

Tanzania

Situation of Children and Young People with Disabilities



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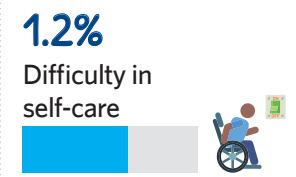
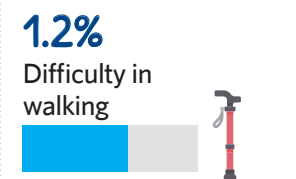
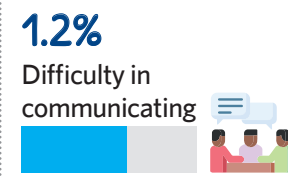
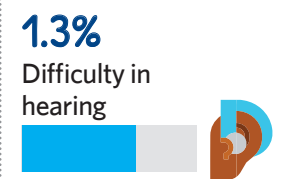
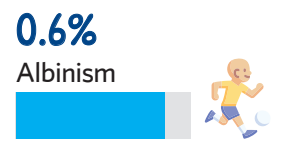
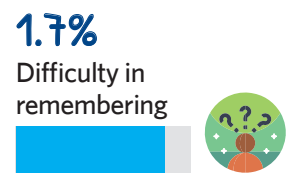
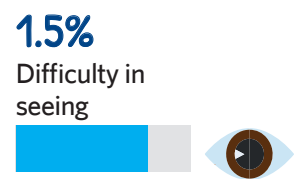
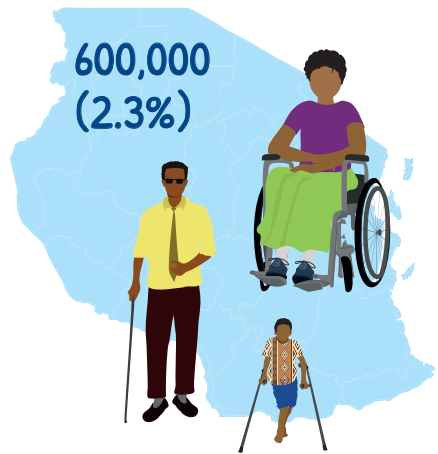
All of us are susceptible to being disabled at any point in our lives. So, we need to love each other whether we have a disability or not. This is what I tell my child to raise her spirits because sometimes she feels a little bit down.

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-Parent of a child with a disability

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

% of different kinds of disabilities



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)

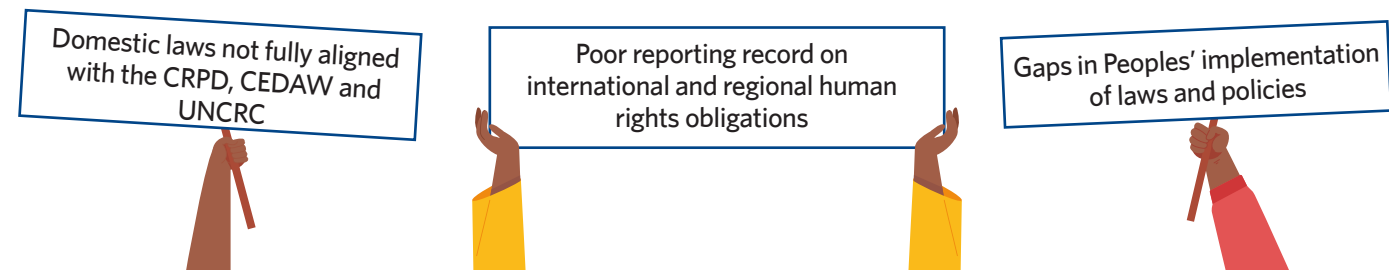
Regional human rights instruments



Domestic legislation



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

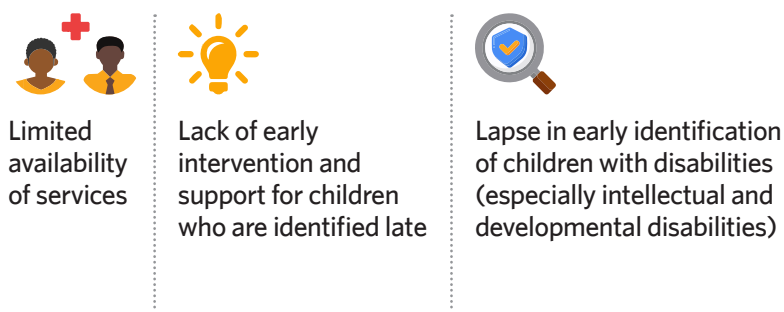


What are the barriers to realising rights of children and young people with disabilities?

