



HESABIKA CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

This Ability Trust is a women-led nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the sexual reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities in Kenya and across the region. We envision a society in which women and girls with disabilities have access to quality dignified healthcare with their rights respected and upheld. Our model focuses on leveraging various forms of technology to increase access to sexual reproductive healthcare services and information, build the capacities of healthcare providers on disability rights and inclusive healthcare, and collect disaggregated data to inform and strengthen collective multi-stakeholder advocacy on sexual reproductive health for women and girls with disabilities in Kenya.

Background

Despite constituting [3.5% of the population as per the census carried out in 2019](#), women and girls with disabilities are underrepresented in positions of power and access to basic rights.⁴ According to the United Nations flagship report on disability and sustainable development goals they hold a mere 2.3% of leadership roles compared to 2.8% for men with disabilities. They are even more scarce in national parliaments. This lack of representation leaves their voices unheard and their needs unmet.¹ The situation worsens when considering violence, with women with disabilities 2-3 times more likely to experience abuse. From limited educational opportunities, resulting in three times the illiteracy rate compared to men without disabilities, to restricted employment chances and twice the unemployment rate, their path forward is riddled with obstacles. Even healthcare remains out of reach, with three times the number of unmet needs compared to their male counterparts. These stark statistics demand immediate action – targeted policies and programs are essential to empower and include women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal participation in all aspects of life.

Disability statistics in Kenya have over the years recorded a significantly lower disability prevalence compared to the global 15% prevalence rate estimated by the World Health Organization. According to the 2019 census, 2.2% (0.9 million people) of the Kenyan population live with some disability. It is essential to note that a direct comparison between the disability prevalence figures from 2009 and 2019 poses challenges due to variations in data collection methodologies, age demographics covered, and the size of administrative units. The 2019 census also indicates that 1.9% of men have a disability compared with 2.5% of women. The 2009 census reported that 3.4% of men and 3.5% of women had a disability.² Documented studies have shown that due to several causes, there is a higher prevalence of disability among women than men, the increased incidence of sexual and gender-based violence among women in addition to poor reproductive healthcare services and nutrition, women and girls with disabilities experience disproportionate levels of exclusion due to gender and disability intersection.³

¹ UN Women. [Facts and figures: Women and girls with disabilities](#).

² Development Initiatives 2020. [Status of disability in Kenya](#).

³ S. Thompson. 2017. [Disability prevalence and trends](#). Institute of Development Studies

⁴ [UN Flagship Report on disability and sustainable development goals](#).



Problem Statement

In Kenya, women and girls with disabilities face a complex web of challenges stemming from inaccurate data, invisibility, and limited access. Current disability data grossly underrepresented women and girls with disabilities, leaving their needs and experiences obfuscated. This lack of accurate information hinders effective policy and resource allocation, leaving their crucial voices unheard and hindering efforts to address their specific challenges. This invisibility further fuels their marginalization and exclusion, leading to limited access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Healthcare becomes riddled with stigma and discrimination, while education remains out of reach, trapping them in a cycle of poverty with restricted economic possibilities. These disproportionate barriers not only impact their individual lives but also represent a missed opportunity for Kenya's overall development. It's a crisis of invisibility demanding urgent action and data-driven solutions to empower women and girls with disabilities and create a truly inclusive society.

Justification

This Ability Trust combats the crisis of invisibility, inaccurate data, and marginalized exclusion faced by Women and girls with disabilities through the Hesabika USSD platform by harnessing technology to amplify their voices. Hesabika empowers women and girls with disabilities to register, making them visible in national statistics and policy discussions. Data-driven insights strengthen our advocacy, fostering inclusive policies that expand their access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. A robust Monitoring and evaluation program ensures accountability and transparency, demonstrating the initiative's impact and attracting critical resources to build a more just and equitable society for all. Investing in monitoring and evaluation is not just monitoring progress; it's investing in the future of women and girls with disabilities guaranteeing their rightful place at the table where decisions are made. Their voices matter, and through Hesabika, their stories will be heard.

Goal:

To promote informed decision-making and improve the lives of women and girls with disabilities in Kenya by building a data-driven ecosystem that empowers participation, facilitates communication, and supports policy advocacy.

Objectives

1. To develop a comprehensive database including demographic, socio-economic, and disability-specific data of registered users by December 2024.
2. To empower women and girls with disabilities by enhancing their communication and policy engagement capabilities.
3. To provide access to the Bulk Messaging platform of Hesabika to facilitate the dissemination of information with communities of persons with disabilities.
4. To utilize the data analysis reports towards policy advocacy and support policymakers and duty bearers on the status of disability in Kenya.

Desired Outcomes

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1. Increased awareness and understanding of disability issues in the community, changes in policy and legislation affecting women and girls with disabilities, and improved access to services or resources for individuals with disabilities.
2. Enhanced communication and policy engagement skills for women and girls with disabilities, increased confidence and self-advocacy skills, greater participation in the decision-making process and improved access to education and employment opportunities.
3. Policy changes and legal reforms are strengthened through data analysis and joint advocacy initiatives with key stakeholders.

Indicators

1. 50,000 unique female users registered on Hesabika USSD with over 90% of users to have complete data profiles across all categories on the platform by December 2024.
2. At least 4 successful community awareness campaigns and bulk SMS to address SRHR issues faced by women and girls with disabilities by December 2024
3. Conduct one successful data analysis to ensure the data collected are accurate to help in creating comprehensive reports and decision-making. by December 2024

Methodology

1. Database Development

- Design and develop user-friendly registration steps on the Hesabika USSD platform to collect data such as demographic, socio-economic, and disability-specific data.
- Conduct outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage women and girls with disabilities to register on the platform.
- Analyze and summarize the collected data to create comprehensive reports.

2. Data Collection

- Create Multiple surveys to enable us to collect different data for women and girls with disabilities.
- Conduct outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage women and girls with disabilities to participate in the surveys.
- Do data analysis to ensure the data collected are accurate to help in creating comprehensive reports and decision-making.
- Send bulk SMS on SRHR Issues affecting women and girls with disabilities
- Implement data quality control measures to ensure accuracy and completeness.

3. Monitoring and evaluation

- Continuously monitor and evaluate the USSD platform post-launch to identify opportunities for enhancements and address any emerging accessibility or usability issues.

Outputs

- Create a Multi-purpose survey system to collect data relating to girls and women with disabilities.