



EasyRead version



World Health
Organization

The WHO Global report on equal health for people with disabilities





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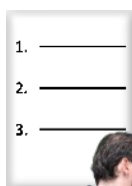
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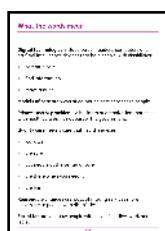
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About this report



The **World Health Organization** and the **Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (or CRPD)** say that people with disabilities have the same right to good health as everybody else.



Laws and treaties around the world say that the health sector should work with others to make sure that people with disabilities have a right to health.



Countries have tried to look after the health of people with disabilities.



But in many countries, people with disabilities still do not have good health.



Many people with disabilities die early or have poorer health than others.



Many people with disabilities died during the COVID-19 pandemic.



This is not fair.



This report looks at:

- why some people with disabilities miss out on good healthcare



- what countries can do to give better healthcare for people with disabilities.



We made this report for countries who are members of the World Health Organization to take actions. But health partners, organizations of persons with disabilities and other organizations can also use it.



The reasons we wrote this report are:

- so that people in charge of health services understand more about unfair healthcare for people with disabilities



- to share information about the health and healthcare of people with disabilities around the world



- to give countries ideas on how to give fair healthcare for persons with disabilities.



1 Why it is important to care for the health of people with disabilities fairly



1. We looked at why people with disabilities have poor health or die early. It is mostly because of unfair things like unfair living conditions or people not getting the healthcare that they need.



2. International and country laws say that people with disabilities should have the best possible health.



3. There are 1.3 billion people with disabilities in the world. One in 6 people have a disability.

4. When countries look after the health of people with disabilities, they are also making good changes around the world, like:



- working towards **universal health coverage** which means healthcare for everyone everywhere



- working together with other services that are important for health such as housing and education, to give better health services to more people



- helping to look after everyone in a health emergency.



5. When countries give fair healthcare to people with disabilities it makes healthcare better for other people such as older people, migrants and refugees.



6. Fair healthcare means people can go to school, work and enjoy life in their community.



6. Our information tells us that spending money on the healthcare of persons with disabilities could be a good use of money.



2 What can cause people with disabilities to not receive fair healthcare



Compared to other people, people with disabilities:

- die earlier



- can have more illnesses



- have more limitations in their day-to-day activities.

This report looks at 4 reasons why healthcare is unfair for people with disabilities:



1. How society acts towards people with disabilities (we call these **structural factors**).



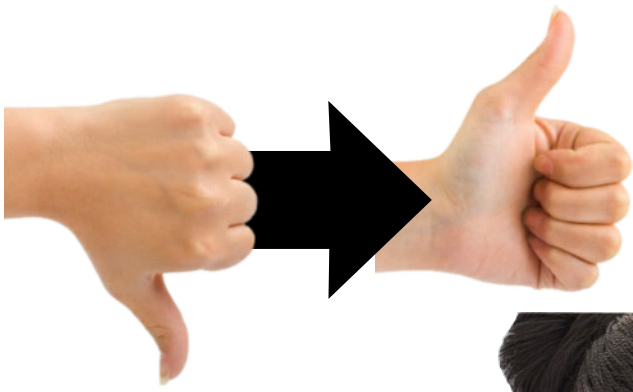
2. How people with disabilities live, work and learn (we call these **social factors**).



3. Things that cause more health risks or problems for people with disabilities such as unhealthy eating and smoking.



4. The way the health system is set up.



3 What can we do to have fair healthcare for people with disabilities



The World Health Organization says that primary health care is a good way to build better healthcare.



There are 3 important areas for action:

1. Health services, like health promotion and prevention, need to work better together.



2. Healthcare needs to work well with other services like housing, school and work.



3. We need to give people and their communities the power to get good health services.

40 ways that governments can include people with disabilities in healthcare



Things governments can do

1. Make sure that the rules and laws about healthcare are fair for people with disabilities.



2. Make sure that all healthcare supports the rights of people with disabilities.



3. Lead and support the inclusion of disability in public health.



4. Help countries work better together by increasing funding for fair health for persons with disabilities.



5. Check human rights in the way we handle health emergencies.



6. Check that health is part of national disability plans.



7. Set up a group to keep track of activities on disability inclusion in the health sector.



8. Make sure we measure disability inclusion in the health sector.



9. Set up disability networks and partnerships to work in the health sector.



10. Check that laws for social healthcare and health insurance include the different health needs of people with disabilities.



Finding money to make health services work

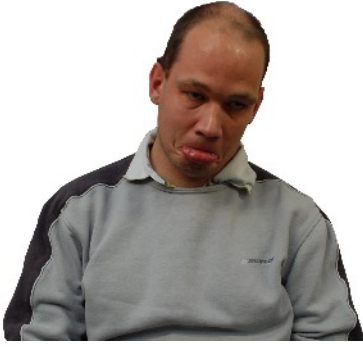
11. Work towards universal health care, putting people with disabilities at the center.



12. Consider including health services for specific health conditions.



13. Give money to make facilities and services accessible.



Work with stakeholders and private sector providers

A **stakeholder** is a person who is affected by what is happening.



