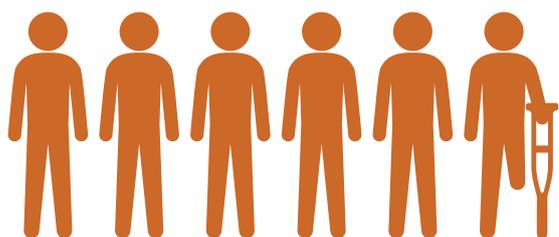


Disability in Asia and the Pacific: **THE FACTS**

One in every **six** people in the Asia-Pacific region lives with a disability:

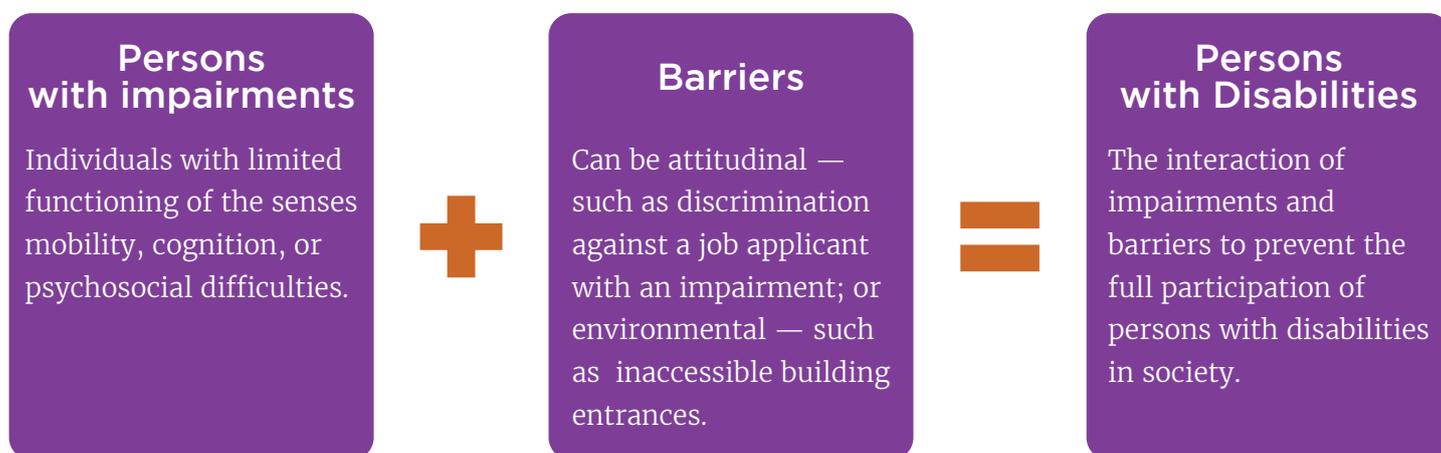


650 million
women, men and
children

This number is likely to increase as a result of population ageing, climate-related disasters, chronic health conditions, road traffic injuries and poor working conditions, among other factors.

What is disability?

Disability results from the interaction of impairments and barriers:

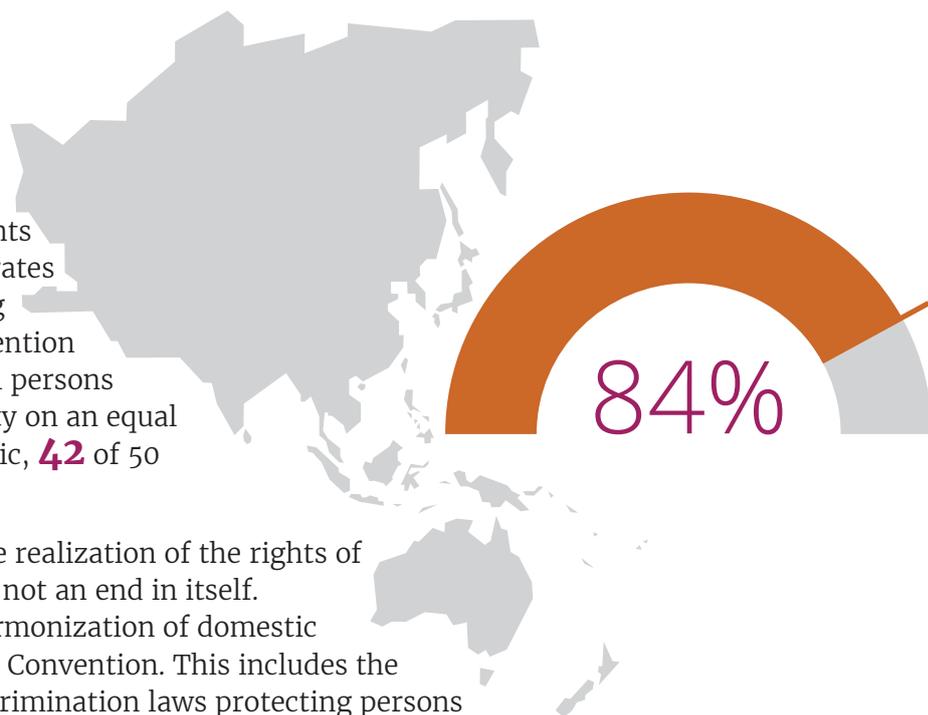


Given that the nature of both impairments and barriers changes over time, disability is recognized by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as an 'evolving concept'.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

With **172** ratifications at the end of 2016 since its adoption a decade earlier, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is the fastest-approved UN human rights treaty in history. This record demonstrates the global commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities. The Convention legally protects the human rights of all persons with disabilities to participate in society on an equal basis with others. In Asia and the Pacific, **42** of 50 Governments have ratified the CRPD.

Ratification is a major step towards the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, however it is not an end in itself. Ratification must coincide with the harmonization of domestic legislation and policies in line with the Convention. This includes the establishment of enforceable anti-discrimination laws protecting persons with disabilities, as well as the removal or amendment of existing laws that are either directly or indirectly disability-discriminatory.



Incheon Strategy strengthening the 2030 Agenda

Incheon Strategy

To “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2022

In the ESCAP region, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific takes a holistic approach to disability-inclusive development. The Incheon Strategy provides the Asian and Pacific region, and the world, with the first set of **10** disability-specific development goals, supported by **27** targets and **62** indicators. Building on the CRPD, the Strategy will enable the Asian and Pacific region to track progress towards improving

the quality of life, and fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in the region. The Strategy is the collaborative product of more than two years of consultations between governments and Disabled People’s Organizations.

