



# DISASTER AND DISABILITY

INCLUSIVE RISK REDUCTION MAGAZINE

Vol. 03 | 2021

## INTERVIEW

### **RICARDO TORO**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CHILE'S OFFICE  
OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES (ONEMI).

### **HORST KREMERS**

SECRETARY GENERAL CODATA-GERMANY (BERLIN, GERMANY)  
AND MEMBER OF UN DRR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT  
MECHANISM SEM ADVISORY GROUP

### **ARACELI GORETTY IXTLAPALE GAMBOA**

FOCAL POINT IN MEXICO OF INCLUSIVA NGO

### **CESAR AUGUSTO MARTÍNEZ FARIÑA**

FOCAL POINT IN PARAGUAY OF INCLUSIVA NGO

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# ANNIVERSARY OF INCLUSIVA NGO



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Magazine team:

Editor in Chief: Mr. Carlos Kaiser M.

Deputy Editor: Mrs. Loreto Brossard

Director of the editorial board: Mr. Jorge Gallardo

Graphic design: Mr. Franco Arriagada



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INCLUSIVE RISK REDUCTION MAGAZINE

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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third issue of our magazine. Here we discuss about applied knowledge, also about gender. In this issue we have great interviews and our traditional sections.

It's the 8th anniversary of Inclusiva as an NGO. We want to celebrate and share some of our main achievements.

Applied knowledge is paramount to achieve inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster management, this way decisions based on evidence can be made. How can we manage knowledge? How can we produce applied knowledge?

Gender is a pending issue that is relevant and needs to be addressed in order to achieve true inclusive disaster risk reduction.



Carlos Kaiser  
Editor in Chief

Disaster and Disability Inclusive Risk Reduction Magazine



# 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCLUSIVA NGO

Inclusiva NGO was born on August 2013 in Peñaflor Town, Chile. Its mission “to work for an inclusive world from a community, systemic and comprehensive approach, by carrying out positive activities that unite discourse and action in favor of respecting the rights, autonomy and dignity of people with disabilities in Risk Management”.



## **Main achievements:**

In 2014, Inclusiva NGO won the prestigious Risk Award. In Davos in 2014, Munich Re Foundation, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR, now UNDRR), and the Global Risk Forum (GRF) awarded the 2014 Risk Award, endowed with the sum of €100,000, to the aid organization. After receiving the award, ONG Inclusiva – in cooperation with the town council – successfully implemented an action plan in Peñaflor, a town to the south of Santiago. Peñaflor became an inclusive resilient city, offering the same, fair chances for rescue and survival in the event of disasters for everyone affected. With or without disabilities.

The RISK Award, endowed with up to 100.000 €, and was assigned to operational projects in the field of risk reduction and disaster management. The prize is awarded every two years at the International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC), organized by GRF Davos. The biennial topic will be announced at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, organized by UNISDR.

Networks: Inclusiva NGO is one of the founding partners of the Inclusive Disability and Disaster Risk Management Network of Latin America and The Caribbean network, members of Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction,, Movidos por Chile, Santiago + B, Attention without labels, GADRA. Inclusive NGO works and collaborates with UNDRR, SEM, PAHO WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ONEMI, UNGDR, World Bank among other institutions

Inclusiva COVID-19 action program. The program groups together different projects and initiatives undertaken by Inclusive NGO since February 2020. It includes studies, surveys, international webinars, informational information and humanitarian aid. Several of the initiatives have been carried out with governments, the United Nations System, organizations of persons with disabilities and local governments. Inclusiva NGO carried the first international survey on COVID 19 and people with disabilities.

Inclusiva ONG hosts the World Digital Summit Program for Inclusive Disaster Risk Management. It is an international digital meeting, which seeks to 1. Contribute to make disaster risk management inclusive towards disability. 2. Facilitate the inclusive reconstruction of the world and 3. Democratize the participation of vulnerable groups

Since 2020, Inclusiva NGO is participating in humanitarian aid campaigns from GADRA platform as a founding member along with World Institute on Disabilities and Partnership for inclusive disaster strategies





From 2020 to 2022, Inclusiva is executing a training program on IDRR with funds granted from the Metropolitan Region of Santiago Regional Government in Chile.

In 2021, Inclusiva NGO reached 2,936 people enrolled in training courses about Inclusive Disability and Disaster Risk Management in more than 24 countries. By next year, Inclusiva will reach 4,500 people registered in one of their training course

Inclusiva NGO expands with focal points in Mexico and Paraguay creating new projects and programs

Since its creation, Inclusiva ONG makes publications and research about Inclusive Disability and Disaster Risk Management and inclusive climate justice. More than 30 books and articles have been published.

