

RELIEF WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES

1. Background

Humanitarian relief is one of the three pillars of the Anglican Alliance. Our purpose is to improve, reinforce and strengthen the relief work of local churches and achieve greater coordination within the Anglican Communion. In 2011 the Anglican Alliance organized four international consultations in Nairobi, Honiara, Sao Paulo and Hong Kong that gathered Anglicans from all over the world. In those meetings, Anglicans working on the frontline, and involve in relief activities, identified “disability and emergencies” as one of the priorities of work for the Anglican Alliance.

In taking forward this task, the Anglican Alliance has mainly focused on the situation of refugees and Internally Displaced People with disabilities living in official and unofficial camps and settlements. In particular, we want to target those settings where the church is already present.

2. Objectives

- The top level objective is to improve the protection and services provided for people with disabilities affected by emergencies.
- The medium level objectives are to:
 - Bring to the greater attention of the Anglican Communion and the international community about the situation of refugees and IDPs with disabilities.
 - Mobilise local churches, already present in very complex humanitarian situations, to work for the wellbeing of refugees and IDPs with disabilities.
 - Work with partners in other faith communities and the wider humanitarian community to improve the situation of people with disabilities affected by emergencies
- The immediate objectives are to:
 - Document the situation of people with disabilities living in official and unofficial camps and settlements (field visits and desk research), in particular, those settings where the church is present.
 - Explore the role that local faith communities can play in dealing with issues of protection and stigma.
 - Examine and highlight the specific issues around disability, displacement and gender
 - Produce a diverse range of tools to enable local churches present in humanitarian settings to support people with disabilities as well as carers and advocate with and for them.

3. Activities

The Anglican Alliance is developing this work at three different levels: research, advocacy and capacity building. We are phasing the work over a period of time to make progress within financial constraints. We will be applying for external funding from a variety of donors for discrete areas of the work.

3.1 Research

This work started in the last quarter of 2012. Last November the Relief Manager carried out a field visit to Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement in Western Zambia to explore and discuss the position of people with disabilities within the UNHCR camp. This would give a baseline for our later work. This year we are planning two more field visits to explore the position of people affected by a natural disaster, the situation of people with disabilities in informal camps and to look more closely at the role played by faith communities.

- May/June 2013: visit to Sindh Province, Pakistan where it will be possible to explore the challenges facing people with disability expose to frequent floods and natural disasters as well as affected by the current insecurity concerns.
- July/August 2013: Visit to Uganda/Rwanda, Burundi and (Goma) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This particular location has been identified due to several reasons: the ongoing presence of refugees, returnees and IDPs in these countries and the complex situation that is affecting eastern Congo and its neighbouring countries; the presence of Anglican churches in these countries and in particular critical areas of displacement such as Goma in Democratic Republic of Congo, Kisoro district in Uganda, Rubavu district in Rwanda and Musinga Province in Burundi; the dramatic situation of Congolese women as a consequence of the conflict will be the basis for our work on disability gender and displacement. The exact destinations will depend partly on security advice.

3.2 Advocacy

The Advocacy work has already started informally with the circulation of the report from Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement around the Anglican Communion and other relevant agencies involved in relief work. Likewise, the Anglican Alliance has been posting related articles on the website and sending newsletters to Anglicans around the world. The next step will be the production of an advocacy strategy, in conjunction with our partners to include agreement on key messaging, and involve the use of:

- Reports from the individual field visits
- Production of a major advocacy report consolidating the results of the field visits and discussions with partners
- Joint working with other faith-based organisations and the wider humanitarian community
- Within the global Anglican Communion, present in 165 countries, pressing the Communion's decision making bodies to formulate policies supporting refugees and IDPs with disabilities

3.3 Capacity Building

The two previous levels are aimed to put forward and bring attention to the challenges that people with disabilities face during emergencies. This later level is capacity building, with the provision of workshops and tools for local faith leaders and communities working in complex humanitarian settings to support people with disabilities in order to improve their wellbeing. Our purpose is to design a set of tools covering the following subjects:

- Human rights, gender and disability issues
- Identification of people with disabilities
- Stigma and discrimination
- Protection issues
- Provision of services

We are considering a range of very accessible materials, and a module for our access level distance learning programme in community development, provided for us by the Open University

4. Timescale

The outline timescale for our activity is:

- Draft material production April/May 2013
- Field visits May to September 2013
- Workshop on findings January 2014
- Formal advocacy strategy to start January 2014
- Production of distance learning module to start January 2014 to be completed July 2014.