



Developing the Paralympic Movement in West Africa: Challenges and opportunities for social inclusion in Ghana

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Aims

Background

- Disability and sport in the international debate
- Disability demographics in Ghana

Challenges

- Attitudinal
 - Physical
 - Institutional
- } 3 categories
outlined by
WHO

Opportunities

- National benefits of para-sport
- What has been done so far in Ghana

Disability has taken a prominent role on the international stage

World Health Assembly
drafts Resolution 58.23 on
“disability including
prevention, management
and rehabilitation,”
requests W.H.O. produce
a World Report

Convention on the Rights
of Persons with Disabilities
(CRD):
UN treaty reinforces our
understanding of
disability as a human
rights & development issue

World Report on Disability
WHO and the World
Bank launches first-ever
report, using IC(d)F(h)
conceptual framework of
the environment enabling
& disabling people



The Paralympic Movement has raised interest even further



“Meet the Superheroes” Advertisement Campaign (U.K.), 2012

Disability demographics in Ghana

Prevalence estimates of total disability

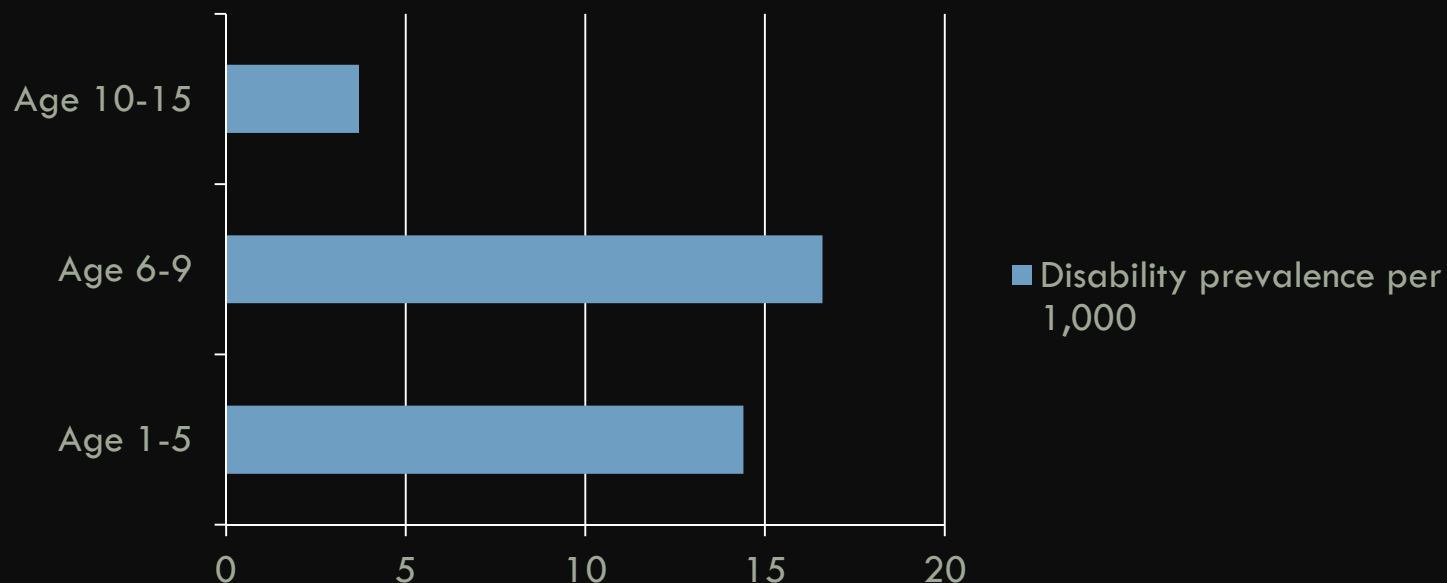
- 7 – 10% of total population ([1.5-2.2M])
- 8 – 12% among working-age individuals (18-65 years)

