The national platform for physical rehabilitation in Togo

Thierry Regenass, Executive Director
The ICRC MoveAbility Foundation
Switzerland

Access to health
REHABILITATION AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS INCLUSION

• Not only a health issue, but also a right and inclusion issue
  ✓ CRPD article 26

• In majority of low- and middle- income countries rehabilitation is not a priority
  ✓ Lack of budget
  ✓ Know-how
  ✓ services

• MoveAbility in Togo since 2004
  ✓ setting up and strengthening the physical rehabilitation sector

• Improved access to services and devices and quality of life
  ✓ However, the lack of managerial capacities and of national coordination limited the impact of the measures in the long run
A NATIONAL PLATFORM TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The national platform is a space for discussions and advocacy towards the authorities on a set of priorities to answer the needs of persons with disabilities.
AN INNOVATIVE TOOL IN TOGO

- Innovative tool
  - First multi-sectoral platform
  - Discussion space for the building of the rehabilitation system as a whole

- From idea to concrete solution
  - Physical rehabilitation actors and the civil society are directly consulted
  - Synergies among various actors to meet the needs of people with disabilities
  - Firstly coordinated by MoveAbility, the platform is then autonomous and sustained by the national authorities

- Replicable in other countries
  - Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Tanzania and Haiti
**Resource increase**
- Increase by 150% of the budget allocation to the rehabilitation center (Centre National d'Appareillage Orthopédique (CNAO))

**National policy**
- Raise awareness on disability issues and place it in the political agenda

**Access to services**
- Increase of access for persons with disabilities to services and devices, by helping them to gain or regain mobility
"The device really made a big change in my life. It has given me access to activities I couldn’t do before, like walking long distance or working in an environment that requires many moves.

I even play football on the weekends and I love it! “

Sovon Koffi Kouma, Togo
AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

"As an organization working directly with people with disabilities, we have direct access to their priority and concrete needs.

Being part of the national platform with the different stakeholders involved in disability is a real opportunity for change and greater inclusion of people with disabilities in society."

François Katatchom, Program Director at the Togolese Federation of Disabled People's Organization (FETAPH)
CHALLENGES

• Building block for all other aspects of the rehabilitation system
• Ensure the sustainability of the platform
• Promote and engage in the replicability of the platform
**Next Steps**

- Building block for all other aspects of the rehabilitation system
  - National plans
  - Education
  - Quality of services
  - Access to services
  - Management capacities

- Ensure the sustainability of the platform
  - Monitor the implementation of the platform and set mid- and long-term objectives
  - Support the platform’s stakeholders in their technical and/or administrative needs
  - Ensure the transition from platform ownership to national authorities

- Promote and engage in the replicability of the platform
  - Organize Leadership, Management et Gouvernance (LMG) Senior Leadership Training in other countries to encourage exchanges and discussions between stakeholders in the physical rehabilitation sector
  - Support the creation of a national platform
  - Integrate the objective of a national platform in the cooperation agreements