

# DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection is crucial to address the systemic and persistent barriers that affect the lives of persons with disabilities. Globally, only one-third of people with significant disabilities receive any form of social protection, which is often severely inadequate. Humanitarian crises, climate-related disasters, and conflicts exacerbate these disparities, disproportionately affecting persons with disabilities. Inclusive social protection systems are crucial for reducing inequality and ensuring the well-being of persons with disabilities across different income levels and in various challenging circumstances.

**JUST ONE-THIRD OF PERSONS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES WORLDWIDE GET ANY KIND OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND IT'S OFTEN NOT VERY ADEQUATE.**

## BARRIERS TO ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Inaccessible information and communication regarding eligibility and availability of social protection schemes.



Complex and multiple disability assessment and certification processes for different social protection schemes, often based solely on medical certificates.



Barriers when applying for social protection programs, including the requirement to apply in person.



Lack of accessible transportation to reach public administration offices.



Disability-related prejudice and stigma among social workers and administrative staff of social welfare offices and local administration.



Complaint mechanisms and grievance processes for persons with disabilities are often inaccessible or unsafe.



Persons with disabilities may find it difficult to obtain or maintain a bank account.

## KEY ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

### WHEN DESIGNING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

1



#### DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

To ensure consistent attention to the situation of persons with disabilities when analysing inequality and social protection in the country, it is important to integrate a disability-inclusive perspective into the analytical framework.

2



#### ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Consulting and engaging with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations is essential in designing social protection programmes. This should include diverse views, such as those of women with disabilities, parents' organisations, LGBTQI persons, and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

3



#### COVERAGE

Assess the extent to which persons with disabilities are covered by existing social protection mechanisms in the country. This includes reviewing data on inequality and socio-economic exclusion of persons with disabilities, examining eligibility criteria for social protection benefits, and understanding the disability identification and needs assessment system.

4



#### IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

Identify the challenges and barriers faced by persons with disabilities in terms of inequality and social exclusion. This information will help design disability-inclusive social protection policies and prioritize actions.

5



#### DESIGN ELEMENTS

Consider different design elements based on the nature of the barriers identified, existing social protection systems, fiscal space and the priorities of persons with disabilities. This may include ensuring accessibility and non-discrimination, respecting dignity and privacy, and providing a combination of mainstream and disability-specific cash transfers, benefits, and services.

6



#### MEASURE PROGRESS

Develop disability-inclusive indicators to measure progress in implementing disability-inclusive social protection programmes.

