

Making cities and communities inclusive and sustainable for persons with disabilities (Goal 11)

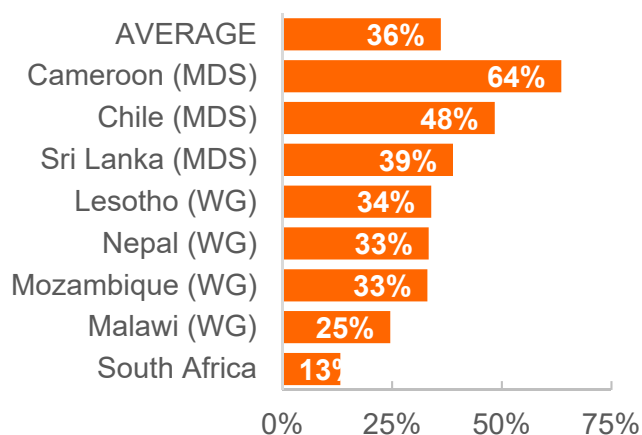


Disability-inclusive development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs provide a powerful framework to guide local communities, countries and the international community toward the achievement of disability-inclusive development. The 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups, and recognizes disability as a cross-cutting issue to be considered in the implementation of all of its goals. The Agenda also includes seven targets and 11 indicators explicitly referencing persons with disabilities, covering access to education and employment, availability of schools that are sensitive to students with disabilities, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, accessible transport, accessible public and green spaces, and building the capacity of countries to disaggregate data by disability.

Transportation systems, public spaces and facilities and businesses are not always accessible for persons with disabilities. Available data indicate that **in some countries more than 30 per cent of persons with disabilities find that transportation and public spaces are not accessible** (Figures 1 and 2). Persons with disabilities also experience difficulties in accessing adequate housing. Barriers include lack of physical accessibility, discrimination, stigmatization and lack of social housing or community support. Limited access to employment can also pose challenges in securing the financial conditions to rent or finance adequate housing. In several countries, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities face an additional obstacle: they have limited security of tenure because their legal capacity is not recognized, and they are rarely able to obtain a formal housing contract. As a result, a disproportionate number of persons with disabilities are homeless.

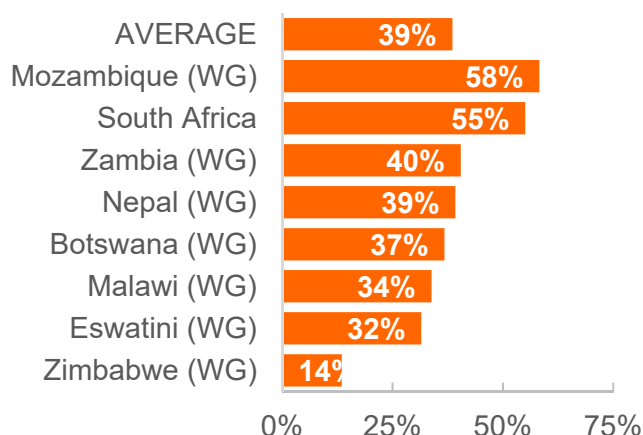
Figure 1: Percentage of persons with disabilities who consider that transportation is not accessible or hindering, in 8 countries, around 2013.



Note: (WG) identifies countries with data collected with the Washington Group Short Set of Questions; (MDS) identifies countries with data collected with the Model Disability Survey. All data refer to not accessible transportation, except MDS data which refer to hindering transportation. Data from Cameroon and South Africa were collected in selected regions and are not nationally representative.

