

Zanzibar

Situation of Children and Young People with Disabilities



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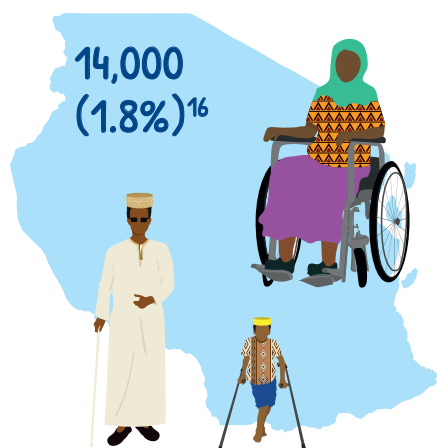
All of us are susceptible to being disabled at any point in our lives. So, we need to love each other whether we have a disability or not. This is what I tell my child to raise her spirits because sometimes she feels a little bit down.

~Parent of a child with a disability

”

How many children and young people in Zanzibar are living with disabilities?

% of different kinds of disabilities



0.7%

Difficulty in seeing



0.8%

Difficulty in hearing



0.6%

Difficulty in walking



1%

Difficulty in remembering



1%

Difficulty in communicating



1.6%

Difficulty in self-care



What laws exist to protect the rights of children and young people with disabilities?

International human rights conventions ratified by the United Republic of Tanzania (URT)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)



Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)



Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



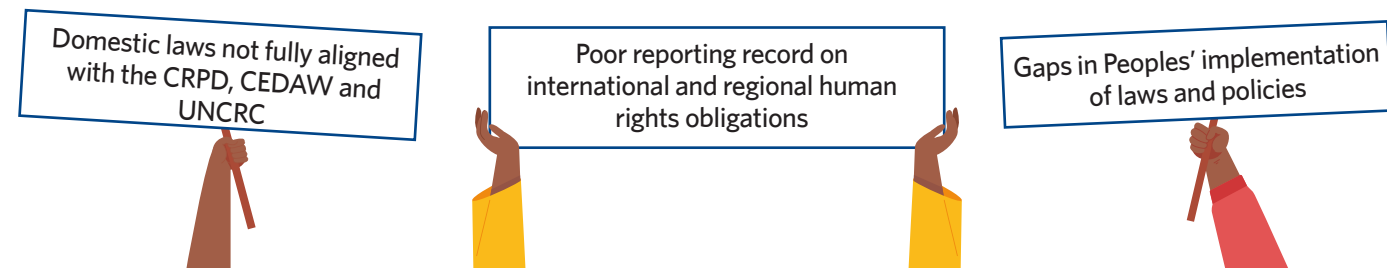
Regional human rights instruments



Zanzibar legislation



Gaps in the legislative protection of rights of children and young people with disabilities



What are the barriers to realising rights of children and young people with disabilities?

Health

Barriers to accessing health services for children and young people with disabilities

Early detection and diagnosis



Limited availability of services¹⁷



Lack of early intervention and support for children who are identified late



Lapse in early identification of children with disabilities (especially intellectual and developmental disabilities)

Health insurance



15.5%

% of families headed by a person with disability in Zanzibar, who is a member in one of the social security and health insurance schemes¹⁸

Assistive devices

“

There is still a huge challenge ... [with] wheelchairs because the cost is really beyond the means of the average person.

”

~An observation of a parent of a child with a disability

Limited access to assistive devices and difficulty in their maintenance



Girls with disabilities are less likely to receive health care and assistive devices than boys with disabilities¹⁹



“

Young people [with disabilities] for instance, there is sexual reproductive health but sometimes they are not totally included in the programs and most of them don't know their health status.

”

~An observation by a key informant

Sexual and reproductive health services

% of young people with disabilities who reported having challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health services due to discrimination associated with their age, gender and disability (or a combination of all three)²⁰

62.9%



Half of young people with disabilities report never having accessed user-friendly sexual and reproductive health services²¹



Increased stigma and discrimination faced by girls with disabilities while seeking sexual and reproductive health services



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Anecdotal evidence suggests that girls with disabilities are seeking services or services in relation, for example, to sexual and reproductive health related methods, often are exposed to the risk of sexual harassment, exploitation and assault within their communities. These girls are married away earlier and more frequently than other girls in the community. And then when they do look to reproductive health services, they are stigmatised within the communities and often neglected when it comes to accessing resources.

