

Games on inclusion of age, disability and gender
in preparedness and humanitarian response

Identifying support needed for evacuation

Game title: Identifying support needed for evacuation

Overview: Teams are given a scenario and have to navigate various decision gates* to safely evacuate sixteen people and identify their support needs

**Decision gates are points in the story where there is one of three options of what path to take next.*

Learning objectives:

By the end of the game players will be able to explain the steps and information needed to evacuate people at high-risk and provide support before, during and after a crisis.

Who should play the game?

Anyone involved in formulating or advising on evacuation plans or supporting older people and people with disabilities during an evacuation.

Number of players: 4-12 players

Materials required:

Resource 1: Print one copy of the Decision gates cut up per team

Estimated time required: 30-40 minutes

Facilitator instructions:

- Step 1:** Explain that the concept of the game is for teams to navigate their way through a scenario. At various stages in the scenario they will be presented with a decision gate where they will choose an option (A, B or C). Once the team has selected their option one team member will return to you (the facilitator) and inform you of the team's decision. At this point you (the facilitator) will hand the team member the next piece of information corresponding with their decision. The team that finds the most direct path to the end result wins the game (note that it is not based on speed but the number of times the team has to ask the facilitator for a decision gate).
- Step 2:** Ask players to form teams of two to four players, sitting around a table or on the floor. Ask them to nominate one person who will read out each scenario to the team and communicate to the facilitator each decision the team makes (this could be two different people if they prefer).
- Step 3:** Clarify any questions on the game objective and then give out the first scenario with decision gate 1 to each team. Place yourself fairly central to all teams and have a table laid out with all the decision gates organised so that when a team asks you for say 'decision 1b' it is easy for you to find and hand them '1b'.
- Step 4:** As teams work through the decision gates they will come to you for the decisions. Allow everyone to reach the end and have the correct path before you finish the game.
- Step 5:** Congratulate everyone for finishing and ask who managed to finalise the evacuation in just three steps? They are the winning team.

Step 6: Debrief all players with the following questions:

- What did you learn from this game?
- Have you experienced or witnessed any similar challenges or solutions in the past?
- Are there any other barriers you face to completing an inclusive evacuation plan with home support for those who require it?
- How can we remove (or reduce) those barriers?

Level of facilitation required: Medium

Possible adaptations to game:

You may choose to print multiple copies of each information card for each team if they are large teams and everyone would like to read the information (rather than listen to team member).

You could also place the different pieces of information around a given space whereby teams read the scenario and then go to collect the information.

Suggested games to play before or after this game:

- Buddy system for pre-, during and post-disaster
- Creating accessible meetings
- Inclusion in an evacuation plan

Resource 1: Decision gate

Give each team a copy of the first decision gate below to begin.

Initial scenario

You are in charge of the evacuation of sixteen older people who have been identified as high risk in the area prone to flooding. You have already used the Washington Group questions and followed some guidance on inclusive evacuation planning. You are feeling confident about the plan. You have a list of the sixteen people with their name, sex, age, disability and method of communication.

You have decided to have a trial of the evacuation to check that everyone can reach the evacuation centre safely. You have already informed everyone that you plan to have a trial today at 11am.

You communicate to everyone on your list that they need to evacuate. This means that for some people you have to send a text message, for others you have to call, for a few people you need to contact their carer who will then contact the person in need of evacuation, for two you use intercom radio and for another two people you have to go to their house.

You go to the evacuation centre waiting for everyone to arrive. Only six people arrive.

Decision gate 1

Why did 10 people fail to arrive at the evacuation centre? What will you do next?

- a. Some people needed support to leave the home and there was no buddy system. Set this up for them and then try again.
- b. Some people did not receive the evacuation message, check communication channels and format.
- c. Some people decided not to evacuate, check why they didn't want to leave and look for a solution with which they are also comfortable.

Decision 1a.

You realise that some people needed more support to leave their home. You decide to make a list of people with difficulty leaving the home. The list includes the following information:

- a) people who have support in the home to help evacuate
- b) people who have support in the community to help them evacuate
- c) people who have no support to leave the home
- d) homes with more than one person having difficulty leaving the home
- e) people who are not willing to leave the home.

With this information you support everyone to set up a buddy system. You also check if there is an existing transport plan in the area and who needs to be informed about target individuals and families who need more time to evacuate. You decide that this plan must be updated every time there is a change in circumstances. You speak to everyone and set up a system whereby a selected family member or buddy informs you if someone has become sick or has recovered and has different medical or evacuation needs. You also decide to have regular check-ins with everyone.

