

# DISABILITY INDICATORS

## SDG ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Now is the time to act

Please share this list of disability indicators – developed in partnership by the UN, IDA and IDDC – with your National Statistical Agency. These indicators intend to measure the progress made for persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

General Comments:

- A) Disaggregate all relevant targets by disability
- B) Use specific indicators below:

**1.1** - Percentage of persons with disabilities below \$1.25 (PPP) per day

**1.3 & 10.4** - Percentage of persons with disabilities covered by social protection, or percentage of persons with disabilities receiving benefits

**1.5 & 11.5** - Percentage of deaths from persons with disabilities among all deaths due to disasters  
- Percentage of injured/missing/relocated/evacuated persons with disabilities among all injured/missing/relocated/evacuated due to disasters

**3.2** - Under-five mortality rate for children with disabilities

**3.8** - Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving needed health services  
- Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving needed assistive technologies  
- Proportion of households with persons with disabilities facing catastrophic health expenditure  
- Proportion of households with persons with disabilities facing impoverishing health expenditure

**4.5** - Primary and secondary school net attendance ratio for children with disabilities  
- Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the

last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs

**4.a** - Percentage of schools (primary, lower and upper secondary) with adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities

**5.2** - Percentage of women and girls with disabilities subjected to physical and/or sexual violence

**5.6** - Percentage of women and girls who make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

**6.1** - Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

**6.2** - Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

**8.5** - Unemployment rate, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

**10.2**  
- Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) held by persons with disabilities

- Voting turnout as a share of voting-age population disaggregated by disability  
- Percentage of government websites which meet the ISO/IEC 40500:2012 of accessibility for Web content  
- Percentage of population owning a mobile phone, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities  
- Percentage of population with disabilities with internet access, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

**11.2** - Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities

**11.7** - Percentage of public buildings meeting the ISO 21542:2011 standards on accessibility and usability of the built environment  
- Percentage of public green spaces (parks and recreational facilities) meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities

**16.9** - Percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with civil authority, disaggregated for children with/without disabilities

**17.18** - Percentage of countries with data for all disability related indicators and disability disaggregation of the SDG framework, in the last 5 years

## Disability Indicators for the SDGs

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets in the outcome document agreed by UN Member States on 1 August 2015 includes seven targets which explicitly refer to persons with disabilities (see Annex). At the March meeting of the inter-governmental negotiations on the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Member States indicated that indicators must directly respond to the goals and targets and their level of ambition; must not undermine or re-interpret the targets; and must cover all targets and give equal weight to all targets. Therefore, the targets which explicitly refer to disability must include disability related indicators.

An additional six SDG targets refer to persons in vulnerable situations (Annex) - which include persons with disabilities according to the outcome document for adoption at the UN Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, several other targets are universal targets, and thus must also be achieved for persons with disabilities. Two other targets address discrimination (Annex), which is a key cause of unequal access to opportunities and services for persons with disabilities.

The following sections present selected indicators relevant to monitor, review and follow-up these SDG targets at the

global level. At the national level, additional indicators may be needed to implement the disability-related SDG targets.

### **Indicators for SDG targets addressing disability/persons with disabilities**

Monitoring the seven targets mentioning disability will require specific disability indicators and disaggregation of indicators by disability.

In particular, the indicators for targets 4.5 and 8.5 should be disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities. In addition, for target 4.5, an indicator on inclusion is needed to ensure equal access. It is not enough for children with disabilities to enrol/attend school - access to education for all requires that teachers have the capacity to teach students with special educational needs. Therefore the following indicator is proposed: 'Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs' (this indicator is also linked to targets 4.c and 10.2).

