RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Unmet Healthcare Needs and Barriers to Care Among Individuals with Disabilities Registered with the Disability Council in Dongola Locality, Northern State, Sudan, 2026

Researchers

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Introduction and Informed Consent

Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

We are medical students conducting a research study entitled “Unmet Healthcare Needs and Barriers to Care Among Individuals with Disabilities Registered with the Disability Council in Dongola Locality, Northern State, Sudan, 2026.”

We kindly invite you to participate in this study by answering the following questions. Participation is entirely voluntary. The information collected will be kept confidential and used for scientific research purposes only. You may decline to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without consequences.

If the participant is unable to provide informed consent independently, consent should be obtained from a parent or legally authorized representative, as appropriate, in accordance with the approved ethics procedures.

Consent. Do you agree to participate in this study?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If the answer is “No,” end the interview.

Section 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics

1. Age group

- ☐ Less than 18 years
- ☐ 18–35 years
- ☐ 36–59 years
- ☐ 60 years and above

2. Sex

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

3. Highest educational level completed

- ☐ No formal education
- ☐ Primary education
- ☐ Secondary education
- ☐ University education
- ☐ Postgraduate education
- ☐ Other: _____

4. Place of residence

- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Rural

5. Marital status (optional)

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced or separated
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Not applicable

6. Current work status

- ☐ Working (any paid or income-generating work)
- ☐ Not working – looking for work
- ☐ Not working – unable to work
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other: _____

Section 2: Disability and Respondent Characteristics

7. What is your main type of disability?

- ☐ Motor/physical disability
- ☐ Visual disability
- ☐ Hearing disability
- ☐ Intellectual disability
- ☐ Multiple disabilities
- ☐ Other: _____

8. What is the main cause of your disability, if known?

- ☐ Congenital (present since birth)
- ☐ Disease or illness
- ☐ Accident or injury
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Unknown

9. How long have you had this disability?

- ☐ Since birth
- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1–5 years
- ☐ More than 5 years

10. Do you usually need assistance from another person to access healthcare services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes

11. Who is answering this questionnaire?

- ☐ The participant
- ☐ Father or mother

☐ Legal guardian
☐ Caregiver or other representative: _____

Section 3: Healthcare Utilization and Financial Support

12. Where do you usually go when you need healthcare?

☐ Government hospital
☐ Primary healthcare center
☐ Private clinic or hospital
☐ Pharmacy only
☐ Traditional or home remedies
☐ I do not usually seek healthcare
☐ Other: _____

13. How long does it usually take you to reach the nearest functioning healthcare facility?

☐ Less than 30 minutes
☐ 30–60 minutes
☐ More than 1 hour up to 2 hours
☐ More than 2 hours
☐ Do not know

14. Who usually pays for your healthcare costs? Select all that apply.

☐ Myself
☐ Family
☐ NGO or charity
☐ Disability Council or government
☐ Health insurance
☐ Other: _____
☐ Do not know

Section 4: Unmet Healthcare Needs During the Previous 12 Months

15. During the past 12 months, was there any time when you needed healthcare or medical treatment but did not receive it?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Cannot remember

16. During the past 12 months, did you delay seeking or receiving healthcare when you needed it?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Cannot remember

17. What type of healthcare did you need but could not obtain, or could not obtain on time? Select all that apply.

☐ Medical consultation or examination
☐ Medicines or prescriptions
☐ Laboratory tests or diagnostic investigations
☐ Rehabilitation or physiotherapy

- ☐ Assistive devices or related services
- ☐ Mental health services
- ☐ Emergency care or hospital treatment
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Not applicable

18. How often did you experience unmet healthcare needs during the past 12 months?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ 2–3 times
- ☐ 4 or more times
- ☐ Cannot remember
- ☐ Not applicable

19. What was the main reason you did not receive the healthcare you needed?

- ☐ Financial barriers
- ☐ Geographic or transportation barriers
- ☐ Institutional barriers
- ☐ Conflict or insecurity
- ☐ Communication barriers
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Not applicable

Skip instructions: If Question 15 is answered "No," skip Questions 17–19 and proceed to Question 20. If Question 15 is answered "Yes," answer Questions 16–19 as applicable. Question 16 may be answered independently according to the participant's experience.

Section 5: Barriers to Healthcare Access

20. Which of the following barriers have you experienced when trying to access healthcare during the past 12 months? Select all that apply.

A. Financial Barriers

- ☐ Consultation or treatment fees were unaffordable.
- ☐ The cost of medicines was too high.
- ☐ I could not afford transportation costs.
- ☐ I could not afford the cost of investigations or diagnostic tests.
- ☐ I lacked health insurance or financial assistance.
- ☐ Other financial barrier: _____

B. Geographic and Transportation Barriers

- ☐ The healthcare facility was too far from my home.
- ☐ Transportation was unavailable or unreliable.
- ☐ Travel time was too long.
- ☐ Roads or routes were difficult to access because of my disability.
- ☐ Conflict or insecurity prevented me from travelling.
- ☐ Other geographic or transportation barrier: _____

C. Institutional Barriers

- ☐ Healthcare facilities lacked ramps, accessible entrances, or suitable toilets.
- ☐ Healthcare workers lacked adequate knowledge or training about disability-related needs.

- ☐ Communication difficulties occurred because appropriate support was unavailable.
- ☐ Assistive equipment or disability-accessible services were unavailable.
- ☐ Waiting times were long or appointment procedures were inconvenient.
- ☐ Required medicines, tests, or healthcare services were unavailable.
- ☐ I experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.
- ☐ Other institutional barrier: _____

21. If you did not experience unmet healthcare needs, did you experience any difficulty accessing healthcare even though you eventually received the care you needed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

Section 6: Suggested Improvements to Healthcare Access

22. What changes would most improve your access to healthcare? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Reducing healthcare costs
- ☐ Providing financial assistance or health insurance
- ☐ Providing accessible and affordable transportation
- ☐ Improving the physical accessibility of healthcare facilities
- ☐ Ensuring the availability of medicines and medical equipment
- ☐ Increasing the number of trained healthcare workers
- ☐ Improving communication methods and providing appropriate support
- ☐ Improving the way healthcare staff treat patients with disabilities
- ☐ Increasing the availability of rehabilitation services
- ☐ Providing better information about available healthcare services
- ☐ Other: _____

Thank You for Your Participation

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this study. Your contribution is highly appreciated and will help us better understand unmet healthcare needs and barriers to healthcare access among individuals with disabilities in Dongola Locality, Northern State, Sudan.

Thank you for your valuable cooperation.