You try another evacuation test and inform everyone, including carers and buddies, involved that this will be a trial.

You now have a list of the support needed for all individuals to leave home and a buddy system. Everyone arrives in the area but when they get to the evacuation centre, four people are unable to enter the toilet facilities or open the doors in the allocated 'safe' building. They feel embarrassed and do not want to evacuate again. Go to Decision gate 2.

Decision gate 2

**This is not acceptable and does not show respect for individuals' dignity.
What will you do next?**

- a. Check with a wheelchair user that they can access every facility before finalising the evacuation centre.
- b. Remove the doors to help remove the barriers.
- c. Assess the allocated space using the RECU principle (Reach, Enter, Circulate and Use).

Decision 1b

You already checked the appropriate means of communication and personally made sure everyone received the message and understood the message. You also prepared alternative means of communication in case the first channel failed. But still only five people arrived. Return to the decision gate 1 and select another option.

Decision 1c

You speak to those who had not arrived at the evacuation centre, a few people tell you that they were not keen on the trial or on evacuating. However, this was not the primary reason for them to not evacuate. Return to decision gate 1 and select another option.

Decision 2a

You consult with a male wheelchair user and they find there are numerous barriers when entering the area, circulating and using the facilities. You improve the width of doors and place in small ramps. However, this helps with just one type of disability and a wider consultation is needed to ensure that barriers are removed for everyone, including men and women of different ages and with different disabilities. Return to the decision gate 2 and select another option.

Decision 2b

You ask if you should remove the doors but someone informs you that doing so will present a fire hazard. It will also increase people's vulnerability to other threats and reduces privacy. Return to the decision gate 2 and select another option.

Decision 2c

You consult a group of people who have been recommended through the local DPO and OPA. This includes men and women of different ages with and without disabilities. You identify the barriers and together you explore potential solutions. You use the RECU approach to make sure each area is assessed. You change door handles, taps and toilets to a universal design that is accessible for all. You repeat this for the evacuation centre and the route people take to get there.

You now have:

- An initial list of at risk people, with means of communication and disaggregated data by sex, age and disability.
- A list that is regularly kept up to date regarding support needed to vacate the home.
- A buddy system for everyone identified as being at high risk.
- You have checked the evacuation centre regarding accessibility through a consultative process using RECU approach.

Decision gate 3

What will you do next?

- a. I'm confident with the plan now, I will regularly check and ensure it remains up to date.
- b. There is still more I need to check and prepare.
- c. I'm not sure. I need to consult with an expert .

Decision 3a

You are still missing a few points that need considering. Be careful not to be over confident without first checking with experts. Return to the decision gate 3 and select another option.

Decision 3b

You are right in thinking there is still more to prepare. You consult with the individuals involved regarding on what they would need once at the evacuation centre. They inform you of various needs such as medications, blankets, clothes, toilet aids, diapers, etc. Some of these are included in their grab bags that they have as part of the personal preparedness plan. However, you will need to have an additional supply of some of these items at the centre. You make a list of which items are required and ensure you have sufficient supply for at least five days. You also decide to contact the medical teams working with people with disabilities and collaborate with them on plans for mobile teams to support in case of emergency.

Decision gate 4

Congratulations, you have done a great job an inclusive plan.

Decision 3c

Ask your facilitator if you have completed the evacuation planning.

Resource 2: **Facilitator answers**

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You go to the evacuation centre waiting for everyone to arrive. Only six people arrive.

Decision gate 1

Why did 10 people fail to meet? What will you do next?

- Some people needed support to leave the home and there was no buddy system. Set this up for and then try again **(best option)**.
- Some people never received the evacuation message, check communication channels and format **(return to decision gate 1)**.
- Some people decided not to evacuate, check why they didn't want to leave and look for solution with which they are also comfortable **(return to decision gate 1)**.

Decision gate 2

This is not acceptable and does not show respect for individuals' dignity. What will you do next?

- Check with a wheelchair user that they can access every facility before finalising the evacuation centre **(return to decision gate 2)**.
- Remove the doors to help remove the barriers **(return to decision gate 2)**.
- Assess the allocated space using the RECU principle (Reach, Enter, Circulate and Use) **(best option)**.

Decision gate 3

What will you do next?

- I'm confident with the plan now, I will regularly check and ensure it remains up to date **(Return to the decision gate 3)**
- There is still more I need to check and prepare **(best option)**
- I'm not sure. I need to consult with an expert **(Facilitator acts as expert and advises them that there is still more to do, advise them to check the needs of the people whilst at the evacuation centre then hand them, once they accept the advice hand them 3b)**