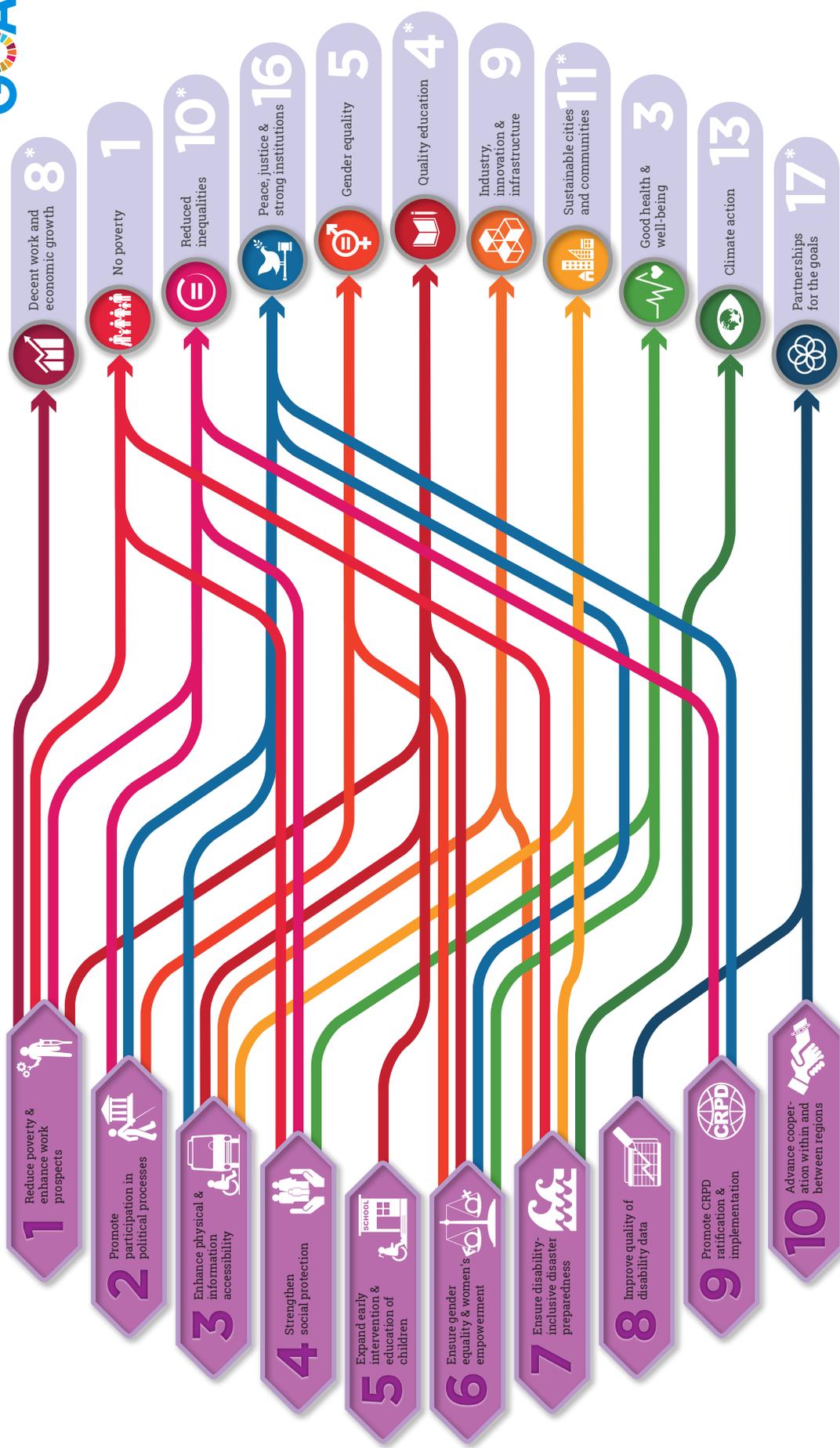
The **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) provide the world with a universal, people-centered and inclusive approach to global development until 2030. The 2030 Agenda contains **5** explicit references to disability, with **6** additional Goals implicitly linked to persons with disabilities through its mandate to leave no one behind.

Both the Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda are based on respect for human rights, and take a people-centered and gender-sensitive approach to development.

In Asia and the Pacific, governments, civil society and self-advocates with disabilities can leverage the synergies between the CRPD, the Incheon Strategy and the SDGs to ensure that persons with disabilities are at the forefront of this historic movement to transform our world.



Disability-Inclusive Development: Incheon Strategy strengthening the 2030 Agenda



The links are based on the specific targets of the Incheon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals

*Explicit reference to persons with disabilities is made in 5 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17), with 6 additional Goals implicitly linked to persons with disabilities through the 2030 Agenda's mandate to leave no one behind.

Fact 1: Disability prevalence is underestimated in Asia and the Pacific by 450 million persons

Whereas the World Health Organization and World Bank estimate a global disability prevalence of **15** per cent, all but two ESCAP member States report figures below this level. Indeed, the median disability prevalence in the region, as recorded by national governments, is 4.4 per cent — effectively meaning that only around **200** million out of **650** million persons with disabilities are actually counted. The vast range in official prevalence rates — from **1.0** per cent in Lao People’s Democratic Republic to **24.0** per cent in New Zealand — points to differing definitions and conceptual approaches to disability data collection. The poor standard of disability data hampers adequate assessments of the quality of life and socioeconomic participation of persons with disabilities, which are crucial to designing effective policies and programmes. Without accurate, disaggregated data, there can be no understanding of disability issues in Asian and Pacific countries; without understanding, there can be no meaningful policymaking, and without appropriate, targeted policies, there can be no effective action.



