

REGIONAL ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON

## GENDER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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Ha Noi, Viet Nam

# Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Mai Dung, Malteser International

# Presentation outline

- Why disability should be included in Disaster Risk Reduction?
- Approach, strategy for Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management?
- Results achieved
- Challenges to face and recommendations

# Why Disability an issue in Disaster Risk Reduction?



- 15% of world population lives with a disability (WHO 2011). Including their family members, people who are affected by disabilities are **no longer a small minority**... (40% of population of the world?)

- The mortality rate of persons with disabilities was 2-4 times greater than for other members of communities (2004 -2014 Japan)
- Disasters are one of causes of disability. E.g. after the Asian Tsunami, there was a 20% increase in number of persons with disabilities in the affected areas (CBM organization)
- In the event of a disaster they are amongst the most at risk group of society: for example, people with disabilities be confined to their houses or evacuate very late to other places during disasters

# Survey on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

**Regional level:** Survey from 137 countries (UNISDR global survey 2013)

- More than **85%** of persons with disabilities had not participated in community based disaster risk management and reduction processes

**Vietnam:** Survey with representatives of 733 persons living with disabilities in 5 provinces/cities in Vietnam (2013):

- **74 %** have not known or do not know for sure about their community disaster management plan
- **69 %** have not been involved in decision making and planning processes for their community disaster management plan
- **31 %** believed that their needs have been addressed in the community disaster management plan

# Why Disability an issue in Disaster Risk Reduction?

National and international laws and conventions recognise the equal rights of persons with disability in disasters:

- The Sendai Framework for Action identifies persons with disabilities as a priority group for support
- Article 11 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states the right to protection and safety in the event of a disaster.
- Incheon Strategy to make the rights real for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific region (2012-2022) mentions clearly integration of disability perspective into disaster preparedness and management .
- Vietnam law on disability encourages activities assisting persons with disabilities and preventing dangers resulting in disabilities
- Vietnam law on disaster prevention emphasizes on prioritizing at risk groups when developing disaster preparedness and prevention plan



**Women with disabilities are more at risk than men with disabilities**

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graph LR; A[Women with disabilities are more at risk than men with disabilities] --> B[Not confident to participate (no health, burden of society) or too shy to raise needs for assistance in community planning meetings]; A --> C[Less opportunities to access to capacity building on disaster risk reduction (DRR)]; A --> D[Do not want to evacuate to public evacuation shelter due to limited support on hygiene condition (shy to ask for help, no supporters or the supporters do not understand their need)]; A --> E[Women with disabilities living with old parents face higher risk in disasters];
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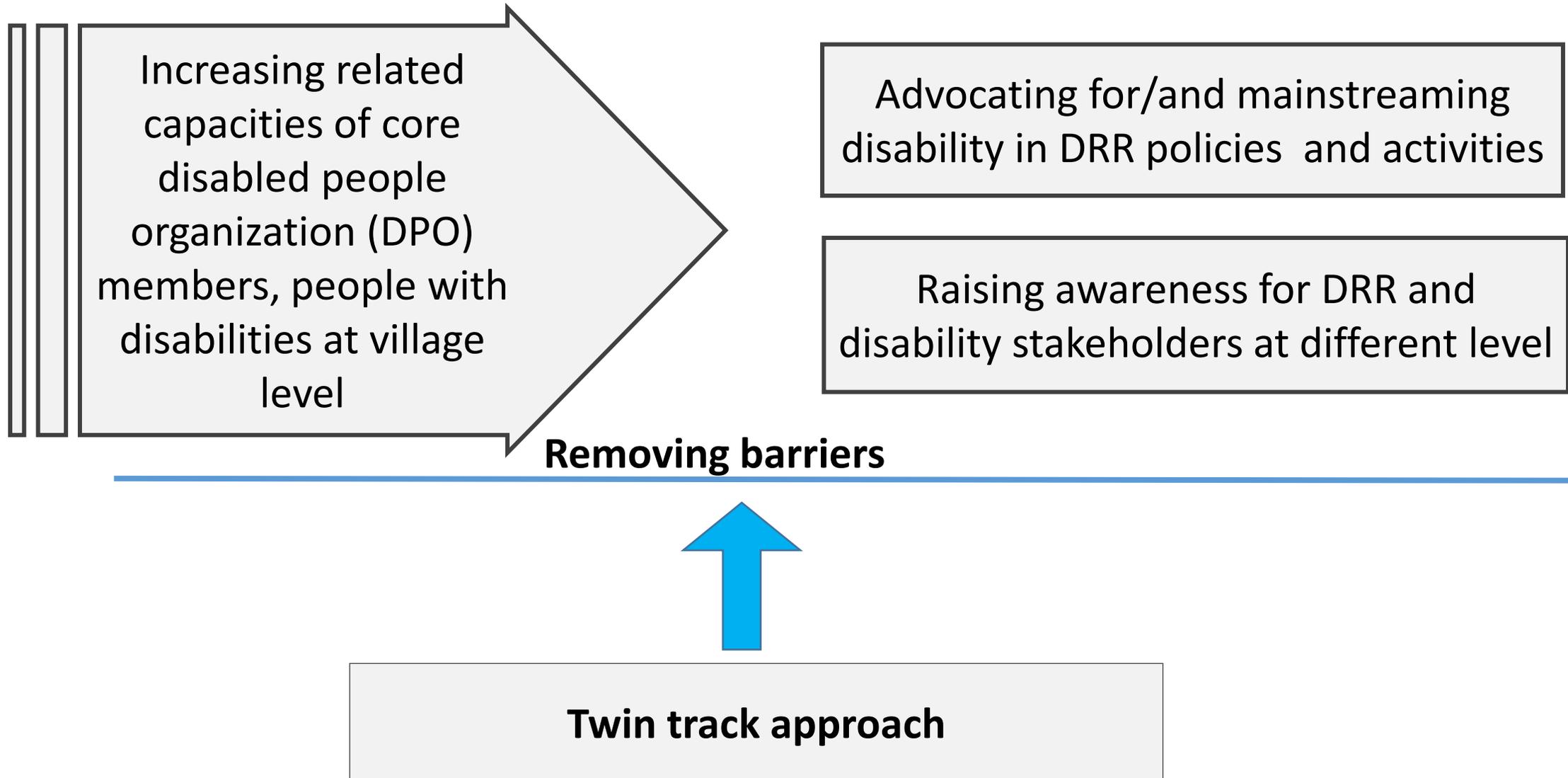
Not confident to participate (no health, burden of society) or too shy to raise needs for assistance in community planning meetings

