

Report from a  
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Workshop on Disability  
Inclusion and Victim Assistance in Southeast Asia  
Bangkok, Thailand  
28-29 November 2016

## Introduction

The Thai Red Cross Society hosted in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), and the Norwegian Red Cross, a 2-day workshop in Bangkok on Disability Inclusion and Victim Assistance in Southeast Asia. The meeting aimed to facilitate the improvement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement joint efforts to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities, and assistance to victims of unexploded ordnances, and through this contribute to the implementation of the newly adopted Strategic Framework on Disability inclusion, and the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of war. The broad participation of National Societies from the region of South East Asia and partner National Societies, the ICRC, the IFRC, the ICRC Special Fund for Disabled and organisations working with disability inclusion in the region enabled sharing of lessons learned and identification of best practices, and led to the identification of key action points for each participation organisation to follow up after the event. This report provides a brief overview of the presentations at the workshop, and the Plan of Action developed at the meeting where each participating organisation outlined the actions they would explore implementing in their future work on disability inclusion.

## Overview of topics covered by the presentations

To inform the discussion on the road ahead on disability inclusion, a number of presenters introduced the participants to key issues of the global, regional and domestic work on disability inclusion, which is briefly summarised here.

Persons with disabilities make up one billion people, constituting about 15% of the world's population, making them the world's largest and most disadvantaged minority. They may face social, economic and cultural barriers limiting their access to full and effective participation in a society, including economic development, education, employment and health services. The United Nations (UN) **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD) recognises disability as an evolving concept and states that 'persons with disabilities' are *those who have physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.*<sup>1</sup> The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement bases its work on disability inclusion on this definition.

Stephen Wainwright from the IFRC introduced the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion. This framework, as newly adopted at the 2015 Council of Delegates, outlines the Movements commitment to Persons with disabilities, and describes three strategic objectives. The discussion at the workshop centred on how each of these objectives could be implemented in the work of the Movement in South East Asia.

- Strategic objective 1: **All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach**

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2006) 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' Retrieved at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

This objective focuses on ensuring the Movement's internal organisational systems, processes and policies are disability inclusive, including corporate and human resources, marketing, communications and infrastructure.

- Strategic objective 2: **Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, enabling their inclusion and full participation**

This objective aims to ensure the Movement's services, programs and associated products available to individuals and communities are disability inclusive.

- 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**  
This objective focuses on challenging negative perceptions on disability and promoting disability as one of many ordinary differences that create human diversity and enrich humankind.

To locate the issue of disability inclusion in South East Asia, Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay from the Disabled People's International in the Asia-Pacific Regional Office described the specific challenges and progress persons with disability faces in the region. Poverty and marginalization characterize the situation of the majority, and many persons with disabilities faces issues relating to physical and sexual abuse, lacking access to education and health care services, gender inequality and situations of multiple discriminations, and almost double the general unemployment rate. At the same time, she emphasized the opportunities resulting from the adoption of the CRPD, good experiences from mainstreaming disability inclusion, and of growing and effective regional cooperation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Moreover, several international treaties give states a legal obligation to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and will provide the Movement with an important tool when interacting and cooperating with governments on furthering the agenda of disability inclusion. Mr Monthian Buntan, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities & Member of the National Legislative Assembly and the Royal Thai Parliament, introduced the work within the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on States implementation of the treaty, and showed the potential which exists in the treaty. Also the Mine Ban Convention puts obligations on states to provide assistance to victims, and Ms. Supanwasa Chotikajan Tang, the Director of Peace Security and Disarmament Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, gave a presentation on the evolution of disability inclusion work within the Convention.

Furthermore, Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Committee Member of the Foundation for Children with Disabilities in Thailand, presented the community based development approach to rehabilitation and inclusion, aligned with the work of the World Health Organisation, and showed the added value and some of the lessons learned from Thailand that their work has demonstrated. Moreover, Hervé Gazeau, Disaster Risk Reduction manager in IFRC Bangkok presented the support available from the IFRC in the region.

The workshop then started focusing on each of the strategic objectives. Under **Strategic Objective 1**, David Curtis, a disability inclusion consultant and formerly from the Australian Red Cross, gave an overview of some of the challenges facing the promotion of a disability inclusion approach, and stressed the necessity of institutional ownership and focus on disability inclusion in all cycles of planning a project. Samuel Racine and Max Deneu from the ICRC Special Fund for Disabled presented the new strategy and ambitions for their work (including change of name to ICRC Moveability Foundation in 2017), and the potential they see in a closer cooperation with National Societies. Ms. Mom Chanty and Mr. Mom Phireak from the Cambodian Red Cross presented some of their successes with data collection on persons with disabilities and how this has informed the targeting of their program and has been used for awareness raising.

Relating to Strategic Objective 2, Vietnam Red Cross presented their initiative to include disability inclusion in a disaster risk reduction program, where they stressed the importance of including persons with disabilities in the vulnerability and capacity assessments. Furthermore, an independent consultant, Stephen Ladek, presented an evaluation of the cooperation between the Special Fund for Disabled, the Vietnam Red Cross Society and the Spanish Red Cross, and stressed the important role National Societies can play in referring people with disabilities to physical rehabilitation, and to follow up to ensure full inclusion in society.

Under Strategic Objective 3, both Mr. Leo Pattiasina of the Indonesian Red Cross and Ms. Ketkeo Oupalavong from Lao Red Cross, presented their activities which aimed to change mind set and behaviour to promote respect for diversity that other National Societies could learn from, and Ms. Ketkeo focused more specifically on intersectional issues and how other potential forms of discrimination are exacerbated by disability (such as gender or age).

