

THE SITUATION OF SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Disability in children in Albania:

Prevalence of disability, access to services and quality of services ¹

Access to health services

58% of the cases of children with disabilities are diagnosed by the family doctor.

55.0% of parents of children with disabilities, report that the necessary expenses for receiving the health service are unaffordable.

70.4% of parents of children without disabilities or with mild difficulty in functioning consider quality of health services as a reason for not receiving them.

Access to specialized social services

Only **7.8%** of children with disabilities have received specialized social services.

66% of children with disabilities live in families with low incomes.

86.9% of parents find the social assistance to be insufficient to make ends meet and to afford services costs that relate to disability.

The reasons for not utilizing the Social Services according to parents, are:

- 88.9% not able to afford the financial costs incurred by the service.
- 20.0% lack of transport.
- 8.9% lack of community-based services.
- 11.1% rejection of services.
- 8.9% poor quality of the services.

Access to the pre-university education system

25% of children with disabilities, are not enrolled in any pre-university institution.

Access and quality in educational institutions:

- 36.5% parents of children with disabilities are dissatisfied or not at all satisfied with the expenses they have to cover in order to enable their children's school attendance.
- 40% of parents are dissatisfied with the infrastructure and distance of the educational institutions.
- 19.4% of parents are dissatisfied with their children's progress in education.
- 13.3% of them are dissatisfied with the relevance of education to child's needs and development.

Discrimination against children with disabilities

1 in 3 children with disabilities faces discrimination in the public, health or social services.

1 in 2 children with disabilities experiences discrimination: 52.9% in community, 52.4% in the educational institutions 54.9% during play with peers.

Local plans for the inclusion of people with disabilities in 10 municipalities

Health services at the local level

In 10 municipalities were identified shortcomings in the provision of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

Lack of early diagnosis and identification services. Also, there is a **lack of specialists and capacities** for early identification and diagnosis.

Community mental health centers **operate only in 4 of the 10 targeted municipalities** (Korça, Elbasani, Vlora, Shkodra) leaving many children without proper services.

Specialized social services at a local level

In the recent years, there has been an increase in the tendency to establish new community services for people with disabilities. The number of children in need for services is very high compared to the capacities of the centers (staff and infrastructure).

13.5%² of identified children with disabilities benefit from services in 39 service centers in 10 municipalities. 11 out of 39 existing services are covered by local government/district funds.

Access and quality in educational institutions at the local level

Local Plans in 10 Municipalities

Out of 4.896 children with disabilities, equipped with MCWCA attestation, only **1.255 children are enrolled in mainstream schools and kindergartens.**

The monitored municipalities are: Kamza, Durrësi, Lezha, Kurbini, Elbasani, Shkodra, Vlora, Dibra, Korça, Librazhdi.

1. World Vision Albania and Save the Children Albania. (2018). "Children's Disabilities in Albania: Prevalence of Disability, Access to Services and Services' Quality".

2. Children assessed by Medical Commission for Work Capacity Assessment.