

# Applied research on disability in Africa

General mapping

This mapping was realized in partnership between FIRA<sup>H</sup> and the Resource Center Applied Research and Disability.

Translated from French by Guillian Ndombi

The mission of the FIRAH (Foundation of Applied Research on Disability) follows two main directions, which are complementary and merge:

- The call for projects : selection and funding of applied disability research projects
- The Resource Center : sharing knowledge in applied disability research

→ <http://www.firah.org/>



Internationally concerned, the Resource Center Applied Research and Disability aims at creating connections and bonds between researchers and field stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. It develops and disseminates research in order to promote an inclusive social transformation and to facilitate the full involvement of persons with disabilities.

→ <http://www.firah.org/centre-ressources/>

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<sup>1</sup> **Field stakeholders**

Persons with disabilities, their families, and their representative organisations. Any Human Rights organisation working with persons with disabilities. Service providers and other organisations working with Persons with disabilities. Service providers and other organisations working in mainstream that are required to meet the needs of persons with disabilities such as architects, teachers, companies, industries etc. Researchers and research institutes. Local, national and international decision makers.

This mapping concerns the early achievements of a project which started in 2014 and will last three years. The aim of this project is the dissemination and promotion of applied research results and disability to researchers<sup>2</sup> and field stakeholders of the African continent (particularly to Disabled People Organizations), in order to increase knowledge on the situation of people with disabilities and the recommendations made to improve their social participation.<sup>3</sup>

The actions implemented during the three years of this project will enable us to conduct new research but also to gather major research the inclusion in the Resource Centre, in order to promote exchanges between researchers and field stakeholders for mutual enrichment of their experiences and improve expertise and knowledge in the area of disability.

**Do not hesitate to submit documents which will allows us to complement this first work. To send us new identified research, you can contact us at the following address: [centre.ressources@firah.org](mailto:centre.ressources@firah.org)**

Two other mappings of existing research conducted in close collaboration with universities will strengthen this first overview beginning of 2015.

Next, from 2015 and 2016, a whole range of activities (study tours, creation of practical materials, and support to interventions in seminars or conferences, training sessions...) to supplement the Resource Centre of Applied Research and Disability contributions with direct interactions.

A close attention will be focused on the fact that all identified research and activities conducted will be available in open source, in an easily accessible format.

The present document was conducted as part of the Resource Center of Applied Research and Disability coordinated by FIRAH (International Foundation of Applied Research on Disabilities). The fulfilment of this work was entrusted to Florian Vignon, Master student at Sciences Po Toulouse.

The goal of this literary review is to report on existing knowledge about applied research on the African continent, providing readers with access to an initial list of documents submitted

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#### <sup>2</sup> **Research institutions and Researchers**

An entity, such as a university or a research institute, or an department dedicated to research within an institution, or developed by a group of health institutions and affiliated with a university or a research institute, regardless of its legal status (public or private body) or the way it is funded, whose primary purpose is to carry out basic research or applied research or experimental development and to broadcast their findings by way of teaching, publication or technology transfer.

#### <sup>3</sup> **Social Participation**

Social participation relates to the entire activities that a person must have to undertake to ensure a living, according to his /her lifestyle choices. It is measured against the fulfilment of activities of daily and domestic life as well as that of all social roles.

in an annotated bibliography and reading notes for those we consider a priority according to the selection criteria (see page 6).

This work, which spans several thematic areas, does not intent to be comprehensive but to identify the results and knowledge generated by research that could be useful for field stakeholders in order to improve the quality of life and social participation for people with disabilities.

What FIRAH means by the very general terms of applied research is:

- First, it is proper research based on precision and methodologies which allow the implementation of a scientific approach involving teams of one or more researchers or lecturer researchers whose research is one of the statutory missions.
- Applied research differs from basic research. Its ultimate purpose is to increase independence and social participation of people with disabilities. It is not only aimed at producing theoretical knowledge but also tackling practical issues related to the needs and concerns of people with disabilities and their families. The collaboration between these people, professionals and researchers is a fundamental element to the achievement of this type of research.
- This type of research is designed to produce directly applicable results. In addition to usual publishing (scientific articles, research reports..) applied research is also designed to produce other publications called “practical materials<sup>4</sup>” which can take various forms: development of good practices, methodological guides, training tools etc, and are destined to different field stakeholders (people with disabilities, professionals, policies makers).

Each title in the annotated bibliography contains a link with free or paying access to the work in question, and each reading note contains a link to the Resource Center database.

This document can be freely disseminated providing the source, author and relevant organisations involved are acknowledged.

Each reading note contains a link to the relevant research documentary note on the Resource Center website.

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<sup>4</sup> **Relative materials**

Shaping of the findings and knowledge gained from applied research into products, services and contents to meet the expectations and needs of people with disabilities. These application supports are adjusted to be used by field stakeholders.

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The year 2014 is a significant period for many countries said to be in developing countries. In fact, the period for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has reached its end.

The MDGs has been adopted in 2000, in New York, by 193 UN member states and 23 international organizations for a period of fifteen years. It concerns extreme poverty and hunger, education, gender equality, infant mortality, maternal health, disease control (HIV, malaria...), environmental protection and the establishment of a global partnership for development. On the eve of the year 2015, the results are mixed.

In preparation for the post-2015 agenda, a number of observations and recommendations have emerged. Marginalized groups (as persons with disabilities) in various countries raise their voices to underline the absence of direct references to them, neither in the MDGs, nor in policies or programs intended to achieve these goals. However, these people are concerned by each of the eight MDGs originally and specifically meant to meet the needs of the most marginalized and poorest populations.

The preparation of the post-2015 agenda is an opportunity to make an initial assessment and focus on mainstreaming disability in current indicators. The lack of data on the situation of people with disabilities highlights the failure to integrate them into policies conducted and the works carried out in general by the United Nations within the context of the MDGs.

The current state of applied research on disabilities on the African continent provides a more in-depth evidence on the lack of knowledge concerning the living conditions of this part of the population and their non-inclusion in national programs and policies. As pointed out by some organizations such as Disabled People International, the effective social participation of people with disabilities in the achievement of the MDGs and the post-2015 agenda is crucial for the improvement of their living conditions on the African continent.

Florian Vignon, Master student at Sciences Po Toulouse.

## Methodology

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The different techniques used to create this mapping are:

- Web monitoring which enables to identify past or ongoing research.
- In addition, we could also rely on contacts with African organizations or organizations working in Africa as well as members of the Resource Centre and their network. Particular attention is given to contact African and international organizations of people with disabilities (such as IDA, EDF...). These contacts provided an opportunity to present the Resource Centre, its activities as well as the lines of this project targeting the African continent.

