

REHABILITATION IN HEALTH ACCOUNTS

Why focus on rehabilitation in health systems?



Rehabilitation services can help people with a wide range of health conditions to reduce disability, optimize functioning in their environment,¹ and enable them to live active, functional, productive and fulfilled lives.

2.4
BILLION



Today, 2.4 billion people, one-third of the world's population, are living with a health condition that can benefit from rehabilitation."



Financial coverage for rehabilitation is essential to achieving Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and well-being for all, at all ages.

Why should we track rehabilitation expenditure in health accounts?

Health accounts can track how health systems, other sectors and service users allocate and spend funds for rehabilitation. They can provide invaluable evidence for strategic policy decisions by helping to:



Understand if and how financing policies can be more efficient, better aligned with the population need and health systems priorities.

Quantify the gap between available financial coverage for rehabilitation and population needs.



Guide resource allocation to most efficiently meet rehabilitation needs and minimize out-of-pocket expenditure.

Map available resources and improve strategic planning for rehabilitation in health systems.



What do we know about rehabilitation expenditure?



2.4%



Around the world, rehabilitative care accounts for an average of just 2.4% of total health expenditures.ⁱⁱⁱ

Rehabilitation expenditure data is often unavailable or of low quality!^{iv}

1

Many countries do not track rehabilitation expenditure in national health accounts.^v

2

The definition of rehabilitation is not well-understood or standardized across data collection mechanisms.

3

Rehabilitation is inadequately captured in household out-of-pocket expenditure surveys.

4

Rehabilitation services are difficult to distinguish from long-term-care or acute/sub-acute in-patient services.

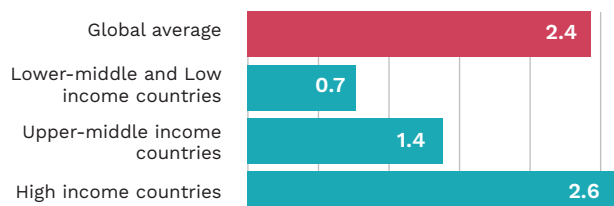
5

Multi-sectorial funding of rehabilitation services is not well-accounted for.

6

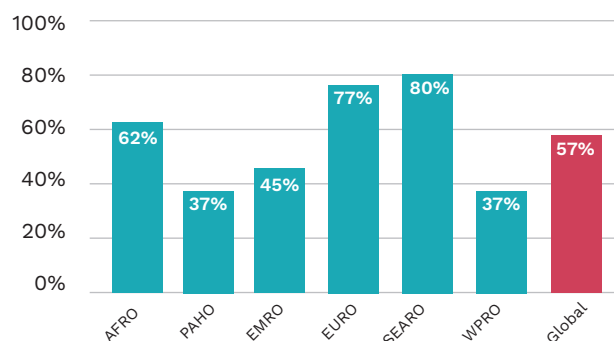
Human resource capacity may be insufficient to track rehabilitation expenditures.

Rehabilitation as a Percentage of Total Health Expenditure by Income Level



Source: Schneider MT et al (2021)

Percentage of Countries Tracking Rehabilitation (HC.2) by Region



Source: World Health Organization (2022) Global Health Expenditure Database

Our Response

Health Systems Strengthening Accelerator is working with the World Health Organization and other partners to improve rehabilitation expenditure tracking by:



Analyzing existing challenges and opportunities



Testing solutions



Developing a technical note to supplement Systems of Health Accounts 2011 methodology

References

- ⁱ WHO. (2023). Website.
- ⁱⁱ Cieza, A., Causey, K., Kamenov, K., Hanson, S.W., Chatterji, S. and Vos, T., (2020) Global estimates of the need for rehabilitation based on the Global Burden of Disease study 2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet*.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Schneider MT, Chang AY, Chapin A, et al. Health expenditures by services and providers for 195 countries, 2000–2017. *BMJ Global Health* 2021;6:e005799. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005799
- ^{iv} Brainerd, E., Barna, K., Chikhradze, T., Zida, A. (2023) Landscape Analysis of Rehabilitation Expenditure in Health Accounts. Results for Development. (Available upon request).
- ^v World Health Organization. (2022). Global Health Expenditure Database.

