Research has indicated that many individuals with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, do not receive effective treatment and appropriate devices due to healthcare workers’ lack of training in early-stage disability identification. This training is crucial for ensuring timely and appropriate support.

Mobility India, in partnership with the Public Affairs Foundation (PAF) and the Society for Community Health Awareness, Research, and Action (SOCHARA), conducted a distinctive training program titled "Strengthening Early Identification of Disability at Primary Healthcare Level in Three Districts: Tumkur, Chamarajanagar, and Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka."

The program hosted 287 participants, predominantly ASHA workers (97% women), Village Rehabilitation Workers (VRWs), Multipurpose Rehabilitation Workers (MRWs), and their supervisors. In addition, 16 officials from the Health & Family Welfare Department took part in the training. District officials, including Tahsildars and Health Officers, inaugurated the training sessions in each location to lend support to the initiative.

During the training, healthcare workers were educated on early disability identification and trained on how to connect individuals with disabilities to necessary resources such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and clinics. They also became familiar with the World Health Organization’s Assistive Products List. This knowledge is essential for making a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The participants left the training feeling confident in their ability to support individuals with disabilities.
Awareness Program for Anganwadi Workers on Early Intervention and Child Care

A series of four awareness programs for Anganwadi workers was organized, focusing on "Early Intervention and Identification for Childcare." Mr. Chand Pasha from the Spastic Society, Bangalore, graced these sessions as the resource person, bringing valuable insights into positional devices, Activities of Daily Living (ADL), and various rehabilitation services, including the Matru Vandana program. 330 Anganwadi workers participated and gained knowledge and skills for early intervention in childcare, highlighting the importance of their role in fostering the health and well-being of children in their formative years.

Disability and Early Identification Training Programs

Mobility India recently conducted two training sessions on 'Disability and Early Identification' for rehabilitation workers in the Bengaluru Urban District. The sessions were tailored for Urban Rehabilitation workers, Village Rehabilitation workers, Multiple Rehabilitation workers, and ASHA workers from Bengaluru South Block.

The training program was inaugurated by Mrs. Yamuna, District Disabled Welfare Officer of Bengaluru Urban District, and Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director of Mobility India.

The training programs were enriched by the resource persons Mr. Guru, an Orthotist and Prosthetist, Mrs. Akkamma, and Ms. Nagamma, Rehabilitation Therapy assistants, and the sessions covered a wide range of topics.

Key subjects covered included the classification of disability, old and new definitions of disability, the 21 types of disabilities, aims of rehabilitation, common disability conditions and their interventions, potential risk factors, early signs of disabilities, the importance of early identification, preventive measures, orthotic and therapeutic interventions, and referral pathways.

The training saw active participation from 118 individuals. Feedback from participants was very positive, with and many of them expressed their satisfaction with regard to the knowledge gained. The training empowered them to better identify individuals with disabilities in their respective areas and refer them to appropriate rehabilitation services.
A workshop on March 14th, 2024, marked a significant step towards inclusive education at Pattana Panchayath Turuvekere. Fifty Anganavadi workers gathered to enhance their skills in supporting children with delayed developmental milestones.

Led by Mr. Chand Pasha, the workshop fostered collaborative learning as participants were grouped to explore various educational strategies. They delved into Fine Motor and Gross Motor play activities to understand colors, utilized low-cost materials for Activities of Daily Living (ADL), and engaged in exercises promoting social development.

The hands-on experience also included covered topics related to learning about the environment, shapes, and mathematics, equipping the workers with a comprehensive toolkit for fostering inclusivity in schools.

Workshop on Disability and Early Identification, Intervention, and the Importance of Nutrition for Children

Four informative workshops on Disability and Early Identification, Intervention and the Importance of Nutrition for Children were held.

These workshops targeted ASHA workers from Bengaluru South Block, Urban Rehabilitation Workers from Bengaluru Urban District, Village Rehabilitation Workers, and Multiple Rehabilitation Workers. 158 participants gained valuable knowledge from resource persons Ms. Nethra (Senior Supervisor, Women and Child Development Department), Mr. Guru (Orthotist and Prosthetist), and Mrs. Akkamma (Therapist) were the resource persons who provided valuable insights to the 158 participants of the workshop.

The program was inaugurated by distinguished guests: Mr. Swamy (Senior Health Officer, H. Siddaiah Road Urban Primary Health Centre, Bengaluru), Mrs. Ritu Ghosh (Academic Director, Mobility India), and Mr. Anand S N (Senior Program Manager, CBID, Mobility India).

Participants learned about disability classifications, new and old definitions, the 21 types of disabilities, rehabilitation goals and interventions, early identification, preventive measures, and therapeutic/orthotic interventions. Empowered with this knowledge, participants expressed confidence in supporting people with disabilities in their communities and guiding them towards appropriate treatment centers.
Mobility India hosted the RCI CRE webinar, showcasing the latest advancements in rehabilitation technology. The event, focused on complex rehab technology for power wheelchairs, featured Mr. Navid Dadbin, the Regional Physical Rehabilitation Project Manager at ICRC New Delhi, as the keynote speaker.

The webinar also boasted an impressive roster of experts, including Dr. Anand Mhatre, Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University, USA; Mr. Dilip Patro, Director of The Ability People (TAP) Visakhapatnam; Ms. Soumyashree Pati, a Physiotherapist at MI; Mr. Naorem Dhanamani Singh, Senior Clinic Trainer at MI; and Ms. Sudiptha Pradhan, a Prosthest & Orthost at MI.

Spanning four hours, the webinar offered in-depth insights into complex rehab technology and the selection of power wheelchairs. It featured presentations, product demonstrations, and discussions, emphasizing a user-centric approach. Dr. Anand Mhatre highlighted the significance of complex rehab technology, while Mr. Dilip Patro shared insights on user perspectives and challenges. The sessions also included open discussions, product demonstrations, and interactive Q&A sessions, enabling an enriching learning experience for participants.

The webinar was attended by 104 participants from diverse backgrounds, including physiotherapists, prosthetists and orthotists, special educators, and students pursuing prosthetics and orthotics. These professionals hailed from various states in India, as well as international locations like Somalia and Afghanistan. With experiences in the rehabilitation field ranging from one to over ten years, they gained valuable knowledge on the complexities of selecting power wheelchairs. This event fostered knowledge exchange among professionals and enhanced the quality of life for individuals with mobility challenges.
Mobility India understands the importance of parental support and engagement in the rehabilitation process. Two orientation programs for parents on raising awareness about speech and hearing issues and their therapeutic interventions, were successfully held conducted in Chikkanayakanahalli and Chamarajanagar in which 92 parents participated.

During the sessions, parents were provided with kits containing materials for home-based training activities. These tools are designed to assist parents in effectively supporting their children's development at home. The program saw an enthusiastic response from the attendees. Parents actively engaged in one-on-one interactions to gain a deeper understanding of home training methods and the various activities that can be implemented to support their children's progress.

The orientation program was a significant step towards empowering parents with knowledge and resources needed for the betterment of their children’s speech and hearing capabilities.

Mobility India conducted a capacity-building workshop focusing on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for parents of adults with intellectual disabilities. The workshop aimed to address the challenges faced by parents of adult children due to stigma and lack of knowledge in rural areas, with regard to their caregiving, can lead to feelings of unpreparedness in caring for their adult children. The training provided essential ADL skills and guidance on navigating the Nirmaya Scheme, a government program supporting low-income families. The event, inaugurated by Mr. Madhu from NIMHANS, saw over 115 children with disabilities and their parents participate, gaining valuable knowledge and confidence in their journey towards independence.

In a similar vein, Mobility India hosted a training session on Early Intervention and ADL Skills for caregivers and parents of children with disabilities in Bangalore. The session, was led by experts who covered various aspects of disability, including early identification, intervention strategies, and the crucial role of parents in these processes. Dr. Shreya Gopal and Ms. Albina Shankar inaugurated the program, which was attended by 170 parents and children. The session was successful in equipping participants with practical skills and insights for better caregiving.
Providing essential knowledge and skills for daily living.
• Promoting early intervention for a better future.
• Building confidence and fostering independence among children with disabilities and their parents.
• Highlighting government support programs like the Nirmaya Scheme.

Through these initiatives, Mobility India continues to create a more inclusive and supportive environment, ensuring that every child and adult with a disability can lead a fulfilling life.

Mobility India's Collaborative Training on Inclusive Education for SDMC Members

Mobility India, in partnership with the Education Department of Turuvekere, organized a training session for members of the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC). Held at the BRC center in Turuvekere, the session focused on the theme of "SDMC in Inclusive Education."

The program featured an interactive briefing that enlightened the SDMC members about their roles and responsibilities. It also provided information on the facilities available for Children with Disabilities (CWDs) in government departments, emphasizing how these resources can support the rehabilitation and educational needs of these children.

The event was attended by 30 SDMC members, staff from Mobility India, and BIERT Mamata. Their participation underscored a shared commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment where children of all abilities have equal opportunities to learn and thrive.

Inclusive Education Training Session for BIERTs and Teachers

Mobility India organized a training session for District Block Inclusive Education Resource Teachers (BIERTs) and government school teachers at BRC Chamarajanagara. The training, expertly facilitated by Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Rajanna, was centered on "Classroom Management and Individualized Education Programs (IEP)."

The sessions were geared towards equipping educators with strategies for effectively involving children with disabilities in classroom activities. This included the use of arts, crafts, and songs as tools for engagement. Additionally, the training delved deep into the intricacies of IEPs, covering topics such as aims, objectives, parental roles, and planning methods. A notable feature of the training was group activities, where participants collaborated to plan IEPs for children with specific disabilities.

50 members (45 teachers and 5 BIERTs) participated. The primary goal of this training was to empower educators with practical approaches to foster and enhance inclusive education in their classrooms, ensuring that children of all abilities receive a well-rounded and supportive educational experience.
District-level Children Parliament Program Report

District-level Children Parliament program was organized by UNICEF, Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO) Bangalore, and Mobility India. This collaborative effort also involved the Zillah Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Authority, Education Department, District Children’s Protection Unit Chamarajanagara, and several NGOs including Holy Cross Organization Hanuru, PMSR Organization Kollegala, Kailas Satyarthi Foundation, and YDCT Gundlupet.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Anand Prakash Meena, IAS, Chief Executive Officer of Zillah Zilla Panchayat Chamarajanagara. Other dignitaries were Mr. Shridhar M, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, and representatives from the education department, Mr. Ramachandra Raje Urs, Mr. Kashinath, and Mr. Lakshmipathi who graced the occasion.

The program focused on five components aligned with sustainable developmental goals: implementation of Kalika Chetarike, violence against children and child rights, malnutrition, universal immunity, and climate change. The children formed groups to discuss these topics and later presented issues they face in their villages, schools, and neighbourhood. These issues ranged from child marriage and sexual harassment to sanitation, school facilities, transportation, and accessibility challenges.

39 children (19 females, 15 males, including 3 males and 2 females with disabilities) participated. Two children were selected for the state-level Parliament: Pavan from Std IX 9th Std, Govt High School, Hosamalangi, Kollegala Taluk (Child with disability), and Manasa from 10th Std X, Govt High School, Kesturu, Yalanduru Taluk.

The program also saw the participation of 80 members, including Education Department and District Child Protection Unit officers, and NGO members, all dedicated to addressing and resolving the issues raised by the young parliamentarians.

State-level Children Parliament (November 20th-21st, 2023)

The State-level Children Parliament, held on November 20th and 21st November, 2023, witnessed dynamic discussions on various issues, including Kalika Chetarike, violence, malnutrition, universal immunity, and climate change. A key focus of the discussions, as emphasized by Nagannagowda, was child protection. Selected children from the groups presented their insights on these issues.

On the second day, the participants had the unique opportunity to visit Vidhana Soudha and the cabinet hall assembly. The chief guest expressed immense pride in the participation of children from 28 districts. The event saw the attendance of 82 members, including 44 children from these districts, 38 NGO members, and two notable students from Chamarajanagara District-Pavan, a 9th standard student from Hosamalangi, and Manasa, a 10th standard student from Kesturu.
Makkala Grama Sabhas: Three additional meetings were conducted in Badanaguppe, Sagade, Kottalavadi, and Maleyuru villages. These sessions focused on empowering children by providing a platform to voice their needs. 975 children participated, raising concerns about accessible toilets, playground equipment, computer training, and physical education teachers. Mobility India provided ADL devices to 3 children following the event.

Residents were directed to the Department of Legal Services Authority and the Department of Empowerment of Senior Citizens for further support.

The program also benefited people with disabilities by providing assistive devices such as crutches, walkers, and toilet/bath chairs. A positive outcome was the improved understanding among Panchayat leaders regarding the number of people with disabilities in their village, allowing for more targeted support.

The program was attended by various stakeholders, including Anganwadi supervisors and workers, Asha workers, health department nurses, teachers, Gram Panchayath Secretary PDOs, and Gram Panchayath Presidents.

Children's Day Celebration (November 27th, 2023)

Mobility India (MI) took part in the International Children's Day celebration program held at Naveeluru Gram Panchayath on November 27th, 2023. The event was organized by the DCPO unit in Chamarajanagara and inaugurated by Mr. Shridhar M, Senior Civil Judge, and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. In his address, Mr. Shridhar M enlightened the audience on child rights, child labor, and the Child Marriage Act.

The event was marked by the participation of 100 children and teachers, contributing significantly to its success. It served as an essential platform for raising awareness about issues affecting children and promoting their overall well-being.
International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2023
The theme was - United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities.

@ Bangalore centre- MI team participated in a rally, organized by Department for the Empowerment of Differently abled and Senior citizens spreading awareness about the rights and entitlements of person with disabilities. MI displayed all the assistive devices/products at a stall put up to create awareness. The stall was graced by the presence of Mrs. Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Minister of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, she was briefed on the activities of MI and invited to visit the centre.

@ Tumkur – MI organized a fitment program and provided 12 assistive devices to 8 children and 2 adults with disabilities.

@ Chamrajnagar – MI had a stall displaying all the assistive devices/products that is provided by Mobility India. Ms. Shilpa Nag, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, was oriented on the activities of MI.

On December 28, 2023, Mobility India, in collaboration with Department of Education celebrated World Disabled Day at the BRC office in Turuvekere. The event, inaugurated unconventionally by BEO Manager Mr. Krishnaprasad with lamps filled with water instead of oil, aimed to challenge social myths. Mobility India distributed 5 ID kits to children with intellectual disabilities and organized sports events like ball and bucket, lemon spoon running, and running races, awarding prizes to winners and gifts to all participants.

Mr. Anand SN shared information about Mobility India activities in various regions, including Tumkur, Chamrajnagar, Assam, and other parts of India. He also shared statistical information on rehabilitation efforts, such as screenings and assistive device distributions.
Mr. Krishna Prasad emphasized the need for support rather than sympathy for children with disabilities (CWDs), citing examples of those who have achieved significant milestones, including passing IAS, IPS exams, and participating in Paralympic Games. He lauded Mobility India’s efforts in rehabilitation and promoting inclusive education in Turuvekere over the past two years.

The event featured sports events for ID children, including bucket in the ball, ball and bucket, running with lemon and spoon, and a running event, coordinated with the help of Physical Education Teacher Mrs. Savitramma GMHPBS Turuvekere. Thirty children participated, and the event was enjoyed by parents and children alike.

In attendance were BRP’s Suresh H, Suresh KN, Narasimhamurthi, 36 CWD children, 40 parents, 14 tutors, and 7 MI staff, totalling 94 participants. After the prize distribution, the program manager held an interactive session with community education center tutors to discuss the effectiveness and challenges of running CECs and future plans.

### Disability Disaster Risk Management: A Pioneering Workshop in Chamrajanagar

On January 17th, 2024, Chamrajanagar witnessed a groundbreaking workshop on Disability Disaster Risk Management (DDRM), conducted by Mr. Jayakumar C from NIMHANS. This workshop was crucial, as it addressed the urgent need for caregivers to be adept at caring for people with disabilities during natural and unforeseen calamities.

