

OPENING DAY IN REVIEW...

The 2012 International Shafallah Forum: “Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality” opened today at the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami last spring in Japan, famine in Horn of Africa, floods in the Philippines and the struggles faced in the continued reconstruction efforts in Haiti, the Shafallah Forum’s fifth addition sought to highlight not only the strains placed on persons, societies and infrastructure as a result of natural disasters, but also to emphasize the even more severe conditions persons with disabilities face in these scenarios.

Chairman of the Shafallah Center, Mr. Hassan Ali bin Ali opened the forum alongside Professor Emeritus and Chair of the United Nations Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Professor Ron McCallum and Deputy Director of International Protection for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Louise Aubin. In his opening remarks, Chairman Ali bin Ali called on those countries that have yet to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to do so as a means to better cope with natural disasters, stating that “although we have made long strides in the advancement of the rights of the disabled, there is still much more we can do.”

In the Forum’s first panel discussion, “Refugees with Disabilities,” Al Jazeera English Senior Anchor, Teymoor Nabili moderated a discussion examining the conditions in refugee camps and evaluating the system changes and other resources needed to promote a more inclusive environment, equal opportunities and community independence, chaired by Dr. Sarah Costa, Executive Director of the Women’s Refugee Commission, Francesca Bonelli of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Scholastica Nasinyama of InterAid and Yusrah Nagujja, Disability Officer of the Refugee Law.

Stressing registration as the first step in identifying and addressing conditions that affect refugees with disabilities, Dr. Costa urged adapted measures. “We need to start identifying the people with disabilities at the time of refugee registration and break down on basis of age, gender and profile of disability.” Dr. Costa reinforced that “disability is not inability.”

This year’s forum focused on the intersection between crisis, conflict and disability to bring attention to the “double discrimination” affecting refugees with disabilities. Francesca Bonelli and Scholastica Nasinyama elaborated that refugees with disabilities are at once shunned by their communities and without adequate infrastructure, lacking migratory status, permanent residence, basic sanitation,

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

adequate living conditions, on top of dealing with a physical environment not conducive for persons with disabilities and inhospitable to persons with mobility issues.

In Uganda in particular, decades of civil war have created 162,000 refugees, according to government figures cited by Ms. Nagujja – 2000 of the refugees have disabilities. She cautioned that these figures are most likely a conservative estimate due to underreporting. On top of which, many Ugandans have fled into neighboring countries following violence spurred by the Lord's Resistance Army. Famine in East Africa has exasperated these conditions. She called for research and data, along with funding to promote economic empowerment, resources, job skills, and improve attitudes.

The panel then shifted its focus to issues facing persons with disabilities amongst the displaced refugee communities in the Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. The second part of the panel used persons with disabilities of the Palestinian community as a case study. Five years into the global economic crisis, with stagnant recovery amongst donor countries, organizations operating within the Occupied Territories face a shrinking pool of funds. This coupled with “donor fatigue” afflicting Palestinian issues, means ever less resources available amongst those addressing the conditions inhibiting life for persons with disabilities within the Palestinian Territories.

Rana Al Zawawi and Hasan Husein of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency compared their struggles working with Palestinians with disabilities, both as refugees outside the Palestinian Territories and within the Gaza Strip, respectively. As a Palestinian with disability living in the Gaza Strip, Osama Abu Safer shared his experiences in coping with a Gaza that had been broadly destroyed during the 2009 Israeli bombardment.

Wife of Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Cherie Blair, Co-Chair of the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, commended the center's growth and expansion since the first inception of the forum in 2006 in plenary remarks during the day's luncheon. Serving as co-chair for the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs since its inception, Mrs. Blair, alongside her Co-Chair, Mr. Hassan Ali bin Ali have been instrumental in the Forum's success.

Following Mrs. Blair's plenary remarks UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos lauded Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and the State of Qatar for their efforts to alleviate the plight of those with disability, not only in Qatar, but also around the world. Offering a figure from the recent natural disasters in the Philippines, Under Secretary General Amos highlighted that “Only 120 out of 1256 people or 10% of people with disabilities [in the Philippines] had shelter in hard hit areas after Philippine floods.” Finding ways to manage and deal with these issues is an important matter of discussion at this year's forum.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

First Spouses have gathered with 250 attendees representing over 50 countries for this year's Shafallah Forum on "Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality" seeks to tackle the many issues facing disability communities affected by natural disaster and to find best practices in order to address the plight of those with disabilities.

