

OVERVIEW FACTS AND FIGURES

Over **1 billion people**, about 15% of the world's population, have some form of **disability**.

80% thereof live in developing countries.

18% of the world's poorest people have disabilities.

93 million children (under the age of 14) are disabled

150 million children (0-18) are disabled and 80% live in developing countries.

1/3rd of all children not attending primary school are disabled.

The **economic losses** related to exclusion of people with disabilities from the workplace are between **3 and 7 per cent of GDP**.

Official Facts and Figures on Disability

General statements:

Disability disproportionately affects vulnerable populations: (1)

- there is a higher disability prevalence in lower income countries than in higher income countries
- people from the poorest wealth quintile, women, and older people have a higher prevalence of disability
- people who have a low income, are out of work, or have low educational qualifications are at an increased risk of disability
- children from poorer households and those in ethnic minority groups are at significantly higher risk of disability than other children

Disabling barriers are: (1)

- Inadequate policies and standards
- Negative attitudes
- Lack of provision of services
- Problems with service delivery
- Inadequate funding
- Lack of accessibility
- Lack of consultation and involvement
- Lack of data and evidence

Disability is a development issue, because of its bidirectional link to poverty: disability may increase the risk of poverty and poverty may increase the risk of disability. (2)

The onset of disability may lead to the worsening of social and economic well-being and poverty through a multitude of channels including the adverse impact on education, employment, earnings, and increased expenditures related to disability. (2)

Disability is a development issue, and it will be hard to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged people in the world without the specific needs of persons with disabilities. (3)

MDGs

The General Assembly 2010 concluded its High Level Meeting on the MDGs in September 2010 by adopting the resolution “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,” which recognizes that “policies and actions must also focus on persons with disabilities, so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the MDGs”. (3)

General Facts and Figures:

- Every seventh person in the world has a disability; some **1 billion worldwide**. (4)
- An estimated **80% thereof live in developing countries** (5)
- The **prevalence of disability for school age children** between 0-14 years in high income countries is 2,8% and in Africa 6,4%. (6)
- The **unemployment rates** of persons with disabilities reach an estimated 60% or more in many developing countries. Analyses gives employment rates of 58,6% for men with disabilities and 20,1% for women with disabilities, compared with 71,2% for non-disabled men and 31,5% for non-disabled women in low-income countries.(7)
- The **economic losses** related to exclusion of people with disabilities from the workplace are between 3 and 7 per cent of GDP. Promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in the world of works is not only a matter of rights and social justice but also contributes to sustainable growth and development. (8)
- In low-income countries 20,2% non-disabled men and 10% non-disabled women are facing **catastrophic health expenditures** compared to 31,2% men and 32,6% women with disabilities. (9)

- 61,3% of all women and 58,8% of men with disabilities in low income countries can not afford the **visit to the next health care centre**, compared with 35,6% for women and 40,2% for men without disabilities. (10)
- 60 million physically disabled people have difficulties related to water supply use and sanitation. (11)
- Analyses show the **correlation between disability and poverty** (low income countries) (12)
 - the prevalence of disability in low-income countries is 18%, whereas in higher income countries it is 11,8%
 - 22% of all women and 13,8 % of all men in low-income countries have a disability, whereas in higher income countries 14,4% women and 9,1% men have a disability.
- Persons with disabilities are up to three times more likely to be victims of **physical and sexual abuse** and rape and have less access to physical, psychological and judicial interventions. (13)
- As many as 50 per cent of disabilities are preventable and directly linked to poverty. (14)

Women are extremely affected:

- Every minute, more than 30 women are seriously injured or disabled during child birth, thus implicate vast numbers of women in the developing world physically and socially disabled. For every woman who dies from complications of pregnancy, between 30 and 100 more live with painful and debilitating consequences. However, those 15 – 50 million women generally go unnoticed. (15)
- The literacy rate for women with disabilities is estimated to be 1%, compared to an estimation of about 3% of people with disabilities. (16)

1.a Children with Disabilities

- The estimated number of **children with disabilities between 0 and 18 years** ranges between **93 million and 150 million** children (depending on the source). (17)
- **Mortality rate of children with disabilities can be 80%** even in countries where under five year mortality has decreased below 20%. (18)
- Asphyxia during birth, often resulting from the absence of a skilled attendant, leaves estimated 1 million children with impairments such as cerebral palsy and learning difficulties. (19)
- Maternal iodine deficiency leads to 18 million babies being borne with mental impairments and deficiency in vitamin A leaves about 350.000 children in developing countries blind. (19)

- **Road accidents**, a less widely recognized cause of impairment in childhood, are endemic in many of the world's poorest countries. It is conservatively estimated that 10 million children are injured each year on the world roads and many are left with permanent impairments. Over 80% of road related injury and death occurs in developing countries. (20)

1.b Education

- According to newly released data, an estimated **57.2 million children** of primary school age are being denied their right to education and many of them will probably never enter a classroom. (21)
- One half of the world's out of school children live in Sub-Saharan Africa. (21)
- **1/3rd of all children not attending primary school are disabled.** (22)
- The 2010 MDG report is the first to mention disability, noting the limited opportunities facing children with disabilities and the link between disability and marginalization in education. (3)
- Disability is one of the least visible but most potent factors in educational marginalization. (23)

Sources:

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