



Advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide

Strategic Plan 2013-2017

Introduction

Since 1922, Rehabilitation International (RI) has shown that this organization is a forum for all stakeholders in rehabilitation and is a frontrunner within this field. This Strategic Plan builds on this important history to ensure that RI continues to play a leadership role in promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide. Integral to its success is the establishment of partnerships with organisations and individuals that will achieve the vision and mission of RI as outlined below,

All RI members promote the key role of RI Global in developing the potential of habilitation/rehabilitation as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in every nation and globally.

RI Vision and Mission as adopted:

VISION

All people with disabilities, including those with health problems, shall live in an inclusive world and enjoy full human rights in all aspects.

MISSION

RI is a global network with all important stakeholders promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, including those with health problems, through means including advocacy, habilitation/rehabilitation to achieve an inclusive world where all people can enjoy active participation and full human rights.



RI has identified 6 strategic action areas for the period 2013-2017. All following focus points must concentrate on habilitation/rehabilitation according to Article 26 of the UNCRPD. This strategic plan will assist RI to focus its activities and effectively mobilise resources within the Regions and across the Commissions. Further this plan will assist with identifying funding sources, projects and potential project partners. Drawing from the suggestions of the Quebec Assembly in 2008, RI efforts will primarily involve six main areas:

FOCUS 1: Habilitation/Rehabilitation

It is very important that RI continues its strong focus on habilitation/rehabilitation both nationally and globally. Everyone should have the right to a holistic habilitation/rehabilitation program, when needed. Habilitation/rehabilitation focuses on persons and their support network and takes into consideration physical, psychological, and social needs to promote best quality habilitation/rehabilitation. As a direct outcome of habilitation/rehabilitation RI will focus on inclusive education, accessibility, and open employment as important goals in achieving inclusion for people with disabilities.

Objective 1: To work closely with all stakeholders to promote holistic habilitation/rehabilitation on an international level including collaboration with NGOs and UN agencies.

Objective 2: To promote collaboration between various ministries and Non-Government Organizations to have habilitation/rehabilitation recognized as an important national investment strategy. RI will be a frontrunner both internationally and in the national level.

Objective 3: To promote development, revision, and the use of a variety of UN tools including the WHO-CBR Guidelines published in 2010, ICF, Guidelines on Assistive Devices and other important UN tools.

Objective 4: To develop best practice guidelines in education and employment including transition from school to work.



FOCUS 2: Implementation of the UN Convention at all levels

Building on the long history of RI in advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities since 1931 through the adoption of forward-thinking charters, RI's new *Charter for Rights Implementation* urges all governments and other key stakeholders to effectively implement the UNCRPD and optional protocol. This Charter is significant in raising awareness of the UNCRPD and optional protocol and utilizing the expertise within the RI network to enhance the impact of the UNCRPD and optional protocol on persons with disabilities worldwide.

In addition, RI will continue to raise awareness of the UNCRPD and optional protocol through information resources (publications, website, fact sheets, etc.) and capacity-building programs and seminars.

Objective 1: To raise awareness of disability rights and the human rights-based approach to disability through information materials in accessible formats and capacity building programs.

Objective 2: To promote signature, ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the UNCRPD and optional protocol in all countries, particularly where RI members are present, through advocacy, expert advice and capacity building initiatives.

Objective 3: To improve universal accessibility to information, assistive technology, transport and the built environment, through partnerships, expert advice and collaboration.

Objective 4: To promote and monitor the use of the findings in the World Report on Disability as an important document for enabling implementation of the UNCRPD and optional protocol around the world.

Objective 5: To advocate for resources to build capacity for the effective monitoring and evaluate implementation of the UNCRPD in all countries which have ratified.



FOCUS 3: Poverty and disability

This particular goal concentrates on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for people with disabilities through implementation of the UN Convention, among other initiatives. To effectively achieve this goal, this will require the Regions, Commissions and RI Secretariat working in partnership as well as RI identifying new external partners.

Objective 1: To raise awareness of the link between poverty and disability through empowerment, advocacy, training and partnerships.

Objective 2: To promote education, skills development, and employment opportunities including access to mainstream funding, especially for marginalized groups within the disability sector.

Objective 3: To advocate for the expansion and enforcement of disability targets in the MDGs and to monitor their implementation.

Objective 4: To advocate the role of habilitaiton/rehabilitation in decreasing differences in health and disability.

Objective 5: To advocate for resource allocation in the area of disability in any grants for poverty reduction from developed to developing countries.

FOCUS 4: Disaster management and armed conflict

Disasters and armed conflicts are the causes of thousands of disabling injuries and have a significant impact on persons with disabilities. It is of great importance that RI takes a leadership in this field in the coming years.

Objective 1: To develop global inclusive standards in armed conflict and natural disasters.

Objective 2: To raise awareness of the implications of Climate Change on people with disabilities and ensure that this issue is addressed in all international and national policy documents.



Focus 5: Stronger RI network, including Commissions, at national, regional and international levels.

Objective 1: To develop an effective and accessible communication and information system.

Objective 2: To sustain and grow RI membership through more focused outreach and stronger marketing of the value and benefits of RI membership.

Objective 3: To strengthen partnerships with others working in disability and related fields.

Objective 4: To have “products” from all Commission which RI Global can use to promote the value of RI and raise resources for the organization.

Focus 6: Improved Structure and Financial Situation

Objective 1: To strengthen the financial stability and accountability with a diversified and wider funding base. Approach new donors within the framework of this strategic plan.

Objective 2: To review the governance and management structure for greater efficiencies and the best use of skills and resources.

(updated 27/10/2012)



Action (or Annual) Plan 2013-2017

Drawing from the RI Strategic Plan 2013-2017, the next step in the process is to agree on the actions to be achieved over the 2013-2014 period to successfully work toward our goals. It is the expectation that Commissions and Regions collaborate to develop projects in different regions in line with these goals, in co-operation with RI members and external partners.

Having completed these tasks, the Executive Committee will report to the General Assembly on progress with annual plans.