

# **Mapping Non-State Actors and Social Protection Framework for Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh**

**Arju Afrin Kathy & Aminul Arifeen**

**Social Security Policy Support Program, UNDP**

# Agenda

- **What are Non-State Actors (NSAs)**
- **What do NSAs do**
- **Mapping of marginalized groups**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan response**
- **Next steps**

# NSA (NSA) Legal Framework

NSAs are registered, non-state organizations in Bangladesh.

Includes a range of organizations:

- Charity
- Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- International NGOs
- Civil society
- Mixed purpose

**Over 20,000 NSAs  
registered in Bangladesh**

Legal Identity for NSAs	Laws regulating NSA relationship with GoB
i. The Societies Registration Act, 1861	i. The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Regulation and Control) (VSW) Ordinance, 1961
i. The Societies Registration Act, 1861	ii. The Foreign Donation (Voluntary Activities Regulation) (FDR) Ordinance, 1978
ii. The Trust Act, 1882	iii. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982, Ordinance No XXXI of 1982.
iii. The Cooperative Societies Act, 1925	
iii. The Companies Act, 1913	

# Major Types of NSAs

## Relief and Welfare

Vital during crises, offering essential services in response to disasters, conflicts, and emergencies. They provide humanitarian aid including food, shelter, water, and medical care.

## Development

Engage in medium- and long-term activities that promote social and economic progress.

## Service

Target underserved communities, covering healthcare, education, job training, and legal representation. Focus on addressing root causes of social issues and offer direct services tailored to identified needs. Often operating where government services are limited and support basic needs of vulnerable populations.



## Networking and Coordination

Promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy among NSAs and other stakeholders thereby enhancing the development sector's collective impact.

## Consulting

Provide consulting services to the GoB, other NSAs, development partners through research, surveys, analysis, evaluation.

## Funding

Raise large amounts of resources from a range of contributors, private and public, and distribute funding and grants to other organizations.

# Functional Coverage of NSAs

1. Credit/ micro finance
2. Women development
3. Non-formal education
4. Employment generation and income earning
5. Capacity building in planning and management
6. Occupational skill training
7. Political participation
8. Health and nutritional knowledge
9. Family planning and development of children
10. Environment
11. Mobilization of target group and consciousness-raising
12. Leadership development
13. Access to government services and activate local administration
14. Development of appropriate irrigation technologies
15. Urban & Rural Development
16. Humanitarian & Legal Aid
17. Relief & Rehabilitation

# Strengths of NSAs

- Ability to work with multiple stakeholders



- Reaching poor and remote
- Rapid response

- 
- Capacity to operate on low budgets
  - Advocacy

- Local insights and understanding
- Promote local participation
- Local resource mobilization

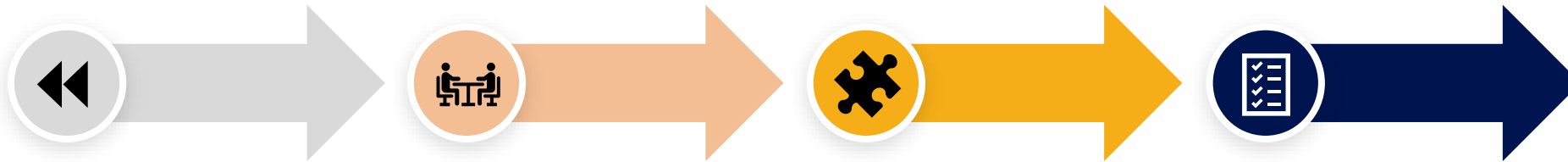
- 
- Operational and programmatic flexibility
  - Innovate and adapt
  - Risk and experimentation

# Mapping Marginalized Groups

Groups Based On	Population Description	Key Challenges
<b>Socio-economic status</b>	Those living near or below the poverty line	High poverty, malnutrition, limited access to affordable healthcare
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Ethnic and Indigenous minority groups	Higher poverty rates compared to national average
<b>Religion / caste</b>	Religious minority and ostracized castes groups	Discrimination and social exclusion
<b>Disability and disease</b>	Persons with physical or mental disabilities, and persons with communicable or severe diseases	Higher unemployment rates compared to national average; limited access to affordable treatments
<b>Age</b>	Young, adolescent, and elderly persons	Malnutrition; limited training and employment opportunities; high poverty
<b>Migrant and mobile</b>	Cross-border migrants, internal migrants, refugees, landless	Difficulty accessing available social protection programs
<b>Occupation</b>	Tea plantation, sweepers, dom, beggar, child labourer, unemployed, and sex workers	High poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion
<b>Geographic</b>	People living in hard-to-rich, coastal, haor areas, char, hill areas	Difficulty accessing available social protection programs
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Transgender/third gender (Hijra), gay, lesbian	Discrimination and social exclusion
<b>Violence</b>	Trafficked survivors, acid survivors, sexually violated, raped victims	Limited trauma and mental health support
<b>Climate and Disaster</b>	Victims of natural and man-made disaster, and those impacted by climate change	Increasing vulnerability to cyclones, storms, flooding, etc.

# Way Forward

Through the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and future social protection strategic reform planning, specific steps can be taken to build a more inclusive and equitable social protection system for marginalized groups.



## Review

***Review, identify, and plan priority reforms for responding to the specific challenges and needs of marginalized groups within the country.***

01

## Utilize NSAs

***Incorporate NSA insights into reform planning.***

***Consider pathways for NSA decentralized service delivery.***

***Expand forums for NSA policy contribution.***

02

## Future Strategy

The current NSSS expires in 2026. Future strategic plans should incorporate specific chapters and national objectives responding to marginalized challenges and needs.

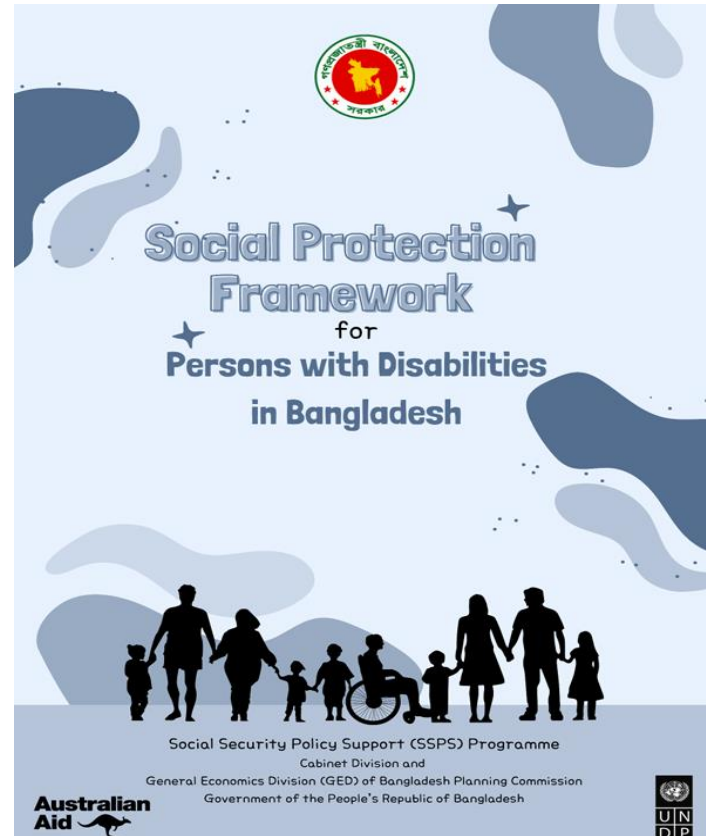
03

## Reforms

Develop action plans and begin implementing specific reforms that respond to each of the marginalized groups.

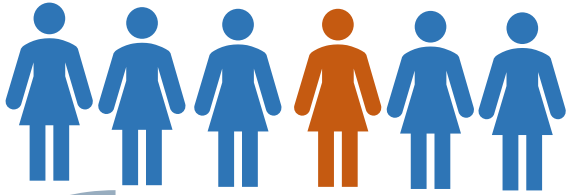
04

# The Framework Followed Qualitative Research Methodology



## Background Research

# Bangladesh's Primary Data on Disability Prevalence

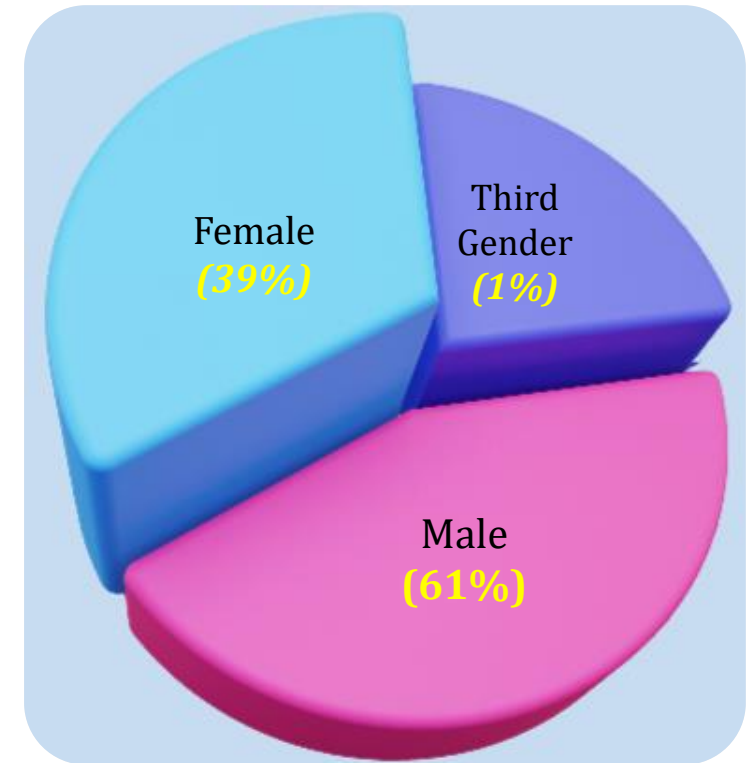


WHO says,  
Globally, approximately  
**1.3 billion** people are  
experiencing disability  
*(per 100, 16 are Persons  
with Disabilities)*

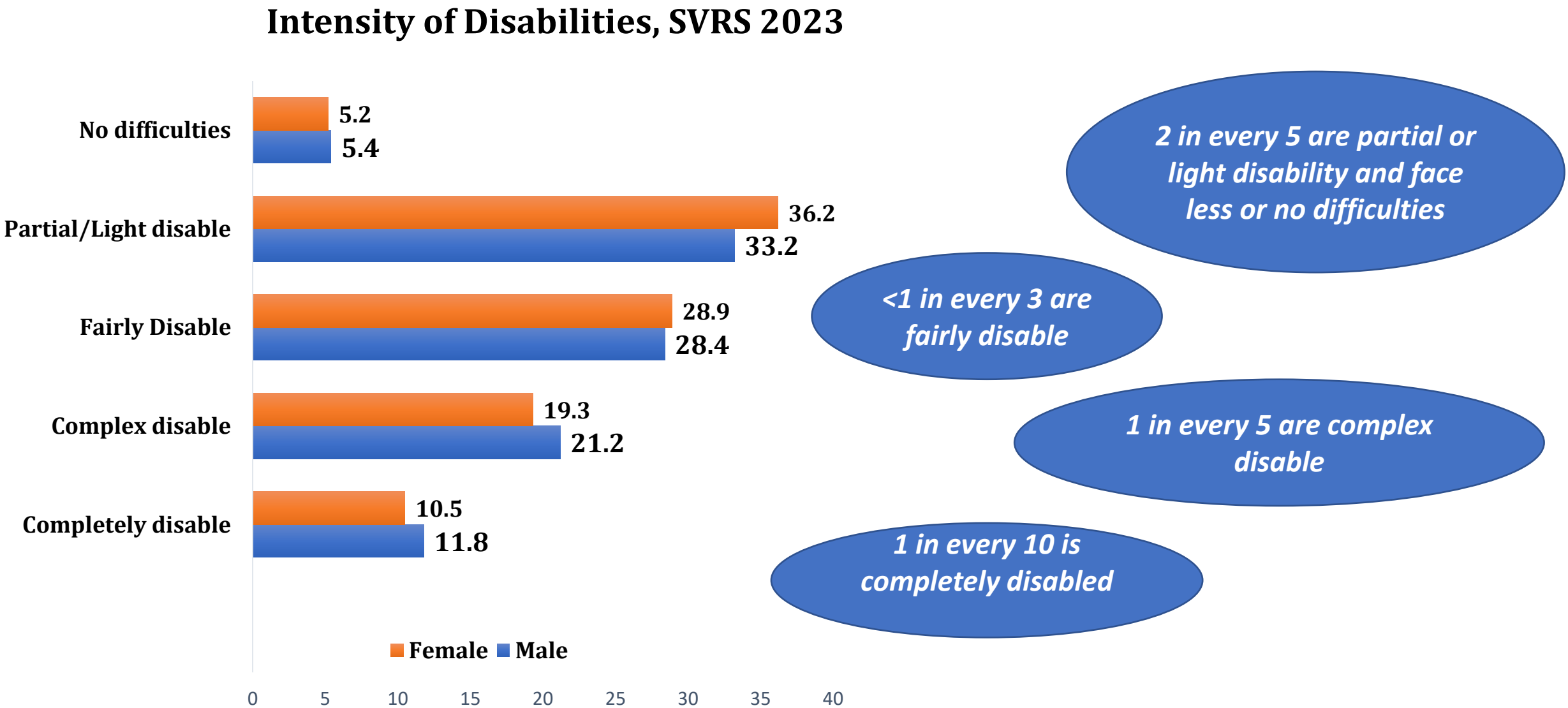
Person with disabilities  
may face a life expectancy  
up to **20 years** shorter  
than those without  
disabilities *(70+ - 20 = 50+  
years)*

35,41,672  
(3.54 million)