Topography of disability in Ghana

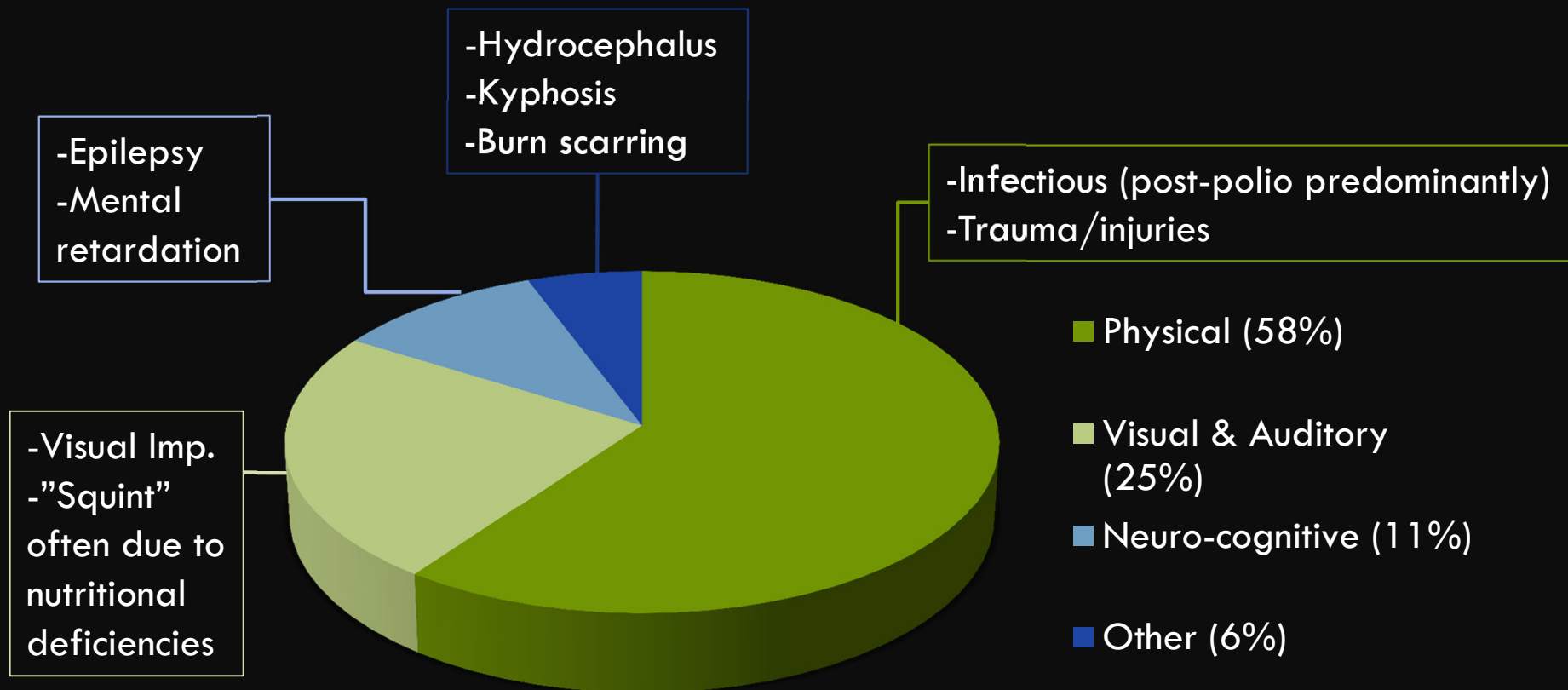
- Women (10.6%) > Men (6.2%); 64% PWD are female
- Similar overall rates in urban versus rural areas
- Prevalence higher in older age groups (38% working-age PWD are 46-65 years of age)

Disability demographics in Ghana

- Among children, disability is highest 1-9yrs



Most frequent causes of disability in this age group



All told: most common disabilities are physical and visual



- Physical

- Visual

Clear preponderance of visual and physical disability

If the aim is to promote social inclusion through parasport, the selection of *specific* sports should perhaps follow these demographics

Many organizations for PWD exist

- Ghana Federation of the Disabled (1987)
 - Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled (1980)
 - Ghana Association of the Blind (1963)
 - Ghana National Association of the Deaf (1968)
 - Parents Association of Children with Intellectual Disability (2001)
 - Ghana Association of Persons Living with Albinism (2003)
 - Share Care Ghana (2006)
- Ghana Research and Advocacy Initiative (poor)
- Multiple international development partners, Salvation Army, the Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches
- National Paralympic Committee
- Right to Dream® elite sports, education and leadership academy in Eastern Region (registered charity in Ghana, UK & US)

One has invested in structured para-sport programming

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- Ghana Research and Advocacy Initiative (poor)

