



# HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING **ACCELERATOR**



**JOINT  
LEARNING  
NETWORK**  
For Universal Health Coverage





HEALTH SYSTEMS  
STRENGTHENING  
**ACCELERATOR**



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# Webinar: Rehabilitation and Universal Health Coverage

February 2, 2022



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

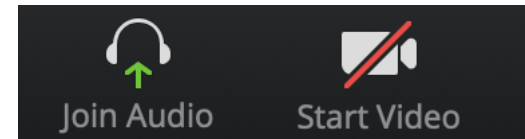
# Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat box by sharing your name, position, and country.

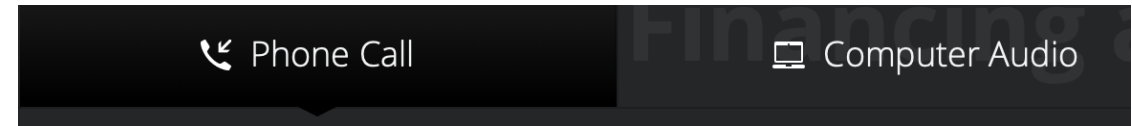


# Zoom functions

1. Please **turn off** your video if you have low bandwidth and to improve your connection.



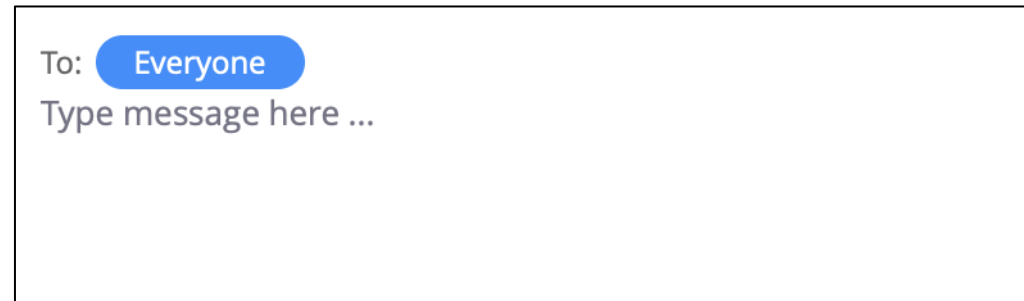
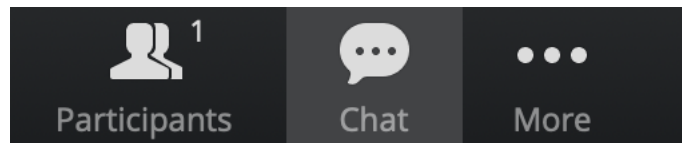
2. Please be sure to **connect your audio** either **by phone** or directly **through your computer**.



3. All participants will be **muted** for the duration of the webinar.

# Zoom functions (cont.)

4. Please submit all **questions and comments** using the group **chat box**.

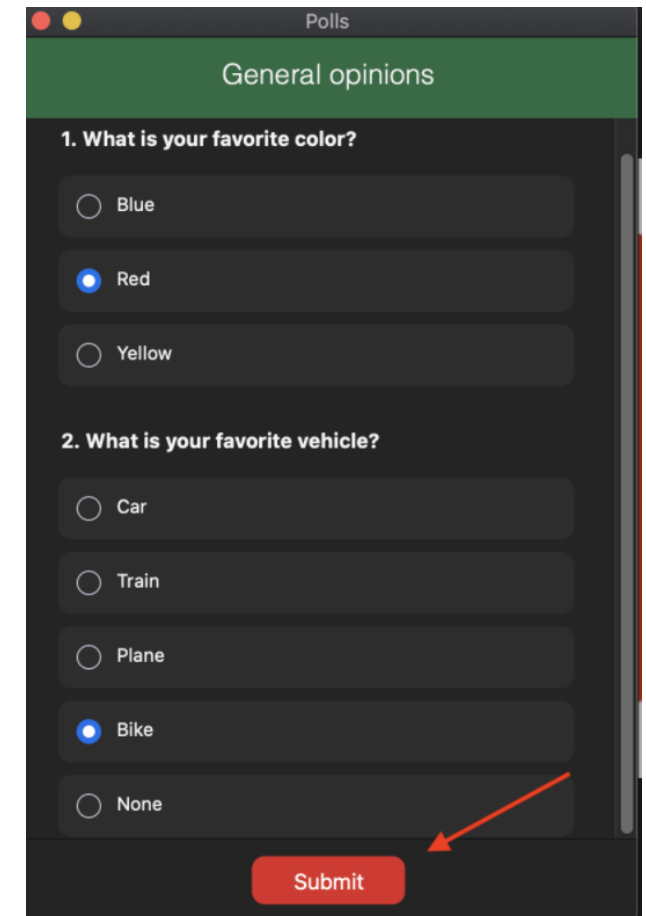
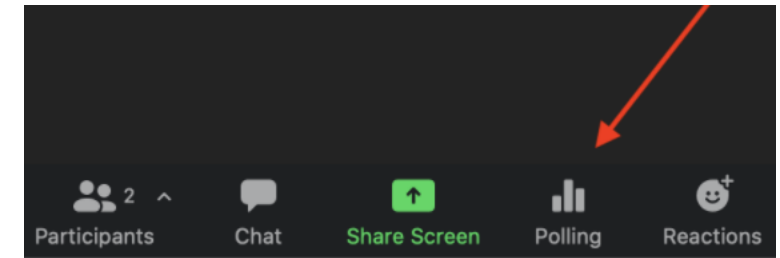


5. The webinar will be **recorded** and a link to the recording will be shared afterwards.

# Zoom functions (cont.)

6. When the host of the meeting shares a poll, a new icon **“Polling”** appears. If the **polling window** does not open automatically or if you close it by mistake, click on the “Polling” button to open the window.

When the polling window is open, select your answer(s) and click **submit**.



# Webinar agenda

Time	Activity
15 mins	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of agenda and objectives</li><li>• Opening remarks</li><li>• Icebreaker</li></ul>
15 mins	<b>WHO Presentation:</b> Rehabilitation as an essential part of UHC
55 mins	<b>Facilitated expert panel and Q&amp;A:</b> Country experiences with rehabilitation and UHC
5 mins	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore interest for continued learning</li></ul>

# Webinar objectives

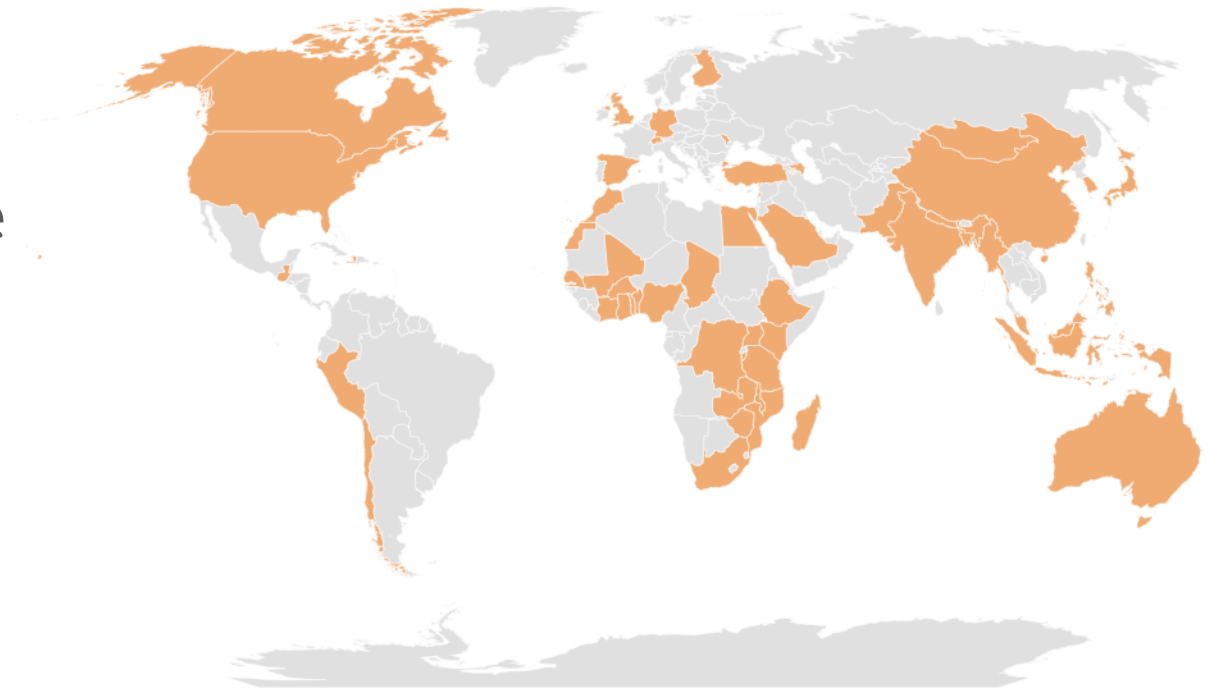
Respond to country demand on the need to prioritize rehabilitation services in countries health systems and UHC strategies by responding to three learning objectives:

1. Learn about the importance of rehabilitation services and why are they an essential part of UHC
2. Share countries' experience with rehabilitation, including how its currently integrated in health systems and UHC strategies
3. Assess country demand for continued joint learning around rehabilitation and UHC



# Who is in the room?

- Representatives from Ministries of Health, private sector, civil society, development partners and practitioners
- 49 countries



# Opening remarks

With Kirsten Lentz, USAID and Kamiar Khajavi, JLN



# Icebreaker

Please submit your answers to the polls once the window appears on your screen.

