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• BANGALORE

WHEELCHAIR STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 Wheelchair Stakeholders' Meeting brought together various stakeholder groups, including past and present USAID implementing partners, academia and other sector technical specialists, to reflect on past achievements and challenges, discuss current initiatives, and strategize for a future with greater access to appropriate wheelchairs.

From January 15 to 18, 2018, the Wheelchair Stakeholders' Meeting was held in Bangalore, India. The four-day event convened 56 participants and several representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to evaluate wheelchair sector priorities.

World Learning coordinated and implemented the meeting through the USAID-funded Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors (SPANS) Grant Solicitation and Management (GSM) project and the meeting was hosted by Mobility India. The meeting was planned through a collaborative committee including World Learning, Management Sciences for Health (MSH), International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP), World Health Organization (WHO), and USAID.



KEY OUTCOME

The key outcome of the meeting was an overarching sector goal (measurable result) for the next five years and priority actions to achieve the goal. Participants collaborated within the following four thematic strategic areas — *Policy, Provision, Personnel, and Products* — to develop goals and priority actions related to each area.

The meeting was organized around three themes:

REFLECT

Historic overview of the wheelchair sector and presentations on programmatic advances made over the past five years and how they have helped achieve the sector priorities.

EXISTING MODELS

Evaluation and feedback of existing USAID global initiatives: International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP); Global Coordination on Assistive Technologies (GATE); and Consolidating Logistics for Assistive Technology Supply and Provision (CLASP).

STRATEGIZE

Participants identified four strategic areas for the sector and subsequently developed measurable results and priority actions for each.



SECTOR GOAL

BY 2023, 10 COUNTRIES HAVE NEW OR STRENGTHENED EVIDENCE-BASED, ADEQUATELY-RESOURCED, INTEGRATED WHEELCHAIR SERVICES SUPPORTED BY POLICIES, COMPETENT PERSONNEL, AND A RANGE OF APPROPRIATE WHEELCHAIRS.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Following the gathering in India, USAID convened a group that included representatives from each of the strategic areas.

This group was tasked with refining and consolidating the results from the discussions around each of the strategic areas into a single goal with 10 related priority actions. Subsequently, a survey was developed and shared with all participants from the Wheelchair Stakeholders' Meeting to prioritize the identified actions. The priority actions are listed on the right.



1 BUILD AWARENESS

Implement a global campaign on the benefits of appropriate wheelchair provision targeting users, service providers, donors, policy makers, and community development organizations.

2 CONDUCT RESEARCH

Conduct research and collect data included in the World Health Organization's Global Priority Research Agenda. Create a repository of data related to: unmet need; product and service quality; impact of appropriate wheelchair provision on health, quality of life, participation, reintegration into daily living and economic benefit analysis; and promote the use of the data to drive evidence-based practice.

3 ESTABLISH GLOBAL SERVICE STANDARDS

Establish wheelchair service standards for the individual service provider (i.e., certification), training programs (i.e., accreditation), and clinical service (i.e., accreditation) based on evidence, best-practices, and recommendations from a globally representative professional standards body inclusive of users, service providers, educators, and policy makers.

4 ESTABLISH PRODUCT STANDARDS

Establish global target product profiles and evidence-based product quality standards through a representative standards body that is inclusive of users, service providers, governments, and manufacturers.

5 FOSTER INNOVATION

Support, promote, and sponsor user-centered design and innovation through innovation competitions, targeted design projects, and awareness campaigns focusing on transforming wheelchair design to increase functionality, reduce costs, and/or increase quality.

“[The wheelchair sector] has made a huge difference to the well-being of individuals to have the right wheelchair for them to live independent and dignified lives.”

– ALBINA SHANKAR
DIRECTOR, MOBILITY INDIA



6 IMPROVE WHEELCHAIR SUPPLY

Improve global wheelchair markets using market shaping strategies, improved supply chain, and innovative business models to reduce costs, increase quality, and improve procurement efficiency.

7 PROMOTE POLICY

Develop, promote, and disseminate evidence-informed policy and implementation toolkits and trainings that include quality standards, successful case studies, shared lessons learned, and accessible and meaningful data.

8 STIMULATE COLLABORATION

Develop a multi-stakeholder platform and regional working groups, including communities of practice, to foster coordination and collaboration in capacity development; policy promotion and implementation; and information dissemination, while supporting user-driven advocacy and identification of champions.

9 SUPPORT COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

Develop a competent workforce of multi-sectoral wheelchair service personnel (e.g., technical, clinical, support staff, managerial, stakeholders) through the establishment of regional training centers that utilize existing and newly developed resources.

10 SUPPORT GOOD PRACTICE

Conduct in-country initiatives that provide tools, technical support, guidance, and capacity building to support governments in developing wheelchair policies, insurance programs and/or sustainable finance programs that improve access to wheelchairs through integrated service delivery models. Document and share experiences regionally and globally.

From 2008-2018, the USAID-funded Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors Grant Solicitation and Management was an umbrella grantmaking mechanism that supported service delivery, training, and related activities aimed at assisting vulnerable populations in conflict-affected countries. A program of World Learning, SPANS/ GSM directly supported USAID's goal of improving the health and well-being of specific vulnerable populations.

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