The workshop marked a first for the region, focusing on empowering Village Rehabilitation Workers, Multipurpose Rehabilitation Workers, and Urban Rehabilitation Workers. These key participants are often on the front lines when disasters strike, making their training essential for the well-being of those with disabilities.

Throughout the workshop, 120 members engaged in interactive group exercises designed to foster a supportive learning environment. The facilitators emphasized the importance of creating a space where participants could comfortably share experiences and learn collaboratively.

Key to the workshop were the core psychosocial techniques introduced to comfort people with disabilities during disasters. These included:

- Ventilation: Encouraging the open expression of thoughts and feelings.
- Empathy: Understanding and sharing the feelings of others.
- Active Listening: Fully concentrating on and understanding the speaker’s message.
- Social Support: Building a network that individuals can rely on during tough times.
- Externalization of Interest: Engaging in activities to divert attention from the distress caused by disasters.
- Relaxation and Spirituality: Utilizing methods to calm the mind and connect with one’s spiritual beliefs.

Additionally, the workshop covered essential preventive measures, the creation of a robust support network, and the maintenance of emergency supplies.
Career Guidance for SSLC Students

Career guidance session was conducted for SSLC students, illuminating the path to their future aspirations. The session was a beacon for young adults at the crossroads of their educational journey, providing them with the tools to discover their interests and align them with potential career paths.

Participants were equipped with knowledge about the skills and experiences necessary to make informed career choices. They were encouraged to take an active role in their academic pursuits, set achievable goals, and begin honing soft skills essential for workplace success.

Key topics included effective preparation strategies, mastering time and stress management, and the art of goal setting. Students also gained insights into selecting subject combinations that would lead them to their desired academic streams.

The event saw an enthusiastic turnout of 60 individuals, comprising 40 students and 20 parents, all eager to chart a course for success in the students’ future endeavours.

Breaking the Silence on Menstrual Hygiene

Mobility India is making a positive impact on the lives of adolescent girls with disabilities by tackling a critical but often neglected topic: menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

Menstruation is a natural biological process, yet it remains shrouded in silence and stigma, especially in government schools. This lack of open discussion can leave girls unprepared and uninformed, leading to potential health risks and anxieties.

To address this gap, Mobility India conducted 34 training sessions on MHM in 19 government high schools and higher primary schools across Bengaluru South District. This impactful initiative, in collaboration with the district’s education department, reached 1390 adolescent girls.

The workshops, led by resource person Ms. Ashwini J.M, fostered a safe and positive environment where girls could ask questions and gain accurate information about: Reproductive health: Clear definitions and understanding of the female reproductive system. Menstrual cycle: Explaining the natural process of menstruation. Hygiene practices: Promoting proper menstrual hygiene to maintain good health. Sanitary Napkins: Benefits and proper disposal methods for sanitary napkins.

Debunking myths: Addressing common misconceptions and beliefs surrounding menstruation.

These MHM training sessions represent a significant step forward in empowering adolescent girls with disabilities. By equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to manage their menstrual hygiene effectively, Mobility India is helping them stay healthy and informed.
Mobility India, in collaboration with partner organizations, conducted an SVEEP on March 28th, 2024, in Chamarajanagara. The program aimed to sensitize participants about voting, Electronic Voter Machines (EVMs), and encourage increased participation from people with disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens, and youth.

The session provided participants with information on voting rules, regulations, government voter applications, and various government health schemes available to them. Speakers included MS Lakshmi (Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayat), Mr. Niranjan, Mr. Anand S.N. (Senior Program Manager, Mobility India Bangalore), Mr. Suresh (DDW Officer), and Mr. Manjunath (DDO, Women and Child Department).

120 Rehabilitation Workers, equipping them to promote voter participation among PWDs, seniors, and youth in their communities. SVEEP has made voting more accessible for PWDs by providing ramps, wheelchairs, transportation, sign language interpreters, Braille EVMs, and dedicated volunteers. They also actively recruit PWDs for polling staff positions.

Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director, was invited as a panelist to the 15th National Skill Conference organized by the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTR), which took place on October 12-13, 2023. At the conference, Ms. Shankar shared her valuable insights on the importance of essential workplace skills for employees. She highlighted the challenges and the potential scope for developing these skills, thereby adding significant value to the discussions. Her participation greatly contributed to the success of the event, offering practical perspectives on skill development in the workplace. The conference was also attended by Mr. Anand, the Senior Manager of Community Development.
In collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mobility India played a role in this conference. Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director joined the panel of experts to discuss sustainable approaches to providing assistive technology. This event shed light on the significance of assistive devices for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Ritu Ghosh, Academics and Technical Director and Mr. Raju, Assistant General Manager were also part of the conference.

**International Wheelchair Day:** MI Hyderabad Office celebrated International Wheelchair Day on March 1st, 2024, by hosting a program at the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disability (NIPIED) in Secunderabad. Titled "Wheelchair Service Provision as per the WHO Guidelines," the program welcomed 45 participants, including NIPIED staff, parents, rehabilitation professionals, and people with intellectual disabilities.

Focusing on wheelchairs, the event featured presentations by various professionals on proper usage, different models, modifications, WHO guidelines, and advancements in assistive and wheelchair technology. Informative videos complemented the talks, enhancing understanding for attendees. Through their speeches, the professionals empowered participants with disabilities, highlighting how assistive devices can maximize their potential and foster active participation in society.
Recognitions and Awards:

Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director, Mobility India received the prestigious title “Namma Bengalurean of the Year” - under the category of Citizen Individual of the year 2022. She stood out among 800 remarkable individuals. The award was presented by Hon. Governor Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot on November 4th, 2023. This accolade highlights Mobility India's outstanding contributions to society.

Mr. Sama Raju, Assistant General Manager, received the prestigious IAP Distinguished Service Award 2024 at the 61st IAP National Conference (March 8-10). This award recognizes his 15+ years of exceptional service in physiotherapy, including training over 1000 therapists on WHO's wheelchair service program and contributions to global training standards.

Our Reach

Rehabilitation Services

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Therapy Services

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Centre (MIB, MIR, MIH and MIIDC) 4840 people 5175 sessions
The Paper on "TWIN Devices"

Mobility India's commitment to research and innovation is evident in the publication of the paper on "TWIN Devices" in JAHS - RGUHS.

Meghana

Meghana, a 13-year-old girl residing in Bangalore, lives with her family of seven. Her father is a sales executive. Her birth history reveals a delayed cry, which led to cerebral palsy and intellectual disability leading to lack of neck control, and delayed developmental milestones.

She was referred by the doctor to Mobility India for rehabilitation. At MI after a comprehensive assessment, she was provided with regular therapy sessions, enabling Meghana to gain neck control and also able to sit with support. Despite her disabilities, Meghana attends a special school, an indication of her progress and family support.

As Meghana grew, her parents found it increasingly difficult to carry her. Mobility India conducted a further assessment and provided her with an appropriate wheelchair. The wheelchair has not only facilitated Meghana's mobility but also ensured the continuation of her education.

Mohammed Usman

Mohammed Usman a 3-year-old boy from GG Halli, Bengaluru Urban District, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, speech and hearing impairments, and delayed developmental milestones. He lives with his parents; his father works as an auto driver, and his mother, a housewife, is his primary caregiver.

The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) facilitator from Mobility India, identified him and referred to MI, after assessment, MI provided him with appropriate assistive devices and recommended regular physiotherapy sessions, which has significantly improved his Activities of Daily Living (ADL) skills and mobility. He is now able to sit independently, maintaining body postures, reducing the muscle tightness associated with his cerebral palsy and avoiding secondary complications. He has become more active in mingling with peers and family members, showing better social engagement.
Support Us

Let’s come together and support children and people with disabilities in gaining access to health and rehabilitation services, empowering them to lead a better quality of life.

Your generous donations will make a significant impact on their lives!

DONATE NOW!

I Would like to

Give Monthly

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