Plenary 2: How to Create Community-Based Services

International Tools, Guidelines, and Experiences





Jorge Araya

Human Rights Officer,
Secretariat of the United Nations
Committee on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES ON DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION, INCLUDING IN EMERGENCIES

9-10 October 2023



CRPD Committee: Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies

- 1. Why did the UN set up the guidelines on DI?
- 2. Which **population groups** do they cover or can they be used for a boarder set of groups receiving services from social authorities and providers?
- 3. What are the **key messages** / points relevant for social services?
- 4. What is required to have them **implemented** in Europe? What do you **expect** from the seminar participants (Representative from national, regional and local social services, European Commission) to make best use of the guidelines?

Why did the UN set up the guidelines on DI?

• Institutionalization, re-institutionalization and transinstitutionalization **still** widely **practiced** in State parties

• Covid-19 pandemic resulted in more trauma and human rights violations for persons with disabilities

Overall transformation of service provision required

Population groups covered

- Intersectionality as a cross-cutting issue
- Women with disabilities
- Children with disabilities
- Older persons with disabilities
- Persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities

Elemements most relevant for local social services

- Definition of DI
- Duty of States parties to end institutionalization
- Understanding and implementing key elements of deinstitutionalization processes
- Access to mainstream services on an equal basis with others
- Inclusive community support services, systems and networks
- Emergency deinstitutionalization in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including conflicts

What is an Institution? Some elements

- 1. Obligatory sharing of assistants with others and
- 2. No or **limited influence** as to who provides the assistance;
- 3. Isolation and **segregation** from independent life in the community;
- 4. Lack of **control** over day-to-day decisions;
- 5. Lack of **choice** for the individuals concerned over with whom they live;
- 6. Rigidity of **routine** irrespective of personal will and preferences;
- Identical activities in the same place for a group of individuals under a certain authority;
- 8. A paternalistic approach in service provision;
- 9. Supervision of living arrangements;
- 10. A disproportionate number of persons with disabilities in the same environment

Key Messages relevant for Social Services

- States parties should prioritize the development of a range of high-quality, **individualized support** and inclusive mainstream **services in the community**, without delay.
- Definitions of community-based support services, ... should prevent the emergence of new segregated services, such as
- **1. Group housing** including small group homes –
- Sheltered workshops,
- 3. Institutions for the provision of respite care, transit homes,
- **4. Day-care centres**, or
- 5. Coercive measures such as **community treatment orders**, which are not community-based services.

What can be done to implement the guidelines?

- Use of European Funds
- Human rights budgets
- Law reform, particularly in mental health
- DI strategies and plans aligned with the Convention, General Comment No5 and the Guidelines
- Service provision aligned with the human rights model of disabilities
- Upcoming EC Guidelines