Their efforts (and others) face significant challenges

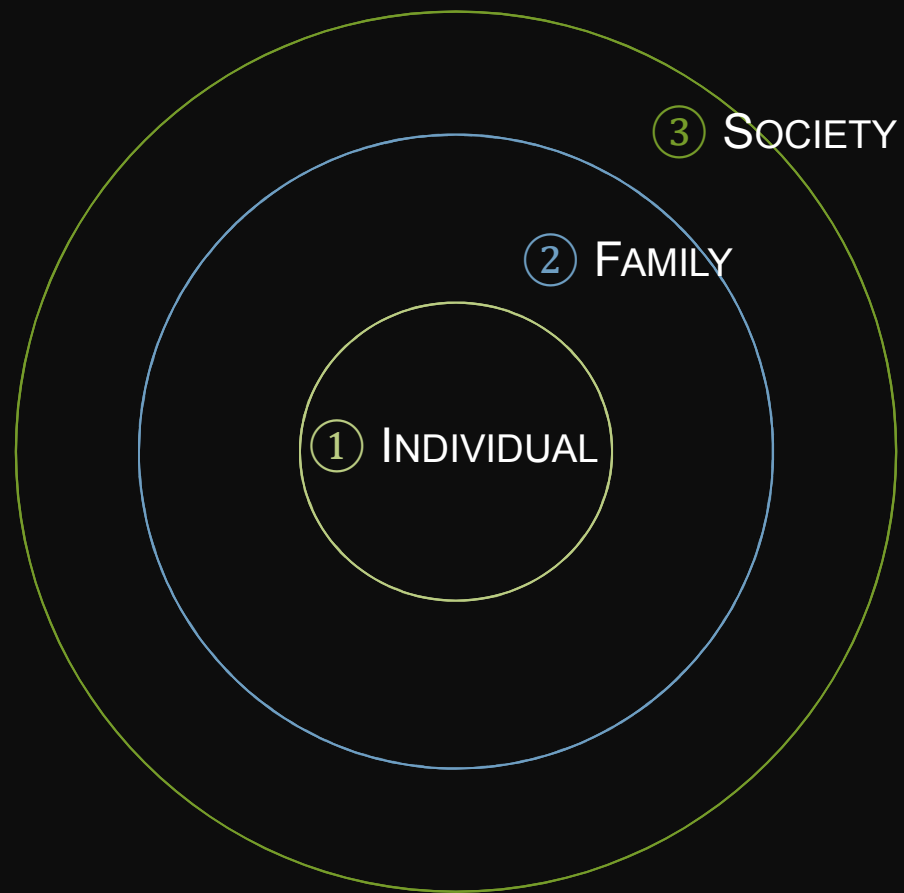
- Multiple international development partners: Salvation Army, the Catholic, Anglican and ...



- National Para ...

