Joint G3ict/ITU Workshop on
Inclusive ICTs for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and those with specific needs
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Whole Community ICT Accessibility Before, During and After Disasters

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Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

- "Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards."
  - United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - 2015-2030

- Globally, over 1 billion people live with some form of disability.

- What happens to them has a direct impact not only on them but on the rest of the society, especially their families and communities.
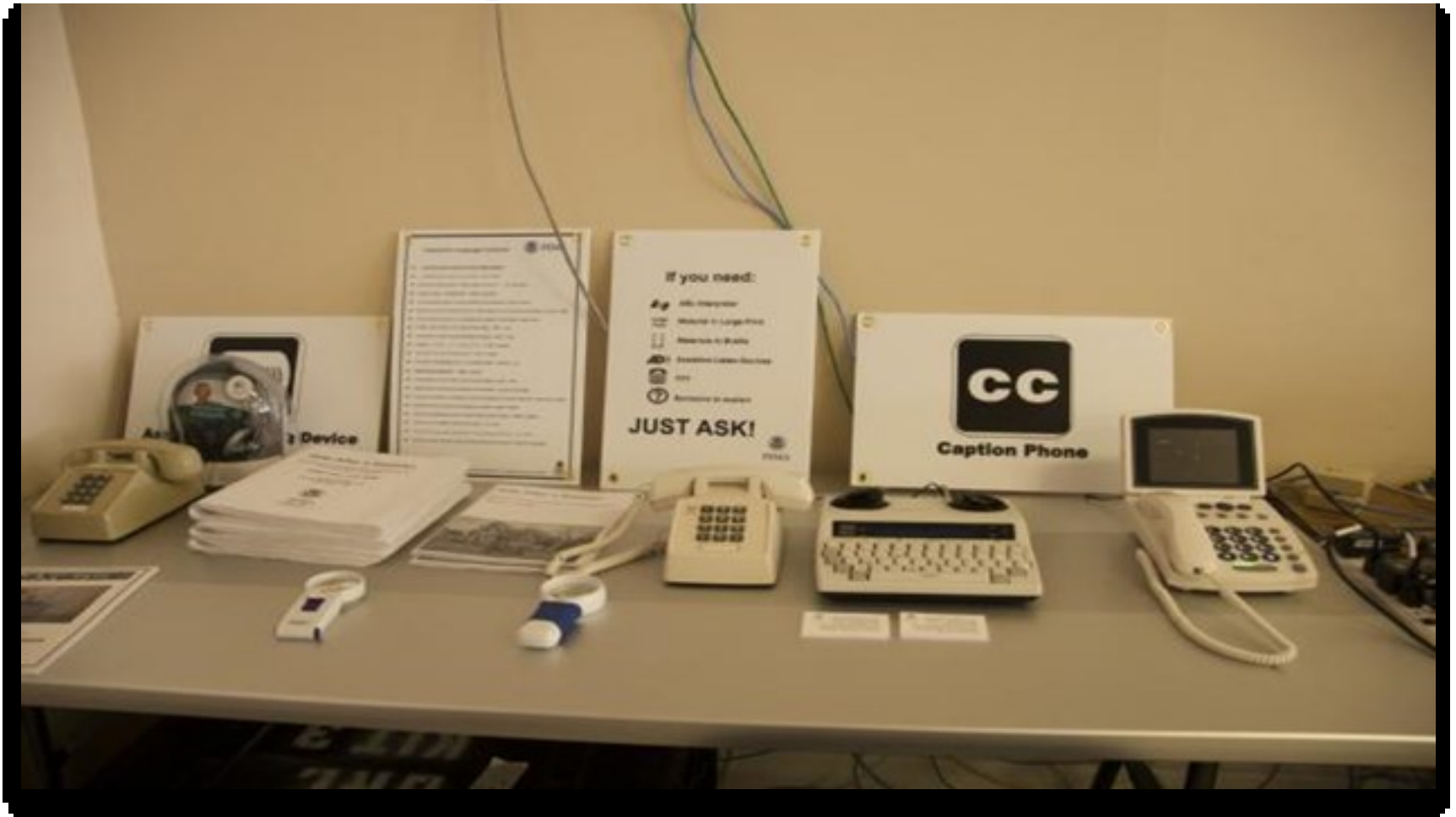
  – World Report on Disability 2011

Sendai Framework

- Recognizes that not only are persons with disabilities disproportionately affected by disasters, but – crucially – that their knowledge and leadership skills are essential for building resilient, inclusive and equitable societies.

