**Reflection on Self Advocacy as Refugee**

Since 2010 I have joint my colleague (persons with disability) to form an Organization Called THT which is nonprofit organization advocating on disability Right through Theater and Film, in July 2017 up to December 2022 I have signed a contract and become a full time staff as the Executive Director of THT with responsibility of managing project and staff where we have implement four project and 4 full time staff; in summary it including two year project based in Congolese and Burundian Refugee camp Existing in Rwanda, I was responsible for the overall direction of THT to move on, and managing day-to-day Four project implemented with THT staff, I reports to the Board, Developing proposal and Donors negotiation, project Reporting, Human Resources management and implement strategies and policy for organization, as well as the capacity building of our member on human right and inclusive development.

I am a trainer of united convention on right of people with disability and DET trainer and I have different causes on Advanced causes of Human Right, I have a bachelor’s degree in Management since 2013 and Master’s degree in Project Management, a father of two children’s boy and Girl, I have born in 1984 in eastern DRC, where people continue to be in Risk of losing their life due to the present war

**General Introduction.**

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (CRPD, 2006, [A/RES/61/106](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/general-assembly/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-ares61106.html)) defines persons with disabilities to "include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".

In situations of forced displacement, persons with disabilities have the same rights and basic needs as others and face the same challenges. However, they face numerous additional barriers. They face particular protection risks, including a heightened risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, and high levels of stigma. They have difficulties accessing humanitarian assistance, education, livelihoods, health care and other services. They may be denied certain legal rights, and are often excluded from decision-making processes and leadership opportunities.

Persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group. They face multiple and compounding forms of discrimination, on the basis of disability but also on other grounds, which may lead to situations of exclusion.

The World Health Organization estimates that about 15% of the world's population has a disability. In situations of forced displacement, the incidence of disability is usually higher because a larger proportion of people have injuries, lack access to medical services, and face barriers in their environment. (Sources: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/67443/persons-with-disabilities>)

Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

***PROTECTION RISKS*:**

Persons with disabilities may experience limitations depends on their Impairments and this cause different barriers these may be physical and environmental; attitudinal; policy; or in communication, during the period of Risks they face violence including SEA; discrimination; and exclusion from access to humanitarian assistance, education, livelihoods, health care, a nationality, and other services; Among them they face double discrimination deaf blind.

Case by Example:

1. women with disabilities with five kids and her husband are militias groups in eastern DRC where she can be raped by others militias all of us we use social media we get different video showing un human act let all understand what happen around world, Turkish tynamies, Ukraine war etc…. all this event one day will be stopped
2. Myself I have physical impairments cause to lack of primary need when my parent was refugees so, let me give me more practical Example of Five types of Impairments in situation of Risk like intellectual and psychosocial disability, children with disability, blind persons, Deaf people?
* The reputation of Government receive refugee and its partners will be put at risk if they do not fulfil their responsibility to protect all populations of concern.
* Refugees with disabilities do not access the right as others citizens of the country due to lack of information

***The Best practices to protect persons with disabilities and ensure their safety in situations of risks”.***

1. THT in 2017-2019 through financial support of Humanity and Inclusion we have conducting awareness campaign in 6 Refugee camp Existing in Rwanda and I remember ARC Have start to give shelter in accessible place to persons with disability.
2. Disability committee and refugee’s committee was trained on disability Right and they have identified and registered with the purpose of assessing they needs for support.
3. Recreational activities were conducted like theater, sport and clubs was created as well as the completion with outside people in order they interact with different community.
4. Partners have Establish referral systems to ensure that persons with disabilities reach relevant service providers. (eg: mental health challenges)
5. Ensure that programmes include persons with disabilities, and that persons with disabilities have access to information and messaging about programmes that concern them.
6. Through training of staff, partners and local and national authorities recognize and know how to respond to the specific needs of persons with disabilities.
7. Ensure persons with disabilities can participate in protecting their families and communities.
8. In non-camp settings, take steps to identify potential partners and establish an outreach programme, to ensure that persons with disabilities are identified and receive information they need.

**Conclusion**

* Put in place enough staff and resources to enable the operation to address the gaps and barriers faced by persons with disabilities.
* Assess programmes regularly and ensure they are AGD-inclusive.
* Establish monitoring mechanisms for all key steps.
* Establish national partnerships to ensure that government services and other national partners are fully engaged. This is essential if programmes and support for persons with disabilities are to be sustainable.

Let as act in Right based model for refugee not in charity model of disability which is appearing in most refugee’s camp

Thanks for Hearing me

Davde TWIZERIMANA