



**International Conference:  
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Introducing local production and use of postural support devices made from appropriate paper-based technology (APT) for young children with Cerebral Palsy through Kenyan Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programmes.

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

### Background

The World Health Organisation notes a lack of assistive devices for disabled people in Africa particularly children with Cerebral Palsy. APT using cardboard to make bespoke chairs and standing frames is potentially sustainable, being in use for forty years, but not formally evaluated. The materials are cheap and available; production is labour intensive requiring training.

### Methods

APT assistive devices have been developed and refined by Cerebral Palsy Africa (CPA), working with projects in Africa over the last decade. Courses run in two disability programmes in Kenya were followed by a CBR networking conference including three other CBR programmes who had not used APT. Interest in APT and involvement in a small scale research project was established and each area invited to send 5 participants on a 2 week course, hosted by the original programme. Each group wrote an APT action plan and returned to their communities with basic tools, instructions, APT samples and letters asking their sponsors/managers to support production.

### Results

The original area had continued to produce devices – 100 in the 6 years since 2009 CPA training. The second area had not produced further devices, although 4 of the 6 chairs produced on the first course were still in use during a follow-up visit 6 months later. Twenty three participants completed a 2 week course in March 2015 and returned to their programmes enthusiastic to start production. Two new areas have produced and distributed fourteen devices, more devices made in the original area and the other two have met with stakeholders but have yet to start production. A case study research pilot to evaluate the effect of APT postural support devices has recently commenced in the original area.

### Conclusions

Kenyan CBR programmes have an appetite for learning to make APT devices but barriers to production need further exploration.

**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:

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