Source: UNDESA¹ (on the basis of data from SINTEF²) and WHO.³

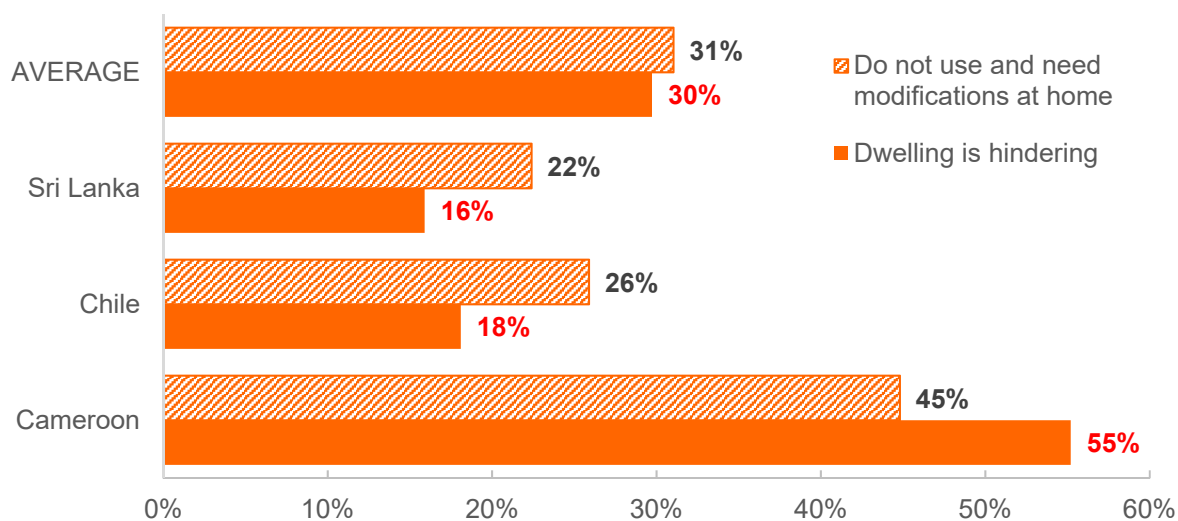
Figure 2: Percentage of persons with disabilities who report that recreational facilities (e.g. cinema, theatre, pubs) are generally not accessible to them, in 8 countries, around 2011.



Note: (WG) identifies countries with data collected with the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. Data from South Africa were collected in selected regions of the country and are not nationally representative.

Source: UNDESA¹ (on the basis of data from SINTEF²).

Figure 3: Percentage of persons with disabilities who (i) consider their dwelling hindering and (ii) do not use but need modifications at home, in 3 countries (MDS), around 2015.



Note: (MDS) identifies countries with data collected using the Model Disability Survey. Data from Cameroon were collected in selected regions and are not nationally representative.

Source: WHO.³

In some countries, more than 15 per cent of persons with disabilities find their dwellings hindering (Figure 3). Furthermore, those who find a home may not be able to afford modifications to make their home accessible.

Persons with disabilities living in rural areas tend to face more challenges than persons with disabilities living in urban areas: they are less likely to attend school and to live in a household that owns a mobile phone. Births from mothers with disabilities living in rural areas are also less likely to be attended by a skilled health worker.

More and more countries have taken measures to improve physical accessibility in public transportation, public playgrounds, cultural facilities, and sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. Some countries also have guidelines for accessible housing.

Actions to make cities and communities inclusive and sustainable for persons with disabilities

- Ensure that national policies and laws on accessible housing, public infrastructure, transport and services are in place and implemented.
- Develop national policies and laws that guarantee access to adequate and affordable housing for persons with disabilities.
- Raise awareness on disability among communities and decision makers and create the enabling environment where persons with disabilities are included without discrimination and can participate equally in their communities.
- Share knowledge and best practices and build capacity to implement measures promoting accessibility and inclusion.
- Improve research and data to monitor, evaluate and strengthen urban development to be more accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities.

¹ Country estimates calculated or commissioned by UNDESA.

² Stiftelsen for industriell og teknisk forskning, *Living conditions among persons with disabilities*, various datasets from 2006 to 2017.

³ Model disability surveys in Cameroon, Chile and Sri Lanka, 2015–2016. Data provided by the World Health Organization in April 2018.