

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (NCPD)

FIELD VISITS REPORT TO THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOPS IN RWANDA



Kigali, October 2012

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Orthopaedic materials are among the most important needed by persons with physical disability. National Council of Persons with disabilities cannot advocate accordingly on the issues affecting them when access to health services is still lacking. Conducting visits to orthopaedic workshops in Rwanda was the only exercise to provide necessary information on the issues affecting PWDs in accessing orthosis and prostheses. The visits have been conducted very smoothly and NCPD is very pleased and honoured to thank all persons that contributed to that success.

The team that has conducted the visits is very grateful to the Directors of the Hospitals having the orthopaedic workshops that have been visited. Secondly to the orthopaedic technicians for good exchanges during the visit. Thirdly to the NCPD Districts Coordinators that have been available to be part of the team.

May any persons even not listed here receive our sincere gratitude.

NDAYISABA Emmanuel

Executive Secretary of NCPD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order its mission of advocating for issues affecting persons with disabilities in various areas in general and in health in particular, National Council of Persons with disabilities has conducted field visits to orthopaedic workshops countrywide from August 27 to September 6, 2012. The overall objective of this exercise was to identify challenges in producing orthopaedic materials for constituting the basic information and advocate accordingly. The team in visits was composed by Twagirimana Eugene, Social rehabilitation Officer and Acting Head of Economic empowerment and social unit and Nkurayija Marcel, Health and Counselling Officer. The NCPD Districts Coordinators were also involved in the visits.

The methodology included the short presentation of NCPD mission in terms of advocacy on issues affecting PWDs. After the presentation, the visit was conducted to the orthopaedic workshops guided by the technicians. The explanations on the process of producing orthopaedic materials were provided. The information on format was collected.

In total twelve (12) orthopaedic workshops have been visited: five are public, three semi public and 4 are private. Six out twelve are in Kigali City.

Among the challenges identified are: the lack of accessing raw materials as most of them are imported, the orthopaedic services seem being isolated among comparing to other health services, lack of orthopaedic technicians.

The orthopaedic technicians recommend the central where raw materials should be accessed like other drugs. They also recommend the Ministry of Health to recognize “Mutuelle de Santé” paying orthopaedic materials as many Rwandan use this insurance to access health services.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERALITIES

1.1 Introduction, Background and context of the visit to orthopaedic workshops.

National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) has conducted field visits to orthopaedic workshops from August 27 to September 06, 2012. Nevertheless, the law no 03/2011 of 10/02/2011 establishing NCPD and determining its responsibilities, organization and functioning and its relationship with other State organs, highlights NCPD responsibilities that are: to coordinate activities aimed at the advancement of persons with disabilities, to gather and examine views of all persons with disabilities, to advocate on the issues affecting persons with disabilities, to build the capacity of persons with disabilities, to collaborate with non- governmental organizations engaged in the activities benefiting to persons with disabilities, to mention a few.

To achieve its mission especially in terms of advocacy on issues affecting PwDs in health area, NCPD has visit and conducted a capacity needs assessment for the orthopaedic workshops operating in Rwanda. The assessment aimed at gathering gaps in producing orthopaedic materials to suggest strategies to respond to these gaps for the better welfare of PwDs in health area.

1.2 Overall objective of the visits to orthopaedic workshops

The overall objective of visiting the orthopaedic workshop in Rwanda was to identify gaps in producing orthopaedic materials for constituting the basic information for advocating accordingly.

1.3 Specific objectives of the assessment to orthopaedic workshops

In conducting field's visits and assessment to orthopaedic workshops, NCPD intended to reach the following specific objectives:

- ✓ To explain to heads of orthopaedic workshops the NCPD mission in general and in promoting PwDs health in particular;
- ✓ To be informed on the functioning of the orthopaedic workshops operating in Rwanda for orienting PwDs that need their services;

- ✓ To collect necessary data and information needed from these workshops;
- ✓ To gather views from the heads of these workshops in terms of improving their services.