Less opportunities to access to capacity building on disaster risk reduction (DRR)

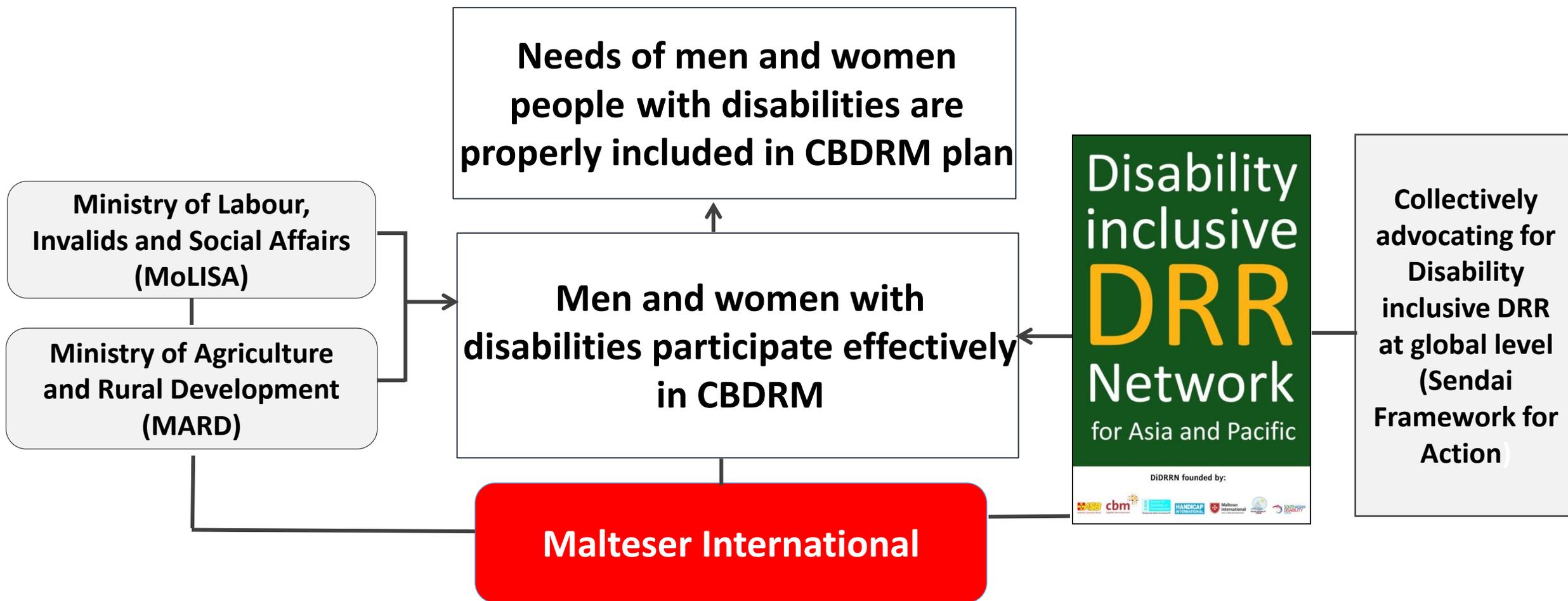
Do not want to evacuate to public evacuation shelter due to limited support on hygiene condition (shy to ask for help, no supporters or the supporters do not understand their need)

