



UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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# TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

BRIDGING THE GAP WEBINAR

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# Recap CRPD

- The CRPD shift of paradigm brings several key elements:
  - Disability results from the interaction of persons' impairments and their environment so inclusion requires simultaneously action to remove barriers in the environment and provision of required support
  - Medical and charity approach to persons with disabilities do not lead to inclusion, Human rights based approach does
  - The key question is "What has to be done so that ALL persons with disabilities enjoy and exercise ALL their human rights?"
  - Active and meaningful consultation with DPOs is critical to benefit from lived experience from people with disabilities and is an obligation as per the CRPD to ensure that they have a say on all policies and program that impact them

# Towards a comprehensive policy framework for inclusion

Such policy framework will articulate:

- Policies to remove barriers
- Policies that provide support

Both type of policies have to consider:

- The diversity of persons with disabilities
- The diversity of barrier they face
- The diversity of support they require

# The complementary dimensions of comprehensive policy framework for inclusion

<b>1. Removing barriers</b>	<b>2. Support to individual</b>
Accessibility Awareness Non discrimination Affirmative actions	Support services Habilitation/rehabilitation Transitional services <b>Social protection</b>
<b>3. Meaningful engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities</b>	

# Social protection 101

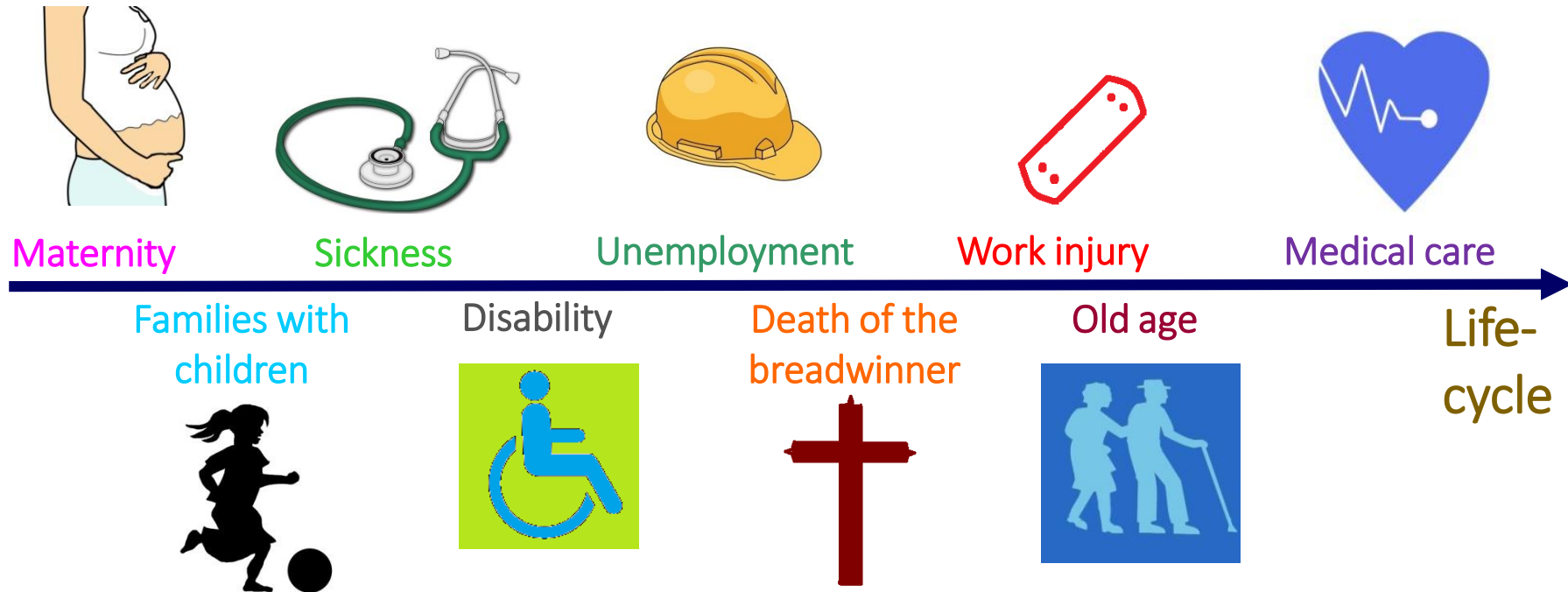


**Social Protection?**



# What is social protection?

- People face risk and shock during their life-cycle, which have financial consequences



- Social protection is provided to members of a society against the economic and social distress caused by such contingencies

# What is social protection?

Protection and support provided by society

To compensate for the loss of income and cover health care expenditures

To provide minimum income and cover health care expenditures

To facilitate access to social services and fulfill basic needs

income support

Access to services

Social transfers  
(in cash, in kind or services)



# Social protection instruments

WHAT?

IN KIND

IN CASH

SERVICES

HOW IS IT FINANCED?

**TAX FINANCED**  
**(non contributory-Social assistance)**  
Social pension, Poverty assistance,  
Basic income, Social Services, Active  
Labor Policies, Public Works,  
Subsidies, social housing...

**SOCIAL INSURANCE**  
**(contributory)**  
Retirement, survivor or disability  
pension, Health Insurance,  
unemployment, accident  
insurance...

# What is Social Assistance (non contributory)?

- Tax financed
- Can be in cash or in kind benefits (disability pension, old age pension, family assistance...)

UNIVERSAL

Everybody is entitled

TARGETED

Everybody is entitled

Unconditional

There is no condition/tasks to fulfil to get the benefits

Conditional

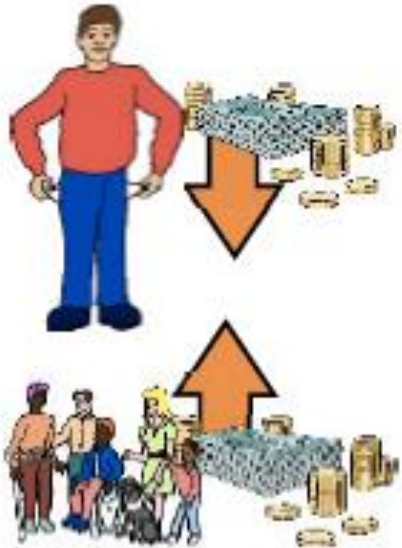
You get benefit only if you do certain things (sending kids to school, attending health awareness session)

# What is social protection?

- Social protection is
  - the set of policies and programs
  - aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion
  - throughout their lifecycles,
  - with a particular emphasis towards vulnerable groups” (ISPA).
- “Social protection can be provided
  - in cash or in-kind,
  - through social insurance,
  - tax-funded social benefits,
  - social assistance services,
  - public works programs and other schemes guaranteeing basic income security

Social protection and persons  
disability with disabilities

# Why social protection is important for persons with disabilities?



- being poor

- the extra costs of having a disability



- are sick



- needing support at different stages in their life



- women and girls with disabilities face extra problems



- being treated unfairly for lots of reasons.



