

South Sudan Crisis

Humanitarian healthcare services: Disability inclusion & preventing avoidable blindness

Juba, Gumbo and Mangathen, South Sudan



- **Conflicts or natural disasters hit vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities the hardest**
- **Emergency situations can generate an increase in persons with disabilities due to new injuries, lack of quality medical care, or collapse of essential services**
- **Approximately 250.000 persons with disabilities are living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in South Sud**

Problem situation

Light for the World carried out a survey rating the services in IDP camps in the aftermath of the Decer 2014 open conflict in South Sudan.

The survey primarily evaluated the provision of education and rehabilitation services for children and adults with disabilities, general **physical accessibility** of the IDPs camps and **knowledge, attitude and practices** on disabilities of staff of various organisations providing humanitarian assistance.

Light for the World observed that in emergency situations, food distribution and provision of health and education services tend to focus on needs of the general population rather than on the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Why does this happen?

Disability is assessed from a medical point of view rather than a condition arising from the interaction between the injuries and/or impairment and the physical and social environment present in the IDP camps.

In addition, humanitarian agencies lack the knowledge and expertise to address the immediate and long term needs of persons with disabilities.

As a result, beneficiaries are left behind to die, starve or to live in inhumane and unacceptable conditions.

Changing the situation of persons with disabilities in IDP camps

A trifold interlinked, comprehensive and sustainable intervention is required to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities and to build a conducive and inclusive environment in the camps.

The goal of the programme is to give persons with disabilities access to **rehabilitation services** in order to become independent and self-reliant individuals, access to **eye health services** to fight preventable blindness and to **provide training and development of the capacities** of Humanitarian Response relief agencies to include persons with disabilities in their programmes.

Human Resource Training and Development

- Develop and deliver comprehensive training, advisory and mentoring services on disability mainstreaming to UN agencies, international and local NGOs providing food and non-food items, to make their services inclusive for persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitation

- Deliver quality rehabilitation services and distribute assistive devices for persons with disabilities, and distribute food to persons with severe disabilities in IDP camps.

Eye Health

- Provide eye care services to address blinding eye diseases and promote eye health in IDP camps.

| Crisis Intervention in South Sudan | Beneficiaries |
|---|---|
| Timeframe: 08.2017-31.12.2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relief agencies on the ground that need support to reach out to persons with disabilities in the IDP Camps: UN agencies, international and local NGOs• Persons with disabilities in IDP camps in need of rehabilitation and food• Persons in need of eye health services in IDP camps |

More about Light for the World

Light for the World is an international development organisation founded in 1988 with a mission to build affordable and sustainable eye care services to end preventable blindness and to empower persons with disabilities in the most underserved remote regions of the world and areas affected by humanitarian crises such as South Sudan.

The overall strategy of Light for the World is to develop comprehensive programmes which boost impact whilst simultaneously influencing national policy makers to put eye health, education and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities higher on the agenda and laying the foundations for resilient national eye health, education and community-based rehabilitation systems.

Contact:

Communications: Helen Nassey

T: +43 1 810 13 00 - 59

E: h.nassey@light-for-the-world.org

Senior Manager International Alliances: Joy Morozov

T: +43 1 810 13 00-58

E: j.morozov@light-for-the-world.org