Women with disabilities living with old parents face higher risk in disasters

# Approach for Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management



# Strategy for Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)



# Results of Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

- People with disabilities in 47 pilot villages/ 6 communes/ 3 districts have changed their role within CBDRM



*Member of village  
disability risk  
management committee*



*Facilitator of CBDRM  
planning meetings*



*CBDRM trainer*

**Approved CBDRM plans of 47 villages and 1 commune included solutions to assist men and women with disabilities**

# Results of Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management

- The empowered DPO members, children with disabilities have actively played different important roles contributing to inclusive DRR at national and international level



*Advocators*

*CBDRM trainer*

*Contributors for  
Vietnam's CBDRM  
gender mainstreaming  
guideline*

# Results of Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management

Decision makers recognize the important role of people with disabilities within DRR/CBDRM, for instance:

- The review of national CBDRM program
- Circular for implementing national CBDRM program
- Circular for post disaster assessment
- Draft action plan for implementation of the UNCRPD in Vietnam



*Memorandum signing between MARD and MoLISA enhancing Disability inclusive Community based Disaster Risk Management in Vietnam*

# Challenges to face

- Government agencies from different sectors/social, international organizations have not seriously considered disability as a cross cutting issue that is required to be implemented properly → affect on removing all barriers of people with disabilities in DRR
- Mindset of DRR related organizations on disability inclusion: Inclusion of Disability is technical subject, either non-disability focused' organizations cannot do or they do it "for the sake of ticking the box" due to inadequate skills. Each organization only sticks to their main beneficiaries (for example: children focused organization just work with non disabled children).
- Lack of sex, age disability disaggregated data at pre- and post- disaster situations to support developing suitable policies, providing suitable measures for assisting people with disabilities
- Availability of disabled people's organizations at different levels to collaborate with DRR stakeholders in DRR/CBDRM
- Mobilization of members of disabled people's organizations and people with disabilities in DRR/CBDRM activities without livelihood improvement intervention
- Availability of guideline for gender mainstreaming in DRR/CBDRM including disability perspective to help improve the role of people with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities in DRR/CBDRM

# Recommendations

- **Set up DPO systems at different levels** to have human resources for collaborating with DRR stakeholders
- **Believing in ability of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities** and applying suitable methods to work with them → encourage them to participate actively in DRR/CBDRM
- Men and women with disabilities are different from non disabled men, women. They are also different from each other. It's necessary to **analyze the differences** among themselves in risk assessment and find out suitable measures for gender equality and risk reduction.
- **Removing barriers of men and women with disabilities** in DRR/CBDRM → ensure their effective participation.
- **Building the capacities of men and women with disabilities** on DRR/CBDRM before inviting them to join community mainstreaming DRR/CBDRM activities → strengthen their confidence to raise their voices and enable them to meaningfully advocate at decision makers.

# Recommendations

- **Raising awareness and building capacity for DRR, disability sectors, mainstreaming organizations on disability-inclusion** → contribute to the effectiveness of the advocacy and effective inclusion efforts.
- Have gender **sensitive representation of persons with disabilities** at all level of Disaster Risk Management Committees
- Review and **develop policies** to assist people with disabilities in participating in DRR activities
- Set up an effective mechanism and **guidelines** to **collect** sex, age and **disability disaggregated data** at pre- and post- disaster situations
- **Support inclusive** comprehensive community-based disaster risk management **initiatives/models** which will facilitate and inform local, national and regional level early warning systems and disaster preparedness plans that are accessible by all

Disability  
inclusive  
**DRR**  
Network





**Malteser  
International**

Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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