- they do not have jobs or they are paid low wages

# What governments usually do?



- Provide usually small cash benefits



- Cover some health care cost

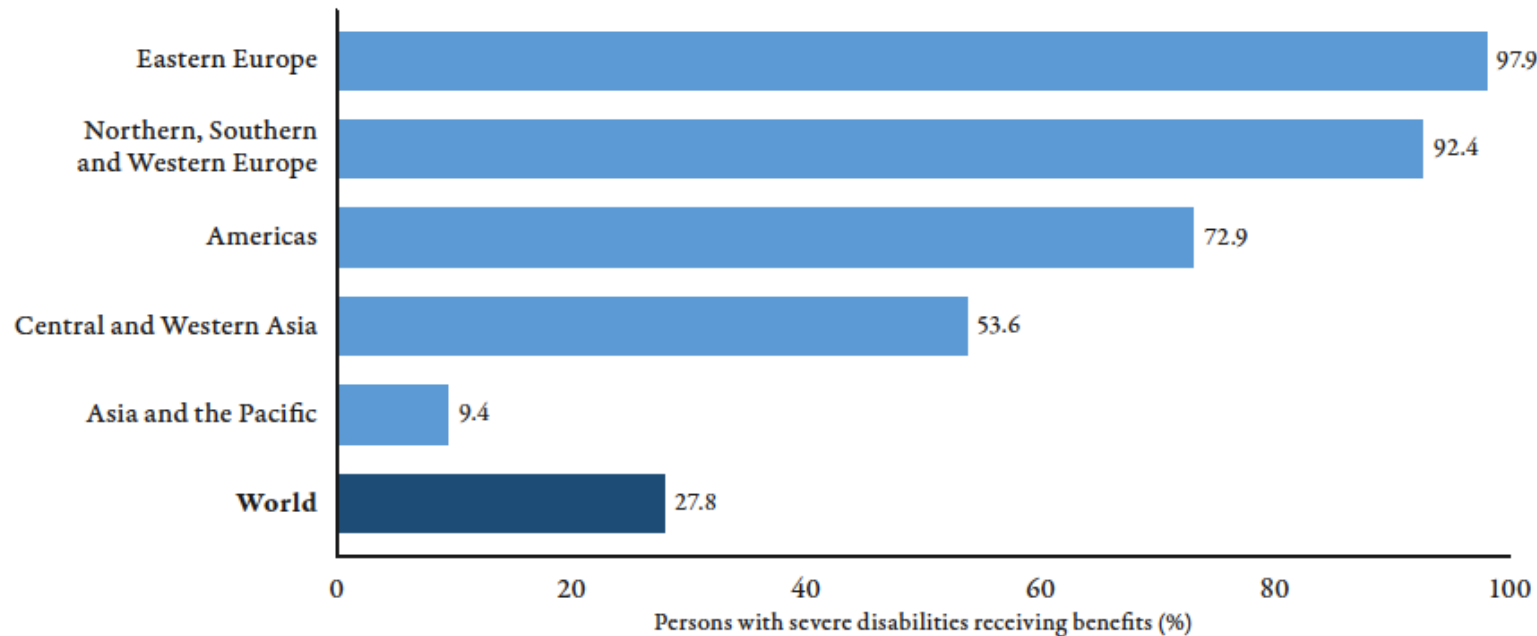


- Rarely provide funds to access the support that people with disability require

- And pay for institutions for children and adults with disabilities ....