Health

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

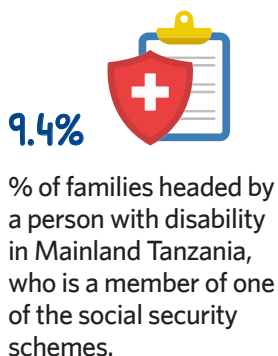
Early detection and diagnosis



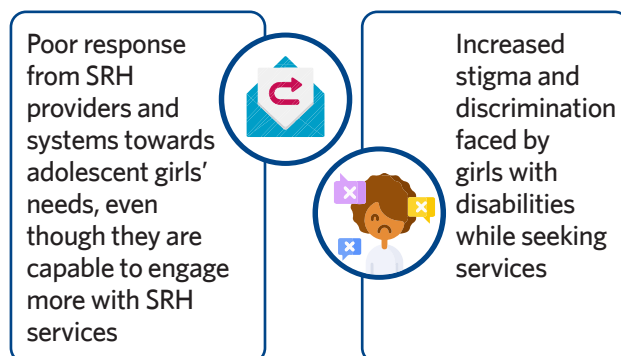
Assistive devices



Health insurance



Sexual and reproductive health services



“ 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. ”

-A key informant's observation



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

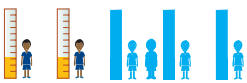


Nutrition

Malnourishment/stunting (too short for their age)

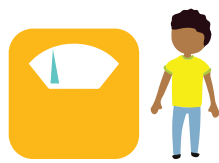
Prevalence

32 out of 100 children



At higher risk of developing cognitive and physical limitations that have the potential to last their lifespans

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



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

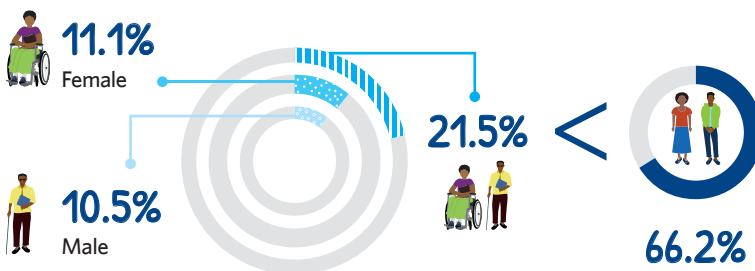


-An observation in a focus group discussion

Employment

Youth employment

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



Lower than the overall employment rate of young people in Tanzania

Formal sector employment

% of persons with disabilities in the total workforce in formal sector

0.2%



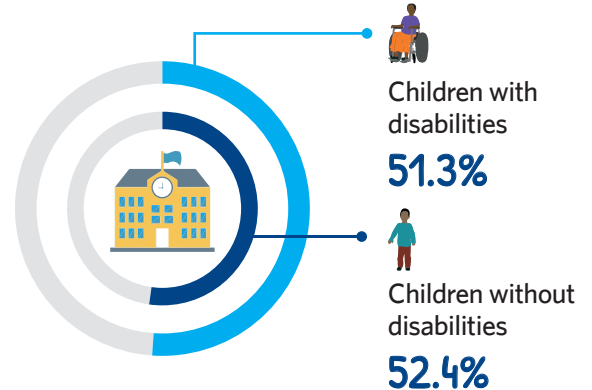
Male
2,321



Female
1,614

Education

School enrolment



Rural areas



Accessible school facilities



% of primary and secondary schools that do not have a toilet accessible to pupils with physical disabilities or impaired vision

89%



% of primary and secondary schools who do not have handwashing facilities accessible to children with limited mobility or impaired vision

42%

Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse

Discrimination and violence

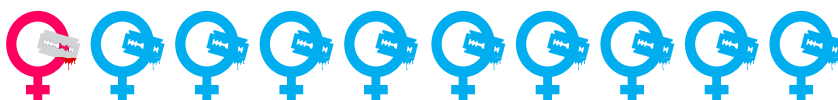


Children and young people are more likely to experience disability-based discrimination and violence caused by harmful social norms.