Disability Information System  
(DIS)  
Department of Social Services



# Intensity of Disabilities by Pattern



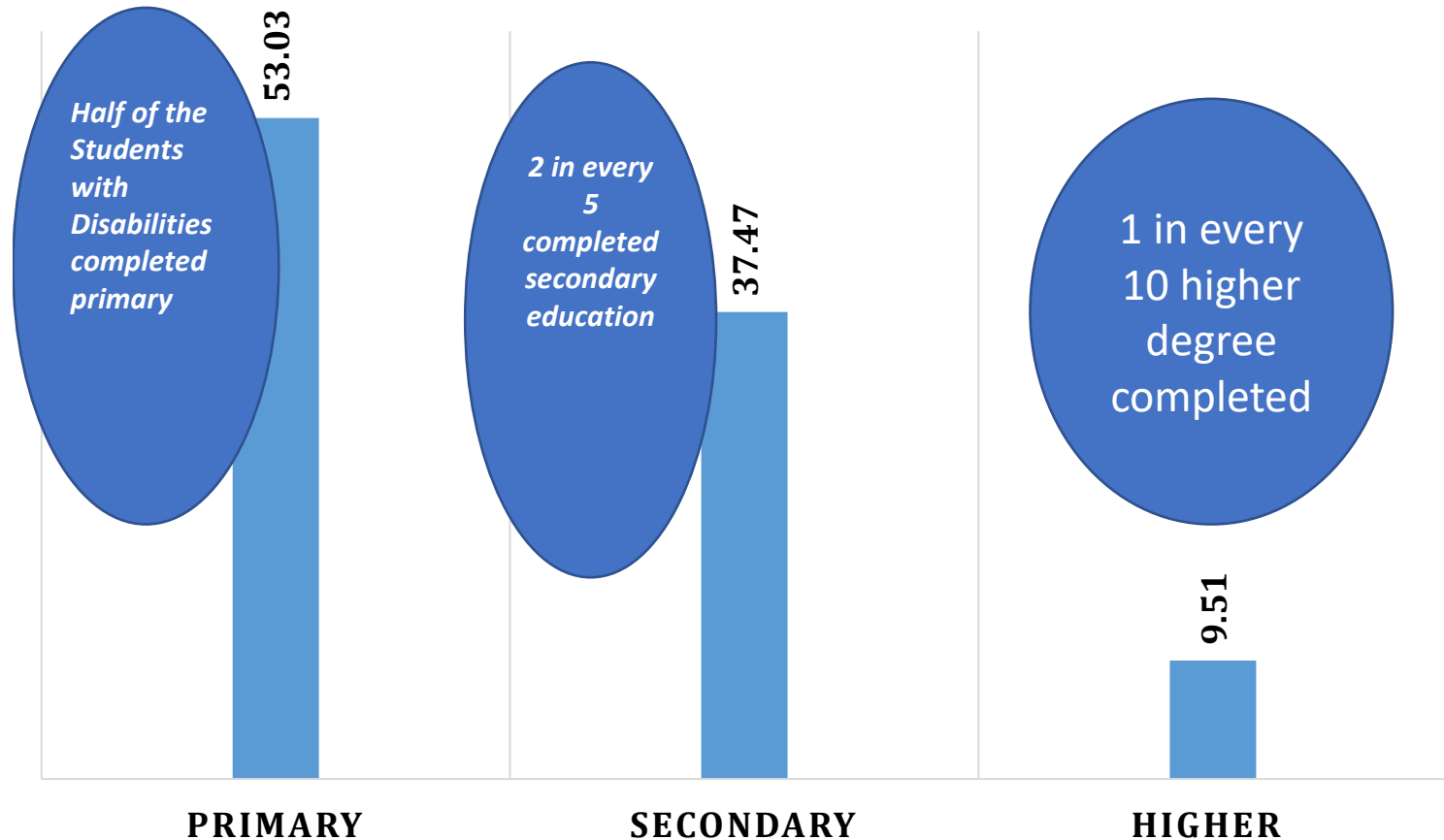
# Divide in Inclusive Education

Bangladesh Education Statistics  
2021 Gross Enrollment Rates

Primary 111.6  
Secondary 71.5  
Tertiary 23.8

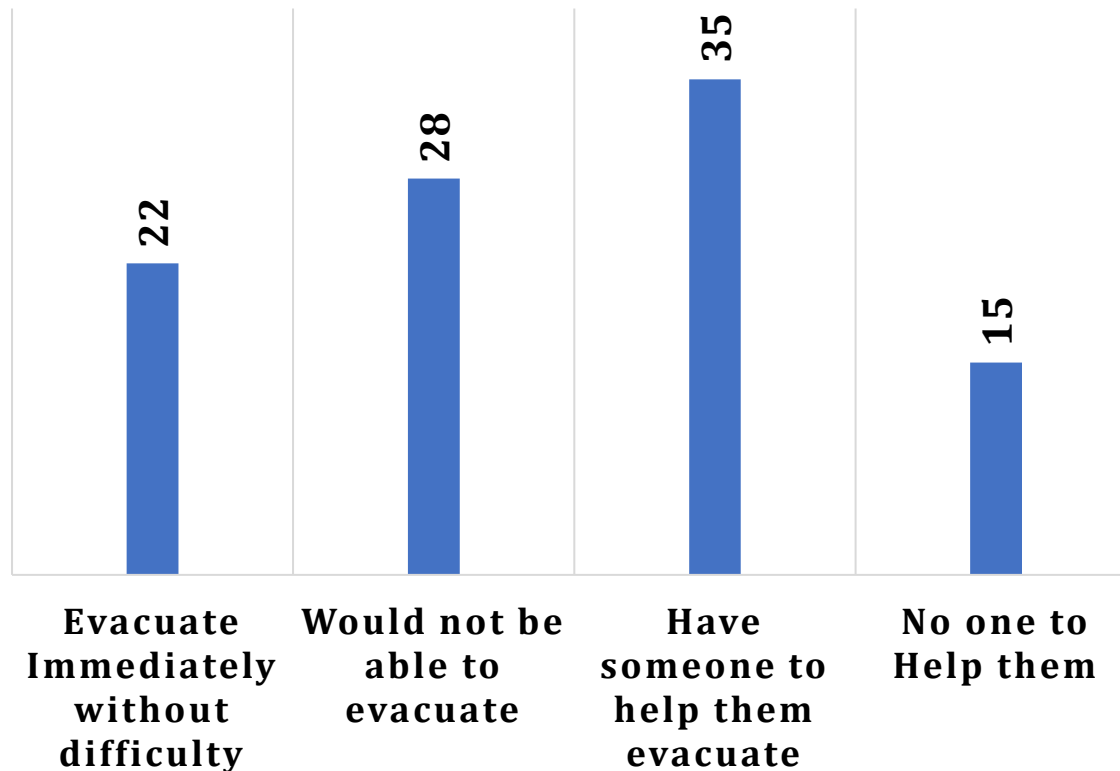
Education Divide  
Primary:  $111.6 - 53.03 = 58.6$   
Secondary:  $71.5 - 37.5 = 34$   
Tertiary:  $23.8 - 9.5 = 14.3$   
(more than half)

Participation Of Person With Disabilities:  
Primary, Secondary, And Higher Education (%),  
NSPD 2021



# Disability and Vulnerability Issues

Figure 6: Evacuation During Disaster, By %

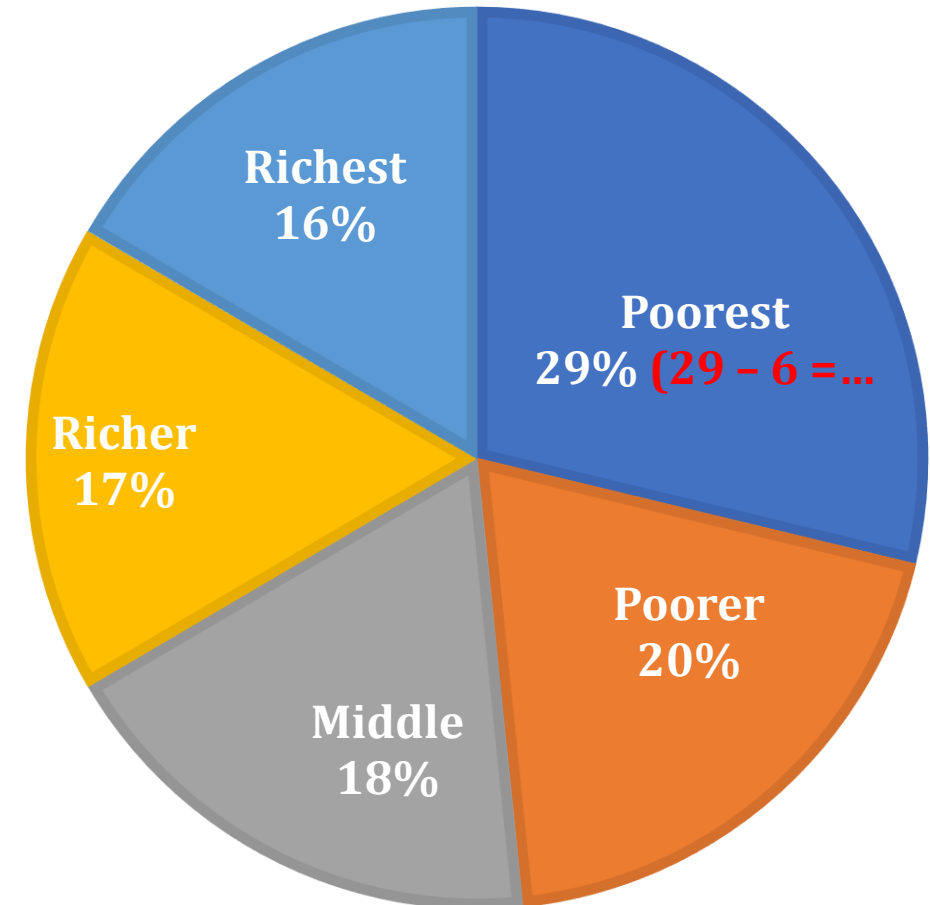


- **Disability and Disaster:** It is likely that PWDs are especially vulnerable when disaster strikes not only due to aspects of their disabilities, but also because they are more likely, on average, to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities, including higher poverty rates.
- Deaf persons are often unable to receive early warning signals and any information that influences a life or death situation, as they are often transmitted only through audible means. Sign language interpreters are often not provided at emergency shelters. Wheelchair users are often unable to access evacuation routes, emergency shelters, temporarily housing units and bathrooms.