Inclusiva seeks to expand its operations to serve the world. This first 8 years have been fruitful and plenty of joy and challenges. Let's work to create a better future for all.

# GENDER APPROACH, AN IMPORTANT ADVANCE IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

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What we call the gender approach: according to UN Women it is: "It is a strategy aimed at making the concerns and experiences of women, as well as men, an integral element of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation policies and programs in all political, economic and social spheres, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is prevented from perpetuating. The ultimate goal is to achieve [substantive] equality between the genders".

In risk management and in institutions, I have observed more participation of women in the activities of the 3 phases of the emergency, making joint decisions, research, education, creation of protocols, being able to be in the field with the appropriate skills, follow-up, making decisions with the same rights, having an active role and at the same time and transversal.

On issues of Disaster Risk Management and Disability, there is a greater participation of women as an active role, a lot of work that should be as important topics in the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Management.

In the case of Chile, there is a statistic that 97.7% of those who care for a person with a disability, without remuneration, are women.

For these reasons I have founded and at the moment I preside over the World Network of Women for Disaster Risk Management in which, at present, we are made up of women from countries such as: Canada, Panama, Venezuela, El Salvador, United States, Bangladesh and Chile. All with important jobs in Risk Management, gender approach in all stages of life. In the network we can share experiences, documents, studies, statistics from different countries and cultures.

I make a call to improve the quantity and quality of women's participation in the different instances such as the Disaster Risk Management Platforms, considering the great contributions that we have made and will continue to deliver.

Loreto Brossard  
Deputy Executive Director  
Inclusiva NGO





RICARDO TORO, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CHILE'S OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES (ONEMI):

“ONLY JOINT EFFORTS WILL LEAD US TO BUILD A MORE RESILIENT COUNTRY”

Ricardo Toro was appointed as National Director of ONEMI on December 20, 2012. He achieved the rank of General in the Chilean Army (ret.), with postgraduate studies in Business Administration, and Master's degrees in Human Resources and Strategic Planning.

In October 2017, he was appointed as member of the Consultative Group of the Central Emergency Action Fund (CERF) that guides and advises the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the use and allocation of resources from the Fund, which constitutes one of the mechanisms more effective in supporting rapid response to people affected by humanitarian crises, including so-called “forgotten crises” and underfunded humanitarian emergencies.

**1. ONEMI is an institution that has a strong commitment towards people with disabilities. How has the development of this commitment been and what is it based on?**

In DRM matters, the global, regional and national realities are directing their work towards territories and communities, which leads us to look at the underlying risk factors, prospective risk management, territorial gov-

ernance models and the participation of civil society in the design of public policies and decisions on DRM in their territories. And the foregoing goes hand in hand with the incorporation of the rights approach in a transversal manner throughout ONEMI's management, which implies moving from the mere verification of the impact that disasters have on communities towards the understanding that disasters are not natural.

This implies approaching the design and implementation of measures for each phase of the disaster risk management cycle in a systemic way from the premise that people live multiple identities that are derived from social relationships, our personal history and our contexts, that generate different types of vulnerabilities and capacities with which we coexist.

In this sense, ONEMI has made progress in incorporating these experiences in the way in which GRD is carried out, as we are convinced that people and their rights must be at the center of our management. Our commitment to work for a more resilient and sustainable country is that this work addresses, in a particular way, the needs of people with disabilities, so that their experiences and contributions are considered as part of the way in which risk is managed disaster in Chile

## **2. What have been the main challenges that the institution has faced in recent years?**

In terms of incorporating the rights approach, the main challenges have been, in the first place, to place the issue at the center of the discussion, so that all of us who work on DRR matters understand it and assume it as the minimum floor from where to work.

**WE ARE CONVINCED THAT  
PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHTS  
MUST BE AT THE CENTER OF  
OUR MANAGEMENT**

A second challenge has been to balance two views that in general terms exist in DRM: the more “emergencies” or response-focused view, and the view focused on prospective risk management, generating actions that allow us to strengthen the capacities of the companies, people and their communities to reduce risk and face emergencies.

And a third challenge has been to transform this intention, this postulate of focusing ONEMI's management on the rights approach, on concrete things. That is to say, in plans that incorporate it in an organic and transversal way, in recommendations that contain inclusive language, in products for the care of affected people that consider their particular needs, among others.