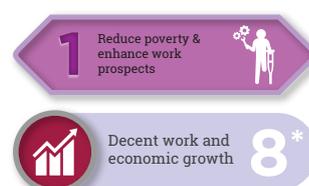
Fact 2: Inaccessible environments & services prevent inclusion: only 5 % of electronic books published annually are made accessible

In many parts of the region, barriers to the physical environment; public transport, and knowledge, information and communication services prevent persons with diverse disabilities from leading productive and meaningful lives. Accessibility is the practice of identifying and breaking down such barriers, and in the process, empowering persons with disabilities to live full and dignified lives. Currently however, inaccessible environments and services create difficulties for many persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, in terms of attending school, acquiring skills, and finding and keeping jobs — as well as engaging in diverse aspects of community and social life. To offer one example of the kinds of barriers to accessibility faced by persons with disabilities: only around **5** per cent of electronic books published every year are made available in formats that are accessible to persons with print disabilities. Moreover, because the population of the Asia-Pacific region is ageing, it is expected that an increasing number of persons with disabilities will require more accessible environments and services to remain mobile and engaged in society. This ever-growing demand must be anticipated now.



Fact 3: GDP could rise by 1-7% with disability-inclusive employment

The right to work is a fundamental part of participating as a full and equal member of society, and it should be realized by all people, regardless of whether or not they live with a disability. Access to decent work is instrumental in escaping poverty and allows individuals to live autonomously and with dignity. Despite this, evidence shows that persons with disabilities are systematically excluded from equal access to work in Asia and the Pacific, as a result of both



attitudinal and environmental barriers which severely reduce their chances of finding and keeping a job. Persons with disabilities in the region are more likely than others to be own-account workers in the informal sector, lacking the security offered by work contracts, salaries, pensions, health insurance and other benefits. When persons with disabilities work less or earn less because of the barriers they face, they accordingly contribute less to overall consumption and economic growth. Meanwhile, studies show that if persons with disabilities were paid on an equal basis as their colleagues without disabilities, the GDP of many Asian and Pacific countries could increase by between **1** and **7** per cent. This range may still be an underestimate, because it doesn't account for the lost economic productivity caused by caregivers of persons with disabilities also having reduced opportunities to work in the open labour market.

Fact 4: Persons with disabilities are 2-4 times more likely to be killed in disasters

Asia and the Pacific is the region most prone to both natural and man-made hazards, which combine with unsustainable human development processes to expose the region's **4.4** billion people to frequent disasters. Populations at large are exposed to disaster risk, and persons with disabilities face disproportionately high levels of risk. Indeed, evidence shows that persons with disabilities are between two and four times more likely to be killed during disasters than others. As a result of insufficiently inclusive evacuation systems, support services and preparedness measures, persons with disabilities are particularly exposed to disasters such as the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan. In the town of Minamusanriku, Miyagi Prefecture, **12** per cent of the local population with disabilities was reported killed or missing, in comparison to **4** per cent of persons without disabilities. Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) builds the preparedness and resilience of persons with disabilities in the face of disasters by ensuring that everyone in society is able to access and then act on information related to disaster risk reduction.



Fact 5: There is a pandemic of violence against women and girls with disabilities

Some 350 million women and girls with disabilities live in Asia and the Pacific – more than a half of the region's total population with disabilities. Available data suggests that adult women with disabilities are at least **1.5** times more likely to be physically and sexually abused than women without disabilities – though the actual figure may be up to ten times more likely. In Australia, for example, it has been estimated that **70** per cent of women with disabilities are survivors of



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