

Integrating Rehabilitation as Part of Victim Assistance in Humanitarian Response



**World Health
Organization**



Rehabilitation is...

“A set of interventions designed to optimize functioning and reduce disability in individuals with health conditions in interaction with their environment.” (WHO)

Or, put simply...

Rehabilitation helps a person to participate in their meaningful life roles – education, work, recreation, family.



Rehabilitation benefits

- Prevent complications
- Reduce length of stay & decrease readmissions
- Optimize recovery
- Reduce disability





Rehabilitation in conflict settings

Victims of Explosive Remnants of War

Complexity of injury

- Physical impact
- Psychological impact

Acute needs

- Immediate rehabilitation required following trauma & critical illness

Long term needs

- Social reintegration



Rehabilitation in conflict settings

Health service delivery context

- Active conflict & protracted emergencies – surge in rehabilitation needs.
- Health services damaged or disrupted
- Breakdown of health information systems & medical records
- Breakdown of coordination systems
- Breakdown or disruption of supply chain
- An influx of international support

Rehabilitation in conflict settings

Common challenges

1. Rehabilitation is under-resourced in almost all emergency settings

Lack of appropriate workforce

- *Integration across all levels of health care, including acute care*
- *Training in trauma care*
- *Specialist services (such as for spinal injury or burns)*



High incidence of complications

Poor functioning outcomes

Rehabilitation in conflict settings

Common challenges

1. Rehabilitation is under-resourced in almost all emergency settings
2. Continuity of care
 - *Limited rehabilitation in the acute health response*
 - *Short stays in hospital with no plan for follow up*
 - *No (or late) referral to rehabilitation services*
 - *Patients lost to follow up*
 - *Security or logistical challenges in tracing/following up patients away from health centres*



High incidence of complications

Poor functioning outcomes



Rehabilitation in conflict settings

Common challenges

1. Rehabilitation is under-resourced in almost all emergency settings
2. Continuity of care
3. Rehabilitation remains an **afterthought**
 - *Rarely included formally in emergency preparedness*
 - *Not an integrated part of planning*
 - *Often considered too late in response*

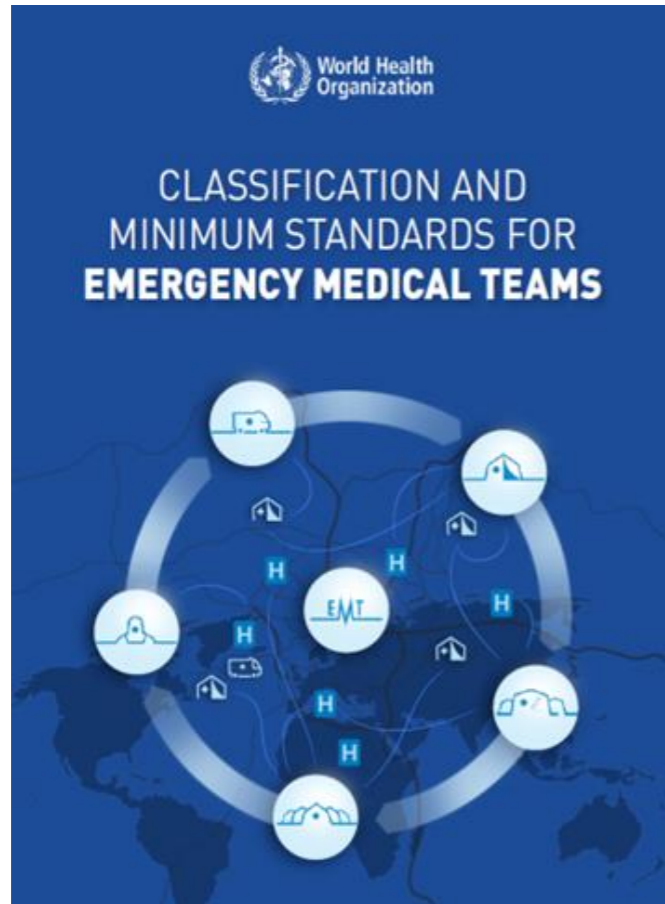
High incidence of complications

Poor functioning outcomes

Twin track approach

- Integrating rehabilitation into health emergency preparedness and response processes
- Overall rehabilitation health systems strengthening

