



International  
Conference of  
Labour Statisticians  
11-20 October 2023



## Disability statistics

General report: paras 180-185

## Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Policy needs
- ▶ Status of statistics on labour force characteristics of persons with disabilities
- ▶ Progress since 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS
- ▶ Module on barriers persons with disabilities face in the labour market

## Introduction

16 per cent of the world's population, or 1 in 6 of us, experience significant disability.

About 80 per cent are of working age.

The right of people with disabilities to decent work, however, is frequently denied.

PWD, particularly women with disabilities, face enormous attitudinal, physical and informational barriers to equal opportunities in the world of work.

PWH experience higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity and are at greater risk of insufficient social protection that is a key to reducing extreme poverty.

The ILO has a longstanding commitment to promoting social justice and achieving decent work for people with disabilities.

## Policy needs

### UN CRPD 2006

- Art.27: the right of all persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others.
- Art.28: adequate standard of living and social protection
- Art.31: collection of statistical data

### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- SDG target 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
  - 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, **persons with disabilities**, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
- SDG target 8.5: By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value
  - 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and **persons with disabilities**
  - 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and **persons with disabilities**

# Status of statistics on labour force characteristics of persons with disabilities

## Difficult to get timely, reliable, comparable statistics

Disability is not systematically monitored; variable covered but not processed and/or disseminated)

Comprehensive data on the employment situation of this population group is rarely available at the required level of detail and periodicity.

## Quality and quantity of data available varies enormously across countries

- **Variety of sources (*varying degree of limitations*, LFS -sampling frame tends to exclude people who live in institutions or who are homeless. Reliability of results for small-size populations)**
- **Wide variance of definitions, standards and methodologies used to identify PWD**
- **Periodicity**
- **Different indicators**

## ► Disability statistics

### Progress since 2018

- The use of the Washington Group questions on disability promoted
- Systematically produced, analysed and disseminated 65 labour market indicators that help to quantify the disparities in the labour market outcomes of PWD and PWhD (from LFS microdata)
- A number of dedicated workshops, webinars were provided
- Training, technical assistance, and guidance on the production of key LM indicators disaggregated by disability status
- Technical input and analysis of data for various reports (e, g the ***UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development***, ILOSTAT blogs)
- An add-on module on functional difficulties and barriers to employment developed

## Status of statistics on labour force characteristics of persons with disabilities

- Standardization of data collection
- Standardisation of data processing

COMPREHENSIVE SET OF LABOR MARKET INDICATORS ([www.ilo.org/ilostat](http://www.ilo.org/ilostat))

65 indicators disaggregated by disability status : Working age population, Labour force, Employment, Unemployment, Inactivity, Informality, Status in employment, NEET, Hours of work, Wages)

- by age, sex, status in employment, education, occupation, economic activity, and rural versus urban areas

Would allow tracking progress and reporting on implementation on national plans, SDG and obligations under the CRPD

## ► Need for more data

- Disaggregating existing indicators may not provide sufficient evidence for designing policies for disability inclusion
- **e.g. SDG 8.5.2. Unemployment rate by disability status**
  - A partial and insufficient picture of the participation of PWD in the labour market.
  - Many PWD are not unemployed (would like to be employed but do not seek employment, and not counted as part of the unemployed).
  - The reasons for unemployment are not known
- Need to understand the causes, barriers and facilitators



## Module on functional difficulties and barriers to employment

Developed in partnership with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Module can be periodically included in any LFS or other hh-based survey (at least every 5 years) (but need for an appropriate sampling design to capture these small populations)

Purpose: (i) Disaggregation of standard labor force indicators by disability status (ii) identification of barriers persons with disabilities face in the labour market, needs/use of workplace accommodations, and attitudes at the labour market

### Structure

- Disability identification questions (in HHs roster)
  - For all who have at least “a lot of difficulty” in at least one domain
- Barriers (for those not in employment)
- Accommodations in the workplace (for those in employment)
- Attitudes
- Social protection

# ► **Module on functional difficulties and barriers to employment**

- Module
- National adaptation guide
- Integration guide
- Variable derivation guide

The full documentation available at: [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/LFS/AddOn\\_DisabilityBarriers\\_V1\\_Full.zip](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/LFS/AddOn_DisabilityBarriers_V1_Full.zip) .

## ► **Module on functional difficulties and barriers to employment**

- Technical assistance has been provided to constituents in a number of countries (e.g. Bangladesh, Kenya).
- Technical support to the UN ESCWA project "Including People with Disabilities in the Arab Labour Market"



International  
Labour  
Organization

THANK YOU