

Dear participants, dear fellow panelists,

My presentation will address legal frameworks and the expected governmental actions and it will also inform you on what ICRC is doing in its Physical Rehabilitation program together with its partners in more than 42 countries serving more than 7000 mine victims and 428'000 PWD every year.

- 1) **Core rules of international humanitarian law can be implemented in an inclusive manner that takes the specific perspectives, capacities and needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities into account. This stresses the complementarity to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including its Art. 11, and ensures that mine survivors and other persons with disabilities do not face an aggravation of their existing impairment or a secondary impairment.**

International Humanitarian Law ensures protection of mine survivors or other persons with disabilities as civilians or persons hors de combat from conflict-specific risks related to the conduct of hostilities in armed conflict.

Parties to armed conflict, both State and non-state, have obligations to take all feasible precautions to prevent or minimize incidental harm to civilians or persons hors de combat as a result of combat operations.

These obligations can be interpreted in a disability-inclusive manner:

- Advance warnings are communicated in a way that is accessible to persons with diverse impairments (e.g. leaflets in Braille, large print, alerts through apps, specific software) and would leave enough time for PWD to leave the area;
- Evacuation plans make specific provision for PWD.
- Preparedness plans are often referred to in the context of natural disasters but should be extended to the specific challenges of armed conflict situations too.
- Evacuation operations take into account for instance the need, that mine survivors or other PWD might have to be accompanied by a support person and that for instance, there may be additional requirements to transport assistive devices such as wheelchairs.
- In any decision/measure affecting mine survivors and other PWD, IHL is enriched through the CRPD and weapons treaties containing victim assistance because the CRPD and weapons treaties explicitly require meaningful participation.
- Overall, a clear change to how we have operated traditionally, by requiring full participation of PWD in humanitarian responses at all stages. This is what CRPD and weapons treaties like CCM bring explicitly where general IHL and humanitarian principles are only implicit through notions of humanity and respect for the dignity of people we want to serve. Inherent in this, is the understanding that PWD are agents and may shape those responses and know best what should be done “Nothing about us without us”.

Action#41

- 2) **ICRC new 2030 Vision on Disability Inclusion and its salient components**

2.1. To design and deliver inclusive person-centric programs and services that are accessible to persons with physical, psychosocial, intellectual and sensory disabilities and promote their protection, safety and respect for their dignity.

The ICRC will consistently seek and be guided by the perspectives of PWD in affected communities in the design and delivery of programs and services. To this purpose, the ICRC will:

- Ensure that PWD participate in the design of humanitarian activities and programming
- Build knowledge and capabilities to produce and share reliable sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data on the number, needs and capacities of PWD
- Remove or advocate for the removal of barriers that affect PWD equal participation and access to services
- Ensure the physical infrastructure that is part of the ICRC's humanitarian services and facilities is accessible
- Build accountability mechanisms that are accessible to persons with disabilities among the affected communities
- Improve understanding of social dynamics within the community that affect persons with physical, psychosocial, intellectual and sensory disabilities from different gender, age and other diversity groups to improve our response or help to avoid triggering unintended negative consequences.

2. To continue to deliver and develop targeted physical rehabilitation services. The ICRC will deliver high quality, equitably accessible and sustainable rehabilitation services to all persons with disabilities and drive toward their participation in all elements of society.

To achieve this, the ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Program:

- Adopts a multidisciplinary team approach
- Adopts a person-centric focus
- Aims to strengthen local and national rehabilitation system
- Work collaboratively with its global network of national and local partners.

Please keep in mind, mine victims, have a lifelong need for assistive technology and rehabilitation services provided by rehabilitation professionals.

Hence the official recognition of Rehabilitation Professional such as (Prosthetic/Orthotist/Physiotherapist/Occupational Therapist) is essential to have a well-qualified workforce that has the capacity to provide rehabilitation services. As mentioned in Action#37

Further each country needs to have a national rehabilitation coordination mechanism and last but not least a well-functioning supply chain that distributes components for prostheses, orthoses, walking aids and wheelchair and facilitates the importation of goods that are not available on the local markets, so that Mine Victims and PWD have access to services and can be served.

And the credo "Noting about us without us" is as important as ever so that we can achieve the ultimate goal of rehabilitation to include PWD as full equal members into society.