ROLE OF SUPPORT GROUPS
Families of children with disabilities
Shallon Musimenta, OT
Introduction

- Disabilities in children have adverse effects on the livelihood of families.
- Resulting into poor treatment outcomes
- Mildmay Uganda offers Outpatient services run through appointments
Interventions

- Group therapy with a multidisciplinary approach
- Train caregivers on handling techniques
- Caregivers supported to start home based IGAs
- Group sessions take place both at facility and homes
- Older children are trained in therapeutic vocational skills
Methodology

- Retrospective review of documents from support groups
  - Assigned secretary kept good notes of activities
  - OT, physiotherapist and social worker kept progress notes

- 25 participants

- Constant comparison of note to find commonalities

- Identified common themes and sub-themes
Results – Impact of Support Groups

- **Psychosocial Issues**
  - Positive
  - Negative

- **Managing Disability**
  - Handling
  - Feeding
  - Behavior Management

- **Educational Needs**
  - Etiology
  - Prognosis
  - Accessing Resources
Results

Psychosocial Issues
- Positive
  - Acceptance
  - Feeling Support
- Negative Ones
  - Stigma
  - Financial Concerns

Managing Disability
- Handling the Child
- Mobility and Transfers
- Addressing Feeding
- Managing Behavioral
- Home Modifications
Educational Needs

◦ Etiology of Disorder
◦ Prognosis and the Future
◦ Education and Training Needs of the Child
◦ Accessing Resources
Conclusion

- Support groups are an effective means to identify needs of the family
- Group process supported identification of both common and individual concerns
- Evaluation of group processes can inform the development of family-focused rehabilitation programs for families affected by disabilities.
Acknowledgments

- University of Cape Town National Research Foundation
- Anne Marie Hansen, EdD, FAOTA – Duquesne University
- NGO - Midmay Uganda