



Progress report on implementation of resolution: Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation (resolution WHA58.23)

1. In response to resolution WHA58.23, an action plan on disability and rehabilitation for the period 2006-2011 has been drafted.¹ The plan includes nine key activities that will contribute to implement the requests in the resolution.
2. The process for producing a world report on disability and rehabilitation has started. Specific recommendations were outlined at the first consultation meeting (April 2005). Potential members for the editorial, resource and advisory committee have been identified and an editorial committee will meet during 2006.
3. The International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December) provided an opportunity to raise awareness about disability and to further inclusion of a disability viewpoint in all areas of WHO's work.
4. Various activities are under way to gather data and to clarify terminology, which will contribute also to the world report. These include a meeting on data collection and terminology (July 2006) in which organizations of people with disabilities, experts and other partners, and staff from WHO's headquarters and the regional offices will participate.
5. An intercountry meeting (Buenos Aires, April 2005) was organized to provide support to Member States in strengthening national rehabilitation services and implementing the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.² Another meeting will be held in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in May 2006.
6. WHO facilitated the participation of technicians from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda in a workshop on low-cost appropriate technology (Addis Ababa, September 2005). A workshop (Dakar, June 2005) was also organized and given support in order to promote rehabilitation services in French-speaking African countries.

¹ Disability and rehabilitation: WHO action plan 2006-2011. Accessible at <http://www.who.int/disabilities/publications>.

² United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/96, Annex.

7. In collaboration with the Italian Association of Friends of Raoul Follereau and Disabled Peoples' International, the Secretariat has initiated implementation of a project designed to improve quality of life of people with disabilities in eight countries from four WHO regions.

8. Guidelines for medical rehabilitation are being drawn up for use by national and local health professionals in developing and strengthening national rehabilitation services. The draft outline comprises five key elements: data collection and research, prevention, medical management, assistive technology, and health promotion.

9. Two meetings have been held on the drafting of guidelines for strengthening community-based rehabilitation programmes. The guidelines should be finalized in 2007.

10. Guidelines on the development, production and distribution of wheelchairs are being prepared jointly with the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Center for International Rehabilitation, Motivation, and the Leahy War Victims Fund of the United States Agency for International Development.

11. A module on disability and rehabilitation is being developed for inclusion in WHO's comprehensive injury prevention and control curriculum (TEACH-VIP).

12. WHO participates actively in the meetings of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. Proposals on the articles related to health and rehabilitation have been presented and side events were organized during the last two meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

13. The Executive Board is invited to note the above report.

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