---

<sup>1</sup> Transforming Our World – Finalised Text for Adoption (1 August). Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

---

<sup>2</sup> Current guidelines to collect data on persons with disabilities are available at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=13&pid=1515#current>

**4.5** by 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including **persons with disabilities**, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

**Indicators**

- disaggregate indicators for this target, as well as for other targets under SDG 4, for persons with/without disabilities (e.g. Primary school net attendance ratio for children with disabilities; Secondary school net attendance ratio for children with disabilities)
- Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs

**8.5** by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and **persons with disabilities**, and equal pay for work of equal value

**Indicator**

- Unemployment rate, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities<sup>3</sup>

For targets 4.a, 11.2 and 11.7, which refer to accessibility by persons with disabilities, the indicators can be based on existing ISO standards for accessibility to buildings or minimum national standards of accessibility by persons with disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities refers to universal design, but there is not an operational currently used international definition of accessibility/universal design. Countries tend to either use existing ISO standards or make their own assessments of accessible schools, accessible public buildings, and accessible transport according to national standards. Therefore, the following indicators are suggested for these targets:

**4.a** build and upgrade education facilities that are child, **disability** and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

**Indicator**

- Percentage of schools (primary, lower and upper secondary) with adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities<sup>4</sup>

**11.2** by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, **persons with disabilities** and older persons

**Indicator**

---

<sup>3</sup> 73 countries collected information on disability in recent labour force surveys and other surveys including a labour force module; 98 countries collected information on disability in their last census – this information can be cross-tabulated with employment data typically collected in census.

<sup>4</sup> The ISO 21542:2011 standards on accessibility and usability of the built environment can be used as guidance for the school building(s).

- Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities

**11.7** by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and **persons with disabilities**

**Indicator**

- Percentage of public buildings meeting the ISO 21542:2011 standards on accessibility and usability of the built environment
- Percentage of public green spaces (parks and recreational facilities) meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities

For target 10.2, social and economic inclusion can be monitored with the indicators proposed in this note – there is no need for extra indicators. But for monitoring political inclusion, the indicators below are suggested. In addition, it is suggested to include indicators on mobile phone ownership and internet access by persons with disabilities, as these tools empower persons with disabilities and promote inclusion (these indicators are also related to target 9.c).

**10.2** by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, **disability**, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

**Indicators**

- Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) held by persons with disabilities<sup>5</sup>
- Voting turnout as a share of voting-age population disaggregated by disability<sup>5</sup>
- Percentage of government websites which meet the ISO/IEC 40500:2012 of accessibility for Web content<sup>6</sup>
- Percentage of population owning a mobile phone, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities<sup>7</sup>
- Percentage of population with disabilities with internet access, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities<sup>8</sup>

Target 17.18 can be easily monitored with an indicator which will cause no extra data collection burden on countries:

**17.18** by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory

---

<sup>5</sup> May also be included under target 16.7

<sup>6</sup> The ISO/IEC 40500:2012 standards are also known as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, developed by World Wide Web Consortium.

<sup>7</sup> This indicator is a disability disaggregation of the suggested indicator for target 5.b in the List of proposals released by the IAEG-SDGs on 7 July 2015.

<sup>8</sup> This indicator is a disability disaggregation of the suggested indicator for target 17.8 in the List of proposals released by the IAEG-SDGs on 7 July 2015.

status, **disability**, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

**Indicator**

- Percentage of countries with data for all disability related indicators and disability disaggregation of the SDG framework, in the last 5 years

**Indicators for other disability relevant SDG targets**

SDG targets which mention persons in vulnerable situations and universal SDG targets both include persons with disabilities; targets on discrimination are relevant for persons with disabilities (Annex 1). Since disaggregating all these may represent an excessive burden to countries, it is suggested to disaggregate data by disability status for a smaller set of targets, those targets for which there is urgent need for action for persons with disabilities:

-> 1.1 (poverty)

e.g. Percentage of persons with disabilities below \$1.25 (PPP) per day

-> 1.3 and 10.4 (social protection)

e.g. Percentage of persons with disabilities covered by social protection; or  
Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving benefits<sup>9</sup>

