

Supplementary Table 1: Summary characteristics of the studies including author and year of publication, title of article, type of article, aim, participants, type of study, methods and country of evidence

Ref	Author and year of publication	Title of article	Type of article	Aim	Participants	Type of Study	Sample size	Methods	Country	Evidence
22	Nesbit et al (2015)	Rehabilitation training for home-based palliative care community health workers: a pilot study	Primary study	To evaluate a training programme in rehabilitation for home-based palliative care community health workers	Home-based palliative care community health workers	Cross-sectional	20	Quantitative	Malawi	Home-based palliative care community health workers providing rehabilitation in home-based palliative care in Malawi
23	Nesbit & Clark (2019)	Rehabilitation training for community health workers: a five-year study	Primary study	To evaluate the effectiveness of a rehabilitation training program for community health workers in a resource-limited setting over 5 years	Home-based palliative care community health workers	Cross-sectional	60	Quantitative	Malawi	Home-based palliative care community health workers providing rehabilitation in home-based palliative care in a training evaluation
24	Couper (2002)	Prevalence of childhood disability in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	Primary study	To determine the prevalence of disability in children under 10 years of age in the Manguzi sub-district, to inform the development of an appropriate rehabilitation service	Children	Cross-sectional	2036	Quantitative	South Africa	Community health workers assessing children's disability in a prevalence study
25	Galvez et al (2021)	Integrated care by community health workers in Malawi: Rehabilitation and blood pressure monitoring	Primary study	To evaluate a CHW training program in rural Malawi integrating blood pressure monitoring into rehabilitation care	Home-based palliative care community health workers	Cross-sectional	59	Quantitative	Malawi	Home-based palliative care community health workers providing hypertension monitoring and rehabilitation in a palliative program

26	Vancampfort et al (2021)	The efficacy of lay health workers – led physical activity counselling program in patients with HIV and mental health problems: a real-world intervention from Uganda	Primary study	To explore the efficacy of an 8-week, once weekly, lay health workers-led physical activity counselling program for inactive patients with HIV/AIDS and mental health problems living in a Uganda farming community	People living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy	Cohort	49	Quantitative	Uganda	Community health workers providing the intervention in the study
27	Wilson et al (2020)	Technology and rehabilitation training for community health workers: Strengthening health systems in Malawi.	Primary study	To evaluate a community health workers training programme in Malawi that integrated technology into rehabilitation care delivery	Home-based palliative care community health workers	Cross-sectional	60	Quantitative	Malawi	Home-based palliative care community health workers in palliative home-based rehabilitation care using technology
28	Tekle-Haimanot et al (1990)	A community-based study of neurological disorders in rural central Ethiopia.	Primary study	To assess the neurological disorders in rural central Ethiopia	Community	Cross-sectional	Unknown	Quantitative	Ethiopia	Community health workers identifying neurological disorders in the community
29	Naidoo et al (2019)	Community healthcare worker response to childhood disorders: Inadequacies and needs	Primary study	To identify gaps and help improve future training of community health workers and the service delivery offered by community health workers for childhood disorders and disabilities	Community health workers, Key informants	Cross-sectional	28	Qualitative	South Africa	Community health workers identifying assistive device needs for disabled children
30	Cobbing et al (2017)	“Knowing I can be helpful makes me feel good inside, it makes me feel essential”: community health care workers’ experiences of conducting a home-based rehabilitation intervention for people living with HIV in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	Primary study	To describe the experiences of community care workers when working as rehabilitation assistants in a randomised controlled trial investigating the effects of a four-month home-based rehabilitation intervention on adult people living with HIV	Community care workers	Randomised controlled trial	4	Qualitative	South Africa	Community care workers working as rehabilitation assistants in a randomised controlled trial investigating the effects of a four-month home-based rehabilitation intervention on adult people living with HIV

