

WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY

Following the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), attention has focused on ways to remove barriers to the participation of people with disabilities in their societies. Now a new publication, the first ever *World report on disability*, requested by the World Health Assembly (resolution 58.23) and produced jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, reviews evidence about the situation of disabled people, and offers directions for policy and practice which can help overcome exclusion.

The report contains chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. The voices of people with disabilities themselves open each chapter, setting the scene for what follows. Within the chapters, case studies show how many countries have succeeded in promoting good practice. The diverse challenges faced in low-income, middle-income and high-income settings are differentiated wherever possible.

Importantly, the report also includes the first new disability prevalence estimates since the 1970s. Global trends such as the ageing population, and the increasing spread of chronic diseases, mean that the prevalence of disability is likely to rise in the future. The report makes the case for better data collection, using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Overall, there are major evidence gaps in the disability field, and the report argues that more research and disaggregated data are needed to show what works to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

This pioneering report will contribute to the implementation of the CRPD by showing how removing barriers to mainstream services and investing in rehabilitation, support services and more accessible environments can ensure that millions of people with disabilities can participate in education, employment and wider society. At the intersection of public health, human rights and development, the *World report on disability* will be a valuable resource for policy-makers, professionals, and advocates for people with disabilities and their families.

Further information

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How to access the report

The *World report on disability* is being launched by the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan, the World Bank Vice-President Ms Tamar Manuelyan Atinc and other personalities at the United Nations in New York on Thursday 9 June 2011.

To download the report, go to www.who.int/disabilities/world_report. The full version will be available in accessible PDF and DAISY formats, with a summary version available in all UN languages, each in accessible formats. Braille versions of the summary report will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Implementing the report

The report is a call to action. The goal is for the evidence and recommendations in the report to inform policy-makers, donors, researchers and practitioners and to enable them to implement good practice and remove barriers to the participation of people with disabilities.

Following the global launch, the *World report on disability* will be launched via a series of policy dialogues in countries all over the world. A range of supporting media materials are available including factsheets, posters, films, personal narratives and photographs to support national and regional level events.



**What's
disability to
you?**

Go to: www.youtube.com/who to view films featuring Faustina and other women with disabilities talking about their lives.



**World Health
Organization**



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