-> 3.2 (under-five mortality rate)

e.g. under-five mortality rate for children with disabilities

-> 3.8 (health coverage and financial risk protection)

e.g. Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving needed health services;<sup>10,11</sup>  
Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving needed assistive technologies;<sup>10</sup>  
Proportion of households with persons with disabilities facing catastrophic health expenditure;<sup>12</sup> Proportion of households with persons with disabilities facing impoverishing health expenditure;<sup>10, 11</sup>

-> 5.2 (violence against women)

e.g. Percentage of women and girls with disabilities subjected to physical and/or sexual violence

-> 5.6 (sexual and reproductive health)

e.g. Percentage of women and girls who make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities

---

<sup>9</sup> The ILO Social Security Inquiry database has data for this indicators for 171 countries.,

<sup>10</sup> These indicators are included in the WHO Disability Action Plan (<http://www.who.int/disabilities/actionplan/en/>).

<sup>11</sup> Data for this indicator was collected in past World Health Surveys (2003-4) and disaggregated for disability. It is currently being collected and will continue to be collected through the WHO Model Disability Survey (MDS) and the Study on Ageing and Adult Health (SAGE). The MDS and SAGE, as the World Health Survey, are both sample surveys with nationally representative populations and weighted to the national populations.

- > 6.1 (access to water)
  - e.g. Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities<sup>12</sup>
  
- > 6.2 (access to sanitation)
  - e.g. Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities
  
- >1.5 and 11.5 (impact of disasters)
  - e.g. Percentage of deaths from persons with disabilities among all deaths due to disasters
  - Percentage of injured/missing/relocated/evacuated persons with disabilities among all injured/missing/relocated/evacuated due to disasters
  
- > 16.9 (birth registration)
  - e.g. Percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with civil authority, disaggregated for children with/without disabilities

## **Annex. References to disability and disability relevant targets in the outcome document ‘Transforming Our World – Finalised Text for Adoption (1 August)’**

### ***Preamble***

19. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, **disability** or other status.

23. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, **persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty)**, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. (...)

25. We commit to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training. All people,

---

<sup>12</sup> Data on access to water and sanitation was collected in past World Health Surveys (2003-4) and disaggregated for disability. This information with the possibility of disaggregation for disability is currently being collected and will continue to be collected through the WHO Study on Ageing and Adult Health (SAGE).

irrespective of sex, age, race, ethnicity, and **persons with disabilities**, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. (...)

### ***Targets addressing explicitly persons with disabilities and their needs***

4.5 by 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including **persons with disabilities**, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.a build and upgrade education facilities that are child, **disability** and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

8.5 by 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and **persons with disabilities**, and equal pay for work of equal value

10.2 by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, **disability**, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

11.2 by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, **persons with disabilities** and older persons

11.7 by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and **persons with disabilities**

17.18 by 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, **disability**, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

### ***Targets mentioning persons in vulnerable situations***

1.3 implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and **the vulnerable**

1.4 by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and **the vulnerable**, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership,

and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and **those in vulnerable situations**, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and **people in vulnerable situations** including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and **those in vulnerable situations**

11.5 by 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and **people in vulnerable situations**

### ***Universal targets***

1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty **for all** people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access **by all people**, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

3.2 by 2030 **end** preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children

3.8 achieve **universal** health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

4.1 by 2030, ensure that **all girls and boys** complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 by 2030 ensure that **all girls and boys** have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 by 2030 ensure equal access for **all women and men** to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.6 by 2030 ensure that **all youth** and at least x% of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

- 5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against **all women and girls** in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.6 ensure **universal access** to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 6.1 by 2030, achieve **universal** and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 7.1 by 2030 ensure **universal** access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services
- 9.c. significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide **universal** and affordable access to internet in LDCs by 2020
- 11.1 by 2030, ensure access **for all** to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums
- 16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.9 by 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration

***Targets addressing discrimination***

- 10.3 ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through **eliminating discriminatory** laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard
- 16.b promote and enforce **non-discriminatory** laws and policies for sustainable development

***Follow-up and review***

74. Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be guided by the following principles:

(...)

g. They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, **disability** and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

(...)