

Factsheet: Advocacy

Disability in Tanzania

- 8% of the population lives with a disability
- 13% of Tanzanian households have at least one member with a disability
- These households have a mean consumption of less than 60% of the national average
- Only 2% of children with a disability use assistive devices
- 3% of persons with a disability have paid employment
- Illiteracy among persons with a disability is almost double compared to persons without a disability
- 2% of persons with a disability are members of a Disabled People's Organisation



What is advocacy?

Advocacy is a set of targeted actions in support of a cause or an issue. It is directed at influencing policy, laws, regulations, programmes or decisions made at the upper-most levels of public or private sector institutions. At CCBRT we are focusing our advocacy efforts on promoting an inclusive society for people with disabilities. It is not simply the impairment creating the disability, it is also the environmental and social barriers facing disabled people in Tanzania. This means that conducive policies need to be in place and implemented and people with disabilities need to be empowered to know and exercise their rights.

Why has CCBRT engaged in advocacy?

CCBRT is a leading provider of disability services in East Africa. CCBRT has adopted a twin-track approach meaning that CCBRT will continue providing surgical and rehabilitative services to people with disabilities and at the same time work on mainstreaming disability into development practice. With its technical expertise, strong presence in the community and (inter)national recognition, CCBRT is strategically positioned to advocate effectively for the rights of people with disabilities in Tanzania.

What are CCBRT's advocacy aims?

With funding from AusAID (through CBM Australia), CCBRT now has a three strong team who will focus on advocacy activities. The aims of the two year project are:

- To undertake research to gather reliable data on disability (currently very scarce) in Tanzania mainly focussed on education and livelihood
- To lobby government, development and other organisations to mainstream disability issues into their policies and guidelines
- To strengthen disability organisations at organisational and institutional levels so they become more effective in their advocacy activities
- Create best practice development and share our findings with the academic world and other interested parties.

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Expected outcomes

- Accurate information for monitoring progress on disability matters, informed decision-making, planning and advocacy is available and accessible.
- The government and development organisations increasingly include a disability perspective in their practices (see box opposite).
- CCBRT contributes to best practices on inclusive development at (inter)national levels.



Current topics

- 'Right to vote' - lobbying the National Electoral Commission to ensure the elections, including information and polling stations, are accessible to all.
- 'Inclusive education' - following up on the incorporation of modules in teachers' training curricula and ensuring national examinations are adapted to meet the needs of children with a disability.
- 'Access to employment' - developing a study targeting the largest companies and a trade union to assess the level of participation of persons with a disability in formal employment.

School Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Following our lobbying of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training about the accessibility of school buildings, we were invited to make recommendations for the school infrastructure guidelines. This gained the attention of organisations active in a School WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiative.

The lead organisations, UNICEF, SNV and WaterAid had undertaken a School WASH mapping exercise also looking into accessibility of facilities; only 6% of schools surveyed have facilities suitable for people with a disability.

We are now developing a national school WASH package comprising guidelines, information materials, standard designs and training materials. These will be used across relevant ministries and other actors working in the sector. CCBRT participates in the initiative as the representative of disability organisations and ensures that the national package is disability-inclusive.

About CCBRT

Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is the largest indigenous provider of disability and rehabilitation services in the country serving a total population of 10 million people. CCBRT comprises a well established disability hospital in Dar es Salaam, community programmes in and around Dar es Salaam and Moshi, a training unit and an advocacy unit. Every year, around 120,000 people achieve a better quality of life through CCBRT services.

In recognition of the fact that most disabilities can be prevented with improved maternal and newborn care, CCBRT has entered a public-private partnership with the Government of Tanzania to build a new maternity hospital for Dar es Salaam which is due to open in 2012.



Each year, CCBRT plays an active role in marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In 2009, as part of our activities, we produced a newspaper supplement to mark the day. Click on the link below.

http://www.ccbt.or.tz/uploads/media/CCBRT_IDPD_supplement.pdf

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