

Landscape Analysis on Children with Disabilities in Indonesia

Indonesia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2011. Subsequently, the government had amended Law No. 4 of 1997 on Persons with Defects (UU Penyandang Cacat) into Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities (UU Penyandang Disabilitas) and developed the Master Plan on Persons with Disabilities (RIPD) and the 2020–2024 National Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities (RAN PD). However, knowledge and understanding of the situation of children with disabilities in Indonesia remain limited.

Study Objective

This landscape analysis aims to **obtain comprehensive understanding of children with disabilities in Indonesia.**

Methodology

This research uses a qualitative and quantitative (mixed) method with a focus on the nutrition; health; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); education; child protection; and social protection sectors.

General Findings



The government has taken a rights-based approach in developing regulations on disability. **Albeit considerably comprehensive, the regulations have not been fully implemented.** This has resulted in discrimination toward children with disabilities in accessing services and programs compared to children without disabilities.



Stigma toward disabilities in Indonesia affects the fulfillment of the rights of children with disabilities, limiting their access to services and facilities across various sectors and presenting challenges that need to be examined further.



Children with disabilities are rarely consulted with about their views on matters affecting their lives. Moreover, this group of children is also underrepresented in various initiatives aimed at promoting child participation.

Findings on Data

- The government has aligned the definition of disability in Law No. 8 of 2016 with that in the CRPD and has developed the RIPD and RAN PD. However, **many ministries/institutions have not used the concept and terminology related to disability consistently.** Moreover, the use of language that creates stigma toward persons with disabilities is still found in various regulations and policies.
- The number of children with disabilities varies based on data sources, and recent surveys still employ a standard of questions for adults that are less accurate in describing the number of children with disabilities.

Findings on Education

- Children with disabilities are faced with barriers in accessing education.
- The number of inclusive schools increased by 29% in one year, amounting to 40,828 schools, in 2022. However, the proportion of inclusive primary schools is only 11% of all primary schools in Indonesia.
- There is a trend showing that **more children with disabilities are out of school as they progress through the education system.**

Findings on Health and WASH

- Although there are regulations and programs on special healthcare facilities for persons with disabilities, **access to healthcare services as well as their implementation and costs remain limited for children with disabilities.**
- **There is no specific healthcare program to improve the health of children with disabilities.** As a result, there is a gap in health indicators between children with disabilities and those without disabilities.
- **There is no monitoring and evaluation process for the number of children with disabilities** or types of disabilities from screening in the RAN PD.
- The number of children with disabilities accessing adequate WASH has increased in recent years. However, **there is still a gap between children with disabilities and those without disabilities,** especially for children with disabilities living in rural areas and in poverty.

Findings on Child and Social Protection

- **Children with disabilities are often not registered at birth.** Data on violence and neglect is also limited; in 2020 and 2021, reports of sexual violence against children with disabilities were twice as many as those of physical violence and three times as many as those of psychological violence.
- **Children with disabilities still face difficulties in accessing justice.** Age- and gender-sensitive accommodations in the judicial process are still inadequate, and there are also issues of neglect, abuse, and forced isolation in child care centers in Indonesia.
- **Poverty correlates with disability.** Limited access to healthcare and social assistance for children with disabilities might lead to a potential vicious cycle of cost disparities.

Recommendations for the Government

- **Develop effective coordination mechanisms** among government institutions at the national, provincial, and *kabupaten* (district)/*kota* (city) levels, as well as disability organizations related to the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities.
- **Align rights-based terminology and definitions and establish clear and measurable standards with specific indicators** in healthcare services, child protection, and WASH accessibility. Data collection on children with disabilities should always use the Child Functioning Module (WG-UNICEF CFM) holistically, as children require different modules than those intended for adults.
- **Enhance inclusive education efforts,** including through school-based screening and monitoring programs, to ensure equal access to education for children with disabilities.
- **Develop social and behavioral change programs to eliminate stigma** as well as inclusive emergency preparedness programs accessible to children with disabilities.
- **Consult with children with disabilities and their families to fulfill their rights comprehensively.** Additionally, research on the costs of raising a child with a disability is needed to determine appropriate social assistance.

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