Major Gaps

- Absence of disaggregated data
- Inadequate indicators for assessing the implementation of the Sendai Framework, CRPD, etc.
- Presence of environmental, communication and institutional barriers
- Persons with disabilities are two to four times more likely to get injured or die in case of a disaster.
- Similar gaps for all disproportionately impacted individuals, families and communities.

Effective Communication Access

ATTENTION!

REPORTERS AND PHOTOJOURNALISTS

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Media outlets are required by federal legislation and FCC regulation to include the American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter in their emergency broadcast of press conferences.

Media outlets MUST ensure the ASL interpreter is visible on screen at all times during coverage of press conferences.

To ensure that press conferences held by VDEM and the Virginia Governor's Office during a disaster event comply with federal anti-discrimination laws, VDEM provides a qualified ASL interpreter for all press conferences.

What Are TV Stations Required to Do?

Make sure the ASL interpreter is visible at all times in the broadcast next to the emergency official.

Use a Medium 2 Shot of the public official and the sign language interpreter in the video frame at all times during the press conference.

If your station shows any other graphics or video feed during the press conference, the video with the interpreter must remain visible on the screen at all times.

Ensure that all captioning and interpreting services are clearly visible and not distorted on all re-broadcasts and Internet broadcasts of the same production.

Embed subtitles and sign language interpreter into a single video so captions or interpreter cannot be cut-out in re-broadcasts or Internet streaming. Or, provide XML files (Flash videos) or VTT (HTML5 videos) with the caption file copied.

VDEM will monitor all broadcasts to ensure the ASL interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible on the television screen at all times during an emergency press conference. If you have any questions about these requirements, please see the VDEM External Affairs staff.

