QUESTIONAIRE ON THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY.

QUESTION I. INFORMATION ON THE SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN UGANDA, INCLUDING DATA COVERAGE, GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVERY, FUNDING AND SHORT COMINGS IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

1. personal assistance
2. personal assistance in schools

Personal assistance can be provided in school where PWDs get training in vocational skills. There are five (5) vocational institutions scattered on a regional basis, training youths with disabilities in vocational skills i.e. carpentry, tailoring leather work, cosmetology, handcraft, metal fabrication and nursery teaching..

1. special grants for IGAs

Are given to groups of PWDs associations or parents of children with disabilities receive grants from government to fund IGAs of the groups mentioned above. The fund is accessed through districts in the country through districts.  
In the whole country through community development officer CDOs office. The districts number to 126.

1. community based rehabilitation

The current approach adopted by the government of Uganda’s to address disability as a social problem through CBR is awareness.

The level of awareness to disability has increased.

All districts in the country are supposed to implement an approach which started in the 1990s

Through CBR a number of children with disabilities in need of collective surgery are attended to provision of assistive devices to needy PWDs has been implemented.

1. The legal

In an attempt to provide services to people with disabilities the government has enacted a number of laws and policies to govern service providers in the implementation of the same.

Affirmative action in the constitution of Uganda 1995 has enabled youth with disabilities access university education.

The state policy and principles of state in the constitution uphold or spell out rights of all Ugandans including PWDs.

The disability act 2006 acts as the legal framework to govern implementation in favour of PWDs.

The national council for disability act 2003 provides for the establishment of a mechanism to monitor implementation of all development programmes to ensure that persons with disabilities are attended to.

The council structure runs from national to district level

The disability policy 2006 is a mechanism that governs provision of services of PWDs.

Using the disability act 2006 ministry of health and education established specific desks for PWDs in health. It is disability prevention department. In education Its special needs (SNE) department.

The structure of service delivery for PWDs extends from national level to sub county level. At sub county and district level, the offices of CDOs are the focal entities to serve PWDs.

1. DATA

Data collection in Uganda is the work of national bureau of standards (UBOS) under ministry of finance, Uganda conducted a national housing and population survey census in 2014. The findings/ results of the exercise put the population of PWDs at two (2) million PWDs. however in view of the challenges that affected the exercise; the population of PWDs is more than this giving that conditions that lead to disability exist in the community and country. Things like poverty, poor service delivery, and limited budgets to fund services, scanty information, lack of effective planning and many others.

1. FUNDING

The government of Uganda is responsible for funding all development programs; however Uganda adopted decentralization as the approach towards service delivery. Local governments are responsible for the implementing and delivering of services for effective development.

The local government act 2002 is the framework that establishes local government as well as local councils as planning authorities. However in view of poverty and limited productivity in the country, local governments are unable to raise adequate financial resources to fund development programmes.

In view of these challenges therefore the central government sends grants to local governments to implement development programmes.

Challenges and short comings

challenges are aparent in the implementation of programmes in favour of PWDs. This is due to the poverty status of the country unutilized resources, lack of data to guide effective planning, negative attitude towards PWDs and weak CBOs of PWDs to influence systems at that level for their own good.

Personal assistance.

It is given to individuals in universities like makerere university students are given free laptops, government hires people to push well chairs for PWDs in universities otherwise personal assistance is not experienced with children with disabilities especially those at community level therefore in home, residential and community support is not visibly evident.

Decision making

The local government act provides for elections for councilors for PWDs in all local governments

That is two (2) councilors 1 male and 1 female. These are meant to lobby and advocate for inclusion of PWDs issues at these levels.

The parliament elections act 2014 provides for 5) five persons (member of parliament for PWDs. These are ,meant to influence the enactment of laws and Acts in favor of PWDs and indeed they have done their part.

question 2

How can persons with disabilities access information about existing services mentioned in question one including referral procedures, eligibility criteria and application requirements.

Access to information Act.

The access to information Act 2013 provides for accessibility to information in government to public offices .The challenge however is that there are a few PWDs who have made use of the Act due to ignorance of the existing Act. legal frame work and the bottom line to this is the failure to disseminate laws, policies, guidelines that are developed to guide in the implementation of programmes.

The leaders of PWDs at each level are meant to inform their electorate on the existing development programmes.

Community development officers (CDOs) in local governments are mandated to mobilise and inform communities including PWDs about the developments.

The CDOs , DPOs, CSOs, identify youths with disabilities and refer them for vocational institutions for training.

Representatives of PWDs in local governments are identified to sit on the district grant committee to vet the proposals from groups and associations for funding .

All the committee is also mandated to guide the groups and associations to identify viable IGAs which can be funded through the special grant fund talked about in question I

Awareness campaigns on the rights of PWDs by the ministry of gender to local governments provide enough guidance to the existing development programes to PWDs.