# Globally, only 1 in 5 persons with sever disability get a disability related benefit:

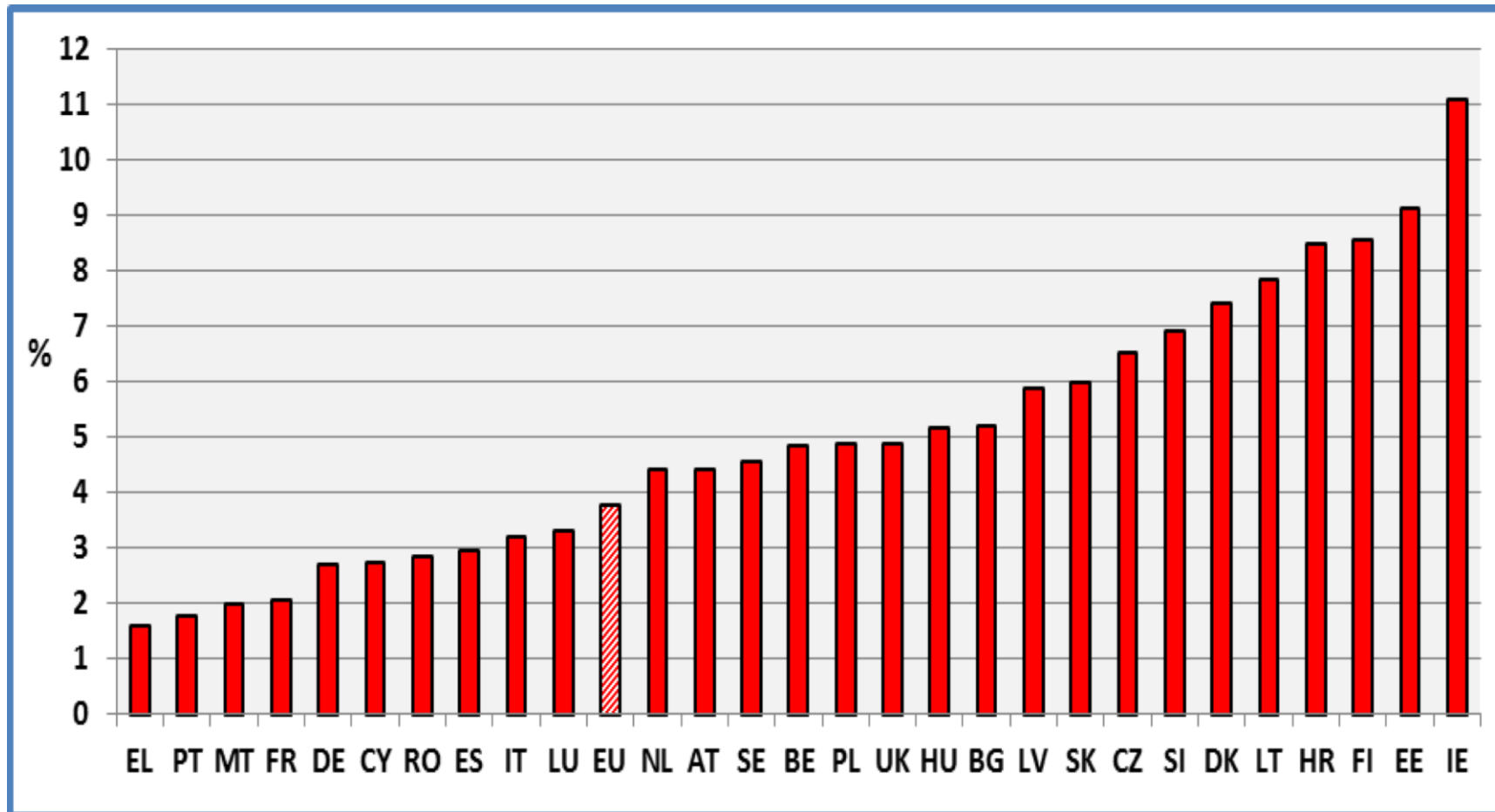


Note: Proportion of persons with severe disabilities receiving benefits: ratio of persons with severe disabilities receiving benefits. The latter is calculated as the product of prevalence of disability ratios (published for each country group by the World Health Organization) and each country's population. Data for other regions are not sufficient to allow for regional estimates. Regional and global estimates weighted by the number of people. See also Annex II.

Sources: ILO World Social Protection Database, based on SSI; ILOSTAT; UN World Population Prospects; WHO; national sources. See also Annex IV, tables B.3 and B.8.

Link: <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessourceDownload.action?ressource.ressourceId=54651>

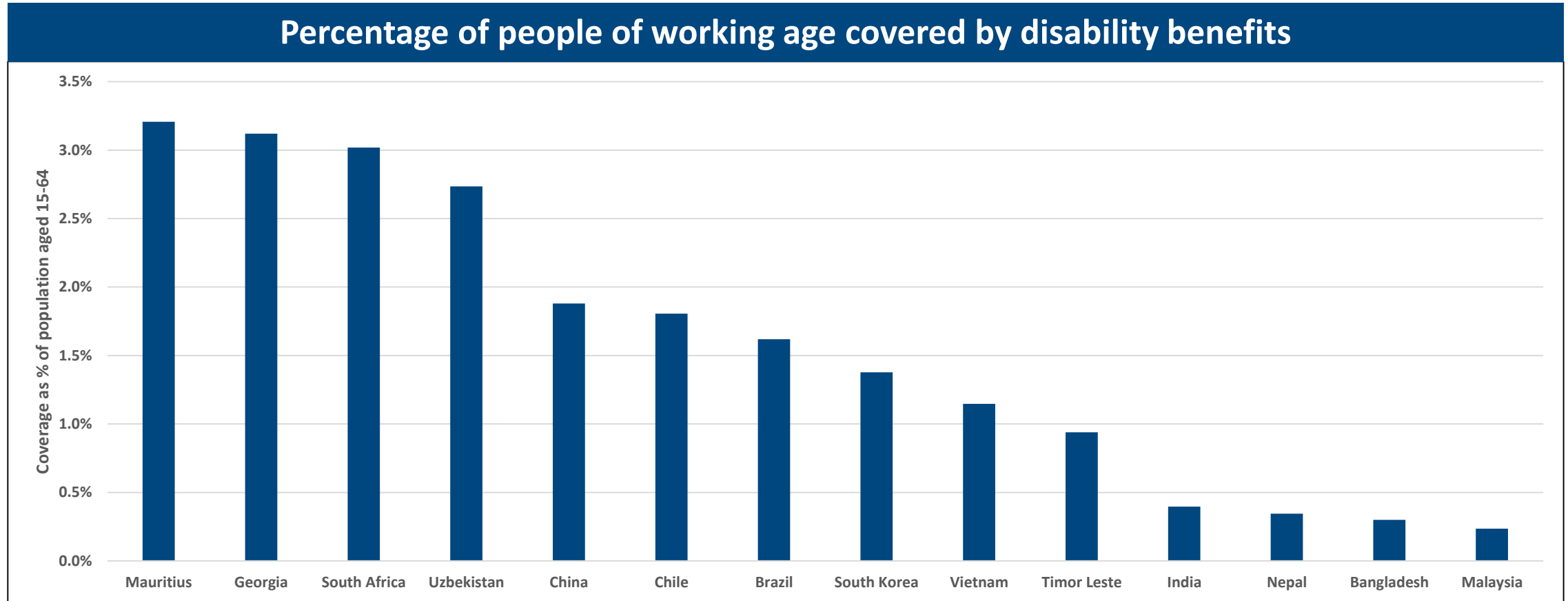
# % of population 16 years and above recipient of disability benefits in EU



R Sainsbury, A Lawson and M Priestley "Social protection for disabled people in Europe: Synthesis report" (2017)(ANED)



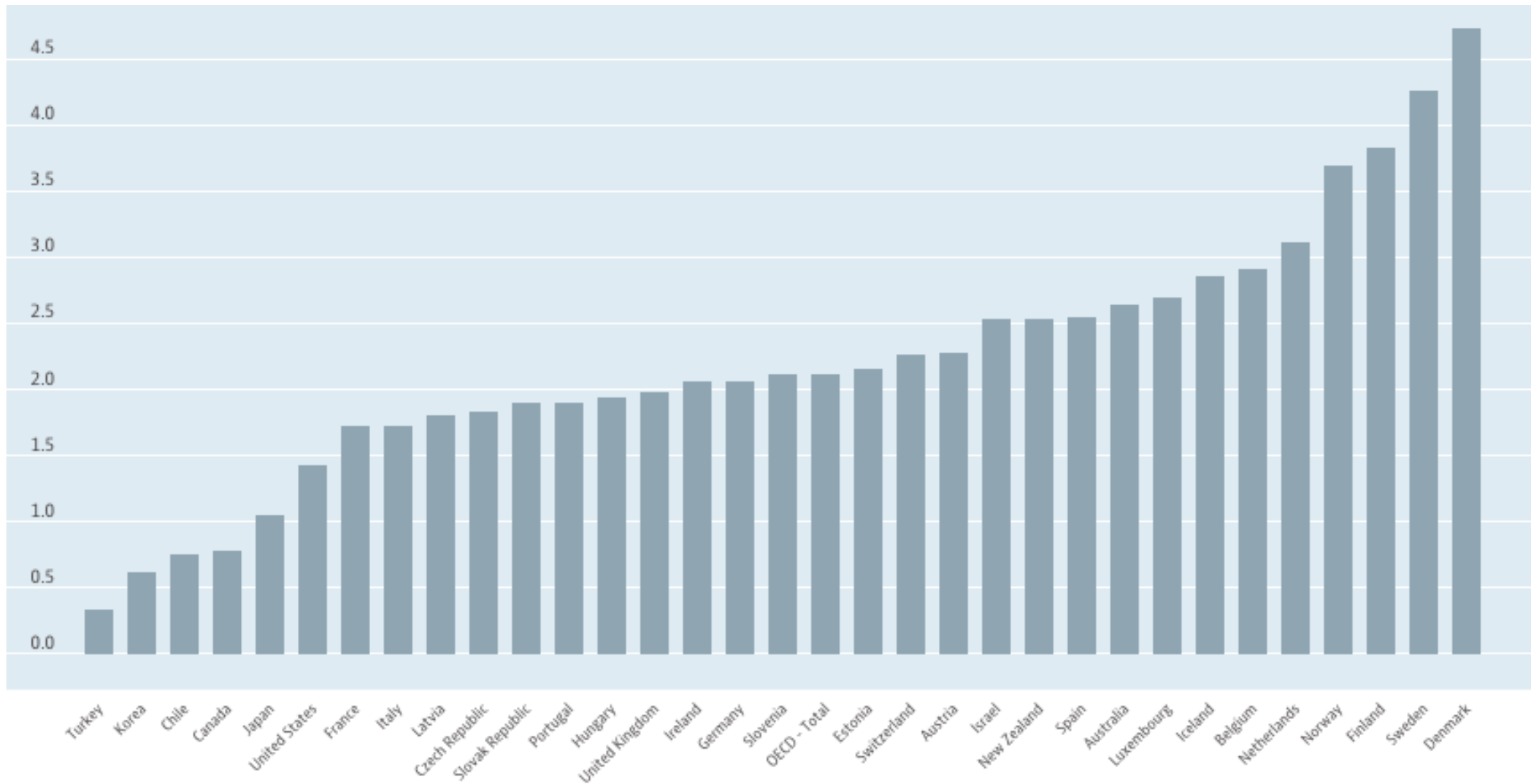
# Significant differences in the percentage of working age people accessing disability benefits in low and middle income countries



