

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**COLOMBIA**



**COUNTRY REPORT 2021**

# **SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN COLOMBIA**

**COUNTRY REPORT**

**November 2022**

**About UNPRPD:**

The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique partnership that brings together UN entities, governments, OPDs and broader civil society to advance the rights of persons with disabilities around the world.

The Partnership was created to foster collaboration between its members and complement their work around disability inclusion through UN Joint programming. The Partnership operates through a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established to channel resources for participating UN organizations (PUNOs).

The UN entities participating in UNPRPD are ILO, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO. Other UNPRPD members include the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

The main contributors to the UNPRPD MPTF are Australia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

**Acknowledgements:**

This document is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) within the framework of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)

UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF are especially grateful to the people and institutions that contributed with their input, perceptions, and documents to carry out this Situation Analysis. Among them we highlight the national government entities: Presidential Council for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities, National Planning Department, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Social Prosperity, Ministry of Culture, Superior Council of the Judiciary, National Institute of Forensic Medicine, National Administrative Department of Statistics, Superintendency of Health, Ministry of Transport, Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims, Ministry of Sciences, Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, Ministry of Agriculture, Special Jurisdiction for Peace, Presidential Agency for International Cooperation, Presidential Council for Equality of Women, Presidential Council for Children and Adolescents, among other entities belonging to the National Disability System that shared their reflections and contributions and participated in consultation spaces.

A special recognition to persons with disabilities who, as rights holders, provided their central contributions; and to their families, who actively and continually participated in the development of this analysis. Among these, we highlight the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the organizations and individuals that comprise it.

**Disclaimer:**

The data and information presented in the report are based on the situational analyses conducted at the country level and were drafted by the UN country teams. Methodology for data collection included a desk review of relevant literature, key informant interviews and focus groups, stakeholder mapping exercises and consultative workshops with key stakeholders. The UNPRPD has not edited the report or verified the findings for accuracy. This report does not necessarily reflect the position of the UNPRPD.

## Table of Contents

|       |                                                                        |    |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| I.    | Acronyms and abbreviations .....                                       | 5  |
| II.   | Executive summary .....                                                | 8  |
| III.  | Background.....                                                        | 10 |
| 3.1   | Analysis proposal .....                                                | 10 |
| 3.2   | Introduction to disability in Colombia .....                           | 11 |
| IV.   | Methodological approach .....                                          | 13 |
| 4.1   | Guiding principles.....                                                | 13 |
| 4.2   | Methodology .....                                                      | 14 |
| 4.3   | Scope and limitations .....                                            | 16 |
| V.    | Findings .....                                                         | 17 |
| 5.1   | Interested Parties & coordination mechanisms .....                     | 17 |
|       | <i>Interested Parties and existing coordination mechanisms</i> .....   | 17 |
|       | <i>Challenges in coordination</i> .....                                | 19 |
| 5.2   | Equality and non-discrimination.....                                   | 20 |
| 5.3   | Accessibility .....                                                    | 24 |
|       | Access to Information .....                                            | 24 |
|       | Access to physical spaces.....                                         | 27 |
| 5.4   | Provision of inclusive services .....                                  | 28 |
| 5.4.1 | Disability assessment & referral system .....                          | 28 |
| 5.4.2 | Disability support services .....                                      | 29 |
| 5.4.3 | Perception of access to rights .....                                   | 30 |
| 5.4.4 | Social protection .....                                                | 31 |
| 5.4.5 | Health .....                                                           | 33 |
| 5.4.6 | Education .....                                                        | 35 |
| 5.4.7 | Access to justice .....                                                | 39 |
| 5.4.8 | Participation in public and private life .....                         | 40 |
| 5.4.9 | Employment .....                                                       | 41 |
| 5.5   | Programs for compliance with the Convention and budgeting.....         | 42 |
| 5.5.1 | Public policy on disability .....                                      | 42 |
| 5.5.2 | Budgeting .....                                                        | 44 |
| 5.6   | Accountability & governance .....                                      | 47 |
| 5.7   | Underrepresented groups: Boys, girls and women with disabilities ..... | 48 |

|       |                                                              |    |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| VI.   | Analysis: Bottlenecks, critical gaps, and opportunities..... | 50 |
| VII.  | Conclusions & areas of work .....                            | 56 |
| VIII. | Bibliography.....                                            | 65 |

## I. Acronyms and abbreviations

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IED                                                    | Improvised Explosive Devices                                                                                                                                       |
| ANDI                                                   | Asociación Nacional de Industriales<br>[Colombian National Business Association]                                                                                   |
| ASDOWN – COLOMBIA                                      | Asociación de Síndrome de Down Colombia<br>[Down Syndrome Association of Colombia]                                                                                 |
| APC                                                    | Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional [Presidential Agency for International Cooperation]                                                              |
| CEDAW                                                  | Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women] |
| CESLA                                                  | Centro de Estudios Sociales y Laborales de la ANDI [Center for Social and Occupational Studies of the ANDI]                                                        |
| ICD10                                                  | International Classification of Diseases                                                                                                                           |
| ICF                                                    | International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health                                                                                                 |
| CND                                                    | Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad [Colombian National Disability Council]                                                                                           |
| Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the CRPD | Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities                                                            |
| Committee of the CRPD                                  | Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities                                                                                             |
| CONALIVI                                               | Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones de Limitados Visuales [Colombian National Coordinator of Organizations for the Visually Impaired]                          |
| CONPES                                                 | Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social [Colombian National Council for Economic and Social Policy]                                                        |
| DANE                                                   | Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística<br>[National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia]                                              |
| DNP                                                    | Departamento Nacional de Estadística [National Statistics Department of Colombia]                                                                                  |
| DPS                                                    | Social Prosperity                                                                                                                                                  |
| FECODIF                                                | Federación Colombiana de Organizaciones de Personas con Discapacidad Física [Colombian Federation of Organizations of People with Physical Disabilities]           |
| FECODIS                                                | Federación Colombiana de Discapacidad [Colombian Federation of Disability]                                                                                         |
| FENASCOL                                               | Federación Nacional de Sordos de Colombia [National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia]                                                                            |
| FUNDISCA                                               | Fundación de Personas con Discapacidad de Caucasia [Persons with Disabilities Foundation of Caucasia]                                                              |

|          |                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GAPI     | Grupo de Acción Pública ICESI [ICESI Public Action Group]                                                                                                |
| ICESI    | Formerly Instituto Colombiano de Estudio Superiores de INCOLDA [Colombian Institute of Superior Studies of INCOLDA]                                      |
| ICFES    | Instituto Colombiano para la Evaluación de la Educación [Colombian Institute for the Evaluation of Education]                                            |
| IMSMA    | Sistema de Gestión de Información para la Acción contra las Minas [Information Management System for Mine Action]                                        |
| INCI     | Instituto Nacional para Ciegos [Colombian National Institute for the Blind]                                                                              |
| INCOLDA  | Instituto Colombiano de Administración [Colombian Institute of Administration]                                                                           |
| INSOR    | Instituto Nacional para Sordos [Colombian National Institute for the Deaf]                                                                               |
| IPS      | Instituciones Prestadoras de Salud [Health Provider Institutions]                                                                                        |
| LICA     | Liga Colombiana de Autismo [Colombian League of Autism]                                                                                                  |
| MADIS    | Maestría en Discapacidad e Inclusión Social [Masters in Disability and Social Inclusion] – National University, School of Medicine                       |
| APM      | Anti-personnel Mines                                                                                                                                     |
| MEN      | Ministerio de Educación Nacional [Colombian Ministry of National Education]                                                                              |
| MSPS     | Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social [Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection]                                                             |
| UXO      | Unexploded Ordnance                                                                                                                                      |
| OACP     | Oficina Alto Comisionado para la Paz [Office of the High Commissioner for Peace]                                                                         |
| SDG      | Sustainable Development Goals                                                                                                                            |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women                                                                                   |
| OPwD     | Organizations of Persons with Disabilities                                                                                                               |
| PwD      | Persons with Disabilities                                                                                                                                |
| PAIIS    | Programa de Acción por la Igualdad y la Acción Social [Colombian Action Program for Equality and Social Action] – University of the Andes, School of Law |
| RLCPD    | Registro de Localización y Caracterización de Personas con Discapacidad [Registry of Location and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities]         |
| SENA     | Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje [Colombian National Learning Service]                                                                                   |

|             |                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SISPRO      | Sistema Integrado de Información de la Protección Social [Colombian Integrated Social Protection Information System] |
| SND         | Sistema Nacional de Discapacidad [Colombian National Disability System]                                              |
| SUIFP       | Sistema de Inversiones y Finanzas Públicas [Colombian Unified Investment and Public Finance System]                  |
| SURCOE      | Asociación Colombiana de Sordociegos [Colombian Association of the Deafblind]                                        |
| DWUC        | Domestic Work and Unpaid Care                                                                                        |
| UARIV       | Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas [Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims]          |
| UNCT        | United Nations Country Team                                                                                          |
| UNFPA       | United Nations Population Fund                                                                                       |
| UNICEF      | United Nations Children's Fund                                                                                       |
| UNPRPD MPTF | United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Multi-Partner Trust Fund                     |

## II. Executive summary

In Colombia 3,974,522 are persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup>. They represent 8.0% of the national population, of which 45.3% are men and 54.7% women and with a higher percentage in adulthood, 2 out of 3 persons with disabilities are adults aged 45 or over. Furthermore, in 2 out of every 10 households there is a person with a disability, i.e., 3.2 million households. The main cause of disability is a disease, followed by advanced age and a birth defect. Even though persons with disabilities have special rights in Colombia, there is still a lack of information regarding their situation and the status of the guarantee of their rights considering the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In an effort to try fill some of the information gaps and update the analysis, this document assesses the situation of persons with disabilities in Colombia<sup>2</sup> and highlights some of the challenges the country still faces to guarantee the 6 preconditions identified by the MPTF as fundamental axes for the adequate implementation of the CRPD:

1. Stakeholders and existing coordination mechanisms
2. Equality and non-discrimination
3. Accessibility (Physical and to information)
4. Provision of inclusive services, including: Disability assessment & referral system, Disability support services, Perception of access to rights, Social protection, Health, Education, Risk & emergency management, Access to justice, Participation in public and political life, Employment
5. Compliance programs for the implementation of the convention and budgeting
6. Accountability and governance.

As the analysis shows, Colombia has a very favorable normative and institutional structure for the development and guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities. Most of the Colombian regulations have been adapted to the convention and to the adherence of its articles, which constitutes the first essential step towards implementation. The progress made in legal aspects after the recommendations made by the Committee to Colombia in 2017 are important, such as the restitution of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and some efforts towards an inclusive education. Also, the strengthening of the institutional architecture of the National Disability System, which is an essential platform and governance mechanism. The fact that most sectors have put in place plans, policies, and programs for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, allocating specific resources, with budget markers, and detailed goals is an achievement of the system. According to

---

<sup>1</sup> The number is based on the persons registered according to the definition of the Washington Group, and related to degree 1 of disability.

<sup>2</sup> The document uses mostly secondary information provided by disability organizations, persons with disabilities, their families, national government entities and reference documents.

the information reported, the specific plans and programs in sectors such as Health, Information Technology, Justice and Employment stand out.

However, despite this progress, organizations and persons with disabilities feel the efforts made to date do not have the speed and relevance required. Progress has been more on the legal and planning aspects with medium and long-term effects, but implementation has been deficient. Important challenges remain in the day-to-day actions needed for an effective inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Three cross-sectional bottlenecks were identified:

1. Low participation of PwD in local and national policy discussions
2. Attitudinal barriers and low awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in all sectors of society.
3. Lack and deficient information regarding disability accessible for policymakers and persons with disabilities.

Based on the analysis, three conclusions and areas of work, which could be supported by the three UN agencies in Colombia and in general the UNCT have been identified.

Conclusion 1: Guarantying effective local, national, and cross-sectional participation of PwD, including women, children, and families, is a catalytic component for the design of better public policies aimed at their inclusion and the implementation of the CRPD

Conclusion 2: The implementation of Colombia's normative framework regarding disability – particularly the Inclusive Education Decree, the Legal Capacity Reform, Registry of Persons with Disabilities, and the new Disability Public Policy may lead to significant transformations in lives of women and girls with disabilities in compliance with CRPD and 2030 Agenda.

Conclusion 3: Having more accurate, timely and accessible data under an intersectional approach will improve public policies and decision-making process regarding persons with disabilities and allow to monitor the progress.

This document was developed by UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA -- with the support of the UNPRPD Multi-Partner Trust Fund, as part of the presentation of proposals for joint programs in conjunction with government entities and representatives or organizations of persons with disabilities. The data used in this report comes from different secondary sources requested for this study, or from documentation and prior bibliographic review (See Box N 1).

### III. Background

#### 3.1 Analysis proposal

With the purpose of *“advancing the implementation of the CRPD at national levels by focusing on essential preconditions for disability inclusion in all sectors, translating them into concrete policies, programs or services that lead to systemic change through a cohesive and intersectoral approach; improving and ramping up implementation of the disability-inclusive SDGs at the national level, by providing critical support to the collective United Nations response to the SDGs to address national gaps and priorities related to persons with disabilities in the national planning”*; the UNPRPD Multi-Partner Trust Fund invited United Nations country teams to submit proposals for joint programs. Thus, the UNCT of Colombia – in particular UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA – expressed its interest in conjunction with government entities and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, with Colombia being one of the 26 countries selected by the Fund.

This document analyzes the situation of persons with disabilities in Colombia, the state of guarantee of their rights in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals on disability (SDG). Following the parameters established by the MPTF, the study will focus on reviewing the status of the *preconditions for inclusion*, identifying the progress and barriers for each of them, based on various sources of information that are highlighted in the box. Finally, from the analysis of the aforementioned preconditions, intervention priorities and final recommendations are identified.

#### **Box N.1 Data used in the study**

##### **Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Colombia**

The data used to prepare this report come from different sources requested for this study, or from documentation and prior bibliographic review. At the first level, the Evaluation of Results of the National Public Policy on Disability – PPDIS (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019) stands out; Situational analysis delivered by the Colombian Coalition for the implementation of the CRPD (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021); the quantitative analysis based on information from the National Quality of Life Survey (QoLS) 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021); Rapid Assessment for the Collection of information (Rapid Assessment) aimed at 587 persons with disabilities of legal age nationwide (Ecoanalítica, July 2021); Responses to request for information from government entities answered by: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, National Administrative Department of Statistics, Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport, Social Prosperity; Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims; Report and Recommendations of the Committee to Colombia (United Nations, August 2016); Normogram of Disability of Colombia CITATION Min19 \l 3082 (Ministry of Health, August 2019); Alternative reports from organizations of persons with disabilities (Community Node for Mental Health and Psychosocial Disability Asdown Colombia Liga Colombiana de Autismo [Colombian League of Autism] LICA, March 2019), (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2019) and 3rd National Report of Implementation of SDGs (Government of Colombia, Voluntary National Review (VNR), May 2021) and memories of consultation spaces (UN Women - AsDown Colombia, 2021) and (UN Women Colombia, May – June 2021).

### 3.2 Introduction to disability in Colombia

The social model definition of disability considers the phenomenon as a problem of social origin, focused on the incomplete integration of people in society. Disability, then, is not an attribute of the person, but a complex set of conditions, many of which are created by the social context/environment. Therefore, managing the difficulties faced by PwD requires social action, and it is the collective responsibility of society to make the necessary environmental modifications for the full participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life (CIF, page 32). These difficulties experienced by PwD can pose obstacles to their human development and well-being. Therefore, they need to be addressed through inclusion measures and affirmative actions that make it possible to reduce inequalities and eliminate discrimination based on disability and gender. Accompanying persons with disabilities and their families requires specialized support from the State, Civil Society Organizations, the business sector, families, and society in general.

In Colombia, the existence of regulations—such as 1618 Statutory Law from 2013—and a high number of regulations related to its implementation, as well as the presence of various coordination and articulation institutions, come together to make an inclusion process to formally guarantee the rights of PwD to health, education, work, and access to technical and technological aids. However, formal progress does not always include practices that allow the inclusion and material equality of PwD, which is why their inclusion has been between continuous advances and barriers. Though 83% of PwD surveyed for this analysis (Ecoanalítica, July 2021) claim to know the rights they have as persons with disabilities, only 43% are aware of the Convention, and 42% perceive that they can access those rights under equal conditions. Among this percentage, it is worth noting that 71% consider that it is more difficult for women to achieve social inclusion compared to men (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 18), underlining those conditions such as gender can further exacerbate conditions and environments that are not conducive to the development of rights.

