



## Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies

### Draft contribution on behalf of AIFO/RIDS Giampiero Griffo, DPI Italia

to foster an exchange of experience between North and South DPO's corresponding with the CRPD. We strongly believe that the added value is to foster an exchange of experience between South and South DPO's ..

General Theme of the DPI International Conference is:

"All those who believe in the human potential of each, whatever his or her abilities, each human rights defender who trust in his or her's capability to contribute and illuminate the collective knowledge and understanding are welcomed to take part in this fresh start to a Human adventure." (Quote from the President).

"The conference will set the stage for addressing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their potential contributions on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030."

#### **Specific contribution of AIFO/RIDS:**

#### **Workshop 3: Poverty and persons with disabilities**

Review and analysis of the intersection between disabilities and poverty. SLIDE 1

There is a strong correlation between poverty and disability, as a cause and consequence of each other. Disability can force people into poverty due to difficulties in gaining access to employment and basic human rights.

At the same time, poverty creates conditions of disability, as a result of malnutrition, limited sanitation and education facilities, debilitating working conditions, and in accessibility of transport. The vicious cycle "poverty-disability-poverty" is hard to break because persons with disabilities are very vulnerable.

#### **SLIDE 2**

This challenge has been taken up in Rome on 18 November 2015 by the International Conference "Integrating Disability in development Cooperation" to exchange best practices of collaboration between governments, NGOs and Disabled People's Organizations.

The conference has been organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in collaboration with the Italian Network Disability and Development (RIDS) and AIFO (Italian Friends of Raoul Follereau, under the main theme "Cooperation for Inclusion").

#### **SLIDE 3**

The Italian Disability Action Plan, is the result of an inclusive process of intense consultations with civil society, DPOs, Government institutions, academic institutions. The Action Plan lays its foundation on 5 pillars:



## Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies

1. Policies and strategies: National disability policy planning and monitoring tools
2. Inclusive project planning & design accessible and usable environments, goods and services
3. Humanitarian aid and emergency situations including persons with disabilities
4. Making the most of the experiences and best practices developed by civil society organisations and the private sector in the area of disability.

### SLIDE 4

In view of mainstreaming disability, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs set up a working group with representatives of civil society to work on a technical proposal aimed at integrating a self-standing disability marker into the OECD-DAC list. Indeed, current international systems for data collection and classification do not pay sufficient attention to persons with disabilities. The importance of having reliable data is connected to correct data collection and further planning. The proposal is currently been discussed with a number of governments including Germany, Finland, Spain and the EU Commission. .

### SLIDE 5

To break the cycle “poverty-disability-poverty” there are no shortcuts but to implement firmly the concepts of “mainstreaming”, of “capacity building of DPOs” and of “empowerment of PWDs”.

### SLIDE 6

There are no better practices in our experience than that of Mongolia where AIFO has been involved since 1991. The latest action was funded by the European Union with the scope of “Protecting the rights of the persons with disabilities in Mongolia through capacity building of civil society organizations.” I would like to flag the following:

- A new “Nation Disability Law”, was approved in early January 2016 and it has been elaborated with the active involvement of 3.073 PDWs, 152 professionals and 60 parliament members.

### SLIDE 7

- The previous law was focusing more on social welfare services. The new Law is highlighting the basic human rights issues, anti-discrimination principles and new terminologies/concepts including “reasonable accommodation”, “independent living” and “universal design”.

### SLIDE 8

- Capacity building of 20 DPOs that were actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the UN CRPD at National level in collaboration with National Commission of Human Rights, DPI-Asia Pacific Region and the International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- The National DPOs prepared the “Shadow report” (or List of issues) including parallel answers and list of issues and presented them to the CRPD Committee in Geneva. The Mongolia Review was attended by 14 National DPOs Representatives.



## Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies

### SLIDE 9

- The Community Based Rehabilitation approach, implemented nationally since 2011, has become a key asset to achieve an effective implementation of the CRPD and empower PWDs in creating inclusive societies.

### SLIDE 10

- AIFO, through its twinning association Tegsh Niigem, is supporting CBR coordinators in all the districts in Mongolia, as an effective means to include PWDs in the socio-economic development process and in the fight against poverty.

### SLIDE 11

Mongolian DPOs have now the potentialities to address with self-confidence the challenges ahead, to improve their voicing ability and capacity to claim their rights and improving the living conditions of PWDs particularly in the countryside.

### SLIDE 12

Finally I would like to flag the importance of supporting PWDs and their families organized in Self-help Groups (SHGs). In Mongolia hundreds of income generating initiatives were supported after assessment of the SHGs capacity and sustainability in the community starting up their micro-projects. In three years, 489 SHGs and 2.264 family members benefitted from income generating activities.

### SLIDE 13

A concrete way to fight poverty that would not have been possible without a strong investment in training and capacity building. After a six months training programme, managed by Local Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) committees, the PWDs and their families, members of the SHGs, were firmly established in 12 Airmags and 9 Ulaambaatar districts, improving their quality of life. The CBR strategy is mainstreamed in the programmes of the Ministry of Health since 2011 .

We will be glad to share our experiences in Mongolia as well as in many other countries.

### SLIDE 14

Please, allow me to emphasize again that there is no better way, based on our experience, to deal with the intersections of poverty and disability than to fully embrace the concept of “mainstreaming” the specific focus on disability, and to invest on “capacity building of DPOs” and on “empowerment of PWDs”.