

National SDG Report (VNR) 2025 Addressing the Concerns of LNOB Communities

Persons with Disabilities and the SDGs

A Citizen's Assessment of Progress and Challenges, and the Way Forward

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Acknowledgement

Anchor Organisation

Sightsavers

Associate Organisations

Access Bangladesh Foundation

CBM Global Disability Inclusion

Center for Disability in Development (CDD)

Disability Alliance on SDGs, Bangladesh

Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

Resource Integration Centre (RIC)

The Fred Hollows Foundation

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1. Importance of the Issue and Objective

- **Estimates of people with disabilities vary across sources:** 2.80 % of the population has at least one disability (NSPD 2021), 2.15 % (DSS), 1.43% (Housing Census 2022, BBS), 6.94% (Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh, 2023).
- **SDGs commitment** towards accelerating and ensuring the rights and protections of persons with disabilities as per the Agenda 2030.
- **Showcase the country's policy actions and initiatives** to “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) and promote inclusive, sustainable development.
- Identify and analyse **gaps**.
- Propose a set of **actionable recommendations** to enhance the **rights and protection of persons with disabilities**.

2. Methodology of this Policy Brief

1. Secondary Data Review and Analysis

2. Primary Data Collection:

- **Three Consultation workshops** outside of Dhaka, involving 44 organisations from 25 districts, with 53 representatives from OPDs and other relevant stakeholders.
- **6 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** in Dhamrai, Dhaka; Shyamnagar, Satkhira; Alamdanga and Chuadanga Sadar; and CRP, Dhaka. A total of **54 individuals** participated in these FGDs.
- **Two Additional Consultations** were organised at CDD, Savar, and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

3. Policy Progress and Actions

- **Inclusion in National Plan:** inclusion of persons with disabilities in the national Five-Year Plan is one of the major initiatives.
- **Copyright Act 2023:** the Copyright Act was amended to align with the Marrakesh Treaty, and the Bengali Braille guideline was approved in August 2024
- **SME Policy:** a review of SME policy was initiated, with consideration for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- **Separate OP:** a separate OP was initiated for disability and mental health under the DGHS
- **Inclusion in LFS:** BBS' quarterly labour force survey includes data on the workforce of persons with disabilities.
- **Quota System:** The quota system for persons with disabilities was reinstated

4. Progress towards Goals

- **SDG 3: Health and Well-being**

- 62% of persons with disabilities received healthcare services in the three months preceding the NSPD 2021
- 92% received sometime in the twelve months preceding the NSPD 2021.
- One-fourth of PWDs received health services from government health facilities.

- **SDG 5: Gender equality**

- Establishment of daycare centres in the Victim Support Centres and One Stop Crisis Centres; easy case registration; access to properties; improved access to education; increased participation in family's decision-making; improved social attitude towards persons with disabilities; etc.

4. Progress towards Goals (contd.)

- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

- According to NSPD 2021, one-third (34%) of persons with disabilities aged 15-64 years are employed, with 54% of them being self-employed.
- Initiatives have focused on reinstating the quota system; increasing job opportunities and job fairs; increasing number of PWD entrepreneurs; increased opportunities for online business; and increasing ICT expertise among PWD.

- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

- OPDs are consulted during union-level budget preparations.

5. Challenges

- **Knowledge and Data Gap**
 - **No indicators or targets** regarding persons with disabilities have been **identified in the government's SDGs roadmap** for tracking progress.
 - There is a **lack of reliable national data** sources due to **inconsistencies** across various datasets.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure and Services**
 - The doctor-to-patient ratio is insufficient with only **0.7 doctors per 10,000 people**, and **83% doctors available**.
 - There is only **one hospital bed for every 990 patients**, and an absence of occupational therapists, speech & language therapists, orthotics & prosthetics experts, and clinical psychologists.

5. Challenges (contd.)

- **Inadequate Infrastructure and Services (contd.)**
 - **Inaccessible financial services**, including mobile banking, banks and ATM booths.
 - **Transport and public services** also remain **inaccessible** for persons with disabilities.
- **Limited Opportunities for Economic Empowerment and Social Protection**
 - Corporate and private sector **employment policies are not disability-inclusive**
 - There are **insufficient social protection schemes** targeting the needs of persons with disabilities.

6. Recommendations

- **Establish a separate disability data centre** with a standardised data collection tool to ensure disability-segregated data across the national database, including the SDG tracker.
- **Promote active participation and engagement** in policy making process at all levels to advance rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- **Strengthen technical skills** to foster collaboration with NGOs and advocacy groups, ensuring that no one is left behind in achieving SDGs.

6. Recommendations (contd.)

- **Ensure all children with disabilities** have access to quality and inclusive education, empowering them through skills training & employment.
- **Recognise accessible infrastructure** and transportation **as fundamental rights for persons with disabilities**, ensuring equal access to public services.

Thank You



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