The selection of the research initiatives dealt with in this work is based on several criteria:

- the existence of links between research results and the practical implementation of the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- the collaboration between researchers and field stakeholders,
- the use of a research method,
- the applicability of results.

These criteria, used to select the works available in the Resource Center of Applied Research and Disability on-line document database, had to be adapted in order to point out the difficulties encountered by certain field stakeholders in Africa, such as Disabled People Organizations, to take part in research on disability.

We thus wanted to enhance the works intended to learn more about the actual living conditions of people with disabilities on this continent and encourage the empowerment of Disabled people Organizations.

Thirty-nine (39) research works were first identified, nineteen of which were added to the Resource Center document database as they precisely correspond to the criteria outlined above.

We believe that three major types of field stakeholders are concerned with these works.

First of all, it is important to mention that most of the identified research target policy-makers. Indeed, their main objective is to make recommendations directly to the governments concerned, for instance on the protection of children with disabilities or the consideration of the notion of poverty. This research underlines the fact that people responsible for policies and strategy in health, education, employment should consider the “poverty of populations” and disability factor, in order to implement effective health services (free or low cost accessible transport to health centres for people with disabilities for example). This research

thus constitutes an authentic basis for discussion between policy-makers and the organizations representing people with disabilities to establish new policies together with the different operational field stakeholders (public services, NGOs) based on their knowledge of the reality of the economic, social and sanitary situation.

The second category of field stakeholders concerns the professionals working in the field of development. Many NGOs, along with public services, are behind the creation of sanitary infrastructures as well as service operators. For example, professionals from NGOs active in the field of education should be consulted to encourage the inclusion of children in the mainstream education system.

Finally, this research of course is aimed for Disabled People Organizations so they may have access to quality information in order to build and argue advocacy. However, it should be noted that these organizations effective participation in research is not always obvious in the works identified. In fact, research identified often portrays Disabled People Organizations as field stakeholders which should be more active and initiate applied research on disability. Their knowledge of the living conditions of people with disabilities is a crucial element sought-after by researchers. That is why the project conducted by the Resource Center Applied Research and Disability on the African continent can provide an interesting element to promote and strengthen future collaborations between Disabled People Organizations and researchers.

## Summary and guidelines

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This summary allows to underline the thematic of the 39 research works we identified. Full references of these documents are found under the sections “annotated bibliography” (page 8) and “reading notes” (page 16).

Applied research from the African continent reviewed by this work, differs from that being observed in Europe and North America. Key field stakeholders (Disabled People Organizations, professionals in the field of disability) do not have the same influence, acknowledgment or legitimacy as in Europe.

The first objective that seems to emerge from this research is to become better acquainted with the living conditions of people with disabilities. Lack of tangible facts that would allow researchers to come up with actually applicable results, is to be noted. Therefore, the main objective of applied research on disability that has been identified is to increase knowledge concerning the living conditions of people with disabilities and thus highlighting the real situation of these people with respect to discrimination, employment, economic, political and social factors. Indeed, to know the living conditions of this part of the population seems essential for establishing the efficient projects and policies intended for them. These information are essential for governmental and non-governmental organizations and for international organizations because they are still widely unknown by all the field stakeholders operating for the development of these African countries.

Another important element: in this research, the issue of disability is often linked to the notion of poverty. This phenomenon illustrates the wish to demonstrate that “double exclusion” exists. In fact, people with disabilities are part of the poorest classes of the population and often represent an economic (additional costs) and social (sign of exclusion) burden for families and relatives. Development economics is widely used by the authors, particularly with the concept of capability very often used by Amartya Sen, Indian economist and 1998 Nobel Economics Prize. The authors develop the concept of double exclusion by analysing opportunities for these people to access basic services (health, sanitation...) and showing that not only those services are not adapted to the needs of people with disabilities but also not accessible for them for financial reasons.

Therefore, if inclusion is dealt with, it is very often in relation to development projects produced by African and international organizations. There is a genuine willingness to understand why people with disabilities are subject to double exclusion and investigate possible solutions to address it. For this purpose, most of the studies concerned determine the different access conditions to one or several basic services by comparing disabled and non-disabled populations.

Another thematic which emerges from this applied research in Africa is that of violence and sexual abuse especially regarding children and women with disabilities. Indeed, based on the identified research, it appears that children with disabilities are the many victims of violence and sexual abuse, their disability preventing them from defending themselves.

Often being the object of particular myths and beliefs, people with disabilities are even more concerned by this type of violence. Perceived as sexually inactive, and often very little aware of the risks through unprotected intercourse, those people are particularly concerned by the spreading of sexually transmitted diseases. In some regions, people with disabilities with albinism for instance, are seen as capable of curing certain diseases. These situations are largely unknown to the general public and players from academia and concealed by field stakeholders. Research on the topic, developing clear and precise recommendations, will probably allow a definite improvement of those living conditions.

Community-based rehabilitation is often mentioned in this identified research. It deals with a strategy applied in more than ninety countries. It has been promoted by the World Health Organization as strategy aiming at improving access to rehabilitation services for people with disabilities in developing countries. The distinctive feature of this strategy is that it relies on the use of local resources. This allows real inclusion of people with disabilities in the community.

Finally, the theme of employment is addressed by international organizations such as International Labour Organization based in Geneva, or non-governmental organizations. The purpose of these reports is to encourage the development of new professional and entrepreneurial activities. There is a real desire to fully recognize people with disabilities as economic actors.

## Directions for future research

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Identified research in addition to recommendations aimed for the different field stakeholders mentioned above, provides guidance towards which, according to the authors, future applied research on disability will be heading.

Therefore the authors wish that future research on the African continent focus more on economic development and international cooperation and centre around specific thematic such as wellness, peculiar to development economics. Future research should encourage Disabled People Organizations to strengthen through empowerment processes in order to become fully recognized actors in the improvement of the living conditions of people with disabilities.

In future, applied research on disability should constitute a research area distinct from the economic or sociological sphere and that future researchers on disability extract from their work actual results applicable by field stakeholders.

