



Health Systems Strengthening: A Disability Perspective



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Better health for people with disabilities



1 Over **BILLION** people globally experience disability



1 in 7 people

People with disabilities have the same general health care needs as others

But 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



1/2 of people with disabilities cannot afford health care

They are: **50%** more likely to suffer catastrophic health expenditure



These out-of-pocket health care payments can push a family into poverty

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.

Production of hearing aids only meets: **10%** of global need **3%** of developing countries' needs

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

Photo credit: WHO

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



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).

Include Rehabilitation into Health (1)

The World Health Organization has confirmed that UCH is about ensuring that all people have access to needed preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services

and

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

Include Rehabilitation into Health (2)

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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