Breaking down Barriers

Understanding barriers to family planning by using an intersectional lens

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The problem

Women & girls with disabilities consistently ignored by family planning policies in Sub-Saharan Africa

- Incorrect assumption PWDs are not sexually active
- Stigma

Consequently, they have great difficulties in accessing and benefiting from family planning services

- Birth control
- Desire to have kids

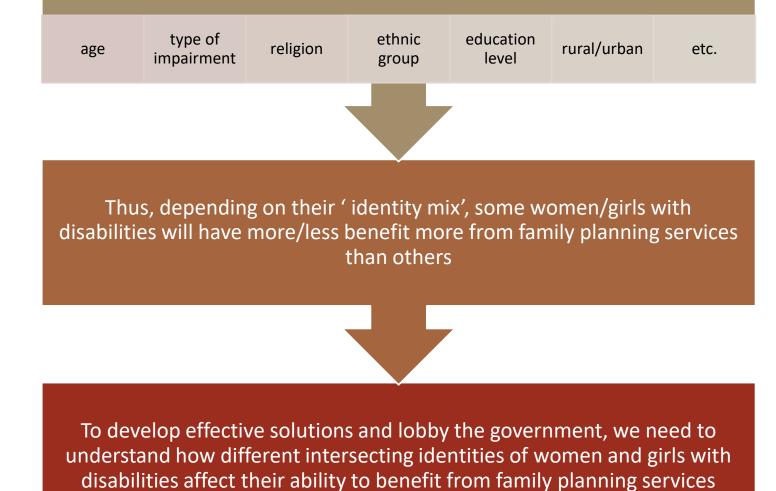
Barriers to family planning

- The barriers for women and girls with disabilities to access and benefit from family planning policies are already known
- Barriers structured using Levesque's (2013) access to healthcare model:

PWD-level	Service delivery level
 ability to perceive → low health literacy ability to seek → low self- esteem and self-stigma ability to reach → lack accessible transport transport ability to pay → low income ability to engage → lacking self-confidence & empowerment 	 approachability → information is not made available acceptability → negative attitudes of service provider staff availability & accommodation → inaccessible geographical location & infrastructure affordability → high costs of services appropriateness → not tailored to needs

Knowledge gap & rationale

Existing studies overlook that women and girls with disabilities are marginalized in different ways depending on 'mix of identities':



The research

How do the different intersecting identities of women/girls with disabilities affect their ability to...

- perceive family planning
- seek family planning
- reach family planning
- pay family planning
- engage with family planning

How do the different intersecting identities of women/girls with disabilities affect the of family planning services?

- approachability
- acceptability
- availability & accommodation
- affordability
- appropriateness

Methods

2-3 sites per country

In-depth interviews using shared interview guides

6 interviews with service provider staff

8 interviews with women & girls with disabilities able to benefit

8 interviews with women & girls with disabilities **un**able to benefit