## Polls:

1. Have you or someone you know experienced a need for rehabilitation? (Y/N)
2. Was the need for rehabilitation met? (Y/N)
3. Rehabilitation in my country is easily accessible for most people (Agree/Disagree)



# Rehabilitation as an Essential Part of UHC

Alarcos Cieza, MSc, MPH, PhD

Vision // Hearing // Rehabilitation // Disability

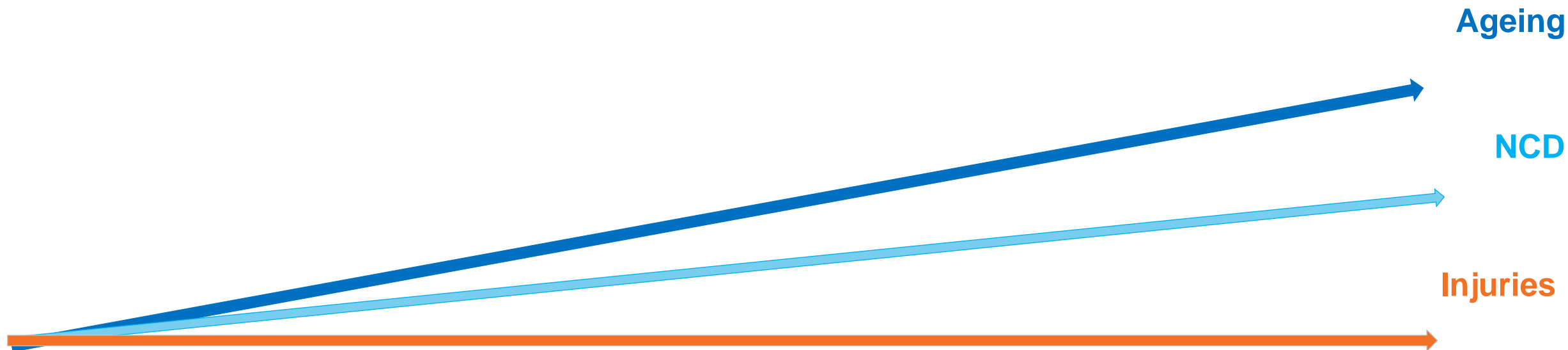
Department of Noncommunicable Diseases

**World Health Organization**

ciezaa@who.int | Twitter: @AlarcosC

# **A challenge in the changing world ...**

The number of people with limitations  
in functioning in everyday life



**Number of people with limitations in functioning associated to Covid-19 still to be seen**

Rehabilitation Category	Persons
<b>All</b>	<b>2,366,148,316</b>
Musculoskeletal disorders	1,596,649,206
Sensory impairments	649,151,912
Neurological disorders	296,277,078
Mental disorders	181,442,646
Chronic respiratory diseases	155,073,573
Cardiovascular diseases	42,787,394
Neoplasms	14,383,164

**WHO REHABILITATION NEEDS ESTIMATOR**

<https://vizhub.healthdata.org/rehabilitation/>

## Rehabilitation Optimizes Functioning

Communication



Mobility



Self-care



Ingestion





# Functioning

Sleeping

Relationships

Working

Breathing

Seeing

Moving around

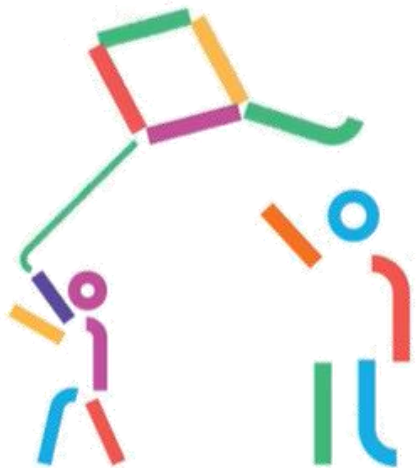
Managing stress

Dressing

Hearing

Communicating

Playing



2.4

Billion

**Demand**

people experience health  
conditions that could  
benefit from  
rehabilitation

**Supply**



**Demand**

Advocacy &  
partnerships



In many countries

**<50%**

receive the rehabilitation  
services they require



**Supply**

Technical  
Capacity



# Rehabilitation 2030

2017



<https://www.who.int/initiatives/rehabilitation-2030>

# Call to action

# Equity

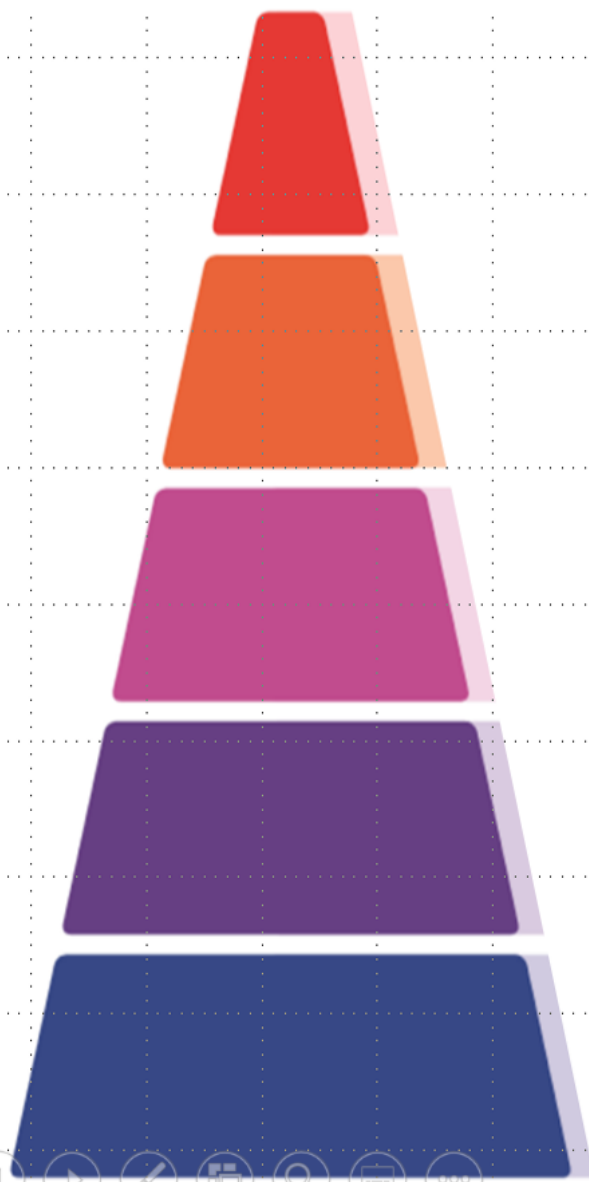
# Equity

Everyone who needs rehabilitation  
receives quality services to optimize  
and maintain their functioning in  
everyday life

# Universal Health Coverage

- Provision of **high-quality**, essential services for
  - Health promotion,
  - Prevention,
  - Treatment,
  - **Rehabilitation** and
  - palliation**according to need**
- Protection from **financial hardship**





## **SPECIALIZED, HIGH-INTENSITY REHABILITATION**

Predominantly tertiary care for people with complex rehabilitation needs during the acute and sub-acute phase of care. Commonly occurs in longer-stay rehabilitation hospitals, centres, units and departments.

## **REHABILITATION INTEGRATED INTO MEDICAL SPECIALTIES IN TERTIARY AND SECONDARY HEALTH CARE**

For people with less complex needs & often for a short period during the acute & sub-acute phase of care. Commonly occurs in tertiary and secondary level hospitals & clinics.

