



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

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ABSTRACT	
Title:	Disability and eye health in Mozambique - Barriers to refractive services
Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):	
<p>BACKGROUND: Uncorrected refractive error (URE) – the inability of the eye to focus properly - is the leading cause of visual impairment (VI) in low income settings. Professional optometry has recently been developed in Mozambique, denoting significant progress towards the delivery of a comprehensive refractive service. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, this study seeks to understand what barriers may limit their uptake by the general population, to inform decision making on improved service delivery.</p> <p>METHODS: A community-based cross-sectional study using two-stage cluster sampling was conducted. Participants with VI were asked to identify barriers that were reflective of their experiences and perceptions of accessing refractive services. A total of 4601 participants were enumerated in Nampula, Mozambique.</p> <p>RESULTS: A total of 1087 participants with VI were identified (884 with near and 203 with distance impairment). Cost was the most frequently cited barrier, identified by more than one in every two participants (53%). Other barriers identified included lack of felt need (20%), distance to travel (15%), and lack of awareness (13%). In general, no significant influence of sex or type of VI on barrier selection was found. Location had a significant impact on the selection of several barriers. Participants from rural areas were found to feel disadvantaged regarding the distance to services and adequacy of hospital services.</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS: Working under the new Sustainable Development framework, social and economic barriers including cost and affordability must be overcome to address the burden of URE. A strategy will be needed to overcome the lack of felt need. This may take the form of improved advocacy and health promotion. The needs and context of those living in rural areas must be considered for URE to be addressed.</p>	

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

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