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Attitudinal challenges

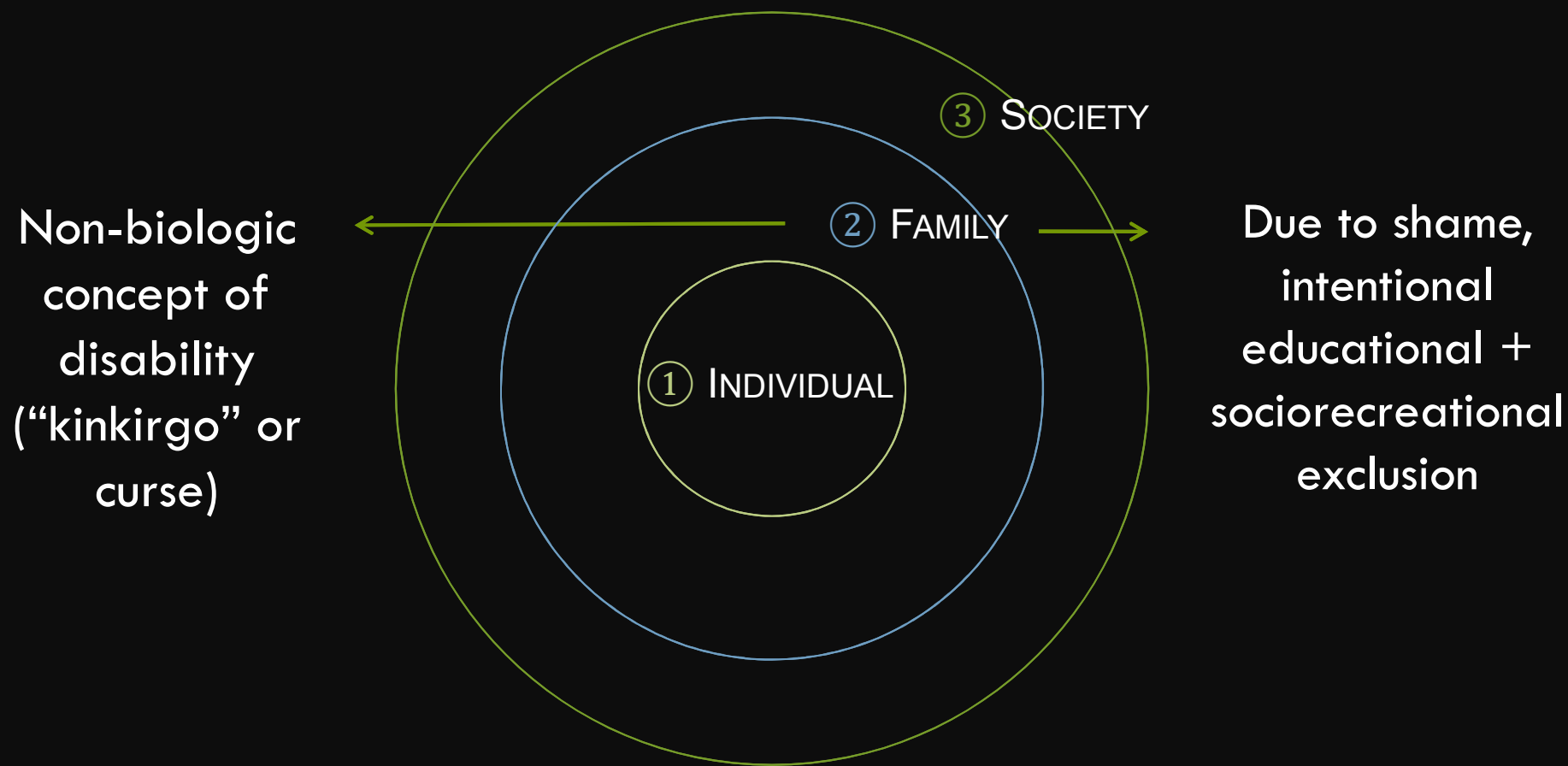


At the level of the individual

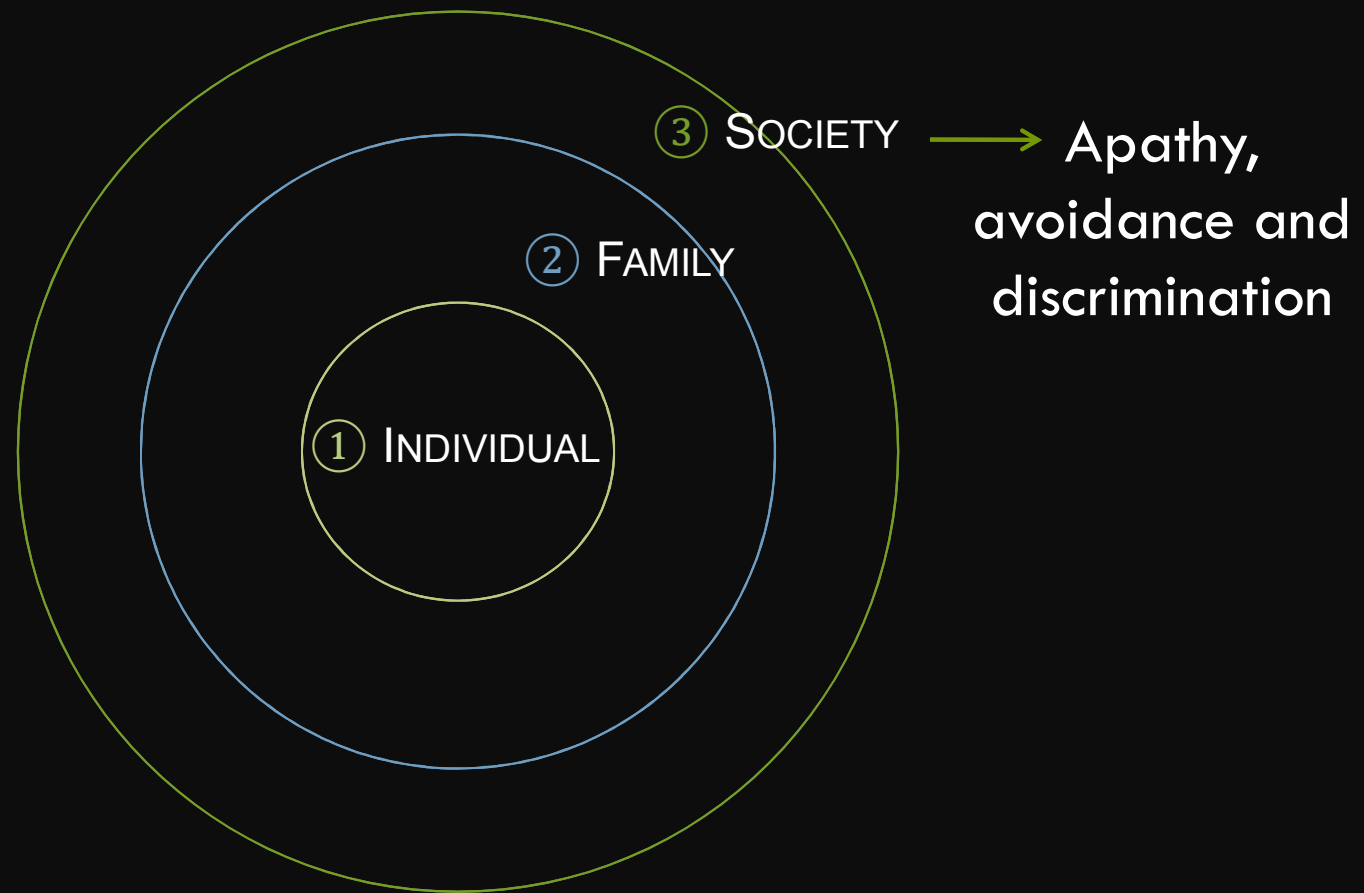
Social isolation
fosters negative
perceptions of
self and society



