



Access to HIV prevention and care: Persons with disabilities still left behind



Muriel Mac-Seing
Head of Prevention and Health Unit

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**Officially from Michel Sidibé during
the 20th International AIDS Conference's opening
session in Melbourne, July 2014**

**"We cannot run away from the needs
Of people with disabilities"**

Handicap International

- Federation of 8 national associations
- In 59 countries
- Working in Rehabilitation, Prevention and Health, Disability Rights, Support to Civil Society, Social Inclusion, Anti-Mine Action and Emergency
- Experience in HIV and disability in 11 countries in the Global South



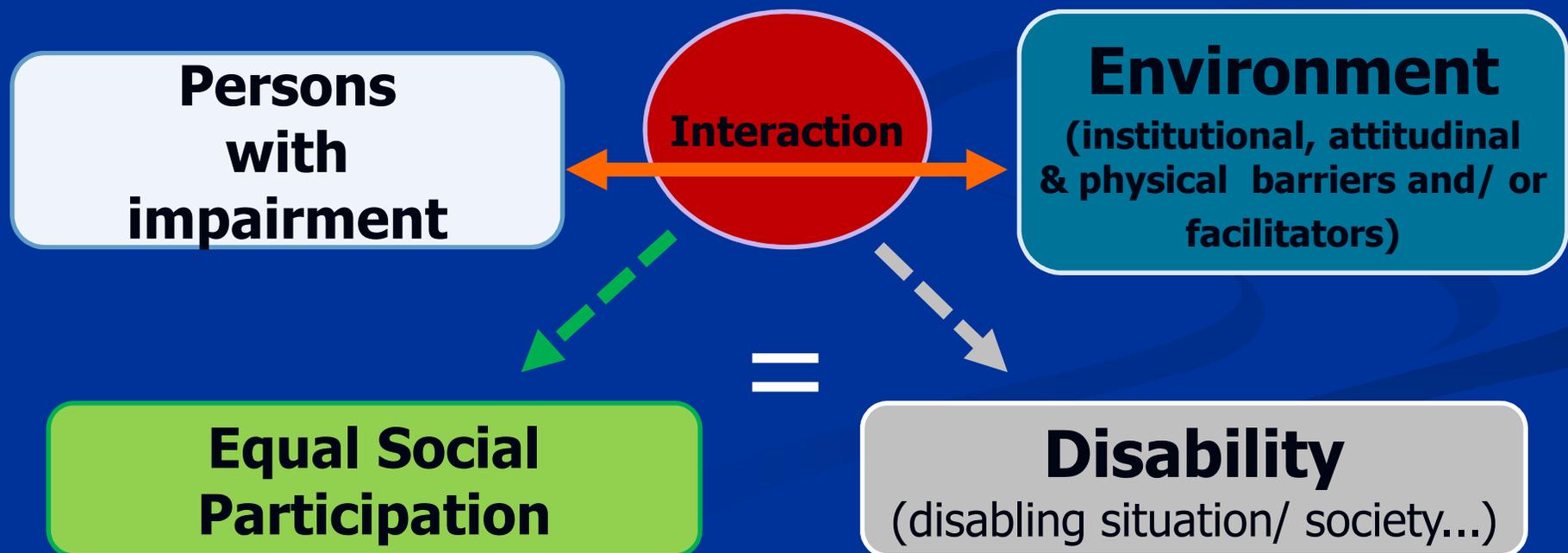
Key facts

- **15% of the world's population** lives with a disability (19% among female population); 2-3% lives with severe disabilities (WHO/WB, 2011)
- 5-10% of all children in Africa grow up with disabilities (UNICEF, 2013)
- The **prevalence of violence 1.3 times higher** against adults with disabilities and **3.7 times** against children with disabilities, compared to their non-disabled peers (Lancet, 2012)
- A meta-analysis on HIV prevalence in adults with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa (De Beaudrap et al, 2014) showed an **increased gradient of risk based on disability and gender**
- **PLHIV are also at risk of developing disabilities** on a permanent or episodic basis as a result of their illness and/or side effects of ARV (Hanass-Hancock & Nixon, 2010; O'Brien et al, 2008)

What is disability?

“... Disability is an evolving concept and results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others ...”

