMA
1020	Welcome remarks	Mr. Lt General Inam Haider Malik, Chairman NDMA
1040	Key Note Speech	Ms. Aiko Akiyama, UNESCAP
1050	Messages from UNESCAP	Videos
1100	Disability Inclusive DRR	Mr. Muhammad Atif Shiekh, STEP
1110	Launching of the E-Learning Tool	NDMA UNESCAP STEP
1130	Call for Action	Ms. Abia Akram, STEP
1200	Certificate Distribution	
1220	Closing Remarks	Ms. Zulekha, GCC, NDMA
1230	Group Photo	
1245	Networking Lunch	

*NEOC (National Emergency Operation Center) | Address: Murree Rd, Shakar Parian, Islamabad, Islamabad
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/u6rutgRoR9w7fWLH9>

Attendance Sheet

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Launch of Making Disaster Risk Reduction Management Disability-Inclusive Now in Pakistan (E-Learning Tool on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction) May 3, 2024 | NEOC Islamabad

Dated: 03rd May 2024

Attendance Sheet and Photo/Video Consent

Venue: NDMA Islamabad

As I sign attendance sheet, I grant permission to photograph, film or document me during the awareness session. STEP may retain this material and use it for promotional, educational, awareness and reporting purposes. I agree that all documents, images, video created during the awareness session are the property of the STEP.

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