

# Factsheet

## KS4 – Education and Disability



One in three of the world's children live with a disability. In poorer countries, many of these children never go to school and those who do often drop out. Disabled people are one of most disadvantaged and marginalised groups within society. They are routinely denied their most basic human rights – cut off from education, employment and healthcare. Many live in extreme poverty.

Disability did not feature in the 2000 Millennium Development Goals, but there are strong demands that the rights of people with a disability – including the right to education – is at the forefront of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. Disability must be included in the Sustainability Development Goals as they aim to completely eradicate poverty by 2030.

### Facts

- 1 in 6 people in the world live with a disability. That's more than 1 billion people.
- 1 in 3 children out of school live with a disability. That's 24 million children.
- In some countries disabled children are twice as likely not to go to school. In these countries, those that do manage to go to school are likely to drop out before they complete their education.

### What are some of the challenges for disabled children?

There are many barriers that make it challenging for children with a disability to get an education. For example, there may not be the right transport to get them to school, the right facilities to allow access, or the teachers may not be trained to understand the needs of disabled people.



## Poverty

If you are poor, rural, disabled and a girl there are many obstacles to going to school. These children are often called the forgotten children because society forgets their needs. Even when countries have laws to protect disabled people, money is needed to make a difference.

Meet Lucy from Kisumu in Kenya. She would love to go to school but is needed to help at home. She is also unable to make the journey to school because she has polio.



Photo: Arjun Kohli/Arete Stories/ActionAid

### **Transport**

Long distances and no transport make it hard for disabled children like Linh from Vietnam to get to school.



Photo: Oxfam

### **Facilities**

For disabled children who do make it to school, it is often difficult to move around. Building new toilets, adapting existing ones, adding ramps, rails and special furniture, wheelchairs and other equipment are needed.

### **Attitudes**

Many people do not think schools are safe places for disabled children. They do not understand that everyone has a special gift. Sorie Kanu from Sierra Leone persuaded his local school to enrol him, and in so doing, inspired schools across the country to include disabled children. He believes schools can help ALL children to develop their abilities.



Photo: Sightsavers



## Trained teachers

More teachers need to be trained to understand disabled children. These teachers can make interesting learning materials and help make school a happier place for children like Abdi from Nigeria. Holding workshops with teachers and parents also helps people to realise that children with disabilities can and should have access to an education.



Photo: Kate Holt/Arête Stories/ActionAid

**What can you do to make school a safer place for ALL children?**

**58 million children are missing out on school – 2015 could change their future. Remind world leaders that they promised ALL children an education by 2015. Speak up for the right to education for every child.**

[www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org)