## **3. What have been the main learnings you have had?**

We have learned a lot as a service in this process of consolidating cross-cutting themes, such as the gender perspective, the elderly, disability and children and adolescents, among others. One of these lessons has to do with the necessary link with the communities and how to incorporate their experiences and the knowledge they have of the territories into our management. We are resolutely moving from a viewpoint of vulnerable groups, towards groups of special protection; from a care approach to a rights approach that also allows us to address the systemic

nature of disaster risk and move towards an intersectional analysis that accounts for the combination of realities that structure inequalities, highlights the particular contexts and incorporates them to the actions, programs, policies, etc. that are developed in DRM matters.

**WITH INCLUSIVA NGO, WE HAVE CARRIED OUT WORK FOR YEARS IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ONEMI, PARTICULARLY IN PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS.**

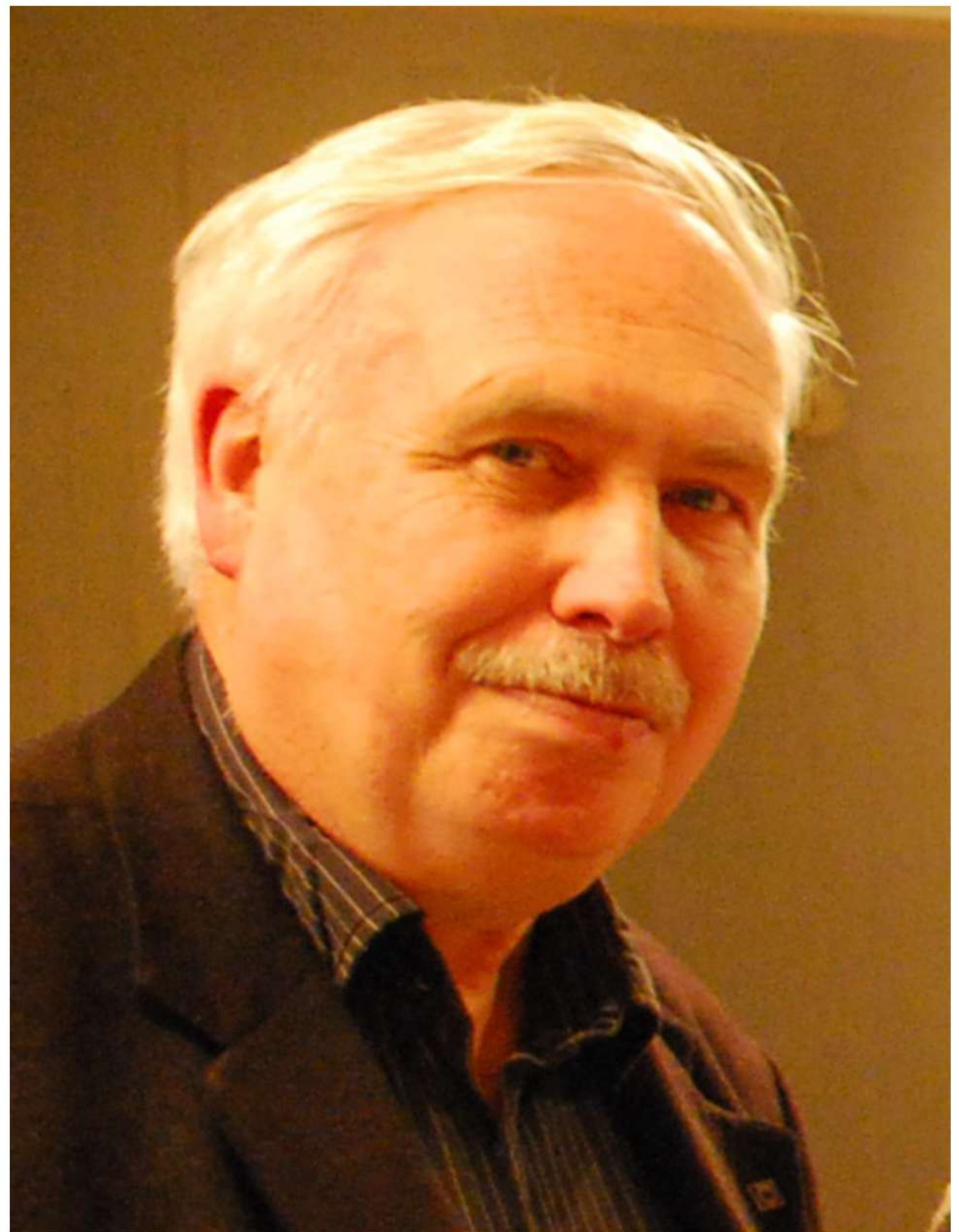
Added to the above is the necessary coordinated work between organized civil society, academia, the private world and the public world to face the challenges of DRM based on the common understanding of, for example, the need for a rights approach with a systemic gaze. Only joint efforts will lead us to build a more resilient country that learns from history, generates knowledge and innovation to reduce the risk of disasters, and contributes to the construction of public policy and private initiatives that advance in a way. coordinated towards sustainability.

