

Concept note

A Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement workshop on Disability Inclusion and Victim Assistance in Southeast Asia

Bangkok, Thailand

28-29 November 2016

Background

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Vietnam Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross organised a Movement workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 2015 on enhanced implementation of the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munition and other Explosive Remnants of War. The participants, consisting of National Societies from Southeast Asia, partner National Societies, the ICRC and relevant experts developed a plan of action which included commitments to increased action on treaty promotion, risk reduction and victim assistance. Over the past year this has led to a significantly improved programming and progress on universalization of relevant treaties (notably the Convention on Cluster Munitions). National societies in Southeast Asia have reported improved victim assistance and disability inclusion efforts¹. The Thai Red Cross Society, the ICRC, IFRC and the Norwegian Red Cross wish to support further action in this field through a Southeast Asian workshop for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement focussed, in particular, on victim assistance and disability inclusion.

Since the Hanoi workshop, the adoption of a resolution and Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the 2015 Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has created a Movement-wide commitment to do more and better for people with disabilities and their communities. The upcoming workshop is intended to identify concrete ways to implement the Strategic Framework in Southeast Asia and to assist in identifying best practices for the Movement within South East Asia and globally.

An important focal point in the Movement's efforts to better respond to the needs of people with disabilities is the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). The SFD is in the process of scaling up its role as a Disability Solution Centre for implementation of the Strategic Framework on Disability inclusion. The workshop will also be a forum to introduce the ambitions and potential support that the SFD could provide to NSs in the region, and to share insights on the role that regional and partner NSs can play in ensuring access to and follow-up for physical rehabilitation services. One element of this discussion will be the initial evaluation conducted by the SFD, on the cooperation in Vietnam between the SFD, the Vietnam Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

¹ Among ongoing efforts and initiatives, Thailand Red Cross has updated their hiring policy and policy for identifying vulnerable groups to include People with Disabilities, the Cambodian Red Cross has improved the targeting of programs through the use of data collection and has contributed to informing public authorities of PwD's living in their territories and their needs. Vietnam Red Cross has implemented a disaster risk reduction program that includes a focus on people with disabilities with their needs and their ability to contribute to risk reduction work.

Objectives of workshop:

- Identify approaches and action points for implementation of the Strategic Framework on disability inclusion by National Societies in Southeast Asia and identify the types of expertise, capacities and assistance needed to enable implementation
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among NSs in Southeast Asia and relevant PNSs, and support regional cooperation within the Movement in this field.
- Support the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled in identifying steps to enhance their future participation in the development of a Disability Reference Centre for the Movement.
- Follow up to the 2015 Hanoi workshop focus on the Convention on Cluster Munitions through a side event for senior or policy staff of the National Societies from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam and ICRC to coordinate efforts for adherence to the Convention by their States.

Program

The workshop will be organised over two days with sessions covering the content below.

Session 1: An introduction to the Movement's work on Disability Inclusion and Victim Assistance

- *Victim assistance and Disability Inclusion in South East Asia: evolution and challenges ahead*
- *Presentation of the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion and tools available within the Movement*

Session 2: How to implement the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion in South East Asia?

- **Strategic Objective 1: All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach.**
- *How can National Societies develop and implement a comprehensive Disability Inclusion approach: successes and challenges*
- *Experience from Cambodia on data collection and better use of data in programming and dialogue with local authorities*
Reports from other regional National Societies
- **Strategic Objective 2: Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, enabling their inclusion and full participation.**
- *How to adapt programs, use data collection and reach out to communities and people with disabilities to secure equal access to NS programs?*
- *Experiences from Disaster Risk Reduction program with focus on inclusion of Persons with Disabilities*
- Reports from other National Societies

- **Strategic Objective 3: All components of the Movement endeavour to change mind-sets and behaviours in order to promote respect for diversity, including disability inclusion.**
- *Experiences and remaining challenges from universalisation and implementation efforts of relevant norms South East Asia, including the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
- Reports from regional National Societies
- Intersectional issues, exacerbated by disabilities (gender, age, ethnicity)
- **Group work: Identifying possible future actions and needs for expertise or resources**

Session 3: National Societies' role and Movement cooperation on Victim assistance

- *Physical rehabilitation and victim assistance to landmine victims and global progress towards a holistic disability inclusion approach*
- *National Society roles in securing access to and follow up to physical rehabilitation services, and presentation of the ambitions of the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled as a Disability Solution Centre for the Movements implementation of the strategic framework on disability inclusion*
- **Group work: Identify possible actions and need for resources and assistance**

A short summary of actions identified and needs for cooperation will be prepared based on discussions in this final session to serve as a “road map” for Movement work in this field in the coming year or more.

Possible side event: SE Asia efforts to universalize the Convention on Cluster Munitions

For senior and policy related participants: side event evaluating status of universalisation efforts and progress towards accession in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam and planning further joint ICRC/NS activities