



**IRMAN
FOUNDATION**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE
PREVELANCE OF PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES IN
GELMUDUD REGION,
SOMALIA**

**BY
IRMAN FOUNDATION
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Yours faithfully,



Abdirahman Said

Executive Director

Irman Foundation

Phone: +252614828000

Email: irmanfoundation@gmail.com

Mogadishu, Somalia

1.0 Overview

Persons with disabilities have encountered huge challenges in Somalia where violence has been ongoing for the last three decades. Top in the list of hurdles are challenges related to accessing resources and feeling valued in their community. Women and children are the worst hit and sidelined in every aspect of humanitarian responses and are being denied their economic, social and cultural rights (Rohwerder, 2018). This survey was motivated by the fact that there is little data on persons with disabilities in Somalia.

Around the world concern is growing about the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in national development. The concern is rooted in both humanitarian and human rights issues, and the need to ensure that PWDs are empowered to take their rightful place in society. In many countries, however, data about the prevalence and nature of disability are lacking, so the evidence base for policy decisions to redress the situation is lacking.

The overall objective of this report was to establish a baseline for persons with disabilities in Galmudud region of Somalia that will act as a precursor to a future in-depth survey that will be carried out to explore further details. The future study will utilize the current data to reach the identified persons and explore ways in which they could be assisted.

1.1 Survey objectives

The survey was undertaken by Irman Foundation whose main objective was to obtain estimated baseline information on People with Disabilities that will be useful in planning, monitoring and evaluating the various activities, programmes and projects geared towards improving PWDs' wellbeing. The specific objectives of the survey were to:

- i. Estimate the prevalence of PWDs and their distribution in the Galmudud region.
- ii. Examine the demographic, socio-economic, sociocultural and geographic characteristics of PWDs.
- iii. Establish the level of adoption of assistive devices among PWDs in the region

