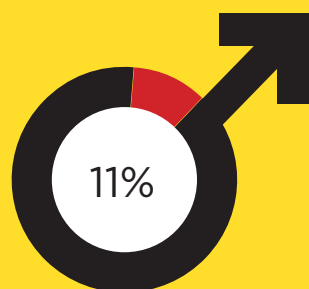
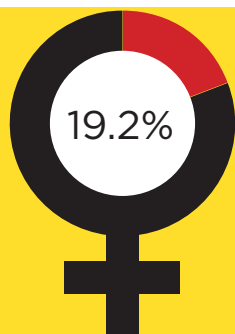


Gender Fact Sheet



1 in 5 women and girls worldwide have some form of disability.¹

19.2% of women live with a disability, compared to 11% of men.

The main challenges for women and girls with disabilities are:

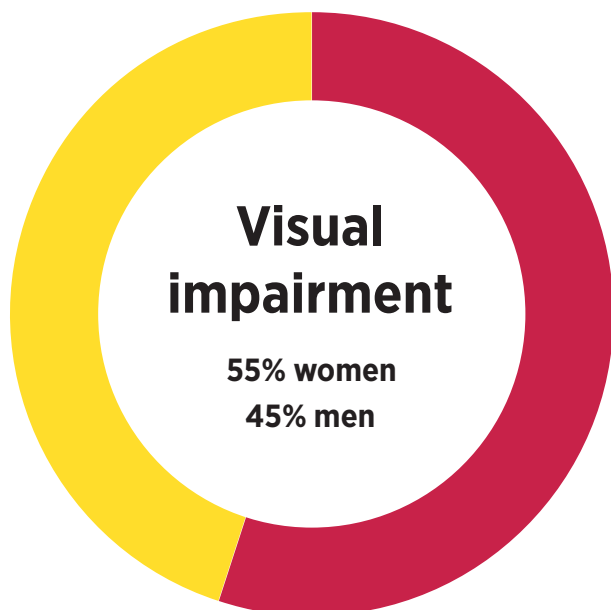
- ▶ Discrimination in multiple forms, for being a woman and having a disability
- ▶ Gender Based Violence
- ▶ Lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services



¹ World Health Organization (2011): World Report on Disability. Report http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf page 291

Publishing Information

Editor and publisher: LIGHT FOR THE WORLD International
Niederhofstraße 26 1120 Vienna Austria * TEL: + 43 1 810 13 00 * EMAIL: info@light-for-the-world.org * www.light-for-the-world.org
Editors: Jenni Pitter-López, Jacqueline Bungart * Graphic Design: Julia Weiss * All statistics and data as of December 2019



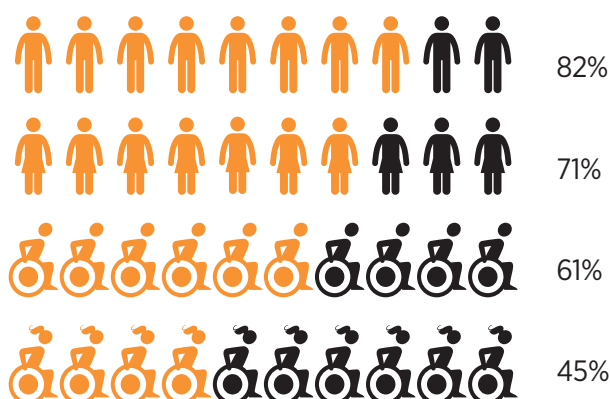
- ▶ Of the 253 million people in the world who are visually impaired (distance-vision loss), 55% are women (139 million).²
In industrialised countries this is mainly due to women living a longer life than men. However, in non-industrialized countries it is simply because women do not get access to services with the same frequency as men. For example, the cataract surgical coverage in comparison to men for women in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia is nearly always lower, sometimes only half.³
- ▶ Trachoma is highly prevalent amongst women and children, with women overall being 1.8 times more likely to have trichiasis compared to men. One reason for this is that the trachoma infection is carried by children, and women are often their primary care givers.⁴



Girls are, in general, less likely to access education in comparison to their male peers, with girls constituting 53% of the global number of out-of-school children.⁵

- ▶ 45% of women with disabilities are literate, compared to 61% of men with disabilities, 71% of women without disabilities and 82% of men without disabilities⁶.

Literacy rate comparison



2 Rupert Bourne, Serge Resnikoff, Peter Ackland (2015): The Global Burden of Vision Impairment. <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-burden-vision-impairment/gbvi-global-disaggregation-of-numbers-for-gender-and-age/>

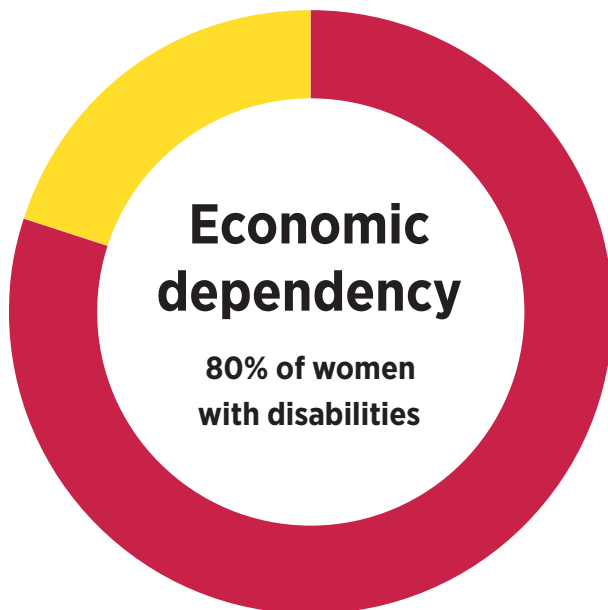
3 The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB): Gender and Blindness. <https://www.iapb.org/knowledge/what-is-avoidable-blindness/gender-and-blindness/>, Accessed on 03.12.2019