1.4 Composition of the team that conducted the visits

- NKURAYIJA Marcel, Health and counselling Officer
- TWAGIRIMANA Eugene, Social Rehabilitation Officer
- NCPD Districts Coordinators in the concerned districts



Visit at Gihundwe orthopaedic workshop

1.5 Methodology

To gather consistent data and sharing as much as possible information, the following methodology has been used:

The team from the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) made a short presentation on its mission and its expectations in terms of collaboration with orthopaedic workshops in setting strategies allowing PWDs to access more the orthopaedic materials.

The visit was guided in the orthopaedic workshop to notice its equipments. More details were provided by the orthopaedic technicians.



Captain Kinyata, Head of Kanombe Military Hospital orthopedic workshop, explaining the process of producing the prothesis and orthoses.

After the visit, the orthopaedic technicians had to provide the information on the format availed adhoc.

By the end of this assessment, NCPD conducted one day meeting to share the findings from the assessment.

CHAPTER II: ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1. Presentation on NCPD mission

NCPD team in visit made a short presentation to the orthopaedic technicians and Directors of visited institutions while available, on NCPD mission that is to coordinate activities aimed at the advancement of persons with disabilities, gather and examine views of all persons with disabilities, advocate on the issues affecting persons with disabilities, build the capacity of persons with disabilities, collaborate with non- governmental organizations engaged in the activities benefiting to persons with disabilities. After the presentation, the audience were given an occasion to ask questions on the presentation.

2.2. Description of visited orthopaedic workshops

Thirteen (13) orthopaedic workshops have been visited. These include 5 public workshops, 4 semi-public and 4 that are private.

The capacity of production is still very low, as it depends on the availability of the raw materials that are not easily affordable. Meanwhile, Gatagara orthopaedic workshop seems being the most performing among others.

The thirteen (13) visited orthopaedic workshops employs forty eight (48) staff including where they fourteen (14) qualified staff and thirty four (34) unqualified.

No	Orthopaedic workshop	District	Clients received by Month	Produced materials	Status	Staff		
						Qualified	Non-qualified	Total
1	Kanombe Military Hospital	Kicukiro	24	Prostheses (Lysine) -Canes	Public	3	3	6
2	Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK)	Nyarugenge	20	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses -Canes	Public	3	-	3

3	Mulindi Japan one love project	Gasabo	60	Ortheses (legs ,back, head) Prostheses -white canes -Canes	Private	-	8	8
4	Afrique en marche	Kicukiro	2	Ortheses (leg) Protheses (leg)	Private	-	2	2
5	HVP Gatagara Gikondo	Kicukiro	30	Ortheses (leg, back, head) Prostheses	Semi public	3		3
6	Atelier Othopedique de Gikondo (ATOGL)	Kicukiro	100	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses	Private	1	3	4
7	HVP Gatagara Nyanza	Nyanza	160	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses -Canes	Semi public	1	10	11
8	Teaching Hospital of Butare (CHUB)	Huye	41	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses -Canes	Public	-	1	1
9	Gihundwe District Hospital	Rusizi	36	Ortheses (leg,back,	Public			

				head) Prostheses (leg) -Canes		1	1	2
10	Ubumwe Community Center	Rubavu	N/A	None	Private	-	1	1
11	Ruhengeri District Hospital	Musanze	8	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses (leg)	Public	-	1	1
12	Centre Sainte Marie Rilima	Bugesera	35	Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses (leg)	Semi public	1	1	2
13	Gahini District Hospital	Kayanza		Ortheses (leg,back, head) Prostheses (leg) -Canes	Semi public	1	3	4
TOTAL						14	34	48

2.3 Information collection

After visiting the orthopaedic workshops, the necessary information were collected on the format availed ad hoc. The format contained the following:

- Workshop physical identification: Name, date of creation , the initiator
- Status (pubic, semi public, private),
- Kind of orthopaedic materials produced: orthosis, prostheses,
- Capacity of production daily monthly and annually,

- Staff and their qualification,
- Average of clients received by day ,
- Insurances accepted by the workshops,
- Partners and the kind of support provided,
- Any income generating project initiated by the workshop,
- Challenges encountered,
- Recommendations, any other important information.