## Reading notes

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The eighteen (18) research papers presented below are identified from the main bibliography; each of them being summarized. This research was identified as most relevant to the Resource Center. The criteria are as follows:

- The connection between research results and the practical implementation of the principles of the UN Convention,
- The collaboration between researchers and field stakeholders,
- The identification of applied or applicable results to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.
- The use of a rigorous research process

- ❖ Farzana Ali, Jill Hanass-Hancock, Verusia Chetty, Saul Cobbing. **Closing the Gap: Sexuality, Education and Disability**. Study brief. Durban. South Africa. 2013

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

Although youth is a target population in South Africa's fight against HIV and AIDS, young people with disabilities have often been left out of interventions and as a result, lack knowledge around sexuality and HIV [1, 2]. Literature indicates that teachers of learners with disabilities lack the skills and tools to accommodate their learners in lessons focusing on sexuality and HIV [3, 4]. Teachers also feel challenged to talk about sensitive topics particularly as these may be perceived as inappropriate by parents and the wider community [3, 4]. Additionally, myths and misconceptions about sexuality of people with disabilities, such as the perception that they are asexual or "oversexed", have led to the belief that people with disabilities do not need sexuality education, are not able to comprehend its content or might become promiscuous. It also has led to the belief that people with disabilities are not at risk of HIV infection [1]. However people with disabilities are at increased risk of exposure to HIV [5] because they have less HIV knowledge and exposure to education, are more likely to be sexually abused and more likely to live in poverty with less access to healthcare.

### **Commentary**

This research conducted by the Research Education AIDS and Disability section of HEARD, focused on the main concerns of this organization: improve people with disabilities' awareness of HIV in East and South Africa. The objective of this study is to think about new solutions to improve the National Strategy Plans, taking into account disability. This is a collaborative research gathering researchers and field stakeholders in order to identify and reduce the gap between the current sensitisation policy for people with disabilities and what it should be.

- ❖ Farzana Ali, Jill Hanass-Hancock, Verusia Chetty, Saul Cobbing. **Closing the Gap: Building capacity to address the relationship between disability and HIV**. End of course report. Durban. South Africa. 2012. 22p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

The Closing the Gap project aimed at building capacity in the field of disability and HIV in the context of KwaZulu-Natal. The interrelationship between disability and HIV is a long overlooked area. On the one hand, people with disabilities are at increased risk of exposure to HIV. On the other hand, since the rollout of ART, more people survive however many of them with experiences of disability. This relationship is still poorly understood and not addressed within the health system in southern and eastern Africa. The Closing the Gap project aimed to fill this gap by building upon HEARD's work on disability and HIV. It adapted and piloted three workshops on disability and HIV targeting three different groups 1) health care management 2) health care workers and 3) people with disabilities. The concept and approach to these workshops have been piloted in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH), the QuadPara-Association (QAK) and the Physiotherapy Department of the University of KZN (UKZN) all situated in KwaZulu-Natal. The adaptation and rollout of these workshops is envisioned as the next crucial step in order to build capacity and HIV programmes that include disability. The final products of these workshops include three workshop manuals, workshop material and case studies. This material informs future intervention and has the potential to be carried into other settings in Africa. This project provided knowledge and skills to 60 participants.

### **Commentary**

These documents are the result of workshops within the Closing the Gap project. This project, led by READ (a section of HEARD) is focused on one of the primary goals of the group: improve people with disabilities' awareness of HIV in South Africa. The establishment of these cooperative workshops involving people with disabilities, researchers and healthcare workers, corresponds to this goal and the intention to develop and publish manuals as training tools.

- ❖ The African Child Policy Forum. **Breaking the silence: violence against children with disabilities in Africa.** Ethiopia – Addis Ababa. 2010. 42p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

This report has documented the changing types of violence faced by children with disabilities throughout their childhood, from their heightened vulnerability to physical and emotional violence while young to their greater risk of being subjected to sexual violence as they reach puberty. The aim of this retrospective assessment into violence against children with disabilities in five African countries – Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia – was to increase our understanding of the patterns and dynamics of violence experienced by this vulnerable and frequently overlooked demographic group. The assessment hopes to increase awareness of the situation of children with disabilities and to promote their protection from violence and abuse. ACPF also hopes to instate and reinforce a movement for action against the invisibility of Africa's children with disabilities.

### **Commentary**

The interest of this research is that it is based on testimonies from people with disabilities from five different countries collected by a research team for each country, all being part of The African Child Policy Forum. Therefore, five research teams participated in the achievement of this study. Moreover, this work sheds light on the context explaining the high vulnerability of children with disabilities to different types of violence (stereotypes, lack of guidance and adapted assistance...). The lack of knowledge concerning the situation of children with disabilities is also to be noted. This work therefore brings out the specific needs of these people. Recommendations are made for example in terms of assistance and training for caregivers, support to education services concerning children with disabilities, calls made to governments to take their responsibilities with regard to the protection of these children through appropriate laws and policies or to combat sexual abuse at all levels. They were mainly addressed to professionals, Disabled People Organizations and families or to public authorities.

The objective is to advance knowledge concerning violence against children with disabilities, to better understand how these abuses operate, the consequences they have on these children's lives and develop the most efficient solutions to fight them.

- ❖ W. Ray Norman. **Water, sanitation and disability in West Africa**. The Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research. Messiah College. USA. March 2010. 143p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

The report begins with a brief background of the context of the Study. This is followed by the summary results of a survey which assessed: a) the extent and types of disability found in rural Mali, and b) the constraints faced by the disabled persons in accessing clean water and sanitation. A detailed review of simple, assistive technologies for water pumping, water transport, domestic water use, and latrine use makes up the core of this document. The report ends with suggestions for effective development and transfer of low-cost assistive technologies, and for establishing inclusive environments for the disabled within community WASH programs.

### **Commentary**

This report, developed through to the collaboration of several field stakeholders (students and scholars from Messiah College, World Vision, Handicap International) is a summary of the activities and conclusions of this study. It is also a practical guide for WASH program professionals (water, sanitation and hygiene) in order for them to develop this type of program including people with disabilities. Next stated are details concerning the implementation of low cost assistive technologies and also recommendations for the involvement of people with disabilities in their local communities.

- ❖ Eide A.H., Yusman Kamaleri. **Living Conditions among People with Disabilities in Mozambique, a National Representative Study.** INE – FAMOD – SINTEF. Janvier 2009. 128p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

#### **Author's note**

This research report provided results from the study of living conditions among people with functional limitation in Mozambique. Two comparative studies of different indicators of living conditions were carried out. These studies include: (i) a comparative study of households with and without family member(s) with functional limitation and (ii) a comparative study of individuals with and without functional limitation. In addition, a detailed study that specifically addresses the situation of individuals with functional limitation was also conducted.

#### **Commentary**

This document is a representative study which seeks to understand and characterize the living conditions of people with disabilities and to assist in designing, monitoring and implement disability policies in Mozambique. The participatory approach is the main characteristic of this study. Important field stakeholders in the area of disability have been included in the study achievement and people with disabilities were trained to work as enumerators and partly as supervisors of this research. The results clearly show differences in living conditions between disabled and non-disabled concerning for instance the socio-economic status and the vulnerability of people.

