



IFAD11 Impact Assessments

An analysis on persons with disabilities (PwD)

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Summary

Data collected on persons with disabilities in 22 projects that are part of the IFAD11 Impact Assessment are used to characterize persons with disabilities (PwD) in the context of agricultural and rural development projects supported by IFAD. It is important to note that the 22 projects analysed are not representative of the portfolio IFAD-supported projects targeting PwD. Further, the sampling strategy of data collection developed as part of these impact assessments did not take into account the prevalence of PwD in the country or in the project area.

Using datasets collected from these 22 projects consisting of information from 43,732 households, descriptive analysis indicate that households with at least one PwD member are significantly more likely to be female-headed and have greater number of members compared to households without any PwD member. Their household heads are also more likely to be older and have fewer years of education. These households are also characterized by lower income levels, less durable asset, and higher prevalence of food insecurity.

As part of IFAD's commitment to expanding its engagement with PwD, this analysis complements IFAD's previous work which [analysed the economic opportunities of PwD in rural areas](#), and [piloted data collection on PwD in IFAD-supported projects](#). Specifically, this analysis offers additional insights of the socio-economic profiles of households with PwD. The information is also extremely useful for designing and implementing future projects as IFAD expands its engagement with PwD, such as through projects in [China](#) and [Senegal](#).

Background

There are currently more than one billion PwD worldwide ([WHO, 2021](#)). This figure accounts for approximately 15 per cent of the global population. Of those more than 1 billion people, 80 percent of them live in developing countries ([Mitra et al., 2013](#)). There is a distinct lack of granular, high-quality data available for use to evaluate the conditions of PwD within these low-resource settings. Where there are data available, disabilities are associated with high rates of multi-dimensional poverty, earn less, and are less likely to be employed ([United Nations, 2018](#)). Whether it be because of stigma, or difficulties created by their disabilities, it is clear that PwD are among the most vulnerable members of society within rural-developing settings.

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General established a framework to improve performance on disability inclusion throughout the UN System. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has committed to exploring how to engage with PwD in its operations. As part of the commitments during the Eleventh Replenishment of its Resources, IFAD has commissioned two technical reports on PwD. The first is on the [economic opportunities of PwD in rural areas](#) using observational data collected from three countries in Africa: Ethiopia, Nigeria, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Findings from this study confirm that PwD are economically active, and thus have the potential to generate income. The second is on the [piloting of data collection on PwD in IFAD-supported projects](#) using the [Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning](#). Box 1 lists the six questions included in the Short Set as well as their response categories. Together, these six questions are used to identify two broad disability typologies: physical and cognitive. The first three questions (1-3 in Box 1) are related to physical disability: seeing, hearing, and walking impairment. The remaining three questions (4-6 in Box 1) are related to cognitive disability: remembering, self-care and communication. These two indicators, physical disability and cognitive disability, are useful for gauging the potential impact of these conditions on functional abilities.

Box 1 - The Short Set of Disability Questions

The Short Set of disability questions of the Washington Group are:

Physical Disability (seeing, hearing, and walking impairments)	1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
	2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
	3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
Cognitive disability (remembering, self-care and communication impairments)	4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
	5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
	6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Each question has four response categories, which are read after each question.

- a. No – no difficulty
- b. Yes – some difficulty
- c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
- d. Cannot do at all

IFAD has invested in 96 projects that have closed between 2019 and 2021, and conducted an impact assessments on 24 projects, namely 25 percent of the portfolio. IFAD collected PwD data on 22 out of the 24 projects that were closing between 2019 and 2021, which are from projects across five regional divisions IFAD operates in. Of these 22 projects with collected PwD data, five are from Asia and the Pacific, five from East and Southern Africa, four from Latin America and the Caribbean, four from Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and four from West and Central Africa. They also cover a broad range of project activities including agricultural value chain development, rural finance, fishery, livestock, and natural resource management..

Descriptive results

The data on PwD collected by RIA within the IFAD11 Impact Assessments offers richer information to understand the livelihoods of PwD and to put them in context. The data have been collected between May 2019 and December 2021 and the section on PwD is part of a larger survey used to compute IFAD's corporate assessment for IFAD11 projects. The data capture characteristics of agricultural producers in each country. The sample includes information on IFAD's beneficiaries and a comparable non-beneficiary group both at the agriculture household and individual level. The data are representative of IFAD's portfolio of investment not of the country or regions where data were collected.

Each of the surveys contains comprehensive information on household structure and individual characteristics, agricultural production and sales, income from agriculture and other sources including wages and remittances, ownership of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprise assets, land market participation, as well as subjective assessment of shocks.

In terms of outcomes of the analysis as reported in Tables 2 and 3, for all projects and consistently across datasets, specific findings derived from the analysis of the data gathered on these 22 projects are:

1. **Data collection** conducted in impact assessments collected detailed individual-level information on PwD from 78,608 individuals residing in 14,907 households. About 34 per cent of the households reported having at least one member with disability.
2. **Table 1** reports descriptive statistics of households with no PwD members compared to households with at least one PwD member. Results indicate that households with at least one PwD member are more likely to be female-headed, have more members, and headed by an older member but with fewer years of education on average. In terms of livelihood indicators, households with at least one PwD members have higher gross income, accumulate more durable asset, and are more food secure compared to households with at least one PwD member.
3. **Table 2** presents the descriptive statistics specifically of households with at least one PwD household member. Among them, the share of female-headed households is 21.46 per cent, the average age of household head is 55.83 years old, the average years of education among household members is 6 years, and the average household size is 5 members.
4. **Table 3** reports the prevalence of PwD according to different types of disability. Physical disability is consistently much more prevalent than cognitive disability across projects. Disabilities related to mobility and vision appear to be the ones most observed. The extent to which IFAD's projects cover PwD varies significantly, probably reflecting project design. Most of the projects did not target PwD specifically nor have any interventions involving PwD. Project details can be found in Table 4.
5. **Figure 1** presents the prevalence of households with at least one PwD member across different countries in our sample. The prevalence of households with at least one PwD member varies substantially from 7.5% in Djibouti to 67.3% in India.
6. **Figure 2** reports the prevalence of households with at least one PwD member across different countries by sex of household head (male-headed vs. female-headed). Results indicate that the prevalence of households with at least one PwD member is consistently higher among female-headed households relative to male-headed households across all countries.
7. **Findings from the analysis** indicate that while some general conclusions can be drawn on the characteristics of PwD across different projects, specific analysis is needed to determine the type of economic activity that would respond to PwD's needs. As a result, PwD within a project area need to be both identified and targeted through tailored activities. How these activities evolve, and their progress in achieving results, need to be monitored through the project life cycle in order to be able to make mid-course corrections as needed and to report on the results achieved by this specific target group. This is essential to be able to respond to the potential of PwD to generate income and of having the possibility of a productive pathway out of poverty.
8. **This analysis complements IFAD's previous work** [which analysed the economic opportunities of PwD in rural areas](#), and [piloted data collection on PwD in IFAD-supported projects](#). It also informs the development of IFAD's strategy on PwD engagement which will be finalized towards the end of 2022. More practically, this analysis offers additional insights of the socio-economic profiles of households with PwD. The information is also extremely useful for designing and implementing future projects as IFAD expands its engagement with PwD.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics between households without PwD and households with at least one PwD

	All HHs	HHs without PwD	HHs with at least one PwD	Difference (No PwD - PwD)
Household characteristics				
Share of female-headed HHs	0.17	0.14	0.21	-0.07***
Age of HH head	50.52	48.23	54.97	-6.73***
Years of education of HH head	5.66	5.95	4.99	0.95***
Average HH size	5.17	5.12	5.27	-0.15***
Livelihood indicators				
Gross Income (1,000 US\$)	7.14	7.28	6.89	0.38**
Durable Assets Index	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.01**
Food insecurity score	2.53	2.31	2.95	-0.64***
Total number of households				
	43,732	28,825	14,907	

Notes: * < 0.1, ** < 0.05, *** < 0.01

Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Table 2: Characteristics of households with at least one PwD

Country	# of HH	# of Individual	Share of female headed HH	Average age of HH head	Years of education of HH head	Average HH size
Asia and the Pacific						
India	1,846	7,525	27.46	61.17	8.41	4.08
Papua New Guinea	1,337	7,150	7.78	53.12	10.85 ³	5.35
Pakistan	525	2,984	11.81	54.74	2.48	5.68
Philippines	573	2,802	17.98	51.65	1.49 ¹	4.89
Solomon Islands	434	2,444	8.29	60.32	6.81	5.63
East and Southern Africa						
Kenya	405	1,834	35.56	59.93	7.09	4.53
Lesotho	617	2,997	32.58	52.85	7.55	4.86
Malawi	566	3,076	30.57	54.28	5.28 ¹	5.43
Tanzania	554	2,898	25.09	60.10	5.96	5.23
Zambia	509	3,541	17.68	54.97	4.89	6.96
Latin America and the Caribbean						
Argentina	548	2,140	32.66	55.83	2.17 ²	3.91
Bolivia	1,760	7,577	18.81	47.37	8.44 ²	4.31
Nicaragua	770	3,609	24.8	55.31	5.92	4.69
Peru	774	2,874	16.8	57.95	5.74	3.71
Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia						
Djibouti	100	393	16	57.35	10.72	3.93
Kyrgyzstan	359	1,882	15.32	59.11	8.75	5.24
Tajikistan	210	1,514	15.24	59.01	7.55 ²	7.21
Tunisia	935	4,862	8.02	51.90	8.15	5.2
West and Central Africa						
Ghana	194	1,145	24.74	50.03	4.67	5.9
Mali	525	2,784	21.33	54.11	2.12	5.3
Mauritania	1,151	11,162	37.27	58.02	2.34	9.7
Nigeria	215	1,415	19.53	51.05	8.58 ¹	6.58
Total	14,907	78,608	21.46	55.83	6.01	5.27

Notes: 1= Years of education of the Household Head; 2= Estimated using the level of education of the household head; 3: = Max years of education in the household. Note that the countries listed in this table are not representative of IFAD's engagement with PwD in each region.

Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Table 3: Prevalence of PwD across different countries

Country	Vision	Hearing	Movement	Remembering	Self-care	Communication	Cognitive	Physical
Asia and the Pacific								
India	36.48	14.89	39.84	22.91	25.43	11.78	26.05	57.53
Papua New Guinea	22.37	12.29	18.71	10.66	6.14	7.63	13.03	35.43
Pakistan	5.24	2.83	8.64	4.76	4.31	3.46	5.9	14.36
Philippines	17.9	8.45	11.45	6.4	6.75	4.05	7.55	27.25
Solomon Islands	19.55	9.7	12.24	8.47	4.16	3.39	10.29	30.57
East and Southern Africa								
Kenya	7.74	4.93	12.6	8.11	4.8	5.55	10.23	21.58
Lesotho	44.65	23.36	27.73	26.69	16.1	11.32	31.05	59.92
Malawi	14.17	10.33	11.52	10.83	4.79	5.48	14.03	29.62
Tanzania	13.95	6.26	12.35	10.19	3.82	4.32	12.24	26.41
Zambia	9.91	6.71	10.41	9.01	3.35	3.00	10.56	21.92
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Argentina	28.52	7.47	15.09	9.77	4.45	3.95	10.99	37.14
Bolivia	46.87	26.76	31.6	38.02	11.3	9.01	40.84	60.34
Nicaragua	30.7	10.79	13.78	12	4.09	3.93	13.31	37.98
Peru	24.9	14.05	19.89	16.58	9.45	8.32	18.96	36.42
Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia								
Djibouti	4.97	1.81	3.31	1.2	1.13	1.2	1.81	6.79
Kyrgyzstan	8.45	3.49	5.88	4.81	3.9	2.35	4.5	10.99
Tajikistan	5.35	3.41	6.75	2.34	2.81	2.07	3.81	12.23
Tunisia	36.26	20.25	29.49	10.9	13.6	8.32	13.31	52.5
West and Central Africa								
Ghana	5.26	2.15	5.02	2.39	2.09	2.09	3.29	10.33
Mali	11.3	8.71	15.27	6.28	3.64	3.97	8.93	26.19
Mauritania	32.72	19.71	26.44	22.83	18.59	15.38	26.17	47.84
Nigeria	6.2	1.65	4.78	3.02	1.2	0.74	3.2	10.82
Total	19.7	10	15.58	11.28	7.09	5.51	13.18	30.64