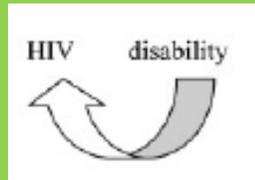
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) (2007)



Interrelationship between HIV and AIDS and disability

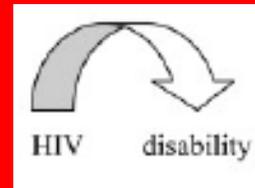


Persons with disabilities



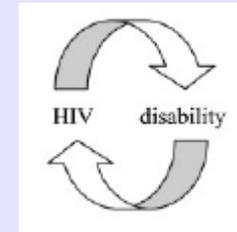
- Lack of access to education especially sexuality/sexual health education
- Lack of access to HIV information and services
- Increased risk to sexual violence and less access to justice
- Negative attitudes from service providers
- Stigma and discrimination (disability, gender and HIV)

PLHIV developing episodic and/or chronic disabilities



- Mental health disorders: depression, schizophrenia, anxiety, substance abuse
- Impairments such as neurocognitive impairments, blindness, deafness, peripheral neuropathy, etc.
- Episodic disabilities

People who care for PLHIV (old or young)



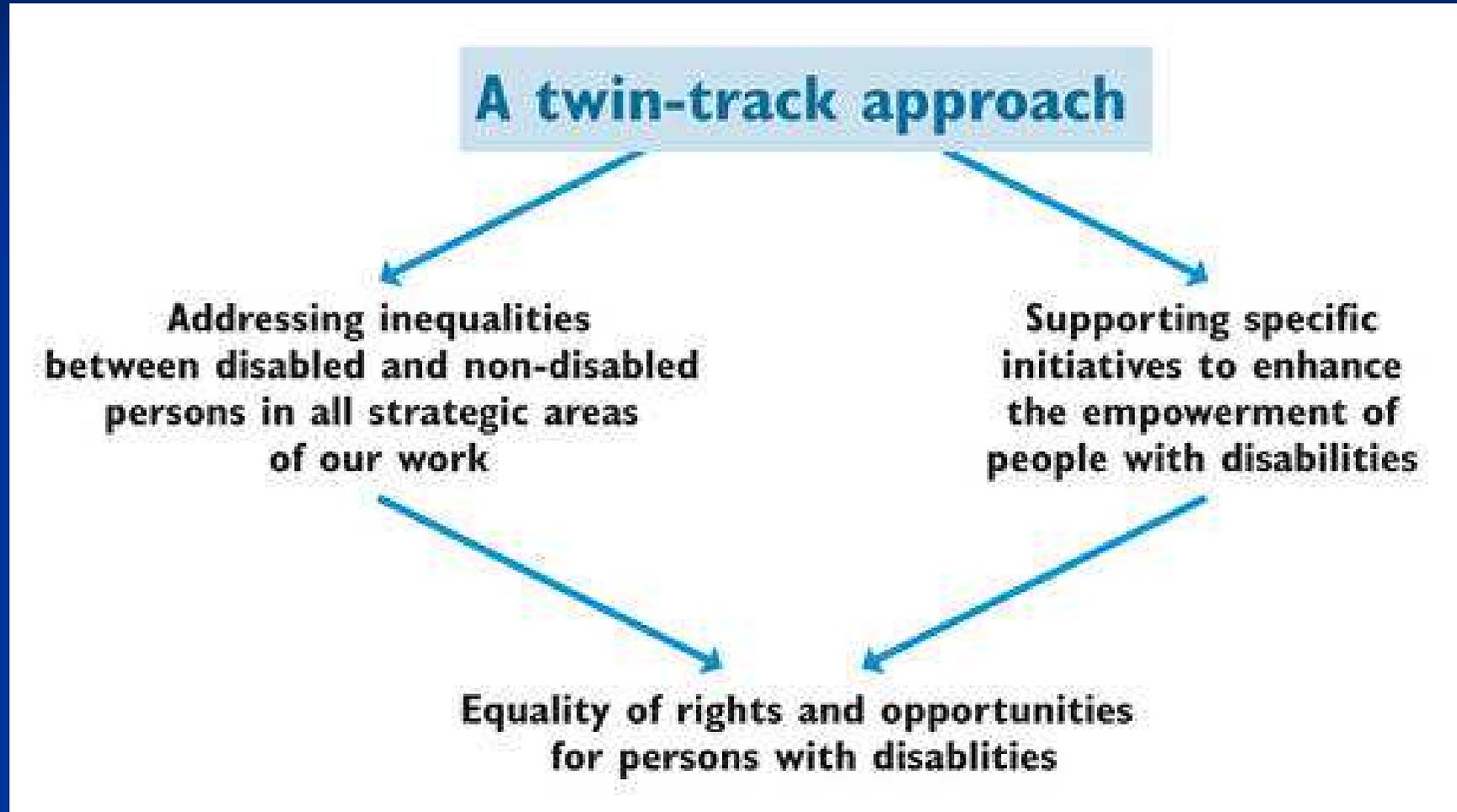
- AIDS related activities limitation associated with increased child healthcare task, decreased school attendance in children, food insecurity and educational outcomes



