

PLAN OF ACTION ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
UNDER PROTOCOL V, CCW  
Geneva, November 9th, 2009

Provision of Victim Assistance in  
conflict and post-conflict environment

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- ▶ What is the aim of victim assistance for survivors?
- ▶ What are the needs of survivors?
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively 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 upright again – not just physically but in the sense of helping them reintegrate into family, community, employment and education.



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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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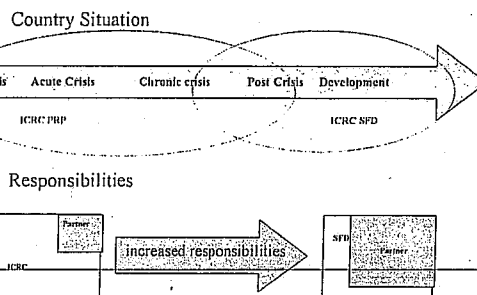
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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



## 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

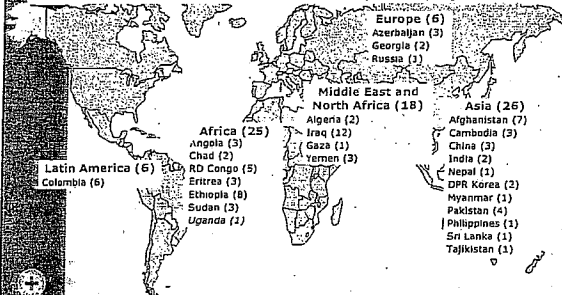


## COUNTRIES WITH REHABILITATION CENTRES SUPPORTED BY THE ICRC AND THE SFD



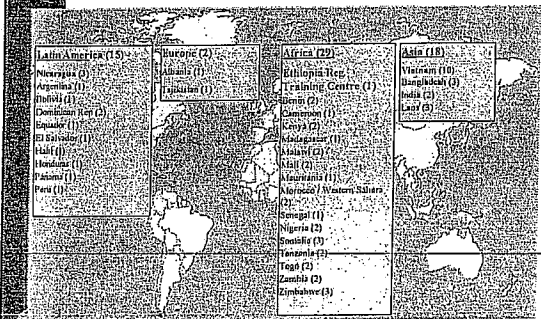
## ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme Geographical distribution of assisted-projects

2008 : 25 countries and 1 territory / 81 projects.



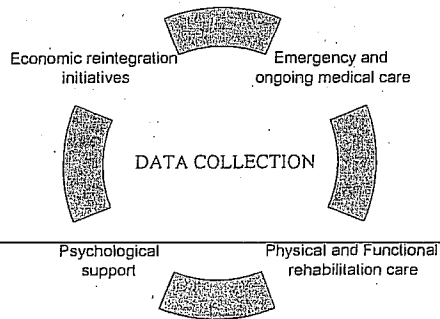
## The ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled

Programmes 2010 : 22 countries / 64 projects




between brackets: number of projects per country or region in 2008 regional basis for extrapolates

## THE REHABILITATION PROCESS



### ICRC APPROACH: two-pronged




▶ People-oriented


- » Promote access
- » Information
- » Identification, referral and follow-up
- » Reimbursement of services
- » Transport, accommodation and food

▶ Structure-oriented


- » Financial / material support
- » Technical / managerial support and training
- » Supporting national bodies
- » 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 injuries 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 programme for persons with disabilities, including Victim Assistance, remain 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. Datacollection
- ▶ 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. guideliens, good practices -
- ▶ 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!

