

Older persons in Emergencies

Richard Blewitt, Head of Delegation and Permanent Observer
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The context

- Out of sight, out of reach and out of mind
- Definition of what is 'humanitarian'
- Mandate-driven responses
- National Humanitarian Actors

The context

- Poor and limited framing of emergency assessments
- Poor responses to needs
- 30 years 'mainstreaming'
- Complexity of the age category

A huge amount of good work done, but still limited results...

WHY and how to change this?

The results

- Some limited momentum and change
- Denial of the humanitarian imperative
- Income, health, protection and dignity challenged
- Not sufficiently building on capacities

Solutions; tackling the implementation deficit

- National laws; Rights and entitlements, and duty bearers
- Civil society groups
- Investment in age inclusion in sustainable development resilience, adaptation and preparedness
- Support to voice and advocacy
- Reinforce existing tools and analysis
- Inter-generational solidarity

Solutions; tackling the implementation deficit

- Alliances and partnerships with others
- Show success stories
- Prepare for the deepening climate crisis
- Ensuring older persons agency, enabled in part through good ageing policies.
- Champion countries and cities
- NCDs in emergencies
- Digital opportunities
- Shelter adaptation; all under one roof