Gender-based discrimination and violence



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



1 in 10

women in Tanzania has undergone female genital mutilation

FGM can:



Cause disabilities in girls and young women



Increase the severity of disabilities in girls and young women with disabilities.

Violence against children with albinism



Attacks and abductions of children with albinism have reduced since 2015, but have not been eliminated



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

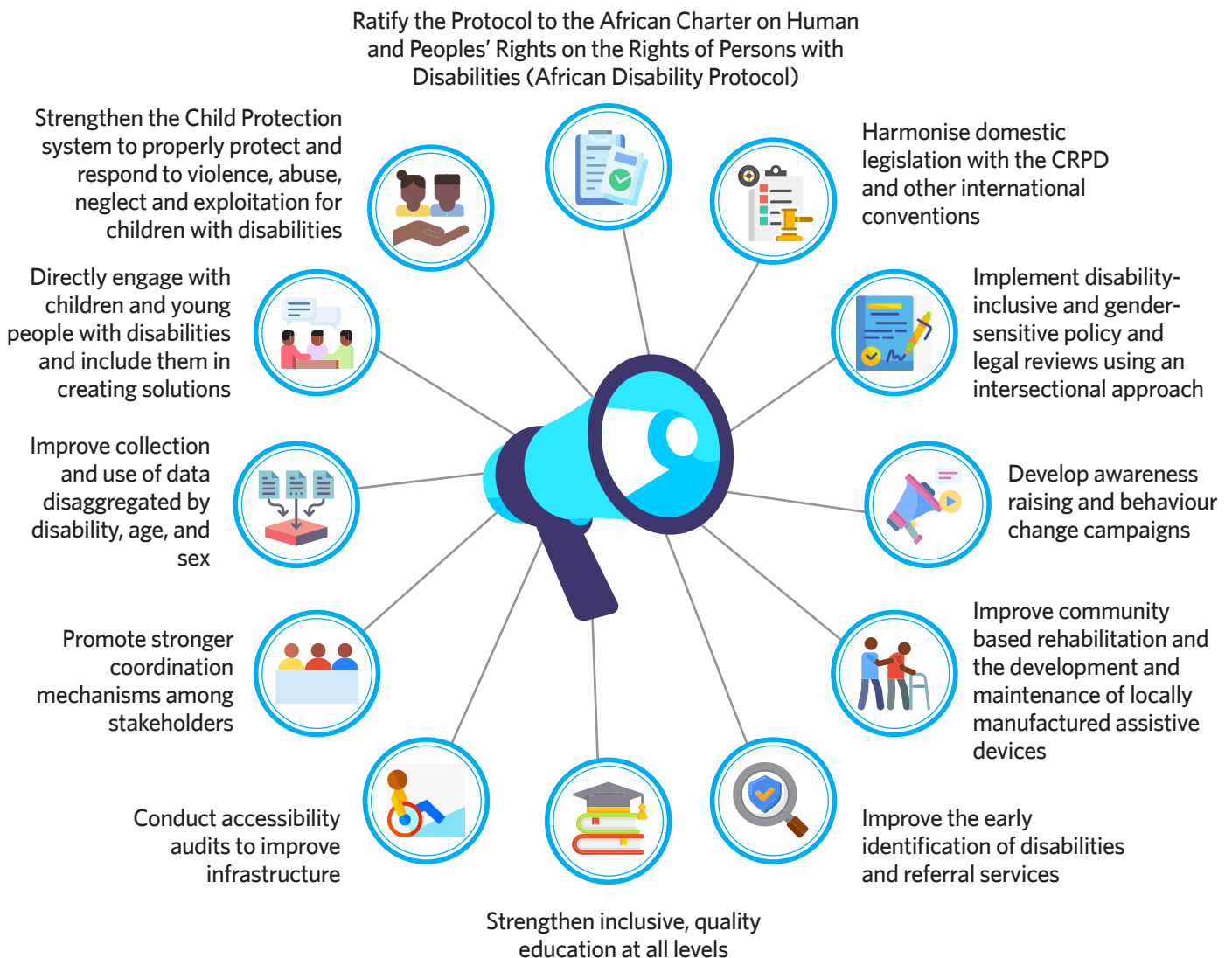
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It seems like the government agencies or the UN don't have proper information and documentation about whether killings [of people with albinism] are happening or not, but then you hear about it in police reports. So there is a huge disconnect, because 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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