31	Cobbing et al (2017)	Assessing home-based rehabilitation within the development of an integrated model of care for people living with HIV in a resource-poor community	Primary study	To describe how a home-based rehabilitation programme adhered to the fundamental principles of a theoretical model of integrated care developed for the study setting in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	-	Desk review		Qualitative	South Africa	Lay health working providing rehabilitation services in a study in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
32	Ennion & Rhoda (2016)	Roles and challenges of the multidisciplinary team involved in prosthetic rehabilitation, in a rural district in South Africa	Primary study	To explore the roles and challenges of the members of the multidisciplinary team involved in trans-tibial amputation rehabilitation in a rural community in South Africa	Prosthetic users, surgeons, traditional healers, therapists, prosthetists, and Community Care Givers	Cross-sectional	Nine prosthetic users, three surgeons, three traditional healers, 17 therapists, four prosthetists, and four community health workers	Qualitative	South Africa	Community caregivers as members of multidisciplinary teams in prosthetic rehabilitative
33	Waleign (2018)	Assessing the practices and challenges of Gondar University community-based rehabilitation services for deaf children-Ethiopia	Primary study	To assess the practice and challenges of community-based rehabilitation services for deaf children.	Deaf children, the parents of the children, community-based rehabilitation workers & supervisors and program coordinator	Cross-sectional	24	Qualitative	Ethiopia	Community-based rehabilitation workers providing rehabilitation for deaf children in a community-based rehabilitation programme

34	Scheffler & Mash (2020)	Figuring it out by yourself: Perceptions of home-based care of stroke survivors, family caregivers, and community health workers in a low-resourced setting, South Africa	Primary study	To describe the experience and perceived needs of stroke survivors, their caregivers, and community health workers in a context with limited access to and support from formal rehabilitation services.	CHWs, caregivers, and stroke survivors	Cross-sectional	41 community health workers, 21 caregivers, and 26 stroke survivors	Qualitative	South Africa	Community health workers and caregivers providing stroke rehabilitation in home and community-based care stroke survivors
35	Scheffler et al (2019)	Community-based rehabilitation workers' perspectives of wheelchair provision in Uganda: A qualitative study	Primary study	To determine what community-based rehabilitation workers in three areas of Uganda perceived as (1) the challenges with wheelchair provision and use, (2) the factors contributing to these challenges, (3) the role they can potentially play, and (4) what facilitators they need to achieve this	Community-based rehabilitation workers	Cross-sectional	21	Qualitative	Uganda	Community-based rehabilitation workers providing assistive devices in a community-based rehabilitation programme in Uganda
36	Tsolekile et al (2014)	The Roles of community health workers in the management of non-communicable diseases in an urban township	Primary study	To explore the current roles of community health workers working with non-communicable diseases	Community health workers	Cross-sectional	10	Qualitative	South Africa	Community Health workers taking part in the management of non-communicable diseases in Khayelitsha
37	Wang et al (2020)	Voices of home-based palliative care community health workers in rural Malawi: A mixed methods study on factors affecting role and sustainability	Primary study	To explore the nature of the community health workers' roles and factors affecting the program's sustainability.	Home-based palliative care community health workers	Cross-sectional	60	Mixed	Malawi	Home-based palliative care community health workers providing palliative care and basic rehabilitative services to patients in their homes, typically following discharge from St. Gabriel Hospital

38	Grut et al (2004)	"More of the same and try something new" Evaluation of the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme in Eritrea	Report	i) Assess the effectiveness, impact, and relevance of the program, ii) examine and conclude the program's strengths and weaknesses, and iii) propose recommendations that can strengthen the program	Administrative staff in the ministry, Local Supervisors, representatives of village rehabilitation committees, representatives of village administrations and persons with disabilities and their families	Cross-sectional	77	Qualitative	Eritrea	Lay health workers were the local supervisors in the community-based rehabilitation programme in Eritrea
39	Soopramanien (2012)	Needs assessment on neurological rehabilitation services in Mauritius	Report	To obtain qualitative and quantitative information relating to the potential gaps in neurological rehabilitation care in Mauritius	Health professionals, patients and their relatives	Cross-sectional	Unknown	Mixed	Mauritius	Community-based rehabilitation providers providing neurological rehabilitation to stroke, spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injury patients
40	Claussen et al (2005)	Norwegian Association of the disabled evaluation of the community-based rehabilitation programme in Uganda -Final Report 3 June 2005	Report	To assess the achievements of the community-based rehabilitation programme in Tororo district in Uganda since its inception in 2002.	-	Desk review	-	Mixed	Uganda	Community health workers involved in mobilizing disabled persons to form groups and link these groups to resource systems in community-based rehabilitation in Uganda

41	Mukumbuta (2018)	The impact of the community-based rehabilitation strategy on people with disabilities and their families: a case of the Oniipa constituency, Namibia	Dissertation	To assess the impact of the community-based rehabilitation strategy on people with disabilities and their families within the Oniipa constituency in Namibia	People with disabilities and their families	Cross-sectional	34	Mixed	Namibia	Community-based rehabilitation volunteer workers implement the community-based rehabilitation strategy within their respective communities
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