

## Stakeholders/Partners

Presidential Administration

National Assembly of People with Disabilities

Foundation of Social Protection of People with Disabilities

Committees of the Ukrainian Parliament

Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of Ukraine

Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport of Ukraine

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

Ministry of Finance of Ukraine

State Commission on Civil Society Organizations of People with Disabilities

United Nations in Ukraine, including

- UNDP
- WHO
- UNAIDS
- ILO
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- UNODC
- UNHCR
- IOM
- WB
- IMF

Swedish International Development Cooperation

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
USAID

## Additional Information

United Nations in Ukraine

[www.un.org.ua/en/publications/](http://www.un.org.ua/en/publications/)

- Common Country Assessment for Ukraine. Kyiv. October 2004
- The State and the Citizen: Delivering on Promises. The Blue Ribbon Commission for Ukraine. Kyiv. 2006
- Ukraine - Millennium Development Goals 2000+5. Ministry of Economy and European Integration of Ukraine. Kyiv. 2003

UNGSPA "National Assembly of People with Disabilities"

e-mail: [office@naiu.org.ua](mailto:office@naiu.org.ua) [www.naiu.org.ua](http://www.naiu.org.ua)

United Nations "Enable"

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

- Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol: From Exclusion to Equality, Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/toolaction/ipuhb.pdf>

UNICEF Speak out on Disability Rights

[http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_cfc\\_questionnaire.php](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_cfc_questionnaire.php)

Disability and the UN System

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=161>

United Nations in Ukraine:  
1 Klovsky Uzviz, 01021 Kyiv, Ukraine  
Tel +38.044.253.9363  
Fax +38.044.253.2607

[www.un.org.ua](http://www.un.org.ua)



United Nations in Ukraine

Analytical Brief

People with  
Disabilities  
in Ukraine

November 2007

## Context

The official statistics of the number of People With Disabilities (PWD) in Ukraine is around 2.5 million people, which amounts to 5.2% of the overall population. The negative consequences of the transition period affected adversely this vulnerable group, with competition – both among enterprises and among individuals – as a new challenge. The most important PWD-specific law of the past few years is “On the basic principles of social protection of disabled people in Ukraine”. In accordance with Article 19 of this document, business enterprises (associations), institutions and organizations, are obliged to provide jobs for PWD, with one working place reserved for them if the enterprise counts between 8 and 25 people of staff.

Actions regarding the human rights of PWD are crucial to achievement of the Ukrainian Millennium Development Goals:

- **Goal 1 “Poverty Reduction”.** Poverty is a cause of disability: over 85 per cent of PWD live in poverty. Moreover, over 50 per cent of disabilities in Ukraine are preventable and directly linked to poverty. This is particularly true for disabilities arising from malnutrition, maternal under-nourishment and infectious diseases.
- **Goal 4 “Improved maternal health and reduced child mortality”.** Several thousands women become disabled each year as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbirth. Abnormal pre-natal events are a major cause of disability in children in Ukraine. Mortality rates for children with disabilities could be over 50 per cent in the country.
- **Goal 5 “Reducing and slowing the spread of HIV/ AIDS and tuberculosis”.** Persons with disabilities in Ukraine are particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis but typically lack the necessary services and access to information on prevention and treatment.

## Key Issues

- The lack of rehabilitation institutions and qualified personnel attending to the educational needs of the children with disabilities (152.2 thousand children are registered as having various physical or mental impairments);
- Invisibility, non integration into wider society: children and young people with disabilities are forced to stay at home most of the time due to lack of social services;
- The lack of qualified specialists – lawyers, psychologists, speech and other therapists, social educators and social workers with specialized training for working with PWD.
- Absence of the centralized network of transportation services for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility;
- Absence of special adapters in telephone networks for people with serious speech impediments, unable to use telephone connections.
- Lack of coordination between the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of the Family, Youth and Sport, as well as the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, which prevents children and young people with disabilities to get quality home-based education;
- Limited number of broadcasts in sign language and total absence of the newspapers or journals with pages in Braille.
- Infringement of the right to vote of totally blind people during elections since the majority of them cannot use special ballot papers;
- Discrimination in the workplace, especially, when employers show readiness to pay PDW a “salary” under condition that they would not be around.

## The Way Forward

Advocacy and Attitude Change – Promote and participate in media and other public campaigns to increase understanding of the situation and potentials of PWD. Advocate with key decision makers for actions needed regarding persons with disabilities.

Promote the New Convention and Follow-Up on It – Promote the signing and ratification of the new Convention, as well as the review of national legislation and policies to ensure compliance with the contents of the Convention and other international standards. Information campaigns for persons with disabilities, so that they become familiar with the provisions of the Convention, and can claim their rights based on this information.

Anti-Discrimination, Justice and Human Rights – Promote and support comprehensive inclusion and anti-discrimination laws in national legislation. Provide support and training for the office of the Ombudsperson, judicial and law enforcement authorities.

National Planning and Policy Development – Ensure that issues of disability and of PWD are integral parts of national development strategies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and nationalized MDGs, and are well included in the major planning processes of the Government.

Capacity Strengthening and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities – Support strengthening of organisations of persons with disabilities. Support networking among such organisations and with other CSOs, and support regional and global cooperation and advocacy. Provide technical assistance and support for development of strategies and actions for increasing the political organization and strength of persons with disabilities, and the receptivity of key government and political actors to their issues and messages.

Capacity Strengthening of National Government – Support relevant Ministries, e.g. in dealing with delivery of social transfers and social welfare service, provision of diversity training for public servants and capacity building to report against the Convention (including drawing on lessons from CEDAW reporting). Support capacity building for participatory policy making (e.g., drafting National disability strategies with participation of PWD organizations).