But this can
change and
is changing!

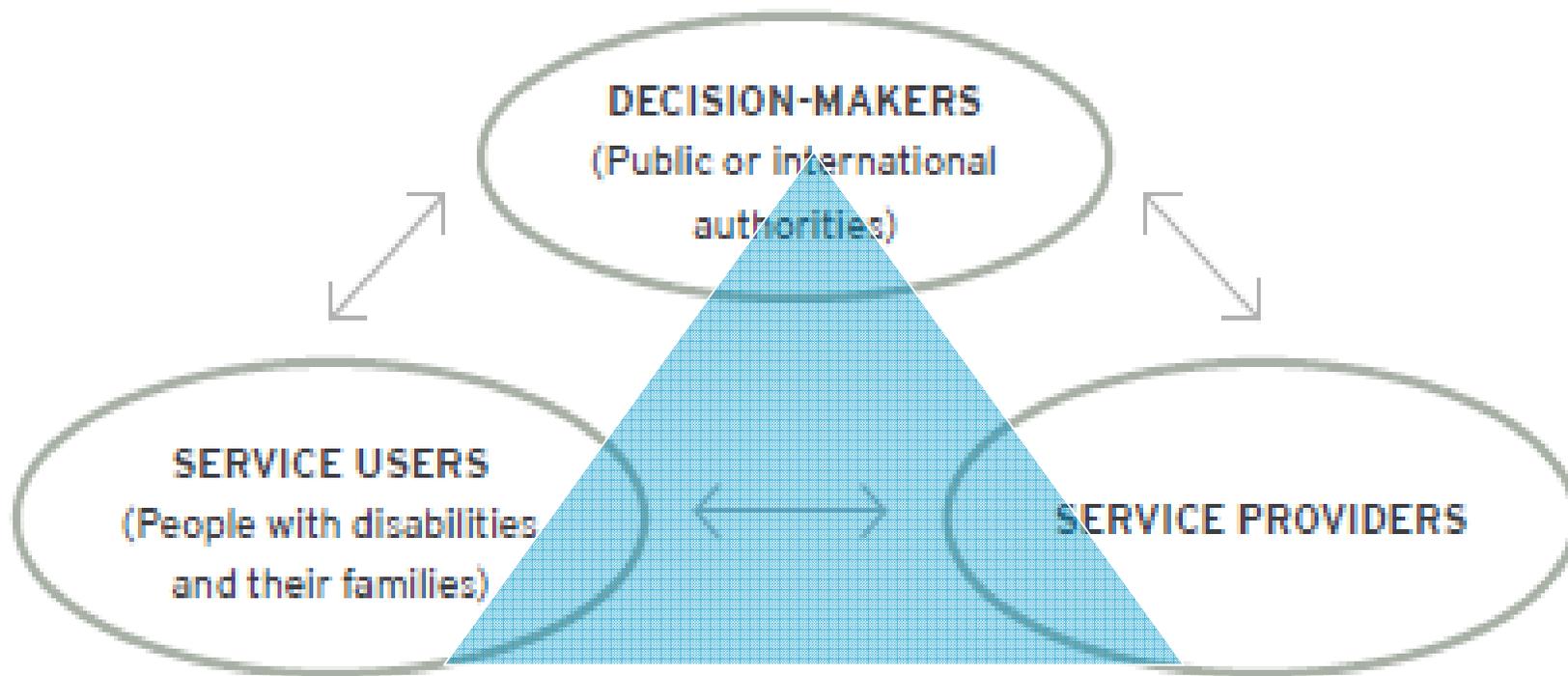
Despite all this and the fact that
154 countries have ratified the UN CRPD
(including Switzerland),
there are **only few initiatives**
in the world which respond to the needs
of persons with disabilities
facing risks to HIV....

