

From Community Based
Rehabilitation (CBR) to
Community Based
Inclusive Development
(CBID): Sustainable
approaches towards
disability inclusion in social
care in Uganda

ANTHONY OLEJA ENYOGU
INDEPENDENT AGEING AND DISABILITY SPECIALIST
MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT – GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA





Lay out of the Presentation

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- 2. Laws on Disability and Health in Uganda
- 3. Disability policy framework
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Uganda's disability outlook

 Disability prevalence 		12.5%
 % of Women with Disabilities in Reproductive Age 		45.6% (n=1,494,956)
 Health-worker ratio 		0.4: 1000
 Access to health 		13%
 Access to Assistive devices 		38%
 Women reporting Sexual and Gender Based Violence 6 	59%	
 Disability Based Discrimination 		87%
 Percentage aware of Government Programmes 		5.8%
 Able to complete primary school 		9%
 Able to complete secondary school 		6%

Less than 10% able to access social and other public services. A lot has been done

though ever since such baseline studies were undertaken over 6 years ago

Laws on Disability and Health in Uganda

Laws

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995,
- The Disability Act 2020 and the Persons with Disabilities Regulations 2022,
- The Penal Code Act 2007 (amendments),
- The Children's statute 1996 and children's Act 2003 (amended June 2016),
- Traffic and Road Safety Act (1998),
- Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007,
- The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) Act (2013),
- The copyright and other neighbouring rights act Domestication of the Marrakesh,
- The Uganda National Institute of Special Education (UNISE) Act and,
- The Education Assessment and Resource (EARS) Act.

Laws on Disability and Health in Uganda

Policies

- National Policy on Disability in Uganda 2021;
- National Development Plan III 2019/2020 2024/2025;
- The National Child Policy 2020;
- The NRM-O Presidential Manifesto 2021-2026;
- National Action Plan for Children with Disabilities in Uganda;
- The WHO Community Based Rehabilitation Guidelines;
- Uganda Guidelines on Disability 2012;
- The National Child Participation;
- The National Health Policy;

1. DISABILITY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Uganda's Disability policy and legislative framework takes forms of: Legislations, policies and programmes which. These are both specific to and inclusive of Persons with Disabilities.

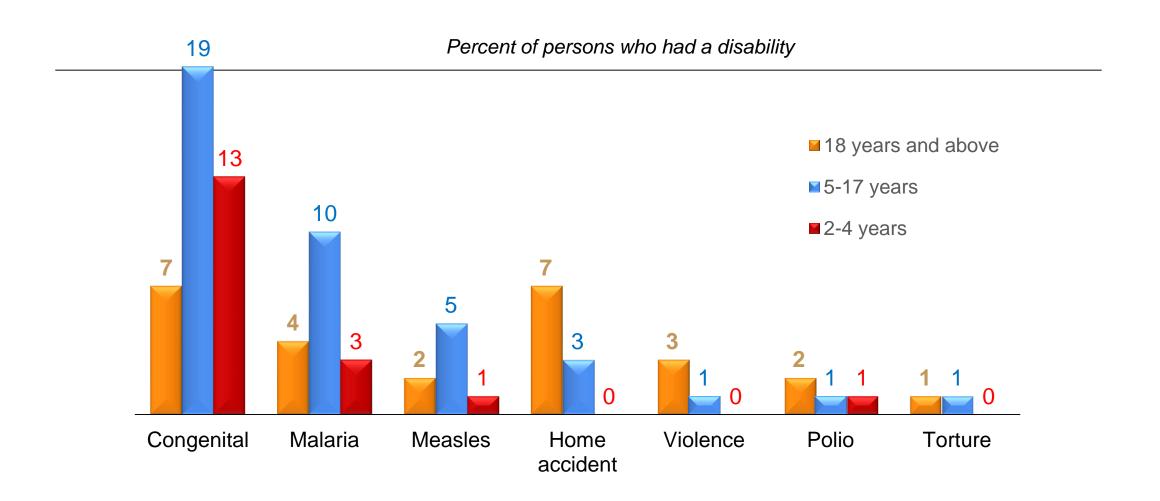
Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is widely defined as a strategy within community development for rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities, poverty reduction and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Uganda government uses CBR as a strategy that supports the full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life and development of their communities.

CBR as a strategy involves working closely with persons with disabilities, their families and communities to overcome physical and social barriers within their communities through a holistic approach to a person and their environment in the areas of health, education, livelihood, social inclusion, skills development and empowerment.