This document is aimed for Disabled People Organizations, public authorities, researchers and other field stakeholders. They are recommended to use it in order to better focus their actions, thus making them more efficient. Indeed, it allows for greater knowledge of the living conditions of people with disabilities in Mozambique, and to deliver appropriate initiatives and policies.

- ❖ The Ifakara Health Institute Evaluation Team. **Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Health Financing System in Tanzania.** Ifakara Health Institute. Technical Report. August 2013. 44p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

This report assesses the potential barriers and obstacles that people with disabilities might face when accessing health care services. It is the overall objective of this study to provide evidence on obstacles and financial barriers that people with disabilities might face when accessing health care services in Tanzania. The study presents data of a household surveys with a total amount of 1,480 participants as well as evidence from in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) which have been conducted in two selected regions in Tanzania: Tanga and Lindi. The report summarizes these findings and provides evidence on the financing gap in terms of both direct and indirect costs. In order to overcome the many barriers that this report identifies, recommendations on how the gap can be addressed.

### **Commentary**

This study uses both a quantitative and qualitative methodology. In fact, the authors conducted household surveys but also in-depth interviews from the individuals concerned and the creation of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), in order to understand the relationship between disability and the difficulty in accessing health services in two selected regions in Tanzania. As regards the quantitative method, that is to say household surveys, the authors divided the respondents into two groups: one group called the treatment group (including households with people with disabilities) and a second group called the control group (households without people with disabilities), according to a randomization method in order to underline the barriers faced by people with disabilities in accessing health care services and why disabilities can foster poverty situations (p.27). Several recommendations are made at the end of the document concerning policies and laws, funding and prices, accessibility (p.30) or the community aspect related to health care services (p.31). They are addressed to health care policy-makers, professionals, Disabled People Organizations but also to the disabled and their families. The main idea of this study is to strengthen Disabled People Organizations in order to make them more autonomous in decision making and in the daily lives of the disabled and their families. Moreover, it appears that community-based rehabilitation is essential to improve access to health care services for people with disabilities in rural areas.

- ❖ Hisayo Katsu. **Disabilities, Human Rights and International Cooperation – Based Approach and Lived Experiences of Ugandan Women with Disabilities.** The Center for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Publications Series n°8. 2012.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

#### **Author's note**

The objective of this study was to investigate human-rights based approaches of international and development cooperation towards the equality of persons with disabilities in Uganda. As the theme of the study was highly complicated and involved real-life situations of persons with disabilities, a case study method as well as a participatory research approach among others were applied to create evidence-based to create and in-depth knowledge on the theme, particularly from the viewpoint of women with disabilities and deaf women of the grassroots.

#### **Commentary**

This study presents both a theoretical aspect via the introduction of various concepts and a practical dimension through case studies of women with disabilities. It is about identifying the living conditions of people with disabilities in particular women with hearing disabilities, via a human rights-based approach. In respect of the methodology, a continuous dialogue with the different field stakeholders, including Disabled People organizations, was established by the author. Moreover, disabled people organizations express their opinion about the results of the survey translated into their activities and areas of action. Concerning the results, the study allows to identify four main conclusions. First of all, the participatory approach raises major problems. In fact, the author clearly shows us that the people who were surveyed would vary in their capacities to reply to a specific questionnaire. In addition, in most cases, disability is not yet seen by some field stakeholders as a challenge related to human rights issues. Self-determination of people with disabilities in claiming their rights is not present in the majority of cases studied by this research. Finally, considering disability with a human rights approach causes problems in practice, including an instrumentalization of this subject by some field stakeholders.

- ❖ Eide Arne H. Mitch E. Loeb. **Data and statistics on disability in developing countries.** Disability KAR – Knowledge and Research. USA. July 2005.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

SINTEF Health Research was commissioned by the DFID Disability Knowledge and Research Program in January 2005 to carry out an inquiry on Disability and statistics in developing countries. Methods applied have been a review of relevant international initiatives and a workshop with DPOs and researchers from Southern Africa as participants. The core of this strategy is DPO control and involvement, a close link between research and application, and long-term capacity building among DPOs.

### **Commentary**

The method applied in this report is characterized by the use of several relevant international initiatives (literary reviews, including statistical work on disability in the countries concerned for instance) and with a workshop with Disabled People Organizations. This report aims at emphasizing the relationship between poverty and disability by the analysis of living conditions of people with disabilities. Disabled people organizations had participated extensively in the development of this report, which is the primary goal of this workshop. It is about giving a prominent place to Disabled People Organizations and in order to measure the effective applicability of results, and their relevance, from research related to the living conditions of people with disabilities. Several recommendations are made at the end of the report. The recommendations address all actors involved, field stakeholders and researchers, and concern research in the field of disability that will be conducted in future and applicable on the ground. Thus, to the authors, it is essential that research on disability, although the term “applicability” is not stated, can as far as possible, be controlled and initiated by Disabled People Organizations in order to ensure applicability of results, perceived here as essential to the purposes of the research. The collaboration among all field stakeholders who may have interest in the field of disability is also presented as necessary if we want to turn research on disability into a specific discipline. These recommendations may be achieved on the condition that capacity building for Disabled People Organizations in initiatives, autonomy and project management is established.

- ❖ Senesho Jaco M. **Inclusion of High School Learners in the Mainstream: Ecological Niche.** Faculty of Education. University Fort Hare, East London. South Africa. 2012. 5p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

The purpose of the study was to establish the knowledge and attitude of the student teachers in facilitating inclusive classroom. A sample of one-hundred and twenty-third year B.Ed students from a university of technology participated in the study. A questionnaire was used to collect data in this study. The study found that student teachers have positive attitudes towards inclusive education. They agree that it enhances social interaction and thus minimizes negative attitudes towards learners with special needs. The study also found that collaboration between the mainstream and the special education teachers is important and that there should be clear guidelines on the implementation of inclusive education. More efforts are needed for teaching student teachers how to function in the multi-faced classroom with both normal learners and those with disabilities in the same class. The findings of the study have significant implications for the university lecturer, teachers, and other stakeholders who are directly and indirectly involved in implementing inclusive education.

### **Commentary**

This study focuses on the knowledge and perception of student teachers concerning inclusive education in South Africa. The author, who is an anthropologist at the University of Fort Hare in London, worked on a sample of a hundred and twenty bachelor students at Free State Central University of Technology. With a survey response rate of 100 % to his questionnaire and the processing of the data collected, the author was able to make recommendations to enhance the qualifications of future teachers on inclusive education.

