Collecting Data on Persons with Disabilities

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCs) Experience
Bangladesh Scenario

- 10% (+) of the population i.e. 16 million people are living with a disability
- But the perspective at different level differs on disability statistics
- Lack of valid data and statistics on disability at National Level
- Many different definitions of disability and people’s experience of disability are extremely varied
BDRCS Perspectives

• Disability inclusion is an important strategic cross-cutting priority
• The program, projects and emergency response operations consider persons with disabilities as a priority
• But no clear understanding on how to address disability issues in the program
• No clear guidance for disability disaggregated data collection, analysis and use
Current BDRCS data collection practice

- Although some gender disaggregation is there, disability disaggregation is missing.
- Need assessment, beneficiary selection survey include a question on person/s with disability but the definition is not clear.
- Disability disaggregation is missing in Federation-wide Data and Reporting System (FDRS).
Creation of community of practice in Red Cross/Crescent movement

• Participated in a workshop on disability disaggregated data in Geneva in November 2018

• Areas discussed:
  • Identifying persons with disabilities and definition of disability
  • Guiding principles and approaches for disability inclusion
  • Terminology – persons first language
  • Use of Washington Group Set of Questions for disaggregation and disability inclusion
  • Action plan development
Embedding the learning at BDRCS

• Reporting/ M&E focal persons’ training and capacity building on disability disaggregation
• Incorporating the WGQs into the BDRCS questionnaire
• BDRCS database to add data on persons with disabilities in line with the WGQs
Moving forward

- Advocacy at wider policy level and humanitarian coordination platform for a wider understanding on disability definition and mainstreaming in Bangladesh
- Wider dissemination of WGQs
- Strong collaborative partnership between RCRC Actors, local DPOs, HI and other relevant humanitarian organizations to ensure data collection, analysis and use on disability
- A “community of practice” with visible and regular actions at global level
- Support to BDRCS for capacity building on disability inclusion and data collection
- Support to BDRCS for disability mainstreaming in program design and implementation