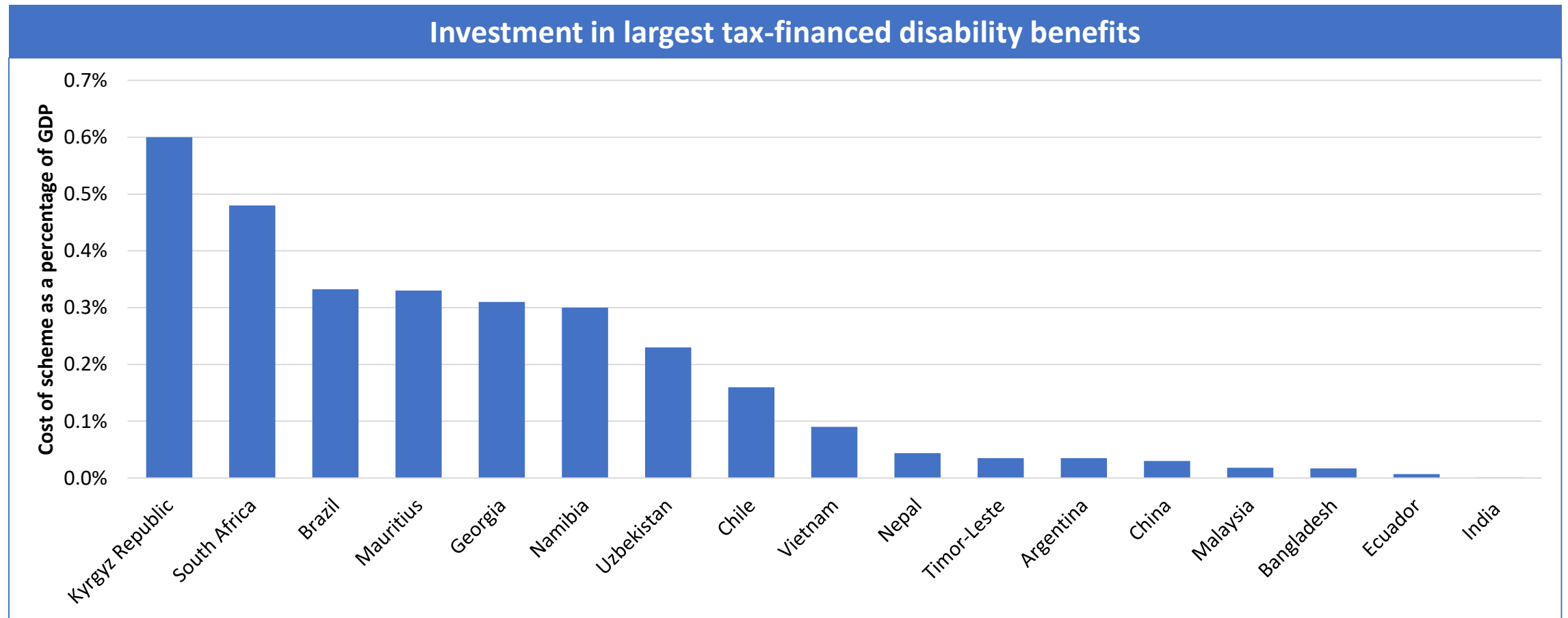
- Only three LMICs have coverage above 3%

Development Pathways, 2019

# Public spending on disability in OECD, 2015 as % of GDP



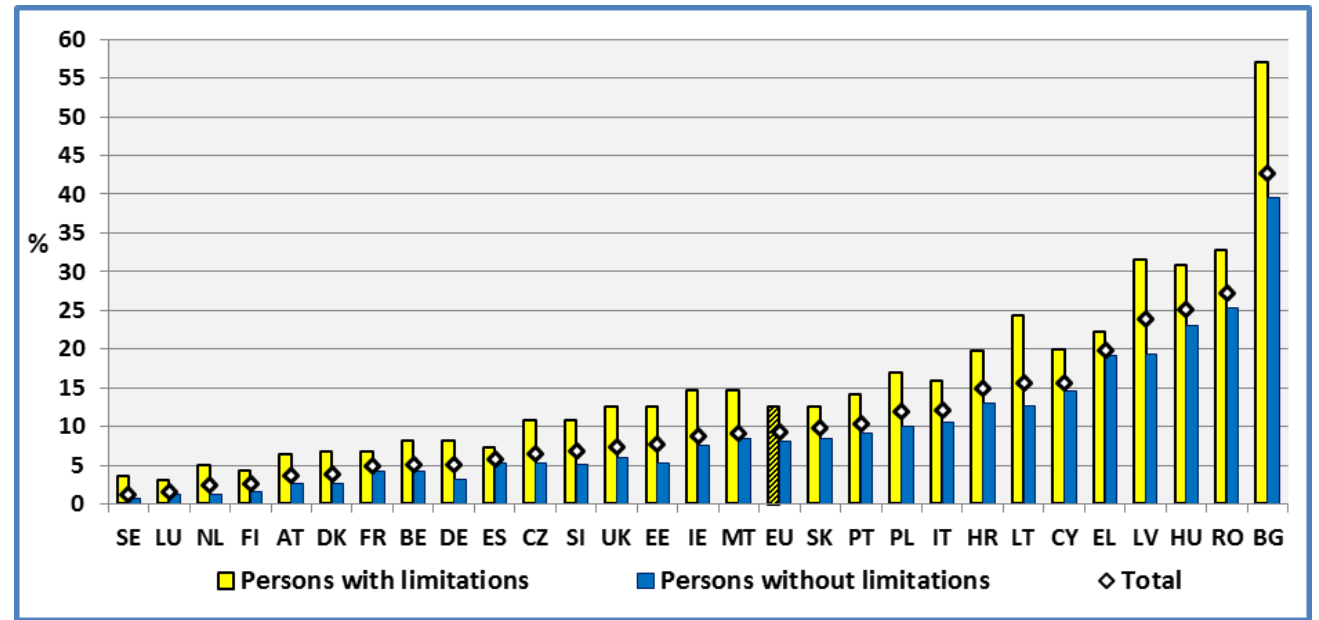
# Low levels of investment in disability specific programmes in LMICs