- ❖ Human Rights Watch. **“Like a Death Sentence” Abuses against Persons with Mental Disabilities in Ghana.** North America. October 2012. 95p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author’s note**

An estimated of 2,8 million persons in Ghana have mental disabilities. Of these, 650.000 are thought to have severe mental disabilities. In the country, mental disability is widely considered –even by persons with mental disabilities themselves- as being caused by evil spirits or demons. Focusing on the southern parts of the country, this report examines the experiences of persons with mental disabilities in Ghana in the tree mains environment in which they receive care: the broader community, the country’s three public psychiatric hospitals, and residential prayer camps. (...) People with disabilities in Ghana whom Human Rights Watch interviewed endured a variety of human rights abuses in psychiatric facilities and prayer camps. These included, but are not limited to: involuntary admission and arbitrary detention, prolonged detention, overcrowding and poor hygiene, chaining, forced seclusion, lack of shelter, denial of food, denial of adequate health care, involuntary treatment, stigma and its consequences, physical and verbal abuse, electroconvulsive therapy, and violations against children with disabilities. (...) Immediate attention is needed to address the human rights abuses outlined in this report (...) As Ghana has now ratifies the CRPD, the government should promptly review its disability and mental health laws and policies to ensure compliance with its international legal obligations. It must also adopt legal measures and mechanism to regulate non-orthodox service providers including prayer camps. This should involve formal registration with government health authorities, regular monitoring of services, and training prayer camp staff. The government should also develop community-based mental health and support services so that persons with mental disabilities can easily live in the community and outside institutions such as psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps. Discharging people from psychiatric facilities back to their communities will likely encourage independent living in a less restrictive environment.

### **Commentary**

This report contains data from the study carried out by Human Rights Watch on abuse against people with mental disability in Ghana. The research is based on a participatory approach and was conducted in three different parts of the country where psychiatric facilities and prayer camps are concentrated. People with disabilities, family and relatives, healthcare teams, professionals from agencies representing the United Nations and international institutions were interviewed. The report gives recommendations addressed to the government of Ghana for short and long term actions.

❖ Human Rights Watch. **HIV and Disability**. Brochure. 2012. 16p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

It is often assumed that people with disabilities face a lower risk of HIV than their non-disabled peers- because they are asexual, because they are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, and because they face lower risks of violence or sexual assault than others. A growing body of research proves that these assumptions are wrong: persons with disabilities have the same rate of sexual activity and substance abuse as persons without disabilities. In fact, persons with disabilities may be more vulnerable to HIV because they are more likely to be abused, marginalized, and discriminated against, illiterate and poorer than the non-disabled population. Yet people with disabilities have been largely ignored- and virtually invisible- in the response of HIV. They are rarely included in policy debates regarding HIV and are absent from the agenda of mainstream HIV organizations, international and domestic health organizations and government agencies. Government and HIV organizations need to recognize the invisible problem of HIV among persons with disabilities and begin targeting this population before the epidemics spread even further. Persons with disabilities need to be included in the creation and development of programs meant to benefit them, honouring the principle of "Nothing about us without us".

### **Commentary**

This document was used as a basis during a conference held by Human Rights Watch on the issue of HIV and Disability. It gives good practises examples in the field from Canada, Kenya, Central America and Jamaica. In emerging countries, people with disabilities do not have effective access to medical care and prevention centres. This document aims at raising awareness among governments but also among United Nations and international organizations in the fight against HIV. Recommendations made deal with the creation of special medical facilities to accompany people with disabilities and fund research on the issues of Disability and HIV. This document is also aimed for people with disabilities and field stakeholders.

- ❖ Pasha, Nyokangi. **Addressing gender-based violence at schools for learners with intellectual disability in Gauteng, South Africa: a multiple case study.** Africa Education Review. 2012. Vol 9 sup 1, 21p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

This paper reports part of the findings of the study which investigated sexual violence at two schools catering specifically for learners with mild intellectual disability in Gauteng Province. It looks particularly on participants' suggestions for addressing sexual violence in such school. A multiple case study within the qualitative research paradigm was followed to investigate the problem posed. Data were collected using focus groups and individual interviews with 16 learners (11 females and 5 males) with mild intellectual disability. Individual interviews were also conducted with the two school support members, namely the school nurse and social worker. An analysis of school documents (the book of incidents) was also carried out as a strategy to augment data collected by means of interviews. Data was analysed for content and the findings are presented under the following headings: a) education on sexual violence campaigns; b) singles discussion groups addressing relevant topics; c) provision of appropriate sexuality education; and (d) intensification of supervision at particular areas considered as 'hot spots' for sexual violence at schools. Intervention strategies are proposed, which could be effective if they occur alongside clear and functional rules and policies addressing sexual violence in schools, and teacher training programmes to empower them in handling reported incidents.

### **Commentary**

This study deals with sexual violence within schools catering specially for people with disabilities in South Africa. The objective is to identify which strategies would be the most appropriate to address sexual violence in special schools in order to ensure a better environment for students. The study involved learners with mental disability and field stakeholders. In its content, direct reference is made to Articles 1, 6 and 34 of the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities. Limitations of the study and recommendations are expressed by the authors on page 17 of the document. Paid content available on Taylor and Francis Online.

- ❖ Barriga S. « **As if we aren't human** » **Discrimination and violence against women with disabilities in Northern Uganda**. Human Rights Watch. 2010. 20p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

#### **Author's note**

"In "As If We Aren't Human," Human Rights Watch examines the experiences of women who had disabilities before the war as well as women who acquired their disabilities as a result of the conflict, from landmines, gunshot wounds, mutilation, and fire. Women with disabilities experience stigma and isolation, sexual and gender-based violence, and obstacles to accessing justice. They also lack equal access to care in rehabilitation, maternal health, family planning, and reproductive health, including HIV testing, treatment and prevention."

#### **Commentary**

This report is published by the non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch. Researchers and field stakeholders partnered to conduct investigations and collect testimonies. This report condemns the violations of the rights of women with disabilities in Uganda based on article 6 (women with disabilities) and 16 (freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse). This report includes several recommendations which might be of interest to other countries and international organizations.

- ❖ Trani JF, Bah O, Bailey N, Browne J, Groce N, Kett M. **Disability in and around urban areas of Sierra Leone. Leonard Cheshire Disability.** United Kingdom. 2010. 65p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

Sierra Leone was chosen as the location for the first report for a number of reasons: Leonard Cheshire Disability has had a strong operational presence in the country for over a decade, and local Leonard Cheshire Disability partner organizations have been active there for over fifty years. Sierra Leone suffered a decade of civil war in the 1990s, and despite numerous international interventions, remains at the bottom of the list of all countries in terms of its development indicators. Our research generated data on the living conditions in Sierra Leone today and compares everyday life for people with and without disabilities. The results from this pilot survey may be used as a benchmark against which future changes in the lives of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone can be measured and assessed.