## **REHABILITATION INTEGRATED INTO PRIMARY CARE**

Delivered within the context of primary health care, which includes the services and professionals that act as a first point of contact into the health system. Commonly occurs in primary health care centres, practices and may include community settings.

## **COMMUNITY-DELIVERED REHABILITATION**

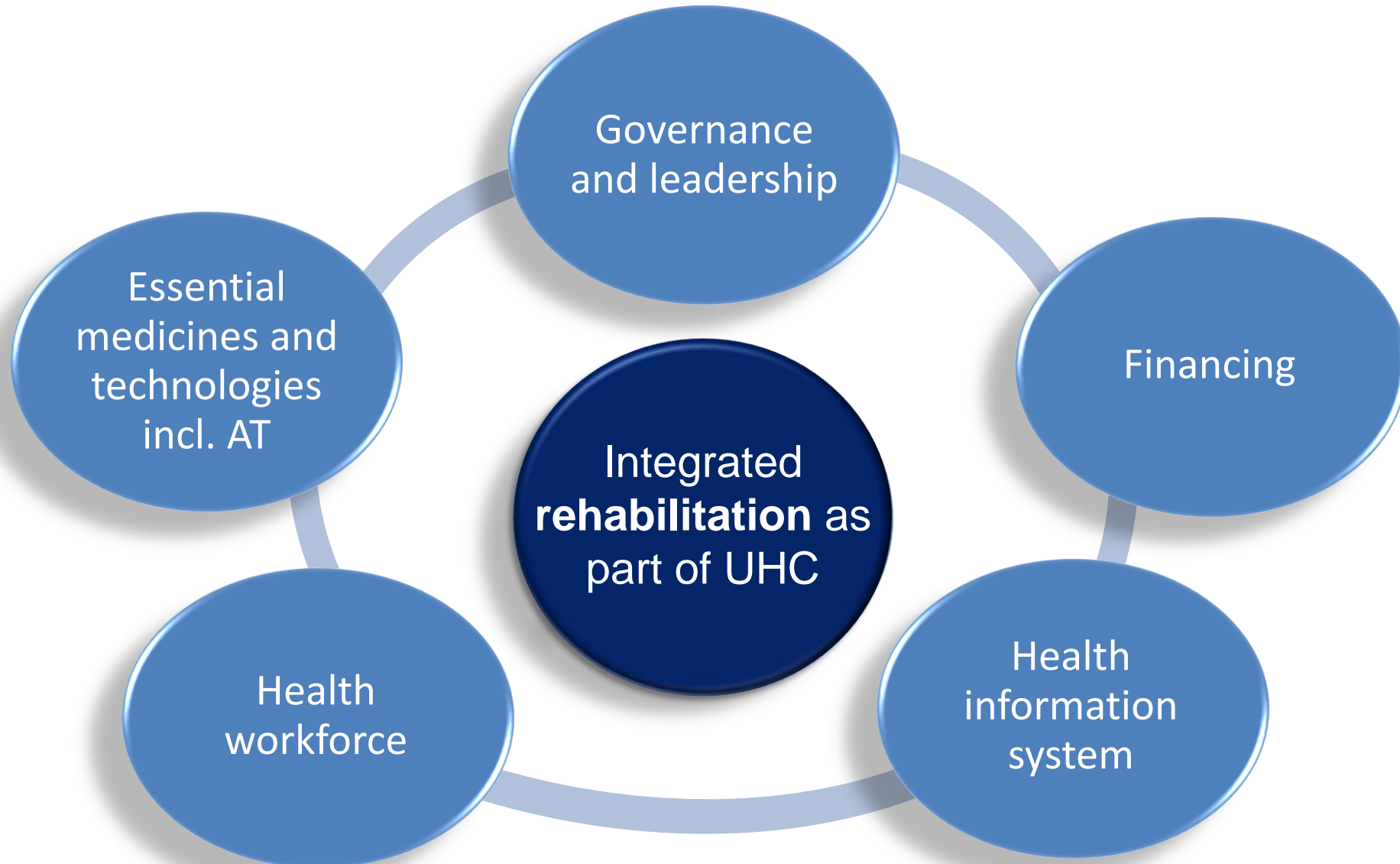
Predominantly secondary care delivered in community settings during the sub-acute and long-term phases of care. Commonly by means of multiple programmes that provide care in homes, schools, workplaces and other community settings.

## **INFORMAL AND SELF-DIRECTED REHABILITATION**

This form of rehabilitation occurs where no rehabilitation or health personnel are present. Commonly occurs in homes, schools, parks, health club or resorts, community centres and long-term care facilities.

Community-based  
réhabilitation  
services

## Strengthening the Health System

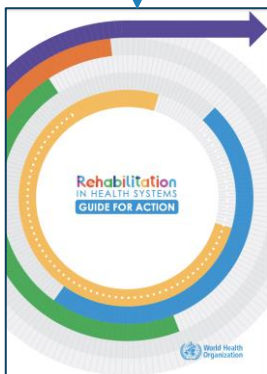


## Strengthening the Health System

The **systematic process** that Ministry of Health and relevant partners engage in **to build up** and **integrate** the six building blocks

# WHO technical tools to strengthen each building block

## Leadership and governance



## Information systems



DHIS2- REHAB  
MODULE

## Financing

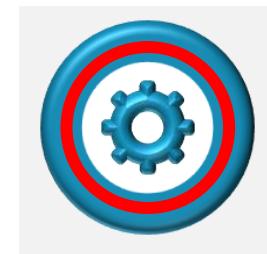


Rehabilitation in  
health financing  
technical resource

## Workforce

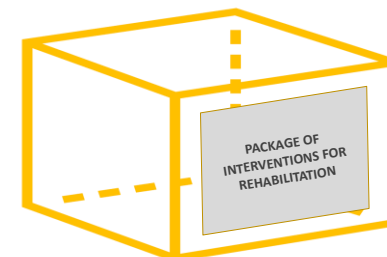
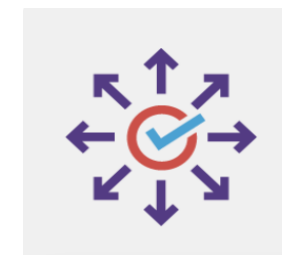