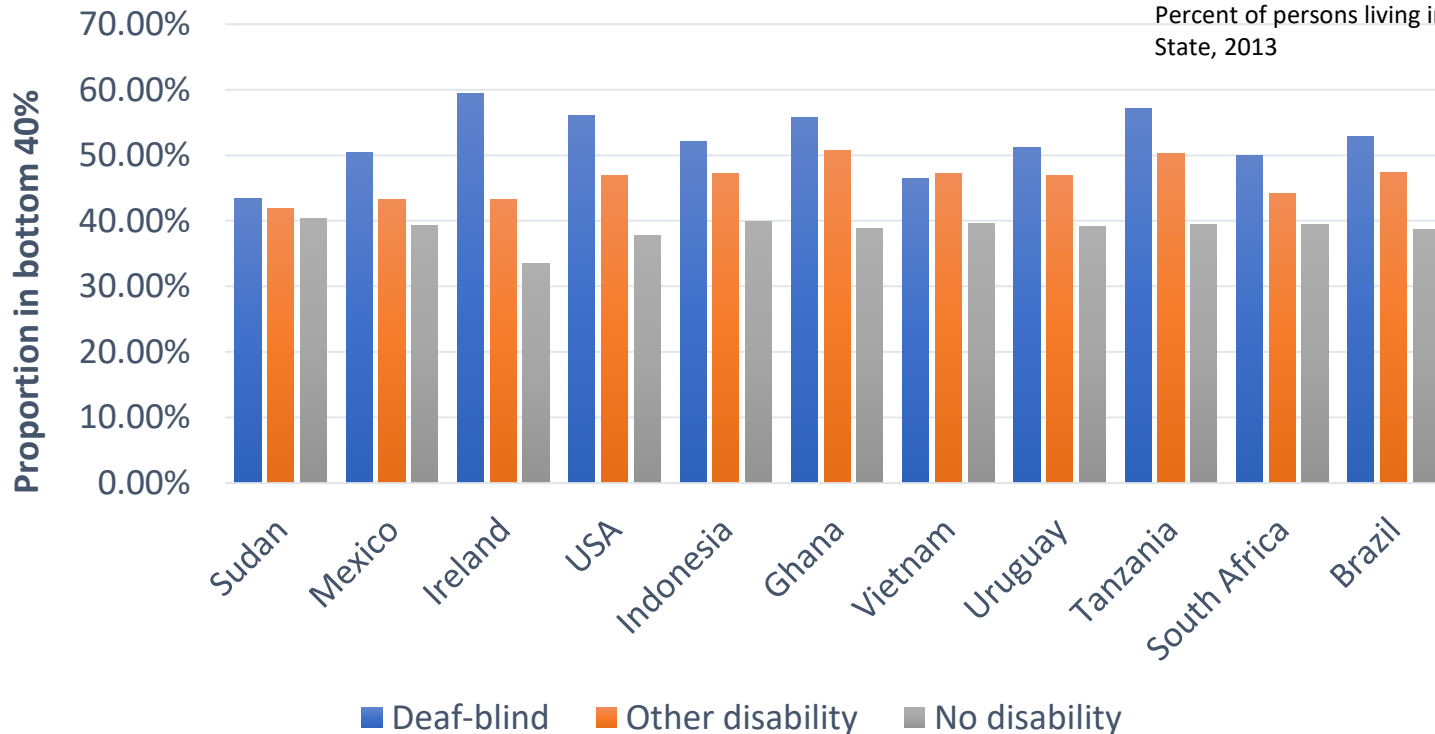
Only 6 of the 33 LMICs with tax-financed disability specific benefits invest more than 0.3 per cent of GDP

Development Pathways, 2019

But persons with disabilities are more likely to be poor ..

