

Exploring Barriers And Opportunities For Integrating Disability-inclusive Health Promotion Programs In Ghana: A Landscape Review

Background

About 8% (2,098,138) of Ghana's population have varying degrees of difficulty in performing activities.

Despite the favorable environment for disability inclusion across service delivery points, gaps persist, and this includes health promotion programs.

This study explored the barriers and entry points, as well as opportunities to integrate disability inclusion in health promotion programming in Ghana.

Methodology

Four (4) Focus Group Discussions with GFD, and health workers programs.

Eighteen (18) Key Informant Interviews were conducted with 15 organizations with 31 persons()

Materials Assessment on accessibility using peer reviewed guide developed by Sightsavers

Results

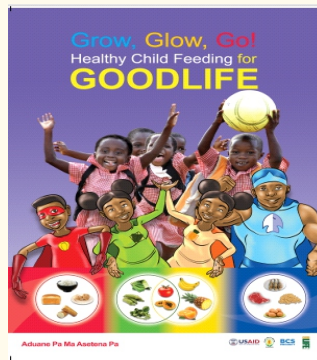
Attitudinal: Prejudice, stigma, and discrimination by health staff, especially on reproductive health services during interpersonal communication (IPC) and community sensitization

Communication and Information: Messages are not provided in accessible and diverse formats. Poor IPC skills of health staff

Financial: Poor financial support measures, especially targeting people with disabilities, as well as cost of assistive devices and extra costs of adjustments to meet the needs of disabled persons.

Knowledge Gaps: Inadequate knowledge, capacity, and confidence of health workers on how to integrate disability policies/guidelines into their daily work, which includes practical, communication, and attitudinal aspects.

Communication Materials



Over three-quarters of health promotion materials (e.g., posters, flipcharts, leaflets, audio, video, etc.) and branding give very limited consideration for disability inclusion and/or accessibility.

Barriers

Entry Points

Global level:

The United Nation Convention for the Right of Persons with Disabilities provides the legal framework.

The Sustainable Development Goals have key targets for disability inclusion

National level:

- The HP brand manual as a guiding document for all HP communication materials
- Disability desk officers
- Assistive devices and use of technology
- Emergency Steering and Technical Review Committees, M&E frameworks
- The National Health Promotion Strategy (2022-2026)

District and Community level:

- Participation of PWDs in Community Health Management Committee, adolescent health clubs, and other community groups
- A capacitated Community Health volunteers on inclusive communication

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Recommendations

Representations and participation from NCPD and GFD in HPD ICC-HP SBC-TRC, and other national health campaigns

Health Promotion Division (HPD) should develop a Disability Inclusion Strategy, and an Implementation Plan to create more disability inclusive HP approaches and practices

Nurses and Midwifery Council and Health Training Institutions to include disability inclusion as a semester course

HPD should be supported by the government and development partners in the implementation of the National Health Promotion Strategy (2022-2026)



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Point of entry- way forward



E-learning for health Promotion officers across the country, on the Ghana Health Service e-learning platform

In-person training on disability inclusion for all HPOs across the country (while we seek more sponsorships)

Training for all program lead managers



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