Twin-track approach for disability inclusion used by Handicap International in HIV and AIDS



Handicap International and DfID, Disability, Poverty and Development, Feb, 2000, page 11.

Also based on Handicap International's guide on access to services for people with disabilities



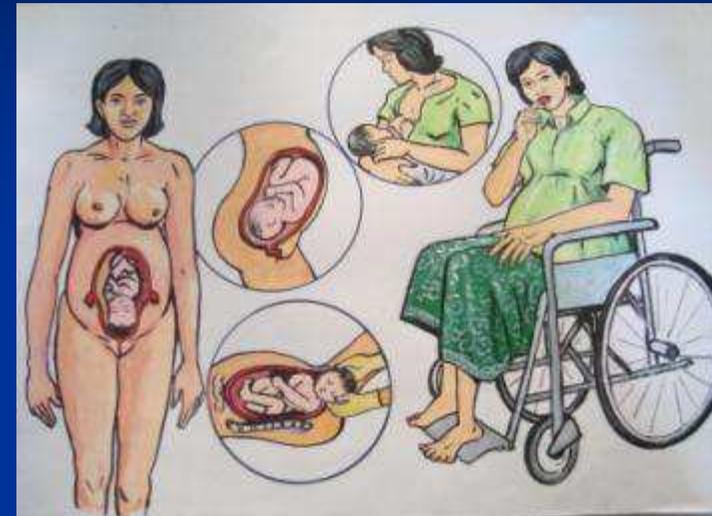
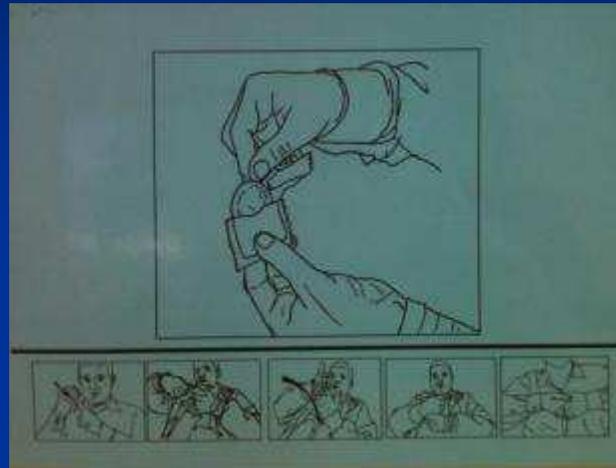
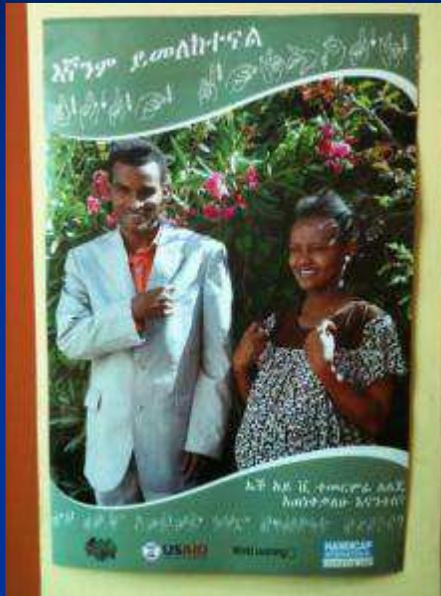
Handicap International (2010). Access to services for persons with disabilities: Practical guide, page 19.