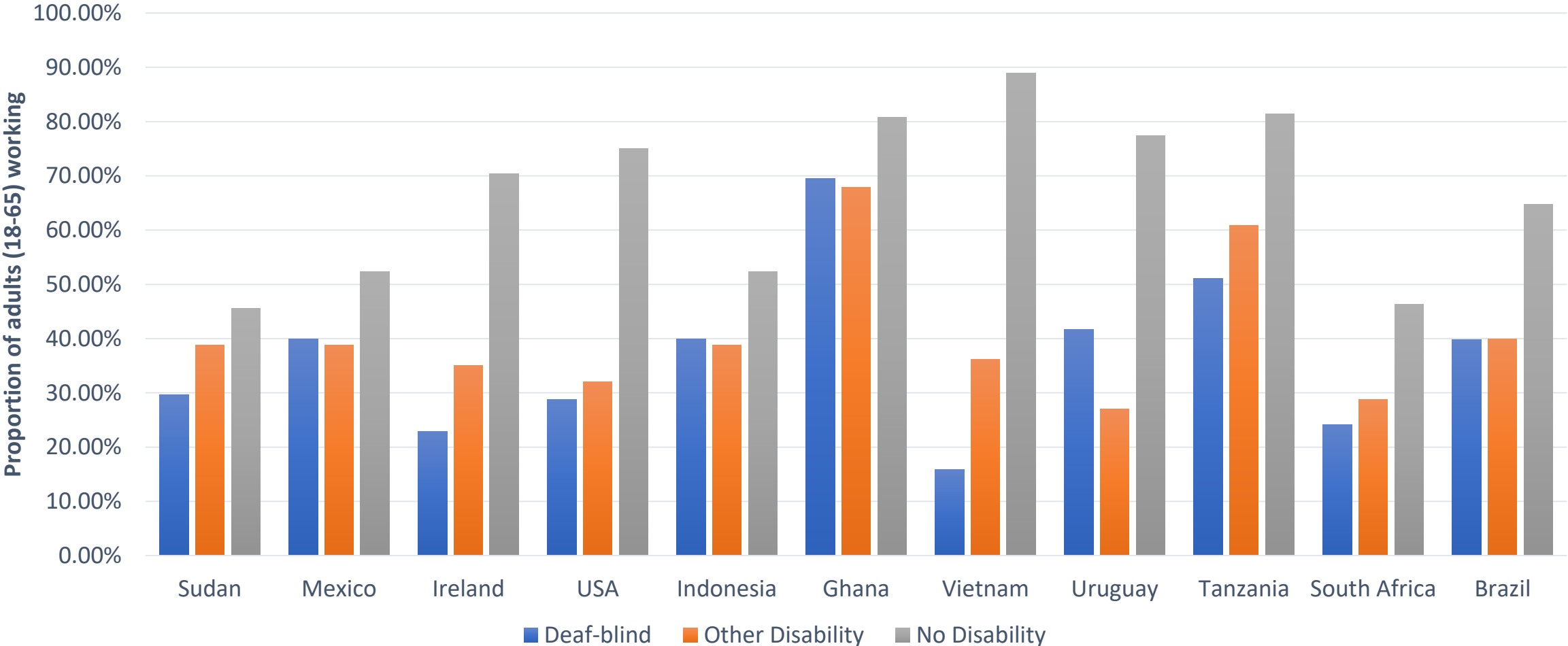


Percent of persons living in households which are severely materially deprived by disability status and Member State, 2013



..across countries and continents

# And much less likely to work...



# Money matters a lot but inclusive policy design matters as much

- OECD countries spend on average 2.11% of GDP on disability
- South Africa at least 0.5% of GDP
- In Fiji, 0.15% of the GDP
- India union budget for disability is 0.01% of GDP
- In Nepal, 0.04% of GDP on disability benefit
- In Samoa 0.01% of the GDP
  
- Still people with disabilities face inequalities everywhere: beyond resources, there are significant issues of policy and program design for inclusion

# Social protection design can undermine inclusion

- Some conditions set to access social protection sometime undermine inclusion and participation:
  - Not allowed to work to get cash assistance: this creates significant disincentives for the person economic empowerment, including because often the disability benefit is the only stable income of the household
  - If getting cash assistance one cannot benefit from other support such as vocational training or small business grant
  - Conditions: cash transfer or health insurance for families with children conditioned by school attendance. What about children who are discriminated in accessing education?

# Promoting the shift of paradigm

CRPD compliance of schemes: always aims at inclusion not isolation or institutionalization under the justification of care.



# Joint Statement:

*Towards inclusive social protection systems supporting the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities*

*February 2019*

# JOINT STATEMENT

**TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS  
SUPPORTING THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION  
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

February 2019  
A process facilitated by ILO and IDA



# What CRPD says about Social Protection?

- To ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy ***adequate standards of living on an equal basis with others*** (Article 28).
- To ensure that ***persons with disabilities have equal access, without discrimination, to all social protection schemes and programmes***, including poverty reduction programmes, pensions and public housing (Article 28), health insurance (Article 25), and vocational training and return-to-work programmes (Article 27).
- To ensure that persons with disabilities have ***access to affordable and quality disability-related services and devices (article 28)*** which support living independently in the community (Article 19) and that they ***receive assistance to cover disability-related expenses*** (Article 28).
- ***To support children with disabilities and their parents*** and ensure that children in any case are living in family settings (Articles 7, 16, 18 and 23).
- To ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ***address the particular disadvantages faced by women and girls with disabilities*** (Article 6 and 28).
- To ensure that all international cooperation programs are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities (Article 32) including in situations of humanitarian crisis (Article 11).

Exercise: Are existing social protection schemes CRPD compliant and effective?

- Tax exemption on car importation
- Free public transport benefit
- Marriage allowance
- Entitlements for placement in residential social care institution
- Voucher for 6 hours per week of personal assistance
- Disability allowance of 1/3 the minimum salary
- Care givers grant
- 20% discount on services in hotel, restaurants, recreation centers, medicines, medical services and transport fare
- Disability as a criteria for eligibility to poverty related allowance

# The key issue of disability related costs

## DIRECT COSTS

### Specific disability expenditures

- Assistive Devices and Personal Assistance
- Rehabilitation/Habilitation/Vocational Rehabilitation
- Housing Modifications, Special vehicles
- Sign language interpretation, Braille books

### Extra expenditures on general items

- Health care
- Extra transportation (e.g. taxis)
- Housing premiums (location, accessibility)
- ...

