

## **STRENGTHENING THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN BRAZIL**

The prevalence of disability is significant all over the world, and it is expected to rise further as population ages, health behaviours worsen and often disabling chronic conditions prevail. Evidence shows that people with disabilities have higher healthcare needs and that these are often not met. They are found to experience poorer access to health services and worst health outcomes than people without disabilities, especially in low and middle income countries, such as Brazil. Although Brazilian policy and law strongly supports the inclusion of people with disabilities in the health system, the Zika epidemic revealed gaps in access to mainstream health care and specialized rehabilitation services. There are multiple benefits in improving the inclusion of people with disabilities in the health system, but evidence on what we need to promote it is still lacking. This research is predominantly exploratory and descriptive in focus, and its approach is multi-disciplinary and uses mixed-methods to collect and analyse data. The project is expected to produce recommendations for stakeholders for the strengthening of the inclusion of people with disabilities and provision of rehabilitation within the Brazilian health system, and to propose standard indicator for measuring access to health care and inclusion of people with disabilities within the health system.

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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

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