

Ear and Hearing Care for all! Approach to service delivery and cochlear implants in LMICs

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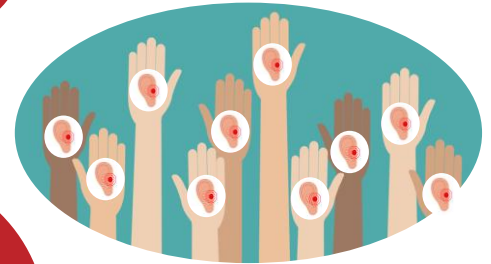
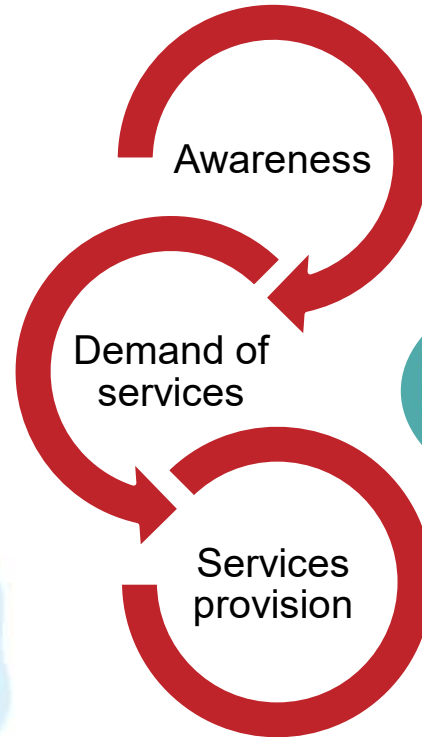


**World Health
Organization**



Ear and Hearing Care

Awareness → Access to services



Demand of health services is key to promote availability



Awareness

All stakeholders



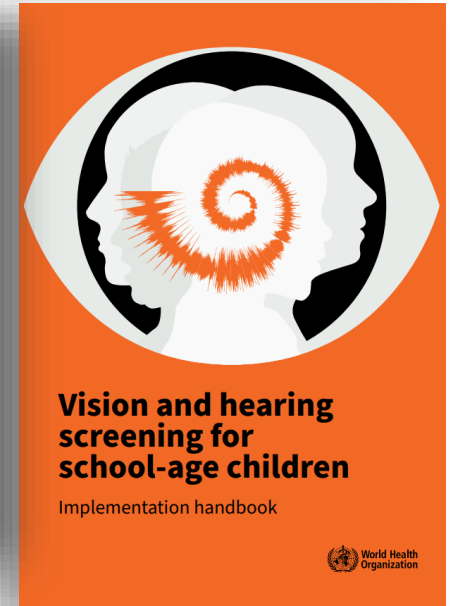
Awareness
and Cochlear
Implants



Hearing screening

All ages

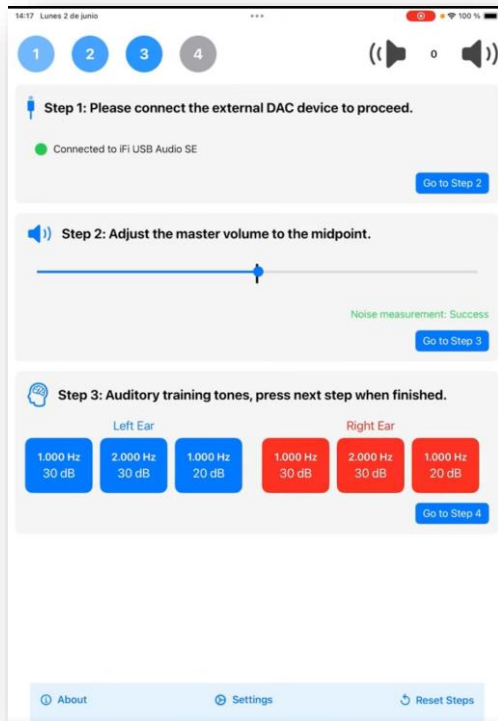
Early
identification



Demand of services

Coming soon!

Free tone-based
app
Low-cost
equipment
Android and iOS



Service Provision

What is the situation?



Ear and Hearing Care

Over 80%

**of persons with hearing loss
don't have access to the care they need**



Nearly 80%

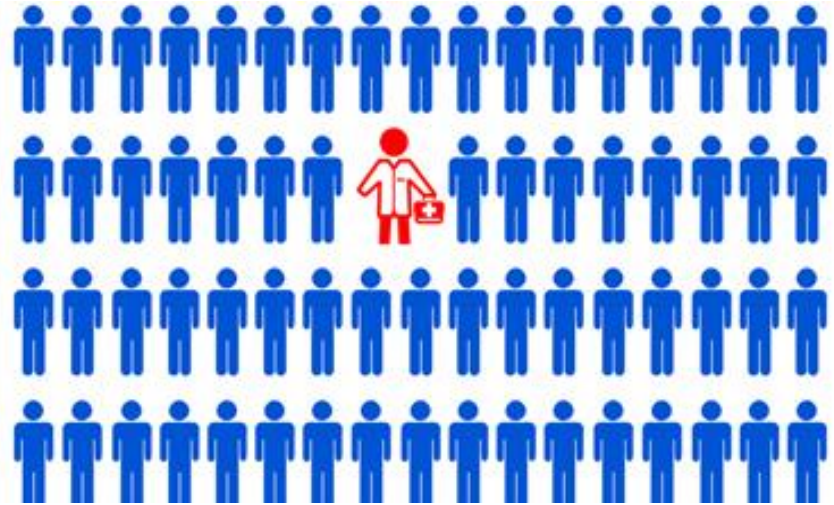
**Of people with hearing loss
live in LMICs**



Identifying

major GAPS

- ✓ One of the reasons:
the insufficient and
unequal distribution of
ear and hearing care
specialists.