#### **4. How would you describe the contributions of Inclusiva NGO?**

With Inclusiva NGO, we have carried out work for years in order to include the needs of people with disabilities in the management of ONEMI, particularly in prevention and preparedness actions.

Experiences such as the binational tsunami drill with Japan in 2016, the joint work with other organizations to define minimum standards for the inclusion of old age and disability in humanitarian action, or the Disaster Risk Management project to Everyone's Reach, are a sample of the importance of this collaborative work with Inclusiva NGO. These joint efforts have allowed us to advance in the challenge of generating policies and measures for DRM that promote inclusion, recognize and enhance the exercise of human rights, and contribute to the construction of a sustainable country.

MR. HORST KREMERS, SECRETARY  
GENERAL CODATA-GERMANY (BERLIN,  
GERMANY) AND MEMBER OF UN DRR  
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT  
MECHANISM SEM ADVISORY GROUP



Horst Kremers is an engineer and information expert with methodological and practical experiences in specification and implementation of complex information systems in multidisciplinary domains for documentation, analysis and decision support. He is active in various national and international scientific/technical committees, workgroups and associations and is initiator and organizer of many international scientific/technical committees, workgroups and associations and is initiator and organizer of many international multidisciplinary events on innovative aspects in applied information sciences. Challenges and gaps in disaster risk information management supporting stakeholders and inclusive participative governance according to the demands of the UN SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is of his major concern.

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### **1. Could you explain us what is the role of data management in disaster risk reduction?**

Data management essentially contributes to fact-based decision making in all aspects of disaster risk reduction and prevention measures, in operational first aid response, and in post-disaster stakeholder support.

We follow a holistic approach that covers typical facets of applied informatics:

- collect and represent data,
- describe and analyze variation in data,
- communicate data, enable interoperability and provide permanent open access,
- apply data in decision support, effectiveness, and control of goalreaching

According to generally adopted FAIR principles, data should be Free, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

In recent years, there has been an essential widening of concepts to include actors/stakeholders information demands and use in a social/behavioral context.

Standards for web-service-access to inventories of existing data are currently available only for the core geo-information GIS data.

Complexity is probably one of the greatest challenges in Risk Information Management: there is such a large variety of application domains, actors, law enforcement agencies, private sector and more that all contribute to civil society stakeholders situation, fate, expectations and solutions in the various phases of Disaster Risk Reduction.

## **2. Could you say how good/ bad has been the use of data management fighting COVID 19?**

The post-event evaluation of data management effectiveness in fighting global pandemics together with its social and economic consequences probably will take longer time because of the high complexity of facts, actors and people affected.

Nevertheless, already the first months of the COVID 19 pandemic made clear that the data situation in a very general sense needs considerable improvement. In the current pandemic, local, national and global information society immediately noticed about the massive influence of information on life conditions.

There had been several national and European COVID-related data R&D programs specified within short time, especially addressing the data needs in the Health domains. We are still lacking information models for the larger data picture where Health data (including domains like drugs and services availability logistics) is needed in cross-domain and cross-organizational dependencies analytics, decision support and alternatives of dynamic prediction of situations. The global consequences of COVID 19 relates supply chain disruptions indicate that local or even national aspects need to be technically embedded in international information exchange and use.

The current initiatives of COVID 19 data management are more or less related to institutions' needs, not to civil society stakeholders – especially not related to those who are most vulnerable and need special services.

There are single cases of cohort studies based on statistical analysis of parameters of “Wellbeing” including mental health effects, inequalities in job quali-

ty, chronic loneliness, disruptions to family and community life, critical educational progress and more. Such parameters would need to be matched to all epidemic/disaster phases and stakeholder groups based on adequate granularity and data quality levels.

### **INCLUSION OF DISABILITY IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO DATA COLLECTION, HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED TO THE EXTENT NEEDED**

Since data management starts with collecting data and documenting situations, and subsequently builds on it – including socio-economic consequences and long-term effects of service deficits on the wellbeing of people affected - there is a public need of doing so, far beyond the corresponding efforts of first aid organizations.

Inclusion of disability in disaster risk management, especially with respect to data collection, has not yet materialized to the extent needed.

Data and service demands urgently need to be documented along with gaps perceived already in the very course of disaster specially to enforce the reliability and transparency of later analytics.

