



THE CHALLENGE

Children, youth and families living with and impacted by disability are some of the most invisible, under counted and vulnerable people in the world. In Haiti specifically it is estimated that 15% of the population live with a disability. A lack of healthcare and access to treatments like medications for seizures, physical therapies, access to inclusive education, and an overall stigma associated with physical and cognitive differences can result in abandonment of children to hospitals and orphanages. On this anniversary of the Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Haiti Family Care Network wishes to acknowledge the importance of social inclusion and care for people with disabilities as a critical piece of the puzzle in supporting children to thrive in families.

Haiti Specific Resources Available

If you would like to speak with someone from My Life Speaks about their program Zanmi pou Lavi (Friends for Life peer program) or Bel Ewo (Beautiful Hero parent support group), you can reach out to Bethany Appleton at bethany@mylifespeaks.com. If you would like to speak to them about their special education classes, you can reach out to Missy Willson at missy@mylifespeaks.com and she will connect you to their Special Education director in Haiti.

ONLINE TOOLS & RESOURCES



The repository of research and tools linked above may help you better understand the needs of children with disabilities. There is no one-size fits all type of program that will meet the needs of all people impacted by disabilities. This site offers guidance around many areas that require consideration including independent living for youth, disability in emergencies and parental participation in programs.

Making the Invisible Visible - Online Workshop

This online workshop hosted by the Haiti Family Care Network features commentary from Haiti-based organizations: My Life Speaks, Respire Haiti, Hope Community Project and 5 Star Global Ministry each sharing about ways that they work with families, youth and children impacted by disability.

Online Tools & Resources



[Family Care for Children with Disabilities: Practical Guidance for Frontline Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#) was developed to help front-line personnel (social service workers and others) in low- and middle-income countries to work effectively with children with disabilities and their families. It was written particularly for those who have little or no experience working with children with disabilities, and it provides easy to read information and advice for those who may have little or no experience working with children with disabilities. It is intended to supplement other guidance on case management. It includes more than 50 pages of practical guidance, 153 links to resource documents, as well as tips for policy makers and program planners.

Family Care for Children with Disabilities:
Practical Guidance for Frontline Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

[Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action Toolkit](#)

Guidance, toolkits and trainings for conflict and crisis contexts. If you are new to disability care or want to expand your work in Haiti, begin with the module "How to get started on disability inclusion."

[Enabling Reform: Why Supporting Children with Disabilities Must Be at the Heart of Successful Child Care Reform](#)

Focuses on children with disabilities and alternative care and demonstrates the urgent need to place disability at the heart of child care reform agendas (Better Care Network and EveryChild).

[White Paper: Strengthening Inclusion Strategies for Children with Disabilities \(CWD\) within the context of Care Reform](#)

This paper further develops the concept of inclusion described in the Family Care of Children with Disabilities: Guidance for Frontline Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (Gwendolyn Burchell MBE).

[International Policy Advocacy](#): If readers are interested in following the guidance of Disability Rights International this site provides information about the campaign to end global institutionalization of children living with disabilities.

Voices of Children and Families



Meet Abraham: The Boy Who Radiates Joy

This smiley boy is Abraham. We believe he i...
mylifesppeaks.com



Disabled and displaced: helping Haiti's most vulnerable people

Disabled people in Haiti who have been driven from one temporary shelter to another as result of an earthquake, fire and mounting displacement have

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ARE ALSO OFTEN PLACED IN INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO, OR CANNOT AFFORD, HEALTH SERVICES OR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.*

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY REASONS CHILDREN END UP IN ORPHANAGES.



Marketa's story: Moving from an institution to a small group home - Stories - Lumos

Marketa has Down syndrome and has lived in an institution for children and young people with disabilities since she was born. This is her story. For

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