A **private-sector provider** is a business or organization that helps with healthcare but is not part of the government.



14. Talk to people with disabilities and organizations of people with disabilities about how to make the health sector better.



15. Make sure health services understand the different health needs of men and women with disabilities and support and empower them.



16. Talk to people who give unpaid and family help for people with disabilities.



17. Ask people with disabilities to help with research on health. They can also be trained and paid as researchers.



18. Ask private-sector providers to include people with disabilities.

Ways of delivering services (models of care)



19. Put people with disabilities at the center of their care. Make all healthcare services accessible and close to where they live.



20. Help people with disabilities get the assistive products that they need.



21. Pay for more support persons, interpreters and assistants to help with the health needs of people with disabilities.



22. Offer a wide range of health services for people with disabilities.



23. Build strong models of care for children with disabilities.



24. Work to get people out of institutional care.



Health and care workforce

25. Add information about disability inclusion in the training of all health and care workers.



26. Train all people working in healthcare on how to include people with disabilities.



27. Countries need to make sure that they have enough trained healthcare workers.



28. Give jobs to people with disabilities in the health workforce.



29. Train all non-medical workers in healthcare about accessibility and good communication.



30. Make sure that healthcare workers help people with disabilities understand and make their own decisions about healthcare.



Health care buildings

31. Use good design rules for all buildings.



32. Make **reasonable changes** for people with disabilities. **Reasonable changes** are ways of making services more accessible to people with disabilities.

Digital technologies for health

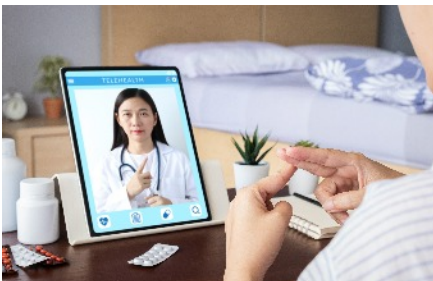
Digital technologies include screen readers, computers and artificial intelligence devices that help people with disabilities:



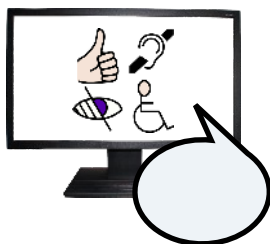
- communicate



- find information



33. Be fair when providing digital health services.



34. Follow international accessibility standards, such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

Quality of care

Quality care means care where health services:



- work well



- are safe



- put people at the center of care



- are there when you need it



- are fair.



35. Think about the needs of people with disabilities in healthcare planning.



36. Ask people with disabilities, their families or carers about the quality of healthcare.

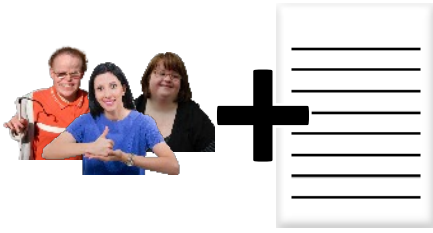


37. Have ways to check the healthcare experiences of people with disabilities.

Checking it is working well (monitoring and evaluation)



38. Measure how disability inclusion is happening in the health sector.



39. Add disability to national health information systems.



Health policy and systems research

40. Make sure disability is included in national research on health.

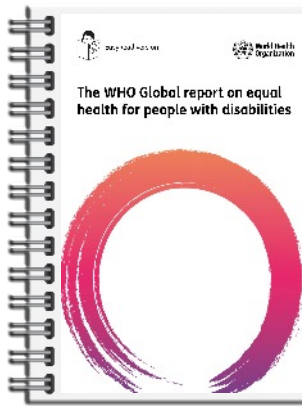
1. _____

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4 Three recommendations
that everyone can do to
make health services
more fair for people
with disabilities



This report is for governments, health service providers, people with disabilities and their organizations, the private sector, universities, United Nations agencies and development organizations.



We want everyone to remember 3 things when they take action to make health services more fair for people with disabilities.



1. Include the human rights of people with disabilities when you take any action to improve the health sector.



- Include, respect and protect people with disabilities in all healthcare plans and actions.



2. Involve people with disabilities and their organizations in making decisions about the health sector.



- Nothing about us without us



- Involve families and carers.



3. Check that the actions you are taking in the health sector are fair for people disabilities.



- Keep track of which actions work well and which actions need improving.

What the words mean

Digital technologies include screen readers, computers and artificial intelligence devices that help people with disabilities:

- communicate
- find information

Models of care are ways of delivering care services to people.

Private-sector provider is a business or organization that helps with healthcare but is not part of the government.

Quality care means care where health services:

- work well
- are safe
- put people at the center of care
- are there when you need it
- are fair.

Reasonable changes are ways of making services more accessible to people with disabilities.

Social factors are how people with disabilities live, work and learn.

Stakeholder is a person who is affected by what is happening.

Structural factors are how society acts towards people with disabilities.

Universal health coverage means healthcare for everyone everywhere.

Credits



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Speaking Up Together -
making EasyRead information.



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