



AMPLIFYCHANGE

Our commitment to working on disability issues



Background

Persons with disabilities* face particular barriers to care, services, education and information about sexual and reproductive, health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence and other violence and abuse.

*We use terminology to refer to the relevant community following consultation with our grantees

The work we're doing

From our launch in 2014, AmplifyChange has supported advocacy to make SRHR for All a reality. This particularly means working with those least able to attain and enjoy their SRHR, and those who are vulnerable and marginalised.

The SRHR of persons with disabilities has been widely neglected; more recently, we have seen a growing demand for support for SRHR advocacy from local civil society organisations working for the rights of persons with disabilities.

There is a groundswell of commitment across civil society to ensure that countries meet their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill the SRHR of persons with disabilities.

AmplifyChange has responded to this demand with an increasing number of grants to small grassroots organisations of persons with disabilities.

Image (above): Deaf Women Included team in Zimbabwe, see p3 for case study

Over 10%

of AmplifyChange grants are to projects which focus on improving SRHR for persons with disabilities

We have supported a total of 86 projects across 28 countries

Over 75% of projects are in sub-Saharan Africa



Our investment in organisations of persons with disabilities has almost tripled since 2018



This illustrates how committed we are to this vulnerable, and often overlooked, population group

AmplifyChange has supported the growth of women-led groups within the wider disability movement.

40% of grants working on disability are implemented by women-led groups

AmplifyChange supports, and helps to connect, a network of some 1000 civil society organisations across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. We have a virtual community of practice that connects all grantees working on disability SRHR.



Selected strategies from across the portfolio:



- Generating new evidence to document the stigma around the sexuality of persons with disabilities



- Providing sign language training for police officers and law enforcers to support survivors of GBV to seek justice



- Supporting persons with disabilities to become their own advocates and build partnerships with decision makers



- Working with the media, especially the radio, to reach persons with disabilities who are often confined to their homes



- Strengthening parent-child communication around SRHR for persons with disabilities to encourage social norms change and combat discrimination (further details can be found [here](#))



- Advocating for routine government reporting systems to integrate the Washington Short Set of Questions on disability to collect standardised data on disabilities (further details can be found [here](#))



- Empowering persons with disabilities to challenge social norms with creative approaches (e.g. mixed-ability art performances where persons with disabilities and able-bodied persons perform together)



- Ensuring national SRHR policies are inclusive of persons with disabilities

CENTER FOR DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION (CDR), UGANDA



CDR Team engaging Deaf Girl in SRHR with parent (Promoting Child to parent communication)

Center for Disability and Rehabilitation (CDR), Uganda
Center for Disability and Rehabilitation specifically works with parents of children with disabilities.

CDR was set up in 2007 by parents to respond to the need for sustainable rehabilitation and active inclusion of young persons with disabilities in their communities. CDR empowers parents as self-advocates.

With AmplifyChange support through an Opportunity grant, CDR has worked to combat the exclusion of girls with hearing challenges from sexual reproductive health programmes in Mukono District.

It succeeded in ensuring deaf girls could access the SRH services they need. Based on its progress, CDR 'graduated' and was able to secure a larger grant to extend access to SRHR information and services among deaf girls in the neighbouring district of Luwero.

COVID-19, DISABILITY AND SRHR

COVID-19 has a widespread impact on SRHR. The virus has clearly revealed the existing fault lines of inequity and stigma, and exacerbated them. Globally, we are seeing COVID-19 being used as a pretext for closing civic space, stigmatising persons with disabilities. Central to our work is to ensure continuity of support to these civil society organisations (CSOs), especially in times of crisis such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Organisations of persons with disabilities have recorded a raft of barriers for persons with disabilities. For example, washing hands without significant assistance is challenging for some. Many people need carers therefore reducing their ability to physically distance. Some need to touch their face or a wide range of objects more often to support mobility or communication. Persons with disabilities are often excluded from information channels and formats about protection from the virus.

We are supporting local CSOs as an essential part of the solution. You can read more about our adaptations in our policy brief.



[READ OUR COVID-19 POLICY BRIEF HERE](#)

HARNESSING THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Deaf Women Included in Zimbabwe has been one of many organisations to harness the power of social media to address the challenges faced by their beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organisation is a leader in advocating for the equal rights, access, power, and opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe.

Despite operating in a highly challenging political environment, the project has been successful in:

- Training health service providers in sign language
- Generating new evidence on SRHR needs and requirements for deaf people, especially during times of COVID-19
- Developing an inclusive code of conduct for health facilities, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Training peer educators to support deaf peers in their community to access SRHR services
- Documenting and disseminating how lockdown has heightened the issue of food security and domestic violence for deaf people in particular



To find out more about our work, click the icons or visit amplifychange.org



AmplifyChange is managed by a consortium of:

