19.2% of the global female population is estimated to have a disability.[1] Women with disabilities are twice as likely, and girls with disabilities are up to four times more likely, to be affected by violence than their peers without disabilities.[2]

WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

- Households more inclined to invest in improving health and living conditions for boys than girls.

- Higher disability rates.

- Exposure to higher risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

- Two to three times more likely to be physically or sexually abused.

- Lack access to education on sexual and reproductive health, including information on sex, relationships, and menstrual hygiene.

- Earn less than men with disabilities and non-disabled women.

- Particular risk of sexual abuse, especially girls and women.

- Increased risk of forced marriage, forced sterilisations and forced abortions.

- Underrepresented in public decision-making.

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[1] WHO/ World Bank. World Report on Disability. 2011. Geneva
[2] UNICEF, The State of the Worlds Children, 2013

Women with disabilities are often described as being doubly marginalized: on account of firstly their disability and secondly their gender. They are frequently more vulnerable to poverty and to social exclusion. They also often have limited opportunities in social, political and economic areas and a lack of access to basic services.

Women with disabilities are at greater risk of sexual and physical violence and abuse. Girls with disabilities often experience discrimination, for example in education and family life. There is very limited mainstreaming of disability in women's empowerment and gender-based violence programming.

Developing gender inclusive policies and programmes

Some strategies to develop gender inclusive policies and programmes are:
- undertake gender and disability audits
- develop disability and gender inclusive action plans and strategies
- ensure human resources offer disability and gender equality training
- develop M&E frameworks with specific indicators and targets on sex and disability, age and other factors
- collect data disaggregated by sex, disability, age and other factors.

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