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## Background

In low middle income countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified inequalities in health services and information access that PwD must endure (ReliefWeb, 2021). In Vietnam, information related to pandemic responses, including vaccination programs, are remotely accessible to PwD, indicating an inconsistent implementation of social inclusion principles in the pandemic response plans (Rohman, 2022). When the pandemic peaked in June-December 2022, pandemic-related information specifically dedicated to the need of PwD was minimal.

## Specific Aims & Objectives

Our project addresses the gap in the provision of accessible information for PwD by organizing 5 online information sessions to PwD in Ha Noi, Ha Nam, and Thai Binh provinces from November 2021 to February 2022.

## Methods

Three organizations of PwD organized 5 online information sessions when major cities in Vietnam were on lockdown. In total, 209 PwD participated. In each session, medical experts from The Ministry of Health and Department of Rehabilitation and Assessment, Agency of Health Examination and Treatment shared about pandemic and vaccination related information with participants. After the session, the participants were asked to answer this question 'On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), how do you rate this statement: Attending this information session helps increase my confidence in COVID-19 vaccines?' what information do you need, what information sources do you use, and what do you suggest to how to improve the inclusiveness of vaccination programs?

## Results

- All 28 (13.4%) of the unvaccinated PwD reported that they became more confidence in taking the vaccine after attending the session.
- PwD's information needs revolved around vaccine procedures and side effects. Those already took the second dose were interested in when and how to get the third one. Information related to the vaccines' side effects to PwD's specific health conditions was salient, in addition to general information regarding the Omicron variant.
- Mass and internet based-media were the top two information sources from where PwD sought vaccine-related information. Respectively, television and Facebook were mentioned 72 and 7 times while Zalo, the Vietnamese messaging app, was mentioned 12 times. E-health apps were the least used information source.
- PwD suggested the government to use more accessible formats and content for delivering vaccine-related information to PwD.

The perceived usefulness of attending the information in increasing PwD's vaccine confidence

Vaccine received	Confidence in vaccines					Grand Total
	5	4	3	2	1	
2	111	18	15	5	3	152
1	26	1		2		29
0	25	3				28
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>209</b>

Table 1 Confidence in vaccines

## Conclusions

- To become more inclusive, vaccination programs, as a part of pandemic response plans, need to consistently implement disability rights.
- In Vietnam, PwD are inclined to take vaccines but making a range of information sources accessible to PwD can help better communicate the side effects of the vaccines to PwD's specific health conditions.
- In a volatile time, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, available information is often limited or overlooks PwD's diverse needs. Strengthening the capacity of organizations of PwD to be able to independently organize such events is imperative to stronger protect PwD in future pandemics.

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## References

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