Almost 6 million people in Myanmar have one or more disabilities

Myanmar’s disability prevalence rate in 2019 was 13%, meaning nearly 5.9 million people, five years and older, have at least one disability.

Myanmar’s western areas and Kayin State show the highest levels of disability

In 2019, Chin, Ayeyarwady, Rakhine and Magway and Kayin had the highest percentages of population with disabilities, particularly in Chin and Ayeyarwady which both have significantly higher percentages than national average.

Countrywide, more females are affected by disability than males

Although the percentage of population with disability was slightly higher for females, the absolute number of females with disabilities was significantly larger than for males.

Lack of healthcare infrastructure and a growing aged population are the leading causes of high disability prevalence

Weaknesses in healthcare infrastructure disproportionately affect Myanmar’s rapidly growing aged population, pushing the country’s disability prevalence rate up while reducing individuals’ quality of life.

Children with disabilities are more likely to be excluded from the formal education system

Illness, injury or disability were the cause of an estimated 600,000 school-age children stopping school in Myanmar in 2019/2020, as well as 200,000 persons aged 3 and over never attending school at all. More efforts are needed to create an inclusive environment at school for children with disabilities.

People with disability are less likely to be employed

In 2014, people with disability aged 15-64 were found to be less likely to participate in the labour force, especially those with moderate or severe disability.