

Motion 1: Promote Disability Inclusion in MSF

Argumentation / background:

Around 15% of the world's population, or estimated 1 billion people, live with disabilities (source 2011 WHO World report on disability)¹. They are often among the most marginalized of the poor. 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries (Source UNDP). However disabled persons are rarely or seldom included in development or humanitarian projects. The report 2014 from Handicap international and Helpage, "Hidden victims of the Syrian crisis"² shows that 22,4% of surveyed Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon have an impairment.

Organizations of persons with Disabilities have been and are continuing to be active to provoke changes in their society in developed countries like in developing countries for persons with disabilities to have equal access to basic services. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)³ has been ratified by 162 countries.

Several organizations have started to work on the issue. In the references hereunder are some documents related to the work done or in progress.

We consider that MSF should emphasize its awareness on inclusion of persons with disabilities in its action. MSF personnel should be made aware that persons with disabilities, while representing a significant number, are at risk of being excluded from our projects for various reasons including often their invisibility.

It may be argued that the 2013 Germany GA motion on Gender and diversity, endorsed by the IB, may already cover the present issue. We believe "Diversity" is very broad, and a motion addressing too broad issues delays MSF response by adding complexity. Identifying more precisely who we are talking about (Persons with disabilities) will allow MSF to have a faster and more adequate response.

Motion:

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often the most in need in regions where MSF works and that their exclusion may hamper our humanitarian identity and impartiality, MSF should:

- Initiate actions to develop its awareness on this risk of exclusion of persons with disabilities,
- Develop dialogue with organizations of persons with disabilities where/when possible,
- Take in account accessibility to persons with disabilities of our facilities and of our communication materials.

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¹ http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf

² <http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/latest-news/hidden-victims-new-research-on-older-disabled-and-injured-syrian-refugees>

³ <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

References:

“Minimum standards for age and disability inclusion in humanitarian action”

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/minimum-standards-age-and-disability-inclusion-humanitarian-action>

(Pilot version, 2015)

Part of ADCAP (Age and Disability Capacity Building Programme); Produced by the Age and Disability consortium (CBM, DisasterReady.org, handicap international, HelpAge international, IFRC...)

“All under one roof”

Guideline developed in 2015 by IFRC, CBM and HI on disability-inclusive shelter and settlement response to emergencies

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/all-under-one-roof-disability-inclusive-shelter-and-settlements-emergencies>

“Working with persons with disabilities in forced displacement” 2011, Produced by UNHCR with the support of Handicap International

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4e6072b22.html>

“Syrian refugees with disabilities living in camps in Northern Iraq”

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Assessment Report - January 2014 - UNHCR

<http://www.alnap.org/resource/19472>

Two quotes from this report:

“9% of Households included one household member with disability”

“75% of Households including a member with disability identified health care as their most pressing need”

“Promoting disability inclusion in the international red cross and red crescent movement”

Resolution (Passed) – Council of delegates – Sydney, 17-18 Nov. 2013.

<https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/red-cross-crescent-movement/council-delegates-2013/cod13-r9--people-with-disabilities-adopted-eng.pdf>