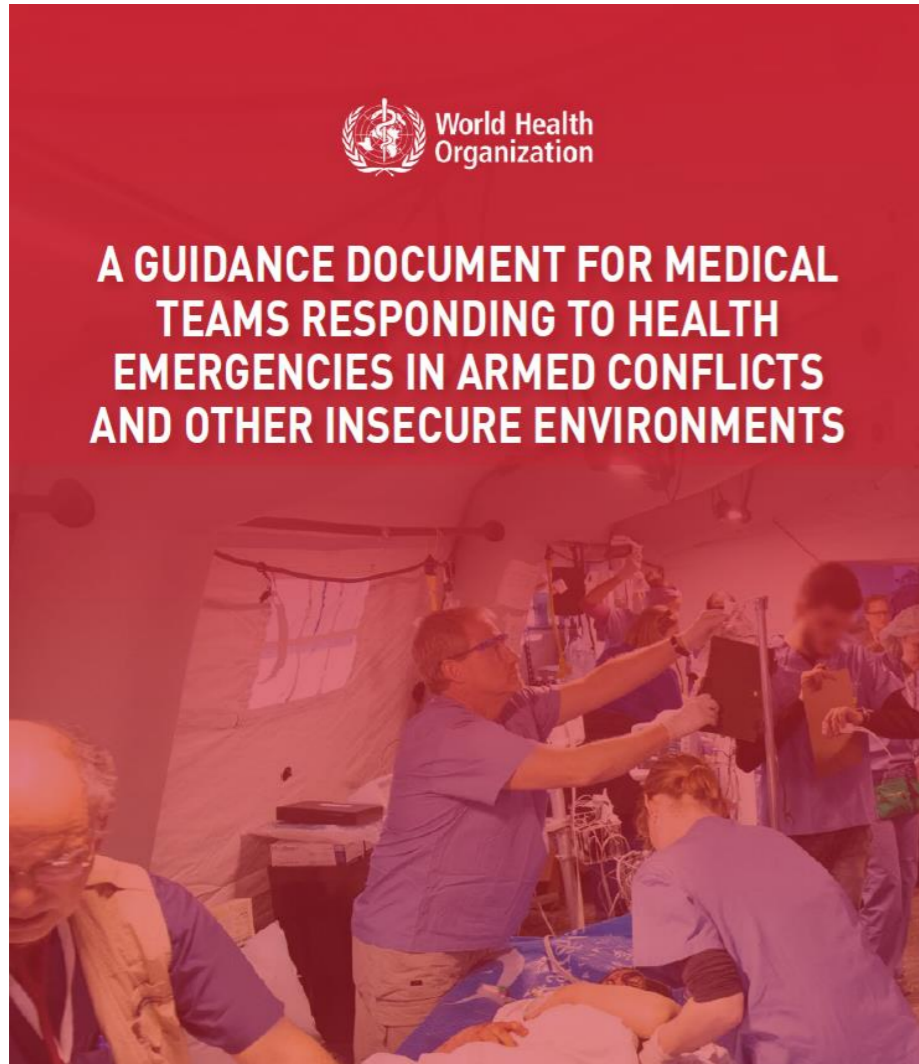
Emergency response...as part of immediate surge



MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REHABILITATION



Emergency response...in conflicts



“an essential component of clinical care in armed conflict and complex emergencies and essential to mitigating the considerable legacy of disability that follows a surge in traumatic injuries...”

Standards for rehabilitation have been established and should be followed

BUT: EMTs are short term surge only – a short term solution and need to be linked to long term care, **where it exists!**

Emergency response...in protracted crises

H3 package of essential health services:

Rehabilitation as an essential health service in complex emergencies

HeRAMS:

Rehabilitation as part of monitoring of health service availability in complex emergencies

Coordination and Leadership:

Rehabilitation as a key component of support offered by WHO



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Rapid assessment of the rehabilitation needs generated by an emergency, including the number and type of injuries needing rehabilitation and the impact on rehabilitation services.



MAPPING

Mapping of existing capacity to meet rehabilitation needs, and the identification of any critical gaps.



COORDINATION

Support to coordinate rehabilitation activities, including strengthening referral pathways and ensuring appropriate coverage and quality of rehabilitation services.



TECHNICAL ADVICE AND RESOURCES

Providing technical advice including to affected Member States and all relevant stakeholders and developing, adapting or promoting technical resources and guidelines to ensure a safe and effective rehabilitation response.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Provide capacity building support to Member States and key stakeholders to manage a response or technical training in clinical or operational areas for national rehabilitation responders.



