

## *Global launch of the WHO Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities*

### Background

More than 1 billion people around the world experience disability (about 15% of the global population), with this number expected to increase. People with disabilities face many health inequities and challenges in the health sector: from inequitable service delivery models to inaccessible public health interventions, and little consideration during health emergencies.

The Sustainable Goals will only be achieved if we plan a stronger, more sustainable, and efficient health sector for all. Given the high prevalence of disability worldwide, disability inclusion represents a fundamental and strategic driver for achieving health and well-being for all at all ages.

During the 2021 World Health Assembly, Member States recognized the urgent need to build a disability inclusive health sector. They adopted WHA Resolution 74.8 on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, in which one of the requests was to develop a Global Report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, to provide:

- Updated WHO estimates of the global disability prevalence.
- Economic analyses highlighting that disability inclusive health interventions are an essential investment.
- Evidence of the complex and cumulative health inequities that persons with disabilities experience.
- Actionable recommendations.

#### **The key messages of this Global Report are:**

- Persons with disabilities experience unacceptable health inequities.
- Health equity for persons with disabilities is a States obligation.
- Disability affects a large proportion of the population.
- Addressing health equity for persons with disabilities will advance the achievement of global health priorities.
- Addressing health equity for persons with disabilities benefits everyone.
- Health equity contributes to meaningful participation in society.
- Health equity for persons with disabilities is an investment worth making.

The Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities will be launched on **Friday 2 December 2022** (coinciding with International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2022), with participation of persons with disabilities, global health leaders, Member States, and health sector partners.

### Aim of the global launch

The global launch aims to raise awareness on health equity for persons with disabilities and mobilize action across a range of stakeholders (including national governments, international civil society organizations, development agencies as well as other health sector partners). The specific objectives of the launch are to:

- Share the key messages of the Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities, particularly for Member States

- Highlight the importance of including persons with disabilities in health sector planning, development, implementation and monitoring to ensure effective health systems strengthening
- Outline opportunities for countries and health sector partners to act to address long-standing health inequities for persons with disabilities through the sharing of personal experiences

## Proposed WHO launch event

To mark the release of the Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities, a hybrid event (face-to-face at WHO Headquarters and broadcast online) is proposed. This launch event will include speeches and a panel discussion, with the target audience as:

- Ministries of Health of WHO Member States
- Civil society organizations, including those representing persons with disabilities
- People with lived experience of disability
- International organizations and health sector partners including service providers
- General public

## Format for the launch event

- **Opening remarks**
  - Person with lived experience of disability
  - WHO Director General
  - Selected heads of state, ministers and senior dignitaries
- **Key messages of the report**
  - WHO NCD Director
  - WHO Technical Lead Disability
- **Panel discussion**
  - Selected speakers to discuss health equity for persons with disabilities in relation to global health priorities
- **Closing**
  - International Disability Alliance
- **Reception**
  - Reception for Member States and invited guests.