

Empowering Community Health Promoters as Change Agents

Who Transform Harmful Beliefs and Practices About Disability into Those That Improve the Lives of People with Disabilities



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KUPENDA FOR THE CHILDREN

- Kupenda (“love” in Kiswahili) for the Children transforms harmful beliefs surrounding disability to those that improve children’s lives.
- Key program areas:
 - Education
 - Medical
 - Livelihoods
 - Advocacy



THE PROBLEM

- In most countries, Community Health Promoters (CHPs) serve an average of 200 families per year
- 16% of their patients are people with disabilities
- Most CHPs lack skills to:
 - Provide informed care to people with disabilities
 - Promote disability inclusion in healthcare and society
 - Address stigma and harmful traditional beliefs
- Can propagate negative beliefs about disability



THE INTERVENTION

- Kupenda partnered with the MOH in Kilifi, Kenya, to develop and pilot a CHP disability training
- Curriculum included:
 - Roles and responsibilities of CHPs
 - Disability definitions
 - Symptoms, causes, interventions, and risk reductions for common disabilities
 - Testimonies
 - Action planning
 - Challenging harmful beliefs



THE IMPACT

- Collection of data through Weekly Reporting Forms
 - 1 workshop of 25 CHPS
 - 30,300 people sensitized on disability justice
 - 1,100 people with disabilities experienced improved access to services and inclusion
 - CHPs report feeling more equipped, empowered, and respected in their communities
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- Contact: kupenda@kupenda.org
 - View the facilitation manual:

