



Supplementary Files: Disability and Vulnerable Groups Inclusion in COVID-19 Policy and Planning in Sub-Sahara African Countries

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Table 1. EquiFrame Vulnerable Groups Definitions

No.	Vulnerable Group	Attributes or Definitions	Supporting Literature
1.	Limited Resources	Referring to poor people or people living in poverty	See Annex XXII
2.	Increased Relative Risk For Morbidity	Referring to people with one of the top 10 illnesses, identified by WHO, as occurring within the relevant country.	See Annex XXIII
3.	Mother Child Mortality	Referring to factors affecting maternal and child health (0-5 years)	See Annex XXIV
4.	Women Headed Household	Referring to households headed by a woman	See Annex XXV
5.	Children (with special needs)	Referring to children marginalized by special contexts, such as orphans or street children	See Annex XXVI
6.	Aged	Referring to older age	See Annex XXVII
7.	Youth	Referring to younger age without identifying gender	See Annex XXVIII
8.	Ethnic Minorities	Referring to non-majority groups in terms of culture, race, or ethnic identity	See Annex XXIX
9.	Displaced Populations	Referring to people who, because of civil unrest or unsustainable livelihoods, have been displaced from their previous residence	See Annex XXX
10.	Living Away from Services	Referring to people living far from health services, either in time or distance	See Annex XXXI
11.	Suffering from Chronic Illness	Referring to people who have an illness which requires continuing need for care	See Annex XXXII
12.	Disabled	Referring to persons with disabilities, including physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental health conditions, and including synonyms of disability	See Annex XXXIII

Table 2. EquiFrame: Key Questions and Key Language of Core Concepts

No	Core Concept	Key Question	Key Language	Supporting Literature
1.	Nondiscrimination	Does the policy support the rights of vulnerable groups with equal opportunity in receiving health care?	Vulnerable groups are not discriminated against on the basis of their distinguishing characteristics (i.e., Living away from services; Persons with disabilities; Ethnic minority or Aged).	See Annex I
2.	Individualized Services	Does the policy support the rights of vulnerable groups with individually tailored services to meet their needs and choices?	Vulnerable groups receive appropriate, effective, and understandable services.	See Annex II
3.	Entitlement	Does the policy indicate how vulnerable groups may qualify for specific benefits relevant to them?	People with limited resources are entitled to some services free of charge or persons with disabilities may be entitled to respite grant	See Annex III
4.	Capability based Services	Does the policy recognize the capabilities existing within vulnerable groups?	For instance, peer to peer support among women headed households or shared cultural values among ethnic minorities.	See Annex IV
5.	Participation	Does the policy support the right of vulnerable groups to participate in the decisions that affect their lives and enhance their empowerment?	Vulnerable groups can exercise choices and influence decisions affecting their life. Such consultation may include planning, development, implementation, and evaluation.	See Annex V
6.	Coordination of Services	Does the policy support assistance of vulnerable groups in accessing services from within a single provider system (interagency) or more than one provider system (intra-agency) or more than one sector (intersectoral)?	Vulnerable groups know how services should interact where inter-agency, intra-agency, and inter-sectoral collaboration is required.	See Annex VI
7.	Protection from Harm	Vulnerable groups are protected from harm during their interaction with health and related systems	Vulnerable groups are protected from harm during their interaction with health and related systems	See Annex VII
8.	Liberty	Does the policy support the right of vulnerable groups to be free from unwarranted physical or other confinement?	Vulnerable groups are protected from unwarranted physical or other confinement while in the custody of the service system/provider.	See Annex VIII
9.	Autonomy	Does the policy support the right of vulnerable groups to consent, refuse to consent, withdraw consent, or otherwise control or exercise choice or control over what happens to him or her?	Vulnerable groups can express "independence" or "self-determination". For instance, person with an intellectual disability will have recourse to an independent third-party regarding issues of consent and choice.	See Annex IX
10.	Privacy	Does the policy address the need for information regarding vulnerable groups to be kept private and confidential?	Information regarding vulnerable groups need not be shared among others.	See Annex X
11.	Integration	Does the policy promote the use of mainstream services by vulnerable groups?	Vulnerable groups are not barred from participation in services that are provided for general population.	See Annex XI
12.	Contribution	Does the policy recognize that vulnerable groups can be productive contributors to society?	Vulnerable groups make a meaningful contribution to society.	See Annex XII
13.	Family Resource	Does the policy recognize the value of the family members of vulnerable groups in addressing health needs?	The policy recognizes the value of family members of vulnerable groups as a resource for addressing health needs.	See Annex XIII

No	Core Concept	Key Question	Key Language	Supporting Literature
14.	Family Support	Does the policy recognize individual members of vulnerable groups may have an impact on the family members requiring additional support from health services?	Persons with chronic illness may have mental health effects on other family members, such that these family members themselves require support.	See Annex XIV
15.	Cultural Responsiveness	Does the policy ensure that services respond to the beliefs, values, gender, interpersonal styles, attitudes, cultural, ethnic, or linguistic, aspects of the person?	i) Vulnerable groups are consulted on the acceptability of the service provided ii) Health facilities, goods and services must be respectful of ethical principles and culturally appropriate, i.e., respectful of the culture of vulnerable groups	See Annex XV
16.	Accountability	Does the policy specify to whom, and for what, services providers are accountable?	Vulnerable groups have access to internal and independent professional evaluation or procedural safeguard	See Annex XVI
17.	Prevention	Does the policy support vulnerable groups in seeking primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of health conditions?		See Annex XVII
18.	Capacity Building	Does the policy support the capacity building of health workers and of the system that they work in addressing health needs of vulnerable groups?		See Annex XVIII
19.	Access	Does the policy support vulnerable groups –physical, economic, and information access to health services?	Vulnerable groups have accessible health facilities (i.e., transportation; physical structure of the facilities; affordability and understandable information in appropriate format).	See Annex XIX
20.	Quality	Does the policy support quality services to vulnerable groups through highlighting the need for evidence based and professionally skilled practice?	Vulnerable groups are assured of the quality of the clinically appropriate services.	See Annex XX
21.	Efficiency	Does the policy support efficiency by providing a structured way of matching health system resources with service demands in addressing health needs of vulnerable groups?		See Annex XXI

References:

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