A case study of rehabilitation professionals using the **Knowledge Translation Triad** to collaborate with *community members* and *policymakers* to influence disability policy in a global health setting

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Background

**Policy**: valuable tool for PWDs

Zambia: important advances in *disability policy*
- Signed UN-CRPD (2008)
- Persons with Disabilities Act (2012)

Zambian policy influenced by *international norms*

Rehabilitation professionals: might have a role?
- Promoting local research evidence
- Community involvement

**Knowledge translation (KT) triad**
(Lencucha, Kothari & Hamel, 2010)
- Informed by participatory research
- A strategy to engage in disability policy?
Methods

**Purpose:** To identify lessons learned from a disability policy KT Triad initiative in Zambia

**Case-study** of a qual. research project

**Participants:**
- Disability advocates (13)
- Policymakers (6)

**Activities**
1) Individual interviews;
2) A one-day workshop;
3) Follow-up telephone interviews.
Results

Government & Int’l Orgs

Structure
Capital-focused participation

Process
Multiple factors in policy development

Gov’t policymakers: hard to engage

Principles
Respect for current mechanisms

Relationships
Pre-existing relationships key

Useful to build upon connections

Limited perspectives of research evidence

Disability advocates

Researchers
Discussion

We approached this initiative as researchers.

As rehabilitation professionals, we have:

• social capital,
• disability awareness, and
• an action-orientation

Engagement of clinicians or managers in a KT Triad?

Rehabilitation professions: strategic advantage in encouraging community and evidence in policy process.

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