# Poverty Hits Hard to Poorest Persons with Disabilities

## Wealth Quintile For HHs of Persons With Disabilities, SVRS 2023

■ Poorest ■ Poorer ■ Middle ■ Richer ■ Richest



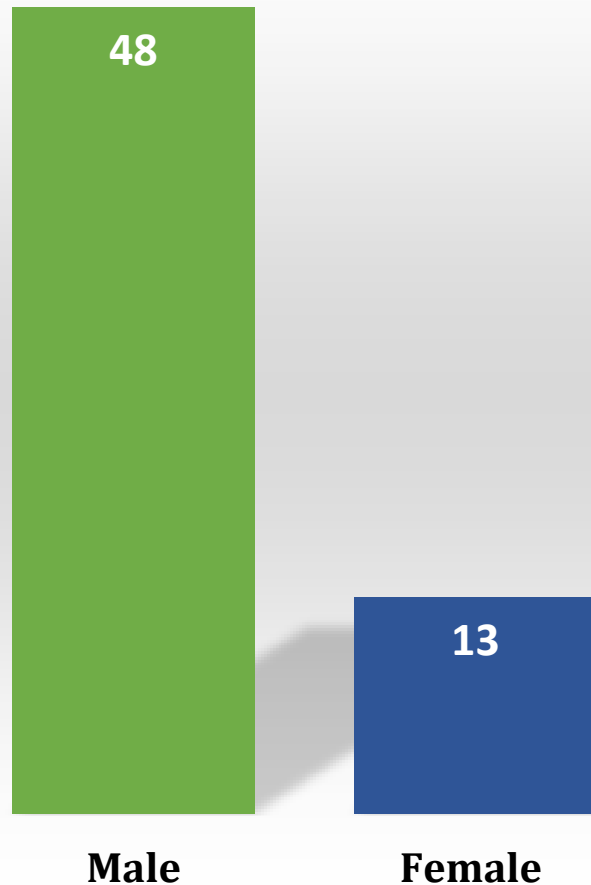
Using the Lower Poverty Lines of HIES 2022, the Head Count Rate, in National Level is

5.6%

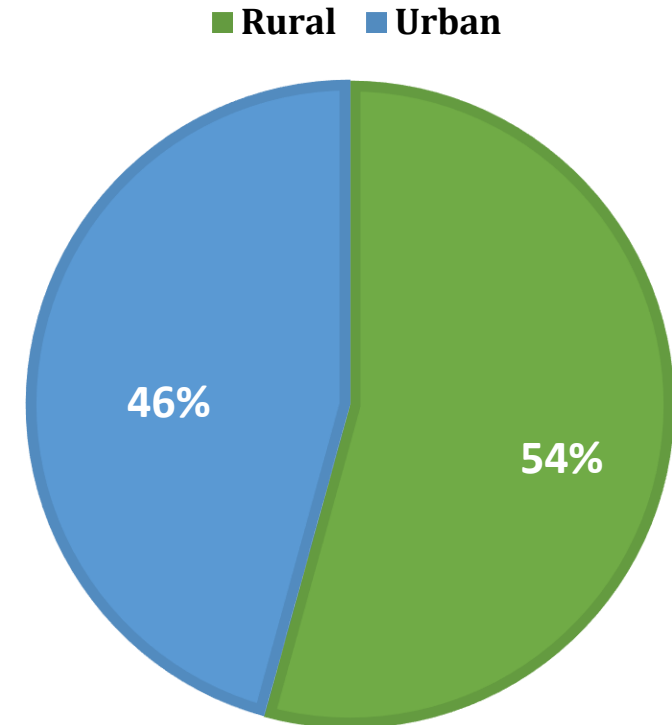
# Male–Female Gap within Persons with Disabilities by Employment

**Males with Disabilities Received Employment 4 Times More Than Females with Disabilities**

Disaggregation by gender (%), NSPD 2021

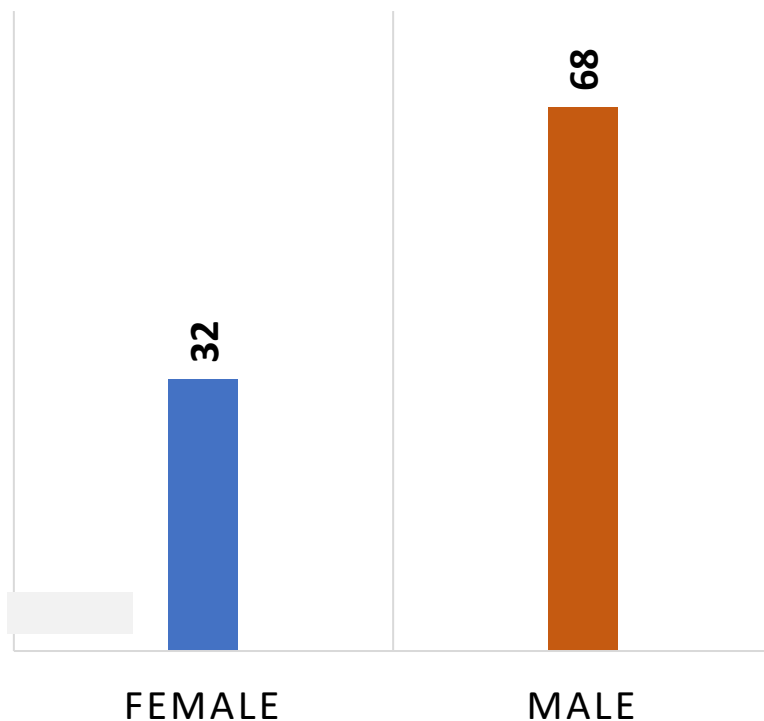


Differential Employment Rates:  
Rural Vs. Urban Areas (%), NSPD  
2021

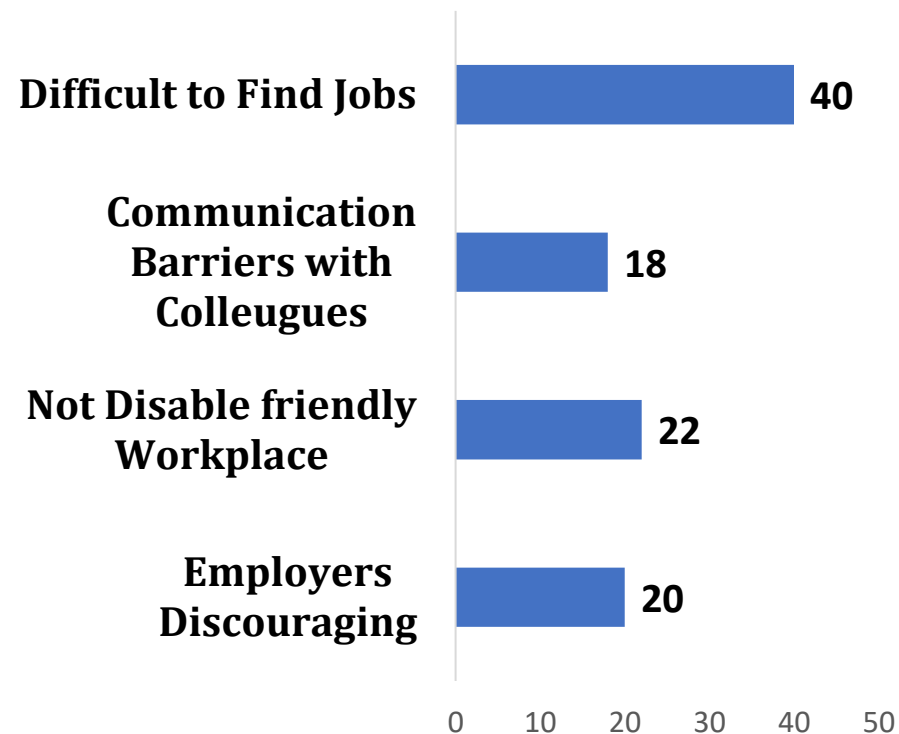


# Disability and Vulnerability Issues: Access to Job

## Job Enrollment (%)



## Barriers to Jobs (%)

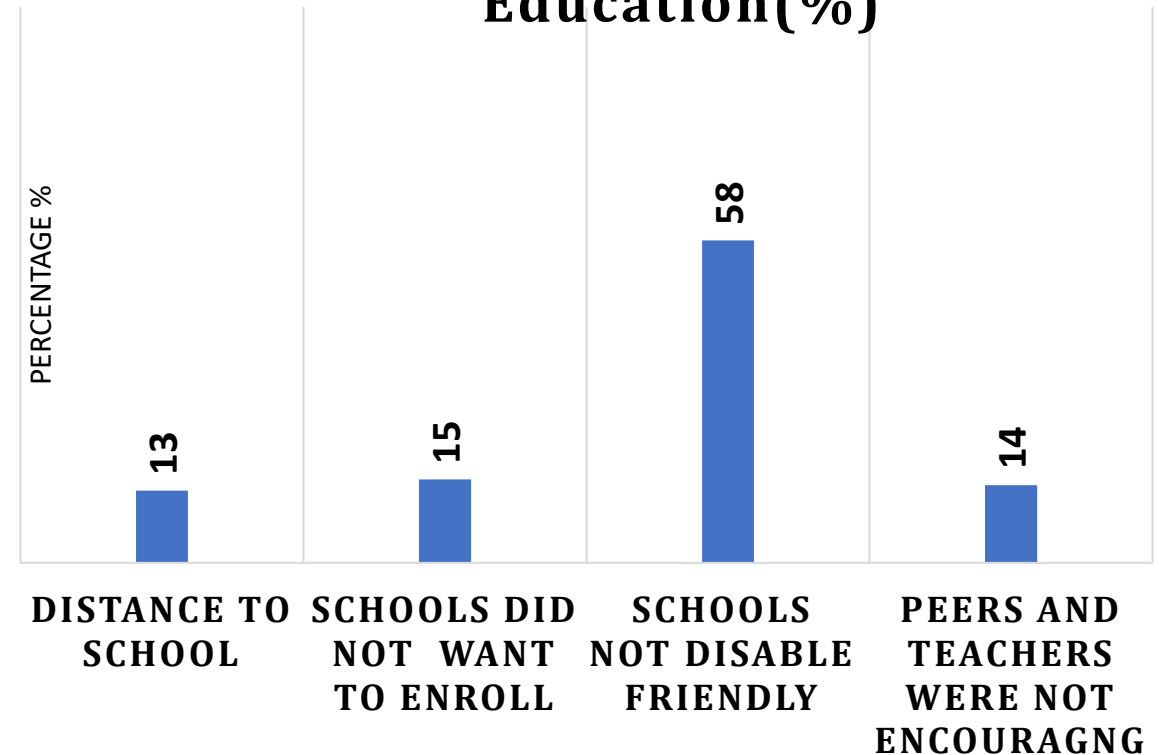


# Disability and Vulnerability Issues: Education

The schools were not disable friendly and the reason were as follows

1. Washrooms were inaccessible,
2. Physical disabled people were unable to go to top floors where exams were held
3. For visually impaired - they had little or no access to braille books, the script writers were not available during exams
4. Invigilators were not aware of the extra time that were allocated for the disabled as per the government rule

**Fig 1: Barriers To Education(%)**



# Limited Political Participation and Access to the Opportunities

**Socio-political participation of person with disabilities (%), NSPD 2021**

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

23.5

VOTING BEHAVIOR

81.88

PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ELECTION

INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEES

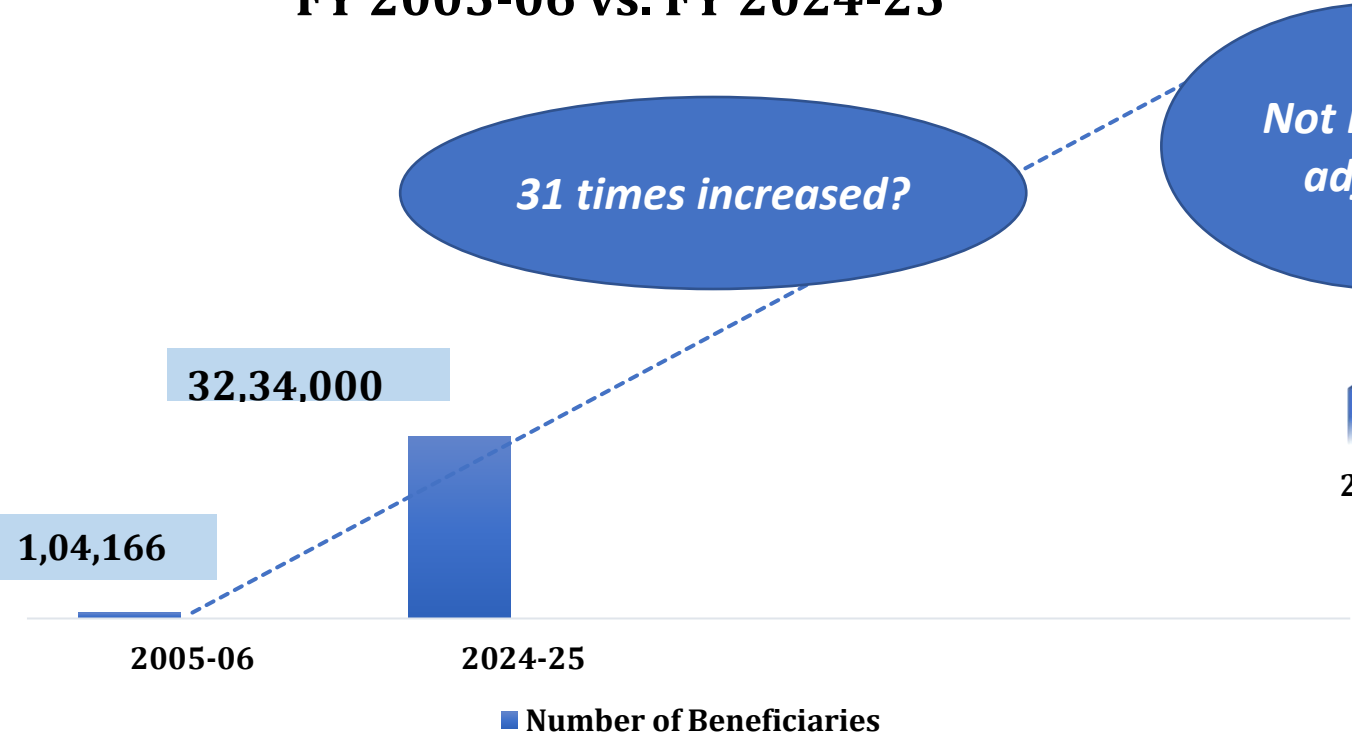
*1 in 5*

## Underrepresentation in the Political Process

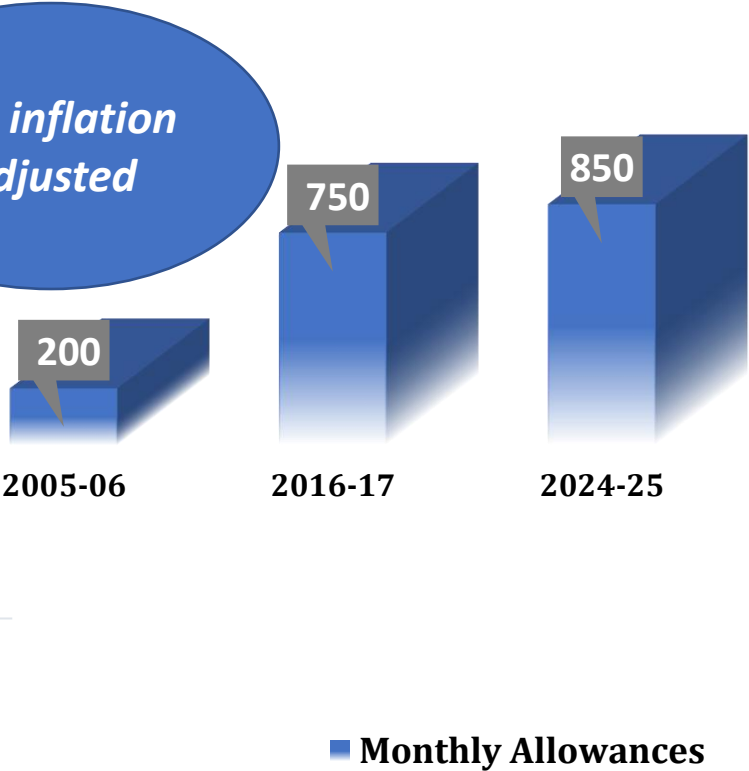
- Involvement in Local government only 0.17%
  - Election involvement 0.53%
- A critical need for inclusive policies that amplify their voices in decision-making processes.

# Enhanced Inclusion but Inadequate - Financial Assistance for Persons with Disabilities 2005-2024

Disability Allowance Beneficiary Growth  
Comparison:  
FY 2005-06 vs. FY 2024-25



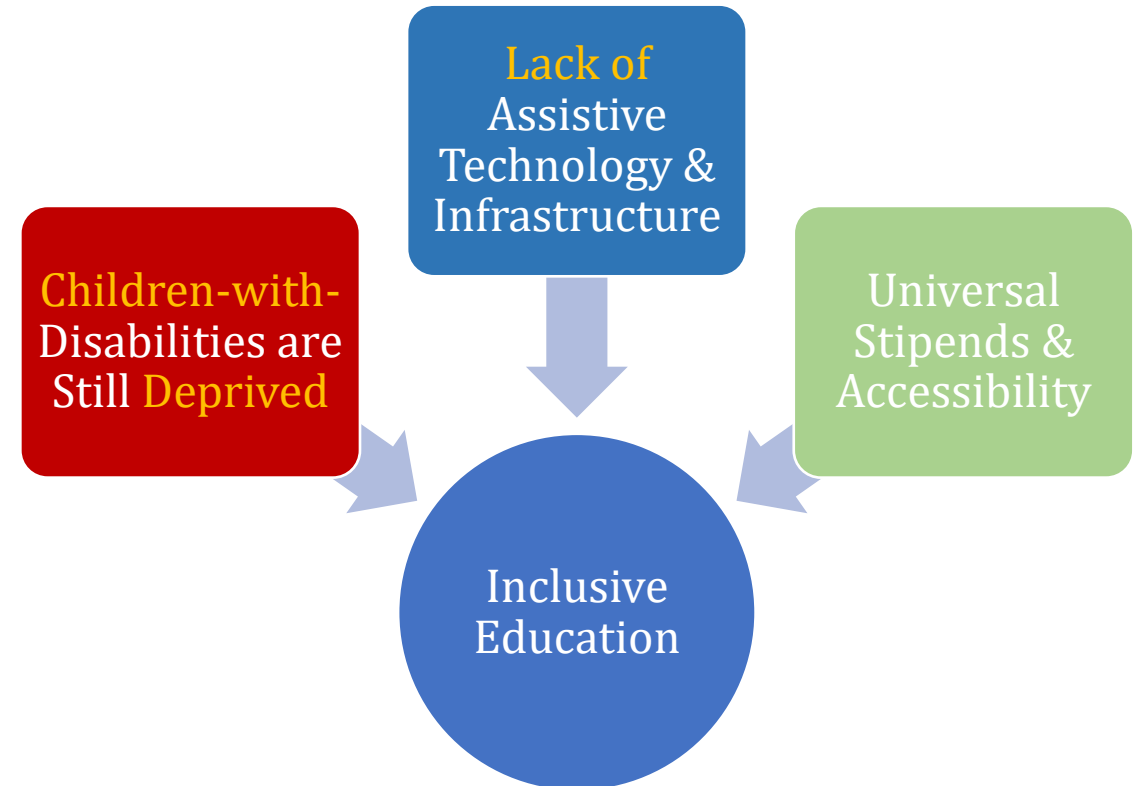
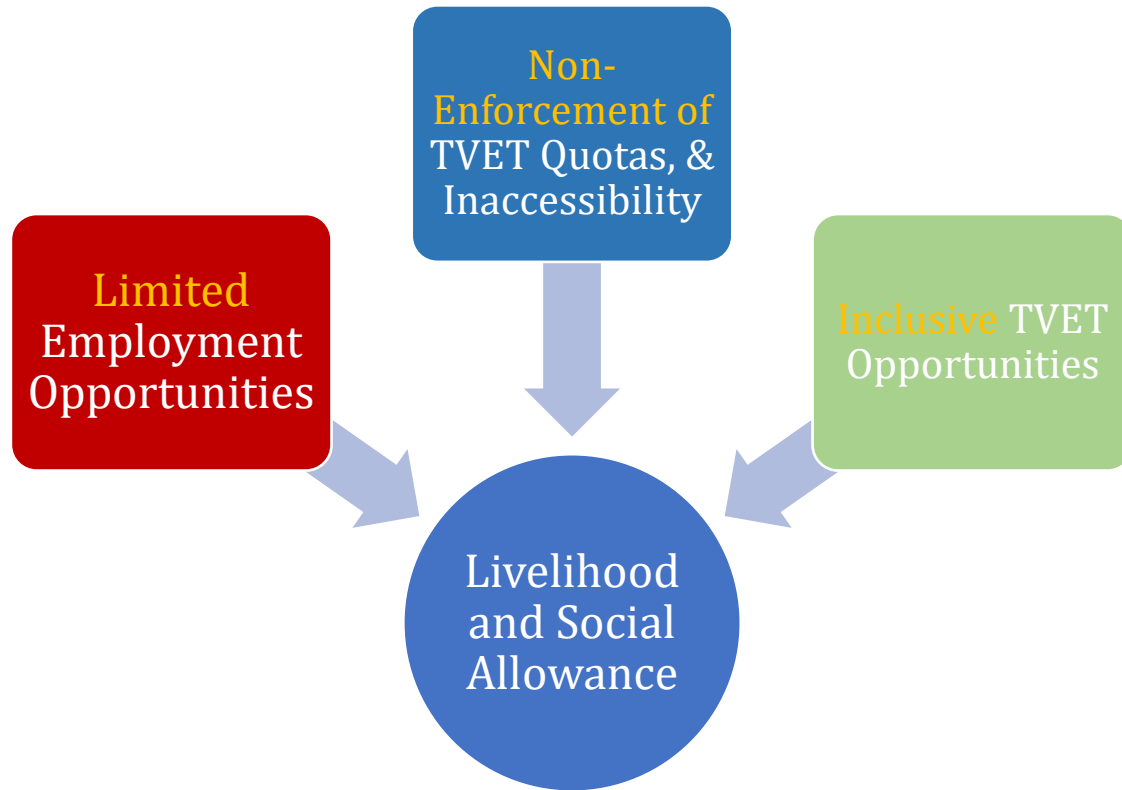
Progression of Monthly Allowances for Disabled: From Initial Phase to Current Fiscal Year Under NSSS



# **Mapping Discriminatory Factors Towards Vulnerability of Persons with Disabilities**

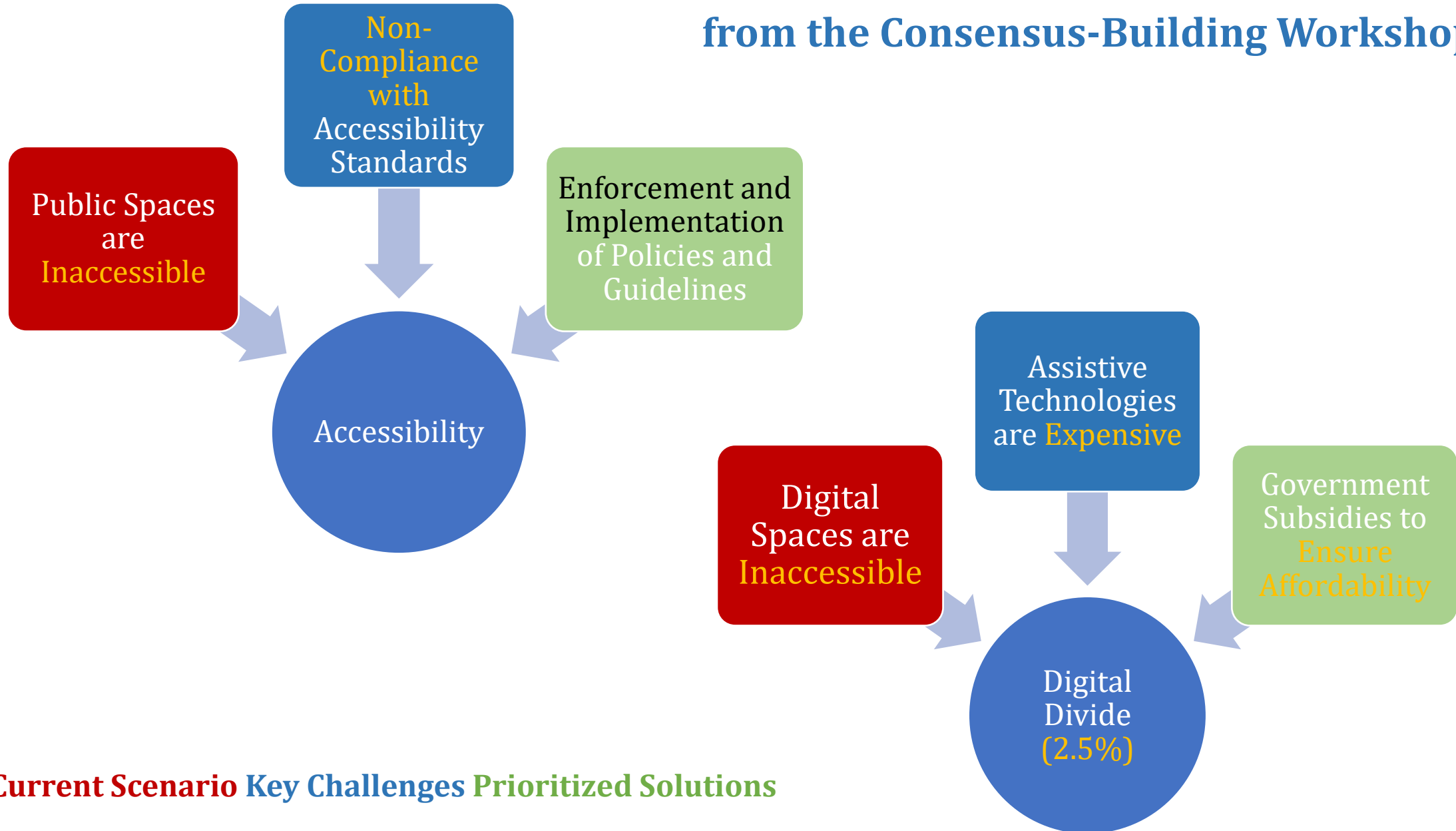
**Background of Developing the Social Protection Framework**