RESPONSE AND RECOVERY STRATEGY

Support from the onset of an emergency to ensure rehabilitation needs are considered and continue to be included in strategic planning that bridges response and recovery.



- **Defines** rehabilitation in emergencies
- Outlines the **evidence** for rehabilitation in emergencies
- Describes the current status of rehabilitation in preparedness and the need for **greater preparedness** of rehabilitation services
- Shows how **existing global guidelines and resolutions** support the integration of rehabilitation into emergency preparedness and response
- Establishes the **steps that decision makers can take** to better integrate rehabilitation into health emergency preparedness and response.
- Specifically emphasizes the importance of coordinating rehabilitation with related areas of work, including **victim assistance.**

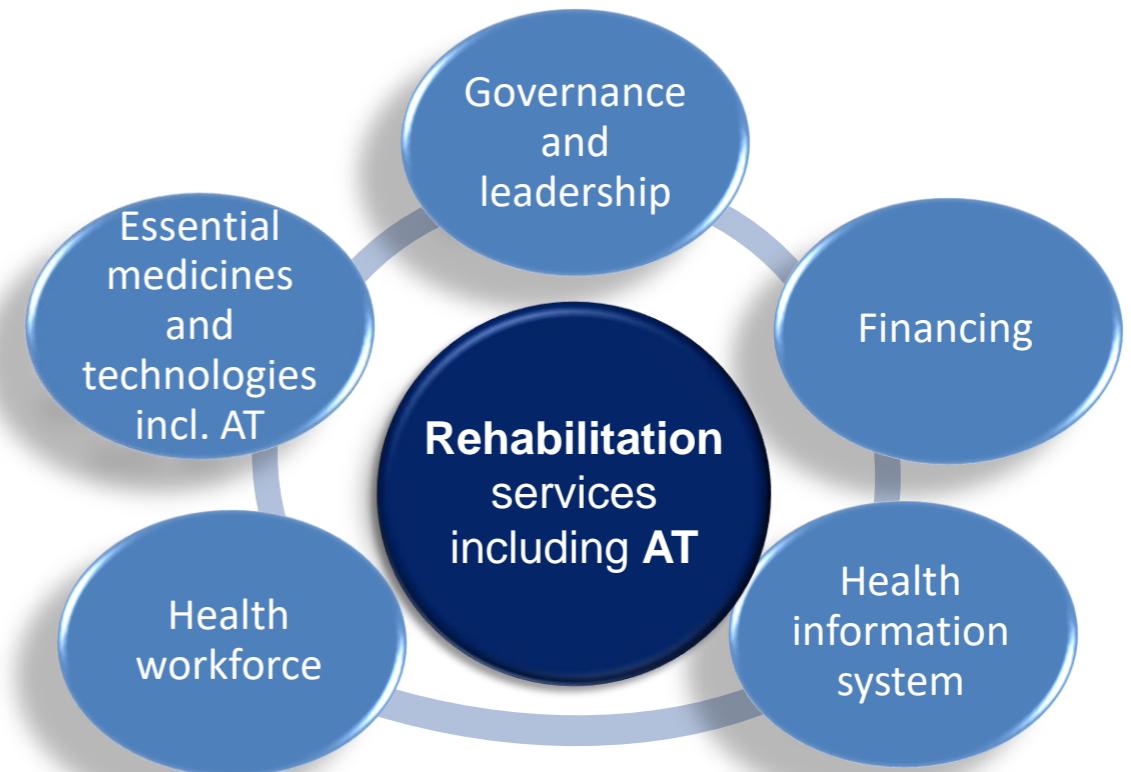
Twin track approach

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- Overall rehabilitation health systems strengthening

Rehabilitation 2030



Strengthening the Health System



Rehabilitation 2030



Vision

Everyone who **needs** rehabilitation receives **quality** services to optimize and maintain their **functioning** and increase their **well-being** in everyday life

