Integrated approaches in victim assistance: the Italian experience

Workshop on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance in the context of Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Initiatives

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The notion of integration

- VA benefits survivors, indirect victims, and people impaired through other causes
- VA included in development, human rights and humanitarian initiatives
Scope of beneficiaries

- Broad definition of disability
- Inclusion of indirect victims, families, and communities
- ERW survivors but also other persons with disabilities
VA and Mine Action

- Ad hoc Trust Fund (2001): all ERWs
- Consistent with development initiatives, international aid programmes, international development cooperation objectives
- MA as key element of recipients’ development policies (e.g. Colombia 2015)
- Mine risk education/awareness
HA, development, and disability-related policies

- Disability: priority sector in Development Cooperation
- Country cooperation strategies aligned with Development Cooperation Guidelines and Disability Action Plan
- Action Plan focus: emergency situations (natural or man-made, i.e. conflict)
The “Vademecum”

- Developed in cooperation with civil society
- Benchmarks for project design and implementation
- Grounded on two principles:
  - Rights-based approach
  - Equality and non-discrimination
Why is it important?

In humanitarian emergencies:
- Emergencies cause disabilities
- Emergencies reduce assistance
- Disability leads to discrimination
- People with disabilities are more vulnerable
- They often have no access to services and distributions
How is it done?

• Mainstreaming and ad hoc programmes
• Staff training for aid workers
• Adjustment of means and equipment
• Statistics and data disaggregation
• Disability focal point
• Egs: Palestine, Jordan
From policy to practice

- Initial evaluation
- Cooperation at local level (E.g. Philippines)
- The role of programme managers
- Improving data collection and analysis
  - For monitoring (2009-2014 analysis)
  - For programming (E.g. Iraq)
Thank you!

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