SPOTLIGHT ON...NAGASE OSAMU

Interview with Nagase Osamu

Q. Is this your first time in Doha and what have you been able to see so far?

A. It is my first time in Doha and I must say I am really impressed. I had a chance to go to the Museum of Islamic Art and I had a great time. It has a really good collection.

Q. What do you hope to take back to Japan after the conference?

A. Obviously networking and meeting new people but apart from that, the focus of the conference is crucial. Dealing with disability in crisis presents an opportunity for a change in Japan.

Q. What do you think of Qatar hosting such a conference?

A. I am impressed that a country which has not been affected by crisis or conflict took charge of hosting such a forum. But I would love to hear and learn more about the status and development for people with disabilities in Qatar and the Middle East.

Q. What has been the biggest challenge facing Japan after the disaster?

A. The biggest challenge for us was to build residential institutions for people with disabilities after the destruction. There was a residential institutional near the nuclear facility, but to come back to the same place was a huge challenge for them. If we can promote community building through this crisis, it would be a positive outcome of this horrible disaster.

Another difficulty was going back to life before the crisis. Sometimes going back to life before is not enough. Trying to make life better from before the crisis is what we should aim for.

Q. Japan is one of the most developed countries, yet you were not able to avoid the disaster. What do you think went wrong? And if developed countries are unable to escape disasters what hope is there for under-developed or third world countries?

A. Japan has had so many natural disasters that we took for granted that "oh, it's just another one." We failed to realize the magnitude. But there are so many things we can do without money and training and awareness is one of them. People when they receive a warning should not ignore it thinking that it's just another one- they should take it seriously.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

HEARD AROUND THE FORUM...

“Natural disasters only happen when natural hazards occur in human built environments” – Badaoui Rouhban, Director, UNESCO Section for Disaster Reduction

“Training is the best way to build awareness- figuring out together the needs and the solutions. This is how we implement words on paper” – Dale Buscher, Senior Director for Programs, Women’s Refugee Commission

“The facts and issues surrounding persons with disability must become a sustained mainstream global media focus. “ –Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Chairman, Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs

“Humanitarian work needs to change to address the main question: Am I providing equal access?” – Dale Buscher

“You can help by writing alternative reports of what is happening in your country” – Professor Ron McCallum, Professor Emeritus and Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities

“I firmly believe that if the world’s governments and general public were made aware of the plight of persons with disability living in poverty, then they would respond in a positive way and provide help in any way they could, and within their capability.” – Chairman Hassan Ali Bin Ali

“The whole UN treaty system is in crisis, only 30 percent of countries ever give reports for any UN treaties and only 25% have provided reports for the UNCRPD” – Professor Ron McCallum

“People with disabilities receive paychecks, but we don’t want those pay checks. If we can work, we want to work. We want to see people with disabilities integrated in society” – Ron McCallum

“Changing attitudes and knowledge development might lead to behavioral change which will increase sustainability” – Dale Buscher

“Refugees with disabilities, with a stable disability, do not have to be displaced. They only are displaced if they have a severe condition. This is how it used to be and this what we are changing” – Mary Crock, Professor, University of Sydney

DID YOU KNOW...

- NATURAL DISASTER:
 - **Japan:** The number of deaths of people with disabilities during the Japanese earthquake (2%) was twice as high as deaths in the community without disabilities (1%).
 - **Haiti and Chili** had a magnitude 7 earthquake but Haiti lost 250,000 people more than Chili, who lost around 100 people, because Haiti lacked preparedness for the earthquake.
 - **Investing at least \$1 in preparation may save you \$9 in relief and response to disasters.**
- CONFLICT:
 - War and internal conflicts since the 1990s left five million people in the world with disabilities.
 - **Uganda:** There are 162,000 refugees in Uganda, 2,000 of those refugees have disabilities. These refugees in Uganda come mostly from surrounding countries to flee conflict --Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia –and face extreme poverty in Uganda.
 - **Afghanistan:** There are 500,000 orphans with disabilities in Afghanistan due to internal conflicts.
 - Twenty-six thousand people a year become victims of landmines – that is 70 people a day or approximately one person every 15 minutes.
- PALESTINE:
 - There are over 5 million Palestinian refugees in five countries.
 - The number of Palestinian refugees with disabilities living in Lebanon is approximately 4,200 people, they represent 2.3% of the Palestinian population in the 12 Palestinian camps scattered on Lebanese territories.
 - Palestinian persons with disabilities have over 50% unemployment, and 60% live on less than \$6/day (many on less than \$2/day), in extreme poverty.
 - Palestinian refugees face the unique issue of donor fatigue with over 60 years of trying to meet the needs of Palestinian refugees.
- QATAR: Qatar has 3% employment rate for people with disabilities

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

DAY 2 IN REVIEW...

