

Access to humanitarian aid by women and men, girls and boys with disabilities

Challenges and Recommendations

A review of the access to humanitarian aid for women and men,
girls and boys affected by Cyclone Idai, Mozambique



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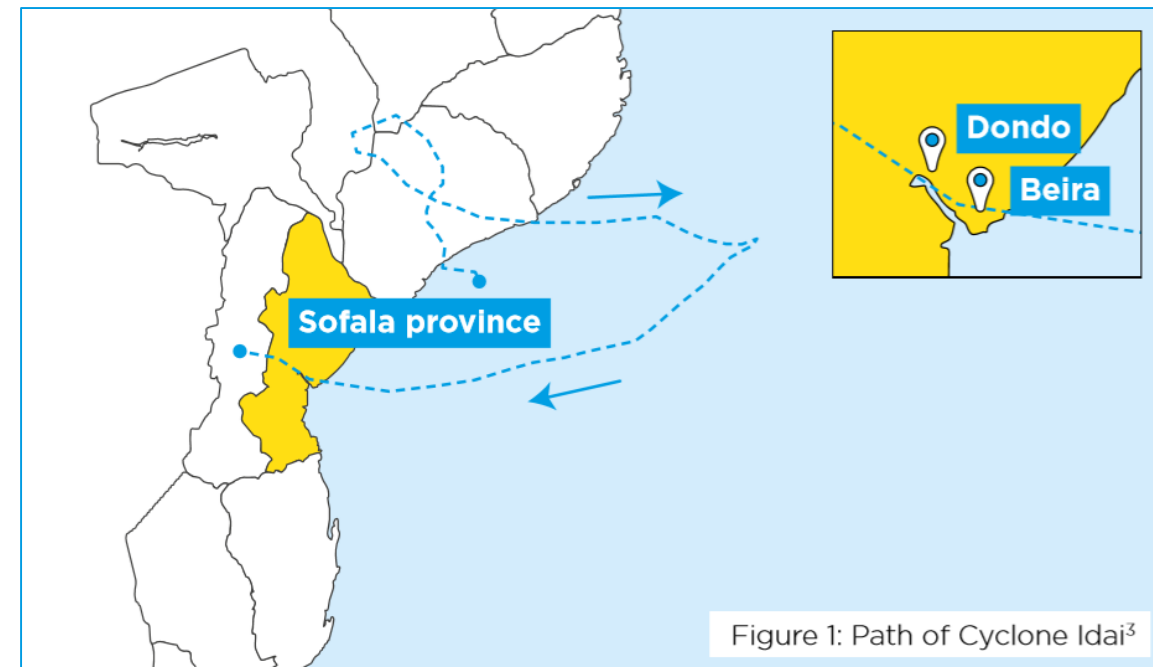
Introduction: General impact of disasters

General impact of disasters on women and men, girls and boys with disabilities:

- Left out, ignored or abandoned from emergency response
- Lose essential medications and assistive devices
- Increased dependence on caregivers
- Injury and impairments → creates greater numbers

Introduction: The case of Cyclone Idai

- **15 March 2019:** tropical Cyclone Idai
- **Massive destruction:** winds of 200 km/h, torrential rains causing floods
- **1.85 million people** affected
- > **100,000** women and men, girls and boys with disabilities
- **Aid 4 weeks after** – only 1% had received aid
- **Aid 6 months after** – increased to 4.5%



Problem

- The failure to address the needs of persons with disabilities:
 - Lack of **capacity and know-how** on how to include persons with disabilities in their response activities.
- The existence of only anecdotal information on persons with disabilities:
 - Lack of **empirical evidence** on the situation of persons with disabilities in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai.

Objective & Research question

- Generate **empirical evidence**
- Contribute to **policy development and improved practice** of inclusive humanitarian response

Research question:

What are the common barriers experienced by women and men, girls and boys with disabilities in relation to accessing humanitarian aid – provided in response to Cyclone Idai – in Sofala province, Mozambique?

Methodology

Scope of the study

- Sofala province: Beira and Dondo districts
- Communities and resettlement sites

