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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration - A Disability-Led and Technology Based Response

People with disabilities make up over 25% of the US population and number 1.3 people globally, yet they are consistently disproportionately impacted, and are statistically two to four times more likely to be injured or die in a disaster. Emergency management and humanitarian organizations continue to struggle to find genuine whole community 'solutions that work'. Initiated in 2020 by three disability-led organizations (DLOs) and a handful of socially conscious allies, the Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration (GADRA) was formed to fill this ongoing gap through applying disability subject matter expertise to emergency management and public-private partnership principles.

Leveraging an accessible technology response platform, GADRA activates to DLOs impacted by disaster and matches them with global resources.

The needs are diverse and so are the solutions. The result is a transformation for disabled people from left behind to leadership that benefits the whole community.

Since 2021 GADRA has assisted 21 DLOs, in 14 countries during 12 disasters or crises, coordinated with over 40 corporate and foundation partners. They have secured the safety of over 11,000 people, sustainability of 5 organizations, delivery of over \$450,000 of disability

equipment and supplies, and hosted of over 9 global events. GADRA is demonstrating the impact that can be achieved through the paradigm shift of centering the assets, rather than solving for the needs of people with disabilities.

Presentation Theme: This presentation theme reflects experiences of disability-led public private partnership collaborative strategies to building local resilience in emergency response.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Although, based on disability research, this work was not research, however the World Institute on Disability partnered with The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies and ONG Inclusiva to initiate this work.