## Assistive Technology



GATE Global Cooperation on  
Assistive Technology

## Service delivery



# WHO technical products and tools

## Emergencies



Emergency  
Preparedness  
Toolkit

COVID-19  
Products

## Information systems



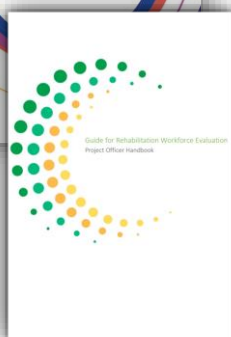
DHIS2- REHAB  
MODULE

Global Indicators

Functioning  
measure

Rehab Needs  
Estimator

## Workforce



## Financing

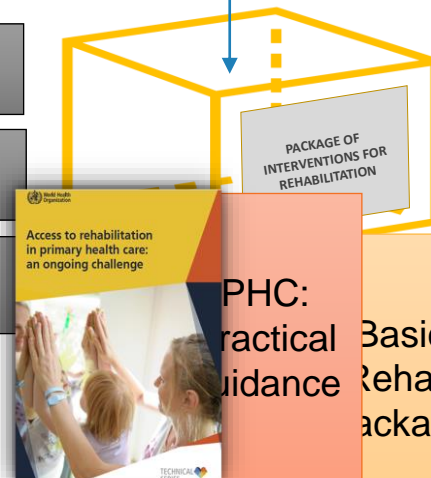


Rehab in Health  
Financing

Rehab Expenditure  
Tracking and Reporting

Rehab Return on  
Investment Case

## Service delivery



## Assistive Technology



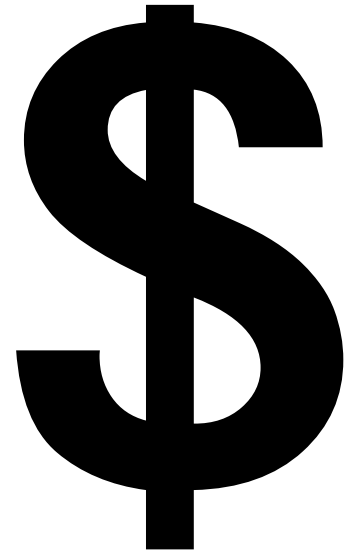
## Leadership and governance



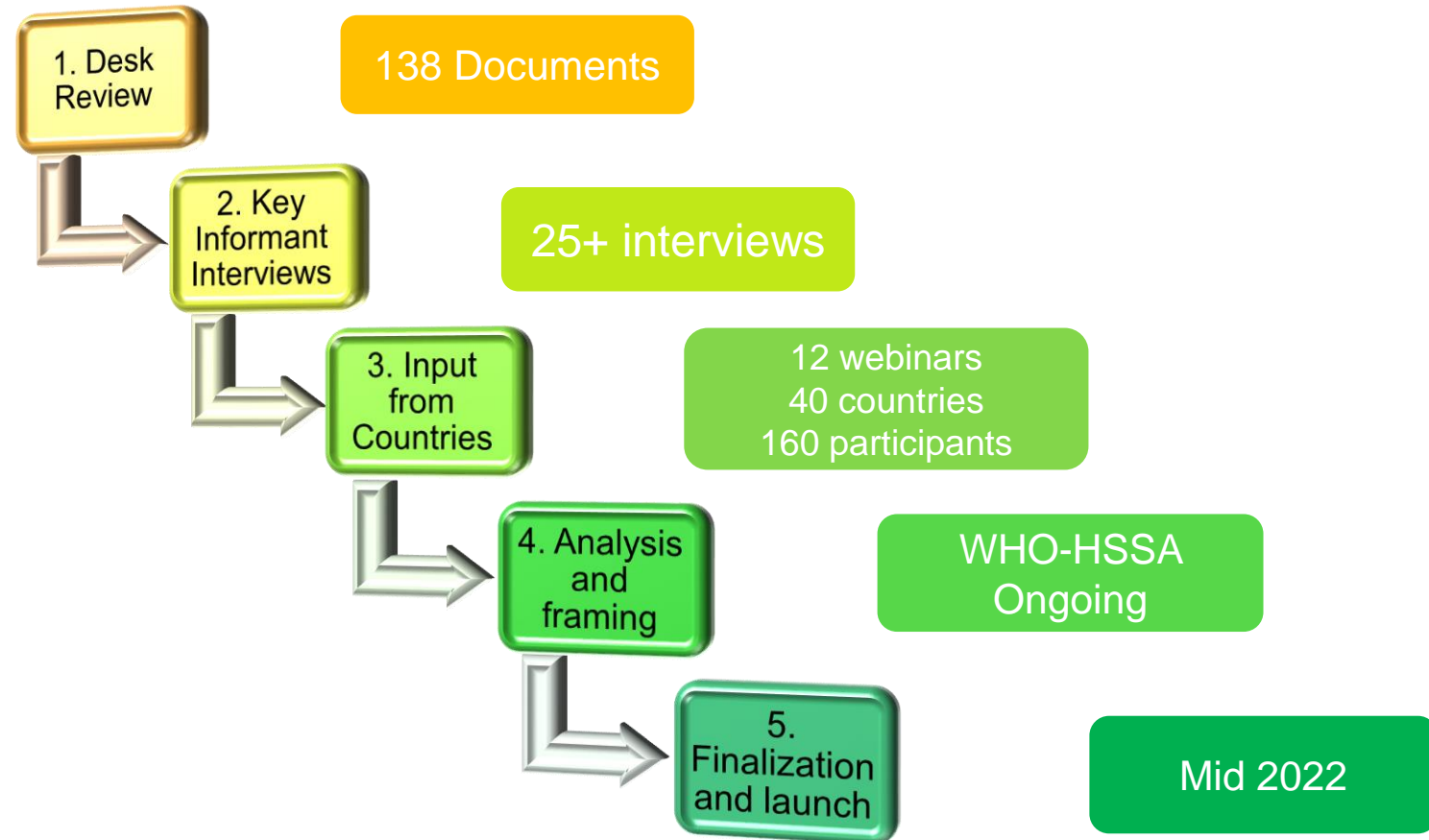


## To provide information to MoHs for

- service planning
- budgeting
- implementation



# Health Financing as part of UHC



**Coming soon....**



- To strengthen the rehabilitation workforce
- through supporting competency-based education, regulation, recruitment and other quality building initiatives



