Provision of Victim Assistance in conflict and post-conflict environment

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ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusive humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.
- Physical rehabilitation programmes help restore dignity. They get disabled people back on their feet - not just physically, but in the process of helping them maintain meaningful family, commercial, employment and educational roles.

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TWO CHANNELS OF ASSISTANCE

- The ICRC provides physical rehabilitation assistance through two channels:
  - its Physical Rehabilitation Programme (PRP) and
  - the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD)
- They have the same objectives:
  - improving quality of service,
  - ensuring access to these services
  - ensuring that they continue to function long-term
- They provide the same type of assistance and use the same treatment standards and techniques, however their mandates and resources are different.

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DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- PRP mission: link with the ICRC mission - to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.
- SFD mission: supports physical rehabilitation services in low-income countries, with priority given to former projects of the ICRC

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ICRC/ SFD COMPLEMENTARITIES

Country Situation

Pre-crisis
Assess Crisis
Emergency Crisis
Post Crisis
Development

ICRC PRP
ICRC SFD

Responsibilities

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WHAT IS THE AIM OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE?

- To provide the survivors with the best possible opportunity for full and effective participation and inclusion in society, with possibilities to study, work, and access services; opportunities that are equal to those of other citizens.

What are the needs of survivors?

- The needs of survivors are the same as the needs of persons with disabilities:
  - To have their rights to an equal opportunity into the society recognized
  - To have access to a rehabilitation process giving them the best possible opportunity for full and effective participation and inclusion into society (possibilities to study, work, etc)
  - To be guided and supported through each phase of the process

COUNTRIES WITH REHABILITATION CENTRES SUPPORTED BY THE ICRC AND THE SFD

ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme

Geographical distribution of assisted projects

2008: 25 countries and 1 territory | 81 projects

THE REHABILITATION PROCESS

- Economic reintegration initiatives
- Emergency and ongoing medical care

DATA COLLECTION

- Psychological support
- Physical and functional rehabilitation care
ICRC APPROACH: two-pronged

- People-oriented
  - Promote access
  - Information
  - Identification, external and internal
  - Reinstatement of services
  - Transport, accommodation, and food

- Structure-oriented
  - Financial / material support
  - Technical / managerial support and training
  - Supporting national and individual capacities
  - Capacity building

THE CHALLENGES

- Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to an efficient and continuous rehabilitation programme is a challenge, even in the resource-rich environment of developed-countries or in a peaceful country.
- The constraints inherent to war-torn countries, make this task particularly difficult.

THE CHALLENGES

- Situations of conflict or violence have a direct effect:
  - On the general health of the population
    - the number of studies increases, impossibility to run, vaccination campaigns, etc.
  - On the health/social system
    - which may collapse due to lack of personnel, infrastructure, funds, etc.
  - On the link between needs and services
    - access to services become more difficult (security, lack of services, etc)
  - On the economic situation (country and population)

LESSONS LEARNED

- Problems faced by survivors of explosive remnants of war are similar to the challenges faced by other persons with disabilities
  - Victim assistance does not require development of new fields, but rather reinforcing existing service systems and policy framework to meet the needs of all citizens
  - VA elements constitute different aspects of a process, which together will ensure that survivors are fully included in society
  - Victim assistance should be provided through an integrated approach that includes all components of the rehabilitation chain

LESSONS LEARNED

- National ownership is a key issue
  - While supporting organizations (IOs and NGOs) can support
    the national authorities, the development and implementation of programmes for persons with disabilities, including Victim Assistance, remains the responsibility of State
  - Victim Assistance programmes cannot be appropriate and sustainable if national capacities are not developed and/or strengthened
    - National capacities have to be developed and/or strengthened at both institutional level and at service provision level

LESSONS LEARNED

- Without a deep understanding of the situation, difficult to develop and implement appropriate programmes and, difficult to monitor and report the progress
  - Understanding the real situation within the country in regards to: the demand, the offer, the results, the capacities and the difficulties
  - Collaboration and coordination among ministries, national institutions, disabled people organizations, and supporting organizations are essential, such as working with the community
CCW PROTOCOL V: PLAN OF ACTION

1. Provision of rehabilitation
2. Data collection
3. Cooperation / assistance
4. Implementation
   a. needs
   b. laws, policies
   c. national plan
   d. resources
   e. non-discrimination
   f. nothing about us without us
   g. focal point
   h. guidelines, good practices
   i. Exchange of information and review of implementation

CONCLUSION

A political commitment within the CCW signatory countries is essential to support the development and the implementation of an appropriate Victim Assistance Programme, integrated within national systems.

Thank you!