This report presents results from a pilot survey undertaken in five selected locations across the country between June and July 2009. 424 respondents were randomly selected in 11 villages in 6 out of 14 districts in the country. These districts were almost all in and around urban areas, and because of this, and the small sample size, these results cannot be extrapolated to the entire country. Nevertheless, the survey identifies interesting trends in a wide range of key areas, including education, employment, health and social participation, and provides a snapshot of the experiences of persons with disabilities.

Finally, the Government of Sierra Leone has now both signed and ratified the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This pilot survey can assist them in ensuring that policies are designed to be effective for persons with disabilities in a context of limited resources, as well as highlighting particular gaps in the provision of resources, services and policies.

### **Commentaire**

This study aims at analysing the ways of life of people with disability in Sierra Leone and more broadly in developing countries. It constitutes the first step of an important research project in different countries in which Leonard Cheshire Centre for Disability is present. Different kind of data were collected: demographic data related to disability, health, education, labour and employment, to social participation and the difficulty in accessing resources. The collection of these data involved people with disabilities living in urban and suburban areas. This research lacks of recommendations that might improve the situation in Sierra Leone.

- ❖ Ncube J, Macfayden P. **Young voices on the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.** Leonard Cheshire International. United Kingdom. 2006. 24p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

This report summarizes the findings from a series of focused discussion groups carried out in late 2005 and early 2006. The groups brought together 222 people with disabilities from 12 countries. They were nearly all aged between 17 and 26, roughly equal numbers of young men and women, and with a range of disabilities. Why go to such lengths to consult with young people with disabilities? Firstly, because although in many developing countries young people make up over half the population, they are rarely consulted. Secondly, because as the United Nations moves towards a “Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (UN Convention), it seemed essential to allow an opportunity for young people to validate, add to, or disagree with the issues that are forming the articles of that Convention. And thirdly, because the world in which people with disabilities live desperately needs greater engagement with new young leaders and thinkers. The process of consultation could perhaps play a role in developing new leadership for the future of the Disability Movement.

### **Commentary**

This report is the result of a research carried out by Leonard Cheshire International among young people with disabilities from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This work analyses, via work groups, key difficulties faced by these persons in their daily lives. The objective is to take into account the opinion of these young people and help them express their needs in the light of the dispositions of the UN Convention relative to the rights of people with disabilities. The document summarizes the key themes in the light of the different articles of this convention.

- ❖ Swedish Organization of Disabled Persons International Aid Association. **Community-based rehabilitation as we have experienced it, voices of persons with disabilities.** Geneva, World Health Organization. 2002. 45p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) has been advocated internationally for more than 20 years as the core strategy for improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Despite emphasizing that disabled persons should be active partners in the planning and implementation of all measures affecting their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, persons with disabilities have not yet become sufficiently involved in evaluations and impact assessments. Based on these observations of gaps in previous evaluations, the Swedish Organizations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (SHIA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have concluded that it is timely to study the impact of the CBR strategy, after its 20 years of existence, from the perspective of persons with disabilities, including both children and adults.

### **Commentary**

This report, prepared by the World Health Organization and Swedish Organizations of Disabled Persons International Aid Associations, is based on a study of community-based rehabilitation programs in Ghana, Nepal and Guyana. The purpose of this study is to determine what are the particular strengths and inadequacies of these programs on the quality of life of people with disabilities. In order to identify these several factors, people with disabilities participating in these programs were interviewed. Although slightly dated, this research report may be of interest for professionals through the different recommendations made from page 36 of the document.

- ❖ Naidu E, Haffejee S, Vetten L, Hargreaves S. **On the margins: violence against women with disabilities**. CSVR. 2005. 47p.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

To what extent do these statistics capture violence against women with disabilities? In addition, does the nature of the violence they are subjected to differ in any way from that experienced by non-disabled women? Are disabled women able to access the legal rights and assistance available to some, but not all, non-disabled women?

In an effort to answer some of these questions, and in so doing begin to address the marginalisation of women with disabilities, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr) undertook a small-scale exploratory research project on gender based violence and disabled women. We aimed to make visible the nature and forms of violence against women with disabilities, their particular vulnerabilities to violence, and the barriers they confront accessing assistance. The study focused on women with physical, visual and hearing disabilities. Women with developmental (or mental) disabilities, as well as learning or psychiatric impairments, were not included in the ambit of the study. Being a small, exploratory study, it also did not aim to derive statistics on the prevalence of gender based violence affecting disabled women.

### **Commentary**

The research was conducted by the Centre for the study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr), involved in combatting violence against women. Based on preliminary workshops, the research goal is to respond to the thematic defined by the participants: make visible violence against women with disabilities, investigate access to justice for these women and make recommendations to combat exclusion. Methods applied is based on numerous interviews, in particular with women with disabilities and an in-depth study of existing literature, policies and research in the area. Recommendations expressed in the first part of the document and destined to governmental and non-governmental organizations, deal with five main points: awareness, research development, development of services accessible for women with disabilities, and legislation. The document can be of interest to Disabled People Organizations and associations to combat violence against people with disabilities, in particular women.

- ❖ Salmonsson A. **Disability is not inability. A baseline study of steps taken towards inclusive education in Blantyre and Machinga districts in Malawi.** Institute of Public Management. Stockholm. 2006.

[Access to the reading note and to complete documents into the documentary database of the Resource Center.](#)

### **Author's note**

The study was carried out during the period of 16th-27th, January, 2006. In addition to literature study of available documents meetings were held with a number of key persons in ministries on central and district level, visits were carried out to organizations of the disabled, primary schools and vocational training centres/colleges. The focus of the study is the Community Based Rehabilitation programme and Inclusive Education in the districts of Blantyre, Machinga and Balaka. Malawi has adopted the paradigm of “the inclusive society – a society for all”. Within this framework both CBR and Education faces big challenges. The CBR programme is well integrated in the administrative structure of the districts. It has an impact but needs further support. Education is facing high enrolment rates in primary education. The numbers of disabled children in mainstream schools is growing. As a result of this the needs of special needs education in mainstream schools is increasing. The study reflects achievements and constraints of the steps taken towards equalization of opportunities for the disabled and gives recommendations for further support.

### **Commentary**

This document focuses on community-based programs and inclusive education in Malawi. The purpose of this study is to improve and develop inclusive educational systems. Recommendations made at the end of the document meet these objectives. This study was carried out based on literary analysis and meetings with representatives of political authorities. Interviews were also conducted with Disabled People Organizations, teachers, parents and students. This document can be of interest to policy-makers and Disabled People Organizations on community-based programs and inclusive education.

