

Inequities in birth registration, violent discipline, and child labour by disability: Evidence from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys in 24 Countries

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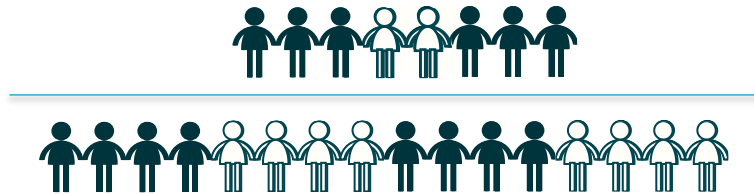
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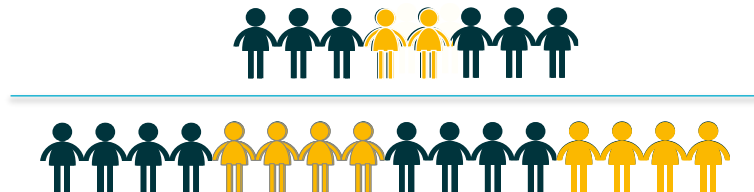
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- Children with disabilities are often missing in data



- In 2016, UNICEF included the Child Functioning Module (CFM) to measure disability in national surveys conducted in over 100 countries



The Missing Billion

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR
1 BILLION PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



The Missing Billion report,
moving from awareness to action
www.missingbillion.org

UNICEF report 'Seen,
Counted, Included'



**Seen,
Counted,
Included**

Using data to shed light
on the well-being of
children with disabilities

Disabled young women face double the risk of sexual violence

'Alarming' report from disability royal commission released just hours after March 4 Justice protests



International Centre for Excellence in Disability



Almost a third of disabled children and teenagers face abuse, global study finds

Analysis involved more than 16 million young people from 25 countries conducted over three decades



Limited evidence on disability and child protection outcomes



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The exposure of children with and without disabilities to violent parental discipline: Cross-sectional surveys in 17 middle- and low-income countries

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Youth with disabilities are more likely than their peers to engage in hazardous child labour

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Aim and approach

Aim: To make inequities by disability in three child protection outcomes among girls and boys visible:

No birth
registration

Violent discipline

Child labour

Approach: Analysis of data from the UNICEF MICS in 24 countries.

- **On average analysis** – % of girls and boys with disabilities and prevalence of child protection outcomes
- **Equity analysis** – magnitude of inequity between children with and without a disability and prevalence gaps



323,436 children | 24 Countries | 6 regions

East Asia and the Pacific

- Mongolia; Tonga

South Asia

- Bangladesh

East Central Asia

- Kosovo; Kyrgyzstan;
North Macedonia; Serbia

South America

- Guyana; Suriname

Middle East and North Africa

- Algeria; Iraq; State of Palestine

Sub-saharan Africa

- CAR; Chad; DRC Congo; Ghana; Guinea-Bissau; Losotho; Madagascar; Sao Tome and Principe; Sierra Leone; The Gambia; Togo; Zimbabwe



Does your child
have difficulty...

2-4 year olds (8 domains)

seeing, hearing, walking, fine motor
communication/comprehension,
learning, playing, controlling
behaviour

5-17 year olds (12 domains)