Shafallah panelists discussed inclusion efforts for women, children and minorities the world over –from refugee camps in Kenya to the flood plains in Pakistan –at the second day of the Fifth International Shafallah Forum on “Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality” today.

The forum, being held in Doha under the auspices of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and the Chairman of the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, Mr. Hassan Ali bin Ali, brings together more than 250 government leaders, persons with disabilities, and prominent experts to discuss and showcase the latest developments in inclusive emergency planning to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities during armed conflict, humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

As a voice for the developing world, Qatar is working to ensure that people with disabilities are not marginalized in these communities. In the forum’s second day, disability experts addressed the need for poverty-reduction strategies and independence amid a period of profound global economic downturn.

In a discussion on community-based efforts to aid persons with disabilities, Ms. Rooshey Hasnain, Project Director of the University of Illinois at Chicago, called on the international community to take proactive steps in crisis management, versus addressing disasters in an ad hoc manner. Referencing figures from Hurricane Katrina, a Category 5 hurricane that devastated New Orleans in 2005, Ms. Hasnain cited that nearly “25% of the African American community who suffered from the storm’s destruction was disabled.”

However, she noted that even in the face of total chaos, natural disasters could bring about positive change. After an earthquake struck Izmit, Turkey in August of 1999, the Turkish community responded to its lack of mental health services –which at that time numbered one mental health specialist for every 100,000 citizens and a mere 50 child physiotherapists in the totality of Anatolia –by expanding services to those with developmental disabilities. Ms. Hasnain stated that although it took a natural disaster to spur this expansion, the Izmit earthquake was a teachable moment for the Turkish people.

Not all natural disasters have spurred a rethink in the *raison d’état* of affected counties. Having suffered from heavy flooding in the last several years, both Bangladesh and Pakistan were ill prepared to meet the needs of flood victims, let alone the needs of those amongst them with disabilities. Nazmul Bari, Director of the Center for Disability in Development, referenced the World Risk Report for 2011, which listed Bangladesh as the second riskiest country for investment in the South Asia-Pacific region with between 20%-68% of the country prone to flooding.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

“Large-scale flooding causes major accessibility issues for persons with disabilities,” mentioned Ghulam Nabi Nizamani, CEO of the Pakistan Disabled Peoples’ Organization. Hailing from Baluchistan, Mr. Nizamani shared his experiences during the 2010 Pakistani floods. The southeastern-most state of the Pakistan, Baluchistan, is a semi-arid province, receiving minimal amounts of rain per annum. With such minimal rain, villages and cities in and around Baluchistan lacked adequate preparation for the extreme flash floods - 1000mm of rain fell within five hours.

Negligence of persons with disabilities is not limited to post-recovery situations following natural disasters, however. Ms. Devon Cone, a Protection Officer with Refugee Point, shared her experiences dealing with discrimination of persons with disabilities at the Dadaab Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya – often described as one the largest refugee camps in the world and housing hundreds of thousands of displaced Somalis.

Refugees with disabilities, specifically children, face harassment from fellow refugees who are not well versed in dealing with persons with disabilities. In Dadaab, Refugee Point works for inclusive processes of involving the disability community in outreach, education and planning. She went on to state that counseling intervention was the most efficient and direct way to improve the livelihoods of those with disabilities and their families. “Community support structures are an effective form” of raising the quality of life for the “dually discriminated” in refugee camps.

“At-risk women, children and minorities with disabilities, whether displaced by natural disaster or conflict, compete with other victims or refugees for goods and services and as a consequence, suffer two-fold,” said Cone. She highlighted that in an effort to ensure the safety of children with disabilities in Dabaab, several women came together to care for these children whilst their parent seeks food, services and treatment. This, she stated, was just one way in which communities can work together to better the situation of persons with disabilities.