## Annotated bibliography

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The bibliography contains the thirty-nine (39) research that have been identified during the first mapping on applied research in Africa. These references were selected for their relevance to the Resource Center criteria. However, flexibility had to be adopted in the application of the criteria in order to better report on the needs in terms of research.

A link to each research is available by clicking on the title (the majority of them are on free access).

- ❖ **Albu M. [Economic Empowerment of disabled people: lessons from northern Uganda on developing the market for enterprise based training services](#). APT Enterprise Development. UK. 2005. 15p. (free access)**

This document presents a three-year research project which aims at improving the conditions of access for people with disabilities to enterprise-based training services, thus ensuring economic empowerment process for people with disabilities.

- ❖ **Aldersey H. M. [Family perceptions of intellectual disability: Understanding and support in Dar Es Salaam](#). African Journal of Disability. USA. 2012. 12p. (free access)**

How do families perceive their child's intellectual disability? In this article, the author attempted to answer this question by exchanging with families on their understanding of disability, their needs and expectations.

- ❖ **Barriga S. « As if we aren't human » [Discrimination and violence against women with disabilities in Northern Uganda](#). Human Rights Watch. 2010. 79p. (free access)**

This report expands upon on the articles 6 and 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and deals with violence and discrimination against disabled women.

- ❖ **Eide Arne H., Mitch E. Loeb. [Data and statistics on disability in developing countries](#). Disability KAR – Knowledge and Research. USA. July 2005. (free access)**

This paper is a statistical study on disability in developing countries. This work focused on various aspects such as public policies and the inclusion of people with disabilities.

- ❖ **Eide A. H., Kamaleri Y. [Living conditions among people with disabilities in Lesotho, a national representative study](#). SINTEF, Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of Disabled. Oslo. 2011. 110p. (free access)**

This research conducted between 2009 and 2010 tends to compare the ways of life of disabled and people without disabilities. It is part of a wider context of comparing results for different African countries.

- ❖ **Eide Arne H., Yusman Kamaleri. [Living Conditions among People with Disabilities in Mozambique](#), a National Representative Study. INE – FAMOD – SINTEF. 2009. 128p. (free access)**

This study aims at evaluating the quality of life of people with disabilities in Mozambique in such a way as to best guide public policies.

- ❖ **Ethiopian National Disability Action Network (ENDAN), Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM).** [Research on standard disability survey tools and measurement.](#) Ethiopia. 2010. 40p. (free access)

The purpose of this research is to develop a standardization tool for data collection and processing concerning people with disabilities.

- ❖ **Ethiopian National Disability Action Network (ENDAN), Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM).** [Guidelines for disability data collection tools and measurement.](#) Ethiopia. 2010. 44p. (free access)

This document has been prepared based on the results of the research (**Ethiopian National Disability Action Network (ENDAN), Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM) (2010). [Research on standard disability survey tools and measurement](#)**).

It is a guide offering a framework for data collection and processing concerning people with disabilities, in order to make relevant comparisons of the results from different regions.

- ❖ **Farzana Ali, Jill Hanass-Hancock, Verusia Chetty, Saul Cobbing.** [Closing the Gap: Building capacity to address the relationship between disability and HIV.](#) End of course report. Durban. South Africa. 2012. 22p. (free access)

This research was conducted to increase people with disabilities' sensitisation on HIV.

- ❖ **Farzana Ali, Jill Hanass-Hancock, Verusia Chetty, Saul Cobbing.** [Closing the Gap: Sexuality, Education and Disability.](#) Study brief. Durban. South Africa. 2013. (free access)

This research aims at narrowing the gap between awareness policies for people with disabilities on HIV and the actual needs in terms of education.

- ❖ **Guilbert M.** [Count Us In! How to make sure that women with disabilities can participate effectively in mainstream women's entrepreneurship development activities?](#) International Labour Organization. Geneva. 2008. 51p. (free access)

This work is a practical guide which aims at enabling women with disabilities to fully benefit from the activities of "Women Entrepreneurship Development". It aims at ensuring the establishment of inclusive projects concerning the professional activities of women with disabilities.

- ❖ **Groce N. E., Trasi R.** [Rape of individuals with disability in the age of AIDS : The folk belief of « Virgin Cleansing ».](#) Yale School of Public Health. 2004. 5p. (free access)

This study focuses on the beliefs that accompany/surround rape of people with disabilities and particularly between younger generations, by people infected by the AIDS virus. The authors want to show that people with disabilities are very often the victims of rape as they are considered to be sexually inexperienced and therefore virgin, thus suffering from the virgin cleansing myth.

- ❖ Grut L., Mji G., Ingstad B., Braathen S. H. [Accessing community health services: challenges faced by poor people with disabilities in a rural community in South Africa](#). *African Journal of Disability*. Art #19. South Africa. 2012. 7p. (free access)

This article deals with access to health care for people with disabilities in South Africa. The goal of his work is to identify the mechanisms preventing access to health care for people with disabilities even though those services are open and available.

- ❖ Handicap International. [Good practices for the economic inclusion of people with disabilities in developing countries: funding mechanisms for self-employment](#). Handicap International. 2006. 112p. (free access)

The purpose of this work is to identify the tools, practices, strategies and methods which insure the efficiency and sustainability of the projects aiming at promoting the employment of mine victims and people with disabilities.

- ❖ Héraud M. [Malédiction et handicap : à qui la faute ?](#) Handicap International. France. 2005. 19p. (free access)

This article is an extract from a larger study. The latter aims at deconstructing the observation made by some development professionals thinking that cultural factors contribute to the exclusion of people with disabilities.

- ❖ Hisayo Katsu. [Disabilities, Human Rights and International Cooperation – Based Approach and Lived Experiences of Ugandan Women with Disabilities](#). The Center for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Publications Series n°8. 2012. (free access)

This research focuses onto the theme of equality and Non-discrimination for people with disabilities especially women.

- ❖ Human Rights Watch. [HIV and Disability](#). Brochure. 2012. 16p. Relative materials. (free access)

This document is a brochure presenting good practise examples in some countries concerning awareness-raising of the risks of HIV for people with disabilities.

- ❖ Human Rights Watch. [“Like a Death Sentence” Abuses against Persons with Mental Disabilities in Ghana](#). North America. October 2012. 95p. (free access)

This study deals with abuse perpetrated against disabled people. It contains specific recommendations to the different field stakeholders involved in the issue.

- ❖ **International Labour Organization.** [Doing business in Addis Ababa: case studies of women entrepreneurs with disabilities in Ethiopia.](#) International Labour Organization. Genève. 2003. 53p. (free access)

This document is a compilation of several testimonies from women entrepreneurs with disabilities in the regions of Addis Ababa and Tigray in Ethiopia. Prior to this work, a survey was conducted to promote the economic empowerment of women with disabilities.