4 The Carter Center (2009): Women and Trachoma. Achieving gender equity in the implementation of SAFE. https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/health/trachoma/women_trachoma.pdf, Accessed on 03.12.2019

5 UNESCO Report (2014): Education for All Global Monitoring Report. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002322/232205e.pdf> page 6

6 United Nations. (2018). Disability and Development Report. Page 108. Available at: <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/2019/UN-flagship-report-disability-7June.pdf>

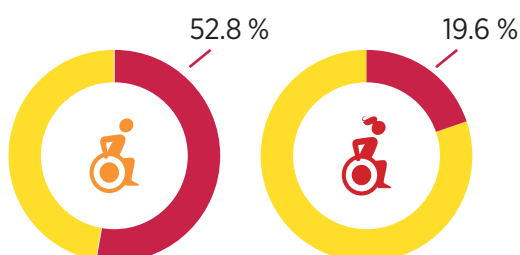
Livelihood



- Employment rates are 52.8% for men with disabilities and only 19.6% for women with disabilities. In comparison, these rates are 64.9% for non-disabled men, and 29.9% for non-disabled women.⁷

Thus, more than 80% of women with disabilities have no independent means of livelihood and are dependent on others. They are only half as likely to find work as men with disabilities. Unlike other women, they have little chance to marry, start a family or inherit property which could offer a form of economic security.⁸

Employment rate comparison



Sexual and Reproductive Health



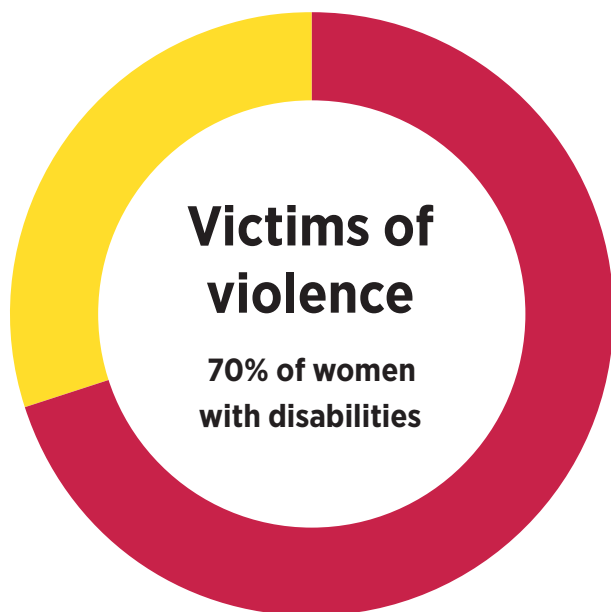
Women with disabilities often are desexualized, which has a major negative impact:

Women, men and youth with disabilities are often considered as being sexually inactive, this leads to lack of access to information regarding contraception, safe sex, counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS and STDs. The attitudes of people working in pharmacies and the public, makes it even harder for women, men and youth with disabilities to overcome shame and buy contraceptives. Additionally, due to the misconception that people with disabilities are sexually inactive, women with a disability have a heightened risk of gender-based violence as perpetrators believe they are free of HIV and other STDs.⁹

7 World Health Organization (2011): World Report on Disability. Report: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf page 23

8 CBM (2007): Disability and Development Policy: http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Disability_and_Development_Policy.pdf page 18

9 CERMI (2012).Guide to gender mainstreaming in public disability policies. <http://www.oea.at/inter-national/europaeische-union/europaeisches-und-internationales-recht/GuidetoGenderMainstreaminginPublicDisabilityPolicies.pdf> page 28



Women with disabilities are often perceived as unable to have children (biologically but also socially). Forced sterilization and strong pressure by their surroundings against having children are still common experiences for women with disabilities.¹⁰

Additionally, studies conducted in Europe and Australia have shown that at least 7 in 10 women with disabilities have been victims of violence.¹¹ A global study from UNFPA reveals that girls and young women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence than those without disabilities. Girls with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence.¹²

Representation of women is low in national coordination mechanisms on disability matters; the representation of women with disabilities in national machinery for gender equality is even lower¹³.

Women and girls with disabilities are by no means a homogeneous group. The challenges that women with intellectual disabilities face can be quite different from those of blind, deaf or physically impaired women and require different responses.

In our publication [Walking the Talk: Good practices in Gender Equality](#) we give some examples on how we can tackle the challenges mentioned above.

¹⁰ http://www.edf-fehp.org/sites/default/files/edf_forced-sterilisation_8-accessible_5.pdf

¹¹ Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities (2004): Report on the situation of women from minority groups in the European Union.: www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A5-2004-0102&language=EN AND Frohmader, C. (2014) 'Gender Blind, Gender Neutral': The effectiveness of the National Disability Strategy in improving the lives of women and girls with disabilities. Prepared for Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA), Hobart, Tasmania. ISBN: 978-0-9585268-2-1. Available at: http://wwda.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/WWDA_Sub_NDS_Review2014.pdf

¹² <https://www.unfpa.org/news/five-things-you-didnt-know-about-disability-and-sexual-violence>

¹³ United Nations. (2018). Disability and Development Report. Page 110. Available at: <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/2019/UN-flagship-report-disability-7June.pdf>