

Online Training Programme on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness for Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities

1. Background and Rationale

Gujarat is a multi-hazard state exposed to a wide range of disasters including earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts, industrial accidents, and urban emergencies. In such situations, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are among the most vulnerable groups due to mobility limitations, communication barriers, dependence on assistive devices, and reliance on caregivers for daily support.

Caregivers serve as the first line of support before, during, and after disasters. Their preparedness directly influences the safety, continuity of care, and well-being of PwDs during emergencies. However, evidence suggests that caregivers often have limited exposure to structured disaster preparedness practices, particularly those tailored to different types of disabilities.

In view of the provisions under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, and national/state disaster management frameworks emphasizing inclusive disaster risk reduction, there is a critical need to strengthen caregiver capacities for disability-inclusive preparedness and response in Gujarat.

2. Programme Details

Mode: Online (Google Meet)

Date: 11th Sept., 2026

Time: 15:00 to 17:00 Hrs

Duration: 2 Hours

3. Target Group

The programme is designed for the following stakeholders:

- Caregivers and family members of Persons with Disabilities
- ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers, ANMs, and other frontline health functionaries
- Officials of Social Justice & Empowerment Department
- Fire, Police, and emergency response personnel
- Teachers, special educators, rehabilitation professionals and school administrators
- NGOs, Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs), and civil society stakeholders

4. Objectives

1. To enhance awareness on disability-inclusive disaster risk management among caregivers and stakeholders.
2. To strengthen understanding of roles and responsibilities of caregivers before, during, and after disasters.
3. To disseminate practical guidelines on supporting persons with different types of disabilities during emergencies.
4. To build capacity on evacuation support, communication assistance, continuity of care, and safeguarding assistive devices.
5. To promote community-based preparedness and awareness of government support mechanisms.

5. Key Focus Areas / Content Coverage

- Disability-inclusive disaster preparedness planning at household level
- Risk understanding for different types of disabilities (visual, hearing, locomotor, intellectual, psychosocial, and multiple disabilities)
- Emergency communication and accessible information systems
- Evacuation support and safe mobility practices
- Continuity of medical care and management of assistive devices
- Psychological and emotional support during emergencies
- Community-based disaster preparedness approaches
- Government schemes and institutional support systems for PwDs

6. Methodology

The training will be conducted through an interactive online session using virtual platform. The methodology will include:

- Expert presentations
- Practical case-based discussions
- Interactive question–answer session
- Experience sharing and situational guidance

7. Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced awareness of disability-inclusive disaster preparedness among participants
- Improved understanding of disability-specific emergency support requirements
- Strengthened caregiver capacity for effective disaster response and care continuity
- Increased adoption of household-level preparedness measures for PwDs
- Better awareness of institutional support systems and government schemes
- Improved coordination between caregivers, community systems, and government agencies during emergencies