Orthopaedic technicians at their duty in Gatagara workshop.

IV. CHALLENGES FACED BY ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOPS

- **Lack of accessing raw materials:** almost the materials needed in producing orthopaedic materials are imported, but as there isn't any central of buying them, they reach the area being very expensive.
- **Orthopaedic materials not being affordable by the clients:** this is due to the lack of raw materials and the insurance accepted by the centres. The orthopaedic materials are not paid by "Mutuelle de Sante" that is used by the great number of Rwandan population.



The orthopedic materials are not affordable to the clients

- **Procurement formalities:** as Districts are not allowed to give public tender abroad, they are obliged to seek for private intermediate who by the end are awarded for tender of supplying orthopaedic materials. As they also have to import them, the cost is very expensive and makes the final products to more expensive too. At hospital level, the process is also very slow for some materials they can purchase. This makes waiting so long while the clients are also waiting.
- **Cost of orthopaedic materials:** the cost set by Ministry of Health in 2009 is not updated. For example a prosthesis costs of Rwf 240,000 is 70,000 on the cost set by the Ministry of Health in 2009.
- **Lack of consideration to the orthopaedic services:** the orthopaedic workshops seems being an isolated service amongst others in hospitals, it isn't even appeared on the hospital chart organizational. This makes that even the reporting system does not take into consideration the service.
- **Lack of strategies to replaced old machines:** some machines have been provided by founders but still no system of maintenance is ensured. In additional to that, some types of machines are longer on the market.

- **Lack of enough staff qualified in orthopaedic workshops.** The qualified staff in the orthopaedic field are still very few: according to the collected information only 14 people have had an academic formation in orthopaedic area while 34 have benefited short term training. Some orthopaedic workshops haven't even any permanent staff.
- **No continuing formation for the staff:** Even the staffs qualified are still few, they do not benefit from continuing formation to update their knowledge.
- **Lack of enough space:** while machines require enough space. Case of Gihundwe hospital workshop, CHUB, Ruhengeri,..
- **System of Transfer from Districts hospitals to specialized in orthopaedic: (for Gahini center)** usually, the channel is that a client from health centre is transferred to District hospital, from there to CHUK and then to Gahini. The system is very slow and sometimes clients are not well oriented.

V. RECOMMANDATIONS

To Ministry of Health:

- To review the cost of orthopaedic materials so that they can be affordable to PWDs needing them ;
- To recommend that “Mutuelle de Santé” should pay the orthopaedic materials;
- To recognize orthopaedic service as being an important service by including it on Hospital organizational chart;
- To facilitate the access to raw materials needed in producing orthopaedic materials by availing in the centre like CAMERWA for other health products.
- To recognize Gatagara and Rilima as reference hospitals to facilitate the access to health services by PWDs including orthopaedic services.

TO NCPD

- To advocate on the insurances companies to facilitate their clients to access the orthopaedic materials by their insurance;

- To share the information on PWDs by letting them know where they can access orthopaedic services.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Rwandan community is not informed on availability of orthopaedic workshops;



Children under treatment in Rilima Hospital

- The orthopaedic workshops should more if they are given facilities such as raw materials;
- Physiotherapy should be taken as being part of orthopaedic service. It is not enough to provide orthopaedic materials while orthopaedist is not guaranteed.



HVP Gatagara, Gikindo one of the modern orthopedic workshops that should perform well given necessary facilities.

- Private should be sensitized to invest in orthopaedic workshops



This is a model of a private orthopedic workshop that should inspire the public to invest in such domain.

CONCLUSION

This visit was very important according the challenges shown, and it is opportunity for NCPD to advocate for the challenges.

NCPD team that conducted visits wants to thank the heads/ responsible of orthopaedic workshops that have been visited for their cooperation and the interest in serving PWDs.

After getting the necessary data and information, NCPD expects advocating on the behalf of PWDs to assess more the orthopaedic materials.