

**DAWN OF LIFE FOUNDATION (DOLF),
RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA**



**GROUP REPORT OF STAKEHOLDERS' RAPID ASSESSMENT AND
CONSULTATIVE SESSION ON ACCESSIBILITY TO COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR POOR,
VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 29, 2024 AT THE CHESHIRE HOMES, PORT HARCOURT,
RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA.**

JANUARY 29, 2024.

FIRST THREE TOOLS

Group Name-: WHITE

Tools Used-: OCTOPUS TOOL

Brief Description of the tool used: This tool involves making a drawing of the head and tentacles of an octopus to discuss the causes of challenges experienced by women with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services in Rivers State as well as the issues that lie behind them.

Causes

- Stigmatization
- Lack of funds/ Poverty
- Shortage of healthcare workers
- Poor accessibility to the health facility
- Lack of awareness of sexual and reproductive health services provided in health facilities
- Poor acceptance of sexual and reproductive health services provided in health facilities
- Some sexual and reproductive health services are provided to People With Disabilities (PWD) by untrained and not qualified healthcare workers

Effects

- Miscarriage and complications during childbirth
- Infections and other STDs
- Giving birth to disabled children
- Increase in mortality of PWD
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Criminal/Unsafe abortions
- Infertility

Group Name-: RED

Tools Used-: PROBLEM TREE TOOL

Brief Description of the tool used: This tool involves participants using a drawing of the trunk, roots and branches of a tree to identify and discuss the causes and effects of the challenges experienced by women with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services in Rivers State.

Root Causes

- Poor means of transportation
- Poor road network which are not adaptive especially for PWD using wheel chair

- Illiteracy
- Communication barrier (no sign language interpreter for hearing impaired persons and information on braille for the blind)
- Poverty
- Inaccessibility to labs due to their position upstairs.
- Ignorance on the part of both government and PWD
- Lack of awareness of sexual and reproductive health services by PWD
- Stigma / Discrimination
- Road networks and buildings are not constructed to accommodate PWD

Effects

- Emotional trauma for PWD
- Death
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Ill-health
- Poor accessibility to sexual and reproductive health services by PWD
- Low self-esteem of PWD
- Suicide (increase in mortality rate)
- Depression
- Deprivation of human rights
- Unemployment

Group Name-: BLUE

Tools Used-: ROAD BLOCK TOOL

Brief Description of the tool used: This tool involves participants identifying the barriers (road blocks) to accessing sexual and reproductive health services by women with disabilities in Rivers State.

BARRIERS

- Stigmatization of disabled persons as assumed to be beggars or different from others i.e wrong view and believe about disabled persons when trying to access public and private health facilities.
- Communication barrier especially interpretation for the hearing-impaired persons
- No aid for the vision impaired persons to access the health services.
- Low social inclusiveness of PWD
- Poor response to complaints of PWD
- Low self-esteem of PWD
- Low financial empowerment for PWD which leads to poor accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services.

- Poor enforcement of laws and policy pertaining to PWD. Not abiding to these laws should attract a penalty.
- PWD are not mobilized to access health facilities

LAST THREE TOOLS

Group Name-: WHITE

Tools Used-: DESIRED CHANGE DIAGRAM

Brief Description of the tool used: A desired change diagram is a picture that shows the changes that people would like to see in the future.

- Providing ramps in all health facilities so people with wheelchairs can easily move into the facilities
- Providing sign language interpreter or training healthcare workers to communicate using sign language
- Creating awareness about the sexual and reproductive health services provided by health facilities
- Enlightening the public and healthcare professionals against stigmatization and discrimination of PWD using mass media, social media, influencers, etc.
- Creation of jobs / skill empowerment by the government for PWD to tackle poverty and lack of funds
- Employment of healthcare workers
- Creating awareness on the proper use of medications, disadvantages of drug abuse and safe delivery practices
- Training of TBAs

Group Name-: RED

Tools Used-: SOLUTION/ OBJECTIVE TREE

Brief Description of the tool used: This tool involves participants using a drawing of the trunk, roots and branches of a tree to identify solutions to problems faced by women with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services in Rivers State and what effects that solution will have.