At the level of the family



At the level of society



Built environment can be inaccessible even with adaptive equipment

Built Environment



Transportation is often crowded, worn and inaccessible

Transportation



Challenges are complex, but para-sport can address at least four

Challenges

SOCIAL ISOLATION

INTENTIONAL SOCIAL EXCLUSION

DISCRIMINATION

LACK OF (POSITIVE) ROLE MODELS

INACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS

TRANSPORTATION LIMITATIONS

Para-Sport programs can address these

Two big hurdles
Ghana must clear

The individual and community benefits of adapted sport are clear

Psychological Well-Being

Mood
Trait Anxiety
Self-Esteem
Mastery
Role-Modeling



Social Integration

Resuming age- gender-
culture- appropriate roles
(e.g. decision-making)

Productive behavior in
relationships in natural
community settings

What has been done so far?

- The most organized and successful Para-Sport effort: Right to Dream
- Social enterprise, registered charity in Ghana, U.K., U.S.
- Founded in Ghana by British social entrepreneur Tom Vernon, in 2000
- Vision: To offer talented, underprivileged children an opportunity to reach life potential via ATHLETIC, ACADEMIC and CHARACTER development
- Fully-residential school offering scholarships to talented African children
- March 2010, opened new purpose-built facility in Eastern Ghana
- >100 graduates to date
- 35 graduates awarded full scholarships to leading universities, private boarding schools and colleges in the US and UK
- 15 grads signed professional contracts for international football clubs
- 6 grads now represent the Black Stars



