

# Non-State Actor Statement

## Leveraging rehabilitation at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (22- 28 May 2022)

### Statement submitted in relation to agenda item 16.3 – WHO’s work in health emergencies

Rehabilitation is a core element of emergency response. Early rehabilitation prevents or reduces complications, speeds hospital discharge, promotes long-term recovery and facilitates independent living.

Handicap International Federation, supported by the ReLAB-HS, the Global Rehabilitation Alliance and its members, calls on Member States to elevate WHO’s emergency functions, including in the Emergency Medical Teams’ Initiative.

- Rehabilitation and provision of assistive technology must be incorporated in all health emergency responses, at all levels of care.
- Professionals must be equipped to meet early-rehabilitation needs in emergencies and those of people with pre-existing disabilities or chronic health conditions.
- Strengthening local rehabilitation capacity requires leadership and vision. A WHA Resolution on Rehabilitation, encompassing rehabilitation in emergencies, will strengthen Member States’ efforts to improve services.

#### **This statement is endorsed by (in alphabetical order) :**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health Executive Committee  
Global Rehabilitation Alliance  
Handicap International Federation/ Humanity & Inclusion  
International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics  
International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine  
International Spinal Cord Society  
Learning, Acting and Building for Rehabilitation in Health Systems (ReLAB-HS) Consortium  
World Confederation for Physical Therapy / World Physiotherapy  
World Federation of Chiropractic  
World Federation of Occupational Therapists