Government therefore uses the CBR matrix and indicators in programming and Including Persons with Disabilities. However, in the recent past, there has been a shift from Community Based Rehabilitation to Community Based Inclusive Development

Reported causes of disabilities in Uganda



WHAT UGANDA GOVERNMENT IS DOING

- Mass sensitisation on screening, pre-natal supplementation and Ante Natal Care to address prenatal causes of disability;
- A Robust Malaria prevention programme which includes: quarterly residual spraying for mosquitos, health promotion and education on malaria prevention, provision of insecticide-treated nets and role out of malaria treatment at all levels;
- Mass immunisation for impairing conditions and;
- Addressing accident prevention through strict traffic laws and penalties whilst promoting domestic harmony through legal and social forms among others



DISABILITY & HEALTH

Government structures and programmes

Structures

- A Division of Disability and Rehabilitation in the Ministry of Health
- Specialist consultants in the National and Regional Referral Hospitals
- Allied health workers in the various hospitals and health centres

Programmes

- Identification, assessment and referrals at the various health facilities;
- Management of disabling conditions at the various Health Sub Districts (regimental);

Programmes

- Habilitation and Rehabilitation
- Home Based Therapies (HBTs)
 managed by Village Health Teams
 (VHTs) and Support Groups
- In some places, Community Based Directly Observed Treatments (CB-DOTs);
- The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme;
- Institutional rehabilitation services;
- Provision of assistive devices;
- Management of Disabilities;
- Community Based/ Home Based Therapies;
- Occupational and Physiotherapy

BEYOND THE MEDICS!

A Whole Government system for health and social care for Persons with Disabilities

Disability is a cross-cutting issue and as such is rightfully addressed by a number of institutions, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The MDAs are responsible for policy and legislative implementation as well as design, monitoring and evaluation. These are mandated not to only ensure integration but inclusion of persons with disabilities in their programming and policies.

Other actors

- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD);
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Education and Sports;
- Urban councils and local governments;
- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Local Government
- National Council for Persons Disability
- The Equal Opportunities Commission (EoC);
- The Uganda Human Rights Commission among others and;
- External partners such as UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP etc);
- CSOs and individuals

BEYOND THE MEDICS!

A Whole Government system for health and social care for Persons with Disabilities

The CBR/CBID programme is changing the lives of persons with Disabilities through:

- Community based approaches to management and prevention of impairments while empowering persons with disabilities;
- A Government University Kyambogo University has a Faculty of Special Needs and Rehabilitation offering courses in key rehabilitation fields from practice certificate to PhD level;
- There are enabling laws, policies and programmes including a recent move to productive inclusion;
- Government is currently developing Disability inclusive Social protection systems that take cognizance of the social security and, social care and support needs.





BEYOND THE MEDICS!

A Whole Government system for health and social care for Persons with Disabilities

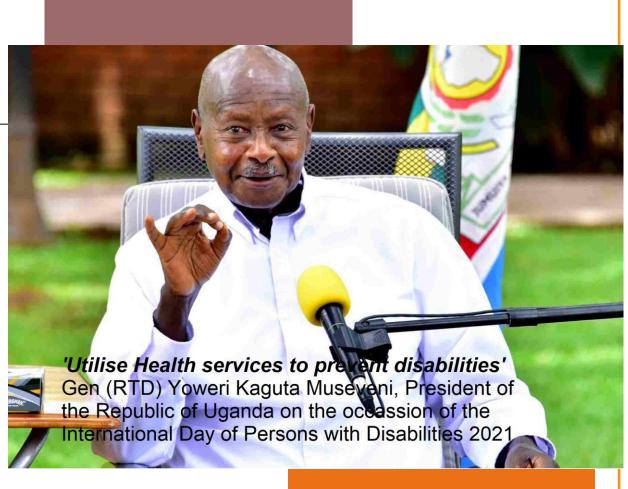
Persons with Disabilities are provided affirmative action in access to university education, health, vaccination (for COVID-19) and also information;

The Government now mandates all communication to be inclusive to persons with disabilities through: provision of large print and braille and sign language among others.



Sign language interpretation is mandatory in the new law

Persons with Disabilities Act 2020



WHERE DO THE CHALLENGES LIE?

The challenges lie with:

- Limited data on persons with disabilities;
- Access and utilisation of assistive devices;
- Direct implementation of CBID and;
- Limited utilisation of Government services.





Concluding remarks

There are no national statistics on health access and utilisation trends of persons with disabilities in Uganda. However, due to limited knowledge on availability of health services, persons with disabilities and/or their caregivers seldom have access and/or utilise health services which may result into:

Secondary impairments

Increase in severity of impairment

Development of other impairments

Powerlessness to lack of voice to demand for quality health care

and at the worst DEATH!



Conclusion

I welcome you to Uganda for learning and I look forward to continued sharing for total inclusion of persons with disabilities

Thank you for listening