### **3. Is it possible to create mathematical and statistical models of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction? If possible, how?**

Among the topics of special risk, vulnerability, first aid operations and post-disaster demands (when is the disaster over?) in disability inclusive disaster risk reduction we find the following: help or assistance, health services, access to resources (including vaccines), chronic morbidity, activity limitations, transport, evacuation, displacement, shelter, functional and activity limitations, poverty and income inequalities, together with ethical questions (discrimination, neglectance, violence etc.).

We already talked about the fundamental role of data at the beginning of the interview. Mathematical and statistical analysis essentially is based on the availability of adequate data in terms of volume, variety, velocity (dynamics) and veracity.

Depending on the boundary conditions that individual mathematical / statistical models rely on, there are two main question in appropriate requirements engineering: (1) do existing data allow certain types of analysis and statistics, and (2) which data are needed in order to answer certain analytical / statistical questions posed by the investigators.

Only adequate mutual matching of data and model will lead to reliable results – even in use of artificial intelligence methods and techniques.

Gaps in cross-organizational and stakeholder group related data availability, sparseness, incompatible data quality as well as missing interoperability that would enable ad-hoc complex and compatible use are well-known today to disable best possible decisions and services in all types of countries.

We are mainly concerned with service needs of people with disabilities, while proper discourse may also lead to indicate on selected important tasks in different disaster phases that even might match to special capabilities of individuals of the same group and thus enable those to be active participants in the phases of disaster risk management.

Mathematical tools and products to be expected are: indicators, correlations, dependencies, situative models as well as predictive alternatives / scenarios derived by evidence-based parameter variations.

Already in the 2016 Report of the UNDRR open ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology encouraged Member States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability, with

the engagement of the national statistical offices and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and to start reporting disaggregated data. It also calls for actions under target F of the Sendai Framework to strengthen national capacities to do so. Currently we are aware of the need of complex definition (ontology) of the term “disaster loss” as used in such discourses. Certainly there is more “loss” than fatalities and property loss. Damage in social domains of course is much more difficult to model and quantify.

It is a matter of systematic analysis of DRR National Reports to periodically elaborate a disability-related global state-of-the-art in such aspects. Disability stakeholder groups and advocates may also consider to submit their own / specific DRR National Reports providing their structured view on achievements and gaps.

**DAMAGE IN SOCIAL DOMAINS OF COURSE IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO MODEL AND QUANTIFY**

#### **4. Conclusion**

The methodologies, techniques, and information management challenges mentioned also apply in other humanitarian emergencies like in armed conflicts, technical disasters, large-scale food crises, and forced migration.

Short-term expectations are in striving for stringent coherence with state-of-the-art professional informatics and information management practices (interdisciplinary and cross-organizational, including NGOs) guided by multilateral agreements on structural, content, technical and mathematical aspects.

Comprehensive documentation and holistic ex-post analysis of operational performance as well as in social and economic consequences is not only essential in first aid phases but instead needs to be applied in all phases and aspects of disasters, especially when cascading effects prevail.

The complexity of disaster documentation is not only a challenge to law enforcement agencies but also to NGOs, Stakeholder advocacies, and Private Sector. Ad hoc situative decisions, actions and alternatives guidance together with anticipated consequences need to be addressed in an all-of-society interest.

For me it is especially notable that even nowadays we are lacking such comprehensive multi-actor and civil society stakeholder-relevant documentation principles. In some exceptional cases, special parliamentarian post-disaster committees compiled extensive reports on facts, findings and deficits.

Media, Broadcasting, and Journalists should be enabled for improved inves-

tigation, communication, support of best action and control of effectiveness on behalf of those that are affected and those that demand special support.

## THIS INCLUSION IMPERATIVE HAS INFLUENCED THINKING ON HOW BEST TO SUPPORT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ENSURE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED

Information governance is needed to foster of cross-domain and cross-organizational national as well as international implementations needed for timeliness support of societal, natural, technical, humanistic and ethical aspects especially for those most vulnerable and in special need. The UN SENDAI Framework draws special attention to Women, Children and Youth, Persons with Disabilities, Older Persons, Indigenous Peoples and Migrants.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has created an inclusion imperative for global and national action on the inclusion of people with disabilities. This inclusion imperative has influenced thinking on how best to support persons with disabilities and their families to ensure human rights are respected.



The awareness of the fundamental role of data, information and knowledge in these respects needs to be raised considerably, especially when cascading disasters and emergencies are concerned. Special project work involving applied informatics specialists and comprising intake from the corresponding stakeholders and advocacy groups on national and international level certainly will improve the current situation.