Universal Design

- "The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

- The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities
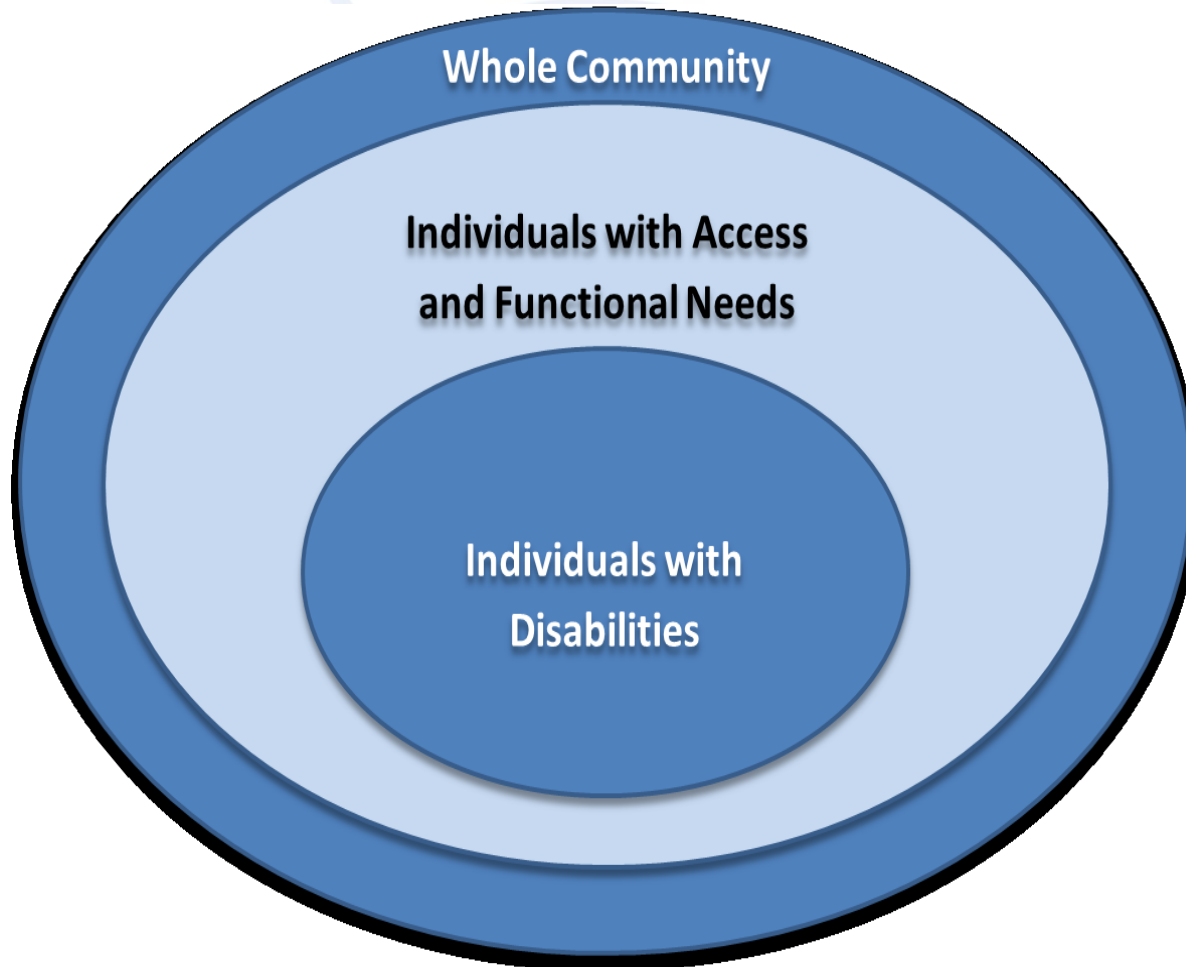   - The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University

Making accommodations is reactive, whereas universal design is proactive

Whole Community

Whole Community

**Individuals with Access
and Functional Needs**

**Individuals with
Disabilities**

Access and Functional Needs

- Children and adults with physical, mobility, sensory, intellectual, developmental, cognitive, or mental disabilities
- Older adults
- People with chronic or temporary health conditions
- Women in the late stages of pregnancy
- People with limited English proficiency, low literacy or additional communication needs
- People with very low incomes
- People without access to transportation
- People experiencing homelessness
- Others

Access and Functional Needs

- **Term**: Access and Functional Needs Accommodation
- **Synonym**: Access and Functional Needs
- **Definition**: circumstances that are met for providing physical, programmatic, and effective communication access to the whole community by accommodating individual requirements through universal accessibility and/or specific actions or modifications
- **Extended Definition**: includes assistance, accommodation or modification for mobility, communication, transportation, safety, health maintenance, etc.; need for assistance, accommodation or modification due to any situation (temporary or permanent) that limits an individual's ability to take action in an emergency
  - US DHS 2015

Nothing About Us Without Us

Promising and Good Practices

- Universal accessibility is "baked in" to all aspects of preparedness, response and recovery, not an afterthought or annex

- People with disabilities are "at the table" and their role is real, not tokenized

- Qualified people with disabilities serve in leadership roles

Language Influences Behavior

- "Access and functional needs" NOT "special needs"
- "Whole community" NOT "special populations"
- "Disproportionate impact" NOT "vulnerable or at-risk populations"
- "Individuals" NOT "special populations"
- Planning "with" NOT planning "for"
- DO NOT use acronyms to describe people (PWD, AFN, DD, for example)

We Prepare Every Day

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