

introduction



Five years after Worldmade was conceived and following three years of development, Motivation launched Worldmade in early 2005.

Worldmade is a global programme to supply large numbers of appropriate wheelchairs, through a network of wheelchair services all over the developing world.

Through the development of training courses & materials, service support tools and mobility products, Motivation aims to significantly increase access for wheelchair users to good quality wheelchairs and professional wheelchair services.

context

People with a disability have the right to good quality “assistive devices and equipment to assist them to increase their level of independence in their daily living and to exercise their rights”

(UN Standard Rules on the equalisation of opportunities for persons with a disability)

In low income countries and areas of recent conflict wheelchair users face the following challenges:

- Insufficient wheelchairs available: it is estimated that there are twenty million people in the world who need a wheelchair but do not have one.
- Locally available or donated wheelchairs are often inappropriate for the physical environment.
- Lack of services where wheelchair users can receive professional advice to choose their wheelchair, have it fitted properly for their size and needs and learn how to use it.
- Lack of choice in wheelchair products: ‘one size’ or ‘one type’ of wheelchair does not meet every wheelchair user’s needs.
- Limited financial resources to pay for wheelchairs or services.

wheelchair services

The Worldmade programme aims to increase access for wheelchair users to good quality wheelchairs and professional wheelchair services through the:

- Delivery of *Fit for Life* training packages, to train local staff in the skills needed to work with wheelchair users in a wheelchair service.

- Introduction of Worldmade wheelchairs. Mass produced in China and distributed in kit form ready for local assembly.
- Financial and technical support to local organisations (NGOs and Government) to establish or upgrade existing wheelchair service facilities: including capacity development, delivery of Fit for Life training and ongoing support.

training

Fit for Life prescription course

The Fit for Life prescription course has been developed to support the initiation of professional wheelchair services in developing countries.

These services will enhance the quality of life of wheelchair users by carrying out an individual assessment of their needs before prescribing and fitting an appropriate wheelchair.

In many of the contexts where the Fit for Life prescription course may be used, knowledge of wheelchairs, wheelchair user needs, and wheelchair assessment and prescription processes may be very limited. In addition, there may only be small numbers of qualified physiotherapists and occupational therapists available.

The Fit for Life prescription training course is intended to fill this gap, and specifically

targets the skills required to successfully assess and prescribe a wheelchair, and provide wheelchair users with basic instruction in using their wheelchair. The course also encourages development of a positive attitude towards wheelchair users, and an awareness of the rights and abilities of people with a disability.

The Fit for Life prescription course takes ten days to deliver. The course is designed to be interactive, encouraging participants to share their own experiences and problem solve.



The package includes poster size visual aids, student workbooks, trainer's guides, assessment methods and additional teaching aids including card games.

Fit for Life assembly course

The Fit for Life assembly course is an essential part of the introduction of the Worldmade wheelchair to any wheelchair service, regardless of existing skills and knowledge.

The course is designed to give wheelchair technicians an introduction to wheelchairs and wheelchair users, demonstrate the importance of correctly fitting wheelchairs

and teach the assembly and maintenance of the Worldmade rural wheelchair.

Planned future Fit for Life courses include Wheelchair Service Management and Training of Trainers.

worldmade wheelchairs



The first Worldmade wheelchair is designed for use in rural areas. It has three wheels for stability and a large front wheel for rolling easily over rough ground. It is made of durable

materials and has been designed to exceed ISO standards.

Worldmade wheelchairs are mass produced by a professional wheelchair manufacturer in eastern China. The parts for the wheelchairs are assembled into boxes, and then 350 boxes are packed into a 40 foot shipping container.

Motivation aims to deliver the wheelchairs to the recipient wheelchair services for an average of US\$150 each. This includes the cost of production and shipping.

Motivation recognize that as an INGO committed to improving the quality of life of people with mobility disabilities, it has a

responsibility to promote good practice in the standards of its suppliers.

Over the next few years Motivation aim to expand our capacity to assess our suppliers as our supply chain grows, developing a range of assessment tools in the areas of Health & Safety in the workplace, Ethical & Environmental issues and Quality Assurance.

progress to date

The first Worldmade wheelchairs were produced in a factory in eastern China in April 2005. Later the same month, the first ten wheelchairs arrived in South Africa and are being trialled by wheelchair users there, before a larger shipment is sent.

After several weeks at sea the first container of wheelchairs arrived in Sri Lanka in May, and by the end of June the first students of the assembly and prescription courses had graduated. These first students are from Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. Later this year training will be taking place in Papua New Guinea, and research will be carried out with local partners in Indonesia and East Timor.

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