- ❖ **International Labour Organization Skills and Employability Department.** [Strategies for skills acquisition and work for people with disabilities in southern Africa: synthesis report.](#) International Labour Organization. Genève. 2007. 45 p. (free access)

This report aims at evaluating strategies for the acquisition of skills for people with disabilities so that they can enter the job market in three countries of the African continent: Malawi, South Africa and Zambia. The objective is to identify efficient strategies and promote efficient policies and training programs for people with disabilities.

- ❖ **Lewis D., Ballard K.** [Disability and climate change: understanding vulnerability and building resilience in a changing world.](#) CBM Australia. 2011. 11p. (free access)

This article tends to demonstrate how climate changes impact the quality life of people with disabilities, so as to better focus on developing intervention programs.

- ❖ **Lipenga K. J.** [Disability and Masculinity in South African Autosomatography.](#) African Journal of Disability (3)1, 2014. Art 85, 9p. (free access)

This study shows how disability can alter concepts of masculinity, as it is embodied in the body. Through the testimony of disabled men, the article allows to see how the latter to rebuild their masculinity by redefining the tenets of masculinity and reintegrating themselves within the dominant grid of masculinity.

- ❖ **LNFOOD- Skillshare International.** [“A re amehelaneng”: a practical guide to interacting with people with disabilities.](#) Lesotho. 16p. (free access)

This document is a practical guide designed to facilitate communication with people with disabilities.

- ❖ **Mizunoya S., Mitra S.** [Is there a disability gap in employment rates in developing countries?](#) Fordham University – Department of Economics, Discussion Paper Series. USA. October 2012. 50p. (paid access)

This article presents the situation in 15 developing countries seven of which are African countries, concerning the employability rate of people with disabilities. Thus, it is shown that in 9 of these 15 countries, people with disabilities have an employability rate lower than people without disabilities, particularly if these people are men with multiple disabilities. This gap cannot necessarily be explained by observable criteria.

- ❖ **Munthali A. C.** [A situation analysis of persons with disabilities in Malawi](#). Center for Social Research, University of Malawi. 2011. 72 p. (free access)

The objective of this document is a better understanding of the living conditions of people with disabilities in Malawi. In particular it is intended to identify the different field stakeholders and their activities, to give an overview of the access to basic services for those people and make recommendations to the government and its partners in development, regarding the priority areas for action.

- ❖ **Naidu E, Haffejee S, Vetten L, Hargreaves S.** [On the margins: violence against women with disabilities](#). CSV. 2005. 47p. (free access)

This report was elaborated based on testimonies from women with disabilities concerning issues they themselves expressed, such as access to justice, discrimination and gender-based violence.

- ❖ **Ncube J, Macfayden P.** [Young voices on the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities](#). Leonard Cheshire International. United Kingdom. 2006. 24p. (free access)

This document was put together using testimonies from young people with disabilities in order to identify the difficulties they may encounter in their daily lives.

- ❖ **Nixon S.A., Cameron C., Hanass Hancock J., Simbawa P., Solomon P.E.** [Perceptions of HIV-related health services in Zambia for people with disabilities who are HIV-positive](#). Journal of the International Aids Society. 2014. 9p. (free access)

This study explores the perception people with disabilities infected with HIV have about HIV treatment services and their experiences at Lusaka in Zambia. This allows to identify barriers people with disabilities face in access to health care: discrimination, communication, transportations to the health centre...

- ❖ **Pasha, Nyokangi.** [Addressing gender-based violence at schools for learners with intellectual disability in Gauteng, South Africa: a multiple case study](#). Africa Education Review. 2012. Vol 9 sup 1, 21p. (paid access)

The objective of this study is to elaborate recommendations and strategies to reduce sexual violence within special schools.

- ❖ **Phiri, A.M.** [Building Community of Trust: Challenges for Disability](#). African Journal of Disability (3)2, 2014. Art 77, 3p. (free access)

This article is a call for the creation of a new management of research on disability on the African continent, by highlighting human rights as an essential factor for improving the living conditions of people with disabilities and most of all, that African disabled no longer solely participate but run future research projects.

- ❖ **Salmonsson A.** Disability is not inability. [A baseline study of steps taken towards inclusive education in Blantyre and Machinga districts in Malawi](#). Institute of Public Management. Stockholm. 2006. (free access)

This report concerns Malawi's education system. Its objective is to make recommendations allowing a more inclusive education.

- ❖ **Senesho Jaco M.** [Inclusion of High School Learners in the Mainstream: Ecological Niche](#). Faculty of Education. University Fort Hare, East London. South Africa. 2012. 5p. (free access)

This study provides recommendations designed to improve teachers' skills concerning the inclusion of students with disabilities.

- ❖ **Swedish Organization of Disabled Persons International Aid Association.** [Community-based rehabilitation as we have experienced it, voices of persons with disabilities](#). Geneva, World Health Organization. 2002. 46p. (free access)

This study is about disabled persons' experiences on community-based rehabilitation.

- ❖ **Tefarra T.** [Resilience and success of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia](#). Disability in Ethiopia: Issues, insights and implications. Addis Ababa University. Ethiopia. 2005. 31p. (free access)

This article is an extract from a publication concerning disability in Ethiopia. It is based on several analysis of the life course of people with disabilities in order to identify positive factors allowing their inclusion.

- ❖ **The African Child Policy Forum.** [Breaking the silence: violence against children with disabilities in Africa](#). Ethiopia – Addis Ababa. 2010. 42p. (free access)

This research, jointly conducted by 5 teams, aims at understanding the mechanisms of violence towards children with disabilities in order to prevent and avoid them.

- ❖ **The Ifakara Health Institute Evaluation Team.** [Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Health Financing System in Tanzania](#). Ifakara Health Institute. Technical Report. August 2013. 44p. (free access)

This study was based on quantitative and qualitative data to understand the mechanisms preventing or facilitating access to care for people with disabilities in Tanzania.

- ❖ **Trani JF, Bah O, Bailey N, Browne J, Groce N, Kett M.** [Disability in and around urban areas of Sierra Leone](#). Leonard Cheshire Disability. United Kingdom. 2010. 65p. (free access)

This document is a general report on disability in Sierra Leone and is part of a broader research project conducted by Leonard Cheshire Disability.

- ❖ W. Ray Norman. [Water, sanitation and disability in West Africa](#). The Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research. Messiah College. USA. March 2010. 143p. (free access)

This document is a guide for professionals working in development programs. It aims at helping the integration of people with disabilities within these programs.