Qualitative design

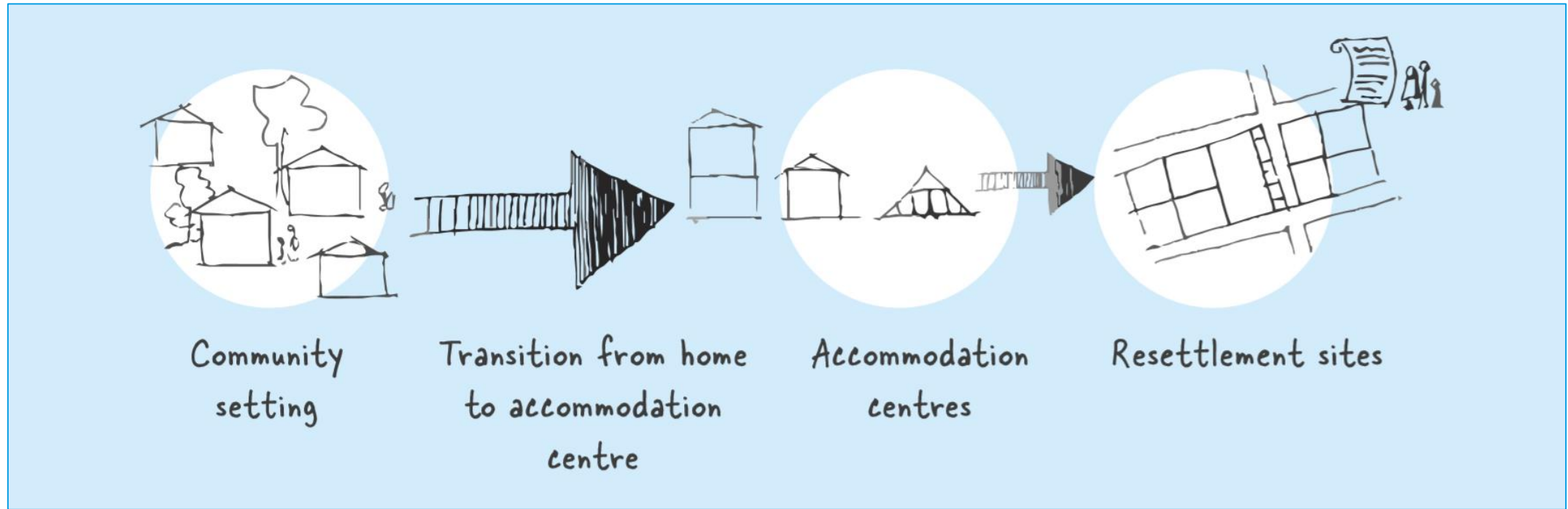
- 30 in-depth **interviews** with women and men with disabilities and caregivers
- 6 **Focus Group Discussions** with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (DPOs)
- Various **meetings** with staff members of resettlement sites, government and non-governmental actors involved in humanitarian response

Sampling

- **Purposive selection** based on geographical location and demographical features

Contextual understanding

Locations of aid distribution



Challenges within the community setting

- Aid **distribution** seemed generally **unclear** and **unstructured**
- No **accurate information** on the upcoming cyclone and aid response
- **Physically unable** to reach or access aid
- Inability to **use** the received **aid**
- Women and men, girls and boys with disabilities **felt unsafe**



Challenges in transition from home to accommodation centre

- Persons with disabilities did not transition to accommodation centres as they **felt discriminated**
- Accommodation centres were often **too far away** to be reached
- Accommodation centres were often **too crowded**



Challenges at accommodation centres

- Food distribution was **unorganised** and **aggressive**
- **WASH** facilities were often **inaccessible** for persons with disabilities
- **Lack of information** on resettlement process



Challenges at resettlement sites

- **Inability to use** the distributed goods
- **Shelters** are inadequate
- Feelings of **insecurity** and **discriminated**
- Inappropriate **information** and **communication** methods and channels



Challenges at resettlement sites

- **Distance** to services within and outside resettlement sites are too far
- Available **services** are **inaccessible**
- Lack of (access to) specialised **healthcare services**
- **Caregivers** are concerned about their ability to provide support for their disabled family members



Bottlenecks in aid provision

- **Different definitions** of 'persons with disabilities'
- **Limited knowledge** (of enumerators) on the 'typology of impairments'
- **Various vulnerability criteria** used by different humanitarian organisations
- **No follow-up** on data collection
- **DPOs are not involved** in data collection and identification processes.

Recommendations

1. **Involve DPOs** in emergency response mechanisms
2. Provide **capacity building** to staff members of accommodation centres and resettlement sites
3. Create **inclusive distribution systems** of food and non-food items
4. Ensure **communication and information channels** reach out to women and men, girls and boys with disabilities
5. Install disability-specific **community structures**
6. Include women and men, girls and boys with disabilities in existing **resettlement structures**
7. Design accessible shelters, services and **camp layout**
8. Ensure access to **rehabilitation services** for women and men, girls and boys with disabilities

Follow-up

Immediate for this study:

- Result dissemination within Humanitarian System in Mozambique
- Participatory analysis sessions with various participant groups
- Develop learning briefs and publish case studies based on research

Further need for research on:

- Specific challenges and recommendations for:
 - women and girls with disabilities
 - and boys and girls with disabilities in humanitarian response
- Disaggregation of data and use of Washington Group Questions