Panelists on the second day of the Fifth International Shafallah Forum have called on local, community-based solutions to improve the conditions of persons with disabilities that are proactive, not reactive, cooperative and direct so as to create more efficient and effective ways of addressing the many issues faced by those with disabilities, whether in cities or refugee camps.

SPOTLIGHT ON...ELIZABETH DA SILVA

Interview with Elizabeth da Silva, Executive Director, Disabled People's International

Q. Have you ever been to Qatar before?

A. This is my first time visiting Qatar and I think Doha is beautiful. Personally, I think it is the most beautiful city in the world and I have done a lot of travelling around the world.

Q. What makes Doha the most beautiful city in the world for you?

A. I think it is bright and has the snazziness of Los Angeles but yet such a clean environment. It is so much calmer and peaceful at the same time. I know it's a contradiction but that is how Doha made me feel.

Q. What were some of the things that really stood out for you at the forum?

A. The Shafallah Forum has done a great job in inviting a diverse group of people but yet everybody was saying the same thing over and over again. A lot of people were talking about what was wrong and not so much focusing on the recommendations. Many people placed too much emphasis on defining disability but maybe we should try and look at cross disability.

Q. When there are new natural disasters or conflicts making the headlines every day, how do you make sure you don't lose your donors' interest or avoid donor fatigue?

A. There is still a lot of focus on Haiti and it has been continuously for 2 years but there is still a lot to be done. In Haiti, people with disabilities are called *Coco Bia*, which means worthless, there is still a lot of stigma attached with disability. You want to help everybody but you need to measure who has the structure and who doesn't and what is the magnitude of help that is needed.

Q. What were your highlights at the conference?

A. I think the theme of the conference was brilliant and many people are not paying attention to this topic so it's great to be hosting something like this. I have met with some amazing people from so many different parts of the world. I have met people from Haiti and I have always wanted to work with them but never had a chance to meet face-to-face.

Q. What changes or recommendations would you give for the next year's forum?

A. I think we should move on to the next phase where we can merge the MDG and CRPD goals and work together. Creating partnerships at an international level is extremely important. We need to move on from working as a separate entity for people with disabilities but really collaborate with other NGOs at all levels and bring the disability community closer to the rest.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

HEARD AROUND THE FORUM...

“Disasters sometimes present an opportunity and shouldn’t always be looked as a disaster alone.” –
Carson Harte, Executive Director, The Cambodian Trust

“There is no magic formula, no magic recipe (for the betterment of those with disabilities). We should work together. Your experience and mine can create something better. So we can collectively work together to create a better world.” –*Beatrice Satizabal, International Consultant on Disability*

“The reality is that people with disabilities have no option but to remain in a refugee camp.” – *Rachel Kachaje, Deputy Chairperson for Development and Under-Represented Groups, Disabled People’s International*

“Breaking the cycle of poverty is more difficult for people with disabilities.” --*Elizabeth da Silva, Executive Director, Disabled People’s International*

“Disability has never been the main priority when humanitarian frameworks were set up.” -- *Andrea Canepa, Staff Writer, Columbia University*

“Real change takes time and need combined efforts. We need governments” -- *Florence Nightingale Mukasa, Uganda National Association of the Deaf*

“Education in emergencies is not about restoring inclusive education but introducing it” -- *Annelies Ollieuz, Education Liaison Officer for Education Cluster in Haiti, UNICEF*

“The UN Convention provides important opportunities. In practice the educational policies are vague so we need to create mechanism that provide more evidence of what these policies mean” --*Jayne Brady, International Bureau of Education*

“When crisis strikes, it is the responsibility of all of us to work in partnership so the rights and needs of children and adults living with disabilities are not neglected, that their voices are heard and that they are involved in the process of building an inclusive response to help prevent injuries and to assist the survivors.” – *Dr. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF*

DID YOU KNOW...

Refugees, women & children:

- There are three basic problems that have preoccupied women with disabilities and children with disabilities in crisis situation: poverty, ignorance and disease.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

- Children with disabilities are at greater risk for denial to the right to education.
- According to United Nations, 42 million people worldwide are displaced due to conflict and natural disasters. 41 percent of world refugees are women and children.
- Only 1% of the 25 million refugees worldwide have the option to resettle in a third country.
- 2 percent of all humanitarian aid goes to education.