Notes: Prevalence of PwD = percentage of Households with at least one member with disabilities. Total is computed as a simple mean. Note that the countries listed in this table are not representative of IFAD's engagement with PwD in each region.

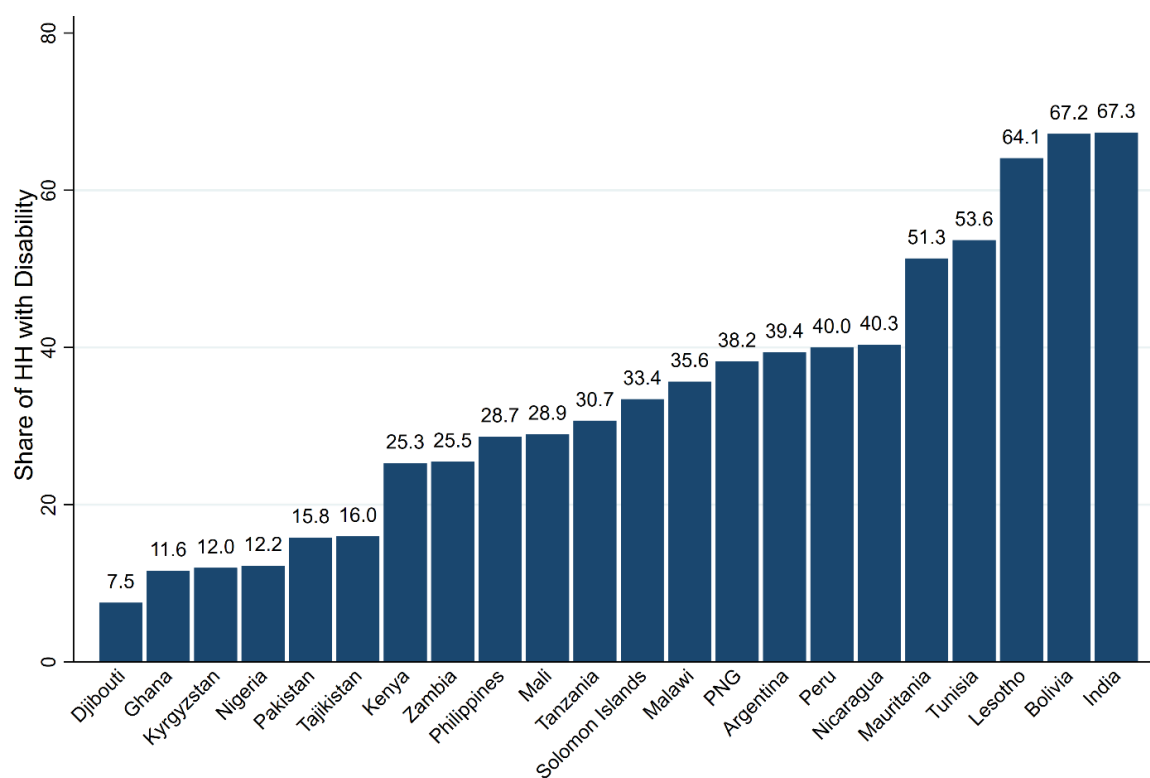
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Table 4: Impact assessment projects with PwD data

Region	Country	Project acronym	Project full name
APR	Papua New Guinea	PPAP	Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project
APR	Pakistan	SPPAP - PK	Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project
APR	India	PTSLP	Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu
APR	Solomon Islands	RDP II	Rural Development Programme - Phase II
APR	Philippines	CHARM II	Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project
ESA	Lesotho	SADP	Smallholder Agriculture Development Project
ESA	Kenya	UTaNRMP	Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resource Management Project
ESA	Malawi	SAPP	Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme
ESA	Zambia	S3P	Smallholder Productivity Promotion Programme
ESA	Tanzania, United Republic of	MIVARF	Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support Programme
LAC	Peru	PSSA	Strengthening Local Development in the Highlands and High Rainforest Areas Project
LAC	Bolivia	ACCESOS	Economic Inclusion Programme for Families and Rural Communities in the Territory of Plurinational State of Bolivia
LAC	Nicaragua	NICADAPTA	Adapting to Markets and Climate Change Project
LAC	Argentina	PRODERI	Inclusive Rural Development Programme
WCA	Mali	PMR	Rural Microfinance Programme
WCA	Nigeria	VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme
WCA	Ghana	REP III	Rural Enterprises Programme III
WCA	Mauritania	PASK II	Poverty Reduction Project in Aftout South and Karakoro - Phase II
NEN	Kyrgyzstan	LMDP-II	Livestock and Market Development Programme II
NEN	Tajikistan	LPDP II	Livestock and Pasture Development Project II
NEN	Tunisia	PRODESUD II	Agropastoral Development and Local Initiatives Promotion Programme for the South-East - Phase II
NEN	Djibouti	PRAREV-PECHE	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas

Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

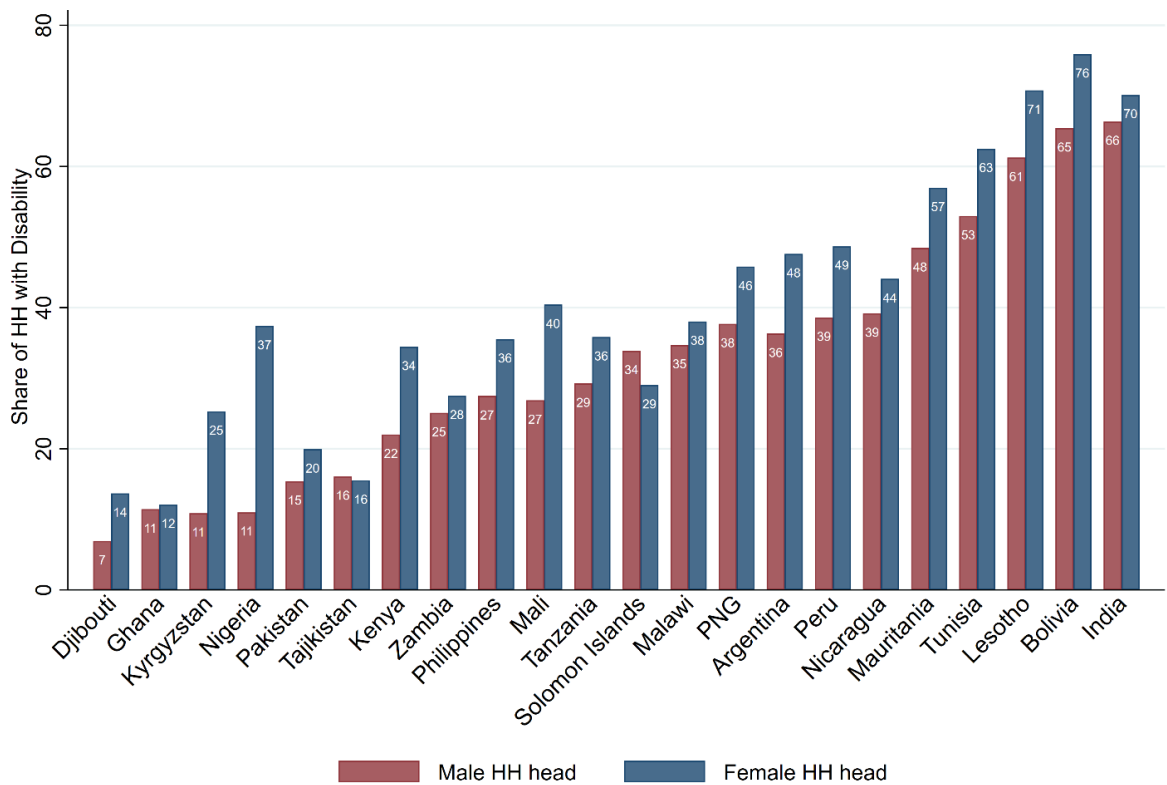
Figure 1: Prevalence of PwD across countries



Notes: Prevalence of PwD = percentage of Households with at least one member with disabilities.

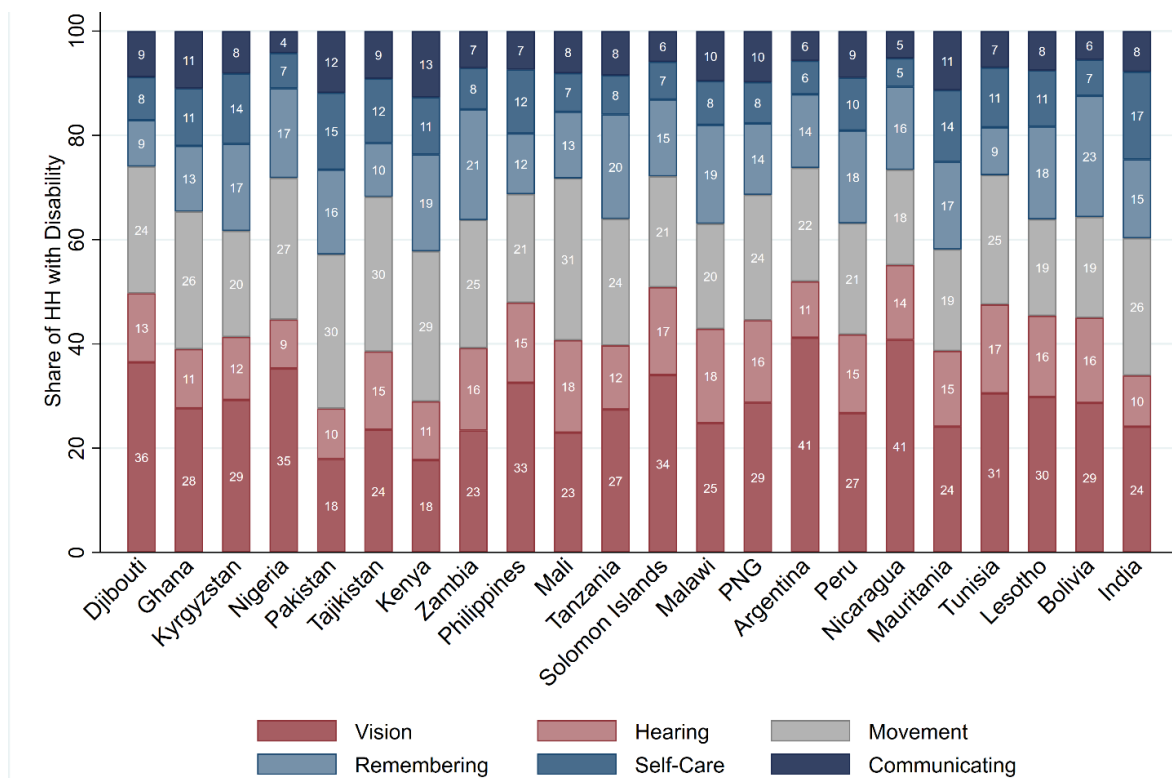
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 2: PwD by sex of household head across countries



