



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

<b>Applicant Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Morgon Banks Other authors: Maria Zuurmond, Sarah Polack, Hannah Kuper
<b>Position:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Institution:</b>	International Centre for Evidence in Disability, LSHTM
<b>Level of study (if applicable) (e.g. MA, PhD):</b>	PhD (in progress), MSc
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:morgon.banks@lshtm.ac.uk">morgon.banks@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
<b>Phone number:</b>	+447908830399
<b>Preferred presentation format:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Poster <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Oral or poster</b>

Would you like to be added to the ICED Mailing List

Yes/**No**

## **ABSTRACT**

**Title:**                    **Barriers to uptake of health and rehabilitative services for children with disabilities in Malawi and Nepal**

**Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):**

Many children remain disabled unnecessarily or experience reduced functioning because of lack of uptake of treatment (e.g. club foot surgery) or rehabilitation (e.g. provision of assistive devices). Failure to receive proper treatment and management of impairments in turn can have long-term medical, social and economic consequences for children with disabilities and their families: it is a contributing factor in why children with disabilities are substantially less likely to attend school and work as adults, more likely to experience poorer health and quality of life, have higher mortality rates and live in poverty. While increased access to treatment and rehabilitation services has been prioritized in the World Health Organization's Global Disability Action Plan and will be essential for meeting targets for Universal Health Coverage, more research is needed to better understand the factors that are impeding or supporting access.

To fill this gap in the evidence base, qualitative research was conducted in Malawi and Nepal. In each site, purposive selection of 20 children with disabilities was undertaken to produce a representative sample by impairment type, gender and those in and out of school. Semi-structured, in-depth interviews with children with disabilities and their caregivers were used to explore health seeking behaviour, impact of health on social participation (e.g. education) and barriers/facilitators to the uptake of health services.

Findings from this research indicate significant unmet health needs, with wide ranging impacts in areas such as education and household livelihoods. Barriers to access included caregivers' lack of knowledge about their child's condition and available services, direct and indirect costs of seeking care, long distances to facilities with minimal transportation links, attitudes and skills of health care workers and availability/reliability of services. Greater caregiver engagement in understanding their child's condition and provision of monetary and transportation support in turn appear to promote improved access.

**Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:  
[disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)