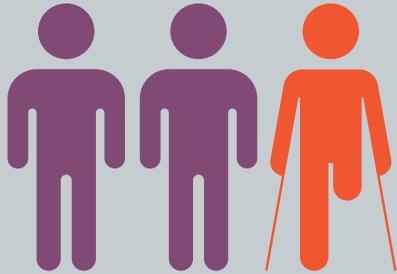


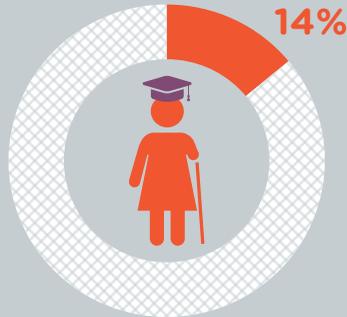


Education and learning

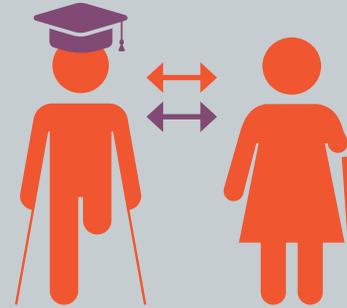
Recommendation: Develop costed national action plans with measurable milestones to provide quality inclusive education for all adolescents with disabilities



One-third of children who are out of school – **19 million*** – have a disability



Ethiopia: GAGE survey data found adolescents with disabilities are **14% less likely** to be enrolled and those in school complete half a year less schooling



Girls with disabilities in some low- and middle- income countries face greater educational disadvantages than their male peers



The enrollment gap between those with and without disabilities not only increases by grade level but is also getting worse over time

“ I thought I was dead, but not anymore. After I started school, I now believe I can be just like any other person.”

(Girl with a visual impairment, 18 years old, Ethiopia)

*Saebones et al., 2015



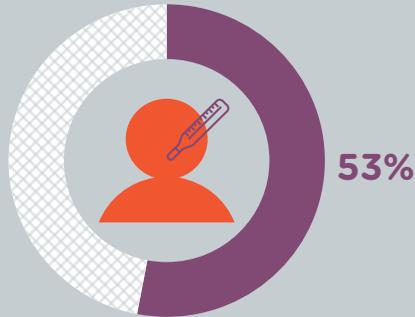


Health, sexual and reproductive health and nutrition

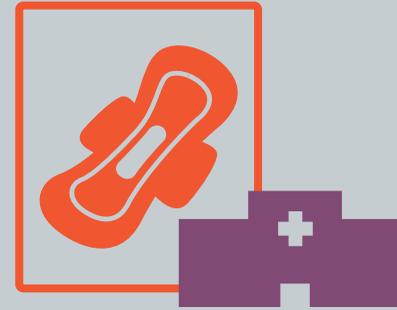
Recommendation: Ensure that adolescents with disabilities have access to primary and disability-specific health care, information and services



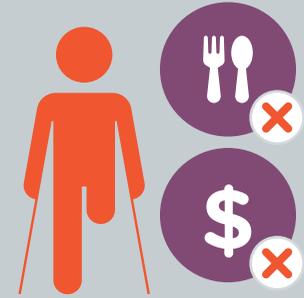
Due to disability-related stigma, cost, and physical accessibility, adolescents with disabilities have poorer access to health care



Bangladesh and Ethiopia: GAGE survey data found adolescents with disabilities are **53% more likely** to experience significant illness or injury



Girls with disabilities have significantly poorer access to sexual health information and services, due to restrictive gender norms



The nutritional needs of adolescents with disabilities are poorly addressed, with some at risk of undernutrition, especially due to poverty

“The rights of adolescents with disabilities to know [about their sexual and reproductive health rights] are especially ignored and undermined by all including by service providers.” (Non-governmental service provider, Gaza)



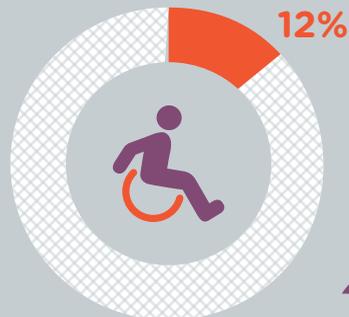


Bodily integrity and freedom from violence

Recommendation: Provide adolescents with disabilities, their families and communities with information about risks of violence, protection measures and how to report abuse whilst strengthening justice sector responses



Adolescents with disabilities are **3-4 times more** likely* to experience physical, sexual and emotional violence than peers without disabilities



GAGE survey data found among adolescents with disabilities, **12% were less likely to self-report violence at home, rural adolescents 17% and girls 17%.** Evidence shows adolescents with disabilities find it difficult to report abuse and seek justice



Evidence suggests adolescents with intellectual impairments are at increased risk of violence

“The other students used to tease and harass us while we were communicating using sign language and they seemed to see us like dolls as if we were acting out a drama.”

