

**Improving Disability Statistics in the
context of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development**


Disability Statistics in Myanmar

**Highlight from 2014 Population &
Housing Census**

**9 March 2017, 01:15 -02:30 pm
Venue: Conference Room 7
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Background: country context

- ▶ Government of Myanmar made **strong** commitments to support PWD, especially over the past decade.
- ▶ 2008: Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar: *“the Union shall care for mothers and children, orphans, fallen Defence Services personnel’s children, the aged and the disabled”* (Article 32).
- ▶ 2010: National Plan of Action for PWD 2010-2012
- ▶ 2011: Myanmar ratified the CRPD
- ▶ 2011: Committed to Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the PWD in ASEAN Community and Mobilization Framework of the ASEAN Decade of PWD 2011-2020.

Background: country context

- 2012: Committed to the Asia and Pacific Decade of PWD, 2013-2020 & the 2012 Incheon Strategy to 'Make the Right Real'
- 2014: National Social Protection Strategic Plan: Identified PWD "are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and they face specific risks and vulnerabilities" (page 52)
- 2015: Law on Rights of PWD
- Indirectly through other social policies, e.g. child
- The inclusion of four questions on disability in the 2014 Census served the need to gather information for policy development for disabled persons.

Source of Statistics on Disability

- The first ever survey of persons with disabilities in Myanmar was carried out in 2009 and 2010 with a large sample size of 108,000 HHs in 120 Townships across the 15 States/Regions of the country.
- Results - disability prevalence of 2.3%
- This study used, “the Myanmar perspective” and the definition of persons with disabilities was “an individual who is limited in function and/or ability to conduct activities in daily living and to participate in society due to physical, seeing, hearing and intellectual or learning impairment”
- Highly localized definition and hence, its capability for international comparison is limited.
- Representativeness of the study sample remains uncertain.

Source of Statistics on Disability

- In 2010, UNICEF in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, did a situation analysis on the living condition of children with a disability in Myanmar.
- The aim - to identify 'the barriers created by society and the physical environment that prevent a child with disabilities from enjoying its human rights'.
- 2,547 households in 28 townships.
- 1,271 HHs had children with disabilities and 1,276 HHs with children without disabilities.
- Case studies on the prevalence of disability were done in five townships, 3 in Mon State, one in Yangon Region and one in Rakhie State
- The study used the six domains of activities of the Washington Group.

Source of statistics on disability

- The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (provides the first nationally representative situation of disability, as well as baseline information for monitoring the progress on the implementation of national and international development frameworks on disability.)
- the Labour Force, Child Labour and School To Work Transition Survey 2015 conducted by ILO.

Disability in Census

- ▶ Short set of 4 questions on disability for Census developed by the WG
- ▶ there are some limitations for analysis as the remaining two - self-care and communicating

Levels of disability

No disability: 'all domains coded as 'no difficulty''

Mild: at least one domain coded as 'some difficulty'

Moderate: at least one domain coded as 'a lot of difficulty'

Severe: at least one domain coded as 'cannot do at all'

Multiple disabilities: at least two domains coded as ... <some/a lot/cannot> ... difficulty

DISABILITY			
9. Does (Name) have any difficulty...?			
i. Seeing, even if wearing glasses ii. Hearing, even if using hearing aid iii. Walking, climbing steps, carrying items iv. Remembering or concentrating			Codes No - no difficulty = 1 Yes - some difficulty = 2 Yes a lot of difficulty = 3 Cannot do at all = 4
Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Disability in Census

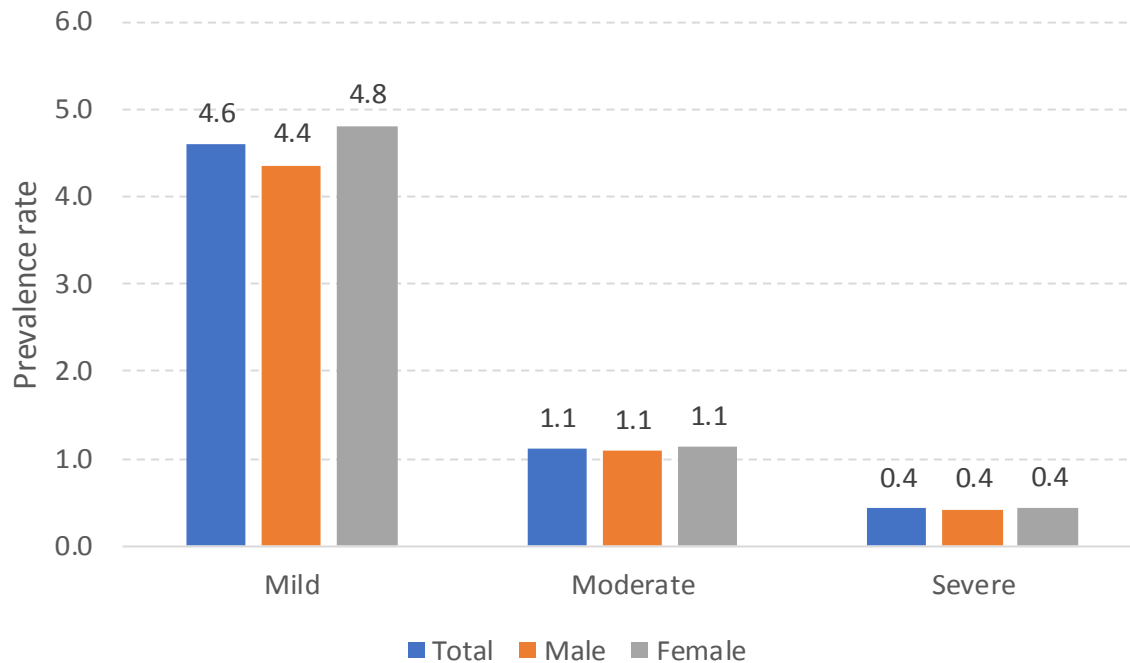
There were steps taken to ask disability related questions in 2014 census:

1. training modules developed both as manuals and DVDs (over 30,000 copies were distributed)
2. Training materials for the enumerators to remember not to ask "are there any person with disability in the household?" , rather to ask all the list of disability related questions to all members of each household.
3. Not only training materials provided, but also training of trainers were also conducted

Measurement of disability

- For the 2010 round of Censuses, the WG recommended that “*the sub-population disabled includes everyone with at least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all*”, or in other words, the use of ‘moderate or higher’ to define the population with disabilities (Washington Group, 2010, 2).
- It is important to note that for the construction of the Incheon Strategy Indicators, the same division is used and that the World Report on Disability also used the same distinction.

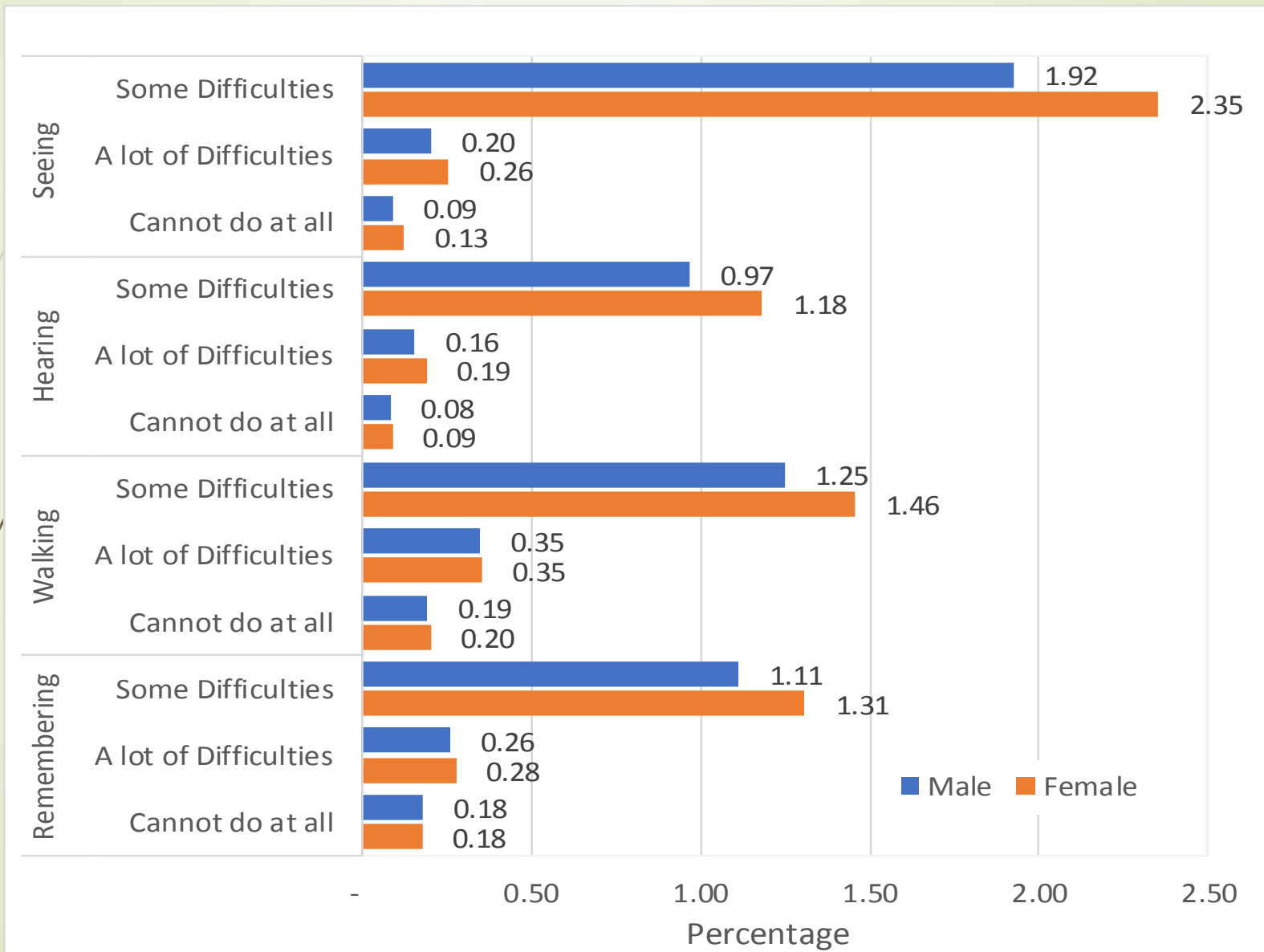
Disability Statistics from 2014 Census



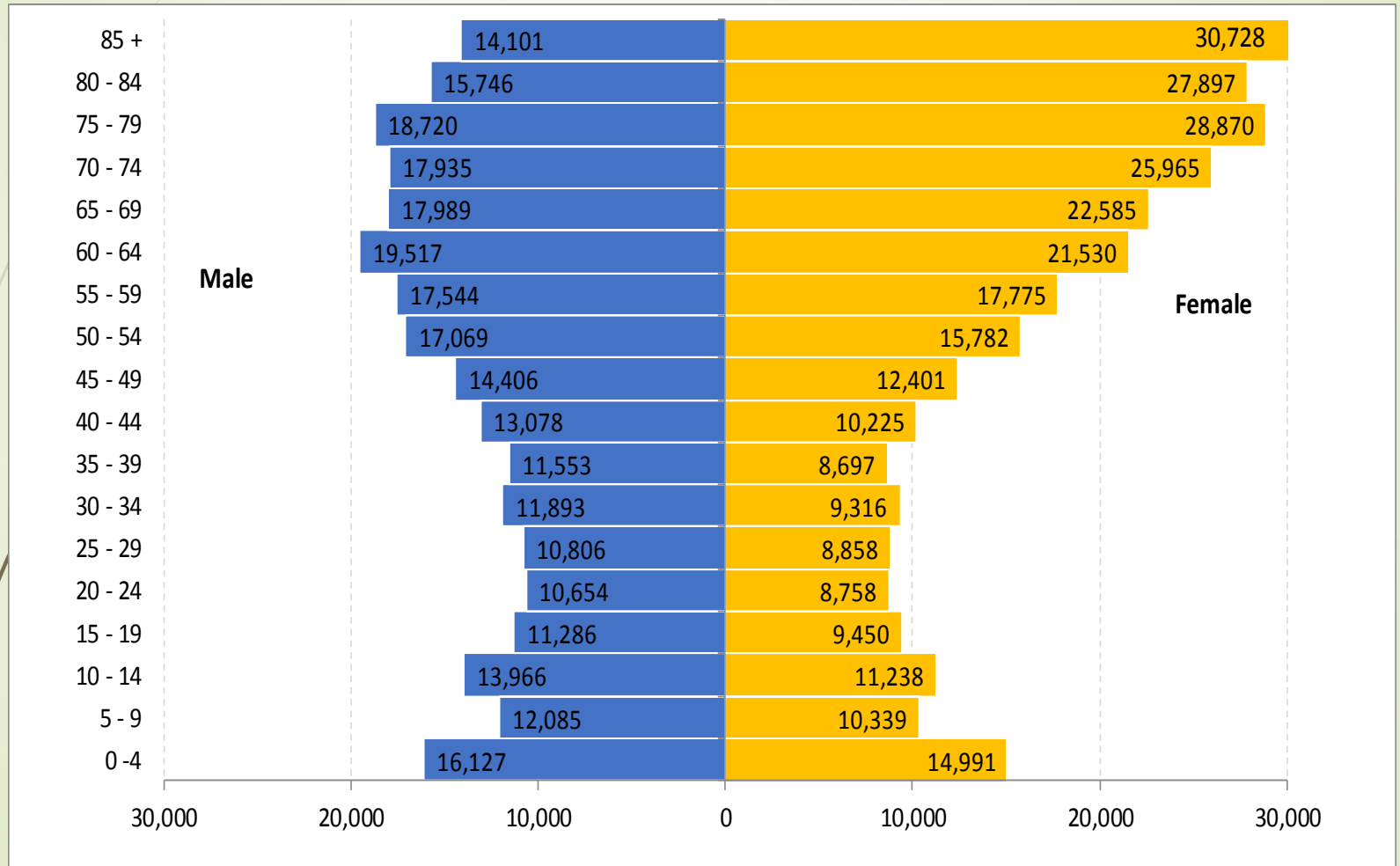
- 2014 Census show that Myanmar has 2,311,250 persons, or 4.6% of its population, living with some form of disability.
- More than a quarter of this population with disabilities have multiple disabilities.

- The country has 559,880 persons, or 1.11% of the population, who live with a moderate or higher level of disability, and 216,062 persons, or 0.43% of the population, who live with severe disabilities.
- At the household level, there are more than 1.7 million households, or nearly 16% of conventional households, with at least one person living with a disability.