-An observation in a focus group discussion

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Nutrition

Malnourishment/stunting (too short for their age)

23.5%



% children under five years are stunted in Zanzibar due to malnutrition²²

Underweight/stunted children



are more likely to screen positive for disability than children who were not

Childhood disability and malnutrition

are directly related through various pathways including feeding problems in children with disability and neglect



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The government should provide nutritious foods including in schools, especially for children with disabilities. For example many of the children with disabilities come from poor families and hence cannot afford nutritious foods

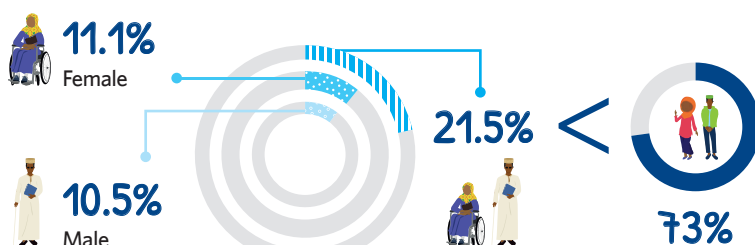
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-An observation in a focus group discussion

Employment

Youth employment

% of young people (15–24 years) with disabilities in the URT who have access to various forms of employment²⁵



Lower than the overall employment rate of young people in Zanzibar²⁶

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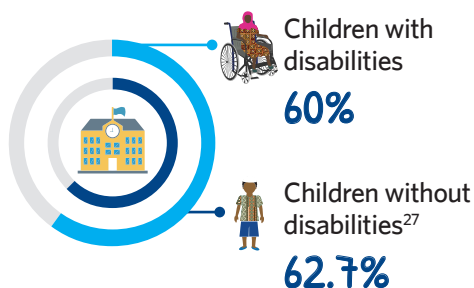
I don't think that young people (with disabilities) in adolescence are really promoted or encouraged to join vocational training. And then as you get to 18, the big issue is jobs and work. And that is an issue for so many young people in Zanzibar. One of the big pushes of the government is to try to find employment for people, and they consider it a priority. But sometimes we get lost in that because it becomes a huge thing.

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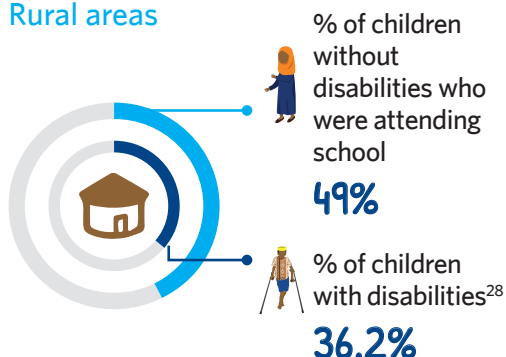
-An observation by a key informant

Education

School enrolment



Rural areas

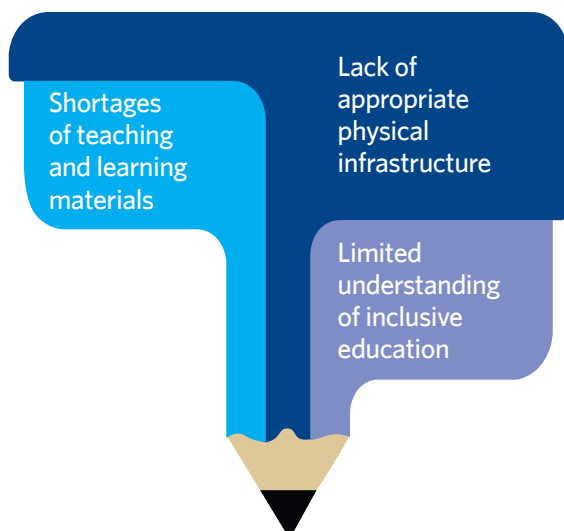


“Children need support, for example, children from poor families don't have access to educational materials, uniforms, shoes, all things which are very crucial to support him or her for schooling should be there. Even wheelchairs, or safety devices, brain machines, laptops, whichever special programmes.”

~An observation by a key informant

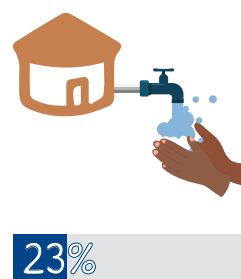
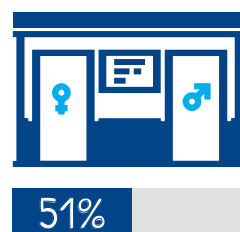
Inclusive education

Children with disabilities face barriers to inclusion in education due to³¹



A significant number of children and young people with disabilities remain excluded from public and private schooling at all levels

Accessible school facilities



Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse

Violence against children with albinism



Attacks and abductions of children with albinism have reduced but not disappeared since 2015



Families of children with albinism continue to live in fear of such violence



Women and girls with albinism are sometimes victims of sexual violence because of the misconception that having sexual relations with them can heal HIV/AIDS

Discrimination and violence



Children and young people are more likely to experience disability-based discrimination and violence caused by harmful social norms

Gender-based discrimination and violence



Girls with disabilities are more likely to experience violence than their male peers with disabilities or girls without disabilities³²

“

It seems like the government agencies or the UN don't have proper information and documentation about whether killings [of people with albinism] are happening or not, but then you hear about it in police reports. So there is a huge disconnect, because the same point is coming again and again. That means we are either not investigating the issue properly, or there is a lack of intention to even investigate the issue.

-Observation by a key informant

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What can be done to promote the rights and inclusion of children and young people with disabilities?



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