The information gaps addressed together with goal reaching monitoring should be one of the permanent task assigned to cooperation of the relevant authorities, organizations, advocacies and private sector.

Disaster Information Management is a very complex and challenging task domain that ranges from data collection to multi-parameter high-dynamic Big Data streams. The permanent nature of such complex tasks leads to requirements of special long-term institutional organizations massively equipped to provide full data lifecycle coordination, collection, storage, open accessibility, use and control of efficiency together with analytical and statistical analyses in support of all stakeholders involved.

No other (national) platforms seem to be in sight than the National SENDAI Platforms that – according to the framework text – should enable and guide an all-of-society dialogue and

participative governance support aiming at stronger incentives, innovations in complex disaster information management, projects and broad / standard implementations for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

Contact Horst Kremers

<http://Horst-Kremers.de>  
[office@horst-kremers.de](mailto:office@horst-kremers.de)

Risk Information Management  
Community of Experts

<http://RIMMA.org>



ARACELI MA. GORETTY IXTLAPALE GAMBOA, FOCAL POINT IN MEXICO OF INCLUSIVA NGO:

**“TALKING ABOUT INCLUSION IS TALKING ABOUT RESPECT, EMPATHY AND WILL”**

Outstanding professional, she got a degree in Communication Sciences, Master in Corporate Communication and Advertising. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Occupational Health and Safety. She is responsible for the Inclusion Commission of the Mexican Professional Association of Professionals in Risk Management and Civil Protection as well as the Association for Safety and Hygiene and Civil Protection. Constant participation in the development of networks in Mexico with a focus on inclusion of people with disabilities. Goretty within her first work has participated in Inclusive NGO in the dissemination in Mexico of the international course "Introduction to Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Disability".

She has taken various diplomas and courses on disaster risk reduction, Inclusion, PwD and Gender. She has developed important courses, including one in the area of Mexican Sign Language. She maintains a strong social commitment, highlighting her work in different work tables.

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**1. Why do you dedicate yourself to inclusive disaster and disability risk management?**

Because where I live is a seismic area and I have a brother with a hearing disability from birth and an acquired

physical disability, in addition to my father, due to his age and chronic degenerative diseases, he is a person with visual impairment and is a wheelchair user.

As a relative of two people with disabilities, it has always been worrying for me not being able to assist them in the event of an earthquake or fire, which are the dangers to which they are most exposed.

### THE AUTHORITIES RECOMMENDED THE USE OF FACE MASKS, BUT IN THE CASE OF MY BROTHER WHO IS DEAF, ALL COMMUNICATION WITH HIM WAS LOST

Because of my work, I am hardly at home so we should have a plan so that they would know what to do in case of an emergency situation and it was there that I realized that a support network for people with disabilities is required, that sidewalks are accessible for an emergency evacuation, we should have an accessible alert system for my deaf brother.

This is how little by little I got into the topic of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management and I realized that people with disabilities were not taken into account, that they were seen as one more piece of furniture ... He did, but... no way "That seemed very strong and unfair to me. Researching on the internet for information to know how to include PWD in neighborhood and municipal emergency plans, etc. I got to know Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Disability and said "this is what the world needs to know and apply" because as we know in the world the World Health Organization

estimates that there are more than 1 billion people with disabilities.

The Covid-19 came to confirm to me why it is necessary for people with disabilities to be taken into account, but not only as "people who must be helped in an emergency situation" but as experts in disability where they can tell us what they are exposed and even provide possible solutions. The example I have regarding Covid-19 is that the authorities recommended the use of face masks, but in the case of my brother who is deaf, all communication with him was lost and he goes again, so the measures were not planned taking in account for the needs of deaf people.

I am sure that, like your servant, there are millions of relatives of people with disabilities with the same concern and desire to get down to work so that both people with disabilities, society and the authorities take actions in favor of an Inclusive Disaster and Disability Risk Management where we all know what to do before, during and after a disaster.

## 2. How can society be made more inclusive?

Talking about inclusion is talking about respect, empathy and will. We need to raise awareness and inform society in general about the great impact of discrimination since it can be direct, indirect, for reasons of disability, multiple or intersectional, likewise, we must

make visible the characteristics of each type of disability.

Sometimes my brother has fallen in the street, they have been about to run him over and nobody comes to help him even though he has asked for help, some looked at him with indifference and others have said "sorry, I don't know, I'm afraid of hurting you" and they are long followed. On some occasion my brother and I were walking in the center of the city, when trying to climb a very high sidewalk, I almost threw him out of his wheelchair and I remember that there were many people and he only watched morbidly, but nobody helped me, until I directly pointed out to two young people who would please help me not to throw it away and when they approached them they also commented "but I don't know", "what if I throw it away". I understood that we must share our knowledge and experience so that they know how to help people with disabilities, if requested or required, in an emergency situation.

