



A "VISION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN AFRICA"

OTARG Congress
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The theme of the Congress

- "Building bridges within and beyond Africa"
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Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group (OTARG)

OTARG's Mission

- To promote Occupational Therapy in the African Region
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Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group (OTARG)

OTARG's Objectives





OTARG CONGRESSES

- The 2000 challenge: OT in Africa
 - Mauritius - July 1999
 - The way forward: OT in Africa
 - Uganda, Kampala - 2001
 - Grassroots contribution: OT in Africa
 - Kenya, Mombasa - 2003
 - OT in Africa: In search of identity
 - Tanzania, Moshi 2005
 - Occupation and Culture
 - Tanzania, Zanzibar -2007
- 



The development of OT as a profession

- Contexts
 - Challenges
- 




DIVERSE CULTURAL CONTEXTS

Multiple Worlds

- Classical First World
 - Classical Third World
- 




Common Challenges in developing countries

- Availability of resources
 - Political factors
 - Environmental factors
 - Technology
 - Diverse cultural beliefs
- 



POVERTY

- Poverty is a reality to many people
 - It is experienced at different "dimensions"
- 



UN Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
- Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
- Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development



Implications to Occupational Therapy Services

- These goals undoubtedly form part of factors that affects health care service delivery including OT services.
- Consideration of factors like these goals when planning for future development of OT and any other health profession is of utmost importance.



WFOT is of the view that these goals may be supported by Occupational Therapy Services that:

- are comprehensive and inclusive
- address the needs of the population as a whole
- pay attention to those with special needs



Progress made

- Not uniform across the world or across the goals
- Huge disparities across and within countries
- A number of reports available on internet
- Follow up meetings are held
- Which of those goals are our services at the moment working towards



We must start now

- "... only if we break business as usual"
- "It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers"
- "We must start now"

United nations Secretary -General





OTARG'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop a Strategic Plan
 - Monitor Progress
- 



BUILDING BRIDGES

- Equipments
 - Materials
- 




COLLABORATION IN AFRICA AND BEYOND

- Model for developing countries
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A "VISION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN AFRICA"

- Appropriate needs
 - Social inclusion principles
- 



"WAVES OF CHANGE"

- Turning point
- 



Conclusion

Priority needs