Objective: 80% of women with disability access sexual and reproductive health services

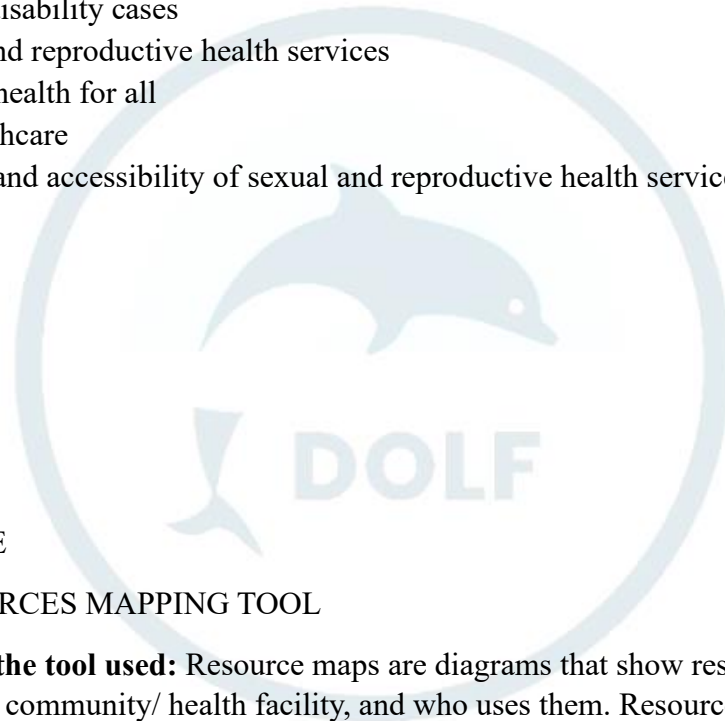
Solutions

- Provision of sign language interpreter

- Advocacy to the government on implementation and enforcement of laws and policies pertaining PWD
- Awareness creation on sexual and reproductive health services provided by health facilities
- Training and retraining of healthcare workers to cater for the hearing-impaired persons
- Repositioning of laboratories to ground floor
- Free medicals for PWD
- Demand creation for uptake of sexual and reproductive health services by PWD through mapping of clusters, database development, health education, follow-up visits.

Effects of solutions

- Reduction in morbidity and mortality rate
- Reduction in disability cases
- Safer sexual and reproductive health services
- General good health for all
- Inclusive healthcare
- Acceptability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services by PWD



Group Name-: BLUE

Tools Used-: RESOURCES MAPPING TOOL

Brief Description of the tool used: Resource maps are diagrams that show resources and services available in a community/ health facility, and who uses them. Resource maps also show what resources and services different people need.

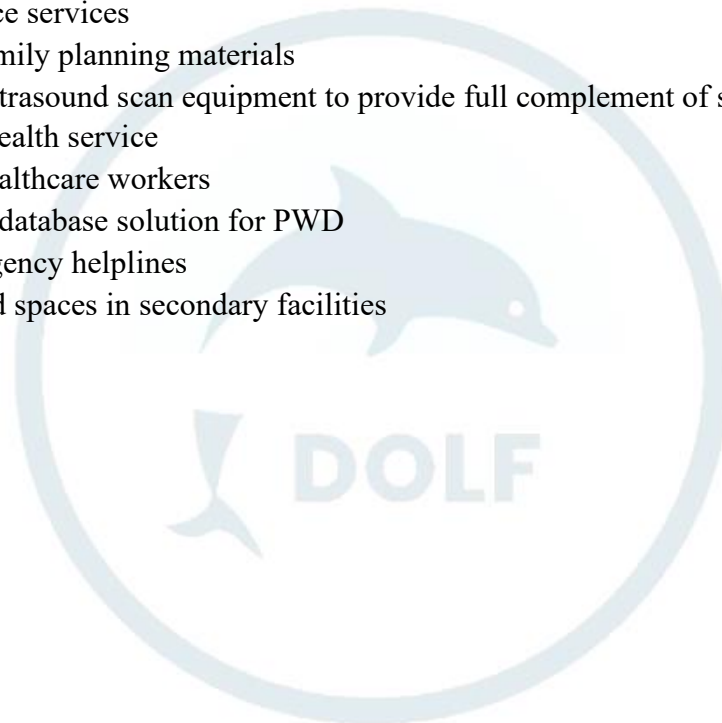
Available resources

- Ramp in some parts of the building
- Family planning services
- Antenatal clinic (ANC services)
- Post-natal care
- Cervical cancer screening services
- Pharmaceutical services
- HIV screening

- Immunization services
- Birth registration services
- Post- abortion care
- Delivery services
- TB services
- Nutritional services