To include a broader view of the situation of information on disability in Colombia, it is important to mention that there are diverse sources of information available. On one side, the National Census already incorporates the orientations and scales provided by the Washington Group, which allows to have information on the general situation of persons with disabilities. Colombia has National Surveys that touch on disability, particularly the Quality-of-Life Survey that has produced information about the life conditions of persons that allow the identification of the gaps they experience. At an administrative level, there is the Registry of Characterization and Location of Persons with Disabilities that provide more specific information on individual with disabilities. Currently, the Registry is in a process of integration with the local disability assessment and referral services.

To introduce a general overview of the disabilities situation in Colombia, an analysis of the Quality-of-Life Survey 2019 is carried out (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021), where a series of results are established that are fully relevant for creating an overview of the disability situation in Colombia. Among them, the following stand out:

1. The survey registered 3,974,522 persons with disabilities according to the definition of the Washington Group, in degrees of severity 1 (cannot do it, which ranges from 96 to 100% and is synonymous with total or complete difficulty) or 2 (yes, with great difficulty, which ranges from 50 to 95% and is synonymous with great or extreme difficulty). Persons with these degrees of disability represent 8.0% of the national population, of which 45.3% are men and 54.7% are women.
2. In Colombia, 2 out of 3 persons with disabilities are adults aged 45 or over, an older population group compared to the rest of the population. The main cause of disability is illness, followed by old age and congenital anomalies.
3. There are differences by sex in the causes of disability. The main origin is due to *a disease* for 45.6% of women, compared to 37.47% of men. In second place, *old age* is reported for both men and women, 24.1% for women and 18.6% for men.
4. 27.0% of the disabled population with severity 1 or 2 are women with visual impairment and 19.9% are men with this same condition. They are followed by 8.0% and 5.8% of women and men with difficulties moving their body, walking, or going up and down stairs. With hearing disabilities, 4.1% of men, and 3.9% of women have difficulties doing their daily activities without cardiac respiratory problems.
5. The population between 2 and 4 years old with disabilities represents 4.6% of the total population with a disability in Colombia. 86% of this population group receives care from a member of the same household, around 80% are cared for by their mother.
6. 45.7% of women and men with disabilities with severity 1 or 2 suffer from a chronic disease. They commonly require hospitalizations at a rate almost three times that of the rest of the population.
7. 30.2% of the care for persons with disabilities is carried out by a person from the household and only 3.4% of the cases use payment-for-care services. In any case, 83.3% of caregivers are women.
8. In 2 out of 10 households, there is a person with a disability, for a total of 3.2 million households.
9. One in ten persons with a disability between the ages of 15 and 59 cannot read or write, a rate equivalent to 3.3 times the rest of the population.
10. The Working Age Population (WAP) with a disability totals 3,583,875 persons. The total of women is 2,007,274 and of men 1,576,601. That is, 56% women and 44% men.
11. The disabled population participates to a lesser extent in the paid labor market; only 46.1% of men, compared to 68.0% labor participation in the rest of the male population. In the case of women, 31.5%, compared to 41.6% among women without disabilities.
12. Persons with disabilities earn 18.3% less, on average, compared to persons without disabilities.

13. 15.0% of the disabled population indicate that they received financial aid from other homes or institutions (social programs or government aid), in contrast to 6.9% among the population without disabilities.
14. Regarding the living conditions in their home, 7.2% of the disabled population indicates that they are very good, 60.8% say that they are good, 29.6% fair and 2.4% say that they are bad.
15. Among the disabled population, 39.5% of women and 44.4% of men consider themselves poor.
16. The social mobility perceived by persons with disabilities, in relation to the home where they grew up, indicates that they live in more favorable economic conditions. 53.2% think they have better conditions, 34.4% the same conditions and 12.4% worse.
17. Women with disabilities register 7.2 points out of 10 on the happiness measurement scale and men 7.1. These levels are lower than 7.9 for the rest of the population.
18. Of the households where at least one person with a disability lives, 49.6% have an internet connection, compared to 53.8% of the households where persons with disabilities do not reside.
19. Among the population of five years of age or older, 73.8% have a cell phone. This percentage varies by sex, among those with a disability, 72.8% of women and 65.7% of men.

Finally, it is necessary to mention that the study carried out by DANE on differential challenges for persons with disabilities in the framework of COVID-19 (DANE, 2021) and the WHO report *“Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak”* (2020), established that the disabled population is at a disproportionate risk of being impacted in the midst of the pandemic. This was evident in the rapid assessment of persons with disabilities (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), in which the majority of persons with disabilities considered that before the pandemic their situation was better (54%), 37% believe their situation was the same and only 9% believe it was worse.

#### IV. Methodological approach

##### 4.1 Guiding principles

- In Colombia, 3,974,522 persons with disabilities were registered according to the definition of the Washington Group, in degrees of severity 1; in these degrees, persons with disabilities represent 8.0% of the national population, of which 45.3% are men and 54.7% women.
- 2 out of 3 persons with disabilities are adults aged 45 or over.
- The population between 2 and 4 years of age with a disability represents 4.6% of the total population with a disability in Colombia.
- The main cause of disability is: an illness, followed by old age and birth defect.
- In 2 out of 10 households there is a person with a disability, i.e., 3.2 million households.

The main objective of this Situational Analysis is to identify the current state of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Colombia, examining the progress and challenges that impact the daily lives of persons with disabilities (PwD). Accordingly, the study focuses on the analysis of the preconditions for the inclusion of PwD identified by the MPTF as fundamental axes for the adequate implementation of the CRPD, which also encapsulate various findings at the sectoral level. Additionally, the emphasis on these preconditions provides understanding of the systemic change processes that have been taking place around the inclusion of PwD and facilitates the identification of catalytic elements that allow stakeholders – including PwD, OPwD, state entities and United Nations System Agencies – to work together to improve the implementation of the CRPD and the inclusive SDGs.

## 4.2 Methodology

Considering the above, the Situational Analysis is built around a collaborative effort to collect information that seeks to honor the principle of “Nothing about us, without us,” incorporating people with disabilities and their organizations as key informants in the construction and verification of the document. This was shown by the joint work carried out with the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which, as part of the second phase of the project, was supported to carry out a diagnosis that would raise awareness of the perspectives of the OPwD regarding the level of implementation of the CRPD and the inclusive SDGs in Colombia. This diagnosis focuses on the organizational level it was created for by conducting a documentary review based on the recommendations made by the CRPD Committee to Colombia in 2016, which included analysis of current regulations and legislation, conducting a survey of the leaders and main representatives of OPwD, developing three focus groups with said representatives and approximately ten (10) participants per session, and conducting interviews with nine (9) experts on disability in Colombia.

Despite the progress and efforts of all the stakeholders involved, Colombia continues to be a country where PwD face various structural challenges, especially in rural or remote areas of the country. The goal is to mitigate biases that these structural difficulties could generate and to understand perceptions on a more individual and quantitative scale. To do this, an analysis of the 2019 Quality of Life Survey (QoLS) was carried out, which is the main official source of information that quantifies and characterizes the living conditions of the general population, but it includes data on PwD.

The analysis of the disability data recorded in the QoLS was complemented by a Rapid Assessment for People with Disabilities through Ecoanalítica Medición y Conceptos Económicos S.A.S, an expert consulting firm in the collection and analysis of statistical data. Taking into account the various methodological challenges that characterize statistical studies related to disability in Colombia – including the limited access to disaggregated official databases due to the principle of data protection and statistical reserve – it was decided to apply a snowball methodology for the configuration of the sample, which included 587 people with disabilities from a total of 1,292 records, an effectiveness rate of 45.4%. Thanks to the frequency of people with disabilities and taking into account the sample

size reached, the study is statistically representative at the national level, and also has a statistically significant result. However, it is essential to mention that the information cannot be extrapolated at the regional level due to the distribution of the sample. This information was gathered during the month of July 2021.

Likewise, due to the limitations caused by the COVID-19 health emergency, the Rapid Assessment was done over the phone, guaranteeing that PwD who required reasonable accommodations to participate in the study could use them. The reasonable accommodations used in the study included making video calls with certified Colombian sign language interpreters, creating subtitled videos that summarizing the study objectives, writing the tool in easy-to-read formats, and formulating alternate drafts and the use of visual aids to improve understanding of the questions.

The statistical information obtained by conducting the Rapid Assessment complements and deepens some of the points on disability from the official statistical information obtained from the QoLS, in the CRPD framework. Likewise, it allows us to see some advances over time and have a closer look at possible impacts of COVID-19.

Additionally, a focus group was held that sought to understand the perspectives of the families of children with disabilities, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the progress and challenges that this population faces. The purpose of this space was to mitigate the bias produced by the emphasis on adults with disabilities that the other tools had had, and it sought to make raise awareness of the interests of a group that is usually underrepresented.

Finally, considering the need to generate joint efforts between civil society and government entities to improve living conditions of PwD, a documental review was carried out of input provided by government entities that act as guarantors of the rights contained in the CRPD in Colombia. The input was requested through the Technical Secretariat of the National Disability Council, in order to identify the progress and bottlenecks that government entities face in their obligations to PwD. In total, input was received from 18 government entities, which made it possible to demonstrate progress in the implementation of the CRPD that – either due to its technical nature or lack of dissemination – are not fully understood by the OPwD or PwD at the individual level. The information provided by government entities was supplemented with information provided by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Colombia, which has been advancing various efforts to support the implementation of the CRPD and the inclusive SDGs.

Once the Situational Analysis was completed, it was shared and validated by the different stakeholders that participated in its development. The main findings of the document were shared with the Governmental entities through an online presentation in which various members of the SND were present, and an update on the work of these entities for the final trimester of 2021 was shared. The Situational Analysis was also shared with the OPDs that participated in its construction, and the main findings were also shared through an online presentation in which the Technical Committee of the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the CRPD validated its contents. Currently, a

communications strategy is being developed within UN Women Colombia, that includes the creation of a micro-site within the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) to share the Spanish version of the document to a broader audience.

#### 4.3 Scope and limitations

##### **Scope**

As previously mentioned, the objective of this Situation Analysis is to identify the progress and challenges that have arisen in the implementation of the CPDP in Colombia. The identification of these situations will allow the Situation Analysis to operate as the main input for the formulation of the joint project to be presented by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) within the framework of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) to support catalytic actions for improvement of implementation of the CRPD in Colombia. Thus, it will act as a baseline for the implementation of the third phase of this project. Likewise, the document seeks to inform those with obligations about the current concerns of OPwD and the main challenges that PwD face in their daily lives. Taking into account the current situation in Colombia – in which a new public disability policy is being created– the document is being shared with the corresponding authorities so that it can act as an input in this formulation exercise, thanks to the compilation of information obtained from both PwD and their organizations, as well as from government entities.

Finally, this document will be shared with the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so that the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities have relevant information and state initiatives that may be useful for PwD that can be shared through the OPwD that are part of the Coalition.

##### **Limitations**

Despite having information from stakeholders in all sectors – including OPwD, government entities and UNCT agencies – the study has some methodological limitations. The first limitation refers to access to the necessary information – such as the contact details of PwD – to carry out statistical studies with official databases. For reasons of statistical reserve and data protection, these are elements that are considered sensitive and not suitable for sharing without the prior authorization of the individuals. Because of this, studies are limited to those that can be carried out with already anonymized data. Additionally, it is important to mention that, despite the availability of statistical information related to disability in Colombia, there is a limitation in the interoperability of the databases due to the different disability notions on which they are based.

The second limitation arises from the absence of a single repository that contains information related to the work of government entities on disability issues. Although this limitation was solved through the consultation carried out with the Technical Secretariat of the CND, the lack of response from various entities belonging to the National Disability System is still tangible. This limitation may be

exacerbated for those who make requests for information as citizens, who must carry out various administrative procedures to access it. Finally, the third limitation arises from the difficulty of knowing about OPwD in remote areas of the country and of reaching PwD within the same areas, whose access to digital connectivity is severely limited. Due to the situations described above, the Situation Analysis presents a bias that favors the perspectives of PwD and OPwD in urban contexts within the main areas of the country. It is proposed to strengthen the territorial perspective to carry out future research and similar projects.

## V. Findings

### 5.1 Interested Parties & coordination mechanisms

This component performs an analysis of the interested parties and the existing coordination mechanisms, in order to identify processes and possible gaps in capacity, investment, as well as Strategic Implementation Alliances.

#### *Interested Parties and existing coordination mechanisms*

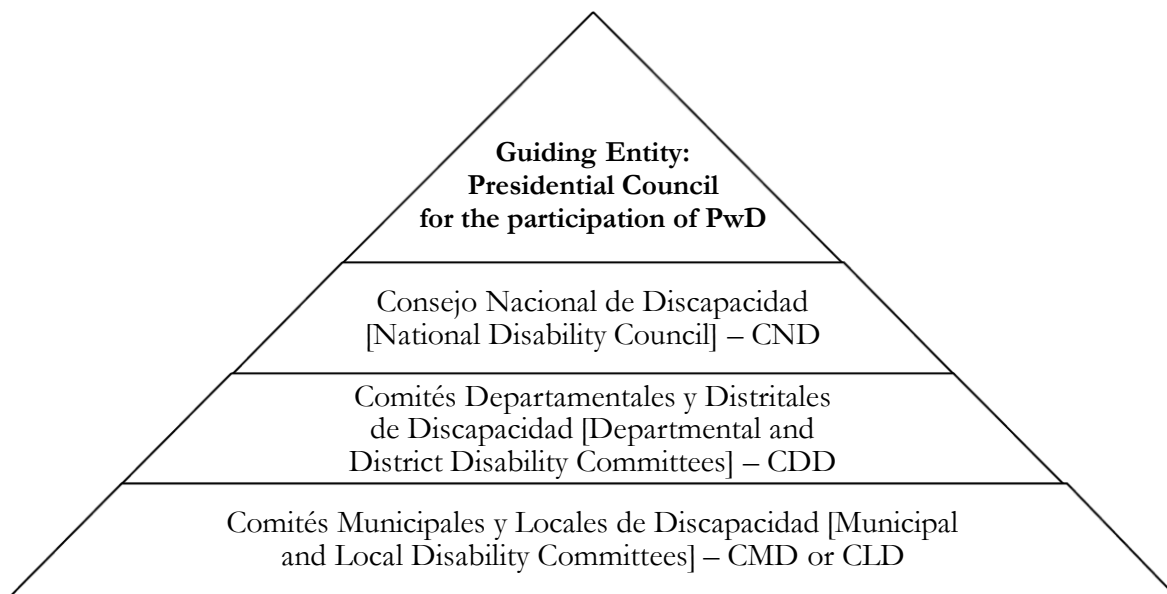
Colombia has the *Sistema Nacional de Discapacidad* [National Disability System] (hereinafter, SND), which is the set of norms, activities, resources, guidelines, and institutions, which, allow the implementation of the guiding principles that promote social inclusion of PwD, according to the Law 1145 from 2007 in its Article 2 (Congress of Colombia, 2007). The SND has 4 levels: i) the Presidential Council for the Participation of PwD that acts as the governing body of the SND, ii) a National Disability Council (CND) that acts as a consultative space between national entities, iii) a departmental and district level in the Departmental and District Disability Committees (CDD)<sup>3</sup>, and iv) municipal and local committees<sup>4</sup>. The functions of each of the levels are defined in Art. 8 of Law 1145 from 2007.

**Figure 1:** Levels of the Sistema Nacional de Discapacidad (SND)

---

<sup>3</sup> The Departmental and District Disability Committees are consultative spaces that operate at an intermediate level with an active role in as concertation instances, advising bodies, and actors involved in the consolidation and monitoring of the Disability Public Policy.

<sup>4</sup> Municipal and Local Disability Committees are deliberative spaces of construction and follow-up of the Disability Public Policy.



The four levels of the SND can be divided in two groups that respond to their level of jurisdiction: i) the CND, at the national level, and ii) CDD, CMD and CLD at the territorial level. The CND has representatives from the national level of government—including representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the Ministry of Transportation, as well as other Ministries and National Administrative Departments—and representatives from OPDs, having one representative for each typology of disability (physical, auditory, visual, cognitive, mental, and multiple). The CND also has one representative from organization for persons with disabilities, and one from academic institutions (Art. 10, Law 1145 of 2007). At a territorial level, the CDDs, CMDs and CLDs are composed by the Governor or Mayor of the territorial entity, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Education, the Secretariat of Transportation, the Secretariat of Social Inclusion, and the Planning Office of the entity. CDDs, CMDs and CLDs also include 5 representatives from local OPDs by type of disability (physical, auditory, visual, cognitive/mental, and multiple) and one representative from local organizations for persons with disabilities (Art. 16, Law 1145 of 2007).

It is vital to consider that the representatives of OPDs within the CND, CDDs, CMDs, and CLDs act as a liaison between the Government and civil society organizations.

Within the framework of actors, the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter “the Coalition”) stands out. The Coalition is made up of networks of organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of persons with disabilities and families of persons with disabilities, academic institutions, human rights organizations, and independent activists. It was created in 2014, with the initial purpose of drafting and presenting a first shadow report on the process of implementation by the Colombian State of the obligations it acquired when ratifying the Convention, and from there to carry out the respective

follow-up. From there, it has strengthened alliances between organizations with different types of disabilities, a matter that has a substantial impact on their levels of social and political impact.

The following organizations are part of the Coalition: Asociación de síndrome de Down – ASDOWN Colombia [Down Syndrome Association of Colombia], Group of self-advocates of Asdown, Colectiva Polimorfos [Group of Women with Polymorphism], Comisión Colombiana de Juristas [Colombian Commission of Jurists] (CCJ), Federación Nacional de Sordos de Colombia [National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia] – (FENASCOL), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Liga Colombiana de Autismo [Colombian Autism League] (LICA), Nodo Comunitario de Salud Mental y Convivencia [Community Node for Mental Health and Coexistence], Red de Familias por el Cambio [Network of Families for Change], Programa de Acción por la Igualdad y la Inclusión Social [Action Program for Equality and Social Inclusion] (PAIIS) of the Universidad de los Andes, the Master's Degree in Disability and Social Inclusion and the Disability, Knowledge and Resistance Research Group of the Universidad Nacional, and independent activists who participate in the Coalition and participate in the different committees as per Resolution 3317 from 2013.

### *Challenges in coordination*

As per the report presented by the Coalition (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021) and the Rapid Assessment carried out with persons with disabilities (Ecoanalítica, July 2021) the following coordination barriers between actors were identified:

1. Lack of representation of people with disabilities in the different territories, and at local levels.
2. Lack of national representation of National Disability Counselors in general decision-making spaces. Despite having selection mechanisms and the presence of National Counselors, they feel little involvement in all the issues that are dealt with around disability.
3. Lack of involvement of the actors in general political issues of the different social sectors where people with disabilities can be impacted or benefited. This is not only in those policies directly related to PwD, but in broader spaces for participation that include policies on education, employment, health, information technologies, among others.
4. Leadership training that allows the transparent management of information benefiting the community of persons with disabilities, and not for the individual benefits for some representatives.
5. The lack of an intersectional approach that promotes the participation of under-represented groups that are not part of the discussions that take place within the framework of the system, among which children and gender stand out. For example, in matters of gender, one highlight

was the mention by the Coalition that the majority of OPwD are led by men, except for those particularly aimed at women with disabilities or family organizations, where women and mothers play a leading role.

6. The lack of accessibility to information is the central barrier to overcoming the previously mentioned gaps. This is due mainly to territorial leaders, who – without accessible information, in addition to shortcomings in their processes of political training and knowledge of the State – are unable to exercise their role of collective representation, not only by type of disability, but as a joint collective and rights holder.

Along the same lines, the comments of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) of the United Nations to Colombia in 2019 were developed, summarized by the Coalition (August 2021) in the following five points:

1. *Creation and strengthening of consultation mechanisms.*
2. *Reporting on how the results of the consultation processes affect decision making.*
3. *Accreditation of organizations of persons with disabilities; and*
4. *Facilitation of appointing representatives for organizations of persons with disabilities in the Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad.*
5. *Inclusion and representation of women with disabilities and other underrepresented groups (boys, girls, indigenous people, ethnic groups)*

OPwD show that these five points still require more intervention to be able to apply the recommendations made by the CRPD Committee. This occurs mainly in rural or remote contexts, where disability issues still require greater positioning in the work agendas, and where the strengthening of both the authorities and OPwD is most need. Similarly, the need to strengthen the human and economic resources of these spaces is identified; they must have sufficient capacity to offer the reasonable adjustments necessary for the effective participation of PwD, especially those groups that have historically been underrepresented.

## 5.2 Equality and non-discrimination

This component refers to the attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society on equal terms with others. These attitude and stigma barriers are based on stereotypes, misconceptions, and assumptions about people with disabilities, which are exacerbated when they come into play with other differential factors such as gender, race, age, etc. To analyze the existence of these exclusion dynamics, it is important to take into account the legal and political environment in Colombia, analyze how conducive it is for honoring the rights of people with disabilities, and the perceptions that organizations and PwD have regarding their equality of conditions in the exercise of rights.

### *Legal and political environment*

The Political Constitution of Colombia was proclaimed in 1991 and established a constitutional framework that looked to guarantee the formal and material equality of all persons within the Colombian territory, including persons with disabilities. As such, persons with disabilities in Colombia are considered a group with special constitutional protection due to the historical discrimination they have faced. Different legal dispositions began to emerge, including those regarding the creation of institutional mechanisms to include PwD within the wider society (Law 361 of 1997), the regulation of public employment for PwD (Law 909 of 2004), the establishment of regulations to ensure the equality of deaf and blind-deaf persons (Law 982 of 2005), and the incorporation of increased penalizations for cases of gender-based violence faced by women with disabilities (Law 1257 of 2008).

In 2009, Colombia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through Law 1346 and proceed to establish the National Disability Statute (Law 1618 of 2013) and the National Public Policy on Disability and Social Inclusion CONPES Document Number 166 from 2013, through which the Convention is incorporated into Colombian legislation. Afterwards, legislation was developed to penalize discrimination on the basis of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodations as malicious, unlawful and guilty conduct (Law 1752 of 2015). The aforementioned laws are just an example of a legal framework that promotes an environment favorable for the equality and non-discrimination of PwD, that is made-up by more than 200 norms detailed in the Normogram prepared by the Ministry of Health of Colombia (Ministry of Health, August 2019).

However, it is vital to mention the most recent and outstanding reform regarding equality and non-discrimination for PwD, the emergence of Law 1996 of 2019 –also known as the Legal Capacity Reform—that establishes that all persons with disabilities are subjects of rights and obligations and have legal capacity under equal conditions. This is a huge advancement in the implementation of the CRPD, since the Legal Capacity Reform eliminated all forms of guardianship in Colombia directed towards PwD, replacing the figure with a system of supports for effective decision making on the side of PwD.

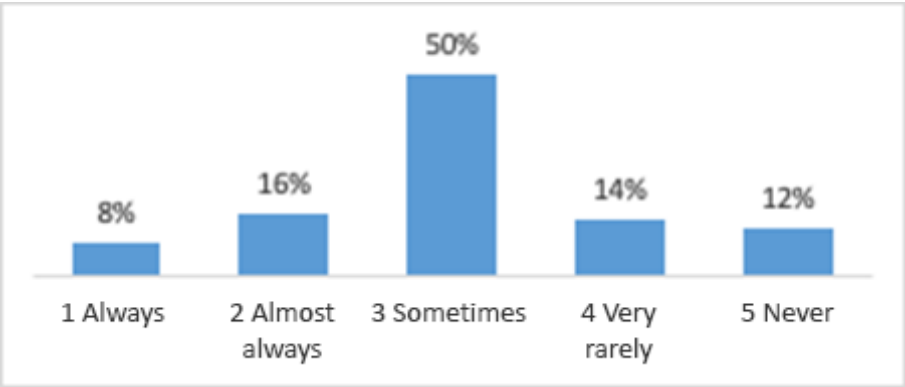
To this legal environment is added the institutional environment mentioned in Precondition 1, which complements the legal existence of spaces through which the enforceability of rights could be carried out.

### *Discrimination*

Despite this favorable legal environment, the Rapid Assessment and consultations carried out showed that this legal environment does not translate into practices aligned with the regulatory content. According to the Rapid Assessment carried out (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), 50% of persons surveyed affirmed that they had felt rejected at times; people with visual disabilities stood out as feeling greater discrimination compared to other disabilities. It is highly concerning that only 12% of PwD surveyed did not feel they had encountered situations of discrimination. Meanwhile, as

evidenced in the following graph, 88% of PwD have felt discriminated always, almost always, sometimes, and very few times.

**Figure 2:** Situations of discrimination



Source: (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, 18)

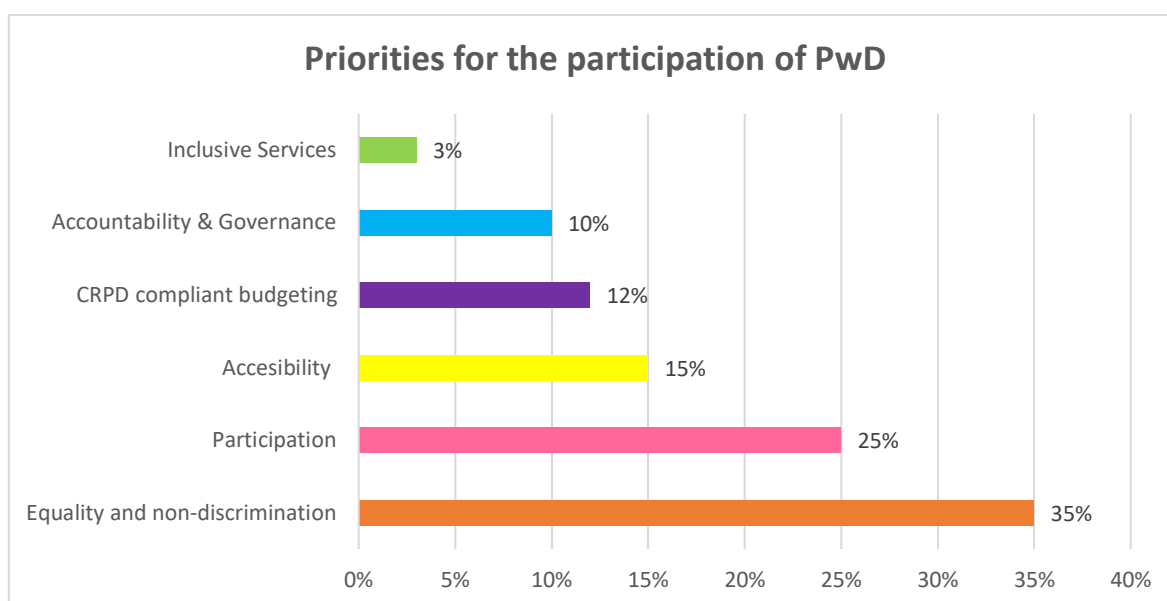
The place where persons with disabilities have felt the most discrimination is on the street, with a high frequency of 73.6%, followed by clinics and hospitals and the workplace, both with 49.2% (Ecoanalítica, July 2021). In contrast, the place where they have experienced the least discrimination is at home with 17%, a percentage that, although low, is surprising since it is the family environment. This shows that stereotypes can remain even in the most intimate spaces.

In terms of the Coalition, the requirements to accredit an organization or a person before the National Disability Council were highlighted, limiting the full, effective and plural participation of persons with disabilities, highlighting a case in which the participation of a person with intellectual disabilities in the National Disability Council was prevented, as he did not meet the requirements in terms of work experience (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021), demonstrating that there is still a lack of necessary adjustments so that the legal and political environment becomes effective, and do not stop creating possible cracks through which discrimination is generated.

*Equality*

The Coalition asked the representatives of the surveyed OPwD to determine the prioritization of the preconditions, and it was significant that this one, the one related to the precondition of equality and non-discrimination, obtained the highest score

**Figure 3:** Result of the prioritization exercise for the preconditions for inclusion in relation to the participation of persons with disabilities



Source: (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021, page 59)

Given the above, it was essential to consult PwD about their perception of access to rights under equal conditions. For this purpose, seven questions were asked that showed that 42% of PwD feel that they can access rights under equal conditions. This is less than half of those surveyed. Among the types of disabilities surveyed, people with hearing disabilities stand out as those who least consider that they can access their rights under equal conditions, while people with physical and psychosocial disabilities present a higher perception of equality (66%). The results and average of the questions are presented in the following table:

**Figure 4:** Perception of access to rights of persons with disabilities.

| No.              | Variable                                                                                                                                                                                     | Score | Percentage |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| INDICATOR 2      | Perception of access to rights of persons with disabilities                                                                                                                                  |       | 42%        |
| Specific results |                                                                                                                                                                                              |       |            |
| Q3               | Do you believe that you are able to access your rights on equal terms with other citizens?                                                                                                   |       | 57%        |
| Q6               | Believe that it is easier or more difficult for women with disabilities to achieve social inclusion and guarantee their rights.                                                              |       | 21%        |
| Q11              | If you are in a situation of armed conflict, humanitarian emergency and/or natural disaster, you believe that you would have the necessary measures and information to guarantee your safety |       | 22%        |

|     |                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |     |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Q13 | Do you believe that you have equal access to the Colombian justice system?                       |  | 65% |
| Q17 | Do you believe that people with disabilities are excluded or included in the educational system? |  | 37% |
| Q22 | Have you received the health services you have required in a timely manner?                      |  | 61% |
| Q25 | Have you been able to access any formal employment?                                              |  | 38% |

**Source:** (Ecoanalítica, July 2021)

There are 3 sectors that show a lower level of perceived access to rights under equal conditions: employment, education and information in case of emergency. These are the sectors in which it would be necessary to concentrate efforts to improve access to rights, and in this way to improve their perceived access.

It should be noted that this perception may have increased substantially due to the COVID-19 health emergency, which has reversed some important advances in access to rights in the aforementioned sectors. In this regard, the report from DANE (DANE, 2021) states that it is possible that PwD are particularly affected at this time of emergency by situations that make it difficult for them to access services that were previously face-to-face. For example, 65.4% of PwD do not have internet service at home, a mechanism that during the COVID-19 emergency has been essential for guaranteeing access to information, due to the substantial reduction in face-to-face consultations.

### 5.3 Accessibility

The CRPD establishes that the purpose of accessibility is that people with disabilities can live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, Party States must adopt appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others to the physical environment, transport, information and communications, including information and communication systems and technologies, and other services and facilities open to the public or for public use, both in urban and rural areas. These measures, which will include the identification and elimination of obstacles and access barriers, (CRPD Art. 9)

#### Access to Information

According to the consultations carried out by the Coalition, accessibility to information became the essential element to enable access to the other preconditions, mainly that of their effective participation (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021). It should be noted that for the Coalition, one of the main barriers arises in the attitudes and unwillingness of some officials to be flexible and provide the support or reasonable adjustments necessary to access the information. This occurs despite the existence and

availability of tools, and even the required support. The foregoing implies that access to these tools, supports and accessibility measures is restricted by officials who do not have knowledge of their use and setup, limiting the progress that their availability represents.

This consideration, however, contrasts with the Rapid Assessment carried out with people with disabilities (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), which included a request to rate the level of independence in accessibility to information and communications. Most of the people with disabilities surveyed consider themselves independent (32%), followed by somewhat independent (27%), very independent (19%), not independent (13%) and strongly not independent (10%).

Compared to the previous question and its overall results, persons with disabilities feel more independent in their accessibility to information and communications than in their accessibility to physical environments (32% versus 28%). The results show that women and men are more oriented to having some level of independence; in total 76% of women and 77% of men. The results also indicate that the older the person is, the perception of independence for accessibility to communications and information decreases. In terms of people with intellectual disabilities and people with psychosocial disabilities, they recognize themselves as not independent (32%), people with hearing disabilities somewhat independent (33%), people with physical disabilities independent (31%), as well as people with multiple disabilities (27%) and visual disabilities (38%), and people with another disability mostly recognize themselves as having some independence (30%). The people who feel strongly not independent at a higher level are people with other types of disabilities, including people with deaf blindness (Ecoanalítica, July 2021).

The survey carried out to evaluate the National Public Policy on Disability, in the accessibility component present in the framework of public policy (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019), concluded that for 45.6% of people with disabilities, ICTs have greatly facilitated their lives; for 38.9%, ICTs have somewhat facilitated their lives, and only a remaining 15.5% consider that ICTs have not facilitated their lives.

The importance of access to information for people with disabilities is evidenced in regulatory advances and in public policy on the matter, among these advances highlighted in the Econometrics study (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019), as well as reported by the Ministry of Information Technologies for this study, are both regulatory and specific public policy actions. Among these advances for the country, the following are recognized:

#### *Regulatory advances*

It is essential to mention Resolution 1519 from 2020, which defines guidelines, directives, and standards to publish the information indicated in Law 1712 from 2014, as well as the requirements regarding access to public information, web accessibility, digital security, and open data. Similarly, in Colombia there is Decree 2573 from December 12, 2014, which establishes the guidelines for accessibility issues contained in Colombian Technical Standard 5854 from 2011 (NTC 5854) on “Accessibility to Web Pages,” and Chapter II of Decree 103 from 2015 on Accessibility and other

guidelines. Finally, in August 2020, Resolution No. 001519 was issued, establishing the obligation to include accessibility measures in 100% of the audiovisual content (MinTIC, 07/09/2021).

#### *Advances in programs and actions*

This regulation is evident in state, national and regional television spaces with programs that include interpretation in Colombian sign language, closed captioning, and/or with subtitles, which is all increasing in usage, as well as the Colombian Technical Standard 5854 from 2011 to guarantee the accessibility of institutional websites and videos, and Resolution 1519 from 2020 of the Ministry of ICT on web accessibility, added programs led by the Ministry of ICT, some of which are described below with their respective results and reported for this analysis (MinTIC, 07/09/2021):

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Inclusive SmartTIC Category</u></b>           | Seeks to encourage the appropriation and use of ICTs in persons with disabilities using the development of digital content through cell phones, between 2016 and 2020 1,890 persons with disabilities participated and 442 short films were presented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b><u>Training of Persons with Disabilities</u></b> | Seeks to motivate and support the creation of digital content for persons with disabilities; 1,509 people with disabilities benefited in 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b><u>Accessible Entertainment</u></b>              | Offers a new cultural and entertainment package accessible to persons with disabilities, through cinema, theater, and music. As part of this program, three concerts, one play and one dance program have been held, five films and one concert, all with full accessibility conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><u>CONVERTIC</u></b>                             | A digital inclusion project for people with visual disabilities (blind and low vision people), made possible through two software programs: <i>Zoom Text and Jaws</i> , to allow people to use a computer and can be downloaded for free                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><u>Relay Center</u></b>                          | Facilitates communication between deaf and hearing people through the platform <a href="http://www.centroderелеvo.gov.co">www.centroderелеvo.gov.co</a> . This project handles two lines of action: 1. Call Relay, which facilitates communication by telephone or cell phone. 2. Servicio de Interpretación en Línea [Online Interpretation Service] (SIEL), which facilitates face-to-face communication between deaf and hearing people who are in the same place (interviews, meetings, medical and work appointments, etc.). The Relay Center provides its services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since its creation there have been more than 2 million communications handled; specifically in the last year a total of 503,538 communications handled, 36,220 interpretation services and about 1,326 new users registered on the platform. |

The evaluation of the public policy on Disability (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019) regarding its Information Technology axis: “45.9% of those surveyed have access only to devices such as a Smartphone, tablets or computers or sound and video recorders. Only 3% have access to braille printers, telephoto magnifiers, braille lines, digital dashboards, and tactile markers. Similarly, 1.9% of persons with disabilities access screen readers and magnifiers and applications to facilitate communication or reading and writing texts. Regarding the CONVERTIC services, such as JAWS and Zoomtext or the relay center, only 0.53% of people with disabilities use them. Now, there are patterns by type of disability. For example, 7.6% of hearing-impaired people use relay center services. 1.6% of people with visual disabilities use CONVERTIC tools. Finally, of those who answered as having access to some ICT, 90.7% use ICT at home, 9.3% use them at work, 15.5% use them in an educational establishment and 6.5% access elsewhere (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019, page 73).

Despite the advances in terms of accessibility, low use is reported among PwD, even though they could provide them with an alternative of reasonable accommodation. This could be the result of the PwD lack of awareness of the availability of these services. It is evident that the communication barrier is more difficult to break down than is believed, and it is necessary to strengthen efforts to break it down, taking into account the importance of regulatory advances and specific programs in this matter. In this sense, the conclusion of the Coalition stands out by mentioning that the lack of accessibility to information prevents the guarantee of informed participation, or awareness on the part of State officials about what accessibility means, and in this sense the need to have the necessary adjustments and supports to overcome attitudinal barriers that hinder participation.

#### Access to physical spaces

The Rapid Assessment carried out with PwD for this study (Ecoanalítica, July 2021) asked how the person would rate his or her level of independence in accessibility to physical spaces. It was determined that 31% of PwD consider that they are somewhat independent, 28% independent, 15% very independent, 14% not independent and 12% strongly not independent. For this aspect, men feel more independence than women, with a difference of more than 5 points in all cases; this independence is significantly reduced for older respondents. For this type of disability, the majority of people with multiple disabilities are strongly not independent (31%), the majority of people with hearing disabilities are very independent (33%) while the majority of people with intellectual disabilities and people with psychosocial disability (29%), people with physical disabilities (28%), people with visual disabilities (37%) are mostly somewhat independent (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 40).

The contrasts between the existing regulations and becoming effective in the daily lives of people with disabilities are most evident with physical accessibility. In the evaluation conducted by (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019) it is seen that all spaces have physical barriers, with the public space standing out in a greater proportion (60.1%), a higher percentage also for all disabilities with a very high, above-average percentage in the population with deaf blindness. It is notable since this is precisely the space with the most regulations, both legally, as well as specific technical regulations

that were made known by the Ministries of Transportation and Housing for this analysis. Finally, it is necessary to highlight that the home is the place with the fewest barriers, with 22%; it is probably where they spend the most time, corresponding to a significantly high percentage.

**Figure 5:** Proportion of persons with disabilities who report physical barriers, according to type of disability and place.

|                  | PHYSICAL | HEARING | VISUAL | PSYCHOSOCIAL | INTELLECTUAL | DEAFBLINDNESS | MULTIPLE | GENERAL |
|------------------|----------|---------|--------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| Place of study   | 22.20%   | 0.00%   | 33.80% | 21.40%       | 23.70%       | 0%            | 23.80%   | 24.50%  |
| Workplace        | 20.00%   | 33.90%  | 19.60% | 13.50%       | 0.00%        | 0%            | 33.20%   | 21.80%  |
| Healthcare place | 23%      | 46.90%  | 26.10% | 21.90%       | 17.80%       | 24.9%         | 29.3%    | 25.20%  |
| Recreation place | 38.2%    | 18.90%  | 26.70% | 8.60%        | 7.60%        | 22.7%         | 24.8%    | 29.20%  |
| Public space     | 62.6%    | 53.40%  | 61.40% | 41.60%       | 47.30%       | 74.4%         | 62.4%    | 60.10%  |
| Home             | 23.6%    | 8.10%   | 24.30% | 15.30%       | 12.90%       | 15.5%         | 22.70%   | 22.00%  |

(ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019, page 79)

Transportation accessibility, an essential aspect for independence, constitutes a significant barrier. Despite the fact that, according to the Ministry of Transportation, 16 regulatory administrative acts for Statutory Law 1618 from 2013 have been issued, including decrees and resolutions, to guarantee mobility and universal accessibility of air, land and water transportation systems for all people and in particular people with disabilities and the elderly (Ministry of Transportation, August 2021); according to the Rapid Assessment carried out by Econometría, 30.4% of the persons with disabilities surveyed believed that the means of transportation used was insufficient (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019, page 77).

#### 5.4 Provision of inclusive services

##### 5.4.1 Disability assessment & referral system

The Ministry of Health in response to inquiries made for this study (Min Health, August 2021) on the disability assessment and referral systems, recorded that between 2010 and June 30, 2020, the Ministry administered the Registry for the Location and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities (RLCPD), which included people who self-recognize as persons with disabilities and those who provided information regarding their condition by self-report and geographic location, which at the closing date

reported 1,555,708 persons with disabilities. Subsequently, Resolution 113 from 2020 of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection defines that to be included in the RLCPD, the assessment of a multidisciplinary team must be obtained for the certification of disability, applying specific instruments of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) that will determine, objectively, if the person actually has a disability. (Ministry of Health, August 2019)

Given the recent issuance of Resolution 113 from 2020, the process may pose a barrier to access since some sectors or institutions request it as a requirement for access to services, when they do not yet have the technical or financial capacity to complete the procedure. In many areas of the country, some criteria for flexibility and intersectoral articulation meetings have been established to support the exercise of flexibility of inclusion criteria for the programs of each sector, some of which have already been adopted, for example, by the Unit for Comprehensive Attention and Reparation to Victims (UARIV).

Despite these efforts, it is necessary to expand the information and intersectoral articulation both to the institutions, as well as to the PwD and the OPwD on the Resolution and the roles and responsibilities of the actors involved to offer greater coverage and facilitate the obtaining of the Certification of Disability, including the supports and reasonable adjustments required and avoiding barriers to access other rights, for example, employment.

#### 5.4.2 Disability support services

In the Rapid Assessment carried out with PwD for this analysis, it was explored whether the PwD have had the necessary support to have adequate mobility for their individual development. 44% of persons with disabilities indicate that they have had this type of support, while 39%, even when they have needed it, have not obtained it. For their part, 18% have not needed them, and notably, 40% of people in adulthood and old age have not had the necessary aid for their mobility (Ecoanalítica, July 2021). According to the type of disability, it was identified that 48% of persons with physical disabilities, 38% with multiple disabilities, 43% of persons with visual disabilities have not obtained the required support (Ecoanalítica, July 2021). It is notable that the disabilities that most likely require support for their mobility are in turn the highest percentages of those who consider that they have not had the necessary support.

In addition to the above, the Quality-of-Life Survey QoLS 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021), shows that 80% of care services for persons with disabilities who require it, falls on the homes, which shows a lack of access to these services by the state. Although 61.8% of persons with disabilities report levels of self-sufficiency, i.e., they do not require support from caregivers, 38.2% do need care from someone else. The highest proportion of those who require care is concentrated in the group aged 65 years and over, followed by those under 5 years of age and people between 45 and 64 years of age. It is also the adults of these groups who, despite requiring help from someone else, remain alone, without receiving care.

Among those who require care, 79.1% receive it from someone who lives within the same home, another 8.9% receive support from another person who does not live in the home and is provided without compensation, while another 8.9% of persons with severe disabilities have no one to support them and remain alone. Only 3.1% receive it from a person in exchange for compensation. In other words, 1.5 million persons with disabilities require care, most of this care is provided within their own homes, without compensation: 40.4% are their mothers, 3.3% their fathers and 56.2% another member of the household. In any case, 83.3% of caregivers are women (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021).

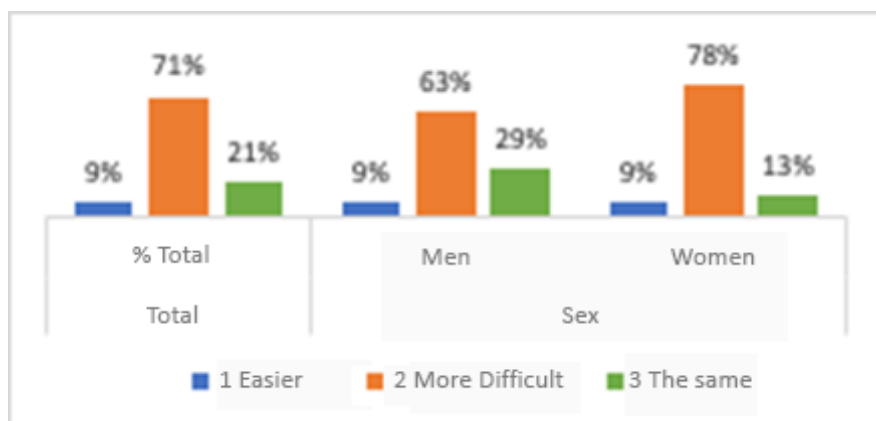
This is one of the main problems related to the differences in conception and legal obligations, related to the confusion between support and care. It is necessary to strengthen the knowledge of the types of supports that are required to achieve independence and autonomy, as well as the identification of the legal obligations to provide them, differentiated with care roles in specific circumstances that have to do with age, some associated disease, but not directly with disability.

#### 5.4.3 Perception of access to rights

The Rapid Assessment carried out with PwD for this analysis included seven questions related to access to rights such as education, justice, health, employment, and gender equality, among others (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 16). The disabled population achieves an average result with 42%, an alarming percentage since it implies that less than half of the disabled population perceive that they can access their rights, highlighting the low perception regarding the education system, employment, attention in emergency situations and deepening the women's difficulty accessing rights.

Regarding gender differences, 71% of people believe that it is more difficult for women with disabilities to have social inclusion compared to men, while for 21% they are on equal terms with respect to the guarantee of their rights, evidencing the deepening difficulties women with disabilities face for accessing their rights compared to men. Although this perception is generalized among men and women, for the women surveyed, this perception is 78%, while for men it is 63%, i.e., 15 points lower.

**Figure 6:** Social inclusion and guarantee of rights of women with disabilities



Source: EcoAnalítica 2021

Regarding other rights, it was found that 86% of them consider that their right to form a family has been respected; while 14% consider that it has not. This percentage is higher for men by 6 points than for women, while, depending on the type of disability, persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities have higher levels of negative perception regarding respect for this right, with 24% and 23% respectively, higher by more than 10 points compared to other disabilities.

Likewise, 73% of persons with disabilities believed that they have a social and family life that allows the development of their autonomy and their interests, while 27%, a very high percentage, believe that they do not.

Furthermore, compared to the type of disability, the population that states that they have less social and family life that allows the development of their autonomy and interests is the one with multiple disabilities with 38% and physical disabilities with 31%. Finally, regarding the statement related to making decisions for themselves, 96% of persons with disabilities agree and only 4% of them disagree. Regarding variables such as sex and age, no major differences are identified, not even in most types of disabilities. However, the percentage of those who disagree that they can make their own decisions increases significantly to 21% for persons with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities.

#### 5.4.4 Social protection

Colombia has made progress in the design of a social protection system that articulates the different public interventions to mitigate and face the risks that may affect the population at different times, these interventions also involve the private sector, families, and their organizations, which are implemented through the development of plans aimed at overcoming deprivation and expanding opportunities for poor and vulnerable population groups, under a framework of co-responsibility. (ECLAC, Social protection system, 2015, p 14).

There is a different range of instruments and programs to insure individuals and families from different health, employment, or social security risks throughout life. However, many of them have not yet incorporated an approach of inclusion of people with disabilities, supporting their full participation and non-discrimination in society.

In the case of protection and social assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable families, Prosperidad Social - DPS (the competent entity for the development of programs and projects for social inclusion and reconciliation in terms of overcoming poverty and extreme poverty, vulnerable groups, comprehensive care for early childhood, childhood and adolescence, victims of the armed conflict) has begun to develop guides with a differential approach, in order to offer the support required by PwD, among which are, for example, educational incentives. In this framework, and in conjunction with UNICEF, the “Evaluation of results of the actions of inclusion of families with children and adolescents with disabilities in “Familias en Acción” [Families in Action] program was carried out, from which technical, policy and policy recommendations were made regarding the operation, as well as the redesign of the program (Social Prosperity, 2021).

According to the QoLS 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021), approximately 10.4% of the population with disabilities live in households that received support or subsidies from the Familias en Acción [Families in Action] program, 11% of men and 10% of women. The same happens in 14.3% of the population in the case of the Colombia Mayor [Older Colombia] Program, aimed at older adults.

On the other hand, it is vital to mention that Colombia –due to its history of internal armed conflict— has developed a particular attention route for the victims of internal armed conflict. This system includes access to truth, access to justice, reparation, and non-repetition measurements. The risks associated with the internal armed conflict in Colombia make for a particular intersection between victims’ rights and the rights of PwD, since there is a significant percentage of victims with disabilities. It is important to mention that, even though PwD for reasons related to the armed conflict are entitled to the same rights that other PwD, they often make use for the attention routes for victims of internal armed conflict in a prevalent manner. As a result, in recent years progress has been made in incorporating intersectionality for identification in the Single Registry of Victims of PwD. Likewise, to guarantee the participation of victims with disabilities, a participation protocol was reported for this analysis that allows representation of the different victimizing events and of the population subject to special constitutional protection, a space that currently has 33 representatives of victims with disabilities.

However, there is not much evidence regarding the articulation between the attention routes for victims with disabilities, and the mainstream services for PwD that are not victims of the internal armed conflict. For example, there is not a space of representation within the spaces of the SND that are particularly designed for the intersection between disability and armed conflict, which is an issue that needs to be strengthened.

It is important to highlight that in the Colombian context, persons with disabilities due to contamination by weapons take on special relevance, this includes the proliferation of Anti-personnel Mines (APM), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). In this regard and according to information currently provided by the Alto Comisionado para la Paz [High Commissioner for Peace] (OACP) in its IMSMA information system, a total of 12,074 victims are registered, of which 84 correspond to 2021.

Of the 439 victims reported since August 7, 2018, 321 are civilians who have been guided and accompanied in accessing their rights through the Comprehensive Care Route for Victims of Anti-personnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance, this work that is carried out directly with the survivors and their families through the component of Comprehensive Assistance to Victims of Decontamination Colombia, the entity in charge of the issue.

Beginning in 2019 and to prioritize work with the APM/UXO survivor community, through the Investment Project, the OACP has allocated a total of \$1,845,000,000 to carry out direct contracting processes with APM/UXO survivors in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Huila, Meta, Nariño, and Norte de Santander, with the following results:

- More than 7,480 people trained in Mine Risk Education – MRE, directly by the Survivors Associations.
- More than 5,100 people trained in the Comprehensive Victim Assistance Route and enforceability of their rights.
- 11 APM/UXO Survivors Associations strengthened through the National Network of APM/UXO Survivors Associations, which was created with the technical and financial support of the OACP.
- Likewise, there are specific routes for improving the accessibility of services and incorporating reasonable accommodations for victims, in health, education, income generation and empowerment. In this sense, according to information provided by the UARIV during the 2021 period, humanitarian assistance has been delivered to 21,613 homes of victims in which a disability was registered, worth \$11,463,827,000 million Colombian pesos, a significant investment that shows territorial disaggregation.

In this sense, it is necessary to strengthen social protection mechanisms and programs to ensure not only the highest levels of poverty in which families and people with disabilities live, but also to offset the higher costs they face to achieve access the various social goods and services, during their lifetime.

#### 5.4.5 Health

According to Orozco (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021), the population with disabilities suffering from a chronic disease amount to 45.7%, versus 13.7% in the rest of the population. The disabled population requiring hospitalization in the last 12 months amounts to 14.6%, an incidence

almost triple compared to the 5.3% that required hospitalization and do not register any type of disability. The highest incidences in women with disabilities who were hospitalized are concentrated in the group 65 years and older, as well as in men, with an incidence of 38.2%. The group of males from 0 to 5 years of age also stands out with an incidence of hospitalizations of 19.3% (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021).

Although not all PwD require special or priority attention from the health sector, it is true that at least half require specific and more frequent attention and care. In this sense, the provision of health services is essential to guarantee their rights. This is how, as the Rapid Assessment of PwD found, 61% of persons with disabilities perceive that they have received the health services they have required in a timely manner, nevertheless the situation is different for the other 39% of people who have experienced difficulties accessing these services. Regarding age groups, adults over 60 years of age perceive better access to health (77%), compared to the other groups. Likewise, men have experienced greater access (64%), compared to women (59%), presenting a gap of 5 percentage points.

On the other hand, the disability that claims to have more timely access to health services are cognitive and psychosocial disabilities (74%), compared to persons with hearing disabilities, who rated this access with 39%, i.e., the majority (61%) do not believe that timely care has been provided. In terms of access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, 20% have not required these services and the majority claim to have received them in a timely manner (49%), while 31% have not received them in a timely manner.

When asked about the reasons why PwD face difficulties to access health services, they mostly identify barriers that are easily addressed. The main cause of difficulties to access health service are administrative barriers with 53%, in which PwD often face the lack of flexibility in standardized processes and procedures that impede their access to health services (for example, the need to ask for medical appointments exclusively through telephonic means in the case of deaf persons). The next cause is the lack of support and reasonable adjustments with 29%. The lack of information obtained a result of 11%, and other types of barriers 8%. A cross cutting factor among these barriers is the presence of attitudinal among the personnel that act as intermediary between the PwD and the medical professionals they need to attend to.

Despite the previous assessments, there are areas of access to health that are still of great concern today, especially due to their relationship with underrepresented groups such as women and children with disabilities, especially girls. Access to sexual and reproductive health as part of the full exercise of the right to health is one of these areas. As mentioned above, the regulatory framework related to the sexual and reproductive rights of PwD is quite favorable, even with instruments such as the Policy on Sexuality, Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (Ministry of Health, 2014), which includes a section specifically intended for PwD. However, as established by Profamilia (2012), the effective exercise of the sexual and reproductive

rights of PwD is limited by administrative barriers (such as the requirement of additional medical procedures to access contraception) and by the perpetuation of stereotypes that understand PwD – particularly women and girls—as either hypersexualized or asexual beings that lack the capacity to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. This occurs, even though the National Health System must:

*...guarantee freedom to persons with disabilities, and guarantee rights like other people, including enjoying a sexual life, benefiting from advances in science in the field of contraception, receiving information on sexual education, ways to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (Profamilia, 2012).*

Women and girls with disabilities face special affectations regarding their sexual and reproductive rights, a situation that is exacerbated when their disability also corresponds to one classified as cognitive or intellectual (Profamilia, 2021). This occurs, not only because women and girls with disabilities are less likely to access educational training that includes education in sexual and reproductive health, but also because of the imaginary aspects associated with these particular types of disabilities. According to a study by the Universidad del Rosario: “only a small number of the research study participants recognize persons with intellectual disabilities (PwID) as subjects of rights” (2013, p. 4). Likewise, the study states that: “...most question their ability to fully enjoy and exercise them, arguing their lack of ability to work, act or make assertive decisions, assuming risks and responsibilities (self-determination)” (p. 4).

The materialization of these imaginaries led to the normalization of forced sterilizations in women and girls with disabilities –often to “protect” them from sexual abuse and unwanted pregnancies— and to the structural barriers PwD face in regard to their access to sexual and reproductive rights.

#### 5.4.6 Education

According to the results of the Population Census, while illiteracy levels in Colombia are on average 5.2%, this percentage reaches 17% of the persons with disabilities. This reflects one of the main human development gaps for the population with disabilities, and the need to strengthen inclusive education policies in the country. (DANE, DCD, CNPV. 2018)

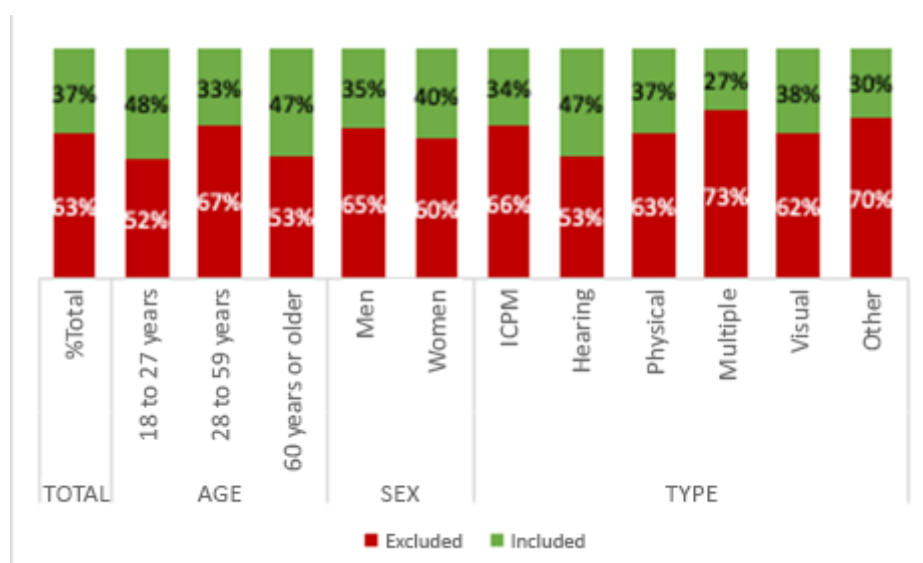
One of the aspects in which progress should be most evident, which corresponds to access to the right to education, given the recent changes in the regulations in favor of educational inclusion, is not perceived in the same way by PwD. Following the recommendations provided by the CRPD Committee, Decree 1421 from 2017 was issued in 2017, which represented a central advance in the organization of the education service for PwD within the framework of inclusive education. This is the case, since it includes progressive plans for gradual implementation, regulating care and organizational and pedagogical intervention procedures.

For their part, despite regulatory advances, 63% of PwD feel excluded from the Colombian educational system according to the Rapid Assessment (Ecoanalítica, July 2021). It is highlighted that

the population with the lowest perception is the group of young people between 18 and 27 years old, precisely the population that at present could be more interested in accessing this right. It could be inferred that there are important advances in terms of inclusive education at least for the surveyed group, although the scope of the research does not allow us to determine if these perceptions can be extrapolated to PwD in general. Therefore, it is an aspect that must be continually strengthened, as it is a catalytic and transforming element in the lives of PwD.

In terms of sex-disaggregated data, men report five more points of exclusion of persons with disabilities than women, and by type of disability, multiple disability is the one that reports the highest percentages with this perception, with 73%. This coincides with the fact that 61% of the population considers that the educational system is currently more inclusive of children with disabilities, which may show a perception of changes in access, at least in urban settings.

**Figure 7:** Perception of access to the educational system by persons with disabilities

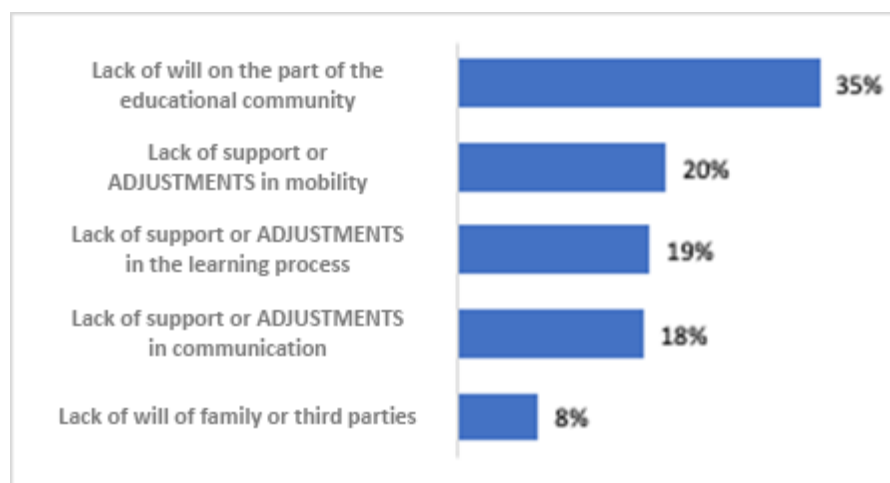


Source: (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 20)

Likewise, 56% of the population stated that they had some kind of impediment related to their disability to accessing and increasing their level of education, with persons with multiple (73%) and hearing (68%) disabilities being the ones who perceive the greatest impediment. Exploring the reasons, the lack of will of the educational community (35%) and the lack of support or mobility adjustments are perceived as the most frequent obstacles to access to and remaining in the educational system. (20%). On the other hand, the smallest barrier is the lack of will on the part of the family with 8%. The high percentage related to lack of will implies the existence of attitudinal barriers, while the second percentage corresponds to the lack of support and adjustments, a fact that can be significantly linked to attitudinal barriers, since many of these adjustments and supports do

not even imply financial resources, but rather willingness and flexibility on the part of the educational community to transform stereotypes associated with PwD (Ecoanalítica, July 2021).

**Figure 8:** Impediments to accessing and increasing the level of education of persons with disabilities



*Source: (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 21)*

In the consultations carried out by the Coalition for this analysis, it was evident that there is recognition of the advances that have been made in the education of PwD in recent years in the country. Thus, in the survey carried out with representatives of OPwD, as well as the focus group conducted, 40% believe that there have been significant advances in inclusive education (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021). Likewise, education is in the main priorities and actions that must be carried out by both the national and local government and international cooperation, to improve the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Colombia.

When asked what the national and local government should do to contribute to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Colombia, 57.9% said that there should be more resources for State programs and projects, 55.4% that there should be more education, 40.9% that monthly support subsidies should be provided, 33.2% to carry out more awareness campaigns, 27.8% better access to services, 25.6% to increase social and political participation and 11.2% other actions. On the other hand, when asked what international cooperation could do to contribute to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Colombia, 65.8% of persons with disabilities suggest that there should be more resources for programs and projects, 59.1% support for educational processes, 40.4% more awareness campaigns, 38.5% support in access to health services, 33.4% promotion of social and political participation, and 9.7% other actions.

Although access to education seems to have made important regulatory advances, in mechanisms for enforcing rights and effective access, some challenges presented by the Colombian Coalition need

to be overcome, among which stand out (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021, pages 76-78):

1. Many educational opportunities are still denied to students with disabilities based on prejudice, or simply resorting to arguing the ignorance and inability of certain educational communities to provide relevant educational care. This means that, although there is recognition of general access to the system, the actual availability of quotas and educational opportunities often is due to the absence of consideration of the conditions and characteristics of the students.
2. Many children from remote areas or with a certain disability have fewer true educational options, in addition to the fact that even despite the norm, student access depends on the individual will of the owners of the schools, when it comes to private education, or the will of an official, a principal, or some teachers who end up deciding what should be a universal right.
3. The lack of reasonable accommodations, the nonexistence of curricular adjustments and the insufficient offer of support are the main causes of discrimination and marginalization of students with disabilities in Colombia. In many educational establishments, students are welcomed, but there are not enough pedagogical resources and means.
4. Medical and clinical views of disability are still maintained among teachers, directors, and members of the educational communities, which lead to low expectations for students with disabilities and lead to denials of the right or present barriers to the full educational development of students with this condition. When disability is approached as a disease, protective and defending visions of marginalized environments prevail because there is no confidence in the potential of their education in conditions likewise students without disabilities.
5. The mechanism to advise and accompany the educational process of students with disabilities –like the supporting teacher, professional that advises and accompanies regular teachers in the teaching processes—and other reasonable adjustments required for inclusive education are still lacking in the majority of schools.
6. Reasonable adjustments and adaptations, not only from the point of view of infrastructure, but also in the educational offerings themselves are still scarce. The existence of these adjustments goes through the development of continuous training processes for teachers that allow them to introduce modifications and adjustments in the content and in the curricula that guide their educational offerings. It also goes through the necessary vision of flexibility in educational offers according to the situation and conditions of the students. In these aspects, there is a long way to go.
7. Inclusive education is based on the fact that it is the educational offers that are adapted to the conditions and situations of the students and not the other way around, i.e., it is the students who adapt to those offers. The need to expand the adaptability capacity of the Colombian educational system was constantly pointed out by the OPwD consulted. It must be relevant education, which necessarily requires adapting to the needs of students.

The QoLS 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June, 2021) shows the levels of illiteracy, the current situation of school attendance, educational level, access to schools, receipt of scholarships or educational subsidies from the State. Regarding the high level of illiteracy, it is necessary to highlight the need to open educational spaces according to age, to compensate this gap, and generate all the necessary support to reduce this high percentage.

**Figure 9:** Disabled population that receives a scholarship, subsidy, or credit  
(5 to 17 years old)

|              | Percentage with disability | Percentage without disability |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No           | 93.8%                      | 96.6%                         |
| Yes          | 6.2%                       | 3.4%                          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100</b>                 | <b>100</b>                    |

Source: internal research based on the National Quality of Life Survey (QoLS), 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021).

Despite the lower school attendance in the 5 to 17 age group, only 6.2% of the population with disabilities receives a scholarship, subsidy, or credit to pursue their studies. Among those who do not attend school, one of the main reasons is that they require special educational services, which is this case for 29.3% of said population. This result shows the great challenge of educational policies to generate opportunities for girls, boys, and young persons with disabilities.

#### 5.4.7 Access to justice

The justice component and recent central regulatory changes in the country, such as the Legal Capacity Reform, show contradictions in the compiled data, which could show that progress is still required in understanding the phenomenon, as well as in raising awareness of the rights related to it. This is a new advance, since it was not until 2019 after the recommendations of the United Nations in 2017, that the Legal Capacity Reform (Law 1996 of 2019) was enacted, eliminating the figure of guardianship that used to remove the legal capacity of PwD, and creating a support system for decision-making by PwD and training processes in the judicial system for its application.

The consultations carried out by the Coalition found different perceptions of the significant progress. 47.1% of the people surveyed believe that there has been little progress and 47.1% believe that there has been significant progress in relation to compliance with the recommendations of the CRPD Committee on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, while a similar result occurred in the focus group discussion, convened by the Coalition.

In contrast, in the Rapid Assessment conducted for this analysis (Ecoanalítica, July 2021) it was found that the majority of persons with disabilities believe that they have equal access to the justice system in Colombia (65%), with the population with physical disabilities standing out, as 76% of them believe that they can access it under equal conditions. However, for 35% of the population, this access to

justice is unequal, with persons with hearing disabilities standing out, as they most often believe that the system is not equal.

One of the most significant contrasts corresponds to the knowledge of the ability to exercise their legal capacity, even though 83% of the people surveyed state that they know their rights, only 68% know that they can exercise their legal capacity, with the elderly who have greater knowledge of their legal capacity standing out, and this percentage decreases with age. It is also important to highlight that the knowledge of legal capacity for men is 5 points higher than that of women for this right (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 15)

These differences in perceptions between OPwD and PwD, sometimes contradictory, show one of the main challenges to be faced in terms of continuing to advance in the guarantee of the right to legal capacity:

1. Lack of information, awareness and training aimed at officials, persons with disabilities and their families and society in general on the environment of the legal capacity of PwD, to eradicate the attitudinal barriers that, according to the Coalition, are the most important to eradicate for the effective restoration of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.
2. Inadequate implementation of support, which prevents persons with disabilities from expressing their will.
3. Improvement of the participation of persons with disabilities and their families, in the processes of implementation and regulation of Law 1996 from 2019 (also known as the Legal Capacity Reform) (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021, page 90) shows the lack of effective linkage of the organizations in the process according to their perception, as well as the low participation of persons with cognitive and psychosocial disabilities in these participation processes.

#### 5.4.8 Participation in public and private life

According to the PwD surveyed (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), regarding the civic and political participation of PwD, there is a high level of participation with 84%, increasing to 87% in the case of men and 92% for the case of physical disability; however, in cultural spaces or recreational activities, it is reported with concern that participation is never or very few times (42%), sometimes (32%), and the options always and almost always (26%).

Unlike the above, the organizations consulted by the Coalition rate their participation as very negative and highlight very little progress with respect to the recommendations made by the Committee in 2017 regarding participation: “77.8% of the people surveyed believe that there has been little progress regarding compliance with the recommendations of the CRPD Committee on the participation of persons with disabilities. Likewise, 11.1% of the people surveyed believe that progress has been nonexistent and 5.6% that there has been a setback. Only 5.6% of the people

surveyed consider that there has been a significant advance in guaranteeing the right to participation of persons with disabilities” (Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2021, page 55).

Finally, and as already highlighted in other preconditions, the Coalition presents high difficulties in the process of electing representatives in the SND, in some cases at the national level, and numerous cases at the local and territorial levels, as well as their respective articulation with the scenarios of victims with disabilities.

#### 5.4.9 Employment

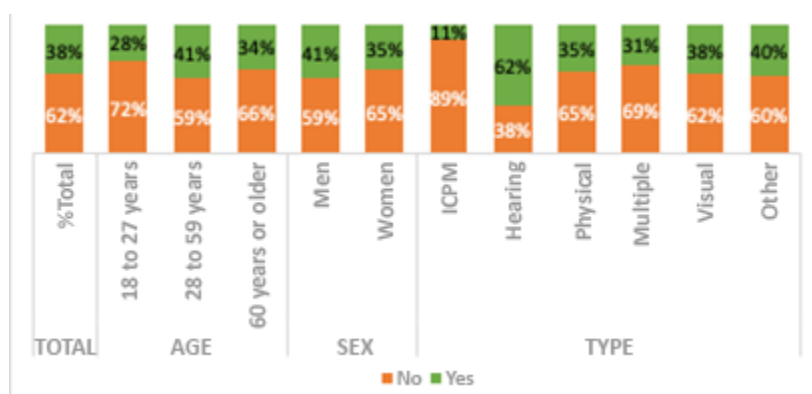
According to the analysis of the QoLS (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021) only 46.1% of men with some disabilities are inserted in the labor market, compared to 68.0% of labor participation in the rest of the male population. In the case of women with disabilities, only 31.5% are in the paid labor market, compared to 41.6% among women without disabilities. In other words, a labor and gender gap of 36.5 percentage points in which a double process of discrimination is combined: gender discrimination and discrimination associated with the condition of disability (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021).

Income from work wages is relevant because it determines people’s ability to purchase goods and services. In this sense, men and women with disabilities earn an average of 0.9 million Colombian pesos. The gender gap in income is relatively small due to the form of recruitment used by the survey. The same is observed among people without disabilities, with the average income of men being 1.2 million Colombian pesos and that of women 1.1 million Colombian pesos.

The income differential means that, on average, persons with disabilities earn 18.3% lower incomes compared to their peers who do not have disabling conditions. This gap widens when it comes to employed persons whose position is independent professional, business bosses or workers on their own farms, where the difference widens, translating to incomes up to 27.5% lower, on average, for persons with disabilities. In this case, men without disabilities received 0.9 million Colombian pesos, compared to 0.7 million Colombian pesos among men with disabilities. Women without disabilities received 0.8 million Colombian pesos, compared to 0.5 million Colombian pesos for women with disabilities.

On the other hand, the perception of access to formal employment was 38%, with a gap of 6 points greater in men than in women.

**Figure 10:** Access to formal employment by persons with disabilities



Source: (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 25)

It is highlighted that persons with cognitive and psychosocial disabilities showed a lower percentage of formal employment, with only 11%, while those with hearing disabilities had a higher percentage with 62%, and it is highlighted as an advance that those who accessed formal employment (69%) stated that they had the necessary conditions and support for the exercise of their work. It also stands out that 84% of the PwD surveyed by Ecoanalítica stated that they knew about campaigns and programs to promote the formal employment of PwD. Subsequently, it will be necessary to identify and examine whether these programs are having the expected result.

Finally, despite the knowledge from these campaigns, when consultations were made related to specific actions that improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the vast majority of them ranked employment as the first option both to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Colombia, as well as to improve their quality of life, followed by the improvement of health services and training or educational inclusion, showing employment as the most immediate action to improve their income and quality of life.

## 5.5 Programs for compliance with the Convention and budgeting

### 5.5.1 Public policy on disability

Through the Document Conpes 166 from 2013 (Public Policy Document) (Ministry of Health, 2014), the axes and guidelines were established to comply with the provisions of the CRPD, Statutory Law 1618 from 2013, and its derived regulations. Currently, public policy has 5 strategic axes, concrete actions to be developed and has a recent evaluation contracted by the National Planning Department (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019) to monitor compliance. Likewise, actions are being developed for review to update them. In this regard, the evaluation of public policy highlights the following:

*When reviewing the findings of each of the axes, it can be affirmed that there have been important advances in the implementation of the National Public Policy on Disability. The first of them refers to its regulations and guidelines, where, based on the laws, decrees, resolutions and technical standards of the different sectors, the implementation of the different plans*

*and programs aimed at the disabled population has been oriented, in line with the rights approach of CONPES 166 from 2013, which responds to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There are also advances in terms of information for decision making, although there are still difficulties derived from the coverage of many of the sources, in cases such as the RLCPD, there are about 1.5 million people with disabilities registered, which is a lower number than the PwD identified by the CNPV, where according to the definition used, the number of people with disabilities is between 3,134,036 people who have difficulties performing basic daily activities and 1,784,372 who reported having difficulties at the most severe levels (1 and 2) on the Washington Group scale. On the other hand, a lack of knowledge of the OND is identified, therefore, the non-use by many key actors of the SND at the institutional level, especially at the territorial level, and at the central level, although the actors know it, they prefer to access sources directly and not through the OND. These sources of information from the OND are also not known in many areas of the social and community sphere, such as the OSDs, where they could be of great use.*

*It is necessary to continue making progress in the consolidation, articulation and especially in the analysis of the information on persons with disabilities, their careers and relatives, as well as including information from the OSDs. It is also important to use a differential and intersectional approach in its analysis that is already being promoted by institutions such as DANE for their information systems. In terms of inter-institutional articulation, the SND mechanisms are recognized for their contributions in this regard, as well as in the follow-up and monitoring of actions, but the lack of articulation and dissemination of the results at the level of other entities at the national level is identified, but mainly at the territorial level, where despite having departmental, municipal and district committees, inter-institutional articulation and guidelines for the implementation of the policy do not flow in the same way. In relation to access to services from an inclusive approach and recognition of diversity, as described in the results of the different axes, there are also great advances, especially in terms of coverage. However, efforts to increase coverage must continue, as well as to intensify training of human resources, accessibility of spaces and adaptation of services to improve quality conditions in the provision of services so that people with disabilities can exercise their rights to education, health, work, justice, information, culture, recreation, among others, with the help and support necessary to do so under equal conditions” (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019, pages 83-84).*

Likewise, the Development Plan “Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity (2018 – 2022)” includes a specific section for the inclusion of PwD, called Pact for Inclusion, which show the way for progress in the components not yet advanced by the Public Policy in question, and which are summarized in the following figure:

**Figure 11:** Objectives of the Pact for inclusion of Persons with Disabilities



Source: (DNP, July 2021)

Despite these monitoring mechanisms that translate into budget identification movements that will be described in the next section, the OPwD continue to identify an important barrier in their real possibility of influencing the monitoring of the compliance program. This, even when representatives of PwD integrate the main consultative spaces of the SND, such as the CND, CDDs, CMDs and CLDs. The sense of a lack of effective participation regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the Disability Public Policy within the PwD might be a symptom of a need to strengthen the role of consultative spaces of the SND regarding these topics, and of the roles that representatives with disabilities play within them and a liaison between the Government and other OPwDs.

### 5.5.2 Budgeting

Regarding budgeting and even when the need for more resources is generally manifested, Public Policy recommended the need to include in the Sistema de Inversiones y Finanzas Públicas [Public Investment and Finance System] (SUIFP), an identifier of resources in disability projects where the direct or indirect beneficiaries are PwD, according to the information provided by DNP (DNP, August 2021). As a result of this, in 2016 a cross-sectional policy classifier “Disability and Social Inclusion” was created, which allows monitoring of the resources allocated to the disabled population. As of the response date of this analysis and since January 2016, 15 entities from 11 administrative sectors reported 41 investment projects in which resources from the General Budget of the Nation for disability and social inclusion were focused, sectors that are evidenced in the figures 6 and 7:

**Figure 12:** Sectors and entities that reported

|                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                 |
| Instituto Nacional para Sordos [National Institute for the Deaf] – INSOR                         |
| National Ministry of Education                                                                   |
| National Ministry of Education                                                                   |
| <b>Social Inclusion and Reconciliation</b>                                                       |
| Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar<br>[Colombian Institute for Family Well-being] – ICBF |
| Administrative Department for Social Prosperity                                                  |
| <b>Agriculture and Rural Development</b>                                                         |
| Agencia Nacional de Tierras [National Land Agency] – ANT                                         |
| Agencia de Desarrollo Rural [Rural Development Agency] – ADR                                     |
| <b>Trade, Industry and Tourism</b>                                                               |
| Artesanías de Colombia S.A.                                                                      |
| <b>Defense and Police</b>                                                                        |
| Ministry of National Defense - Navy                                                              |
| <b>Health and Social Protection</b>                                                              |
| Ministry of Health and Social Protection                                                         |
| <b>Presidency of the Republic</b>                                                                |
| Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic                                      |
| <b>Justice and Law</b>                                                                           |
| Ministry of Justice and Law                                                                      |
| <b>Interior</b>                                                                                  |
| Ministry of the Interior                                                                         |
| <b>Ministry of Transportation</b>                                                                |
| Ministry of Transportation                                                                       |
| <b>Labor</b>                                                                                     |
| Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje [National Learning Service] – SENA                              |

Source: (DNP, August 2021, page 2)

**Figure 13:** Resources focused on public policy on disability and social inclusion  
Figures in millions of Colombian pesos.

| SECTOR                              | 2016   | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Social Inclusion and Reconciliation | 32,465 | 220,105 | 288,766 | 244,334 | 271,512 | 254,337 |
| Health and Social Protection        | 1,381  | 826     | 614     | 579     | 5,579   | 10,551  |
| Education                           | 2,033  | 6,132   | 5,141   | 4,988   | 5,630   | 10,193  |

|                                   |               |                |                |                |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Presidency of the Republic        |               |                |                |                | 960            | 2,060          |
| Justice and Law                   |               | 329            | 240            | 300            | 350            | 625            |
| Interior                          |               |                |                | 500            |                |                |
| Defense and Police                |               |                |                | 212            |                |                |
| Labor                             | 7,889         | 8,794          |                |                |                |                |
| Trade, Industry and Tourism       |               | 29             | 29             |                |                |                |
| Agriculture and Rural Development | 2,092         |                |                |                |                |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>45,860</b> | <b>236,214</b> | <b>294,790</b> | <b>250,913</b> | <b>284,031</b> | <b>277,766</b> |

Source: (DNP, August 2021, page 3)

This makes it possible to show that a budget monitoring of transcendental importance is being carried out, as it encourages the attention of the entities to allocating specific resources to disability issues, and to generating alerts in key sectors in which it is necessary to allocate more resources. However, in the same way as was stated in the previous section (6.a), greater dialogue and access to information by the OPwD is required. This is done to provide feedback and generate alerts on the monitoring of public policy and its budget allocation.

However, it is necessary to note that the level of monitoring is reduced at the local levels, except for those government entities that have more strengthened structures (as is the case, for example, in the main capital cities of Colombia). This makes apparent the urgent need to replicate the advances generated at the national level within the departmental and municipal levels that actively involve the OPwD present in the territory.

Finally, in the Expression of Interest presented by UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA (2020) (UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, 2021) the reports of the entities of the international cooperation agencies about their investment in Colombia were detailed. As evidenced, the percentage of direct investment in guaranteeing rights with disabilities is very low compared to the important external cooperation that Colombia has received in recent years due to the conflict and DDR and Peace processes. Although the population of victims with disabilities, members of the Military Forces and the civilian population affected, for example, by the high impact of anti-personnel mines and explosive devices, have been the object of projects and programs, there is no evidence that there is a specific disability approach, a matter that needs to be reviewed given that they are differential intervention routes and it loses track of a percentage of people with acquired disabilities, who would be being cared for outside the framework of the normative structure of disability in Colombia. Although this is not a barrier, it can generate a duplication of actions, which would be enhanced both in national intervention and in international cooperation if the lines of attention were better coordinated.

## 5.6 Accountability & governance

The public policy on disability was created with the objective of ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights and compliance with the duties of people with disabilities, their families and caregivers for the period 2013-2022 (Ministry of Health, 2014, page 87), and has regulatory mechanisms for monitoring and accountability, and integrates the use of spaces created for the participation of organizations and the obligation to render accounts. However, the OPwD perceive that in the spaces for accountability, there are some challenges to guaranteeing the effective participation of PwD at the municipal level. However, due to the diversity of challenges specific to each local level, it is necessary to delve into the causes and factors that affect the possibilities of effective participation of PwD at the local level, especially in rural or non-urban contexts. Placing special emphasis on these causes would allow for a considerable improvement in the conditions for the participation of PwD in accountability processes at the local level, which, as the Coalition (2021) mentions, is: “... fundamental to guaranteeing the right to participation.” Added to the above is the identification of the absence of technical knowledge about the accountability processes, and the low level of access to information related to them.

The evaluation made by Econometría (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019) showed opportunities for improvement in two instruments of accountability and governance. On the one hand, weaknesses were found regarding the lack of indicators, data collection standards and mechanisms for linking the OpwD in the SND, which makes the accountability process more complex. When added to the low knowledge about the accountability process related to the National Disability Policy, and to the low levels of access to information, the improvement of the accountability processes through the development of knowledge instruments for stakeholders emerge as a prime priority (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019). There is also a blatant need to recognize the role of the SND as a monitoring mechanism in itself by generating information for all stakeholders, allowing monitoring and social control of the norms and actions that are carried out within its framework (ECONOMETRIA-SEI, 2019, page 85). Enhancing the internal articulation among the members and participants of the SND –particularly among instances at national and local levels—is also required to grant the effectiveness of its monitoring activities.

Additionally, it is important to mention that a fundamental tool for the process of accountability regarding disability is to have data from diverse and reliable sources. For this reason, Annex 1 specifies the details of the sources of information and data on disability, as well as the reliability of the instruments for generating information on disability, and the main official sources of information that are concentrated on:

1. National Population and Housing Census 2018
2. National Quality of Life Survey (QoLS), 2019
3. National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2015
4. Social Pulse Survey
5. Registry of Location and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities (RLCPD)
6. Integrated Social Protection Information System (SISPRO)
7. Information sources Civil Society Organizations,

8. Information Sources of Government Institutions
9. Sources of Higher Education Institutions and others that do not produce statistics, but do produce relevant information

This information is mostly highly reliable and useful. However, as has already been stated in other preconditions, the difficulty relies in the harmonization process required to integrate the different sources into an instrument that allows the generation of joint mechanisms for interoperation of information, validation by OPwD, and the possibility of having data as well as public and conclusive information for decision making.

#### 5.7 Underrepresented groups: Boys, girls and women with disabilities

This Situational Analysis makes special monitoring of groups that are considered underrepresented in disability, as well as the imminent need to mainstream approaches, allowing these rights holders, in the case of children and their families, to be more actively linked and visible in the participation processes.

Despite the great advances of rights holder OPwD, the voice and situation of children's families may be being left in the background of participation, and therefore their challenges and barriers become invisible, at a time and age essential not only to generate educational transformations, but also cultural and generational transformations.

In the Rapid Assessment carried out with Persons with Disabilities, 69.5% believe that the main problem faced by girls and boys with disabilities is the inability to access the educational system, followed by 53.2% who believe that it is the impossibility of access to health and rehabilitation services, 49.4% believe that it is the rejection or non-acceptance by their family and 35.1% believe that it is the diagnosis or late identification of the disability (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 45). On the other hand, when asked in which of the following scenarios should more actions or campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities be carried out, the education system was the top answer with 27%, followed by companies 24% and the media 20% (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 50). Along the same lines and addressing the question: which of the following programs or projects do you think is essential for children with disabilities to improve their quality of life? 80.2% of persons with disabilities consider that what is essential is comprehensive training within schools and kindergartens, 67.5% educating mothers, fathers and family members and 47.2% access to care for health needs (Ecoanalítica, July 2021, page 67).

The same could happen in the case of the participation of women with disabilities, who, although they participate as rights holders and are part of organizations, many times the particular needs and capacities, as well as difficulties and obstacles, are not sufficiently evidenced in-depth for those who are confronted with gender issues. Likewise, leadership generally falls to men with disabilities, which can make the women invisible.

Finally, it is necessary to mention that there is evidence –like the advancements in the positioning of the intersection among gender/disability in the agendas of both institutional actors and OPDs—of improvement in terms of access to information for women with disabilities, but the same does not occur in the case of children with disabilities. Precisely for this research, the absence of primary information on childhood was evidenced, both in the official statistics and from the other sources consulted. This may be due to difficulties in early detection and the inability to follow up throughout a child’s life from birth and during the healthcare process, as well as alerts during development. For this reason, an additional focus group has been held with mothers of children with disabilities to better understand the problems faced by children with autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, hearing impairment, visual impairment and the following conclusions were reached:

- In terms of Health, the absence of comprehensive guidance for families from doctors with whom they usually have the initial contact and information on both the diagnosis and the alerts that may be apparent in development was highlighted.
- This absence of comprehensive orientation is based on the fact that a strictly medical vision is presented to the family, generating hostile positions towards the life and future of the child and his or her family. Phrases that determine what the child is NOT going to do, and loss of vision and comprehensive orientation of the child’s development regardless of his or her disability, such as the learning process, recreation, food, etc.
- All the rights of boys and girls end up conditioned on their vision of themselves from the point of view of the disability understood as a problem or a disease, and not from the complete view of the child, his or her capabilities and comprehensive guidelines for his or her development.
- Information loaded with stereotypes ends up being the first information families receive. It is true that a percentage of people with disabilities have chronic diseases, and it is necessary to treat them from the health sector; however, there is not always knowledge of other aspects of development that end up completely neglected (e.g., Learning process)
- It is necessary to work on “parental balance” in the development process of children with disabilities, in the same way that it has been done with children in general. Families mention that it seems that, since we are dealing with a child with a disability, the mother does have to be 100% linked, but if it were a child without disabilities, there is a greater chance that this “parental balance” would be achieved, strengthening the incorrect idea that a mother of a child with a disability becomes a caregiver, and not a mother like any other who faces challenges in the development of her sons and daughters.
- From the educational sector, the attitudinal barriers of the educational community are highlighted. There is evidence of a lack of training and the awareness that inclusion is not only the presence of

a child with a disability in the classroom, but a true learning and schooling process that allows socialization and learning.

- The educational process of children with disabilities lacks and adequate communication and work between teachers and families, creating a widespread notion in which the educational process of the child is considered a “problem” that the family must solve.
- The division of health, therapeutic and pedagogical processes is highlighted, as if they were processes independent of the child, and not an integral and intercommunicated process, which ends up failing and leading mothers to become those in charge of the process of raising their sons and daughters.
- The school ends up becoming a daycare where they are put to do activities that do not require effort and are not stimulating for the child, given the prejudices associated with the inability to learn, which causes children with disabilities to be segregated within their educational communities doing filler activities to pass the time, without participating in real learning processes with their peers without disabilities.
- Reasonable accommodations are still considered as costly and difficult actions, when most of them are changes that come from the will and flexibility of the educational environment, which almost always benefits the entire educational community.
- The importance of recognizing the role of families, and not only of adults with disabilities, was repeatedly emphasized, an essential aspect to guaranteeing rights from an early age, and to reach adulthood with greater awareness and knowledge of the enforceability of their rights.
- Finally, COVID-19 will show greater difficulties than those presented in which the following stand out: In the first place, a request from some schools for the vaccination of children with disabilities to return to in-person classes, or signatures of informed consents and secondly, a reduction in the incentives to return to in-person activities, believing and assuming that the child “is fine at home,” is more protected both from the virus and from stereotypes themselves.

## **VI. Analysis: Bottlenecks, critical gaps, and opportunities**

Colombia has a regulatory structure that is very favorable to the development and guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities. Most of the Colombian regulations have been adapted to the convention and to the adherence of its articles, which constitutes the first essential step for its implementation. The progress made in legal matters after the recommendations made by the Committee to Colombia in 2017, such as the restitution of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and inclusive education, are also highlighted.

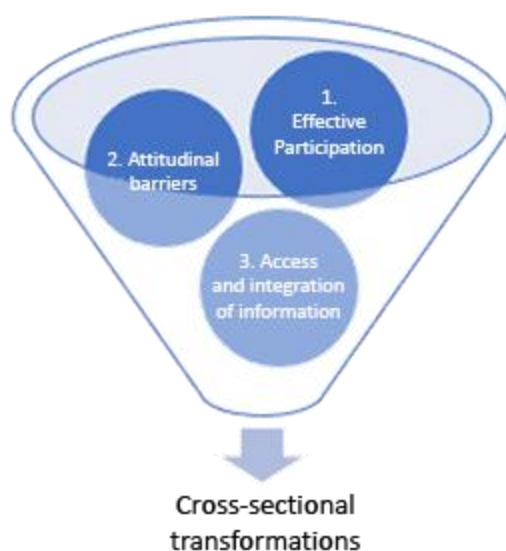
On the other hand, it is evident that, despite enormous challenges, most of the sectors have undertaken plans, policies, and programs for their implementation, allocating specific resources, with budget markers, detailed goals, and the presence of the disability approach in the various priority sectors. In the information reported, the specific plans and programs in sectors such as Health, Information Technology, Justice and Employment stand out.

Despite these advances, the fact that organizations and persons with disabilities do not feel that they are being put into practice with the same speed and relevance that is required stands out, highlighting that the perceived shortcomings are not found in the regulations, or the institutional architecture or the mechanisms for enforceability of rights, but rather they focus on medium- and long-term socio-cultural practices and behaviors.

In the same way, it is evident that the social protection system requires a greater institutional systemic articulation, as well as higher levels of financing that can cover the needs of families and people with disabilities in a comprehensive way.

Three cross-sectional bottlenecks for all the preconditions analyzed were identified, in which it is considered that, if work is done in an articulated, pertinent, and permanent way, an effective flow of actions aimed at the inclusion of persons with disabilities can be generated. These three bottlenecks are specified in Figure 14.

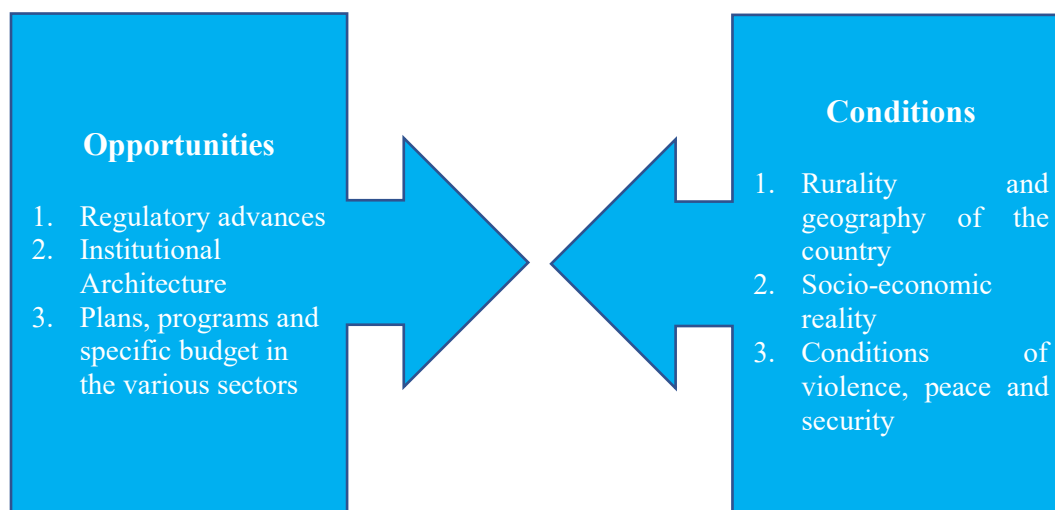
**Figure 14:** Cross-sectional bottlenecks for inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Colombia



Source: Authors

It is necessary to consider that these three bottlenecks are part of structural conditions that affect PwDs at a broad social, cultural, and economic level. However, this doesn't mean that they can't be addressed as key factors in the advancement of short- and medium-term changes for the inclusion of PwD.

**Figure 15:** Bottlenecks, between opportunities and structural conditions



Source: Authors

## Bottlenecks

This section describes the three main bottlenecks identified. These were identified based on the joint analysis of the recommendations of the Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (August 2021), the Rapid Assessment carried out with PwD (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), the quantitative analyses of the QoLS from 2019 (Orozco, Valdivia, & Espinosa, June 2021) on disability and other documents described in the methodology of this analysis.

### ***1. Low effective participation of PwD in local, national, and cross-sectional processes, specially of women and families with PwD***

Faced with the established principle of the Convention “Nothing about us, without us,” it is necessary to continue expanding the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in a broad and effective way. Although there is acknowledgement of the representation spaces for PwD and OPDs at the national level, a concern regarding the formal requisites to engages in these spaces was constantly stated, as well as the need to continue advancing in the mainstreaming of participation spaces for PwD in a broader spectrum. This need was especially blatant when addressing the needs

to enhance the participation spaces at local levels, and to create links to all organizations that represent all types of disability on equal terms. At this point, there was also evidence of an underrepresentation of participation of women and of families of PwD, who are also very relevant actors in the guarantee of rights.

Likewise, in terms of participation, the need of effective measures to standardize the training processes, participation, and advocacy capacities for the different organizations of persons with disabilities, including the various institutions, NGOs and other actors that work, support, or develop actions with people with disabilities. All participation actions, regardless of the sectors, should be articulated to grant successful implementation of the Convention, always guaranteeing reasonable adjustments and accessibility that make effective participation possible.

Finally, it is highlighted that the effective participation of PwD and OPDs depend on the effective access to information and communication, the existence of flexible processes, interventions, procedures, and mobility. Pertinent information and selection criteria, among others, are also a requirement without which participation cannot be effectively exercised.

## ***2. Low implementation of the normative framework regarding the rights of PwD***

In the review of the preconditions for inclusion, it was found that attitudinal barriers are a vital target to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities is effective. This is particularly important in a country like Colombia, where a very complete and progressive normative framework is in place but not effectively applied.

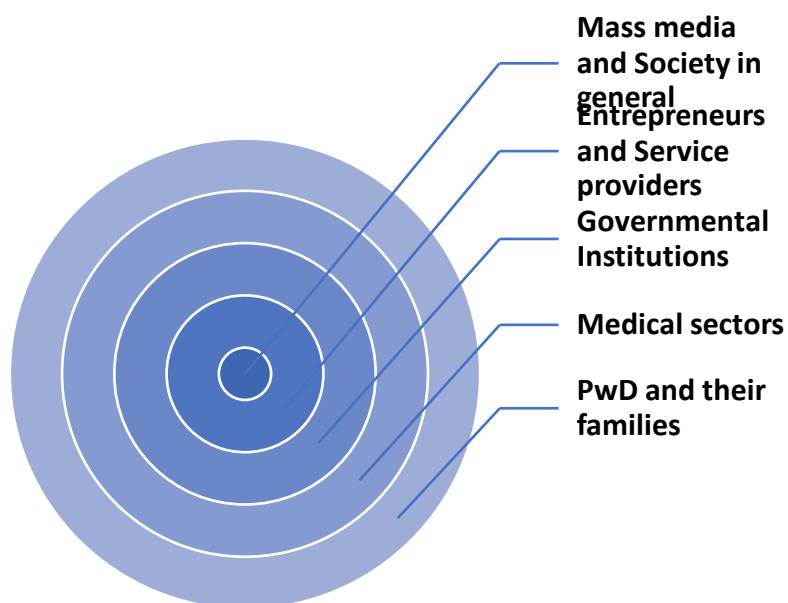
These attitudinal barriers that are represented in imaginary concepts, stereotypes and misconceptions of disability exist in a generalized way. In the Rapid Assessment carried out for this analysis (Ecoanalítica, July 2021), 82% of PwD strongly agree that there is a need for social awareness regarding PwD rights.

Awareness includes the eradication of thoughts, attitudes, actions, and words that can cause harm to PwD, whether intentionally or not. This possibility of “unintentional” damage is central to the analysis, since many *actions with harm* are justified under the perception of protection, or ignorance of rights and lack of understanding of the realities of PwD, a fact that does not exclude damage that may be caused.

Therefore, the urgent need to establish concrete actions that transform erroneous ideas of people with disabilities is highlighted, from any social role that they occupy. During the analysis, the sectors and populations related to the implementation of the Legal Capacity Reform were identified as key actors in the efforts to dismantle negative stereotypes regarding the capacities of PwD about their capacity to make informed decision. This includes decisions regarding their bodies, health, sexual and reproductive health, educational choices, employment opportunities, among other. The current

context and the existence of such Reform allows for the transformation of imaginaries that are highly articulated with a normative framework that allows the enforceability of disability rights.

**Figure 16:** Sectors and populations in which it is necessary and urgent to carry out awareness-raising processes



Source: Internal research

These five sectors in which it is necessary to generate on-going awareness-raising actions, in such a way that erroneous attitudes and imaginary notions are destroyed, must be guided, and articulated by an on-going two-way dialogue. Not only because we are already aware of the duty to ensure the on-going and effective participation of people with disabilities, but also because it improves the understanding of people with disabilities, their organizations, and families regarding the institutional and social functioning of the sectors, which will make it possible to generate recommendations and awareness-raising actions that are more effective and faster to implement.

### ***3. Lack and deficient information regarding disability accessible for policymakers and persons with disabilities:***

Statistical information and administrative records must ensure the possibility of data disaggregation for the adequate identification of people with disabilities, to ensure and monitor that "they are not being left behind." For this reason, despite having important information on disability, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity to analyze information gaps and to integrate different sources. This would inform decision-makers, so that access and participation gaps in different programs and services can be identified, and programs geared towards the elimination of these breaches can be generated. In this regard, the government's initiative to strengthen statistical analysis of available data stands out.

This exercise could be strengthened through the development of knowledge products that include technical guidelines to produce disability-sensitive data and monitoring tools. DANE's work to strengthen the Differential Approach in the Colombian statistical system is also highlighted, and the Guide to strengthen the gender approach in the statistical system is a good practice to be developed in disability.

Even when disability sensitive data is available in Colombia, it is not compiled in a coherent and organized way and thus is difficult to access for relevant stakeholders. The opportunities to strengthen the Colombian statistical system are reflected in Annex 1. As can be seen various sources of information exist, however, it is not possible to have a comprehensive analysis with indicators that allow crossing multiple variables, enriching the analysis and therefore make pertinent and timely decisions. This lack of information also hinders the mechanisms of follow-up, evaluation, and monitoring both internally by the national government and externally by the Organizations of People with Disabilities.

This showcases the need to strengthen information systems in Colombia with a disability focus, specially to be able to harmonize and integrate different data sources to make disaggregated information regarding the impacts and needs of PwD available and accessible. This information is needed to design policies and social programs that better respond to the complex realities of PwD and their needs.

Likewise, and although there is relevant statistical information, during the analysis there were gaps in information on very relevant topics that impede proper analysis and relevant decision making. These information gaps were evidenced primarily in the following components:

- Early childhood and childhood.
- Sexual and reproductive rights.
- Articulation of information from the National System of Victims, the Armed Forces and the Colombian Agency for Reincorporation.
- Actions, protocols and attention in armed conflict situations and emergencies.

These statistical information gaps prevent not only understanding and measuring the magnitude of the gaps faced by people with disabilities, but also prevent monitoring whether public policies and allocated resources are reducing these gaps. Without this, it is not possible to identify if the 2030 agenda is effectively including the community with disabilities, to leave no one behind.

## VII. Conclusions & areas of work

According to the analysis carried out, the following conclusions and subsequent areas of work are identified which could be supported by the three UN agencies in Colombia. These areas, as well as the bottlenecks, were identified in collaboration with the OPwD, PwD, national government sources and statistics analysis.

**Conclusion 1: Guarantying effective local, national, and cross-sectional participation of PwD, including women, children, and families, is a catalytic component for the design of better public policies aimed at their inclusion and the implementation of the CRPD**

The promotion of a common language and understanding towards the CRPD and 2030 agenda among OPDs, national and local authorities, UNCT and general society is the first step to sensitize and act to achieve effective and meaningful participation of PwD. The capacity building processes must take into account the difference between roles, expectations and capacities of all stakeholders involved and the diversity of their contexts (rural and urban areas, accessibility, etc.). However, the adaptation of existing methodologies to the Colombian context and at the same time the promotion of knowledge and experiences sharing with other similar regions enables the environment to transform misconceptions and raise awareness regarding disability and promote an informed participation in the next disability public policy revision process cycle with special focus on unrepresented groups like women and girls with disabilities and families of PwD, traditionally excluded from the decision taking scenarios even inside OPDs networks.

| Areas of work                                                                                                                                             | How                                                                                                         | Who should be involved                                                                                                   | Proposed activities                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provide technical and financial support to government and OPDs to facilitate an enabling environment for the next disability public policy revision cycle | Develop training sessions that ensure capacity building and common understanding among several stakeholders | OPwDs<br>National, municipal, and departmental Disability Systems<br>UNCT<br>Private sector<br>Academia<br>Media outlets | 1. Design of training curriculums, methodology and materials regarding CRPD, and its advances and challenges in Colombia with modules on:<br>a. Women and girls with disabilities<br>b. National Disability Public Policy. |

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                         | c. Legal Capacity Reform.<br>d. Inclusive Education Decree.<br>e. Inclusive data<br>f. Disability inclusion in public policies (SDGs, disability sensitive-budgeting, planning, monitoring and data for inclusion)<br>g. Good practices on inclusion of OPDs and persons with disabilities in consultancy spaces. |
| Strengthening the capacity and coordination role of national authorities to promote meaningful participation of PwD. | Provide technical assistance to reinforce formal feedback, communication channels and coordination mechanism with gender and intersectional approach within the National Disability system | Office of the Presidential Advisor for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities<br>National Planning Department<br>Focal points at the National Disability System | 1. Strengthening the consultancy spaces in which OPDs participate to mobilize their inputs for the review process of the National Disability Public Policy, by supporting the coordination role of the Office of the Presidential Advisor for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities.                     |

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengthening the capacity of OPwDs to participate in multistakeholder coordination mechanisms | Promote a collaborative design with OPDs of training materials including concepts on CRPD, SDGs and differential approaches but with tailored curriculums to conduct planning, advocacy, and accountability processes inside their organizations. | OPwDs | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint design of training curriculums on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Requirements for OPwDs to engage in institutional consultancy spaces of the National Disability System</li> <li>b. Proposal writing for OPwDs</li> <li>c. Advocacy strategies for OPwDs</li> <li>d. Disability inclusive-budgeting, planning, and data for inclusion</li> <li>e. Disability related Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Conclusion 2: The implementation of Colombia’s normative framework regarding disability –particularly the Inclusive Education Decree, the Legal Capacity Reform, Registry of Persons with Disabilities, and the new Disability Public Policy may lead to significant transformations in lives of women and girls with disabilities in compliance with CRPD and 2030 Agenda.**

As mentioned previously, even though Colombia has a disability favorable legal framework aimed at protecting PwD from discrimination, and to promote their equality and inclusion, it has not been effectively implemented. These are mostly associated with the persistence of attitudinal barriers, lack of knowledge about the rights of persons with disabilities. This situation affects particularly the rights to education and legal capacity of women and girls with disabilities. During the analysis of both the educational component, but also the other pre-conditions, education was always mentioned as a central mechanism to advance inclusion, in the short, medium, and long term, and especially to break down attitudinal barriers and bring awareness (bottleneck No. 2) that are cross-sectional to all the preconditions analyzed and catalysts for the advancement of inclusion in all other sectors. If, from childhood, a natural process develops to understand the difference, rights, and reasonable adjustments need to grant PwD inclusivity in society, durable changes would develop; both for the boys and girls, as well as for the educational community that surrounds them (teachers, families, etc.).

Also, it is important to establish that 96% of people with disabilities believe that they make decisions for themselves according to the Rapid Assessment (Ecoanalítica, 2021). Although the perception is high regarding the possibility of having equal rights in matters of justice, these same percentages do not translate into knowledge that they can exercise about their legal capacity, or the fact that 27% feel that they do not have a social and family life that allows them to develop their autonomy and interests. For this reason, it is necessary to concentrate efforts on the actions of implementation of this Law, since it is cross-sectional in the exercise of the rights of PwD, and therefore the bottlenecks mentioned previously are deepened. Some specific recommendations on the matter according to the sources consulted are:

| Areas of work                                                                                                         | How                                                                                           | Who should be involved          | Proposed activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Support the issuance and review of the regulatory decrees that guide the implementation of the Legal Capacity Reform. | Review the National Guidelines for the Disability Support System to be more gender inclusive. | Governmental entities and OPwDs | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Guidelines for the Disability Support System are analyzed to identify improvement opportunities through the inclusion of a gender approach.</li> <li>2. Socialize the need to incorporate a gender approach in the National Guidelines for the Disability Support System within the National Disability System and with OPDs.</li> <li>3. Produce a review proposal of the National Guidelines for the Disability Support System to include a gender approach and conduct a pilot test at subnational level to get feedback and recommendations.</li> </ol> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 | 4. Validate the review proposal within the established spaces for its approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Review the normative framework that establishes the Registry of Persons with Disabilities in order to identify the challenges it faces to produce data that adequately inform different social programs. | Review Law 1618 of 2013, that establishes the Registry of Persons with Disabilities to be in line with Art. 31 of CRPD and to target mechanisms for different social programs. | Governmental entities and OPwDs | <p>1. Review the Registry of PwD (Law 1618 of 2013) to close information gaps in the production of inclusive data, and to update its protocol to be in line with the current international standards.</p> <p>2. Socialize the results of the review of the Registry of PwD with the relevant stakeholders at the National Statistics System.</p> |
| Review the Inclusive Education Decree and pilot its application at a local level.                                                                                                                        | The Inclusive Education Decree is analysed to identify improvement opportunities, and later piloted at a territorial level.                                                    | Governmental entities and OPwDs | <p>1. The Inclusive Education Decree is analyzed to identify improvement opportunities through the inclusion of a gender approach.</p> <p>2. Produce a review proposal of the Inclusive Education Decree to include a gender approach and conduct a pilot test in subnational level.</p>                                                         |

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |                                 | 3. Validate the review proposal within the established spaces for its approval.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Strengthen the role of OPwDs within the review process of the National Disability Public Policy and include a gender perspective. | By providing technical support to mobilize OPwDs inputs for the review of the National Disability Public Policy | Governmental entities and OPwDs | <p>1. Strengthening the consultancy spaces in which OPDs participate to mobilize their inputs for the review process of the National Disability Public Policy, by supporting the coordination role of the Office of the Presidential Advisor for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>2. Provide technical assistance to support and assure that the review process of the National Disability Public Policy effectively incorporates an intersectional approach</p> <p>3. Provide technical assistance to formulate a monitoring framework of the National Disability Public Policy in compliance with Art. 33 of the CRPD.</p> |

**Conclusion 3: Having more accurate, timely and accessible data under an intersectional approach will improve public policies and decision-making process regarding persons with disabilities and allow to monitor the progress.**

Colombia has strong legal frameworks regarding PwD. However, the monitoring, feedback and reporting mechanisms often lack enough information to measure progress of policies, programs and projects aimed to respond to the needs and challenges that PwD face. As consequence, the effectiveness of the multistakeholder efforts to implement the CRPD are usually unknown and there is no quantitative and qualitative evidence to better identify areas of improvement, specific needs, and challenges to guarantee achievement of the 2030 agenda leaving no one behind.

| Areas of work                                                                                                                                                                                               | How                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Who should be involved                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Proposed activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Support the efforts of the National Administrative Department of Statistics – DANE to implement Guidelines for the inclusion of Differential and Intersectional Approach in the National Statistical System | Socialize the Guidelines and intersectional approach in the production of statistics and pilot their relevance and use at the local level                                                             | Municipal and departmental Disability Councils (Health and Education Secretariats, Regional OPwDs, Local Mayor's and Governors Offices, DANE, Office of the Presidential Advisor for the Participation of PwD) and other data producers at local level. | 1. Socialization of the Guidelines for the Inclusion of differential and Intersectional Approach in the National Statistics System to selected territorial data producers.                                                                                        |
| Strengthening monitoring frameworks of key policies                                                                                                                                                         | Quantifying information sources, and gaps, as well as opportunities in compliance with Art. 31 CRPD and international standards on inclusive data.<br><br>Design inclusive indicators to be produced. | Academic institutions and disability observatories<br>OPwDs<br>National Disability System<br>National Statistics System                                                                                                                                 | 1. Analyze the sources of disability data available in Colombia, and the existing gaps on its production.<br><br>2. Review the Registry of PwD (Law 1618 of 2013) to close information gaps in the production of inclusive data, and to update its protocol to be |

|  |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  | <p>in line with the current international standards.</p> <p>3. Socialize the results of the review of the Registry of PwD with the relevant stakeholders at the National Statistics System.</p> <p>4. Design the Conceptual framework of a battery/set of indicators related to the SDGs and CRPD that inform the monitoring framework of the Disability Public Policy, includes sources of information, territorial disaggregation, and recommendations</p> <p>5. Formulation of work plans of inclusive SDG indicators categorized as TIER II and III to accelerate their measurement</p> |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Increase the use of inclusive data and the production of accessible knowledge products under an intersectional perspective</p> | <p>Through the promotion of analysis and use of inclusive data available in the country.</p> | <p>Thinks Tanks<br/>Research Groups at Universities and Disability Observatories<br/>UNCT<br/>OPDs<br/>National and local Disability System<br/>Private sector</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mapping of disability observatories and research institutions that work in disability inclusion</li> <li>2. Design and implement an accessible information hub on disability</li> <li>3. Creating an infographic on the SDGs and CRPD indicators to inform the review of the monitoring system of the National Disability Public Policy</li> <li>4. Preparation of the document "Women and girls with disabilities in Colombia" and technical inputs to the next SDG Voluntary Country Report.</li> <li>5. Produce technical inputs using inclusive data on planning mechanisms at the UNCT</li> </ol> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## VIII. Bibliography

- ECONOMETRIA-SEI, U. T. (2019). *EVALUATION OF RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY ON DISABILITY (PPDIS) THAT ALLOWS THE GENERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN ACTIONS*. Bogotá: Departamento Nacional De Planeación [National Planning Department].
- Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (August 2021). *Situational Analysis on the Rights of persons with disabilities from the perspective of their organizations and research centers*. Bogotá.
- Orozco, M. E., Valdivia, R., & Espinosa, R. (June 2021). *Situational analysis on the characteristics and needs of the disabled population in Colombia, based on the National Quality of Life Survey (QoLS) 2019*. Bogotá.
- Ecoanalítica. (July 2021). *Final report Characteristics and needs of people with disabilities in Colombia*. Bogotá.
- United Nations. (August 2016). *Final observations on the initial report from Colombia*<sup>1</sup>. Geneva, Switzerland: Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Ministry of Health. (August 2019). *DISABILITY NORMOGRAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA*. Bogotá.
- Nodo Comunitario de Salud Mental y Discapacidad Psicosocial [Community Node for Mental Health and Psychosocial Disability] Asdown Colombia [Down Syndrome Association of Colombia] Liga Colombiana de Autismo [Colombian League of Autism] LICA. (March 2019). *TO NOT BE LEFT BEHIND ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COLOMBIA*. Bogotá.
- Colombian Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2019). *ALTERNATIVE REPORT OF THE COLOMBIAN COALITION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES*. Geneva, Switzerland.
- Government of Colombia, Voluntary National Review (VNR). (May 2021). *ODS COLOMBIA: ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY 3rd VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2021 Version May 3, 2021 3rd VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2021*. Bogotá.
- UN Women - AsDown Colombia. (2021). *Focus Group Mothers of boys and girls with Disabilities*. Bogotá.

UN Women Colombia. (May - June 2021). *INDUCTION TRAINING REPORT*. Bogotá.

Congress of Colombia. (2007). *Law 1145 from 2007*. Obtained from Función Pública [Colombian Civil Service]:  
<https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=25670>

DANE. (2021). *PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, differential challenges in the framework of COVID-19*. Bogotá: Government of Colombia.

MinTIC. (07/09/2021). *Answer Request Information File No. 211054423 for the Government of Colombia*.

Ministry of Transportation. (August 2021). *Response to Request for information and knowledge of the implementation of the Joint Program of the Trust Fund of Multiple Associates of the United Nations Alliance on the Rights of*. Bogotá: Government of Colombia.

Ministry of Health. (August 2021). *Response to your communication filed under number 202142301217862*. Bogotá: Government of Colombia.

DNP. (July 2021). *DISABILITY PRIORITIZATIONS*, . Bogotá: Health subdirectorate.

DNP. (August 2021). *FOCUSING OF SPENDING RESOURCES IN THE 2016 DISABILITY POLICY – MAY 2021*. Bogotá: DNP.

Ministry of Health. (2014). *National Policy on Sexuality, Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights*. Bogotá: Government of Colombia.

UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA. (2020). *Expression of Interest*. Bogotá: UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA.

