Connecting the dots: disability data findings at the national level that can reach the global level

Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood
CBM Global Disability Inclusion
Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

15th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs
October 23, 2024
Oslo

Available data in UN SDG Database

The availability of data disaggregated by disability in the UN SDG Indicators Database has increased since 2018, but slowly.
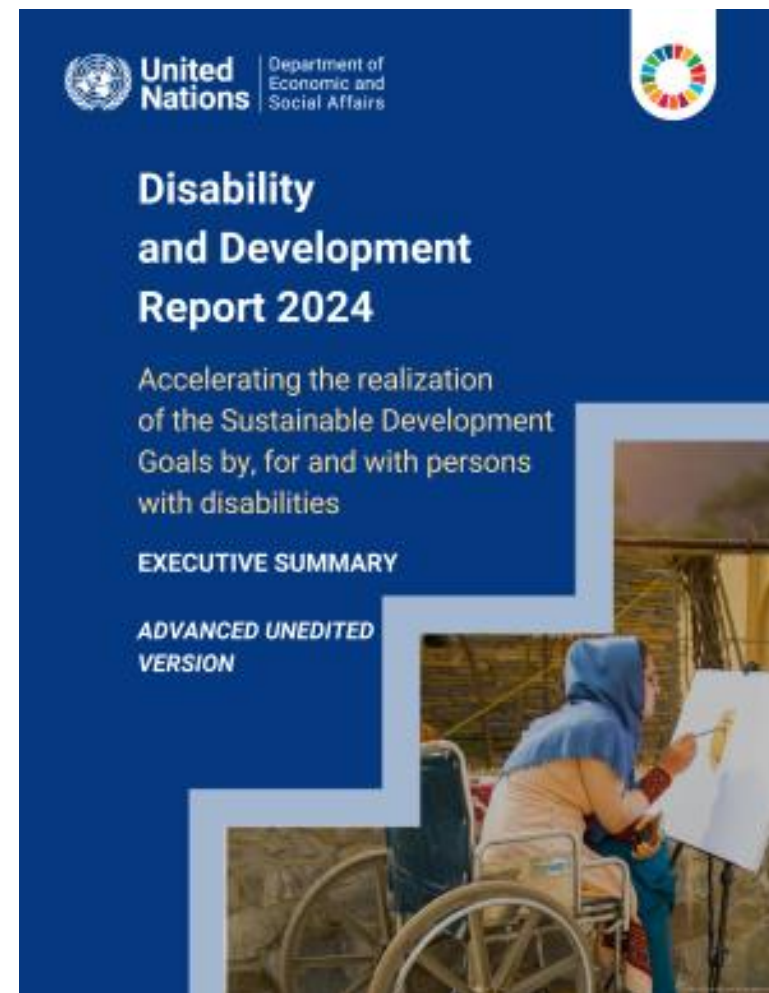
Available data for at least three or more countries*

- **10.3.1** *Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law*

- **16.3.3** *Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism*

- **16.7.1** *Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups*

At the current rate, less than half of the SDG indicators explicitly requiring disability disaggregation are expected to have data by 2030.

*If 1-2 countries, it jumps to 7 indicators.

UN Disability and Development Report

- UN flagship report on disability and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018

- Disability and Development Report 2024

- Prepared by the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

- Outcome from a collective effort, involving United Nations entities and a wide range of other contributors.

- Compared with 2018, there are much more available data on persons with disabilities.

Data Gaps

- Wide gaps persist between persons with and without disabilities.

- Gaps above 10 percentage points in food insecurity, health, access to energy, and ICT.

- Gaps above 20 percentage points in multidimensional poverty and employment.

- Gaps are wider for women with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and those living in rural areas.

- Countries have increasingly involved persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, yet overall this remains low.

UN Disability and Development report

- 50 percent of targets have indicators with enough data to assess progress.

- For 40 percent of targets, there are only data to provide a one point in time snapshot.

- For 10 percent of targets, there are not enough data for a one point in time snapshot.

- These include targets on extreme poverty, child mortality, health impact of pollution, early childhood development, child labour, and the impact of corruption and bribery.

Connecting the Dots

- There are more available data on persons with disabilities than are being captured at the global level to measure the SDGs.

- An increasing number of countries collects data on persons with disabilities and uses internationally comparable methods to do so, such as the Washington Group questions in censuses and in many national surveys.

- But capacity to use these methods is particularly lacking in least developed countries.

- These data need to be prioritized.

- Sometimes these data need to be specifically requested in order to be produced.

Recommendations

- Integrate and harmonize disability data collections in national information systems.
- Use internationally comparable methods to collect data on persons with disabilities.
- Recognize and use citizen data to complement official data.
- Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the data value chain.
- Strengthen capacity of developing countries, particularly least developed countries.
- Create a global, online and accessible repository of data on persons with disabilities.
- Increase data disaggregated by disability in the UN SDG indicator database.
- Convene annual meetings with statisticians, policymakers, the UN, and civil society to ensure disability data are being used, shared, and produced.
- Release data in accessible formats.

Questions?

Thank you!

For further information, please contact:

Elizabeth.Lockwood@cbm-global.org