## Country Health Information System (HIS)

### Population-based data

Population-based surveys

Surveillance systems

Census

### Birth and death data

Birth and death  
registration

Causes of death

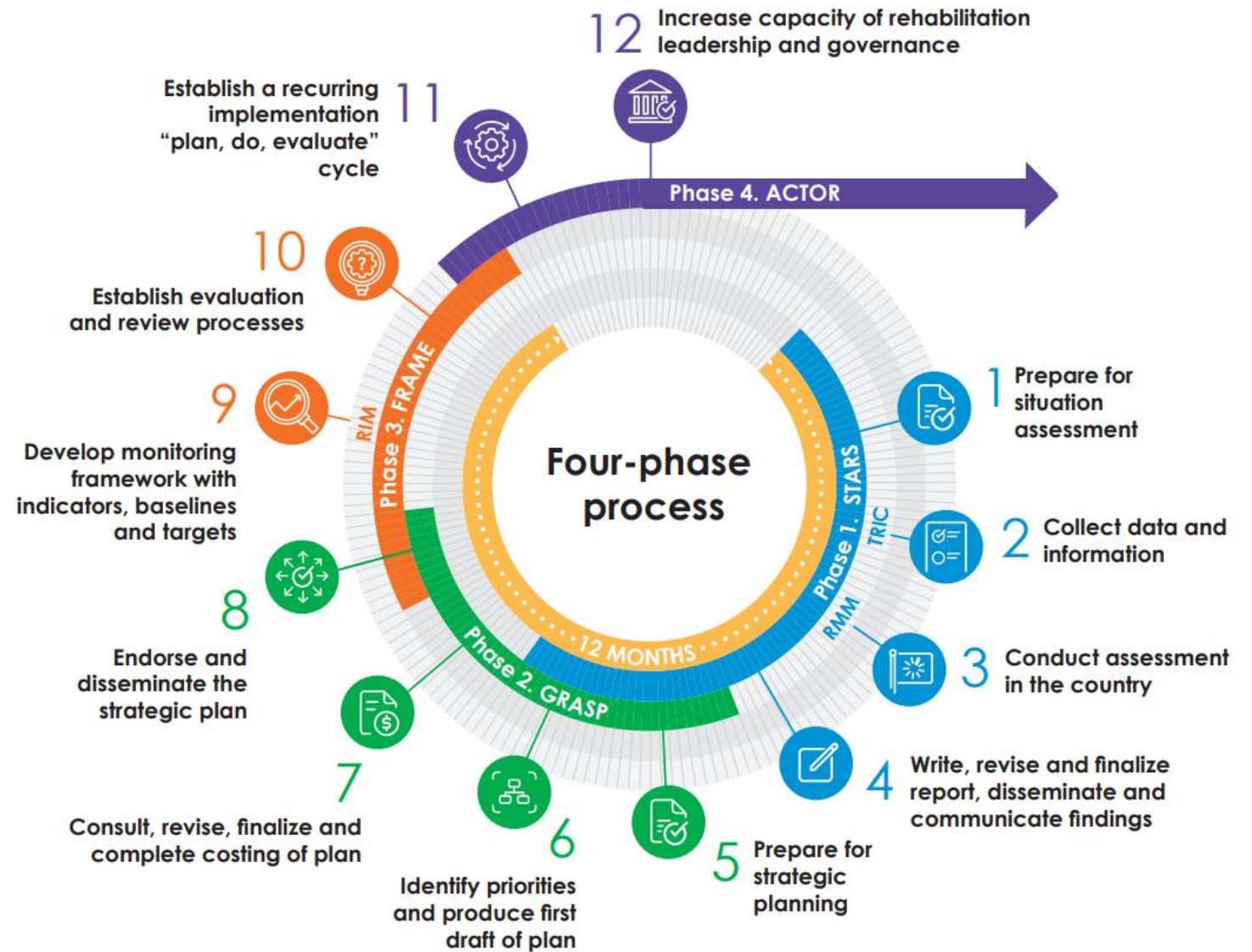
### Health Service Data

**Routine Health  
Information Systems  
(RHIS)**

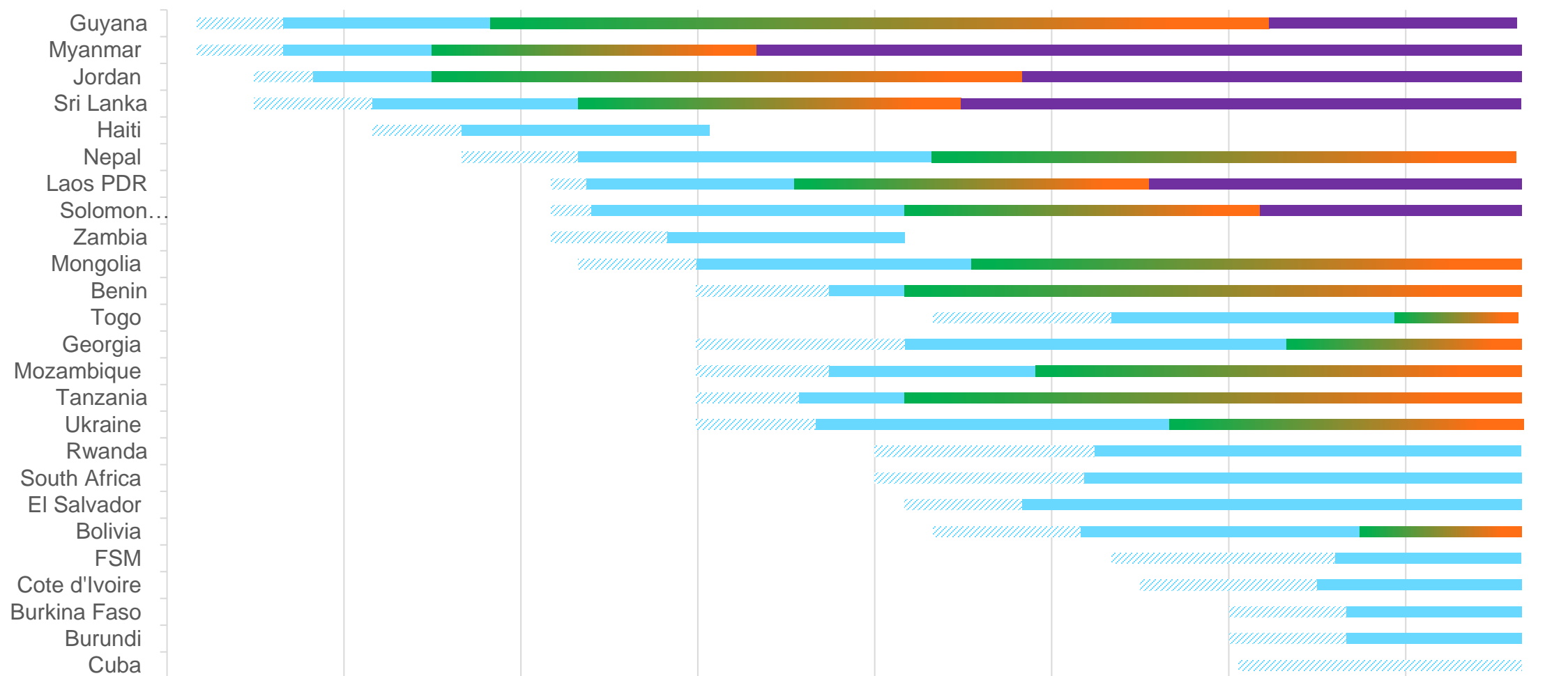
Health facility assessments

Health service resource  
data

## District Health Information System Module



# Country support with WHO Rehabilitation Guide for Action



Prep STARS Strategic Planning and Monitoring Framework Implementation

# The challenge

The number of people with limitations in functioning in everyday life...

... is waiting for all of us to continue working together to strengthen rehabilitation

**Thank you**

# Panel Session: Country experiences with rehabilitation and UHC



**Maryke Bezuidenhout**

Rural Physiotherapist,  
**South Africa**



**Dr. Akanle Olufunke**

Registrar/CEO at the  
Medical Rehabilitation  
Therapists Regional  
Board of **Nigeria** (MRTB)



**Dr. Adolfo Martinez Valle**

Steering Group Convener at  
JLN; Researcher and Professor  
of Policy, Population, and  
Health at Universidad  
Autonoma de **Mexico**

# **1. What does coverage for rehabilitation look like in your country and how has the COVID-19 pandemic affected this?**

Maryke Bezuidenhout, South Africa





## Highly unequal society

Upper middle-income; GDP = \$351 B1  
Gini coefficient = 0.63 (high)  
Human Capital index = 0.41 (low)  
Large informal sector; Tax base: 2.6 M3

## Inequality & fragmentation in health system

84% population access public sector; but 49% THE (salary)  
16% private sector; but 51% THE4 (FFS)  
Access, quality, retention in care, FRP

## Total Health Expenditure

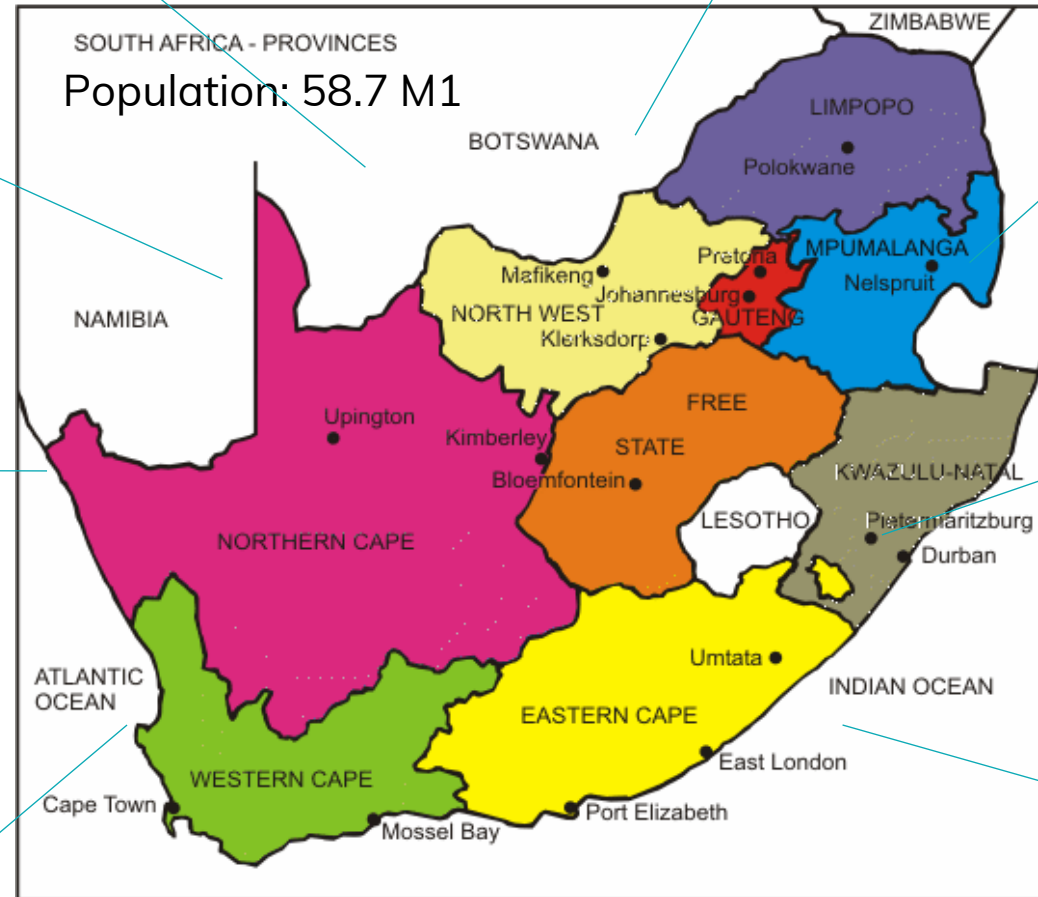
8.7% GDP spending for poor health outcomes

## Significant spending on welfare

R1.827 B on social spending5  
DG, CSG, OAP

## Low levels inter-sectoral collaboration

Policy to implementation



## Road Accident Fund

- Fuel levy
- Governance issues

## Workman's Compensation Fund

- Annual employer contributions
- Informal sector & enforcement of labor law

## Social determinants of health:

Historical inequalities and current challenges around governance / implementation



# Shifted all moderate and severe disability services to home level



- Address governance issues
- Explicit priority setting
- Amalgamation of separate patient databases
- Development of electronic patient management system
- Task sharing, role release
- Strengthened end user involvement in service delivery