## Voices of Persons with Disabilities: Insights from the Consensus-Building Workshop - 1



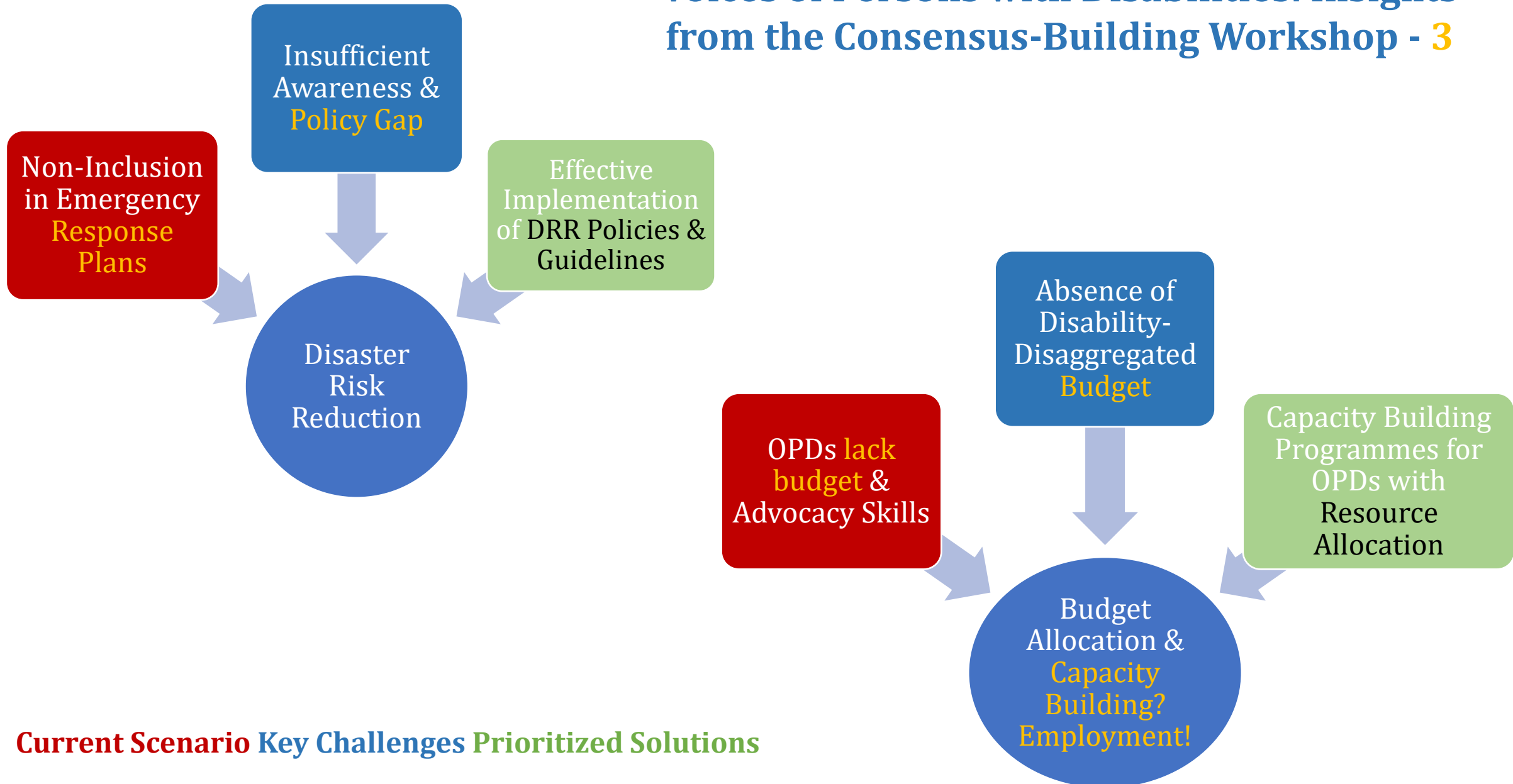
**Current Scenario** **Key Challenges** **Prioritized Solutions**

