Disability data: current challenges

Maria Martinho, UNDESA/DISD/Program on Disability Section

- Disability and Development Report

- Data available and usable for policy analysis

- Data challenges

Outline

- Report requested by the UN General

  Assembly (A/RES/69/142):

"**to compile and analyse** national policies,

programmes, best practices **and available**

statistics regarding persons with disabilities,

reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally

agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)"

Disability & Development Report

- Sources of evidence:

  - disability data sets of

DHS	IPUMS
ECLAC	SINTEF
ESCWA	UNDESA/Statistics Division
ESCAP	UNESCO
Eurostat	WHO
ILO	

  - repositories of national and best practices from various UN and other

    organizations

  - other sources of evidence and expert knowledge
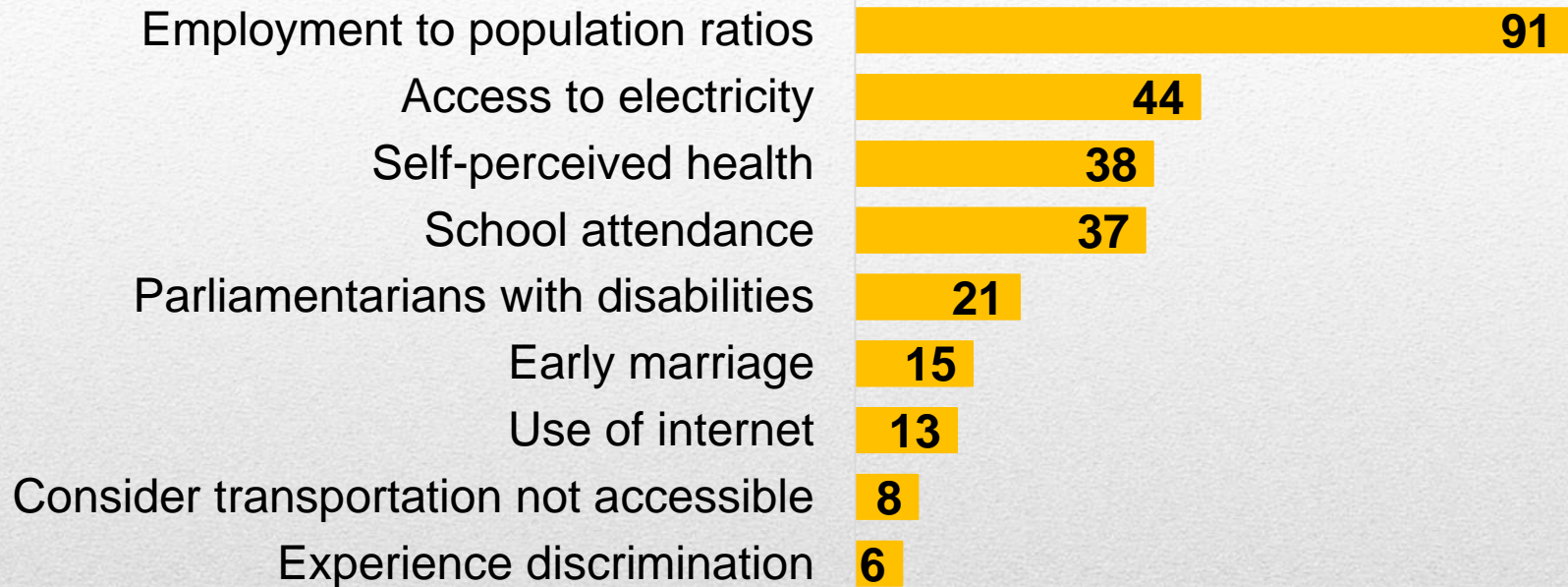
Disability & Development Report

Data for the report

1. **Data found**

2. **Comparable data**

3. **Issues with indicators**

4. **Challenges**

Available data
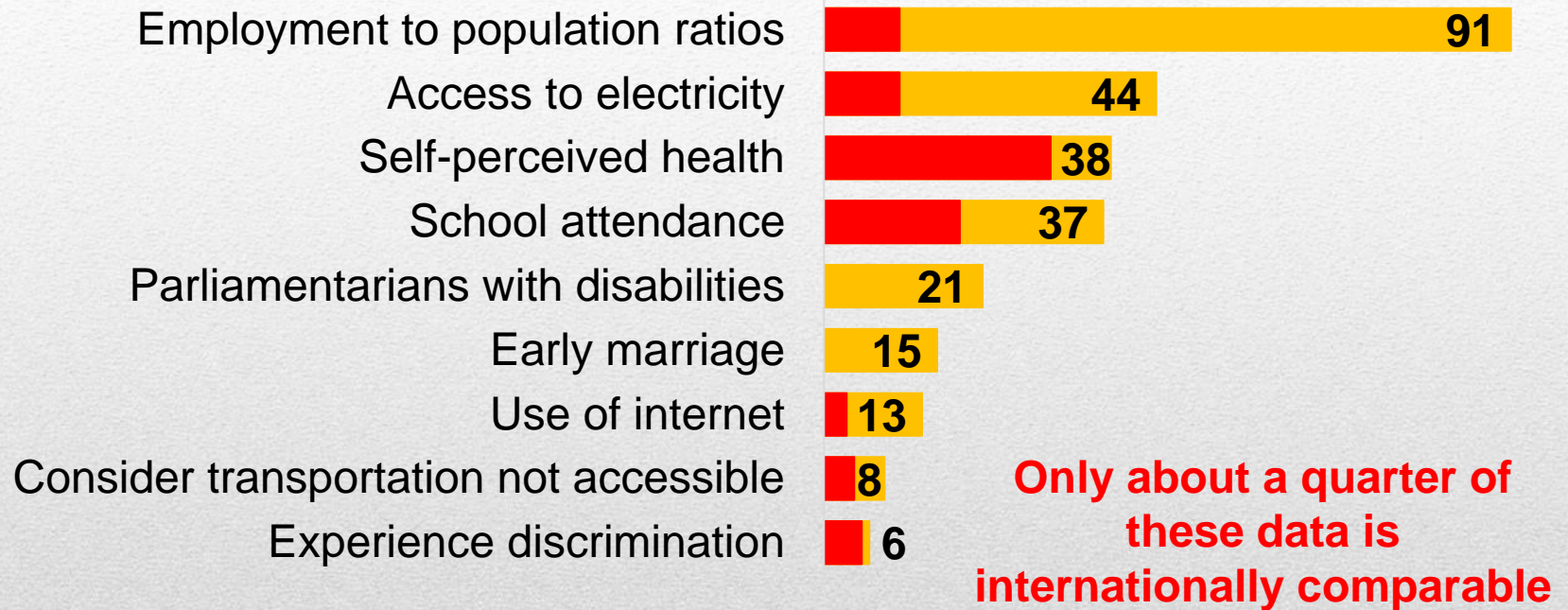
Number of countries with data points

Employment to population ratios	91
Access to electricity	44
Self-perceived health	38
School attendance	37
Parliamentarians with disabilities	21
Early marriage	15
Use of internet	13
Consider transportation not accessible	8
Experience discrimination	6

Data available in selected databases

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Only about a quarter of these data is internationally comparable

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10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
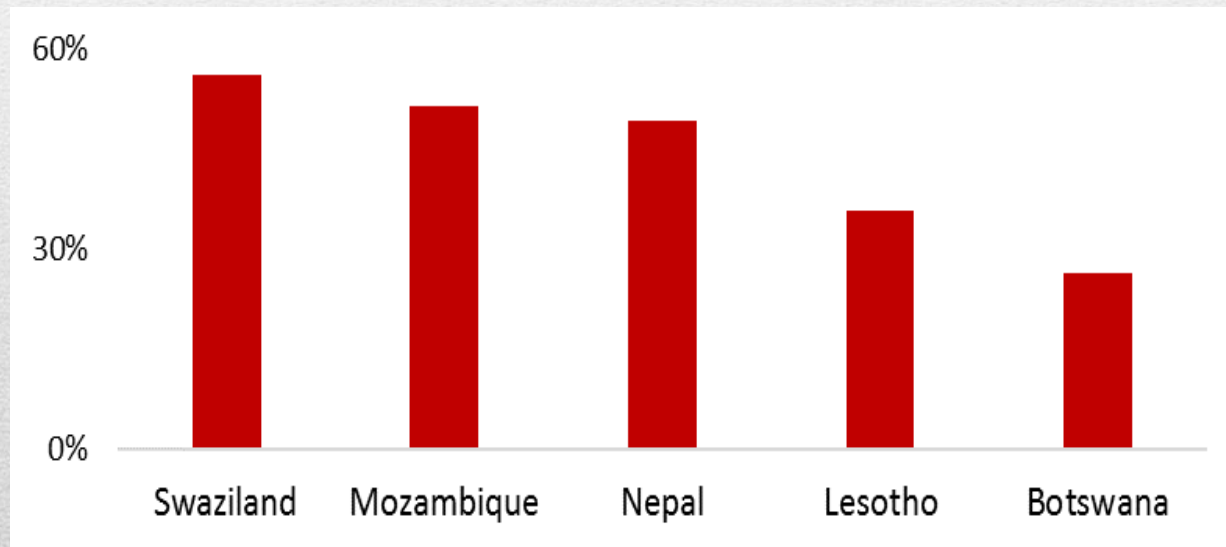
CRPD Art.5
Equality and non-discrimination

The data show that

Many persons with disabilities report being discriminated

Percentage of persons with disabilities who experience being discriminated, around 2011

Data produced using the Washington Group short set of questions.

Source: SINTEF.

Internationally comparable data

- **Persons with disabilities remain invisible in most statistics and political commitment and support from the statistical community is needed to address the following gaps**:

  1. Most data are not comparable across time and across countries

     ➢ Challenging to assess trends over time

     ➢ Difficult to identify best country practices with reliable evidence

Disability data for policy making: challenges

2. Many countries collect disability data but only release estimates of disability prevalence

➢ Fewer data available to analyse gaps in inclusion & participation in education, employment, voting, access to health services, access to transport, etc.

➢ Data particularly scarce for violence and sexual and reproductive health

3. Indicators released may not portrait the full picture for persons with disabilities (e.g. unemployment rates, poverty rates)

Disability data for policy making: challenges

4. Data not available in formats suitable for insightful policy analysis (no age disaggregation, no microdata, etc.)

5. Small sample sizes for persons with disabilities, which leads to unreliable estimates

6. Lack of global repository of data! There is only one global repository on disability prevalence (UNSD). Expansion to more countries and additional indicators relevant to inform CRPD and SDGs would be helpful for policy making

Disability data for policy making: challenges

How can these challenges be addressed?

Disability data for policy making: challenges

Thank you

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