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TT 1.3A: Pan Island Preparedness (Scenario A: Earthquake)

Background

Your disaster risk reduction (DRR) organization is leading an earthquake preparedness project on Pan Island, a country in the Atlantic Ocean. It is a low-income country, and there is often food insecurity. The country's main economic activity is farming. Families also get important income from illegal logging in the highlands in the north. Illegal logging has increased the risk of landslides and mudslides during the wet season. The 2-month rainy season has just started.

Pan society is divided strictly according to social status and gender. It is difficult for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to get information from and about vulnerable groups. Cellphone coverage is very high, but few women own a phone. The project coverage area has 7,890 households. You have some information about the numbers of men and women but have no data on the age groups nor how many people have disabilities. There is a lot of stigma around disabilities. Your organization does not want to cause harm by collecting data on a sensitive topic. Your DRR organization is well known in Pan. It has worked there for 15 years and has well-established partnerships in the country, especially with regional and national governments.

Project activities

You will train 200 DRR focal points from the communities on earthquake preparedness. These DRR focal points will then train households. Trainings will cover how families can prepare by:

- Developing household evacuation plans
- Stocking up on non-perishable food
- Creating "Go Bags" for emergency evacuations

Nearly all the DRR focal points are male because more men in the communities are literate and few women applied to participate.

The project also offers small repairs and reinforcement projects for vulnerable homes and structures. The male focal points will oversee choosing households for these projects and distributing Go Bags with emergency preparedness materials. Households will be able to use a preparedness checklist and get help from an app on their phones.

As part of the project, your organization is working with the regional government to develop an early warning system that sends information by short message service (SMS). Your organization also set up some evacuation centers. These are several hours' walk from most communities. Most community members will be able to manage these distances because they are used to walking long distances to markets. Evacuation centers do not have lighting or facilities for people with disabilities. The centers can get very crowded.

Your organization has found evacuation center volunteers who are eager to support. They have already been trained through the project. They have not been trained on staff conduct and how to refer program participants to support services. However, they are very knowledgeable about DRR.

In the past, there were rumors that gender-based violence was a problem at evacuation centers operated by your organization. You are not sure if they were true because your organization does not have a way to formally collect feedback from program participants.