

EXPERIENCES OF ACCESSING HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES – PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons, PO Box 4634,
Boroko, NCD: Email: pngadp@gmail.com

**Please kindly give
me a name?**





Where is Disability?

Disability

- 'Disability' and 'impairment' are two different concepts. The distinction in definitions has gradually come about with the advance of the social model of disability.
- *Impairment* is the physical or mental limitation a person has, so the purely factual absence of or loss of function in a body part.
- *Disability*, on the other hand, is the limitation to a person with an impairment caused by society's attitudes, physical environment, institutional and legal barriers. If a child cannot go to school because the steps are too high, the books are not available in Braille, the teacher and other pupils will not accept the child, or the transport to school is impossible, then that is called a disability.
- Impairments can be medically classified, or treated, or provided technical aids for; disabilities cannot. To most people with a disability, the impairment is not the main problem; but disability is. Therefore, disability is what we must focus on.

Disability and Poverty



- Poverty is both a cause and a result of being disabled. Impairment can be caused by malnutrition, bad sanitary conditions, environmental conditions, disasters, conflicts and landmines, no road safety regulations, etc. When the impairment is present, reduced access to education, employment, microfinance schemes and affordable medical treatment make poverty worse. Many disabled persons end up begging on the streets or in prostitution



Measurement of Access to services – 5

A's

- **Availability**
 - Functioning services so that people with disability can easily access them and must be made available
- **Accessibility**
 - Non-discriminatory approach,
 - Physical environment
 - Health Information
 - Communication
- **Affordability (economic accessibility)**
 - Affordable services for all
 - Safe and potable water, adequate sanitation, facilities
 - If payment required, it should be based on the principle of equity
- **Acceptability**
 - Culturally appropriate
 - Respectful of medical ethics and of different values
 - Needs and interest within communities
 - Sensitive to issues of confidentiality
- **Accountability**
 - Services and programs are designed and implemented to respond to the needs and interest of all
 - Services actively consult and include users of services at all stages



Key Actors in Service Delivery

```
graph TD; DM[Decision Makers/ Policy Makers] <--> SU[Service Users]; DM <--> SP[Service Providers]; SU <--> SP;
```

Decision Makers/ Policy Makers

Service Users

Service Providers



Main factors determining access to services for People with Disability



- Overall organisations of the services system either at the national, provincial or district level
- Internal organisation of the services as the way it operates can either facilitate or discourage access
- The attitude of the population with regard to services or care-seeking

UN Convention of the Rights of persons with Disability - UNCRPD

User access is the central theme of the UNCRPD

- There are six principles explaining how access to services is addressed by the CRPD
 - ▣ Accessibility is a cross cutting obligation; access is a right in itself
 - ▣ All services “for all” must be made accessible
 - ▣ Support services for persons with disability are necessary
 - ▣ Participation of persons with disability and their organisation is crucial
 - ▣ Complementary tools and elements to ensure accessible services
 - ▣ Holding the actors of private sector and international cooperation accountable

What is PNGADP?





Our Vision



- See Papua New Guinea as:
- *'A nation in which persons with disabilities take their place as full and dignified members of society, free from restrictions, abuse and barriers to inclusion'.*