## INDIRECT COSTS

Less employment opportunities

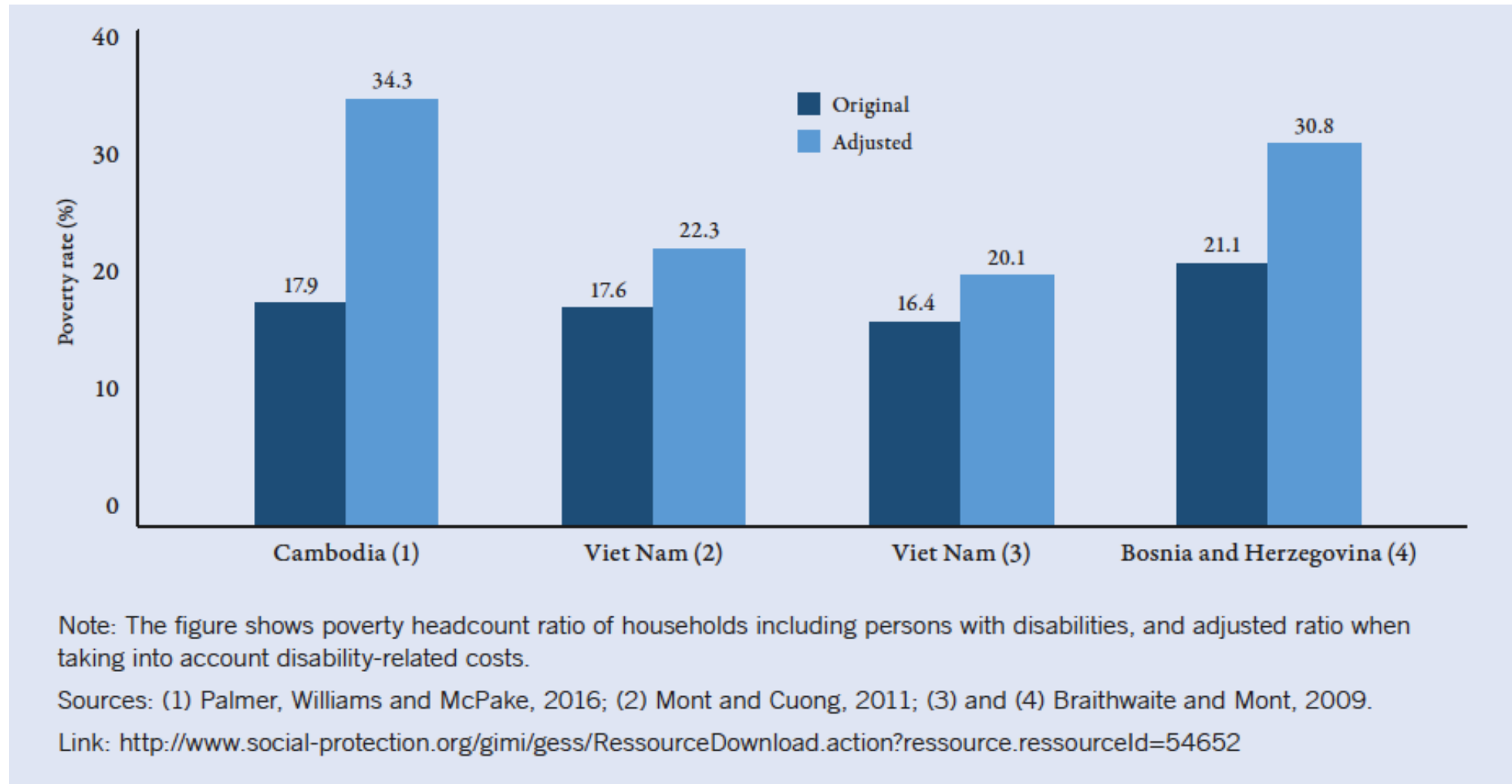
Less education opportunities

Lower earnings of  
people with disabilities

Loss of earning or education  
opportunities for family  
members who are care givers

.....

# Impact of disability-related costs on poverty rates



# Which cost are we considering?

Type and degree of disability	Out-of-pocket costs
<b>Sight and hearing</b>	
Partially sighted	247–2,809
Blind	545–4,344
Hard of hearing	Potentially high
Deaf	155–14,030
Deaf-blind	407–14,703
<b>Physical disability<sup>2</sup></b>	
Needing little assistance	~130 upward
Needing assistance sometimes, e.g. paraplegic	~700–3,500, possibly higher
Needing care and assistance most of the time, e.g. quadriplegic	~2,300–7,000, possibly higher
<b>Intellectual disability</b>	
Moderate	221–3,852
Severe	Could not collect data

Most data about disability related cost actually reflect the economic impact of the disability (lack of support, barriers..) on standards of living of families

Very few look at the cost that people would have to pay if they were participating equally

In South Africa, a study showed the significant difference between cost for people with minimal participation and cost for people who would actively participate and work

Hanass-Hancock and Deghaye, “Elements of the Financial and Economic Costs of Disability in South Africa: A Pilot Study,” 2015

# Social protection systems in the light of the CPRD

- From focus on incapacity to work to support for participation and inclusion
- From institutionalized care to support for living in the community:
- One size does not fit all
- Disability assessment focus on support requirements rather than impairment
- Twin-track approach
- Social protection across the life cycle
- Ensuring participation of DPOs in the design evaluation and delivery of social protection

# *Moving away from focus on incapacity to work*

- Much too often persons with disabilities have to be officially certified as being “unable to work” in order to access contributory and non-contributory social protection programmes.
- There is need for a new approach that,
  - recognizing the actual barriers persons with disabilities face in the labour market,
  - acknowledges the capacities of persons with disabilities
  - enables them to engage in employment, providing the required support.
- Shift from “one cannot work” to “one is not in position to work due to barriers and lack of support in the work environment”
- This implies an adequate combination of income support and disability-related support which complement each other in order to promote economic empowerment.
  - In Fiji, people who work or who are from household receiving poverty assistance can benefit from the new disability allowance scheme



# *Connected: unbundling poverty and disability support*

- Measures addressing disability-specific issues and those alleviating immediate poverty faced by persons with disabilities are not the same.
  - Many persons with disabilities live in poor households: they require cash transfers to cover rent, food, clothing, basic health care...
  - Persons with disabilities in those households require additional support for their disability related needs
  - Persons with disabilities in not so poor households also face extra costs that prevent their socio economic participation
  - Misconception about assistive devices and other basic assistance services that are not seen as essential for escaping poverty or even survival
  - Households use most of the benefits for covering food items and basic subsistence
  - What is taken into consideration: household income vs individual with disabilities?

Income threshold for coverage of extra cost ?

Disability adjusted threshold

Income threshold minimum income security / poverty schemes

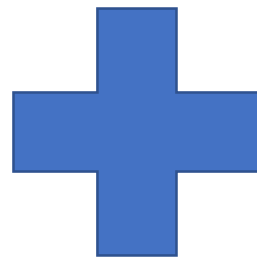
**COVER**  
Minimum  
**INCOME SECURITY**  
Can be poverty assistance / old age pension / child benefit



**CASH TRANSFER TO COVER DISABILITY EXTRA COST ACROSS THE LIFE CYCLE**

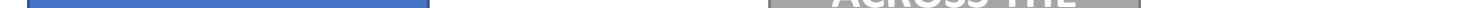
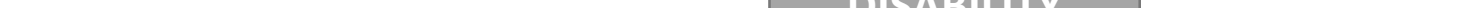
AND

**ENSURING ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES**



**Disability extra cost related tax credit**

Discount exemptions  
Free transport  
Health care coverage  
...



# *Support for living in the community*

- Many countries still concentrate their resources for the care of children and adults with disabilities in residential institutions rather than supporting full inclusion
- Main factors for institutionalisation are poverty and lack of support in the community
- Social protection systems can contribute to:
  - Escape from poverty by providing income security and support coverage of disability-related extra cost including to families of children with disabilities
  - Strengthen investment in community support services for all persons with disabilities and links with other programs such as Community based rehabilitation or livelihood.