Indicators : Cerebral palsy program 0-18 years	2018: 0-18yrs	2021: 0-18 yrs	2018: 0-5yrs	2021: 0-5 yrs	2018: 6-12yrs	2021: 6-12 yrs	2018: 13-17yrs	2021: 13-17 yrs
Number children: CP 0-18y	136	133	53	46	51	43	33	30
General rehabilitation program statistics: Cerebral Palsy services								
Seen for follow up rehab in last 6 months	61	113	31	36	22	40	7	26
Coverage rate: received at least one session in the last 6 months	45%	85%	58%	78%	43%	93%	21%	87%
Average number of rehab sessions received in last 6 months	2	4	1.3	6	0.7	4	0.5	3.7
Total number OPD/clinic sessions in 6 months	116	145	68	76	35	26	11	14
Total number home visit sessions in 6 months	14	518	No data	141	No data	161	No data	96
Average number rehabilitation home visits offered per month for cohort	2	86		24		27		16
Wheelchair and seating services: Cerebral Palsy								
Total eligible for seating device	104	141	34	35	30	38	21	26
Total received seating device	70	131	11	29	22	36	19	26
Seating coverage rate	67%	93%	32%	83%	73%	95%	90%	100%
Seating review rate: one follow up review in last year	33%	81%	0%	80%	17%	84%	50%	88%
Seating review rate: 2 follow ups reviews in last year	10%	65%	0%	64%	0%	76%	17%	60%
Average age at receiving first seating	12	10	4.4	2.1	7.5	6.5	11.5	10.6



# Supporting factors

- Improvements in data management
- Improvements in coordination of care
- Strengthening end-user involvement in service delivery
- Decentralizing care to community level

# **1. What does coverage for rehabilitation look like in your country and how has the COVID-19 pandemic affected this?**

Dr. Akanle Olufunke, Nigeria



# Rehabilitation in Nigeria

- As of 2020, there are reportedly **over 27 million Nigerians** living with some form of disabilities.
- The five most common types of disabilities in Nigeria are, **visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, intellectual impairment, and communication impairment.**
- It is urgent to support Nigeria to address the growth in demand for rehabilitation services that is
  - increasing with ageing populations,
  - the rising prevalence of non communicable diseases and
  - the increasing numbers of people living with the consequences of injury sustained as a result of high prevalence of insurgencies, terrorism and incessant road traffic accidents in Nigeria.

# Coverage for Rehabilitation in Nigeria

- Rehabilitation can be provided in many different settings– public or private– from **inpatient or outpatient hospital settings**, to **private clinics and NGOs**, **community settings such as an individual's home and industries**.
- The available rehabilitation services are in secondary and tertiary health facilities in urban areas, rarely rehabilitation services in the rural areas.
- Rehabilitation needs a multi-professional workforce and **inter-disciplinary collaboration** between these professionals. There are very few facilities that can adequately meet multi-professional rehabilitation needs.
- Currently in Nigeria there are about 6000 registered rehabilitation personnel for over 200 million population.
- Data that directly informs the unmet need of rehabilitation in Nigeria is not available.

# How COVID-19 has affected rehabilitation in Nigeria

Globally, many people are living with mid- and long-term consequences of COVID-19 and may be in need of rehabilitation to support their recovery from the disease. In Nigeria,

- There was finance priority given to COVID-19 related budget especially in 2020-2022 budgeting.
- The number of outpatients seen in a day was scaled down in order to avoid congestion and to give room for physical distancing.
- The prognosis of patients with disabling conditions were greatly affected, especially in physiotherapy and rehabilitation services
- Rehabilitation personnel are in highest risk of contracting the virus, therefore the mental state of healthcare providers including therapists is also affected. This is because their services require manual contact with patients.
- The isolation centers were not designed with infrastructure to meet the accessibility needs of patients with underlying disabling conditions
- Very few rehabilitation personnel were deployed/engaged in the isolation centers despite the critical roles some rehabilitation personnel played in cardiopulmonary management of patients with covid.
- Majorities of patients with underlying disabling conditions have no access to rehabilitation services, hence developed complication, some lead to death.
- There was patient's fear of contracting the virus, further exacerbated by widespread misinformation, misconception, and attitudes toward COVID-19 in the hospital

# **1. What does coverage for rehabilitation look like in your country and how has the COVID-19 pandemic affected this?**