Unavailable resources

- Ramp and working elevators in some health facilities to accommodate PWD especially where laboratories are located upstairs
- Shortage of Interpreter of sign languages
- Poor ambulance services
- Insufficient family planning materials
- Insufficient Ultrasound scan equipment to provide full complement of sexual and reproductive health service
- Shortage of healthcare workers
- No Electronic database solution for PWD
- Lack of Emergency helplines
- Inadequate bed spaces in secondary facilities



GALLERY

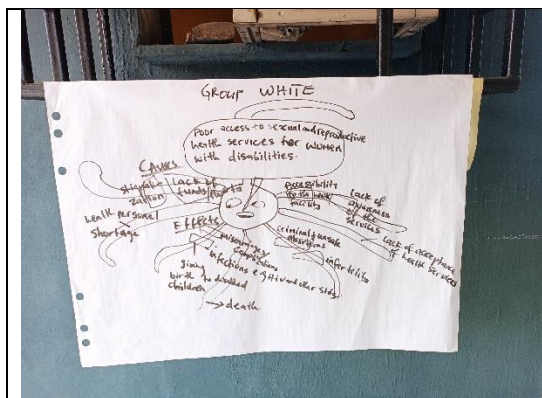


Fig.1 - Octopus tool

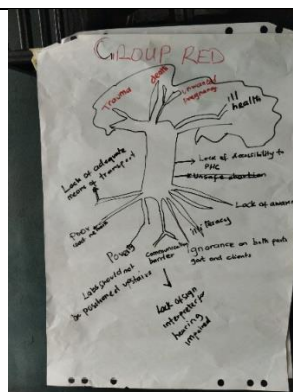


Fig.2 – Problem tool

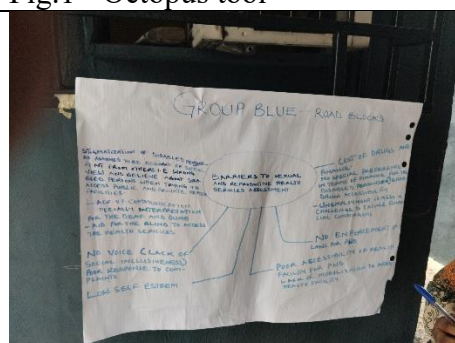


Fig. 3 – Road Block tool

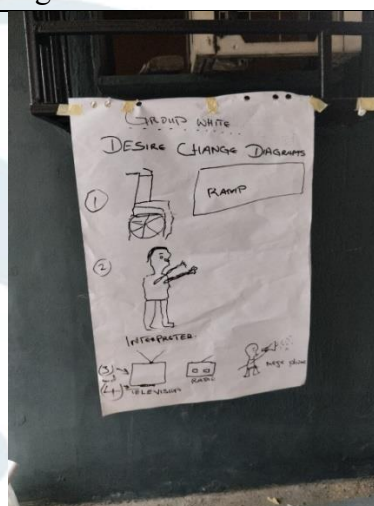


Fig.4 – Desired Change tool

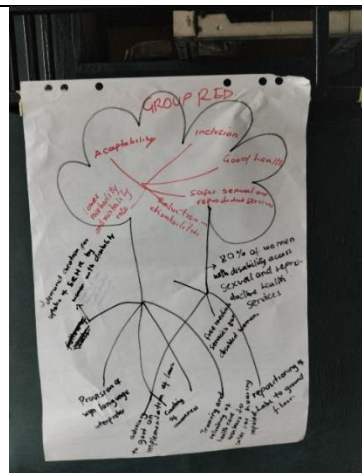


Fig. 5 – Problem tree tool

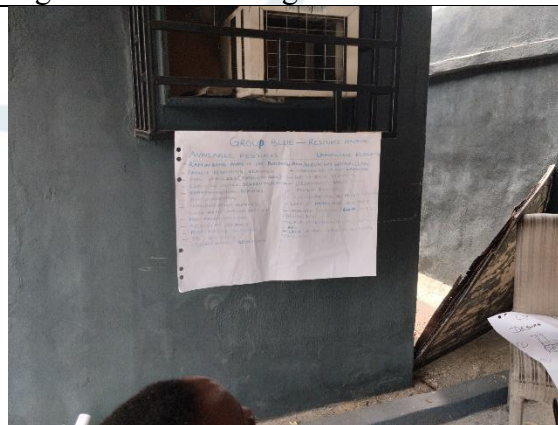


Fig. 6 – Resource Mapping tool