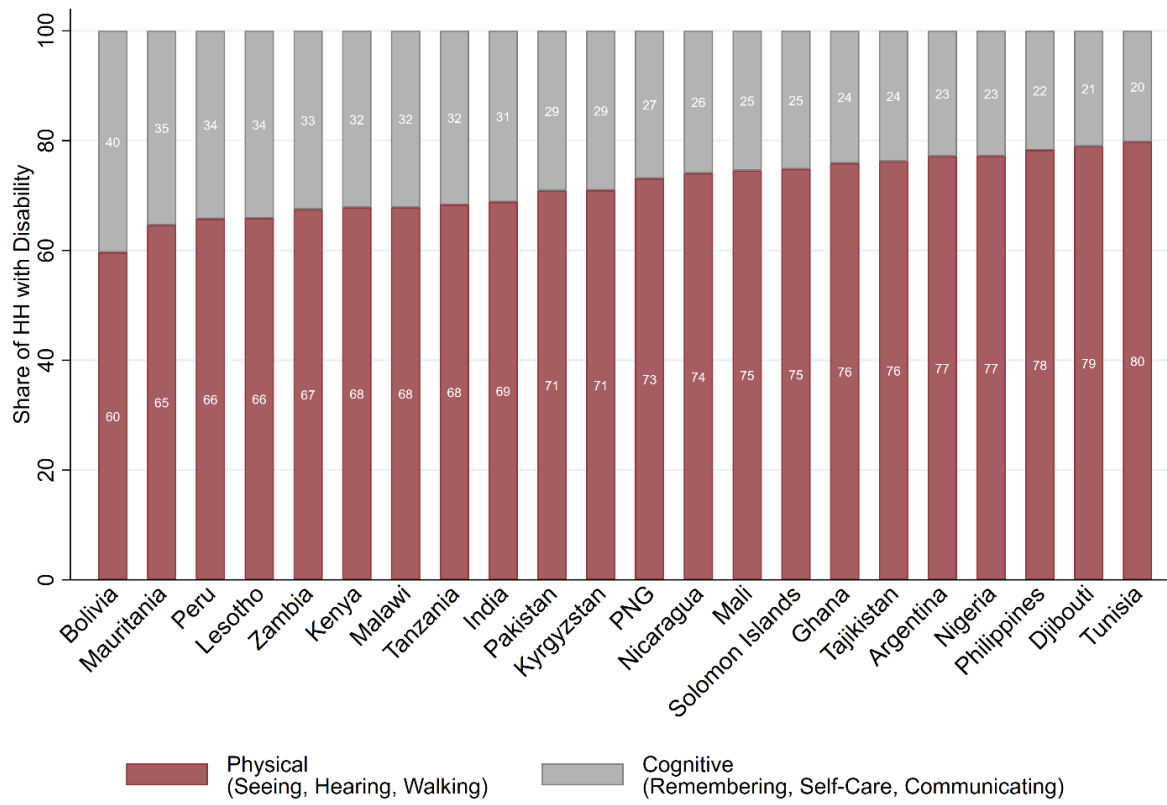
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 3: Type of PwD across countries



Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

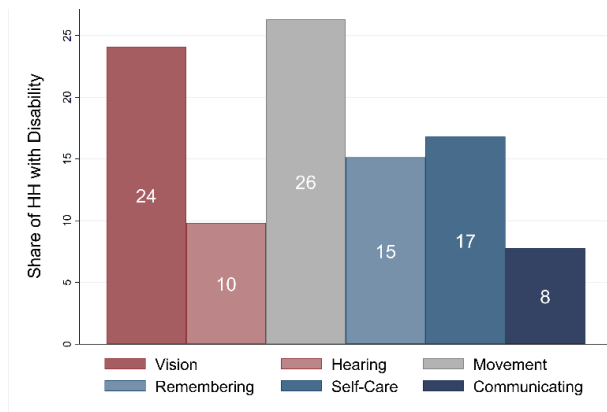
Figure 4: Type of PwD across countries



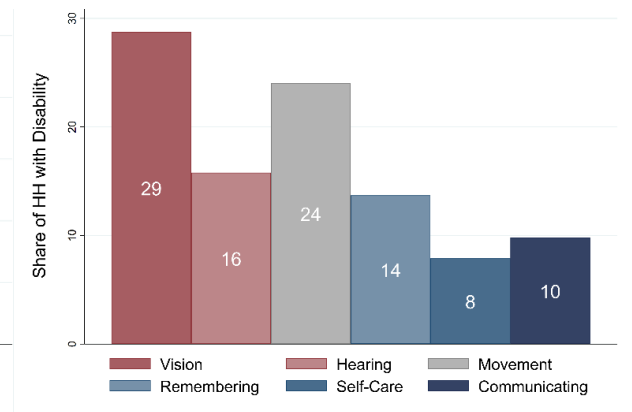
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 5: Type of disability by countries in APR region