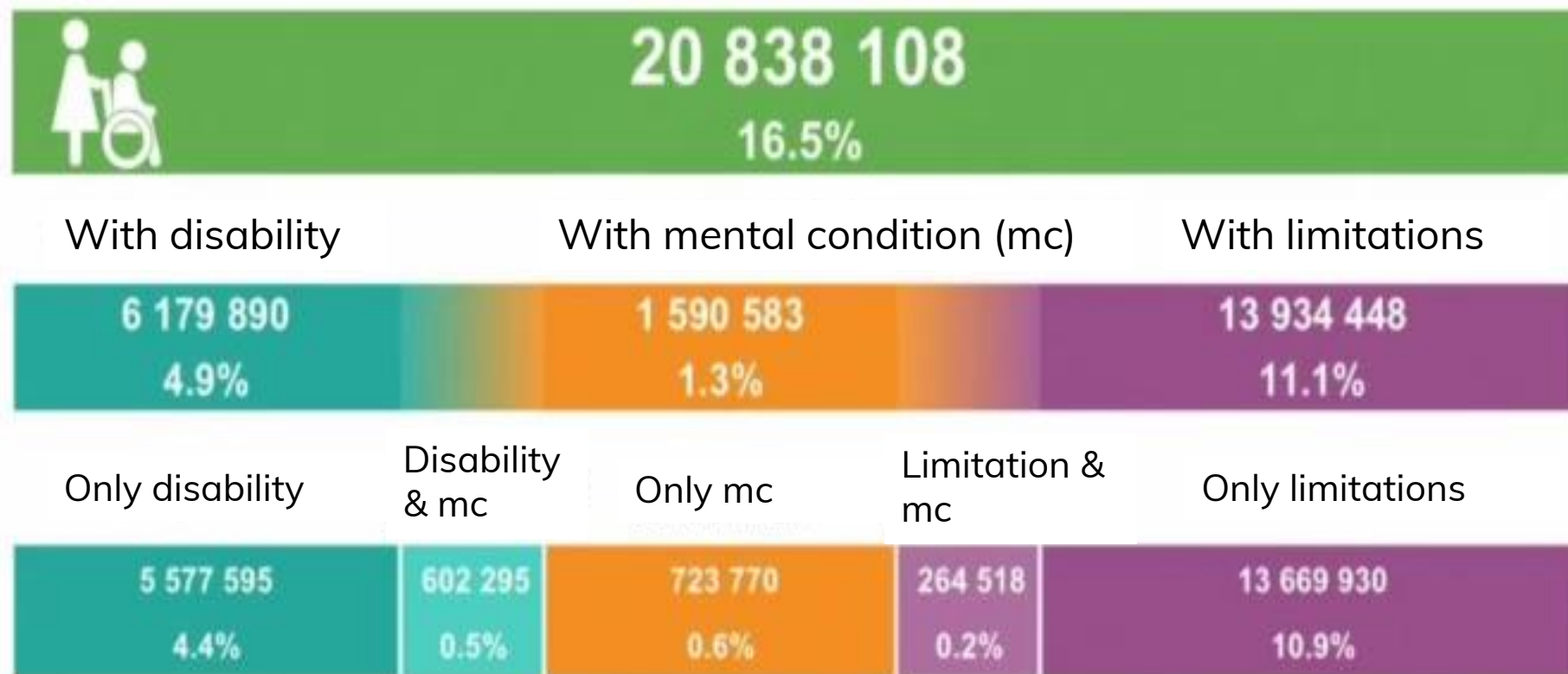
Dr. Adolfo Martinez Valle, Mexico



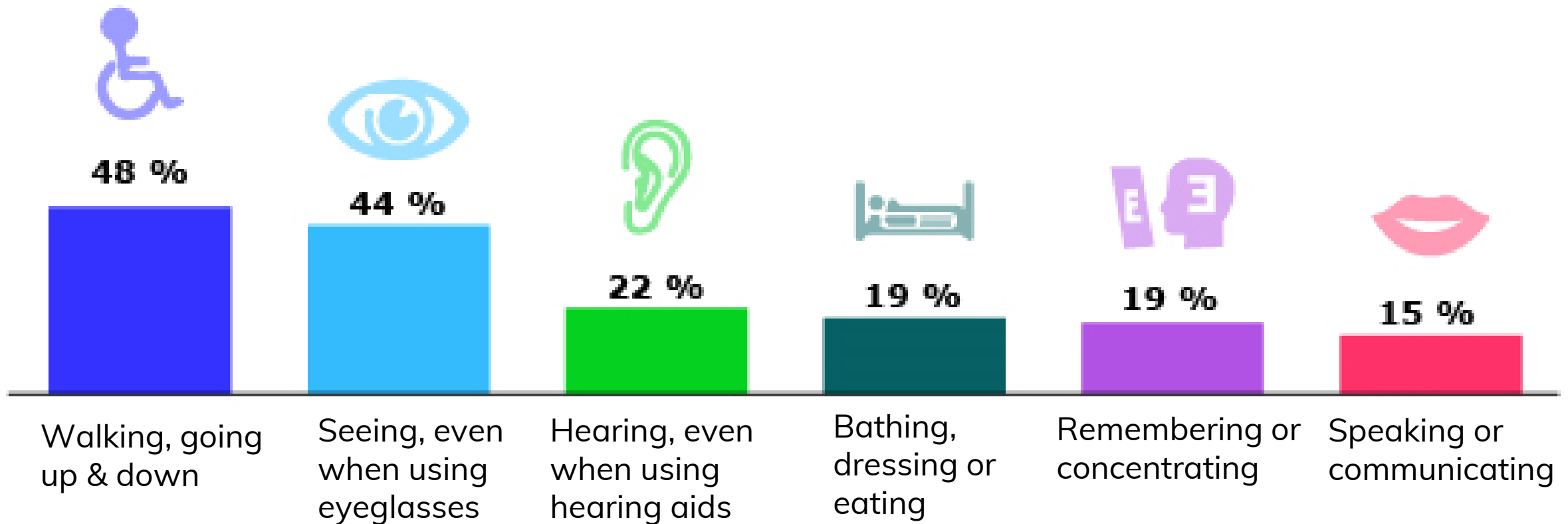


# Who needs rehabilitation in Mexico?

Population with disability (in thousands)

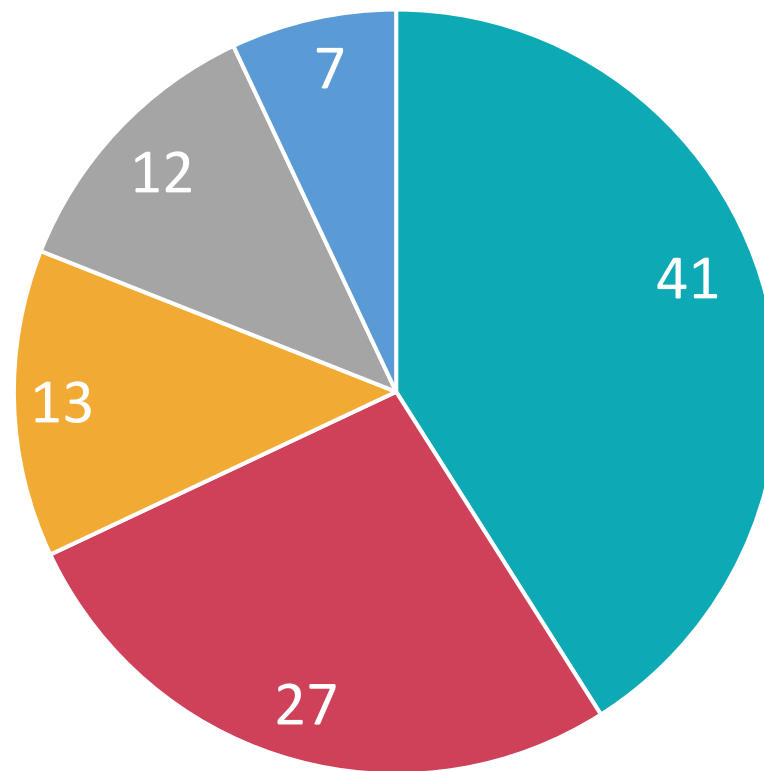


# Difficulty of activities associated with disability



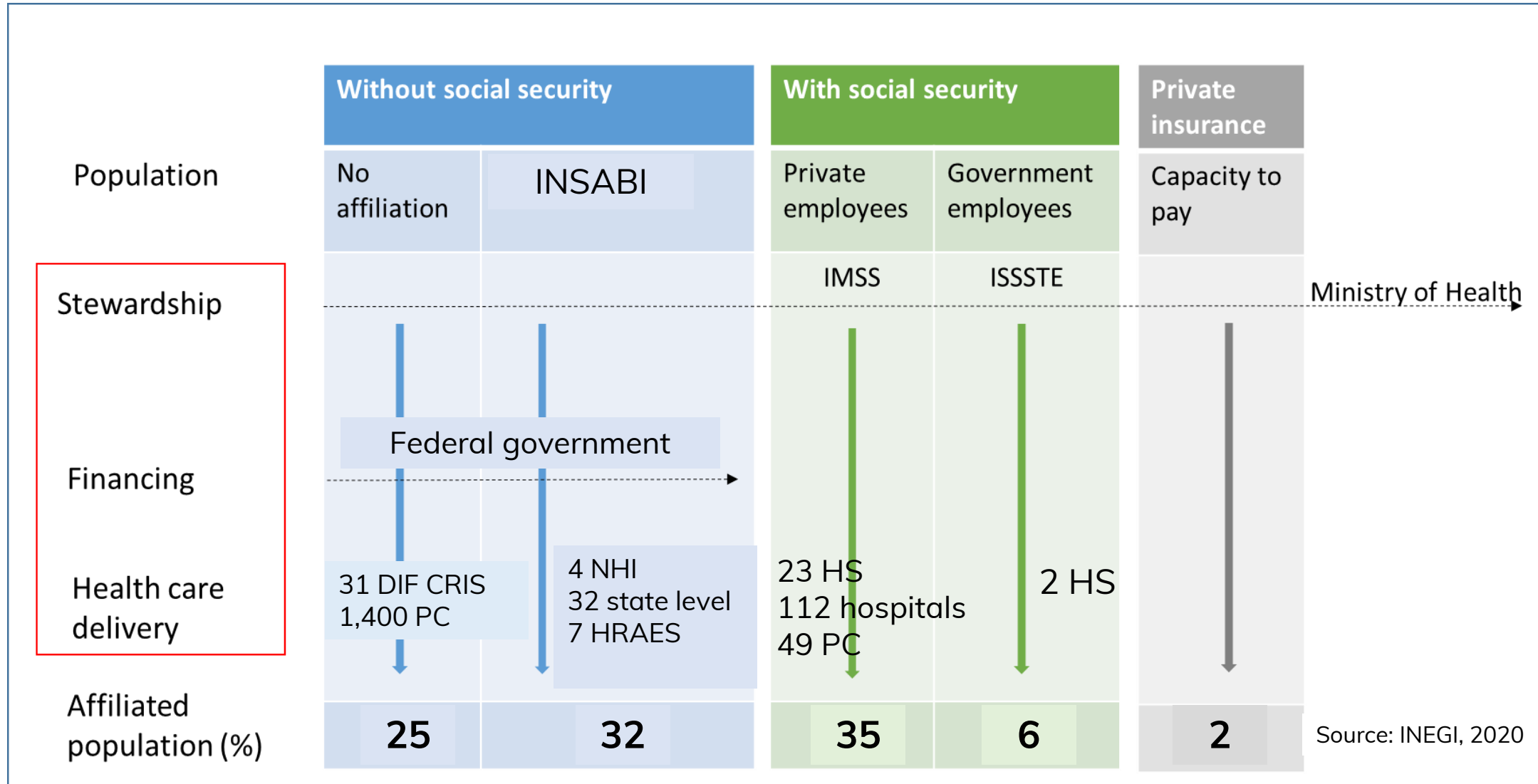
Source: INEGI, Census 2020

# Causes of disability & limitations (%), 2020



■ Illness ■ Old age ■ Birth ■ Injuries ■ Other

# Fragmented coverage for rehabilitation



**CRIS:** Integral Rehab Centers; **PC:** Primary Care Centers; **NHI:** National Institutes of Health; **HRAES:** Regional High Specialty Care; **HS:** Specialty Care

# Impact of COVID-19 on rehabilitation

Hard to measure, but given that it has not been a priority so far, it can be estimated that...