Right to Dream sponsored Ghana's four London 2012 paralympians

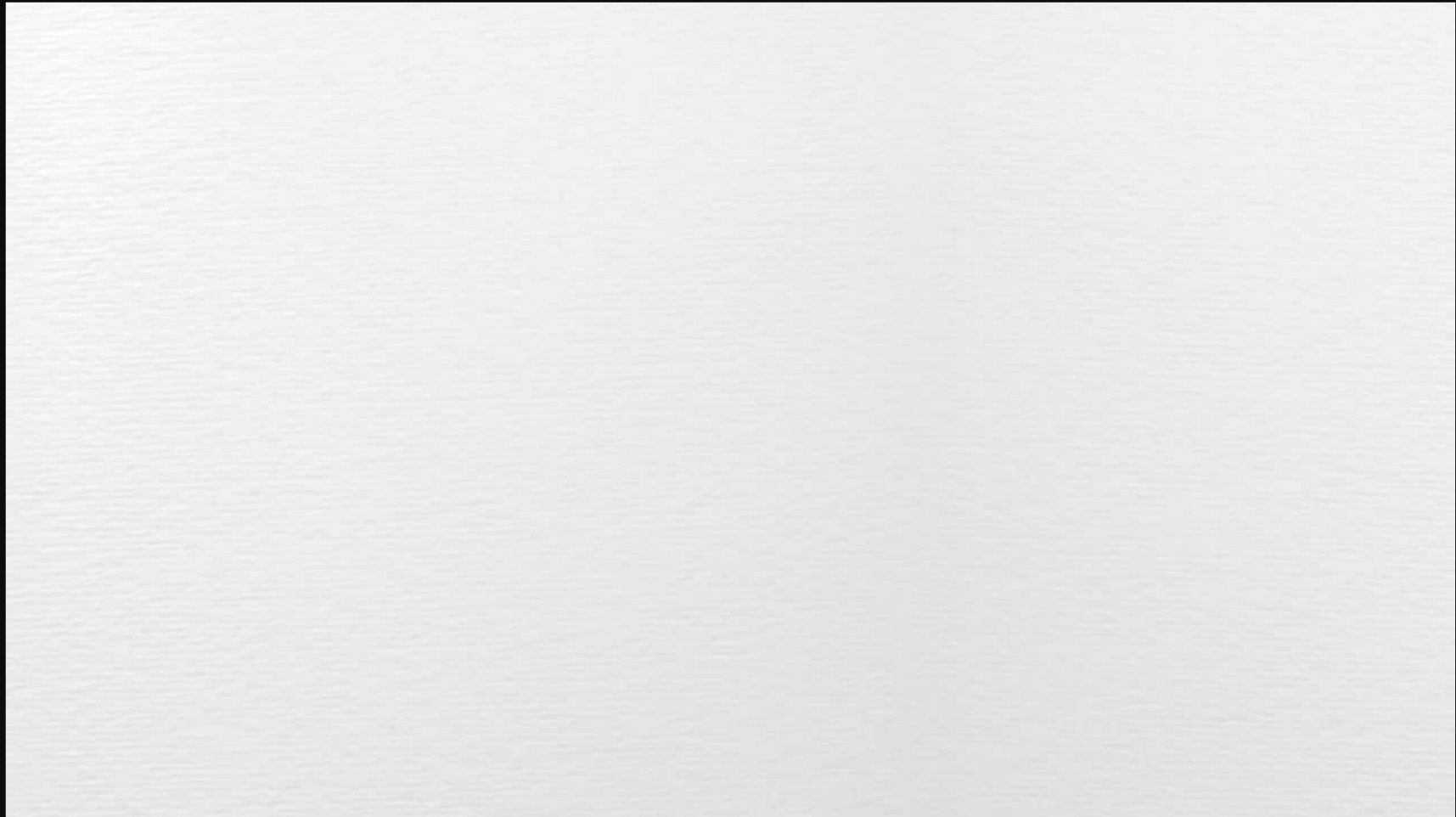


Para-sport development continues

- RtD is establishing a residential youth Para-Sport program
- Raphael Botsyo (3-time Paralympian) serves as the Development Officer for the Para-Sport program
- Target: Athletes with visual impairments (T11-13), limb deficiencies (T42-46) and competing in wc events (T51-T54)
- 100% scholarships offered to para-athletes, aged 15-18
- Same RtD talent development program used: sporting, education and character to create national role models who inspire their families and communities towards excellence