**PEOPLE WITH  
DISSABILITIES ARE  
EXPERTS IN THEIR  
DISABILITY AND AS  
EXPERTS THEY CAN TEACH  
US A LOT**

### **3. What are the main challenges in Mexico for people with disabilities to be an integral part of disaster risk management?**

I could mention three to you: Recognize that they exist, recognize their capabilities and make their needs visible.

First, recognize that they exist. It seems incredible to say this but it is the truth. When I started talking about the inclusion of people with disabilities, many people ... local, state, federal authorities, CSOs from other branches told me "why was the subject of people with disabilities interested me if in Mexico there are hardly any, nor do I know come on the street?" and explained to them that how they expected to see PwD in the street if our city is not accessible, there are no ramps, transportation is not inclusive, communications are not accessible for most deaf people, there is no touch floor, etc. In the last population and housing census of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography 2020, it showed that in Mexico there are 20,838,108 people with disabilities, with limitations in daily activity or with some problem or mental condition, so as we see the perception of "almost no " it is false.

Second, recognize your capabilities. Sadly, the social model of disability has not yet penetrated the majority of the population, PwD continues to be seen as "poor little ones, they have to be saved", "they will always have a family

member to take care of them", "they cannot work, they better be. stay at home "and nothing is further from the truth. PwD are experts in their disability and as experts they can teach us a lot, their experience is essential to assess disaster risk in each of the stages of Disaster Risk Management. We must listen to them, make them participate in decision-making on matters that have to do with them ... let's remember their motto "nothing about us without us." People with disabilities are not vulnerable per se but they can be important agents of change in Disaster Risk Management and in society in general.

And third, make your needs visible. People with disabilities are not homogeneous. We need to generate data disaggregated by type of disability, gender, age and origin. The more we know the characteristics of the population with disabilities and of course analyze the data with an intersectional approach.

#### **4. How do you describe the challenges of Inclusive NGO in Mexico?**

Let us remember that Mexico is a multi-threat country, so the challenges we have in the national territory as an Inclusive NGO are very ambitious:

Publicize Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management since by increasing the preparedness of the whole society for disasters and taking into account people with disabilities, it

is more likely that we will give a better response during the emergency so that no one will be left behind and later rebuild better.

Another challenge is the creation of alliances with the public, social and private sectors as well as with academia and CSOs of both people with disabilities and people who do not have disabilities so that together we work on an Inclusive Disaster and Disability Risk Management focused on people and with a preventive approach.

CESAR AUGUSTO MARTÍNEZ FARIÑA,  
FOCAL POINT IN PARAGUAY OF  
INCLUSIVA NGO:

**“FROM A HUMAN  
RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE,  
NO ONE SHOULD  
BE LEFT OUT”**



Cesar Augusto Martínez Fariña was appointed Minister Executive Secretary of the National Secretariat for the human rights of people with disabilities under the Presidency of the Republic in September 2018, a position that he held until November 2020. In his management, the CEDDIS - OEA held a regular session in Paraguay.

He was minister rapporteur at the II Ibero-American Meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs held in Andorra in 2019.

In 2008 he promoted the creation of the General Directorate of Inclusive Education, being the first general director occupying the position in the periods 2008-2010 / 2016-2018. A relevant fact in his management was the approval of the Guidelines for an inclusive educational system in Paraguay Catechist of children with disabilities

Currently he is an advisor to various organizations of and for people with disabilities. In his academic training, the studies carried out in Chile, Spain, Israel and Japan all linked to the issue of disability and inclusion stand out. He has published several materials, including the Accessible Protocol for people with disabilities in two editions 2014 and 2016, and the Social Psychological Protocol after traffic accident 2017 and research in this regard.

## **1. Why do you dedicate yourself to inclusive disaster and disability risk management?**

All my life I have worked in the disability sector, or rather since my childhood I have lived with people with disabilities and not because of having a close relative with disabilities but because I actively participated in the Parish as an altar boy from the age of 6 in a congregation whose charism was the service to people with disabilities and the elderly. I also grew up in the Scout movement and everything that implies service to others and the implication of rescue work etc. Nowadays, having completed being a volunteer firefighter with the inclusive disaster risk management approach is to have assumed that risk management without that inclusive approach leaves many human beings out and from a human rights perspective, no one should be left out.

