



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Disability and Development Report

Realizing the Sustainable
Development Goals by,
for and with persons
with disabilities

2018



Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CsocD	Commission for Social Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
DISD	Division for Inclusive Social Development of UNDESA
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPR	Employment-to-population ratio
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross domestic product
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDPD	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPS	Individual placement and support
IPUMS	Integrated Public Use Microdata Series
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDS	Model Disability Survey
NEP	National employment policies

ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SCRPD	Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SINTEF	Stiftelsen for industriell og teknisk forskning
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	World Health Survey
WPA	World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons

Disability-inclusive development is an essential condition for a sustainable future. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pledging to leave no one behind in the global efforts to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Without the world's one billion persons with disabilities - 15% of the world population - being included as both agents and beneficiaries of development, these Goals will never be achieved. Yet, persons with disabilities are still invisible and often left behind.

This United Nations flagship report is the first publication to address, at the global level, the nexus between disability and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also the first global analysis based on an unprecedented amount of data, legislation and policies from over 100 countries to understand the socio-economic circumstances of persons with disabilities and the challenges and barriers they face in their daily lives. This report examines new areas, like the role of access to energy to enable persons with disabilities to use assistive technology, for which no global research was previously available. And explores the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as other international relevant norms and standards relating to disability. Against the backdrop of all the available evidence, the report identifies good practices and recommends urgent actions to be taken for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities.