

Fact Sheet 6: Visual Aids

1. Common problems with donated wheelchairs

These images show the problems with donated wheelchairs experienced by two wheelchair users, a man from Papua New Guinea and a woman from Tanzania.



Broken upholstery and lack of postural support is causing scoliosis and other spinal problems.

Wheels no longer have tyres due to pushing the chair in rough conditions. Tyres and other replacement parts are not available locally.

Front caster forks and foot plate have broken due to inappropriate design and rough conditions and cannot be replaced locally.



Positioning of wheels and armrests makes the wheelchair very difficult to push independently.

Lack of a pressure relieving seat cushion may cause pressure sores or other serious health problems.

Short wheelbase makes the chair unstable and pneumatic front tyres are very difficult to repair or replace.

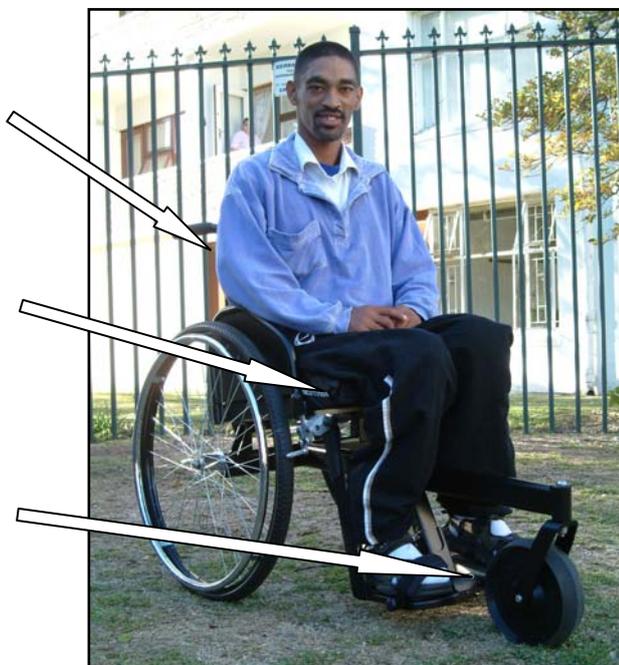
2. Key elements of appropriate wheelchairs

These images show the benefits of using an appropriate wheelchair for two wheelchair users, a man from South Africa and a young girl from Sri Lanka.

Frame fits well to provide support without restricting movement so he can push the chair independently. Adaptations were made to suit his disability and body measurements.

Pressure relieving cushion provided to protect the user's skin and prevent pressure sores.

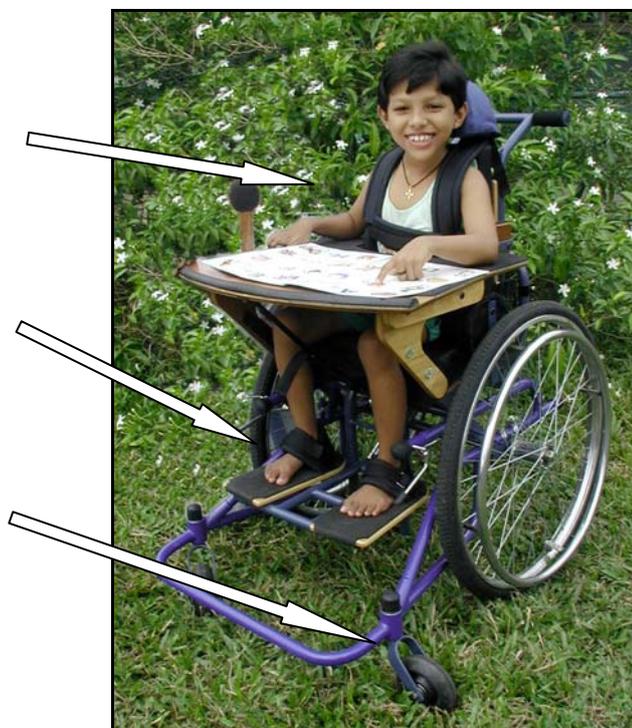
Durable and replaceable front wheel, bearings and caster forks attached to a three wheel frame with a long wheelbase specially designed for uneven terrain.



Supportive seating, designed for the measurements and needs of the user, provides greater support and frees the arms for other tasks such as pushing the wheelchair.

Footplate provides support and protection for the child's feet and legs.

Parts such as wheels, bearings and tyres are easily repaired or replaced locally.



For more information or to obtain our other fact sheets on donated wheelchairs, please visit Motivation's website at: <http://www.motivation.org.uk> or contact us by telephone on +44 (0)1275 464012.