Creating role models is a priority



Developing para-sport programs in Ghana could not occur at a better time



Further development of para-sport at the national level is needed

Barriers

Para-Sport

INACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS

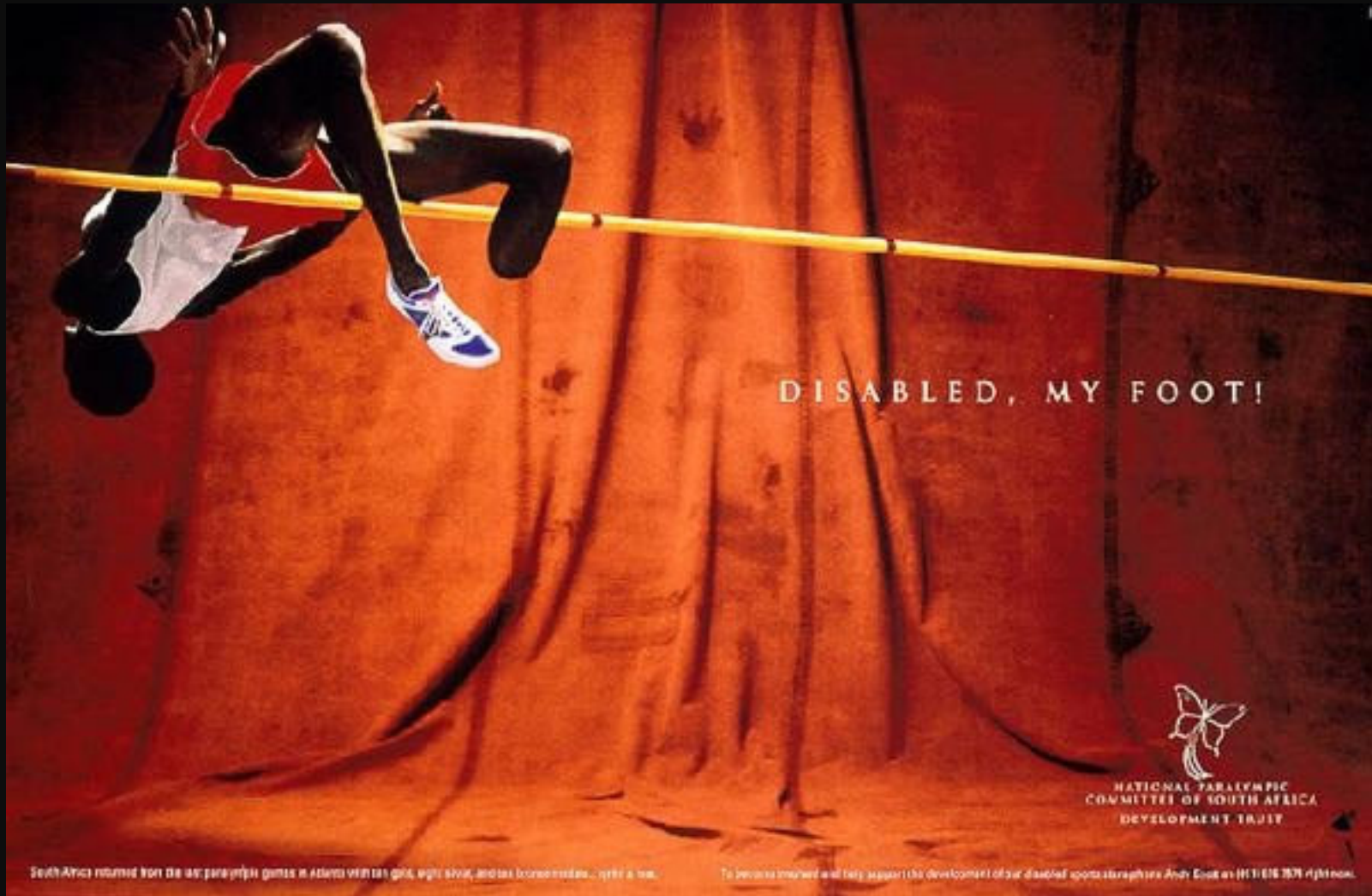
TRANSPORTATION LIMITATIONS

Inability in the face of disability

Social inclusion



Productive relationships
Empowering role models
Fulfilled potential
Right to dream



DISABLED, MY FOOT!



NATIONAL PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

South Africa received from the six paralympic games in Atlanta 1996 the gold, silver, bronze and the four medals.

To become involved and help support the development of our disabled sports athletes Andy Cook at 011 616 7574 is the way.

Thank you

EXTRA SLIDES

Individual benefits of adapted sports are clear

USA | **Cerebral Palsy**. Diane Groff *et al.* 2009

Participation ↑ overall health, QoL, family life and social life (strength of athletic identity correlated with level of influence)

HOL | **Amputee**. Miheil Bragaru *et al.* 2011

Sport had a beneficial effect on cardiopulmonary fitness, psychological well-being, social reintegration and overall physical functioning

ENG | **Wheelchair**. Craig Stephens *et al.* 2012

Benefits include socialization, acquisition of knowledge from others, greater awareness of health and well-being, weight maintenance, functional development and independence

TUR | **Intellectually Disabled**. D Ozer *et al.* 2010

Special Olympics soccer program ↓ problem behavior, ↑ social competence, ↑ attitude of able-bodied youth towards PWID

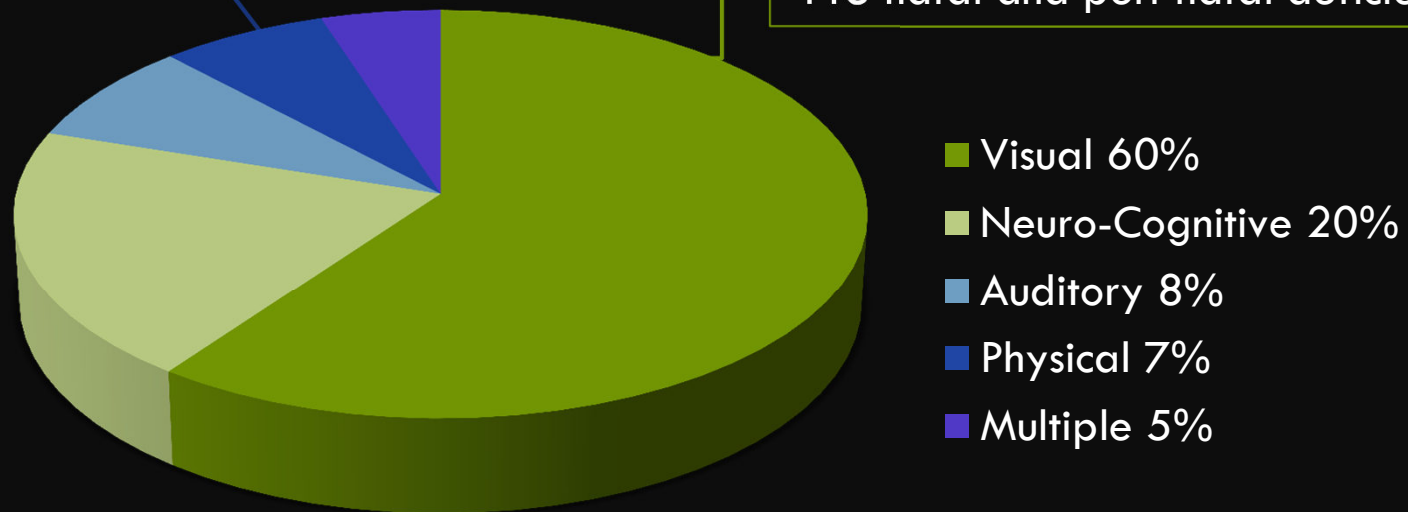
Community benefits of adapted sports are clear

- Increased understanding, acceptance and integration of people with differences
- For older children, increased empathic sensitivity, social responsibility and competence and broadened knowledge of cultural norms
- Social inclusion
- Not the total “solution” by any means...