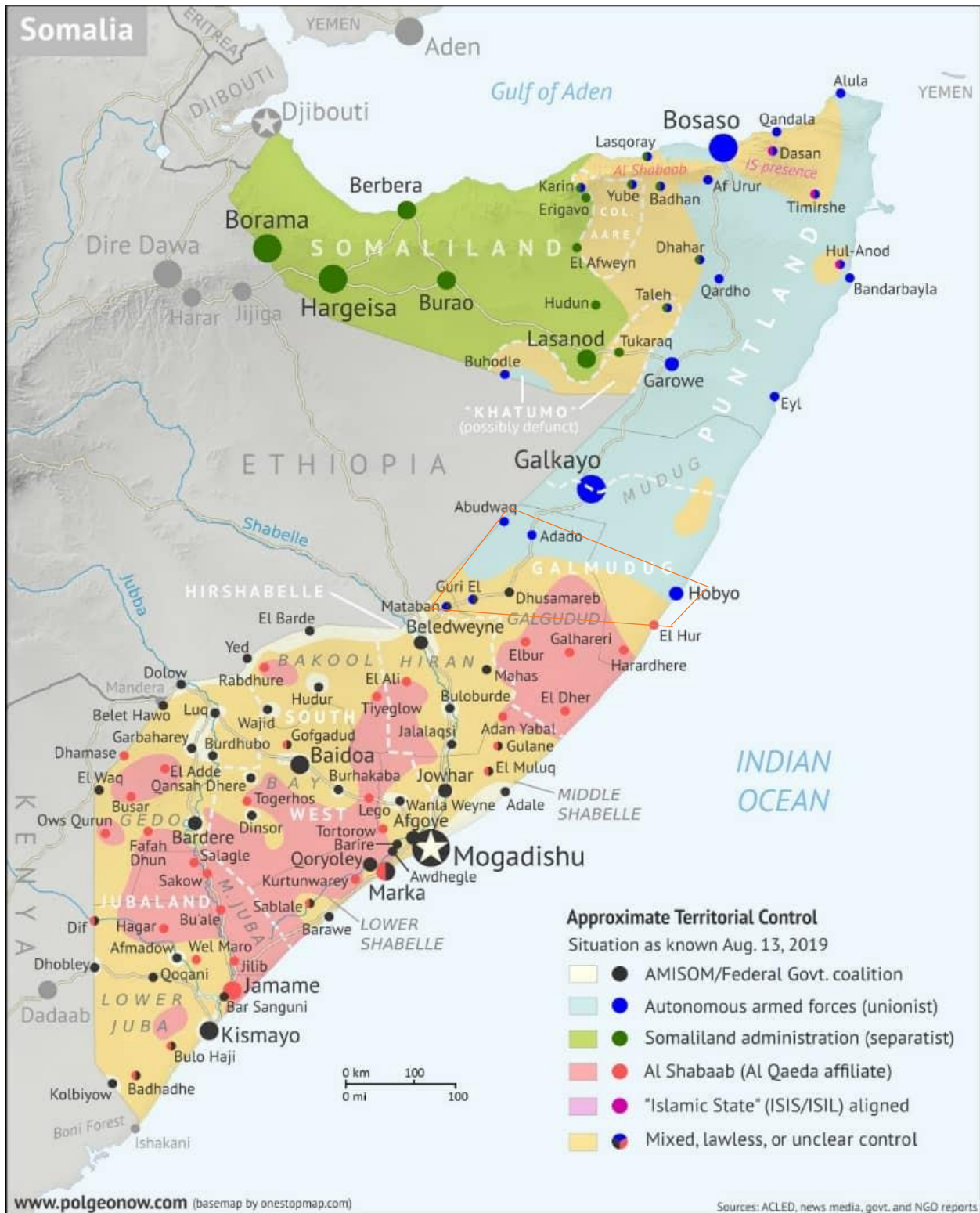
1.2 Data Collection Instrument

Done in the mid of Covid -19 pandemic between August and October 2020, data was collected using a telephone to minimize contact, where village elders and family members helped provide details of people living with disabilities. All data regarding location, name and telephone contacts have been captured to facilitate future tracing in anticipation of a future survey that is aimed at collecting specific data on every individual identified in the current study.

1.3 Sample Size and Geographic Location

Data was collected in Galmudug region of Somalia. It is the central region which is situated about 750 km from Mogadishu, Bosaso and Harar in Ethiopia. The region is bordered to the east by the Indian Ocean, to the west by Ethiopia, to the north by Puntland, and to the south by

the Hirshabelle. The study covered Dhusamareb, Cadaado, Hobyo, Guricel, Cabudwaaq and Balanbale



A map of Somalia showing Galmudug among other regions

Distribution of respondents by regions in Galmudug

AREA	SAMPLE	%
HOBYO	24	7.6
GURICEL	63	20.1
DHUSAMAREB	83	26.4
CADAADO	32	10.2
CABUDWAAQ	68	21.7
BALANBALE	44	14.0
TOTAL	314	100.0

1.4 Demographic Information of Respondents

This section describes the general background information of the respondents. They include gender, age, marital status, economic status, education levels, cause of disability and whether or not the respondent had any assistive devices.

1.4.1 Gender of Respondents

The study found that the males were disproportionately more often identified as having a form of disability than females. The majority, 63% (197) of the respondents in this study were male. Females were 117, representing 37%. From the results, it is evident that the males had the most cases of disabilities compared to the females.



Figure 1.2: Gender of Respondents

1.4.2 Age of Respondents

From the received feedback, 7.6% of the respondents were 0-10 years, 10.8% were 11-20 years, 15.3% were 21-30 years, 19.1% were 31-40 years, 14% were 41-50 years, 10.2% were 51-60 years, another 10.2% were 61-70 years, 6.4% were 71-80 years, 5.4% were 81-90 years and 1% were 91-100 years. From the results, it is evident that majority of the people with disabilities in the study area were the youth between 20 and 40 years. There is therefore a need to address this issue as it affects people at the prime of their life.