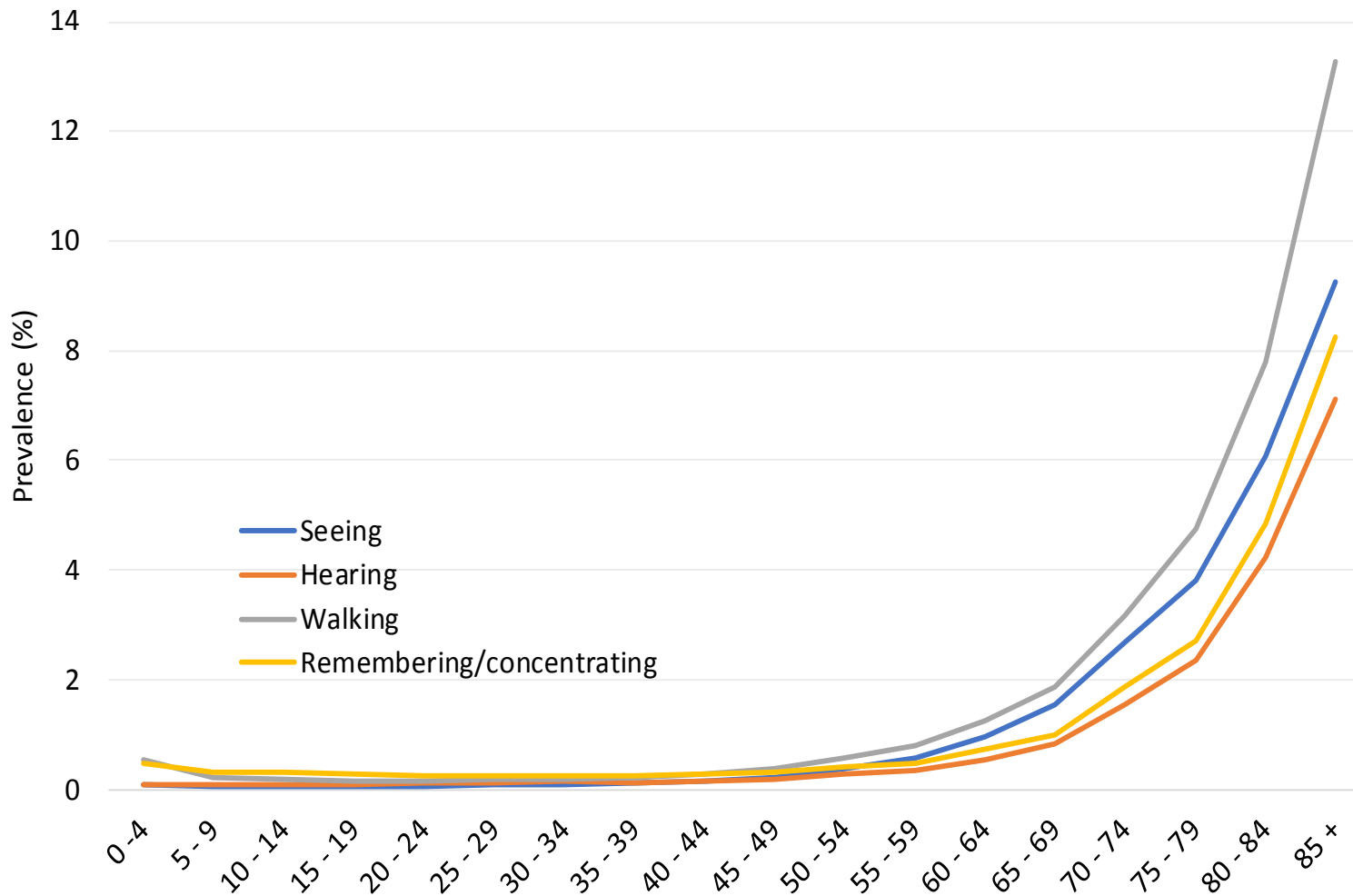
Disability prevalence from 2014 Census



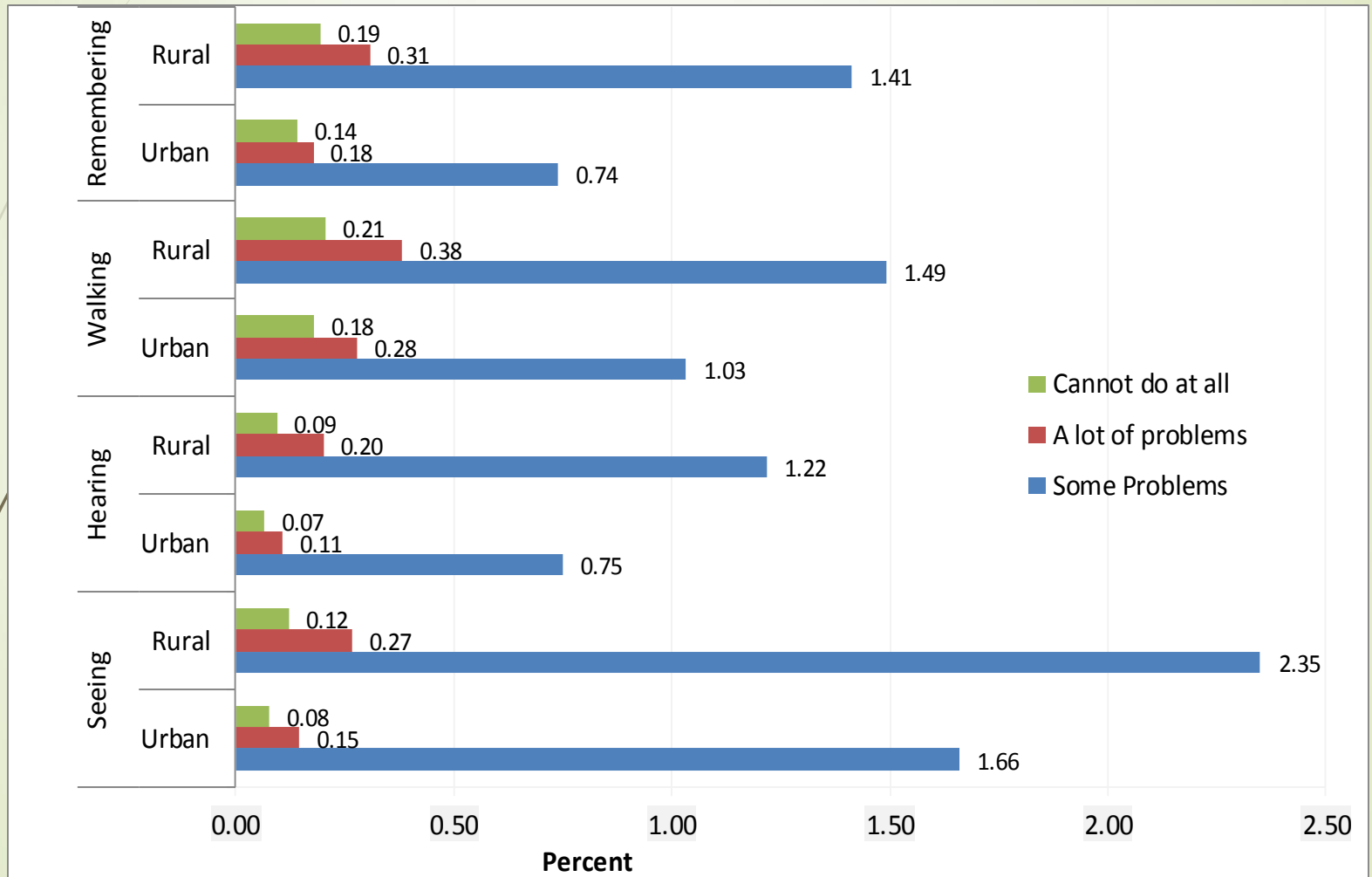
