



... And when it comes to the time of birth, they [midwives] say “Have you seen? You! You climb on the bed!”... You cannot see where the bed is. You need to be directed [to where it is]. “You climb. Do it, as you were doing it when you were getting the child!”

(A blind woman living with HIV, Gulu district)



The doctors told me to take care of myself. I protect myself because for us, women with disabilities, most men take advantage of us. They love having sex with us, and they leave us... Because they wait when we're not in good conditions [when having a mental health illness crisis]... they use the opportunity to abuse us sexually.... I was infected with Syphilis.

(A woman with mental health illness, Gulu district)



Culturally, this is a big barrier because up to now, some people still think disability is a curse... They may go to witch doctors, so this is really so confusing. For example, I have this child with Albinism. Some community members say when you sleep [have sex] with this child, and when you're sick [living with HIV], you'll be cured!

(A DPO representative, Gulu district)



One priority is to mainstream disability at all levels of MCH and SRH... But don't separate people with disabilities. It [disability] should be integrated, data collected, and with a budget.

(An international organisation representative, Kampala)

Take home messages

People with different types of disabilities, especially women, are not aware of their SRH rights and face multiple jeopardy to access and use SRH services in post-conflict Northern Uganda

Solutions to improve their access to and utilisation of SRH services are available. It begins with: 1) training health providers to change attitudes, 2) empowerment of people with disabilities to exercise their health rights, and 3) data collection on disability for better planning and quality service delivery

Programmatic bridges are necessary between the disability community and mainstream governmental, non-governmental, community and family actors to translate policy intent into action

Thank you!

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