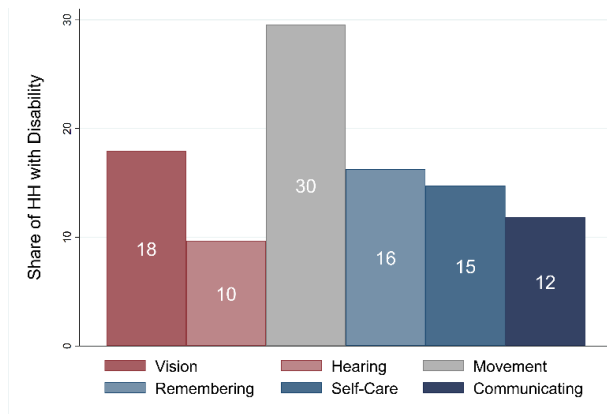
a) India - PTSLP



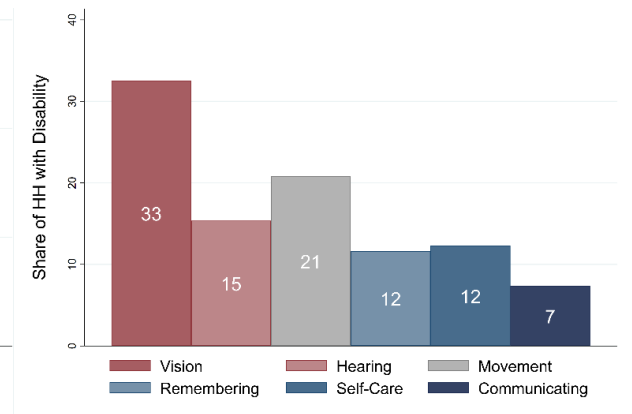
b) PNG – PPAP



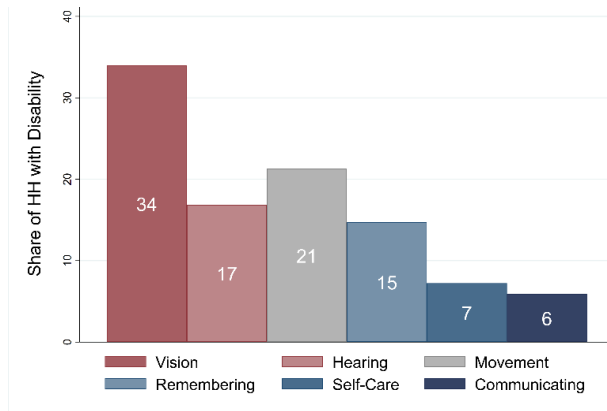
c) Pakistan – PK



d) Philippines – CHARM II



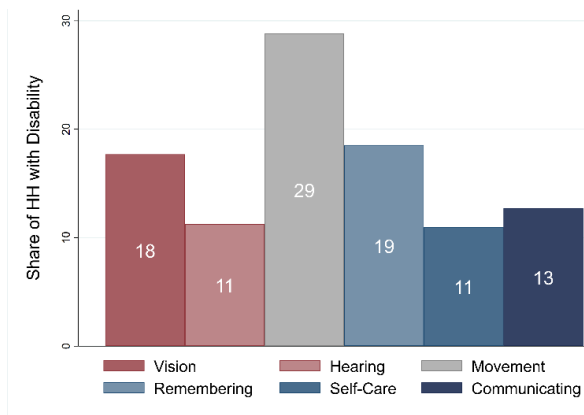
e) Solomon Islands – RDP II



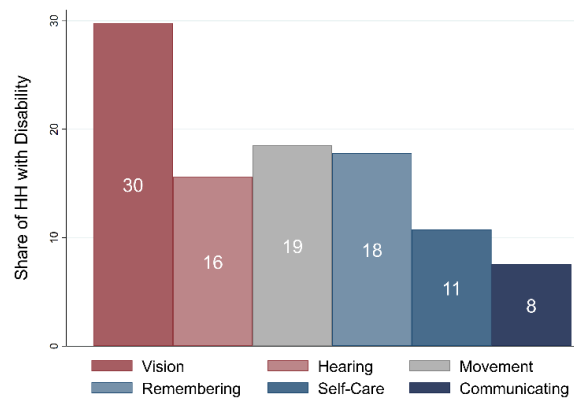
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 6: Type of disability by countries in ESA region