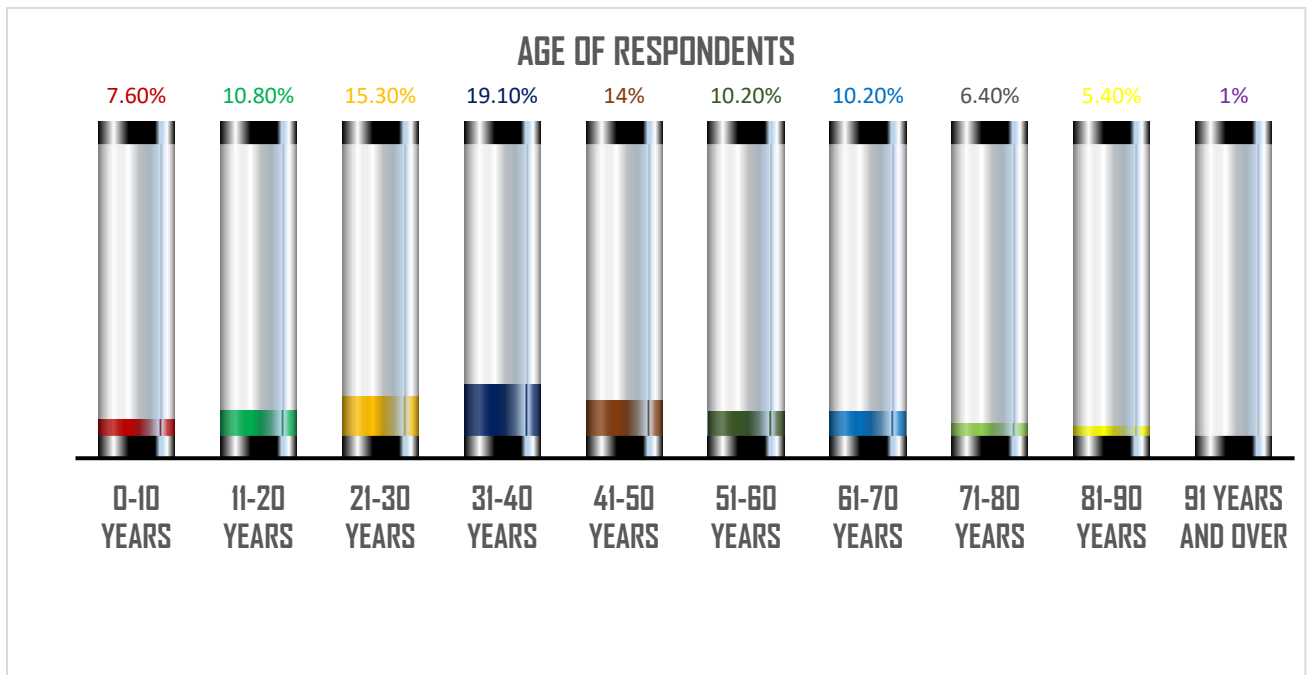
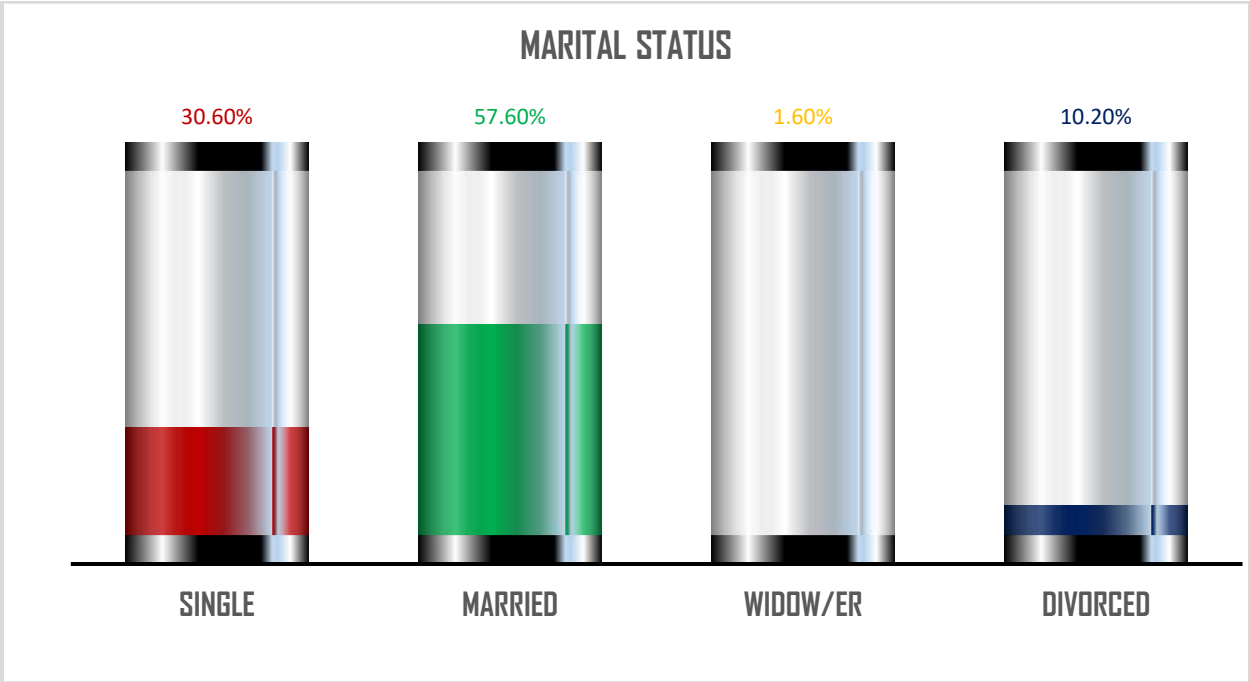


Figure 2: Age Bracket of Respondents

1.4.3 Marital status



From the findings, 30.6% of the respondents interviewed indicated that they were single, 57.6% were married, and 1.6% had lost their spouse whereas the remaining 10.2% were divorced. This shows that majority of the respondents interviewed were married.

1.4.4 Economic status



Information was collected on the employment status of the respondent; however, questions about income were not asked directly. The question focused on whether the person was in a form of employment or not. It was assumed that the employed, or those benefiting from a steady income, will reflect a higher socio-economic status than the unemployed. From the results, majority (96%) of the persons with disabilities surveyed were unemployed. This underlines the low socio-economic status of the persons with disabilities in the study region.

1.4.5 Education Levels

From the study, majority of the participants 83.1% did not have any form of formal education, 9.9% had only primary education, 4% had only reached secondary level, another 1.9% had intermediate level of education and only 1% had managed to reach university level.

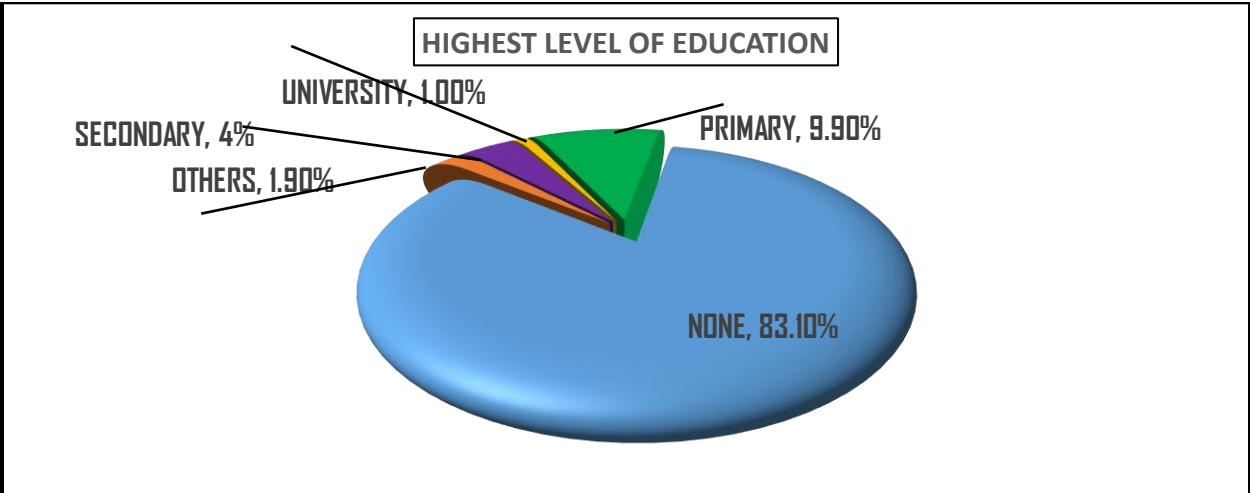
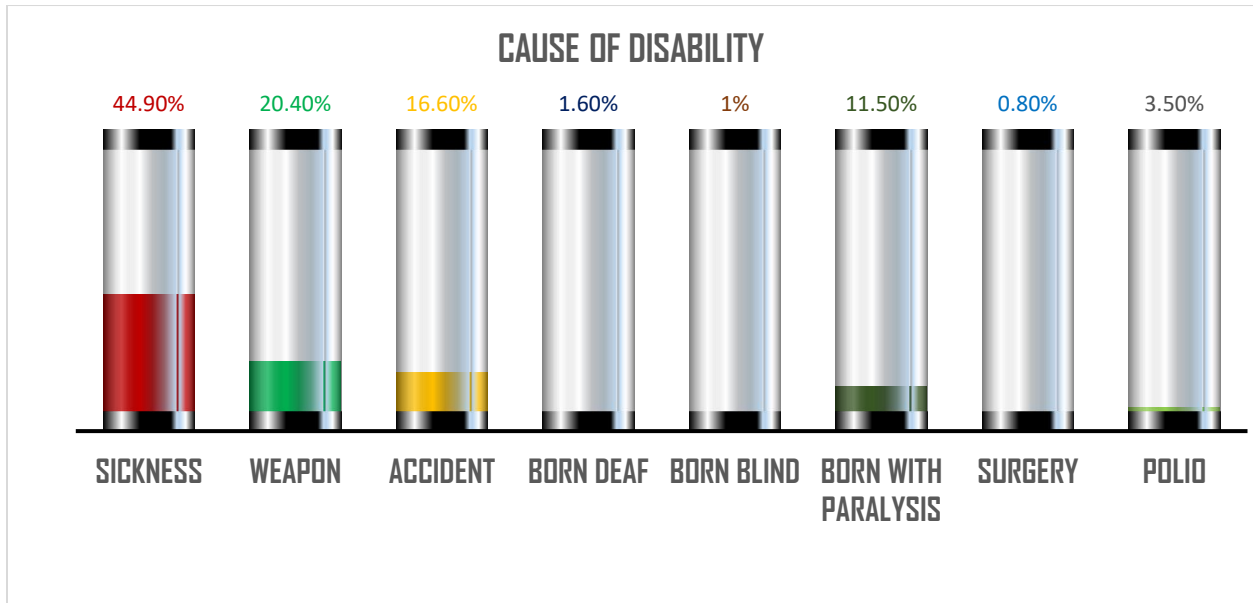


