Coordination of the Global Wheelchair Sector: Our goals and Progress

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Global Need for Wheelchairs

Disability (15%): 1.07 Billion
WC Users: 107 Million

18 Million
11 Million
Global UNMET Need for Wheelchairs

- 1 in 4 people receive devices needed
- All are in less developing countries
- Total Needed: 68 Million
- Yearly deficit: 22.3 Million/year
- Yearly Supply: 10 Million/year
FEW ARE AWARE THAT THE NEED FOR WHEELCHAIRS IS A GLOBAL CRISIS
Scenario in Developed Countries
Products
Providers

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation
- UPMC Life Changing Medicine
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
- The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
- Mayo Clinic

ISWP International Society of Wheelchair Professionals
Influencers?
Scenario in Developing Countries
Products

4 x Cost
Providers
Provider: Models
Influencers
## Developed vs. Developing

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*WC*: Wheelchair
ISWP’s Goal & Objective

Improve QOL of WC users globally by

– Increasing awareness & advocating
– Coordinating the global WC sector
– Setting & Advocating for Better Product & Service Standards
– Building Capacity for high-quality wheelchair service provision

Started in Feb 2015, with 2.5 yr USAID Grant
Advisory Board
Working Groups

Advocacy
- Increase awareness
- Increase policy adoption

Training
- Testing
- Integration
- Scalable Trainings

Standards
- Caster Failures
- Whole WC Failures
- Design Guidelines

Research
- Data Collection
- Minimum Data Set
- Research Framework
Increasing Awareness

FEW ARE AWARE THAT THE NEED FOR WHEELCHAIRS IS A GLOBAL CRISIS

• 205K reached
• 27k likes on post
• Doubled our page likes
  – Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Lumeh Mohamed Quality wheelchairs will have a positive impact on the mobility of people with disabilities in my country Sierra Leone.
Like · Reply · 1 · May 26 at 9:52am

International Society of Wheelchair Professionals Thanks for your comment Lumeh. What types of wheelchairs do you have available there? Can you send pictures?
Like · Reply · Commented on by Jon Pearlman · May 26 at 9:35pm
Ongoing communications

Bilal Ahmed We are Three Disable Brothers Suffering From Disease Muscular Dystrophy Please Help Us To Treatment and Survival Of Our Life Please Contact 03442314296
Increasing Awareness

- 400 Views
- Live-comments

World Health Assembly side event: Assistive Technology for All
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva,
24 May 2016 from 12:15 – 13:45

Organized by: The Permanent Missions of Ecuador, Pakistan, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea, United States of America and Zimbabwe
Advocacy: Policy Documents

• Policy toolkit in development: framework for national policies
  – Case Studies
  – Best practices on process
  – Example product & service standards
Coordination

• Advisory Board & Working Group discussions weekly
• Presentations/meetings on ISWP ~monthly around the world
  – Togo, Malaysia, Brazil, Ireland, Bangkok, South Africa this summer
Setting Global Standards: Service

- ISWP Basic Test Service Provider Test
  - Available in 2/16 languages: >360 (India & Kenya)
- ISWP Intermediate Service Provider Test
  - Knowledge & Skills Test
- ISWP Basic Wheelchair Service Provider Credential
  - PVA provided core funding to develop (June 1st, 2016)
Setting Global Standards: Products

• Priorities
  – Caster Failure
  – Rolling Resistance
  – Corrosion
  – Whole wheelchair failure
  – Design Guidelines
Caster Tester
Rolling Resistance
Building Capacity: Testing & Training

• Existing format built for workshop approach
  – Excellent for NGO
• Shifting toward addl online materials:
  – ISWP Hybrid Training Package
  – 5-day in-person → 3-day in-person
  – Ongoing pilot in Bangalore
  – Planned pilots in US, Mexico, Colombia
Questions