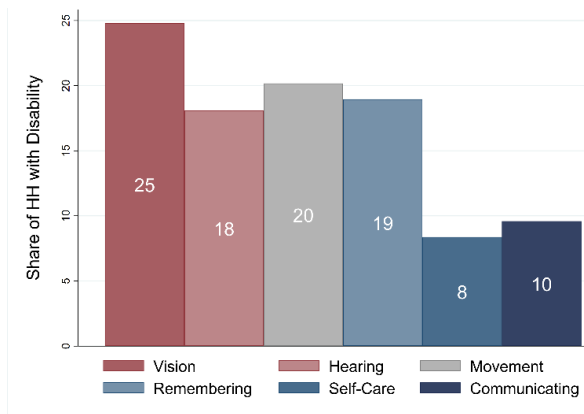
a) Kenya - UTaNRMP



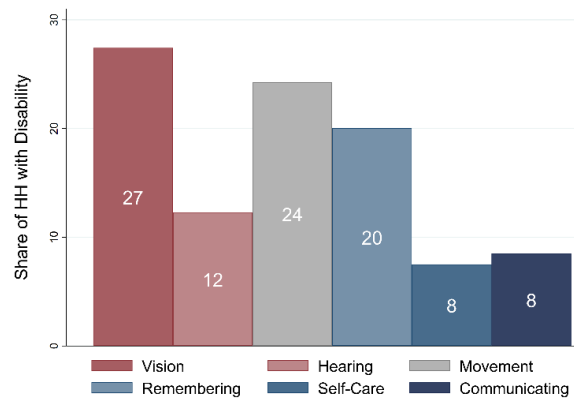
b) Lesotho – SADP



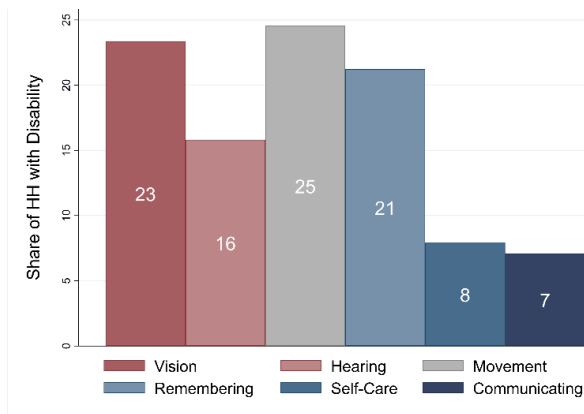
c) Malawi – SAPP



d) Tanzania – MIVARF



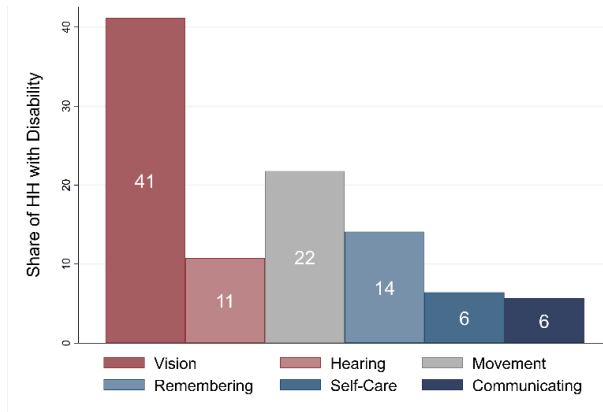
e) Zambia – S3P



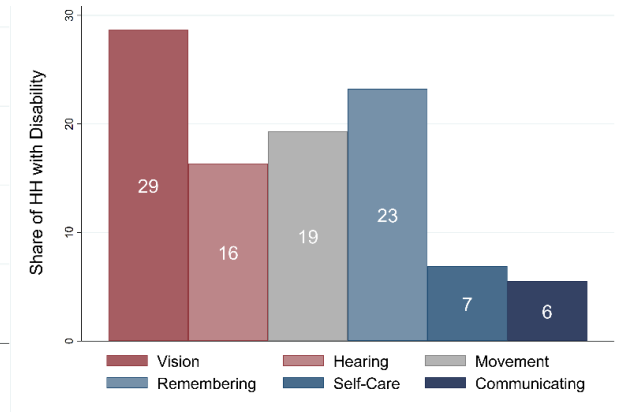
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 7: Type of disability by countries in LAC region

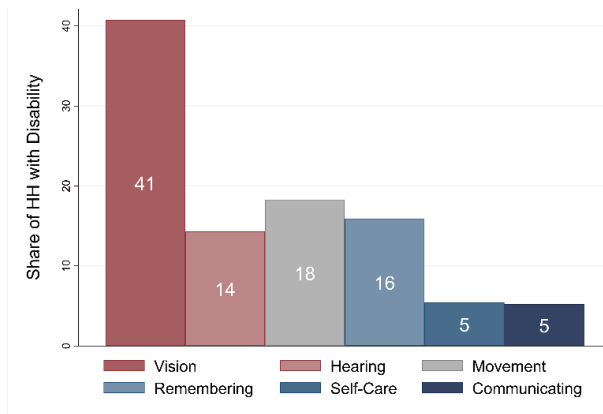
a) Argentina - PRODERI



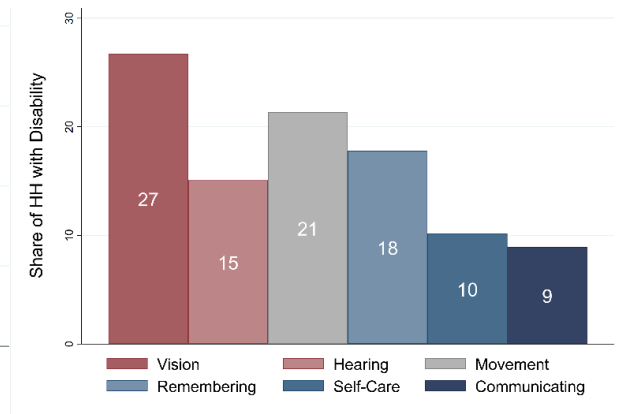
b) Bolivia – ACCESOS



c) Nicaragua – NICADAPTA



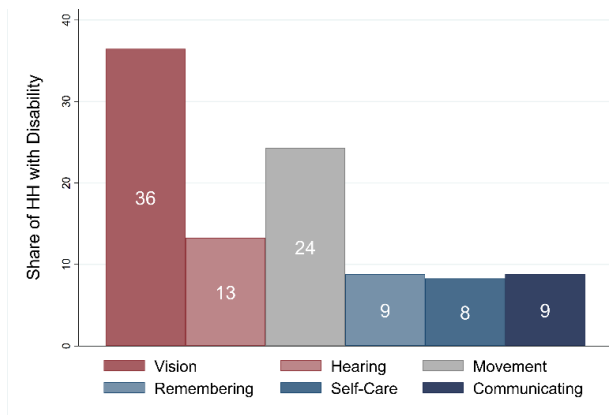
d) Peru – PSSA



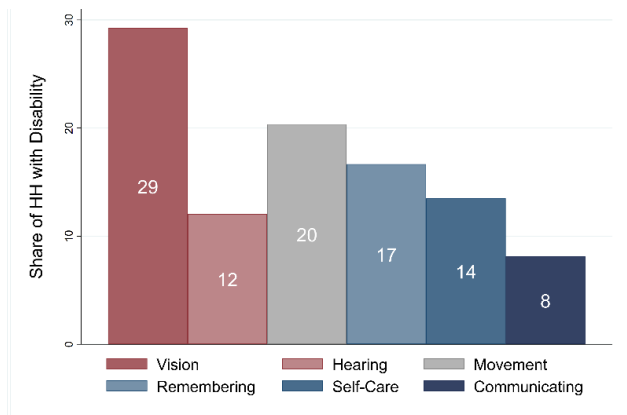
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 8: Type of disability by countries in NEN region