# Autonomy, Choice and control

- Need to review further the extend of control that all persons with disabilities have other the benefit they are entitled to
- Often families do control the use of benefit
- It includes also issues related to article 12 of the CRPD and legal capacity:
  - Opening bank account, mobile phone subscription
  - Legally entitled to claim benefit
  - Autonomy in going through disability assessment and determination
- Identify how social protection contribute to institutionalization or inclusion

# *Disability assessment and determination*

- CRDP committee calls for an approach going beyond medical approach and instruments
- There are issues:
  - How to make a more comprehensive assessment in a cost effective way?
  - It should be simple enough so that it can be available and accessible all over the countries with existing human resources
  - Predictable so that application of guidelines will give get same outcome whoever is doing the assessment and people with disabilities can understand
  - Reliable so that it does not allow fraud and does not lead to many claims and complaints
- Importance reviewing also the role of Disability card and possible shift to Inclusion/equal opportunity cards
- Ensuring that disability assessment determination never contribute to discrimination and restriction of rights

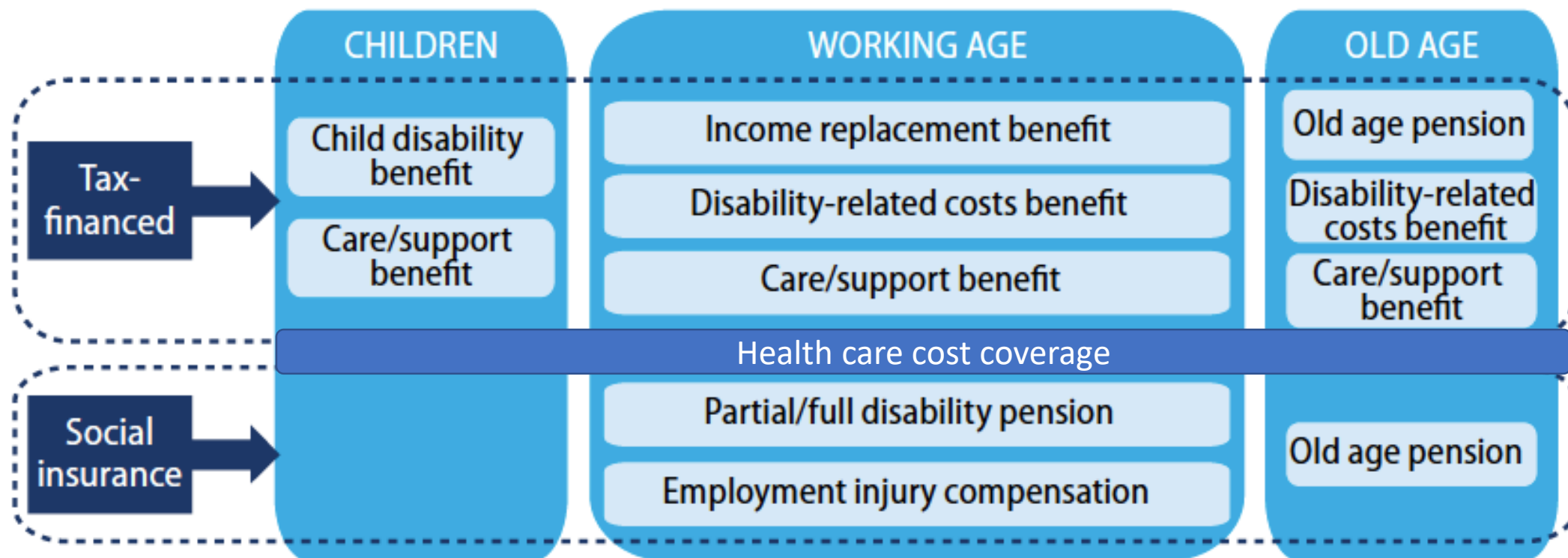
# To which questions does disability assessment answer?

- What is the person able to do?
  - What is the person not able to do?
  - What are the support needs of the person?
  - What are the barriers faced by the person?
  - What would it take for the person to function equally?
  - What would it take for the person to participate equally?
- 
- CRPD committee highlight the importance for the assessment to focus on support requirements rather than impairment

## *Beyond one-size-fits-all:*

- Because disability extra costs are rarely considered in defining income eligibility thresholds, many persons with disabilities are excluded from means programmes while they would actually meet the requirement in terms of living standards.
- Benefits should account for extra cost and reflect the diversity of needs of persons with disabilities.
- Disability assessment should be able to inform the type and level of support required

# Critical importance of life cycle approach





# *The twin-track* approach

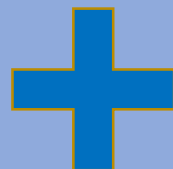
## OVERALL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

**Make the most of social protection mainstream schemes**

(make them inclusive + optimize impact on person with disabilities )

**Develop or reform required disability specific schemes**

for optimum outcome for inclusion and participation



**Make the most of possible interlinkages with other programs and policies**

# Support DPOs meaningful engagement

- Inclusive social protection will require sustained and targeted advocacy efforts, not the least because it implies significant increase of public resources
- DPOs face many challenges in engaging in Social protection policy reforms due to:
  - Political economy of disability movement linked to legacy of social protection systems, limited faith in institution and perception of scarcity of resources
  - Complexity of social protection systems, procedures, interlinkage between schemes
  - Lack of understanding of specific social protection challenges beyond disability issues
  - Lack of faith in inclusion due to barriers and discrimination
  - Technicalities of reform process themselves
  - Disconnect between their growing knowledge of the CRPD and the one of policy makers
- It is makes it hard for DPOs to formulate demands and develop reasonable expectation: what can be financed? What can be implemented in my country?...
- DPOs leaders would like further support and technical assistance in their advocacy

# WE DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK AT HOME!

## Social protection for inclusion and participation

Voices from organizations of persons with disabilities from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Japan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste



9-12 September 2019 • ADB headquarters, Manila, Philippines

# Social protection in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- *Focus on support for participation rather than on incapacity to work and unbundle poverty and disability support*
- *Disability assessment focus on support requirement*
- *One size does not fit all : persons with disabilities have diverse support requirements*
- *Support for community inclusion: Facilitate development of community support services*
- *Support across the life cycle*
- *Twin-track approach:*
- *Ensuring participation of DPOs in the design evaluation and delivery of social protection*

# UNPRPD Initiative: Learning together how to build inclusive social protection systems for persons with disabilities

Collaborative production of thematic background papers reviewing possible technical solutions to issues

Joint learning with countries engaged in reform towards inclusive social protection through provision of technical assistance

Mainstreaming Disability in Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools

Support to effective DPO engagement in reform of social protection system

Development of technical guidance documents and training modules

# Support DPOs engagement

Participative assessment of challenges and lesson learned of DPOs engagement in social protection reforms including regional workshops

Helpdesk to support advocacy and engagement

Training modules

# Thank you!

- To know more:
  - *Joint statement: Towards inclusive social protection system supporting full and effective participation of persons with disabilities.* ILO-IDA (2019)
  - *World Social Protection Report 2017-2019: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.* ILO (2017)
  - *Global Social Protection Programme Framework.* UNICEF (2019)
  - *Promoting social inclusion through social protection, Report on the World Social Situation 2017,* UN DESA (2017)
  - *Leave no one behind: building inclusive social protection systems for persons with disabilities.* Development Pathways (2019)

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