(Boy with a hearing impairment, 16 years old, Ethiopia)

*Jones et al., 2012





Psychosocial wellbeing

Recommendation: Provide age-appropriate guidance for parents, teachers, healthcare workers and social workers on how to support adolescents with disabilities psycho-emotionally and provide opportunities for peer interactions



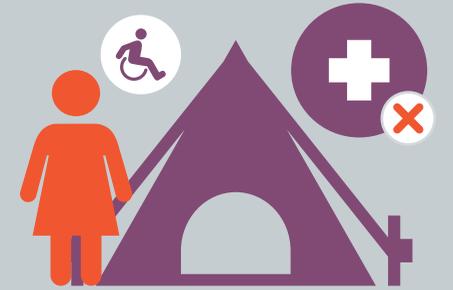
Adolescents with disabilities experience social isolation and often feel stigmatised within their own households



Bangladesh and Ethiopia: GAGE survey data found adolescents with disabilities have **substantially different** psycho-emotional development test scores than peers without disabilities



Girls with disabilities are particularly likely to be isolated and lack psychosocial support, due to restrictive gender norms



Refugees with disabilities face high levels of exclusion from services and social isolation

“ I do not have friends. I do not tell anyone when I feel sad and have worries. I just keep quiet and sit.”

(Girl with a visual impairment, 15 years old, Ethiopia)



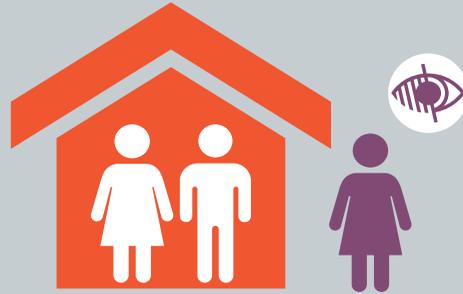


Voice and agency

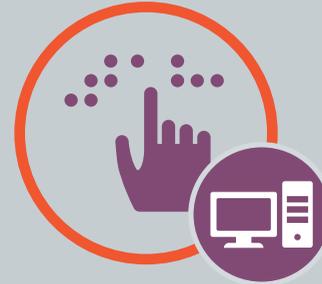
Recommendation: Raise awareness of the importance of and opportunities for supporting adolescents with disabilities to be listened to and to participate in decision-making



Adolescents with disabilities, especially girls, face mobility restrictions due to inappropriate infrastructure, unaffordable assistive devices and discrimination



Ethiopia: GAGE survey data found adolescents with disabilities were **8% less likely** to have a say in household decision-making than peers without disabilities



Digital technologies can facilitate access to information and promote peer communication and self-expression, but access for adolescents with disabilities needs to be improved



Adolescents with disabilities are often unaware of their rights to equality and non-discrimination, and thus cannot claim or exercise them

“ It has now been a year since we even left the apartment ... Boys can leave the house but the life for girls who are blind is unimaginably restrictive!”

(Girl who is blind, 19 year old, Syrian refugee in Jordan)





Economic empowerment

Recommendation: Ensure social assistance programmes cover the additional costs that adolescents with disabilities incur. Simultaneously invest in skills and asset building programmes necessary for their economic empowerment



The costs of excluding persons with disabilities from work range from **3% to 7%** of Gross Domestic Product in low- and middle- income countries (ILO)*



Training and skills development opportunities for adolescents with disabilities are limited and do not match labour market demands



Adolescents with disabilities, particularly girls, have lower access to decent employment opportunities



Older adolescents with disabilities are often excluded from microfinance schemes and denied their inheritance rights

“When I grow up I want to open a shop and sell grocery items. My mother doesn’t have that kind of money ... that’s why I didn’t tell her.”

(Boy with a physical impairment, 15 years old, Bangladesh)

*ILO, 2009





Caregivers

Recommendation: Ensure caregivers have access to information on the nature of their child's specific impairment and relevant services, as well as access to support networks



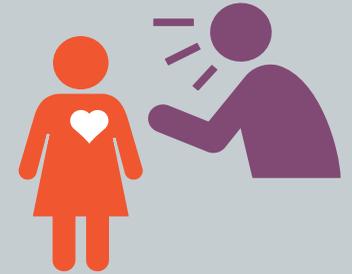
Caregivers play a critical role in supporting adolescents with disabilities physically, financially and emotionally



Caregiving is disproportionately undertaken by mothers and other female family members



Many caregivers feel socially isolated due to a deficit of information about how best to support adolescents with disabilities



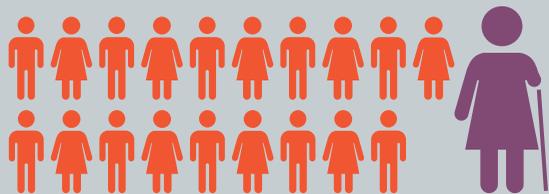
Some caregivers are subject to abuse and abandonment by their male partners when supporting adolescents with disabilities

“ My husband doesn't help me at all in taking care of my children with disabilities, I do all the required care, starting from feeding, showering and providing physiotherapy myself.” (Mother of adolescent with multiple disabilities, West Bank)



GAGE multi-country mixed methods longitudinal research design

Sub-sample of adolescents with disabilities:



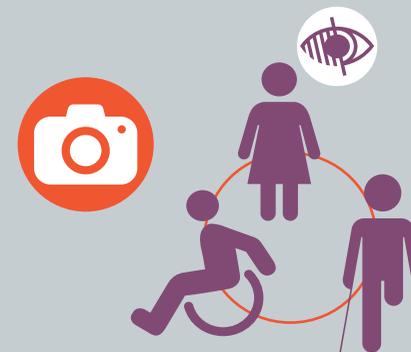
900/18,000

Quantitative surveys conducted with a 5% sample of younger and older adolescents with disabilities in line with global population estimates



100/1,000

In-depth qualitative research case studies conducted with adolescents with disabilities and their families to gain a wider perspective



30/300

Annual peer-to-peer research conducted to support adolescents with disabilities to tell their own stories through participatory visual methods

“ It is easier to list what is not known about youth with disabilities, than what is.” (Groce and Kett, 2014)

