

Wheelchair Service Training Package

Following the release in 2008 of Guidelines on the provision of Manual Wheelchairs in less resourced settings, WHO, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has initiated the development of a Wheelchair service training package for different levels of personnel.

The wheelchair is one of the most common assistive devices. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) highlights the responsibility of states to ensure personal mobility and to promote the availability of and access to such devices. It is estimated that 70 million people require wheelchairs worldwide, yet only 5-15% of people have access. Wheelchair service provision is very underdeveloped across the world. People in developing countries often depend on donated wheelchairs, which are frequently of poor quality and not suitable either for the users or their environment. Health and rehabilitation professionals are not always trained adequately to ensure people with disabilities get a quality wheelchair.

Wheelchair Service Training Package: Basic Level (WSTP-B) - 23rd -27th MARCH, 2015

The Wheelchair Service Training Package: Basic Level is the first of the planned series of Training Packages which will support improvements in wheelchair service provision. This Training Package is to develop the skills and knowledge of personnel involved in wheelchair service delivery. Delivery of training package will help to:

1. Increase the number of wheelchair users who receive a wheelchair which meets their needs;
2. Increase the number of wheelchair users who receive training in the use and maintenance of wheelchairs and how to stay healthy in a wheelchair;
3. Increase the number of personnel trained in basic-level wheelchair service delivery;
4. Improve the competencies of wheelchair service providers and therefore the quality of wheelchair service delivery and
5. Achieve greater integration of wheelchair service delivery into rehabilitation services.

The Training Package may be delivered within 40 hours, however this may be extended or reduced according to the specific needs and resources available in each context. Further practice with a mentor is encouraged to build competencies and enhance capacity for independent practice.

We hope to see the Wheelchair Service Training Package delivered as both a stand-alone short course for personnel already working in the field; and integrated into the curricula of rehabilitation