



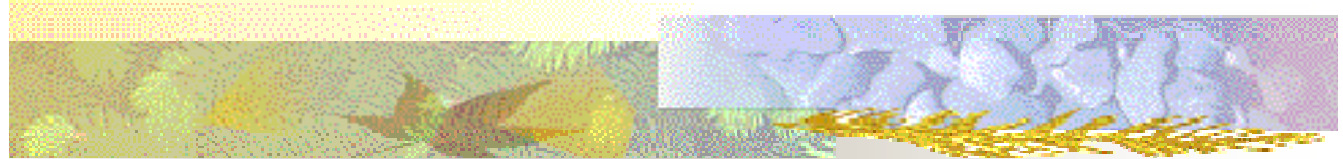
*ITU REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ICT ACCESSIBILITY FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR AFRICA REGION  
Lusaka, Zambia, 15-16 July 2008*

**PRESENTATION  
BY  
ADMIN AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER  
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA)  
THE GAMBIA**

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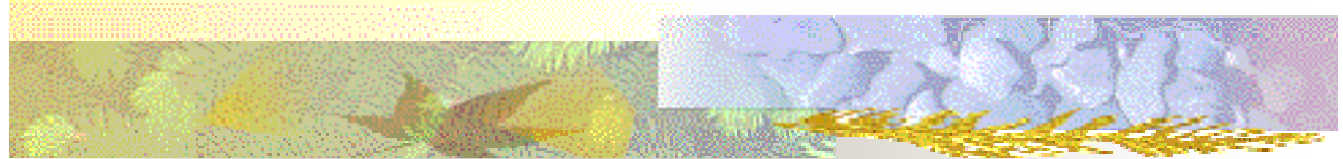
# ***ICT ACCESSIBIITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GAMBIA***



## ***Who is a Disable Person***

*The United Nations uses a definition of disability as:*

*Any person with restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being*



## ***Why should we be concerned***

*The United Nations estimated that there were 500 million (about 10 per cent of the world's population) people with disabilities.*

*Population growth aside, this figure has been predicted to increase dramatically in both industrialised and developing countries for a number of reasons, including ageing populations, advances in medical science, advances in technology, and violence due to wars and other causes*



## ***The Characteristic of disabled people in the Gambia***

*Disabled people are part of community, which is requiring support from the whole society. According to the National Disability Survey 1998 and the Population and Housing Census 2003 by the Central Bureau of Statistics in the Gambia, the number of persons with disabilities is high in proportion of nearly 3% of the total population.*



**Table 1.2(b): Percentage distribution of households that reported having disabled persons by Local Gov't Area and Residence, National Disability Survey, 1998**

| Local Gov't Area/Residence | Per cent of Household having disabled persons |
|----------------------------|---|
| Banjul                     | 11.1  |
| Kanifing                   | 7.2   |
| Brikama                    | 10.1  |
| Mansakonko                 | 14.5  |
| Kerewan                    | 17.3  |
| Kuntaur                    | 18.6  |
| Janjanbureh                | 16.3  |
| Basse                      | 15.3  |
| Urban*                     | 8.4   |
| Rural                      | 15.1  |
| The Gambia                 | 12.0  |

**Table 2.1: Prevalence rate of disability per 1,000 population by Local Gov't Area, Residence and sex, National Disability Survey, 1998**

| Local Gov't Area/Residence | Male         | Female       | Total        |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Banjul                     | 24.1 (117)   | 26.9 (122)   | 25.5 (239)   |
| Kanifing                   | 13.7 (404)   | 11.0 (314)   | 12.4 (718)   |
| Brikama                    | 13.2 (413)   | 10.9 (359)   | 12.1 (802)   |
| Mansakonko                 | 19.5 (170)   | 14.3 (132)   | 16.8 (302)   |
| Kerewan                    | 24.5 (464)   | 20.2 (397)   | 22.3 (861)   |
| Kuntaur                    | 21.2 (207)   | 18.2 (183)   | 19.6 (390)   |
| Janjanbureh                | 20.9 (271)   | 15.1 (207)   | 17.9 (478)   |
| Basse                      | 15.9 (272)   | 10.3 (191)   | 13.0 (463)   |
| Urban                      | 13.4 (724)   | 11.7 (626)   | 12.5 (1,350) |
| Rural                      | 20.0 (1,624) | 15.3 (1,279) | 17.6 (2,903) |
| The Gambia                 | 17.4 (2,348) | 13.9 (1,905) | 16.0 (4,253) |

**Note:** Figures in parentheses are the number of cases

**Table 2.2(a): Prevalence rate of disability per 1,000 population by 5 year age groups and sex, National Disability Survey, 1998**

| Age Group | Male  | Female | Total |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 2-6       | 5.6   | 5.7    | 5.7   |
| 7-12      | 13.1  | 8.6    | 10.9  |
| 13-18     | 15.9  | 11.7   | 13.8  |
| 19-24     | 16.7  | 12.5   | 14.5  |
| 25-29     | 21.6  | 11.1   | 15.9  |
| 30-34     | 19.5  | 14.8   | 16.9  |
| 35-39     | 20.4  | 14.3   | 17.1  |
| 40-44     | 21.5  | 18.4   | 19.9  |
| 45-49     | 23.6  | 27.7   | 25.5  |
| 50-54     | 30.9  | 27.8   | 29.5  |
| 55-59     | 33.2  | 29.8   | 31.9  |
| 60-64     | 48.7  | 47.4   | 48.7  |
| 65-69     | 49.1  | 47.8   | 48.6  |
| 70-74     | 52.3  | 72.1   | 61.9  |
| 75-79     | 81.2  | 90.0   | 85.2  |
| 80+       | 97.9  | 100.5  | 99.2  |
| 2-18      | 11.2  | 8.5    | 9.9   |
| Total     | 17.4  | 13.9   | 16.0  |
| Number    | 2,348 | 1,905  | 4,253 |



Table 2.3: Prevalence rate per 1,000 population by type of disability and sex, National Disability Survey, 1998

| Type of Disability                  | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Blind                               | 1.2  | 1.1    | 1.2   |
| Partially sighted                   | 2.2  | 1.7    | 1.9   |
| Deaf                                | 1.3  | 0.9    | 1.1   |
| Hard of hearing                     | 2.0  | 1.8    | 1.9   |
| Speaking                            | 2.4  | 1.9    | 2.2   |
| Physical mobility                   | 4.0  | 3.3    | 3.6   |
| Physical manipulation               | 2.1  | 1.4    | 1.7   |
| Physical loss of feeling hands/feet | 0.5  | 0.3    | 0.4   |
| Strange behaviour                   | 1.5  | 1.1    | 1.3   |
| Fits                                | 1.7  | 1.5    | 1.6   |
| Learning difficulties (severe)      | 0.5  | 0.3    | 0.4   |
| Learning difficulties (moderate)    | 0.4  | 0.3    | 0.3   |
| Other sig. Disability               | 0.1  | 0.1    | 0.1   |

Table 3.2: Prevalence rate by type of disability and sex per 1,000 population, National Disability Survey, 1998

| Type of disability                                    | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Blind   | 0.1  | 0.2    | 0.1   |
| Partially sighted                                     | 0.8  | 0.4    | 0.6   |
| Deaf  | 1.0  | 0.9    | 0.9   |
| Hard of hearing                                       | 1.6  | 1.2    | 1.4   |
| Speaking (significant)                                | 2.9  | 2.4    | 2.6   |
| Physical mobility (significant)                       | 2.1  | 2.2    | 2.2   |
| Physical manipulation (significant)                   | 1.5  | 1.1    | 1.3   |
| Physical loss of feeling hands and feet (significant) | 0.2  | 0.1    | 0.2   |
| Strange behaviour (significant)                       | 0.4  | 0.3    | 0.3   |
| Fits (significant)                                    | 1.9  | 1.4    | 1.6   |
| Learning difficulties (severe)                        | 0.7  | 0.5    | 0.6   |
| Learning difficulties (moderate)                      | 0.5  | 0.5    | 0.5   |
| Other sig. Disability                                 | 0.1  | 0.1    | 0.1   |



Table 1: Prevalence rate of disability by Local Gov't Area - Population and Housing Census, 2003

| Type of disability  | Population | Proportion by type of Disability (Percent) | Prevalence rate (100) | Prevalence rate (1000) |
|---------------------|------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Seeing              | 13012      | 37.5                                       | 1.1                   | 10.5                   |
| Hearing             | 5346       | 15.4                                       | 0.4                   | 4.3                    |
| Speaking            | 2681       | 7.7  | 0.2                   | 2.2                    |
| Physical            | 7501       | 21.6                                       | 0.6                   | 6.1                    |
| Strange behaviour   | 1977       | 5.7  | 0.2                   | 1.6                    |
| Fits                | 1211       | 3.5  | 0.1                   | 1.0                    |
| Learning difficulty | 651        | 1.9  | 0.1                   | 0.5                    |
| Other               | 2280       | 6.6  | 0.2                   | 1.8                    |
| Total Disability    | 34659      | 100.0                                      |                       |                        |
| The Gambia          | 1238569    |  | 2.8                   | 28.0                   |

Table 2.2.1 : Disability by local government area, type of disability and sex, The Gambia Population and Housing Census, 2003

| Type of disability /<br>Local government area | Male  |               | Female |               | Total |               |
|---|-------|---------------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------|
|   | Count | Percent (col) | Count  | Percent (col) | Count | Percent (col) |
| <b>The Gambia</b>                             |       | 1.4           |        | 1.4           |       | 2.8           |
| Seeing  | 6370  | 37.1          | 6642   | 38.0          | 13012 | 37.5          |
| Hearing                                       | 2531  | 14.7          | 2815   | 16.1          | 5346  | 15.4          |
| Speaking                                      | 1554  | 9.0           | 1127   | 6.5           | 2681  | 7.7           |
| Physical                                      | 3729  | 21.7          | 3772   | 21.6          | 7501  | 21.6          |
| Strange behaviour                             | 1040  | 6.0           | 937    | 5.4           | 1977  | 5.7           |
| Fits  | 577   | 3.4           | 634    | 3.6           | 1211  | 3.5           |
| Learning difficulty                           | 331   | 1.9           | 320    | 1.8           | 651   | 1.9           |
| Other   | 1060  | 6.2           | 1220   | 7.0           | 2280  | 6.6           |
| Total   | 17192 | 100.0         | 17467  | 100.0         | 34659 | 100.0         |



## *Disability Structure*

*The statistics has provided the disability persons in all parameters and spheres within the country, hence how do these people see and organise themselves;*

*The disable people in the Gambia are very organised, they have an umbrella body of all the disable people as well as sub-organisations like, visually impaired, dumb and heard of hearing, etc. through these bodies and with the help of relevant institutions, they embark on public awareness campaigns in various media forums and programs*



## ***Policy, Legislation, Regulation***

*The Gambia Government has realised that technology does not exist in isolation, but is part of a wider societal context and; legislation and regulation play an important role in how products and services are designed and can be of great importance, especially for the services and support to be offered to the disable people.*

*Currently the National ICT Policy is in the final stages, however, at present, there is no ICT laws or policies for disabled people . We hope that we will learn the experience very soon to build ICT laws and policies for disabled people.*



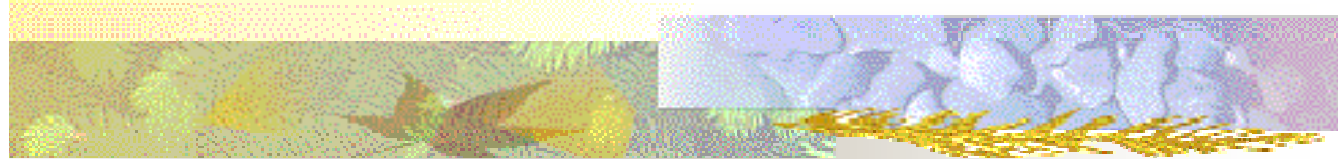
## *Use of ICT by Disable People*

*ICT consists technologies that can process different kinds of information i.e. voice, video, text, data and facilitates different forms of communications among humans and among information systems. The telecommunication infrastructure plays an important role to boost the development of a country in this information age and benefits that come with it.*



*The disabled community in the country has branches and skill centres in different parts of the country. There are a few cyber café's in various parts which the disabled people can access but the cost of Internet access is not only high but of very slow speed.*

*Employment of Disable people has also been on the increase as spotted in various parastatals, that they are more loyal and reliable as well as dedicated to duties, the private sector is also emulating the scene.*



## ***The first ICT project to empower the disabled community in The Gambia***

*This was conceived by one Internet service provider, implemented and inaugurated to on this year ITU day celebration whose theme is ‘connecting people with disabilities:’ ICT opportunities for all. It was truly fitting that the computer lab was inaugurated and will go a long way in satisfying this year’s ITU theme.*



## ***The beneficiary to this project***

*St John's school for the deaf whose equipment includes seven brand new computers, multimedia projector and a laser printer. The computer laboratory has also been fitted with a functional local area network envisaged to take up to 12 computers. A wireless Internet Service called 'schoolnet' was also provided free of charge*



*The teacher training assistance for the laboratory,  
and the energy needs among other logistics were all on  
gratis.*



## *Benefits of enabling ICT access to people with disability*

- *Provision of ICT Skilled personnel*
- *Employment creation (improve living Standards)*
- *Reduce dependency of the disables*
- *Shared opportunity and national wealth*
- *Alleviation of poverty, etc*
- *Help bridge the Digital Gap*



## ***The role of the Regulator***

- *Provision of conducive environment*
- *Under Universal Access, encourage service providers to provide the relevant infrastructures in less profitable areas*
- *Help in awareness campaign and capacity building if possible*



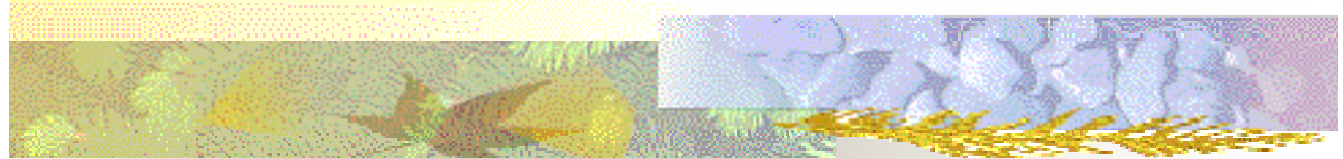
## *Obstacles in ICT accessibility by the disable people*

- *Ignorance and illiteracy*
- *Limited opportunity*
- *High cost of equipments and provision of services*
- *Profitability in providing the services*
- *Lack of adequate infrastructure and erratic power supply*
- *High cost of maintenance on the existing facilities*



## ***Recommendations for Government***

- *Formulate Sound liberalization and regulation ICT policies for Disables*
- *The need to provide fast, and affordable internet connections for the public*
- *To encourage foreign investment in many areas for with ICT is inclusive*
- *To Expand infrastructural development to inaccessible areas and if possible subsidise the cost of provision of services to the disable*
- *Help train the trainers for educating the disables in ICT*



*Thanks*

*For your Time*