Good practices and lessons learned from HI on HIV and disability

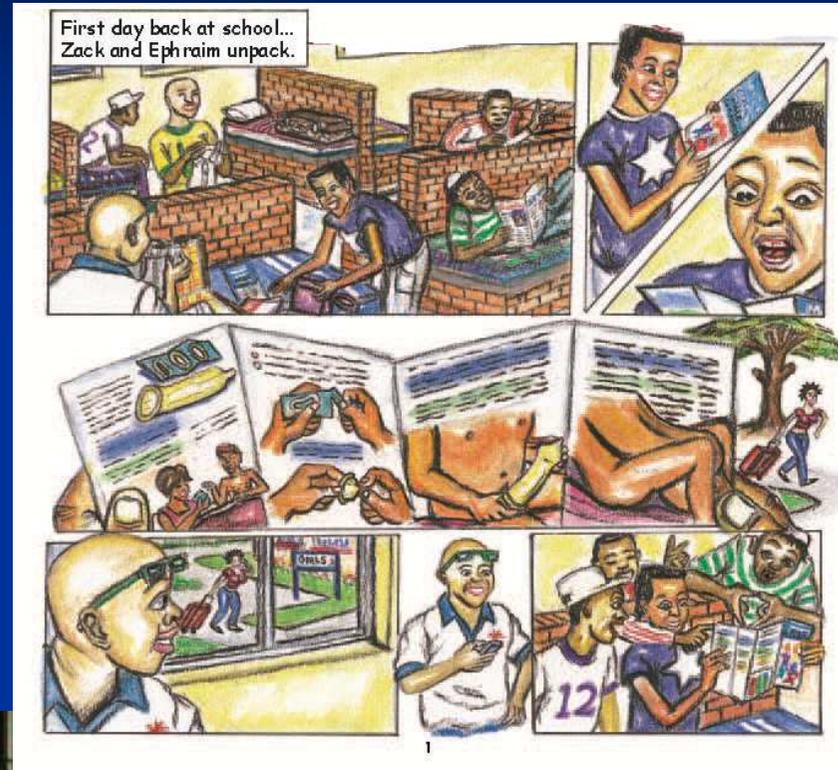


- **In Senegal:** good practice at national policy level for including people with disabilities in the National AIDS Strategic Plan
- **In Kenya:** good practice at HIV counselling and testing level through adaptation of methodologies for increased uptake of HIV services among people with visual and hearing impairments
- **In Rwanda:** good practice at Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) level through organizational development leading to resource mobilisation
- **In Ethiopia:** good practice at building the capacity of mainstream AIDS organizations/services providers on disability inclusion
- **In Cambodia:** good practice at an individual level through a tailored initiative for rural deaf women on HIV prevention and sexual violence protection

Examples of accessible products/services



Examples of accessible products and facilities



Key challenges and opportunities

- Still not enough evidence creation such as HIV prevalence studies among persons with disabilities → **lack of comprehensive national data on HIV and AIDS and disability**
- **More investment on research** is needed
- Though numerous funding for “vulnerable groups”, **still limited organisations’ and donors’ prioritization on this largest world minorities** (around one billion people)
- **Lack of scaling up** of disability inclusive approaches and initiatives in HIV/SRH programming
- **Limited partnership** between AIDS and disability-focused organizations/disabled people’s organizations

Key challenges and opportunities

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities → **binding international tool** including article 9 on accessibility, 25 on health (including HIV/SRH), 31 on statistics and **32 on international cooperation**
- UNAIDS Investment Framework (2011) → **do you know the HIV epidemic in countries where you work... persons with disabilities are there!**
- UN Gap report (2014) → **a whole chapter on persons with disabilities and HIV**
- Global Fund's Human Rights on HIV, TB, Malaria and HSS information Note (2013) → **persons with disabilities can be included in a partial list of key populations**

Ways forwards



- Support mechanisms for **disability-related data collection** in HIV and AIDS → as part of the national M&E system (epidemiological and behavioral information)
- Support the **inclusion of disability in national AIDS strategic plans (NSP)**
- **Health system strengthening** through disability inclusion, accessibility and universal access
- Ensure **significant participation of persons with disabilities** in decision-making processes, implementation and M&E
- Promote **gender equality and disability** inclusion
- **Support and monitoring of the application of the UN CRPD** and national laws and policies (articles 9-25-31-32 especially)
- Strengthen/facilitate **networking/partnership between HIV and disability** at international/national/grass-roots levels
- Engage the **private sector** in AIDS and disability (mhealth)



Thanks!

Merci !

