

# Information about people with disabilities and health



**Easy read booklet Issue**



# Who we are



We are Social Development Direct.



We give advice to people working on **International Development** on how to include all people, such as women and people with disabilities



## **International Development**

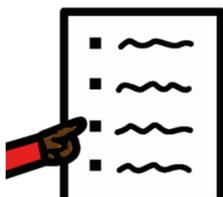
supports people around the world who do not have enough access to the things they need.



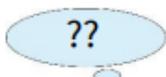
We work with other groups to run the Disability Inclusion Helpdesk.



This booklet is part of the **9<sup>th</sup> Helpdesk Evidence Digest**. It focuses on health and people with disabilities.



Please look at the full report for links to documents or for more information.



Sometimes we need to use new or difficult words. These words are in bold. There is a list of what they mean at the end of the report.

# Discussion about including people with disabilities in health systems



The World Health Organisation (WHO) is an organisation that is responsible for **public health** across the world.



**Public health** is about helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from things that threaten their health.



A person working for the WHO recently answered questions about **public health** and people with disabilities.



Governments agreed with the WHO to make disability inclusion in public health better.



They said that **COVID-19** had a bigger impact on people with disabilities.



If healthcare was more inclusive then the impact would not have been so bad.



Although there isn't any country in the world that has fully included people with disabilities in their health sector, there are good examples.



One example is a small Pacific Island that trains their healthcare staff on stigma and discrimination.



The WHO also started of discussions between **organisations of persons with disabilities** and health groups.



This will help improve the inclusion of people with disabilities in the health sector.

# Evidence and guidance on how to include people with disabilities in health systems



**Research** was done on policy documents from health programs in Bangladesh and Cambodia.



The study found that the policies did not recognize many of the issues facing people with disabilities or women and children.



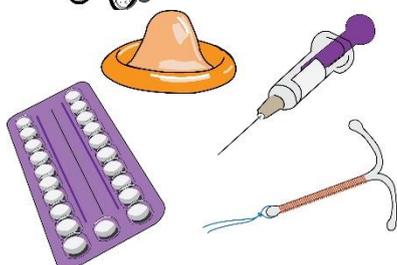
Another study looked at the reasons why **COVID-19** had a bigger impact on people with disabilities.



It found that the risks of **COVID-19** were higher for people with disabilities who live in residential or long-term care facilities.

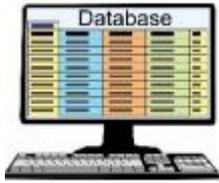


A study found that health care facilities in Brazil are difficult for people with disabilities to access.

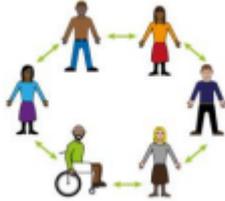


Humanity and Inclusion published what they learned about trying to include people with disabilities in sexual and reproductive health services.

The main lessons are:



1. Governments should use **data** on people with disabilities to make their services more accessible.



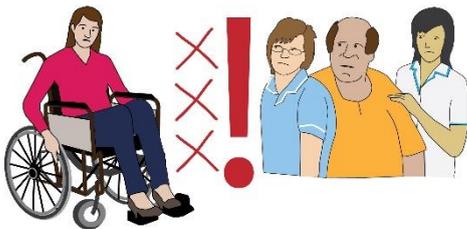
2. Working with **organisations of persons with disabilities** is a good way to help people with disabilities access services.



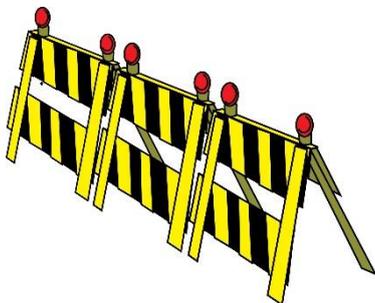
3. It is important to share accurate and accessible information.



A study found that disability is linked to loneliness in 8 countries.



A few other reports published information about how people with disabilities were excluded from education, health, and jobs.



Another report looked at the challenges and barriers young women with disabilities in Nepal faced in accessing menstrual hygiene products.

# Learning about health and including people with disabilities



The Ghana Participation Programme changed their activities to deal with the impact of **COVID-19** on people with disabilities and mental health conditions.

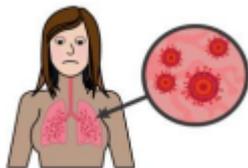


The program found that mental health workers did not receive any training on how to work safely during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

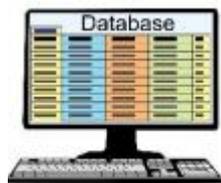


The program organised a training for health workers which helped them understand the risks of **COVID-19** and how to manage them safely.

# What do these words mean?



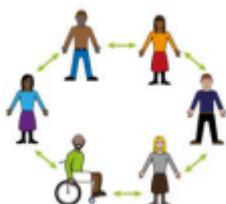
**COVID-19** is a virus that has made lots of people around the world ill.



**Data** is information about the number of different things, such as the number of people with a disability



**International Development** supports people around the world who do not have enough access to the things they need



**Organisations of people with disabilities** work in countries around the world and support people with disabilities to live good lives.



A pandemic is when lots of people catch the same illness and it spreads very quickly in many countries

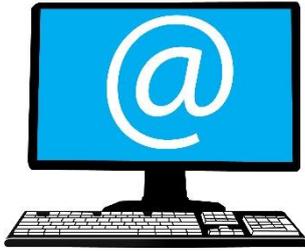


**Public health** is about helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from things that threaten their health.



**Research** is about finding lots of information about a specific thing and bringing it all together into data or a report

# Contact us



If you want to talk to us send an email to this address  
**enquiries@disabilityinclusion.org.uk**

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**People  
First**



Images used in this document come from the People First (Self Advocacy) Picture Bank

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The full version of this document is called **Evidence Digest: Health and Disability Inclusion**