

# The World Bank approaches on Disability through Social Safety Nets

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# Understanding Disability

- **Disability refers to those** who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- **Disability is part of human experience**, most of us will be temporarily or permanently disabled at some point in life; the aging experience increases the presence of a disability.
- **Disability is complex**, interventions needed for inclusion are multiple and vary with the context.

# Persons with Disabilities

1 billion people (15% of the world's population) in 2004 lived with some form of disability; of them, about 185 million or 3% of the world's population experienced very significant difficulties in functioning (WHO/WB 2011).

# U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection

- ❑ the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, without discrimination on the basis of disability.
- ❑ the right of persons with disabilities to social protection without discrimination on the basis of disability:
  - equal access to clean water services, and to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;
  - access to social protection programs and poverty reduction programs;
  - access to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
  - access to public housing;
  - access to retirement benefits.

# Millennium Development Goals

The current MDGs make no references to disability.

The associated MDG targets, indicators and guidelines are also silent on disability.

However . . .

# U.N. Post 2015 Agenda

## Two essential elements for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals include disability

- ❑ ***Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities:*** obstacles to full participation by persons with disabilities should be removed.
- ❑ ***Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy:*** Ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have decent employment, social protection, and access to financial services, will be a hallmark of our economic success

# Disability, Inequality and Intersectionality

## **Disability affects vulnerable populations disproportionately**

- People from the poorest wealth quintile, women, and older people also have a higher prevalence of disability**
- People who have a low income, are out of work, or have low educational qualifications are at an increased risk of disability.**
- Children from poorer households and those in ethnic minority groups are at significantly higher risk of disability than other children.**
- Women and girls with disabilities are more vulnerable to Gender Based Violence.**

# Social Protection

Social Protection Policies are designed to address, prevent, manage, and help overcome situations that adversely affect people's well being.



# Addressing disability inclusion

World Report on Disability gives 9 overarching recommendations.

Two are particularly important:

1. Enable access to all mainstream policies, systems and services.
2. Invest in specific programs and services for persons with disabilities.

# SSN and Persons with Disabilities.

- ❑ Many countries provide safety nets to poor people with disabilities and their households, either through specific disability-targeted programs or through social assistance / SSN programs.
- ❑ While there are some specific disability related programs – at home help, or personal assistance, mainstream solutions are preferred as more cost-effective.
- ❑ It is important to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to mainstream SSN programs as other households.

# Barriers to accessing SSN programs

Persons with disabilities may face barriers to accessing safety nets, when:

- information is inadequate or inaccessible,
- welfare offices/infrastructure are inaccessible,
- program design features do not include reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities

Specific measures are often required to ensure that mainstream safety net programs are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

# Safety Nets are not enough

For safety nets to be effective for persons with disabilities, many other public programs in other sectors need to be in place, such as health, rehabilitation, education, labor and training and environmental access.