



150 years of humanitarian action
Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP 5

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Organising – co-sponsoring National Societies

The National Societies of Palestine Red Crescent, Vietnam Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Cambodian Red Cross, Colombian Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross

Chair : tbc

Rapporteur : tbc

Speakers/presenters :

- Speaker 1: Pascal Hundt, ICRC Assistance Division
- Speaker 2: Palestine Red Crescent will share their rich experience in working with the different types of disabilities through 27 centers and various community programs. Palestine Red Crescent has since its establishment in 1968 given this domain a priority on the strategic planning level and manages a comprehensive national rehabilitation and disability program.
- Speaker 3: A person with disability will be identified via the network of the Agra Group. This person will address the general situation of persons with disabilities

Rational/Objectives

Under international humanitarian law, persons with disabilities may fall within the category of the wounded and sick or civilians enjoying particular respect and protection. . In addition, the strategy of the International Federation to focus on vulnerability with impartiality and humanity has led many National Societies to explore how best to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, both intellectual and physical and work in favour of their greater inclusion among volunteers and staff as well as in society at large.

On a policy level, three resolutions at the International Conference have voiced the Movement's commitment to persons with disabilities since 1981¹. The IFRC has recently released its Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity (2013-2020), which, while focusing on gender, includes disability within the categories of diversity.

¹ As expressed in the resolutions adopted by the 24th, 25th and 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Resolution XXVII, Manila 1981, Resolution 28, Geneva 1986 and Resolution 2, Geneva 2011).

Recent developments in international law² now form a comprehensive international framework, and it is thus timely for the Movement's statutory meetings to address this issue again. The co-sponsoring National Societies strongly believe the Movement can do more to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The Movement has at the Council of Delegates in Sydney an opportunity to discuss these matters again and establish an official position - about which a resolution will be proposed - on where the Movement and its National Societies can play an important and more active role in promoting and supporting the full inclusion of persons with disabilities aiming to support them in leading the lives they choose and value and ensure that they are recognized as equal members of society.

Guiding questions:

1. What roles and responsibilities does each of the Movement components have in relation to disability inclusion? – What is the Movement's understanding of its responsibilities?
2. How can the Movement Components in the best possible manner support people with disabilities to live the lives they choose and value and ensure that they are recognized as equal members of society?
3. In situations of risk, armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, how can we help to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons with disabilities are adequately identified and met?
4. How can the Movement better work with partners and actors already present in the field of disability inclusion to maximize the efforts of all involved?
5. How can the Movement's National Societies, with support from the IFRC and the ICRC, through active humanitarian diplomacy, raise the attention of governments' responsibilities of meeting the humanitarian needs of persons with disabilities?

Expected outcome

The purpose of this workshop is to engage in a discussion of the issue of inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. It serves as a platform to exchange view on a multidisciplinary approach to prevent and overcome barriers faced by persons with disabilities, using the capacities and resources of the Movement for action. The workshop aims to discuss how to build, strengthen and mobilize the capacities and resources of all the components of the Movement, and on how to ensure effective coordination and cooperation with all relevant actors. Disability is a political, and social and humanitarian issue that requires changes, actions and solutions on a societal level, where everybody enjoys equal rights and opportunities in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres of life.

Each component of the Movement will aim to

- develop and incorporate disability inclusion policies and plans according to its mandate and scope of work;
- include persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of any program initiative and be an inclusive organization also as an employer;
- help to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to mainstream programs, to services developed and managed by the Movement and to the Movement's premises;

²Recent developments in international law: The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in 2006 and entered into force in May 2008. The Convention has been signed by 158 states of which 137 have either ratified or acceded to it. The Convention represents a Human Rights Framework with a constellation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, has a strong development dimension, includes a reference to International Humanitarian Law and seeks to address discrimination, change perceptions and combat stereotypes and prejudice. The adoption of the CRPD sets important standards for States' obligations. Seen in parallel with the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions the CRPD provides a comparatively broader framework for victim assistance.

- advocate to governments to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to mainstream programs and services through development work, global initiatives and in disaster preparedness programs;
- identify and meet the humanitarian needs y of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters;
- work with partners already involved in the field of disability inclusion at the local, country, regional and global level

OBSERVATIONS: We would like to propose this workshop to be opened for external participation, with the aim to increase the participation of Movement members, both staff and volunteers, including persons with disabilities and organizations working with them, in the discussion. A special effort will be made by the organizers to ensure that organizations like Handicap International and Special Olympics International are aware of the opportunity to attend/participate virtually.