Figure 4.4: Education Level of Respondents

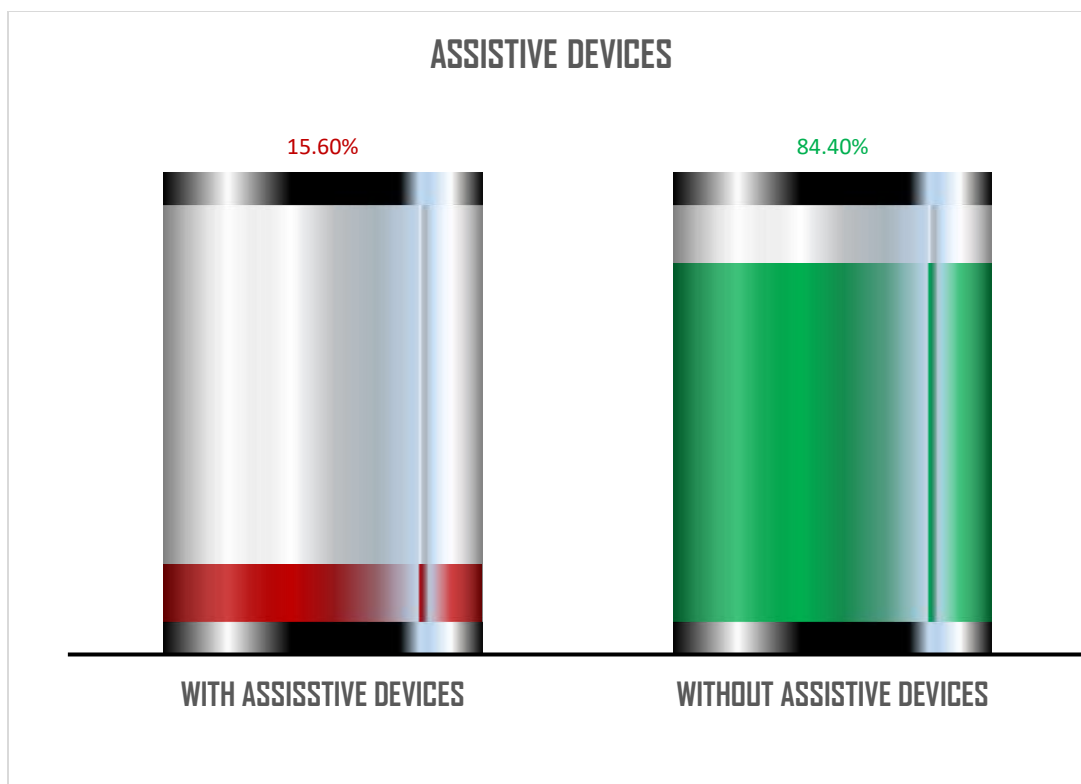
1.4.6 Cause of Disability



As to what may have caused the disability, 44.9% indicated that the disability was caused by sickness, 20.4% said that it was by a weapon, 16.6% indicated as caused by an accident, 1.6% were born deaf, 1% were born blind, 11.5% were born with paralysis, 0.8% was caused by surgery, and 3.5% was caused by polio. From the results obtained, up to three-quarters of the cause of disability were caused by combined incidents of sickness, weapon and accidents.

1.4.7 Assistive Devices

In an attempt to assess whether the people with disabilities in the study area had a form of assistive device, 84.4 indicated that they had no assistive device and only 15.6% of them had assistive devices. It is therefore evident that majority of the people with disability had no assistive devices which greatly hampers their mobility and operations. There is therefore need for this issue to be addressed.



1.5 Conclusions and Recommendations

Disability is a risk we all face, which can affect us at any stage across the lifecycle. It is also a key cause of poverty, as disability and poverty are closely interlinked and often reinforce one another. There is much to be done to ensure that people with disabilities receive adequate support across their lifetime. In that regard, it is recommended that the following key aspects for expanding access to social protection:

Improve data availability

To make a case for further investment by the development partners, it is imperative to build an evidence based that can provide a clear understanding of the current state of affairs concerning issues of disability including up-to-date information on the prevalence of disability disaggregated by age, sex, disability type and level of severity. Moreover, IRMAN will seek to work with development partners to develop or strengthen mechanisms for collecting data.

Increase benefit levels

Further dialogue should be had around the issue of transfer values of benefits to people with disabilities, which should be increased to reflect the additional costs associated with disability. Considerations of opportunity costs associated with losses in income due to caregiving responsibilities is another factor to highlight.

Strengthening linkages between social protection and other social services

Although the provision of social protection is a key priority for persons living with disabilities, it is clear that a more comprehensive approach is needed to meaningfully address the various barriers and challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Provision of broader support alongside social security to comprehensively address the challenges faced by the disabled community and ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in society and in the labour market. Improving access to education and training to enable persons with disabilities to engage in the labour market is particularly important as it increases productivity and could lead to substantial gains. Improving access to health services and social care would allow families to receive necessary treatment and rehabilitation in addition to mitigating instances of impairments worsening.

Mainstreaming of disability through strengthened governance arrangements

The integration of disability concerns in broader policy and programming is crucial and needs an institution centrally placed to provide oversight and coordination.

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Rohwerder, B. (2018). Disability in Somalia. K4D Helpdesk Report 266. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.