



VISION FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION: PATHWAYS FOR BETTER PROTECTION

Nora Shabani, Disability Specialist
UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central
Asia

IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FACE HIGH RISK OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION, EXCLUSION AND SEGREGATION

- There are an estimated **10.8 million children** with disabilities, representing 6% of the total child population (UNICEF, 2021.)
- Depending on the country, they are **6-30 times more likely** to be in formal residential care than children without disabilities, particularly children with intellectual disabilities.
- are more likely to be **out of school** than their peers with disabilities, especially in their **adolescence**.
- even when in school, children with disabilities are **separated from their peers without disabilities**: special schools, special boarding schools, special classes.
- experience higher rates of **multidimensional poverty** compared with children without disabilities.
- are often **identified as having a disability only once they enter the school system**.
- are at a **heightened risk of corporal punishment, abuse, and domestic violence**.



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for every child

An inclusive world,
starts with me,
with you,
with all of us

UNICEF DISABILITY INCLUSION POLICY AND STRATEGY 2022-2030

A world fit for every child

Vision: All children, including those with disabilities, are supported across the life cycle, to realize their rights and achieve full and effective participation

UNICEF SUPPORTS DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE REFORMS ACROSS SECTORS

 Ensuring that **mainstream services are available, accessible, and inclusive** for children with disabilities across sectors



01

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

and child and social care reform explicitly target children with disabilities at risk of family separation and those already in alternative care, with a focus on children in institutions



02

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION REFORMS

are progressively implemented and increasingly encompass access to inclusive early learning, primary and secondary and flexible learning opportunities



03

HEALTH SYSTEMS

are better equipped to implement screening, provide developmental monitoring and nutrition for children with feeding difficulties and disabilities
Health and nutrition services are inclusive and accessible



04

INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

Strengthening social protection systems to promote and support adequate benefits and integrated services; evidence on additional cost of disability

THE PATH TO INCLUSION- KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- **Life course approach** to provision of services and support to children with disabilities with focus on transition periods is essential.
- It requires **societal action** to change negative attitudes and social norms, strong **cross-sectoral coordination** for integrated services and support, and **empowering local level** to take action and flexibly address exclusion.
- Strong linkages between **de-institutionalization and inclusive education reforms**.
- **Human rights-based approach** - new services and new ways of working together which require changing **governance structure** and ensuring **adequate funding**.
- **Access to comprehensive community care and services** is the biggest gap
- **Accessibility and assistive technology** as an enabler and pre-condition for disability inclusion
- **Increase availability of quality data-** to measure progress
- **Involve and empower persons with disabilities**



THANK YOU!