## **2. What is the role of education in the inclusion of people with disabilities?**

It's fundamental. It's key. There is a phrase that says, what is lived in school is reflected in society, that is, we re-learn, we recreate, we learn to live with our differences in the educational environment, that is why it is essential to strengthen a more inclusive and inclusive educational system.

## **3. What role do local governments play in inclusive disaster and disability risk management?**

It is the realization of the state public policy implemented in the territory. The effective and active participation of the members of a community means giving true value to the community protagonists who, by excellence and experience, know the reality of their communities more than anyone else.

## **4. How do you describe the challenges of Inclusiva NGO in Paraguay?**

- Work on raising awareness in organizations about the inclusive approach to disaster risk management.
- Strengthening work in networks of CSOs (civil society organizations) and OEE (State Bodies and Entities)
- Leave installed capacity in organizations of people with disabilities and emergency organizations the paradigm of inclusive disaster risk management.
- Contribute to the strengthening of a community plan for inclusive disaster risk management

# CHALLENGES OF INCLUSION

Research and Development Coordinator  
Inclusive NGO.

Member of national and international research networks, such as the International Sociological Association. With studies in Health Sciences, he is currently a Ph.D. (c) in Sociology. He has been a lecturer in the main universities of Chile and has participated as a researcher in the UNAM.

In ONG Inclusiva, he participates in the preparation and theoretical-methodological discussions of the various studies, instruments and other activities that we carry out.



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Some hope is beginning to emerge in some parts of the world. We know a little better what COVID-19 is all about and the measures to deal with it. However, we still have a long way to go if we are to end this pandemic. But we have also seen the centrality of scientific debate and research in addressing it. And this is relevant, not only because of the visibility that the broad field of research has been gaining in the world, but also because of how valuable it can be for gaining in-depth knowledge of a phenomenon or social problem. Well, within this framework,

we believe that we have the opportunity to reinstate the need to increase the number and complexity of challenges we have in inclusion, through research.

How important could research in inclusion be? A first element that we can highlight is exclusion. Unfortunately, when we talk about inclusion, we do it in terms of effect. That is to say, there is no need for inclusion if there were no processes of exclusion of people. This opens up a field of possibilities for research, since we could not create the instances and dynamics of inclusion



without knowing in detail the processes that led to the existence of excluded groups or people. Social, economic, cultural, historical and political factors - to name a few - can be a source of research in this regard.

Another element to consider in research is the territory. We are aware of the tremendous efforts of various international bodies and institutions to support the development of inclusive initiatives and frameworks for many groups of people. However, we cannot forget the relevance of local characteristics. Knowing and understanding them would allow us to delve deeper into the history and the ways in which groups, organizations and individuals have dealt with exclusion. In this way, it would be possible to critically analyze the failures of inclusive initiatives, expanding the options for searching for problems and solutions. In other words, knowing the territory and its dynamics should be a basic standard for analyzing possible adaptations and relevance of any inclusive initiative.

This is particularly critical, as it implies recognizing that any initiative whose objective is inclusion may produce undesired damage. This means that even if an activity or action is inclusive, it can again lead to exclusion, if we are not capable of knowing in some depth what the daily reality of people's lives is. A graphic example of this situation can be represented by a training or study plan for a person with a disability. Let's

suppose that a person in a wheelchair can study at a university through an inclusive admission program. This meant for her a clear reduction in the barriers to access to education, and the future improvement in her quality of life, as a result of having university studies. Imagine how complex it can be for a person in a wheelchair to attend a university. Even now, in the pandemic, even though in many parts of the world education is done online, it is possible that this person does not have a computer or Internet connection. Even with all this effort, if this person finishes his or her studies and does not have the possibility of getting a job, we will see how this inclusive action was not successful. Why? Because, the admission program was not able to broadly look at the trajectory of this person with a disability, not anticipating that after finishing his or her studies, the possibility of finding a job would be scarce.

Let us also consider the aspects of gender and social participation of people with disabilities. As we know, a homosexual disability person can be much more excluded than if he/she were only a person with a disability. We could even add that such exclusion may increase, depending on their skin color (Stienstra 2013). In other words, with this example supported by the concept of intersectionality, we can see how we can go deeper into the elements and factors that participate in the exclusion processes.

In short, we propose as challenges of inclusion in the XXI century, to incorporate research as a factor that allows to increase in quality and quantity the various actions and initiatives that exist and we need to create in Inclusion.

#### References

Stienstra, D. (2013). Race/ethnicity and disability studies: Towards an explicitly intersectional approach. In *Routledge handbook of disability studies* (pp. 384-397). Routledge.