

## Poster

The refurbishment and redistribution of disability equipment from the UK to low and middle-income countries

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**Problem and aim:** The surplus of used disability equipment contributing to waste in the UK and the lack of access to disability equipment in low and medium-income countries (LMICs) are two issues in need of solution. In order to address such problems, a UK charity refurbishes and redistributes the equipment to LMICs.

It is unclear how refurbishment and redistribution of surplus UK disability equipment to LMICs impacts the receiver organisations and their service users and what the long-term solutions are from a service provider/receiver organisation perspective.

This study aims to explore service provider/receiver organisation views on the refurbishing and redistributing of disability equipment to LMICs and long-term solutions.

**Research design and methods:** A qualitative exploratory approach was undertaken with nine participants from the service provider organisation in the UK and a receiver organisation in Romania. Semi-structured interviews were conducted online or face to face from January to February 2022, with real-time translation where necessary. Intelligent verbatim transcription was

used and data was analysed using latent thematic analysis.

**Results:** The themes generated related to: i) positive impact on occupational engagement for service users; ii) negative reactions towards people with disability from the local community; iii) increased need for training for equipment prescription; and iv) lack of sustainability concerns surrounding long-term solutions.

**Conclusion/impact:** The recycling and redistribution of disability equipment promotes occupational participation of marginalised groups while combatting global health inequities. However, meeting RCOT priorities supporting sustainability and health equity in line with Net-Zero NHS and UN 17 Sustainable Goals (United Nations 2015) remains a challenge.

### Reference:

United Nations (2015) *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York: UN Publishing.

### Conference theme

Connecting health and social care

**Keywords**

Health inequalities, Social care, Third sector/charity/volunteers

**RCOT Career Development Framework  
Pillars of Practice**

Evidence, Research and Development

**Ethical approval**

Oxford Brookes University Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Ethical Approval. HLS/2112/AJW/03.

**Author information**

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