Goal

- Health system able to respond to local population needs

WHO rehabilitation products and tools

Emergencies

Information systems

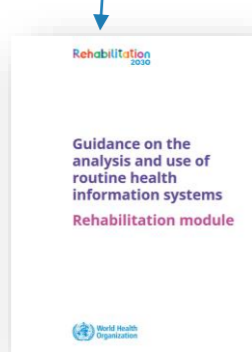
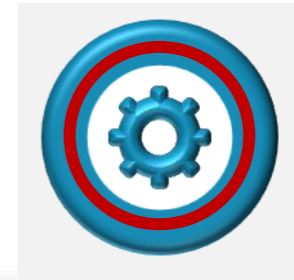
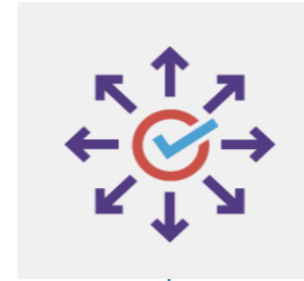
Workforce

Financing

Service delivery

Assistive Technology

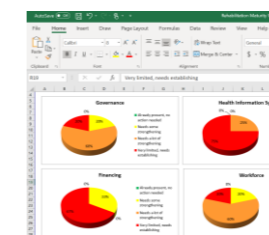
Leadership and governance

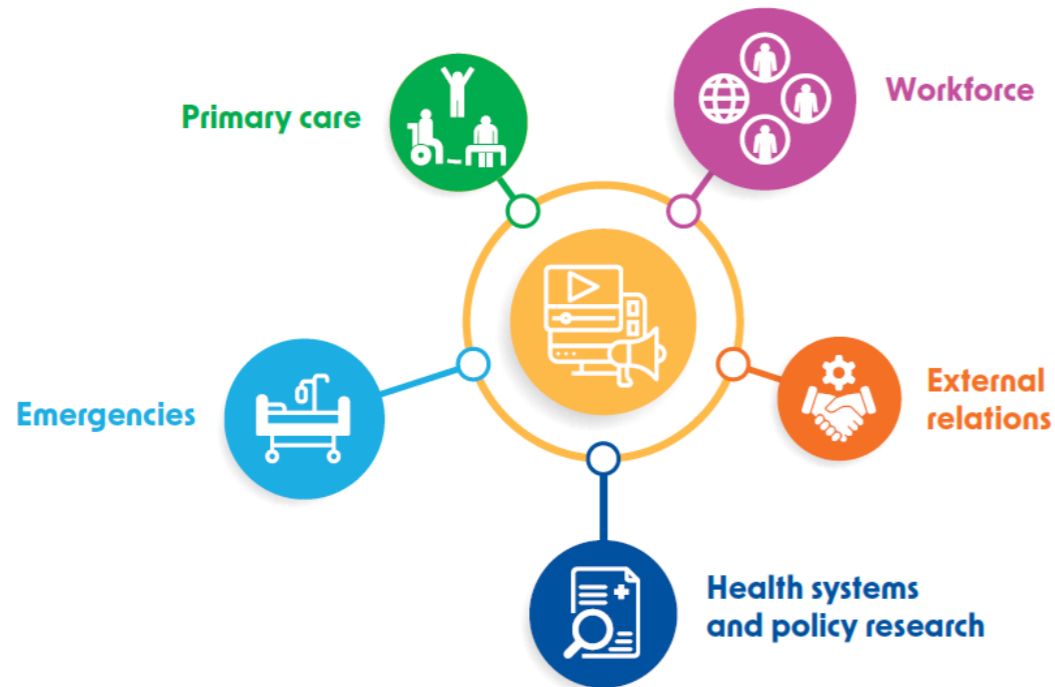




- Guidance for strengthening the health system to provide rehabilitation
- Development of a **national strategic plan and monitoring framework**

Four-phase process





Joint Advocacy Statement New escalating conflicts causing humanitarian crises

New and escalating conflicts

Joint Advocacy Statement by the World Rehabilitation Alliance regarding new and escalating conflicts causing humanitarian crises

What next...

WHO toolkit on integrating rehabilitation into all hazard health emergency preparedness

Rehabilitation equipment included as part of “Trauma Emergency Surgical Kits”

Summary

- Rehabilitation is a critical component of victim assistance following an ERW accident, both in the acute phase and long term.
- Multiple obstacles are faced when delivering rehabilitation services to victims of ERW, and within the overall emergency context.
- To address these challenges, a number of WHO tools are available that focus on:
 - Integrating rehabilitation into health emergency preparedness and response processes
 - Overall health systems strengthening for rehabilitation

Thank you

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For more information on
WHO rehabilitation activities

