



Tool 2. Key messages on health equity for persons with disabilities

Health equity for persons with disabilities



1.3 BILLION
people globally have significant disability



1 in 6
people

80% is the estimated number of persons with disabilities living in **low- and middle-income countries** where access to basic health services are especially limited for persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities experience health inequities

Many of them:



Are likely to die **20 years** earlier



Experience poorer health – having more than **double** the risk of developing conditions such as diabetes, stroke or depression



Have more limitations in functioning – for example inaccessible health facilities are up to **6 times** more hindering for them



Health inequities arise from unfair conditions that affect persons with disabilities disproportionately. These conditions are part of the socioeconomic and political context, social determinants of health, risk factors, and health system barriers

Investing in health equity for persons with disabilities means investing in Health for All, bringing high dividends to individuals and communities

There could be a

US\$10 return **per** **US\$1** spent

on implementing disability inclusive prevention and care for noncommunicable diseases

Interventions such as family planning and vaccination could be highly cost-effective when provided in disability inclusive manner, despite the additional cost required

Achieving



SDG 3

and the global health priorities of



pursuing universal health coverage



preventing and responding to health emergencies



promoting healthier populations

FOR ALL requires action to address health inequities for persons with disabilities

Countries are only **40** steps away from achieving health equity for persons with disabilities

All governments and health sector partners need to commit to **3 recommended principles** when implementing actions



Include health equity at the center of all actions



Empower and include persons with disabilities



Monitor the impact of health sector actions for persons with disabilities





actions to achieve health equity for persons with disabilities

Political commitment, leadership, and governance

- 1 Prioritize health equity for persons with disabilities
- 2 Establish a human rights-based approach to health
- 3 Assume a stewardship role for disability inclusion in the health sector
- 4 Make international cooperation more effective by increasing funding to address health inequities for persons with disabilities
- 5 Integrate disability inclusion in national health strategies, including preparedness and response plans for health emergencies
- 6 Set actions that are specific to the health sector in national disability strategies or plans
- 7 Establish a committee or a focal point the Ministry of Health for disability inclusion
- 8 Integrate disability inclusion in the accountability mechanisms of the health sector
- 9 Create disability networks, partnerships and alliances
- 10 Ensure the existing mechanisms for social protection support the diverse health needs of persons with disabilities

Health financing

- 11 Adopt progressive universalism as a core principle, and as a driver of health financing, putting persons with disabilities at the centre
- 12 Consider health services for specific impairments and health conditions in packages of care for universal health coverage
- 13 Include into health-care budgets the costs of making facilities and services accessible

Engagement of stakeholders and private sector providers

- 14 Engage persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in health sector processes
- 15 Include gender-sensitive actions that target persons with disabilities in the strategies to empower people in their communities
- 16 Engage the providers of informal support for persons with disabilities
- 17 Engage persons with disabilities in research and including them in the health research workforce
- 18 Request that providers in the private sector support the delivery of disability-inclusive health services

Models of care

- 19 Enable the provision of integrated people-centred care that is accessible and close to where people live

- 20 Ensure universal access to assistive products

- 21 Invest more finances in support persons, interpreters, and assistants to meet the health needs of persons with disabilities

- 22 Consider the full spectrum of health services along a continuum of care for persons with disabilities

- 23 Strengthen models of care for children with disabilities

- 24 Promote deinstitutionalization

Health and care workforce

- 25 Develop competencies for disability inclusion in the education of all health and care workers
- 26 Provide training in disability inclusion for all health service providers
- 27 Ensure the availability of a skilled health and care workforce
- 28 Include persons with disabilities in the health and care workforce
- 29 Train all non-medical staff working in the health sector on issues related to accessibility and respectful communication
- 30 Guarantee free and informed consent for persons with disabilities

Physical infrastructure

- 31 Incorporate a universal design-based approach to the development or refurbishment of health facilities and services

- 32 Provide appropriate reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities

Digital technologies for health

- 33 Adopt a systems-approach to the digital delivery of health services with health equity as a key principle
- 34 Adopt international standards for accessibility of digital health technologies

Quality of care

- 35 Integrate the specific needs and priorities of persons with disabilities into existing health safety protocols
- 36 Ensure disability-inclusive feedback mechanisms for quality of health services
- 37 Consider the specific needs of persons with disabilities in systems to monitor care pathways

Monitoring and evaluation

- 38 Create a monitoring and evaluation plan for disability inclusion
- 39 Integrate indicators for disability inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of country health systems

Health policy and systems research

- 40 Develop a national health policy and systems research agenda on disability

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