Disability among Ghanaian children enrolled in primary school

- Infectious disease (vector/soil transmitted, viral)
- Trauma (road traffic injuries >> falls, violence)
- Congenital (including abortion attempts)

-Pre-natal and peri-natal deficiencies



2006 Persons with Disability Act

A Few Protected Rights:

Family Life

Participation in social, creative & recreational activities

Equal residential tx

Access to public spaces

Passed by Parliament (Cabinet-initiated in 2000)

Two-fold objective

- Fulfill a constitutional obligation of enacting laws to protect and promote the rights of PWD
- Fulfill Ghana's international obligations

61 clauses in 8 broad categories

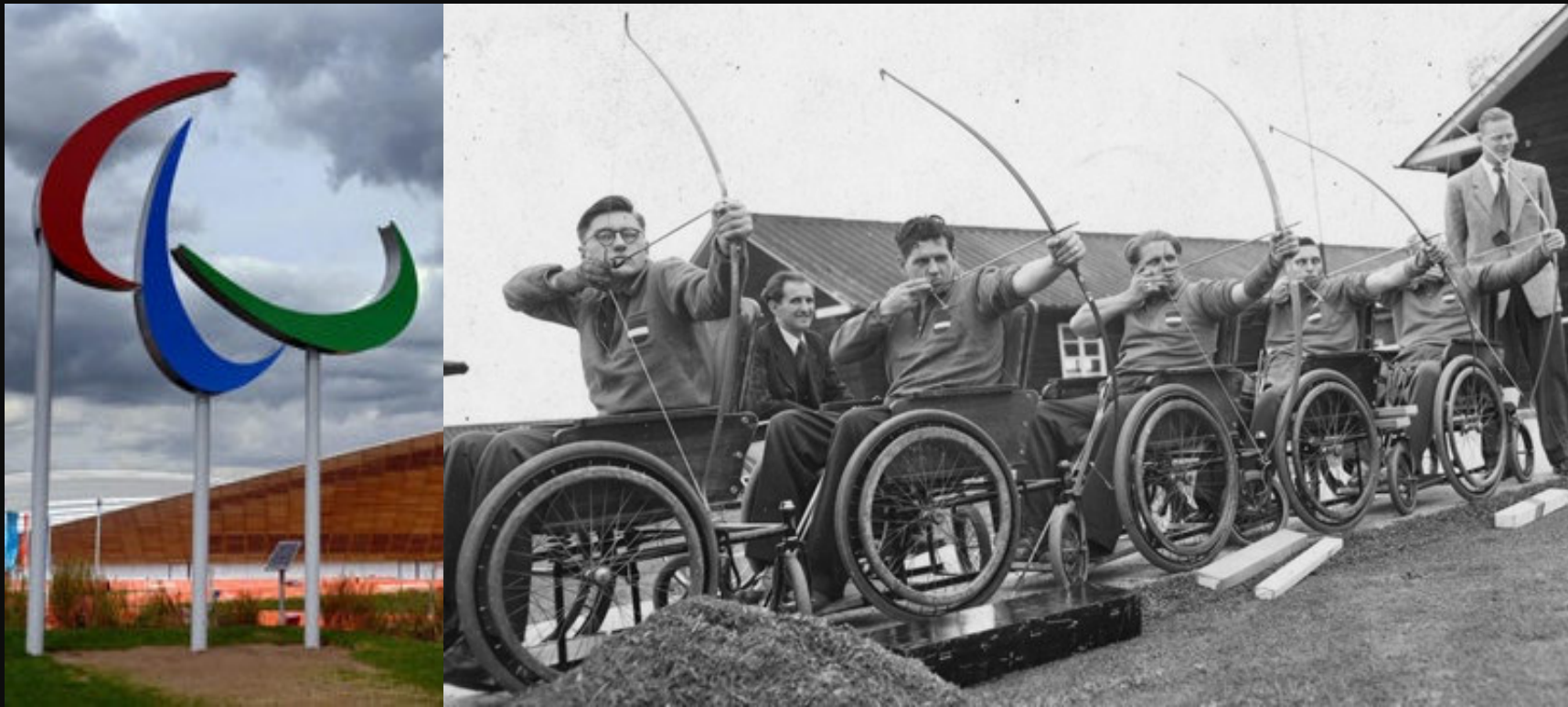
- Rights, Employment, Education, Transportation, Health-care facilities, Miscellaneous provisions, National Council on PWD, Administrative and Financial provisions

Policies do not guarantee inclusion



Effectiveness and real-life impact of social organizations and formal legislation remain severely limited by weak lobbying power and many societal challenges

The Paralympic Movement has further raised interest



International Wheelchair Games (U.K.), 1948

Athletics may be an ideal para-sport to develop nationally