## Plan of Action

In the final group work of the workshop, the discussion resulted in potential action each participating organisation would seek to implement, as possible, in their future work on this. Norwegian Red Cross will organise so each National Society could report on their implementation of these action points after 6 months had passed since the workshop.

	<b>Strategic Objective 1: All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 2: Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, enabling their inclusion and full participation</b>	<b>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</b>
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving data collection on staff and volunteers with disabilities in the National Society</li> <li>- Adopting a HR policy on inclusion of PWDs in the National Society</li> <li>- Increasing cooperation with PDOs</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to/funding of a technical adviser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving integration of disability inclusion in programs of the National Societies</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with decision makers, PNS and IFRC to increase support and raise the agenda of disability inclusion</li> </ul> <p>Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support</li> </ul>
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising internally about the Movement Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion in the National Society</li> <li>- Improving team work which focus on disability inclusion</li> <li>- Train staff and volunteers on how to promote disability inclusion in programs</li> <li>- Cooperating better with PDOs through for example getting an</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy on Disability Inclusion</li> <li>- Implement disability inclusion focus beyond structural changes with local authorities</li> <li>- Mainstreaming disability inclusion in all activities</li> <li>- Training volunteers in referrals and developing referral systems to physical rehabilitation</li> <li>- Improving physical access for people with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion with leadership on promoting disability inclusion (with decision makers)</li> <li>- One more regional workshop with leadership present</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <p>Disability awareness training</p>

	<p>internal audit or an assessment of disability inclusion in existing programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dissemination of information on the strategic framework to 25 branches</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focal point in IFRC, ICRC and in the National Society (structure collaboration?)</li> </ul>	<p>Assistance needs:</p> <p>Technical and financial support, and training</p>	
Thai Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggested the ICRC and IFRC establish a regional network on disability inclusion and identify National Society focal points</li> <li>- Suggested that National Societies should have a focal point who could develop training for internal and external management on disability inclusion</li> </ul>	Same as with SO1	Same as with SO1
Vietnam Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make an action plan for conducting an assessment of accessibility of HQ and branch offices</li> <li>- Establish a database of people with disabilities</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding for the database</li> <li>- Technical support on G&amp;D and the assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend the approach used on disability inclusion in the DRR project to other program areas by applying the VCA and improving the collaboration with PDOs</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest from donors and funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising through a Training of Trainers team</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest from donors and funding</li> </ul>
Laos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement training</li> </ul>		Advocacy towards Hospitals and public

	<p>tools on disability inclusion in the National Societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a strategy for disability inclusion in the National Society and implement it</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical support for data collection</li> </ul>		<p>Assistance needs:</p> <p>Technical and financial</p>
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the existing Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-2018 produced by the PRC-DI-TWG</li> <li>- Improving accessibility to the offices of the National Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider opportunities for starting different rehabilitative services</li> </ul> <p>Assistance needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding</li> </ul>	
PMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a database in order to assess how inclusive the National Society already is</li> <li>- Training branches and volunteers in disability inclusion awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing training tools or identifying existing tools on disability inclusion</li> </ul>	<p>Developing training tools or identifying existing tools on disability inclusion</p>
Italian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider potential for cooperation on Disability Inclusion with National Societies</li> </ul>		
Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulate the plan of action and support as appropriate its implementation</li> <li>- Contribute as possible to enabling regional cooperation on Disability inclusion</li> </ul>		

SFD	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share data with National Society on needs, services and costs on physical rehabilitation, and share tools such as the WHO rehab tool</li> <li>- Work to ensure welfare and universal coverage in Vietnam</li> <li>- Training: consider crosscutting potential as with Vietnam and develop a peer to peer approach</li> <li>- Increase knowledge on the CRPD, maybe develop a training</li> <li>- Increase staff capacity and ensure good program management</li> <li>- Encourage collaboration between DPOs and National Societies to promote synergies</li> <li>- Explore the development of a model cooperation with National Societies</li> </ul>	
Australia Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue supporting the Philippines Red Cross through the newly formed Disability Inclusion Technical Working Group (DI - TWG) aim to design a policy and support PRC in implementing inclusion activities to become more responsive to the plight of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) across various programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will conduct 5 trainings on Basic Disability Inclusion and Trainers Training soon,</li> <li>- Also to start “roll out training “ for the disability inclusion “champions”</li> </ul>	
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will work to support improved/new internal framework on inclusion of persons with disability in the ICRC</li> <li>- Work to ensure staff are trained in inclusion of persons with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical rehabilitation will be the main focus also ahead, but social inclusion will be higher on the agenda, as rehabilitation is only first step towards inclusion.</li> </ul>	

	disability		
IFRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to invest in focal points by identifying the G&amp;D focal points in each NS.</li> <li>- Further implementation of an HR policy of disability inclusion</li> <li>- Improving accessibility to the IFRC offices</li> <li>- Working to develop disaggregated data on staff in the IFRC</li> </ul> <p>Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Having a dedicated coordinator in the Secretariat for Disability Inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue revision of minimum standard commitments, including increased to disability inclusion</li> <li>- Update sectoral documents to ensure better incorporation of a focus on disability inclusion</li> <li>- Combine with efforts on G&amp;D in South East Asia and beyond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will consider developing disability inclusion awareness training</li> </ul>