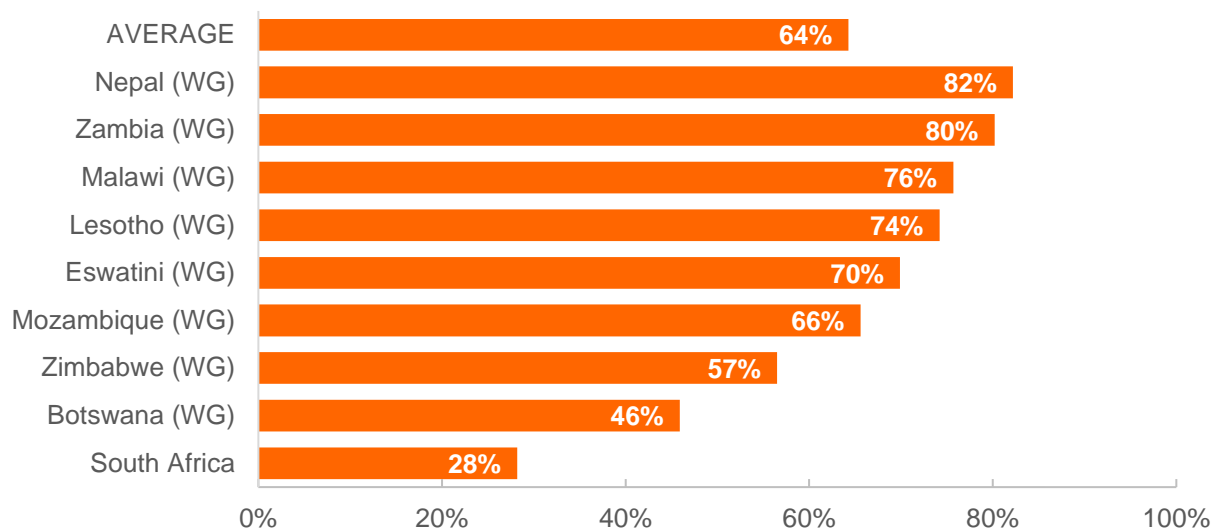


Access to health-care services remains a challenge for persons with disabilities, who are more than three times as likely to be unable to get health care when they need it. Access to rehabilitation services is also a challenge. In some countries, more than 50 per cent of persons with disabilities have an unmet need for these services (Figure 2). Lack of financial resources, lack of access to and accessibility of medical facilities and transport, as well as inadequate training of health personnel to accommodate persons with disabilities remain major challenges. Some countries have endeavoured to reform legal and policy frameworks and/or to address access to health-care services directly, including through anti-discrimination laws related to the health sector, disability laws or policy plans, and laws that guarantee access to health care for persons with specific health conditions (e.g. spinal cord injury) or specific populations (e.g. veterans). Although many of these laws are general and do not target disability-specific barriers, **six countries have explicit laws that guarantee access to health care for persons with disabilities.**

Figure 2: Percentage of persons with disabilities who needed but could not receive rehabilitation services, in 9 countries, around 2011.



Note: (WG) identifies countries with data collected using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. Data from South Africa were collected in selected regions of the country and are not nationally representative.

Source: UNDESA² (on the basis of data from SINTEF³).

Actions to achieve the highest attainable standard of health for all persons with disabilities

- Strengthen national legislation and policies on health care in line with the CRPD.
- Identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers to accessibility in health-care facilities.
- Improve health-care coverage and affordability for persons with disabilities as part of universal approaches to health care.
- Train health-care personnel on disability inclusion and improve service delivery for persons with disabilities.
- Empower persons with disabilities to take control over their own health-care decisions, on the basis of informed consent.
- Prohibit discriminatory practices in health insurance and promote health insurance coverage for assistive products and rehabilitation services.
- Improve research and data to monitor, evaluate and strengthen health systems to include and deliver for persons with disabilities.

¹ Eurostat Database. Data available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> (accessed in March-May 2018).

² Country estimates calculated or commissioned by UNDESA.

³ Stiftelsen for industriell og teknisk forskning, *Living conditions among persons with disabilities*, various datasets from 2006 to 2017.

⁴ Model disability surveys in Cameroon, Chile and Sri Lanka, 2015–2016. Data provided by the World Health Organization in April 2018.

⁵ World Bank Data. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD> (accessed in May 2018).