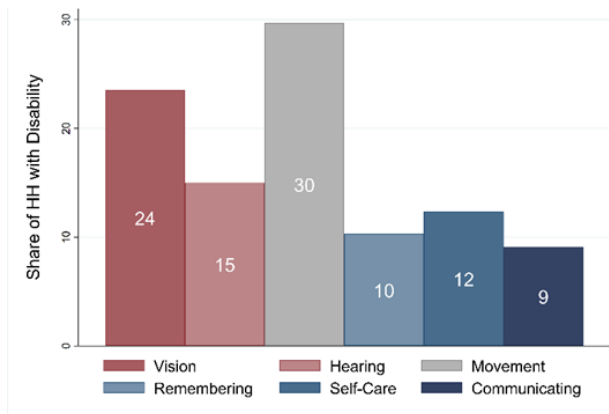
a) Djibouti – PRAREV-PECHE



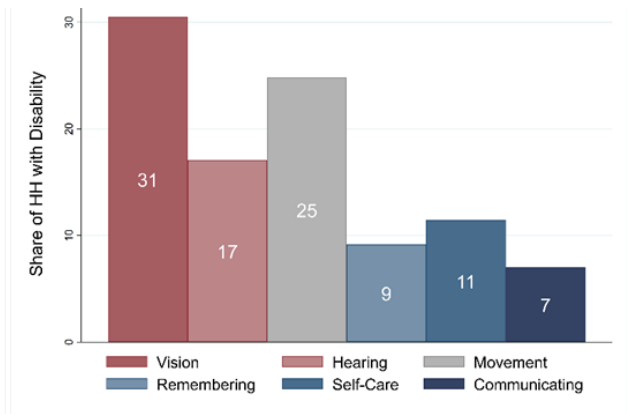
b) Kyrgyzstan - LMDP II



c) Tajikistan – LPDP II



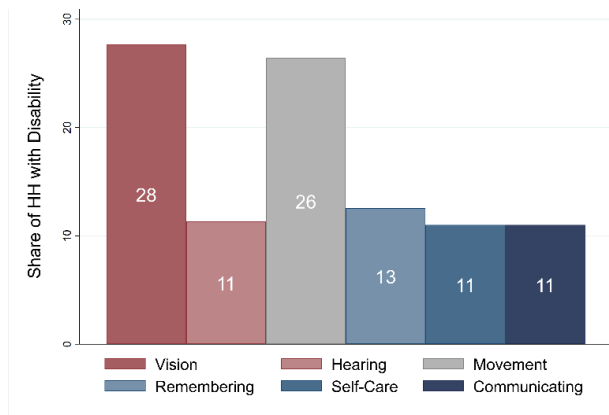
d) Tunisia – PRODESUD II



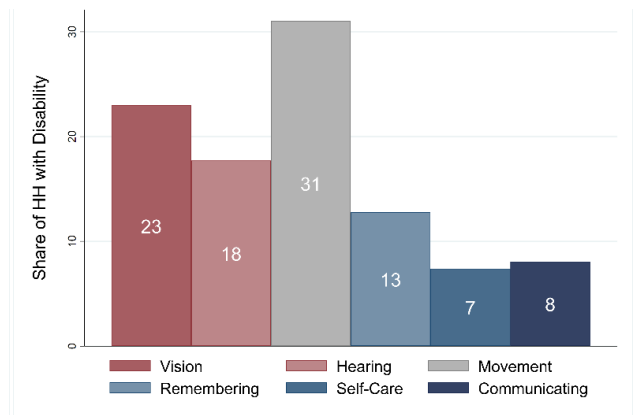
Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects

Figure 9: Type of disability by countries in WCA region

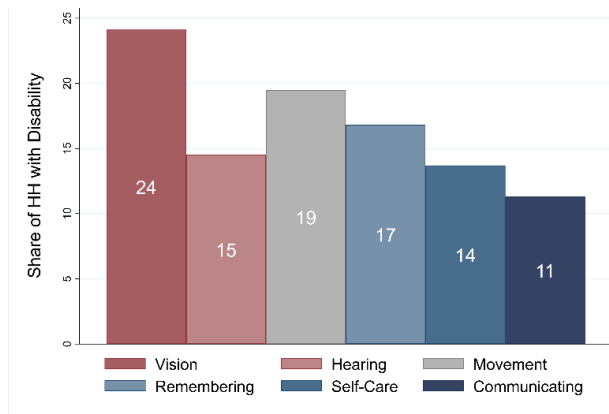
a) Ghana - REPIII



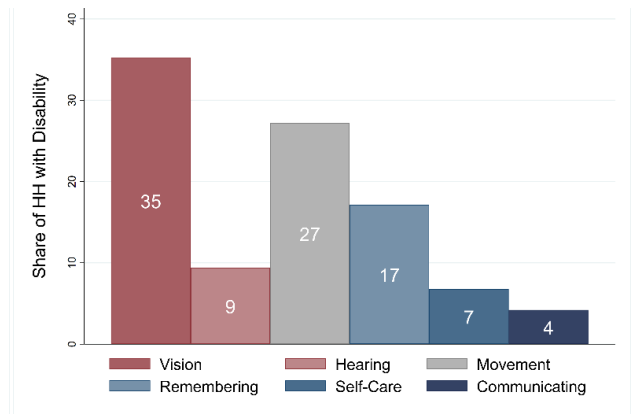
b) Mali - PMR



c) Mauritania – PASK II



d) Nigeria - VCDP



Source: IFAD11 Impact Assessment Projects



Investing in rural people

International Fund for Agricultural Development

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