Disability by age and sex



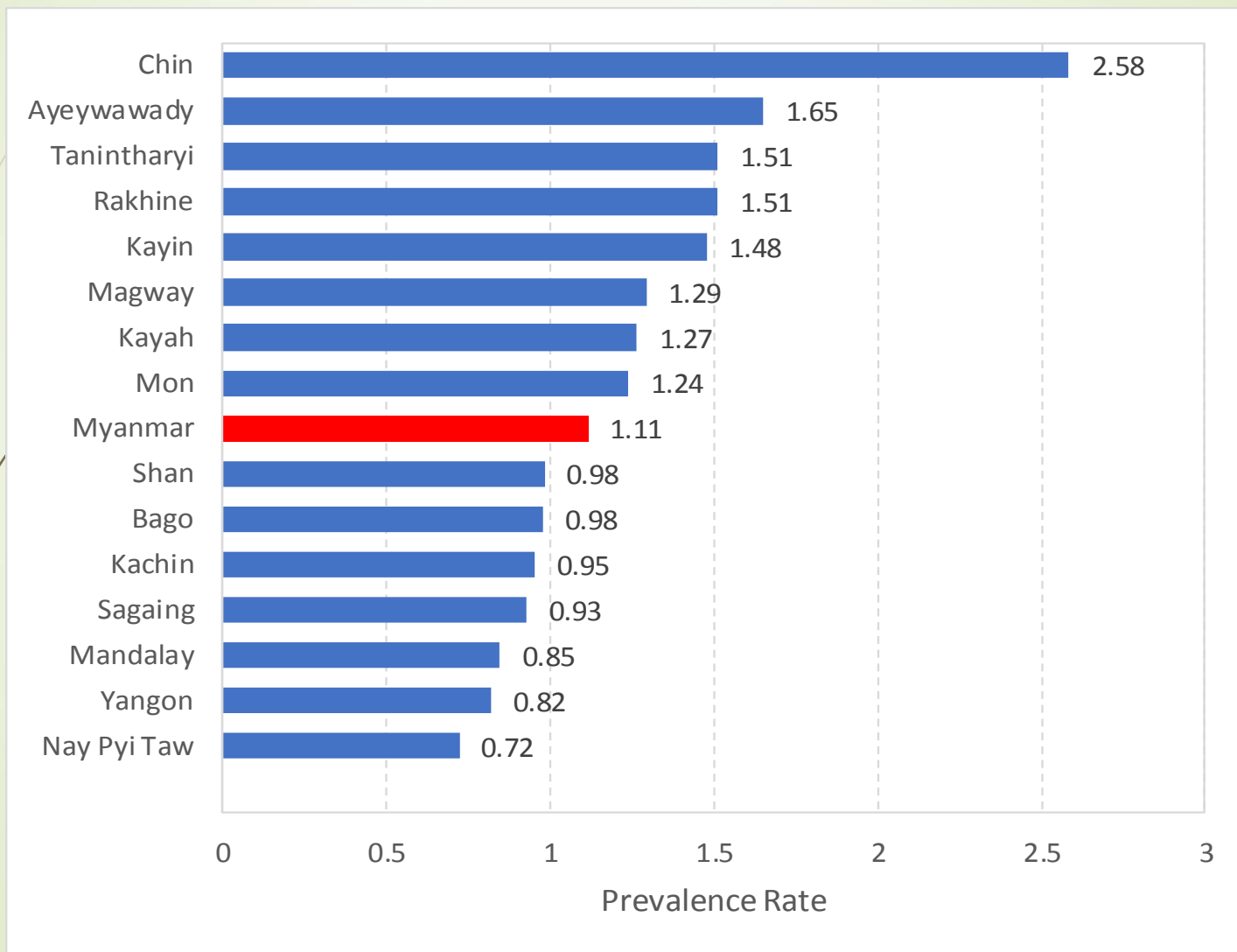
Disability prevalence by age and domain of disability