- Cancelled or delayed surgeries may have worsened health conditions
- Limited access to physiotherapy services during quarantine
- Delayed seeking of needed rehabilitation care due to fear of getting infected by COVID-19
- Cancelled regular rehabilitation services due to them not being considered essential
- Loss of mobility or functionality for people who had to stay home due to COVID-19
- Rehabilitation services needed for COVID-19 patients

## **2. What are the major challenges in ensuring service coverage?**

Dr. Akanle Olufunke, Nigeria



# Major challenges in ensuring rehabilitation service coverage in Nigeria

- Limited knowledge and understanding of rehabilitation by policy-makers
- Limited finances available to invest in rehabilitation
- Insufficient number of rehabilitation professionals
- Lack of state of arts equipped rehabilitation centers in Nigeria
- Undervalue, underemployment and underutilization of rehabilitation services at all levels of health care in Nigeria.
- Non integration of rehabilitation services into the primary health care.
- Poor referral system (Non referral or delay referral) due to poor or limited knowledge of some consultant health workers on the relevant of rehabilitation services as components of health service delivery.
- Inadequate coverage of rehabilitation services by National health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Just few sessions (max 5) of physiotherapy services which is not adequate for long term rehabilitation conditions.
- Limited training institutions for rehabilitation professionals in Nigeria.
- Poor infrastructures especially in rural areas to introduce tele-rehabilitation into the rehabilitation services in Nigeria.
- Socio-cultural and socio-economic factors among the patients that need rehabilitation services
- Poor level of awareness among the patient with disabling conditions on the relevance of rehabilitation services to their recovery.

# Way forward

- Many training institutions in Nigeria need to be aided by the development partners and international funding to **strengthen the training institutions in providing standard rehabilitation training facilities, robust curriculum and employment of lecturers for the training of rehabilitation professions** and carry out research of international standard to meet accreditation standards as set up by the regulatory board.
- “Brain drain” among the medical Rehabilitation professionals due to **unemployment, unsatisfactory remuneration, poor recognition and engagement, lack of conducive working environment, financial support and infrastructure** to carry out research on Rehabilitation in Nigeria.
  - Priority should be given to employment of rehabilitation professionals at all levels of health care including primary health care.
  - Increase the remunerations and allowances of rehabilitation professionals
  - Provide incentives for rural posting and provide enabling environment for their practice
  - Established a state of arts rehabilitation facilities that encourage multi-disciplinary approach to patient rehabilitation
  - Provide grants and funds for research and data collection to help evidence-based practice.
  - Provision should be made for exchanged programme in rehabilitation
  - Sponsorship and scholarship for continuing professional development in rehabilitation.



### **3. What are the major barriers for patients to receive care?**

Maryke Bezuidenhout, South Africa



# Barriers to uptake and retention in care

## Demand side barriers:

- Financial: including TRANSPORT
- Environmental
- Attitudinal
- Acceptability of care
- Quality of care
- Consistency of care
- Appropriateness of intervention
- Beliefs



## Supply side barriers:

- HR (incl mix), HRD.
- Budget & Supply chain
- Information management
- Governance and leadership
- SERVICE DESIGN



# Universal Health Care

- Service coverage
- Financial risk protection
- Equity

Data gap/assumption	Impact on % cohort experiencing CHE
Welfare grant income used as total household income	<b>Over-estimation</b> (subsistence farming, piece jobs, actual employment may incr. income- why consumption is usually used but no data)
Welfare grants shared equally amongst household	<b>Underestimation</b> (not all family members contribute equally to the ‘pot’)
Unable to estimate food expenditure or consumption	<b>Under-estimation</b> (this would reduce total amount available for additional things like transport)
Used transport cost as a major contributor towards healthcare expenditure, as all healthcare for PwD is free at point of care if they meet the means test- yet despite this, the level of centralization of a rehab service appears to have huge impact on uptake and retention in care.	<b>Over-estimation</b> , if using traditional definitions which exclude transport as part of healthcare expenditure
Additional costs such as productivity time lost/ loss of earnings/ additional costs of hiring a caregiver/task shifting not taken into account- no data	<b>Under-estimation</b> (this would increase cost of accessing healthcare)
Assumption that each clinical visit was effective and needed and of sufficient quality	May change if the onus is on the family to seek healthcare, even if all financial outlays equal (acceptability of care, perceived need)
Absence/infrequency of certain services (orthopedics, plastics, orthotics) reduce referrals and utilization rates	<b>Under-estimation</b> of need. If need realized, this would lead to increased OOPE.
Small sample size (80 households)	<b>Under or Over estimation</b>
Model only runs for 8 months	<b>Under-estimation</b> , as clients allocated to monthly, three monthly or six monthly visits according to severity of CP and age, as per Manguzi package of care
Lack of stratification of results (geographical location, quintiles etc)	Less insight into factors affecting equity in access

# Impact (UHC)

Threshold for CHE	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%
Current model	8%	8%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Clinic model	38%	18%	14%	10%	9%	6%	5%	5%
Centralized hospital model	65%	49%	40%	26%	16%	14%	11%	8%

*South Africa's CHE is estimated at a mere 1.4% at a 10% threshold*



**Design the service to fit the patient. Don't make the patient fit the service**

- (Maryke 'because I say so' <sup>TM</sup>)

**4. We often hear that rehabilitation is underprioritized by policymakers and in UHC strategies. What has your experience been with this and how can it be overcome?**

Dr. Adolfo Martinez Valle, Mexico



# Challenges for implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation agenda

## Political will

- Needed to raise it in the public health agenda
- The 1st national plan established in 2007, but since 2015 has lost momentum

## Multisectorial approach

- Address disability through a systemic lens

## Integrated & comprehensive coverage

- Address the fragmented financing and provision of rehabilitation services

## Professional training

- Addressing all rehab needs
- More equitable allocation



## 5. How can rehabilitation services be incorporated as part of primary health care?

Maryke Bezuidenhout, South Africa





# Integrating rehabilitation into primary health care

- Two-pronged approach
- Policy is often weak
- Bureaucratic cultures limit access and innovation
- Innovation vs piloting for scalability
- Governance, leadership, financing limited
- Convincing arguments with relevant data



# Policy and practice: PHC-R

## PHC Re-engineering strategy supporting NHI

- Little mention of rehab at community level
- Nurse-led outreach team decentralized
- Bottom-up solutions and implementation
- Sharing scarce resources
- Increased visibility of rehab clients: advocacy and accountability
- Both sides and the patients gain



# Policy and practice: FSDR

## Framework & Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation: Peer support

- FSDR: part of rehab team
- No current training, regulating body, posts
- Local donor funded NPOs step in
- ++ by therapists to strengthen PS NPO and integrate their services
- Support from DoH for wheelchair repairer
- Cost saving strategy yet not formally implemented or scaled



# Why integrate?

- Improves **coverage of care**
- Improves **equity**
- Improves **financial risk protection** for some of the most vulnerable

## **5. How can rehabilitation services be incorporated as part of primary health care?**

Dr. Akanle Olufunke, Nigeria



# How rehabilitation can be a part of PHC in Nigeria

- Workforce:
  - Increase the number of **rehabilitation personnel in PHC** through **greater investment in education and training** programs, and incentives for practice in the community
  - Increase the **capacity and training of general practitioners** in the early identification of functioning decline, referral to rehabilitation and follow up.
  - Optimize **rehabilitation workforce performance, retention, and distribution** through investing in sound supervisory structures, professional development opportunities, accredited training institutions, and professional associations
- Build **effective rehabilitation referral processes**, increasing opportunities for collaboration between rehabilitation providers and other primary health care workers
- Introduce tele-rehabilitation to support general practitioners in the PHC context
- Create and **strengthen leadership and political support for the provision of assistive products in PHC**
- Ensure that information on rehabilitation access, needs, and effectiveness is integrated into PHC information management systems
- Expand the National Health Insurance scheme to cover rehabilitation services

## **5. How can rehabilitation services be incorporated as part of primary health care?**

Dr. Adolfo Martinez Valle, Mexico





# How rehabilitation can be incorporated as part of PHC in Mexico



49 primary care centers



31 comprehensive centers & nearly 2,000 basic units



Designed a new PHC model, which in theory will cover rehab through a communitarian approach, but it has not estimated the financial, material and human resources needed to meet the demand



# Questions from our audience

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**If you had to prioritize one thing over the next year to improve rehabilitation in your country, what would you focus on?**



# Closing





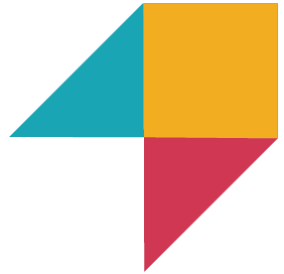
**What questions/topics would you like to explore further in a future learning exchange on rehabilitation and UHC?**

Please type your answers in the chat.



# Next steps

- Webinar slides and recording will be shared
- Reach out to [HSSA4Integration@r4d.org](mailto:HSSA4Integration@r4d.org) to learn more about rehabilitation and UHC



# HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING ACCELERATOR



JOINT  
LEARNING  
NETWORK  
*For Universal Health Coverage*



## Thank You