In Haiti:

- The situation of women and children in Haiti is vulnerable: the 2010 earthquake affected more than 3 million people
- Before the earthquake, 3 out of 4 Haitians were already living in poverty
- Haiti has the highest under 5-mortality rate in the West Hemisphere
- 1 out of 37 women have a chance of dying during pregnancy
- The 2005 demographic health census shows that 1 out of 4 women experience domestic violence
- 20 percent of urban children and 70 percent of rural children live with no parents
- Before the 2010 Haiti earthquake there were 200,000 children with disabilities and in 2009 only 3 percent of these children were being treated

In Uganda:

- 61 percent of people with disabilities have never had information about AIDS
- 51 percent of people with disabilities are not going to school
- 56.5 percent of people with disabilities are not employed

In Kosovo:

- Today, only 10 percent of children with disabilities in Kosovo have access to school

UNICEF Millennium goals:

- Ensure access to primary education for 3.5 million refugee children
- Ensure 1 million children have access to secondary education
- Tertiary education is a motivating factor it has been limited for our refugee population
- Quality learning for 70% of our refugee children
- Ensure inclusive education through an age, gender and diversity approach
- Increase literacy rates among refugee adults by 50%

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

DAY 3 IN REVIEW...

At an international press conference held on the closing day of the Fifth International Shafallah Forum, Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali called for inclusion, implementation and reaffirmation of “rights-based frameworks” in response to emergency and post-conflict scenarios.

Following the announcement of the creation of One Billion Strong, an international NGO focusing on elevating the status of persons with disabilities, Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali defined the objectives of the organization as petitioning to “support the true implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through global awareness-raising of disability issues and in-country development programs at the community level.”

Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali summarized the forum’s three main recommendations on ways to address disability in crisis and conflict scenarios:

- First, disability must be an integral part of all emergency and humanitarian response before and after a crisis hits, through sustainable development programs.
- Second, there is an urgent need for disability to be taken into consideration throughout all phases of humanitarian assistance. All humanitarian actors should ensure that emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs are inclusive, rights-based and respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Third and lastly, the principles in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should underpin all humanitarian efforts and international protection frameworks, particularly Article 11 - calling on governments to develop National Action Plans or Policies, which identify strategic actions, priorities and resources, and determine responsibilities and timeframes at the national level.

At a gala dinner Monday evening, HRH Prince Mired Bin Ra’ad Al Hussein of Jordan praised Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali for taking “bold steps” with their formation of the One Billion Strong organization, and reaffirmed bi-lateral cooperation on elevating disability issues. Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Rima Salah, lauded the State of Qatar for signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali called on the forum’s attendees to sign the Shafallah Declaration on Crisis, Conflict and Disability. By endorsing this declaration, Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali stated, “We will be encouraging adoption by the global community of the UNCRPD, we will be establishing a concrete

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

framework through which to begin addressing the rights and conditions of people with disabilities. Through ratification of the UNCRPD - specifically resolutions that support Article 11 - we will lift the status of the one billion persons living with disabilities, of which 800 million live in poverty, 6.5 million of those being refugees or displaced persons.”

Having partnered with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Women’s Refugee Commission, the Refugee Law Project of Uganda, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the Fifth International Shafallah Forum closed having gathered 250 attendees from over 50 countries to discuss the many issues facing communities affected by natural disaster and human conflict, and to find best practices to ensure equality for persons with disability in these environments.

SPOTLIGHT ON...MARCIE ROTH

Interview with Marcie Roth, Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA

Q. Is this your first time at the forum?

A. Actually I have been coming down to the forum for the last four years so it is my fifth time this year and I love it. When I came down for the last forum and I was at the Souq, my phone kept ringing and I did not want to take the call as it is expensive when you are on roaming. But something in me told me to answer the call and when I did, it was from the White House, asking me to come work for them. So Doha is a really special place for me.

Q. How was your experience being associated with the forum all these years and the facilities present here?

A. The leadership of Mr. Hassan Ali Bin Ali and Her Highness Sheikha Moza has taken the world by a storm. Their leadership not only focuses on disability but focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities, which is great. Shafallah is a global pioneer because of the inclusive practices shared between communities. It is wonderful for us to keep this dialogue going. It gives us an opportunity to think differently about people with disabilities.

Q. How do you think the forum has evolved in the last five years?

A. It has been wonderful to watch each step of the way as Shafallah has brought together global leaders giving people a global forum that no one else is sharing. This is not happening in other parts of the world. Globally there are emergencies and disasters happening everywhere and people with disabilities are left behind. They are not planned for and they are not prepared. Most people with disability don’t need medical care unless we fail to plan.

