

## **Online Training Program on Disaster Preparedness for Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities**

**Through Google Meet Platform  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (Time: 15:00 to 17:00 Hrs.)**

### **Concept Note:**

Gujarat is a multi-hazard state and is vulnerable to a wide range of disasters including earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts, industrial accidents, urban emergencies, and other hazard events. During disasters, persons with disabilities (PwDs) often face greater risks than the general population due to mobility limitations, communication barriers, dependence on assistive devices, health conditions, and reliance on family members or caregivers for daily support. In many emergency situations, their safety, well-being, and access to essential services depend significantly on the preparedness and responsiveness of caregivers.

Caregivers are often the first line of support for persons with disabilities before, during, and after disasters. They play a crucial role in ensuring timely evacuation, continuity of medical care, protection of assistive devices, access to emergency information, emotional support, and coordination with emergency responders. However, many caregivers have limited exposure to disaster preparedness practices and may not be aware of the specific actions required to support persons with different types of disabilities during emergencies.

The Government of Gujarat has undertaken several initiatives to promote disability inclusion through implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, adoption of harmonized guidelines, promotion of barrier-free environments, and strengthening of inclusive development

approaches. National and State disaster management frameworks also emphasize the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind during disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation efforts.

Despite these initiatives, there remains a need to strengthen awareness and practical understanding among caregivers, family members, community volunteers, NGOs, frontline workers, and other stakeholders regarding disability-inclusive disaster risk management.

Special attention is required to ensure that caregivers understand the needs of persons with visual, hearing, locomotor, intellectual, psychosocial, and multiple disabilities during emergencies and are able to provide timely and appropriate support.

The proposed online awareness and capacity-building programme through Google Meet aims to build awareness on disability-inclusive disaster risk management with a special focus on the role of caregivers. The programme will highlight practical preparedness measures, communication techniques, evacuation support, continuity of care, safeguarding medicines and assistive devices, psychological support, and coordination with government agencies during emergencies.

The programme will also discuss household preparedness planning, emergency contact systems, accessible communication methods, community support mechanisms, and government welfare schemes available for persons with disabilities. Through expert guidance and interactive discussions, participants will gain practical knowledge that can help protect the safety, dignity, and rights of persons with disabilities during disasters.

## **Objectives**

1. To enhance awareness about Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management among caregivers and family members.
2. To improve understanding of the roles and responsibilities of caregivers before, during, and after disasters.
3. To disseminate practical Do's and Don'ts for supporting persons with different types of disabilities during emergencies.
4. To strengthen knowledge on evacuation support, communication assistance, continuity of care, and protection of assistive devices.
5. To promote community-based approaches and government support mechanisms for protecting persons with disabilities during disasters.

## **Expected Outcomes**

- Improved awareness on disability-inclusive disaster preparedness among caregivers and families.
- Enhanced understanding of disability-specific support requirements during emergencies.
- Strengthened capacity of caregivers to provide safe, timely, and effective assistance during disasters.
- Increased adoption of household-level preparedness measures for persons with disabilities.
- Greater awareness of government schemes, support services, and community resources available during emergencies.
- Improved coordination between caregivers, community volunteers, institutions, and government agencies during disaster situations.

## **Target audience**

The webinar aims to involve participants from the following groups:

- Caregivers and family members of persons with disabilities
- Representatives of NGOs and disability support organizations
- Community volunteers and frontline workers
- Officials from Social Justice & Empowerment Department
- Representatives from disaster management institutions
- Teachers, special educators, rehabilitation professionals and interested citizens