Disability data by residence and domain of disability

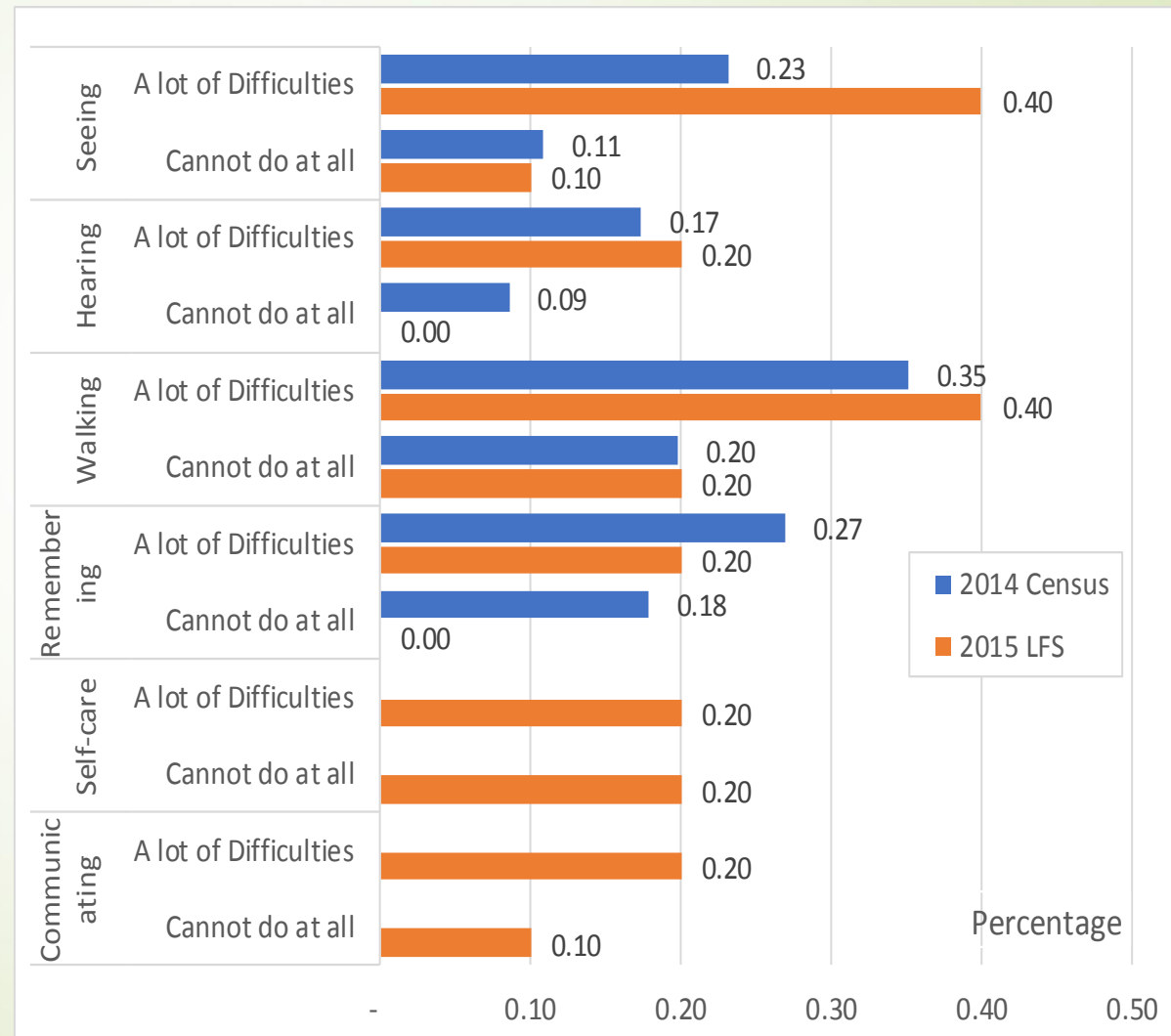


Disability prevalence by region

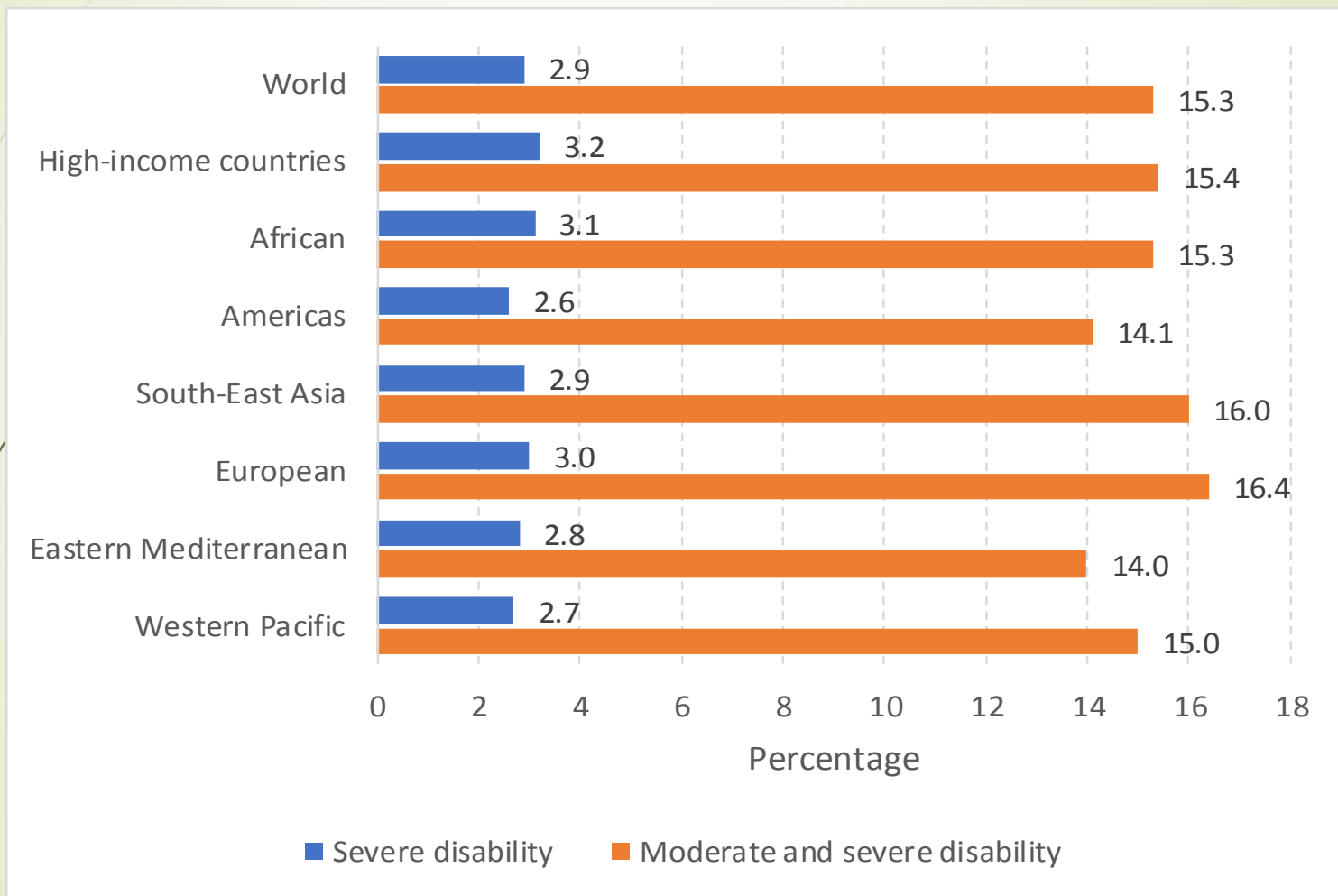


Disability prevalence from Census: Comparison with LFS

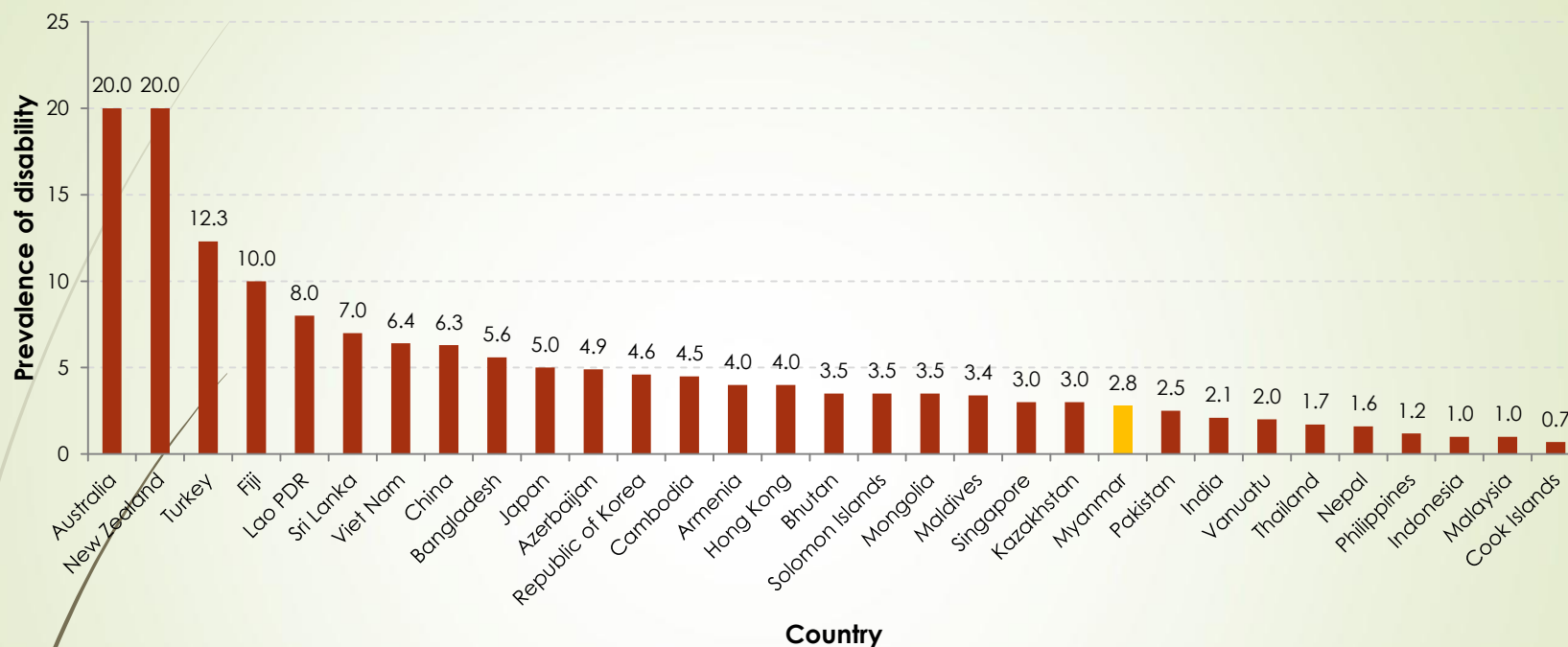
- The 'mild disability' prevalence rate from LFS: 7.7% for both sex, 6.9% for males and 8.4% for females.
- Significantly higher than the mild prevalence rate in the Census (4.6%),
- May partly be due to the fact that LFS collected for all six functional domains against four in the Census.