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

The first year of the forum we focused on research and then second year on education and the third year on sports and then rights and finally on disability in crisis and emergencies this year. This forum has its finger on the pulse of the issues affecting people with disabilities.

Q. Conferences or forums are often critiqued on engaging in a lot of discussion but going away in different directions at the end of the conference. How can we focus on implementation of the different things that are being discussed at the conference?

A. Shafallah is including and integrating not only people with disability but everyone in the community. These projects are not simply or separately focused on people with disability or focused on people of this region- they have a global focus. It brings together different communities.

Q. I see that you are focused on integrating different communities but considering the population of people with disability in Qatar is fairly smaller than the rest of the community, do you think that people with disability will be overshadowed by other communities?

A. I think it has been overshadowed but it won't be in the coming future. Forums like these will work as antidotes. This is the way to turn around by telling what's happening globally. I am excited that there are people who are expanding and are inclusive.

Q. The focus of this conference has been very international or on countries outside the region. What do you think about that?

A. In almost every corner of the world the notion of inclusive preparedness for people with disability is a new idea. Historically, we have thought "people with special needs" are vulnerable. It is not that disability makes you vulnerable but there is a need to plan better.

Q. You have talked a lot about collaborating with media to bring out stories that could change perceptions about people with disability. But when there are new stories making headlines every day, how can we keep the focus of our audience strong, especially with donors?

A. We need to hold the attention of everybody, and everybody needs to plan this together. When we see media as a partner, when we all work together and when we take what every bit can bring then the whole is better than the sum of parts. We can definitely do a better job by collaborating because this way we are optimizing our resources.

HEARD AROUND THE FORUM...

"People are now coming to us and actively seeking help. Before it wasn't like that." –Betsy Sherwood,
Program Coordinator, St. Boniface Haiti Foundation

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

“The goal is not special treatment, but equal opportunity and access to resources.” –*Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Chairman, Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs*

“When you don’t put trust in the local infrastructure how can you think of an exit strategy.” -- *Priya Maloni, Rehabilitation Coordinator, St. Boniface Haiti Foundation*

“When we plan for people with disabilities after we plan for other people, everybody in the community loses.” -- *Marcie Roth, Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA*

“The problem is that people with disability are forgotten” – *Dr. Armando Vásquez, Regional Disability and Rehabilitation Consultant, Pan American Health Organization*

“UNICEF is addressing the issues but not as much as they should. We have the tools, the knowledge, but we haven’t been able to come together yet. We are not using the money to build inclusivity and this has to be done” - *Rosangela Berman-Bieler, Senior Advisor on Children with Disabilities, UNICEF*

“It is important to have people with disabilities in your team to show that it works and that they are helping you rather than you helping them” – *Valérie Scherrer, Emergency Response Unit Senior Manager, Christian Blind Mission*

“The major challenge is the issue around coordination, and ensuring disability mainstreaming” – *Charlotte McCain-Nhlapo, Coordinator of the Office for Disability and Inclusive Development, USAID*

“This is an all hands approach not just the government not just the people but everyone” - *Marcie Roth, Rehabilitation Coordinator, St. Boniface Haiti Foundation*

“If we don’t change the attitudes of people then we cannot achieve equality” – *Chairman Hassan Bin Ali Bin Ali*

DID YOU KNOW...

- 15 percent, or one billion of the world’s population has a disability
- 3.5 percent of an estimated 120,000 children with disability have access to education in Haiti

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SHAFALLAH FORUM
DAILY NEWSLETTER

- That out of the 24 million people with hearing aids, 17 million have no hearing assistance of any kind
- Discriminatory practices continue to deny persons with disabilities, as well as workers who become disabled, access to work. Two-thirds of the unemployed respondents with disabilities said they would like to work but could not find jobs.
- In most of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, females have higher rates of disability than males.
- 2-3 percent of the population of Cambodia have a disability, making the per capita rate of disability one of the highest in the world
- Diseases in Cambodia causes 65% of the disabilities among children, 27% is congenital, 5% is due to domestic accidents and 2% are due to landmines.
- Poverty is a contributing factor to the causes of disability.
- War-related injuries account for about 17% of Afghanistan's population with disability, which figures put at somewhere between 747,000 to 867,000 people.