For any group to be considered for any funding must be registered. The registration of CBOs is the responsibility of CDOs in all local governments while the registration of NGOS of and for people with disabilities, their registration is the responsibility of the NGO board at national registration level.

Question 3.

How services respond to specific needs of PWDs through their life cycle (i.e. infancy , childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age) and how services delivery is ensured between the life cycle stages.

Due to lack of data and early assessment and proper follow up, implementation of programmes in views of the life cycle of PWDs Is not accessible. However there are specific programmes for youths i.e. youth capital venture fund” which caters for youths in groups not individually. There are also specific programmes for middle age like women

and adulthood. There are also specific programmes for old age PWDs that is social assistance grant (SAGE)

There are also nutritional programmes for general children and those who are sick in hospitals and health but not specifically disabled children.

Question 4.

Number of certified sign language interpreters in Uganda.

With the establishment of sign language in Kyambogo university as a course a number of graduates have qualified as sign language interpretation since 2000. The challenge is they have not yet formed an association to be registered in the responsible ministry but however they are serving PWDs on pay basis. You cater for yourself to hire an interpreter if you are deaf or deaf blind and you meet the costs.

The interpreters for the deafblind are not readily available in Uganda. There could be one or two instructors trained in tactile language but they are not known officially .

We have managed to meet one child with tactile language but we cant establish who taught him.

There is no institution for deaf blind instructors yet in Uganda.

The few deaf blind in the country were assisted by instructor in western Kenya i.e Nyanza province where there is a school for them.

Question 5

The existing partnership between government and private service providers like NGOs, for profit service providers. For the provision of support to PWDs.

The government of Uganda on realizing that it can not do all that is required to effect development.

It is practicing by law public private partnership policy that is an NGO to do work like road construction and other broad basis social services.

Mindful of the reality that government cannot do all that is required it established the NGO board by an act of parliament. The NGO board regulates the act by way of registering NGOs, civil society organizations so we have NGOs for and of PWDs like those for

1. Uganda society for disabled children, sight savers Uganda, action on disabilities and development and other NGOs of included (UNDIP) national union for disabled persons, national union of disabled women, national union of physically hand caped persons, national association of the blind, national association of the deaf and many others including parents of children with disabilities eg parents of deaf children, parents of children with learning difficulties are cure hospital, Corsu which are operational comprehensive etc.

In helping these organizations to support PWDs government signs a memorandum of understanding with NGOs. the support that government gives to these organizations is provided for in the MOU like tax exemption but NGOs have their own budgets.

The support that government gives to registered NGOs and CSOs is strictly to tax exemption on equipment but not services.

FUNDING

funding from government or support in terms of money from government is accessed by CBOs of PWDs as mentioned above in question 1 bulletin vi but not registered NGOs and CSOs.

Question6

The extent and how PWDs and their representative organisations are involved in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of support services.

The organizations of PWDs including their representatives are involved in policy development that is the policy on disability, they are consulted and involved awareness campaigns done between ministry of gender and DPOs organizations work together in sensitization.

The national union of persons with disabilities until 2015 had been given authority to elect their members of parliament. The disability act 2006 was as a result of a private members bill. And this was a member of parliament to represent PWDs.

This is the law government has upheld in respect to disability.

the counsel for disability is composed of PWDs who are putting to task government officers in explaining why PWDs cannot benefit from the government plans and budgets the councils by laws submits its reports to parliament

Question 7

Provide information and statistics (including surveys, censuses, administrative data, reports and studies) related to the provision of support to PWDs in the country.

This is inaccessible.

Both the human rights commission of Uganda and the equal opportunities commission have conducted investigations on the rights abuse among PWDs in Uganda and have produced reports. The assessment was done this year 2016 i.e. equal opportunities and human rights commission 2010.

We expect the equal opportunity commission report to be taken to parliament. they present these reports to parliament on a yearly basis.

Dissemination of information

Information is still challenge in Uganda

Data for planning is a responsibility of the bureau of statistics and ministry of finance.

To analyze data report to get information involves a cost.

Surveys on disability have been conducted by NGOs of and for PWDs on their budgets to guide their implementation of programs.

Sight savers conducted one in Bunyoro region where they implemented a skills development programe for youths with disabilities in Bunyoro in 2012.

If you are to conduct a survey eg for SBH children in Uganda you need to put a side a budget for it.

Overall data to guide planning in Uganda is very big challenge and so is the implementation of programmes and services.

To crown it all the government of Uganda has no coherent or comprehensive programmes or services of children with SBH in Uganda.

This information has been delivered from reliable persons from the ministry of gender labor and social development. For any questions please do write back for any clarity,

Compiled by

Naluyima concepta Katende

Chairperson central Uganda spina bifida and hydrocephalus