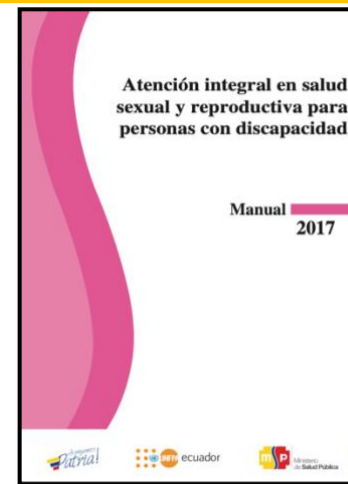


Health worker handbook on sexual and reproductive health care for people with disabilities in Ecuador

Geography and scale:	Ecuador; National
Type of disability:	All types

Involved actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Public Health, Ecuador • National Council for Disability Equality, Ecuador • United Nations Population Fund



"Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health for people with disabilities; Handbook, 2017" Click on the image for more information in Spanish.

Best practice description

In 2017, a handbook on sexual and reproductive health services for people with disabilities was developed and distributed to health care professionals in Ecuador's national health system. With a special focus in primary care, it aims to ensure there are quality services that respond to the particular needs of people with disabilities. Based in a human-rights framework, it also aims to strengthen sexual and reproductive health information and counselling for people with disabilities, as well as the exercise of their rights. The handbook provides technical guidance, general recommendations and specific advice by type of disability on: attitudinal, communicational and physical accommodations; autonomy, independence and informed consent; use of contraceptives; pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and new-born care; and prevention of sexual violence.

Origin / impetus for best practice

- Ecuador subscribes to a human rights framework to address disability and acknowledges at the constitutional level that persons with disabilities are a priority group with recognized rights of access to specialized health care, free medications, comprehensive rehabilitation, and assistive technology.
- The Ministry of Health's National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2017- 2021 promotes inclusion, equality and respect for human rights within the framework of sexual and reproductive health.
- Ecuador was involved in the "We Decide" programme led by the United Nations Population Fund that promotes the human rights and social inclusion of women and young persons with disabilities.
- Gender-based and sexual violence was found to be higher among women with disabilities than those without in Ecuador.

Impact / results of implementing best practice

- First national workshop of 2019 strengthened inter-sectoral coordination and plans further implementation of the handbook, including the correct use of the contraceptive methods booklet in Braille language.

Critical success factors for best practice

- Technical support of international organizations.
- Participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including people with disabilities.
- Disability-inclusion in the country's political agenda.

Impact statement

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- ...
- ...

Lessons learned

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- ...
- ...

Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health for people with disabilities; Handbook, 2017 [in Spanish] • State party report 2018 UNCRPD • Workshop on Handbook, 2019, UNFPA, Ecuador [In Spanish]
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Further links & information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young persons with disabilities: Global study on ending gender-based violence, and realising sexual and reproductive health and rights, 2018, UNFPA
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