Disability Prevalence Comparison



Disability Prevalence Comparison



- According to the 2006 UNESCAP survey, disability prevalence in Myanmar, was 2.8 per cent (UNESCAP, 2012b).
- This level of disability is relatively low compared with other countries in the region. This low prevalence is based on a narrow definition which defines disability as, “a restriction or lack of ability because of impairment”.

Evaluation of disability prevalence

- It is important to evaluate whether the disability prevalence rate of 1.1 per cent is an acceptable estimate of the national prevalence of disability
- Large difference between the prevalence rates of the World Report on Disability and results of the 2014 Census.
- The moderate and severe disability prevalence of 1.1 per cent in Myanmar is almost fifteen times smaller than the regional level.
- Given Myanmar's level of economic development and health system, compared to many of the other countries in the region, one would expect that the prevalence of disability would be high than the regional average → The prevalence rates based on the 2014 census was underestimate the true level.

The opportunities and constraints of Census for producing disability statistics?

Opportunities –

- Could reach to all households and population at once.
- The power of the Census - information on disability can be related to persons' demographic, social, economic and household characteristics
- Provide internationally comparable data within the International Classification of Functioning, Disabilities and Health framework and this satisfies the requirement to monitor progress towards the goals of the CRPD.

The opportunities and constraints of Census for producing disability statistics?

Opportunities –

- The 2014 Census provides clear evidence that the population with disabilities lag behind in the achievement of national, regional, and global development goals.
- Myanmar has achieved several educational development goals, but persons with disabilities are still far behind. Literacy rates, school attendance of primary and secondary school children, and education completion rates of persons with disabilities were all much lower than for persons without disabilities.
- Similarly, labour force participation rates and the employment-to-population ratios were lower among persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities.

The opportunities and constraints of Census for producing disability statistics?

Constraints –

- Need thorough preparation
- The questions do not completely cover psychological disabilities, social disabilities and disabilities connected to upper body movement.
- The ESCAP Guide on Disability Indicators for the Incheon Strategy cautions that the WG-questions in Censuses may not be appropriate to identify disability among children younger than 10 years of age.
- Only four out of six possible WG-questions are used in 2014 Census - lead to an underestimation of the disability prevalence rate - no questions on self-care and communicating were asked in this Census,

The opportunities and constraints of Census for producing disability statistics?


Constraints –

- Often limited by the negative connotations related to disability and the cultural hesitation by both respondent and interviewers.
- relying on enumerators who are mostly primary teachers majority of them don't have any knowledge around disabilities and it's sensitivity.
- Enumerator errors (including errors of not asking, only asking household head and inter-enumerator variation)
- Moreover, the Census failed to address the vocational training issue, which would be very important for persons with disabilities.



Are the data enough for monitoring of key areas of disability inclusive development?

- Need more data for implementation and monitoring of inclusive development or mainstreamed development.
- For example - agriculture and disabilities. 70% of population live in rural Myanmar and more population with disabilities are also there.
- Financial sector - if micro finance could access by PWDs, if not they should come up with ideas and innovations how that sector could do, modify for them.



Who are the key producers of the data on disability in national statistical systems? Are there coordination mechanisms for producing statistics on disability?

- Ministry of Social Welfare
- Census/Surveys
- INGOs/NGOs
- UCSB (Union Civil Service Board) is making a number of reforms to train civil servants and in doing this inclusion of disabilities in their training and continued learning as part of their capacity building and professional development.

How can national capacity to produce statistics for monitoring progress towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes be strengthened?

- Registration of persons with disabilities is emphasized so that they can receive medical check-ups, and probably receive other benefits from the Government, as well as **improve statistics on disability.**
- Formations of Associations of persons with disabilities are allowed and they should be registered.
- Private schools, private vocational training centres, and private rehabilitation centres can be opened and registered at the DSU of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement. (the Myanmar Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Myanmar, 2015)

Conclusion

- The fact that disability is underreported in the Myanmar Census, does not mean that the data cannot be used to describe the group of disabled persons in the country.
- As mentioned before, 559,880 persons indicated to have a moderate or severe disability.
- If we assume that this group has the same characteristics as the group who were not identified as being disabled, then the characteristics of the enumerated disabled will be representative for the total group.
- This means that the strength of the Census will be more in its ability to make a clear description of the living conditions of the vulnerable group of disabled persons, rather than to quantify its size.



Thank you!