



مَنْظَرُ الصِّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قرار

Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC63/R.3  
October 2016

Sixty-third Session  
Agenda item 5(a)

**Improving access to assistive technology**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on improving access to assistive technology in the Eastern Mediterranean Region<sup>1</sup>;

Being aware that the Sustainable Development Goals emphasize “leaving no one behind”, and that SDG target 3.8 cannot be achieved without inclusion of assistive technology as an essential component of universal health coverage and of integrated people-centred health services;

Recalling Member States’ commitment to implement the global strategies and action plans on ageing and health 2016-2020, on disability 2014-2021, on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, and on mental health 2013–2020, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the request to WHO from stakeholders, at the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Disability and Development in 2013 to develop and coordinate a global initiative towards increasing access to assistive technology;

Recognizing the wide spectrum of the population that will experience some form of temporary or permanent impairment or functional decline during the life course, and that currently only 1 in 10 people in need of assistive technology are estimated to have access to assistive products;

Further recognizing the rapid developments in technology, which offer innovative solutions and provide opportunities to reach more people with better products at an affordable cost;

Concerned at the lack of provision of assistive technology in emergency situations, which affect the majority of Member States in the Region directly or indirectly;

**1. URGES** Members States to:

- 1.1 Develop an evidence-based integrated policy to improve access to assistive technology for all as an essential component of health service delivery systems, supported by adequate financing;

<sup>1</sup> EM/RC63/4

- 1.2 Conduct a needs assessment using appropriate WHO tools to inform adequate planning of services;
  - 1.3 Develop a national priority assistive products list with minimum quality and safety standards, drawing on the WHO priority assistive products list and based on national needs, context and resources;
  - 1.4 Ensure that provision of priority assistive products is included in all stages of emergency preparedness and response planning;
  - 1.5 Ensure adequate and trained human resources for the provision of assistive products at all levels of health service delivery;
2. **REQUESTS** the Executive Board at its 140th session to include assistive technology as an agenda item in the Seventieth World Health Assembly to advance access at the global level;
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
- 3.1 Provide technical support to Member States in development of national policies and programmes, conducting of adequate needs assessment, development of national priority assistive products lists, and identification of appropriate service delivery models;
  - 3.2 Advocate for unimpeded transfer of information and knowledge, as well as strengthen collaboration among countries for sharing of experiences and mutual support, both within and from outside the Region;
  - 3.3 Develop practical guidance to ensure inclusion of assistive products in all stages of emergency preparedness and response planning;
  - 3.4 Develop or adapt practical tools to support Member States to train health service personnel to provide a range of priority assistive products;
  - 3.5 Report to the Regional Committee at its 65th session on progress in implementation of this resolution.

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