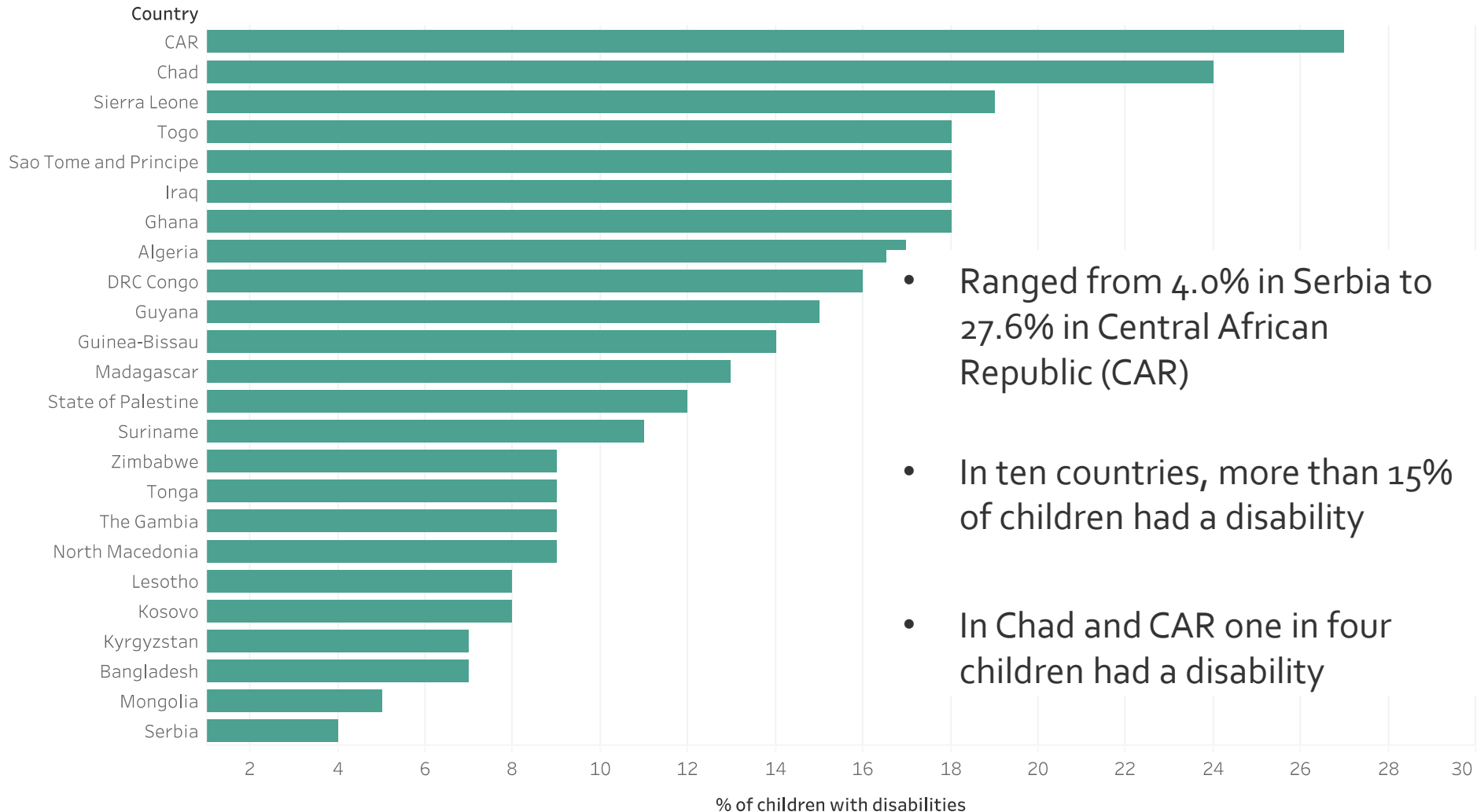
seeing, hearing, walking, self care,
communication/comprehension,
learning, remembering, controlling
behaviour, concentrating, accepting
change, making friends, anxiety and
depression

Washington Group on Disability Statistics:

Children whose caregivers
reported:

- 1) "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" on any of the functional domains or
- 2) reported experiencing depression or anxiety "daily" were considered as children with disabilities

% of children aged 2-17 years with disabilities



Findings: Birth registration and disability

Definition

% of children aged 2-4 years whose births were not registered and who did not have a birth certificate

Average prevalence

- 12 countries with universal birth registration coverage
- Range: 72.4% in Chad to 16.1% in Togo

Inequities by disability

- Boys: inequities in 4 countries. Prevalence gap 7.9%-points in CAR
- Girls: inequities in 4 countries. Prevalence gap 17.4% points in Suriname

Implications

- Universal birth registration is possible for children with disabilities
- Country-level inequities by disability differ by sex
- Need to ensure efforts to improve birth registration also benefit children with disabilities

Findings: Violent discipline and disability

Definition

% of children aged 2-14 years who experienced at least one form of psychological aggression or physical punishment from any adult in the household during the last month

Average prevalence

- Range: 47.0% in Serbia to 95.1% in Ghana
- Above 50% in 23/24 countries.

Inequities by disability

- Boys: inequities in 6 countries (violent discipline) and 17 countries (severe punishment)
- Girls: Inequities in 6 countries (violent discipline), 13 countries (severe punishment)

Implications

- High overall prevalence of violent discipline and large inequities for children with disabilities, especially for severe punishment
- Future research should examine severity of violence and disability

Findings: Child labour and disability

Definition

% of children aged 5-17 years who performed household chores or economic activities over the age-specified thresholds in the past week.
Hazardous labour included carrying heavy loads, dangerous tools, extreme temperatures, noise and chemicals.

Average prevalence

- Range: 2.0% in Algeria to 35.6% in Chad
- Above 20% (1 in 5) in 10 countries

Inequities by disability

- Boys: Inequities in 3 countries (child labour), 8 countries (hazardous labour)
- Girls: Inequities in 2 countries (child labour), 8 countries (hazardous labour). Prevalence of hazardous labour 3x higher among girls with disabilities in Palestine

Implications

- Few countries had inequities in child labour by disability
- Boys and girls with disabilities more likely to be in hazardous labour
- Future research should examine location and nature of work and disability

Limitations

- Survey design was not designed to enable disaggregated analyses by disability and sex and child protection outcomes and other sociodemographics
- Limits of disability measures
- Country-level analysis could obscure sub-national inequities
- Surveys do not include children who are street connected, incarcerated or living in residential care
- All measures were caregiver reported and may not reflect the experiences of children and young people
- Measures are likely to be underreported and could vary by country

Research and data collection

- Further country-specific mixed methods research
- Intersectional analyses
- Youth-centered research

SDG monitoring

- ‘On average’ monitoring obscures inequities
- SDGs must be monitored – and achieved – among boys and girls with disabilities

Programming

- Disability responsive violence prevention
- Integration of child protection and violence prevention in disability programming and advocacy

Thank you

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& TROPICAL
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