Service Provision

What can be done?



Service Provision

More specialists

- Long time for training and experience acquisition
- Inequal distribution
- Unserved population waiting...

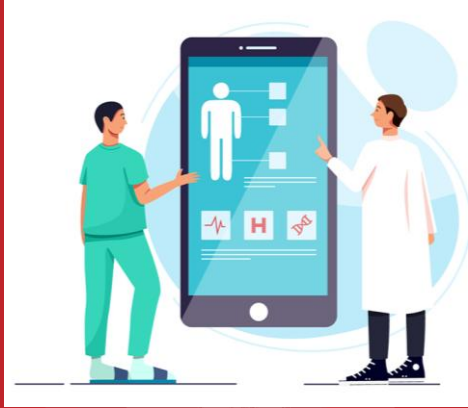


Is not that
easy...



Service Provision

Task sharing: Definition



“The rational **redistribution of tasks among health workforce teams**. It involves the **training and empowerment of health workers** with shorter training and fewer qualifications to perform **specific tasks** that would otherwise be carried out by more highly qualified health workers.”

Service Provision

Task sharing: Examples

Programmes in Afghanistan, Egypt, and Pakistan

Focus: Community Health Worker (CHW).



Tasks Shared Among Cadres for TB and perinatal care:

- **Provide** and promote **family planning**
- **Refer** patients
- **Record** pregnancies
- **Support** breastfeeding
- **Monitor** child growth
- **Treat** diarrhea, malaria, respiratory infections, intestinal worms
- **Administer** Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for TB
- **Conduct** polio surveillance
- **Promote** vaccination, nutrition, hygiene
- Provide **emergency relief**
- Maintain **health records**

Service Provision

Task sharing: Examples



Task Sharing for NCD Services in Kenya

Focus: Nurses and CHWs

- **Tasks Shared Among Cadres for NCD Care:**
- **Screening and diagnosis** of major NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases.
- **Health promotion and education** on lifestyle changes (e.g., diet, physical activity, tobacco cessation).
- **Monitoring and follow-up** of patients with chronic conditions.
- **Medication management** and adherence support.
- **Referral coordination** between primary and specialized care.
- **Palliative care** and psychosocial support.
- **Data collection and reporting** for NCD surveillance.

Service Provision

Task sharing: EHC Examples

Kiribati

Context: Remote island nation with limited access to ENT specialists.

Task Sharing Approach:

Primary health workers trained to conduct **basic ear examinations**.
Provided **hearing screening** and **referrals** for advanced care.
Integrated EHC into **school health programs** and **community outreach**.

Strengthened **primary care capacity** to deliver EHC services.



Service Provision

Task sharing: EHC Examples

India

Context: Large population with significant burden of hearing loss.

Task Sharing Approach:

Community health workers and **primary care providers** trained to:
Identify **ear infections** and **hearing loss**.

Deliver **health education** on ear hygiene.

Support **hearing aid use** and **referral pathways**.

EHC integrated into **national health programs**, including maternal and child health.



Service Provision

Task sharing: EHC Examples

Malawi

Context: Shortage of audiologists and ENT specialists.

Task Sharing Approach:

Clinical officers and nurses trained to:

Perform **ear examinations** and **hearing assessments**.

Manage **common ear conditions**.

Provide **referrals** and **rehabilitation support**.

Strengthened **primary care capacity** to deliver EHC services.



What is
needed?

Task sharing

Technical documents



Training material



Specialists' supervision

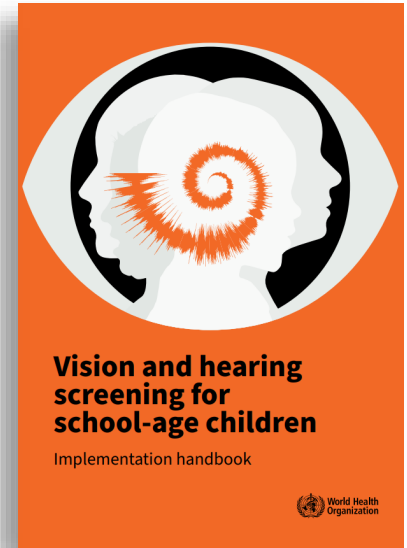
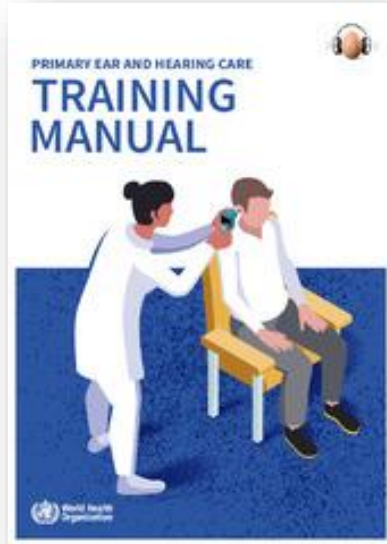


Telemedicine



Service Provision

Task sharing: Training tools



Learning on TAP: Supporting resources

- **Supporting courses**
- Open-access on an online platform to support **blended learning**
- **Used together** with the implementation handbooks



Learning
on TAP



Introduction

Introduction to sensory
screening

Get started →



Vision

Vision and eye health in
children

Get started →



Hearing

Hearing and ear health in
children

Get started →





