Health Systems Strengthening: A Disability Perspective
Better health for people with disabilities

Over 1 BILLION people globally experience disability

1 in 7 people

1/2 of people with disabilities cannot afford health care

They are:
- 2x more likely to find health care providers’ skills and facilities inadequate
- 3x more likely to be denied health care
- 4x more likely to be treated badly in the health care system

Rehabilitation and assistive devices can enable people with disabilities to be independent

70 MIL people need a wheelchair. Only 5–15% have access to one.

360 MIL people globally have moderate to profound hearing loss.

Making all health care services accessible to people with disabilities is achievable and will reduce unacceptable health disparities

- remove physical barriers to health facilities, information and equipment
- make health care affordable
- train all health care workers in disability issues including rights
- invest in specific services such as rehabilitation

Source: World report on disability; www.who.int/disabilities/world_report

Photo credit: WHO
Lack of disability consideration when talking about health systems strengthening is a tangible barrier that prevents the SDGs’ motto “leave no one behind” to come true.
Applying a disability perspective when discussing about health systems strengthening

What does this mean?

1. Disability Inclusive health
2. Prevention of preventable impairments in a continuum of care
3. Inclusion of Rehabilitation into health
Disability Inclusive Health

- Identify, address and eliminate barriers.

Barriers could be environmental, institutional, financial and attitudinal.

Barriers can be addressed at the service providers, community and policy makers level

- 3 essential components of Inclusive Health
  Accessibility
  Participation
  Equality and non-discrimination
Washington Group Questionnaire

**SIX QUESTIONS ON SHORT SET**

- Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
- Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
- Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
- Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
- Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
- Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?
Prevention of preventable impairments in a continuum of care

- Morbidity reduction through the integration of Prevention, Early detection and Care of preventable impairments in the existing health services.

This process

- targets a reduction of the impact of the impairments related to the different health conditions
- foster the implementation of a comprehensive health system that works on the three level of prevention (from primary to tertiary).
The World Health Organization has confirmed that UCH is about ensuring that all people have access to needed preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services.

The role that quality and affordable rehabilitation services play in achieving (SDG) 3 has been acknowledged.

However,

A lack of attention to rehabilitation in the universal health coverage (UCH) agenda persists.
WHO’s resolution on Improving access to assistive technologies was presented and approved at the WHA 71:

- Access to rehabilitation professionals as well as access to quality and affordable assistive products make a major difference in people’s health and wellbeing and is a key element to achieve inclusive health;

- Rehabilitation with Assistive Technology services is an essential component of the continuity of care and of Universal Health Coverage.
Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities

3 health inclusion standards:

- Collecting information:
- Addressing barrier
- Participation and resilience
Thank you!

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