## Voices of Persons with Disabilities: Insights from the Consensus-Building Workshop - 2

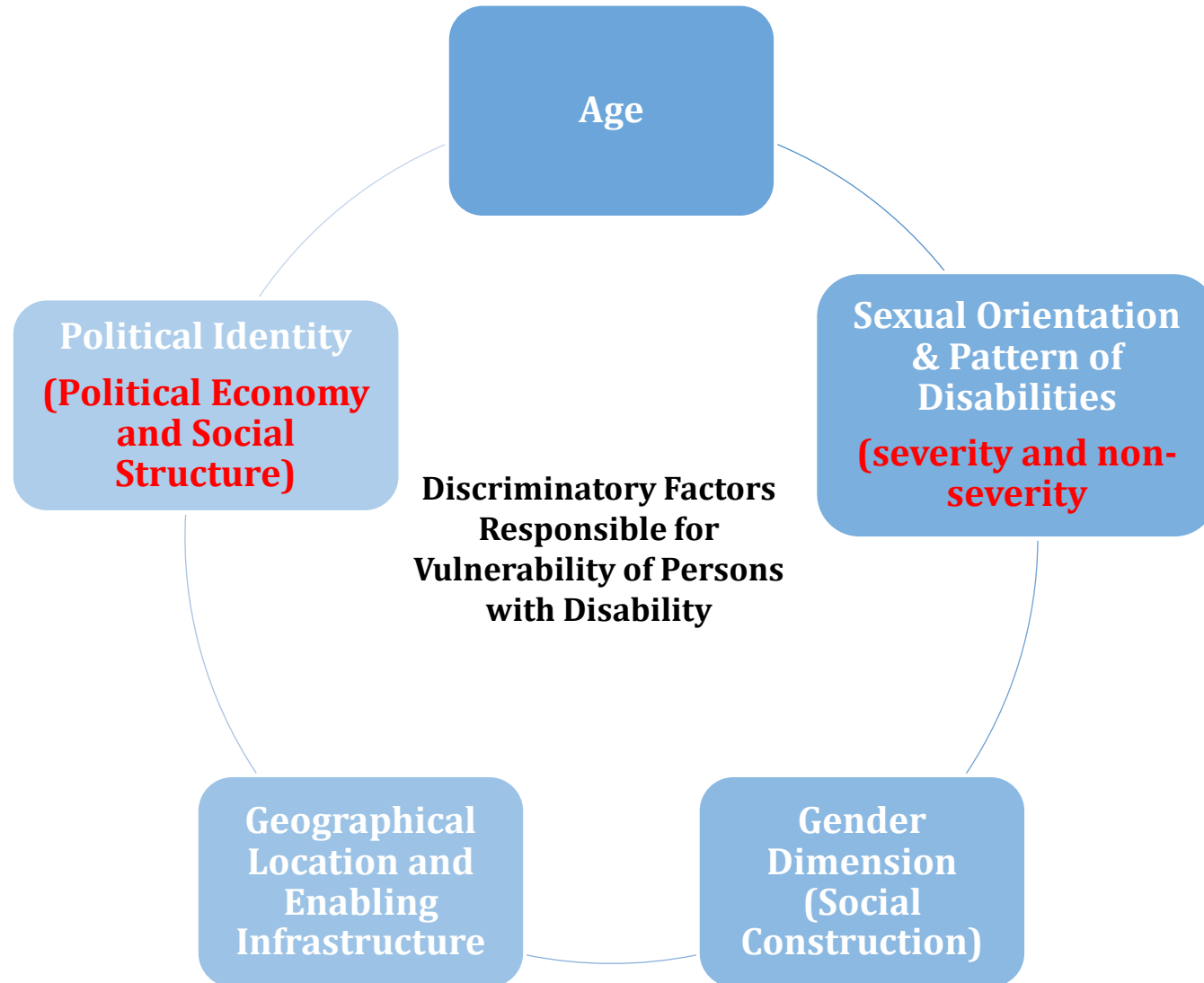


**Current Scenario** **Key Challenges** **Prioritized Solutions**

## Voices of Persons with Disabilities: Insights from the Consensus-Building Workshop - 3



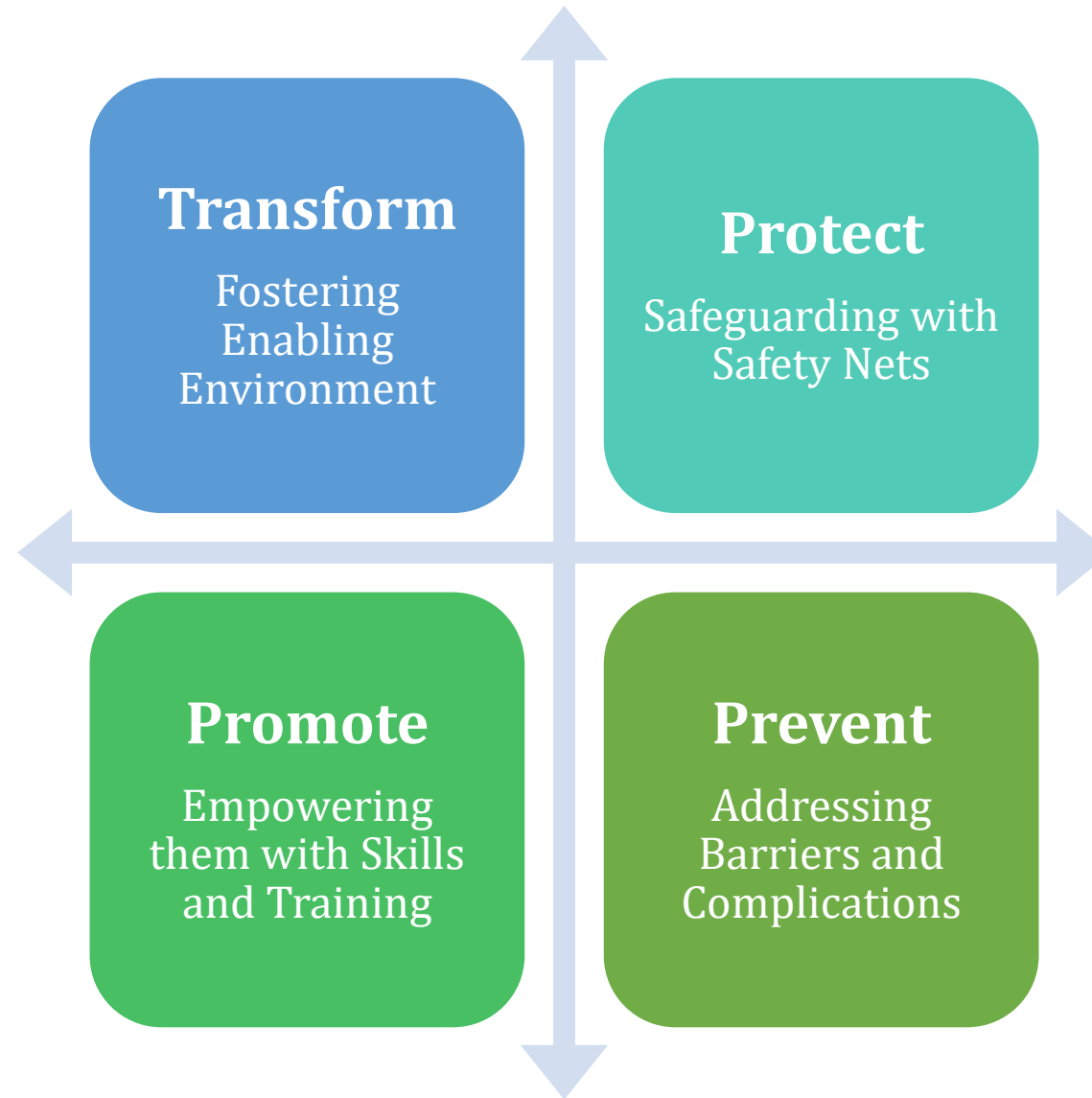
# Vulnerability-Disability Framework & Factors of Discrimination



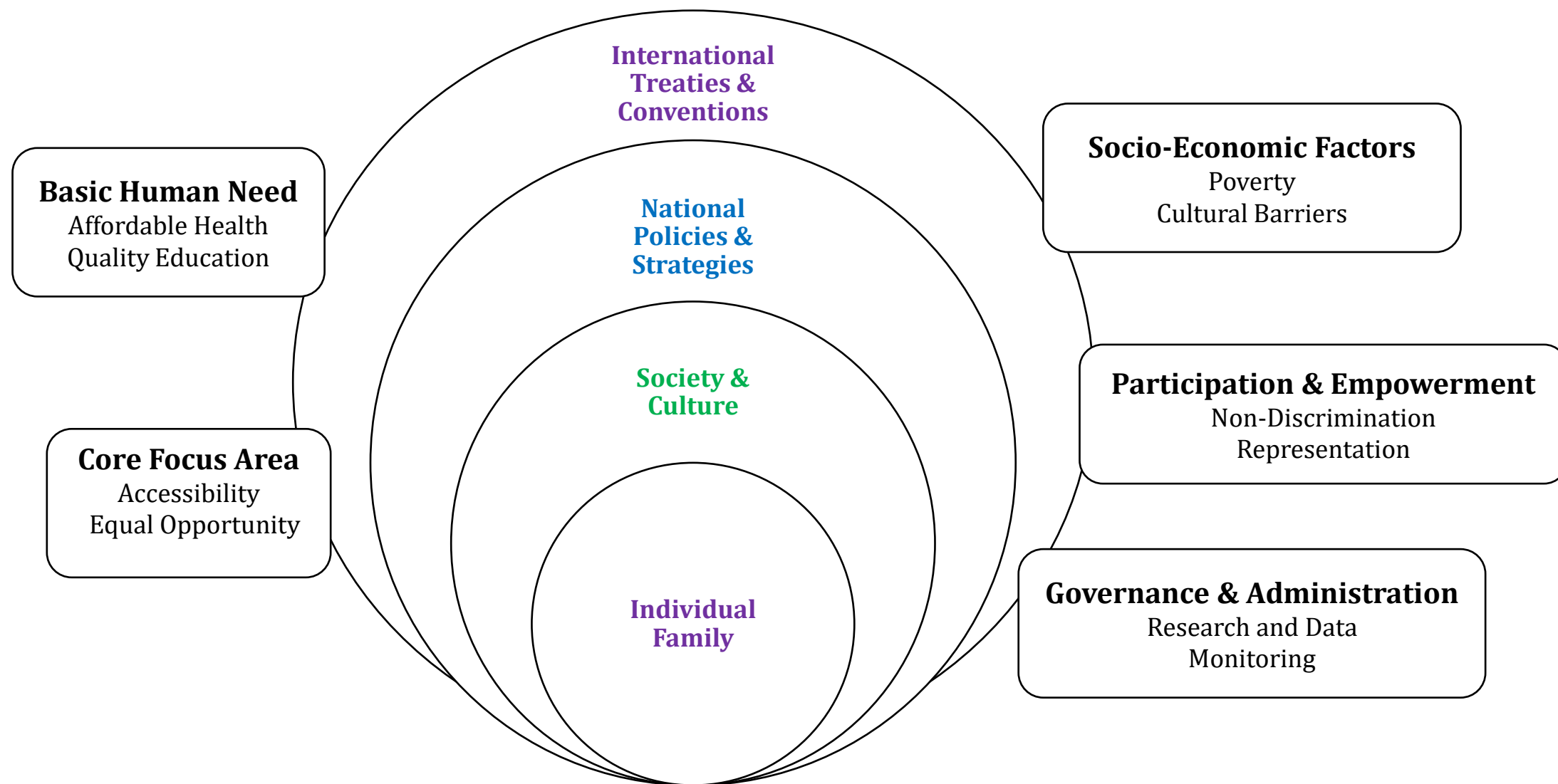
# **Social Protection Framework for Persons with Disabilities**

Shifting Perspectives Towards Economic, Social, and Human Capital

# Empowerment through Action: Protect, Prevent, Promote, Transform



# Thematic Roadmap to the Framework



# **Link to the Social Protection Framework for Persons with Disabilities**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sej0Z6XwhGb8YqPPtQ5IK5slrA2sYbA2/view?usp=sharing>

**Thank You!**