Counted and visible: Global conference on the measurement of gender and intersecting inequalities
26-27 February, 2020
New York

Disability statistics: Senegal experience
- Surface area = 196,722 km²
- Population = 13,508,715 inhabitants
- 14 administrative regions
- 45 departments
- 529 municipalities
- 4 major rivers: Senegal, Gambia, Casamance, Saloum
- The climate is tropical and is characterized by a long dry season from Nov-June and a wet season from July-Oct
- Like other Sahelian countries, Senegal has been facing desertification for several decades.
- LDC
Before the 2013 RGPH (RGPH 1988, RGPH 2002 etc.), the issue of disability was understood at its extreme stage. The person was asked if he suffered from blindness, deafness, infirmity of the lower or upper limbs, mental retardation, etc.

This approach was considered to be limiting because it did not provide adequate information on the degree of physiological and mental disabilities of the population.

The Washington Group approach was therefore adopted in the 2013 census and was a step forward in measuring disability. It made it possible to measure the level or the degree of each handicap.

The questions focused on six functional areas or basic actions: seeing, hearing, walking, being cognitive, taking care of yourself and communicating.

Each question has four modes of response: (1) No, no difficulty, (2) Yes, some difficulties, (3) Yes, many difficulties, and (4) Not at all capable of doing.
## B. INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS

### ALL THE POPULATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVEN NAME AND SURNAME</th>
<th>ALL THE POPULATION</th>
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**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES YOU MAY HAVE TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES DUE TO A HEALTH PROBLEM**

Enter the code corresponding to the answer given (see bottom of page)

- **Number order**
  - Head of Household
  - Children of the Head of Household whose mother does not reside in the Household
  - Wife (s) of the Head of Household followed by her children from the oldest to the youngest
  - Other parents of the Head of Household or of his wife (s)
  - Persons not related to the Head of Household

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In 2013, the prevalence of disability in the Senegalese population aged one year and over was 5.9%.

According to sex, this prevalence is higher in women than in men, with respectively 6.2% and 5.6% of people with limitations.

These differences between men and women are greater in urban areas (6.3% and 5.3%) than in rural areas (5.8% and 6.1%).

Overall, the prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas (6.0%) than in urban areas (5.8%), although the difference between the two entities is fairly small.
By considering the different forms of limitation according to the degree of difficulty and the place of residence, it appears that at the national level, difficulties in seeing and walking are the most widespread, since they concern 1.5% of the population each.

This trend observed at the national level also continues, regardless of the place of residence. Indeed, in both urban and rural areas, visual and motor limitations are the most common forms of disability.

Of the 5.9% of people with any kind of disability at the national level, 4.2% suffer from the most moderate form (some difficulties). In this same dynamic, among people with disabilities living in urban and rural areas, the first level (some difficulties) on the severity scale is the most common with 4.3% and 4.2% respectively.
The overall sex ratio shows that people with disabilities are the majority among women.

Indeed, at the national level, among the population living with a disability, there are 88 men for 100 women.

In more detail, we see that between 0 and 14 years, men living with a disability are more numerous than women. On the other hand, between 16 and 55 years old, women with disabilities are more important than men. Above 55, the sex ratio fluctuates, even if the number of women remains the majority.
The age pyramid, based on disability prevalence rates by age group, is characterized by a narrowed base and an enlarged top. In other words, the risk of being disabled increases with age. Before the age of 40, the prevalence rates of disability are relatively low, since they are below 10%. Beyond 40 years, this prevalence increases rapidly to reach 50% at 90 years.
The prevalence of disability is higher among people who have never attended school with 7.6%. This same trend is observed among women, where 8.3% of people with disabilities are among those who have never attended school, compared with 2.1% among those who currently attend and 7% among those who had to go to school.

Among men, the prevalence of disability is higher among those who have already attended with 7.9% compared to 2.1% for those who attended school at the time of the census.

Source: ANSD. RGPHAE 2013
Whatever the gender, the prevalence of disability is higher among people who cannot read or write in any language.

Overall, 8.5% of non-literate people have a disability, compared to 5.5% of literate people. These disparities are more accentuated among women with a prevalence of disability: 4.7% among the literate against 9.1% among the illiterate.
Since the 2013 census, Senegal has used the Washington Group's data collection approach.

The inclusion of people with disabilities in public policies is increasingly effective thanks to the advocacy actions of NGOs and associations, developed on the basis of data from the 2013 census: people with disabilities currently benefit from a card equal opportunity.

However, for an improvement of current disability statistics, statistics not taken into account by the Washington Group approach (albinism ...) and other gender dimensions will be considered in our future statistical operations.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

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