

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON IMPROVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

Enhancing disability-inclusiveness of social protection system in Kyrgyzstan



Policy Brief #2 – Disability-inclusive social protection, 2022.



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BACKGROUND

The social protection system rests on two pillars with related sources of financing: 1) **social insurance**, based on contributions from employers and employees, and 2) **social assistance and social support services**, which are funded from general taxation.

The following types of social protection programmes are provided:

- + **Social protection cash benefits:** disability allowance, pensions, survivors' benefits, social benefits, and other types of financial support in specific cases
- + **Social and home care services:** social protection agencies provide services to persons with disabilities living alone at their place of residence, including the delivery of food and industrial goods, catering, household, and leisure services for free.
- + **Home-based service¹:** this service is provided by employees of the Social Protection Service (social workers) to help with basic life-needs. Social workers of the territorial division identify and provide services to persons requiring them, specifically, washing, drying, ironing and disinfection of underwear, clothing, bedding and others;
- + **Residential care services:** provided in specialized residential facilities of authorized state bodies. These include provision of medical services and organization of work, recreation, and leisure.
- + **Provision of technical and special equipment:** in accordance with the individual rehabilitation programme, prosthetic and orthopaedic products, technical aids, and other specialized equipment are provided.
- + **All types of rehabilitation.**
- + **Additional social guarantees:** local self-government bodies have the right to establish additional social guarantees for persons with disabilities at the expense of the local budget. For example, provision of financial assistance for purchasing fuel for the winter, repair of housing for elderly citizens and persons with disabilities.

SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES RECIPIENTS AND BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Table 1: Number of persons with disabilities, receiving pensions and social benefits in 2020,2021²:

Number of persons with disabilities receiving pensions and social benefits	2020	2021
Total	197 792	198 000
Women	76 032	
Men	89 126	
Number of persons with disabilities- children under the age of 18	32 634	32 000
The share of children with disabilities in the total number of persons with disabilities, as a percentage	16,5 %	

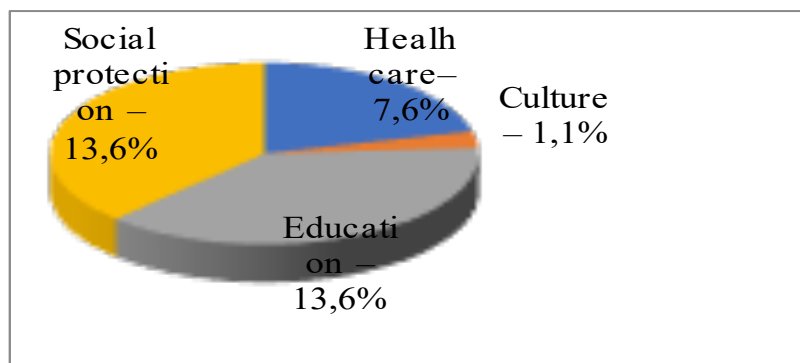
¹ ORDER OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, from June 1, 2020 No. 1 "On approval of administrative regulations of public services and ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS OF the State Service "Social services at home for elderly citizens living alone and persons with disabilities"

² Data from National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, June, 2022

The largest share of persons with disabilities receiving pensions and social protection benefits are in the following oblasts: Jalal-Abad (more than 21%); Osh (about 19%); Chui (about 16%). The percentage of people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan by oblast is as follows: Bishkek- 9.3%; Osh – 3.5 %; **Chui region – 16.0%; Osh region – 18, 8%; Jalal-Abad region – 21.5%**; Talas region – 4.7%; Naryn region – 6.1 %; Issyk – Kul region -9.9%; Batken region – 10.

Social protection spending: Over the past five years, the share of social protection expenditures from the State Budget in Kyrgyzstan accounted for between of **16% and 20% of total expenditure** on average. For example, social spending in **2022 is 36.0%** of total expenditure while **social protection amounts to 13.5%**

Figure 1. Social sector spending in **2022 is 36.0%** of of the total expenditures of the state budget including



Monthly social benefits in Kyrgyzstan³

Monthly social benefits				
Categories of recipients of monthly social benefits		Number of recipients as of 01.08.2021, (people)	increase from January 1, 2022 by 100%	
			current size for 2021	increase from October 1, 2021
children with disabilities under 18 years of age	children with disabilities under 18 years of age	33 435	4 000	6 000
	children born to mothers living with HIV-AIDS	108	4 000	6 000
Persons with disabilities since childhood	Persons with disabilities of group I	5 368	4 000	6 000
	Persons with disabilities of group II	19 949	3 300	4 950
	Persons with disabilities of group III	9 497	2 700	4 050
Persons with disabilities from common disease	Persons with disabilities from the general disease of groups I	1 049	2 000	2 500
	Persons with disabilities from the general disease of groups II	5 124	1 500	2 000
	Persons with disabilities from the general disease of groups III	1 904	1 000	1500

³ Data from Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, June, 2022

GAPS, BARRIERS, CHALLENGES

The main disability inclusiveness issues and recommendations were identified and discussed during consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders in June and July 2022 (the list of organizations is attached in annex No. 1)

- **The social protection system cannot fully realise the right to income security.** It faces several challenges, among them an insignificant impact on poverty reduction, prevention of poverty and enabling people have decent living standards, low coverage of those in need and, particularly with regards to children with disabilities, **the insufficient development of qualified social services**⁴;
- In practice, **many laws and regulations are not fully implemented and have little positive impact** on the lives of people with disabilities;
- **Kyrgyzstan lacks a legislative framework for the provision of social services** according to a guaranteed minimum level of services for specified vulnerable groups⁵. Also, local NGOs and persons with disabilities during meetings highlighted **that inadequate policies and standards on disability rights and inclusion** policy development has not always considered the needs of persons with disabilities or existing policies/standards are not implemented efficiently and consistently;
- **Continued government inactivity and lack of capacity to provide quality services.** Social care and support services are underdeveloped and require significant investment in both development of a minimum package of social services and an inclusive/sensitive system, as well as qualified social workers and case managers;
- **Disability determination is based on a medical assessment.** Persons with disabilities do not have an opportunity to contribute to their examination, adding their experience and expertise to the assessment. The current system of disability determination has a detrimental impact on access to social protection and employment. In the latter, certain groups of persons with disabilities are fully denied the right to work.
- **Insufficient funding.** The social protection budget is determined on a residual principle which does not allow social benefits to conform with nationally recognized standards of living and cost of living.
- **Lack of network of adequate, accessible, and good quality community based-social care services.** Poor coordination of services, understaffing and poor staff training can affect quality, availability, and adequacy of services for persons with disabilities.
- Service providers **have low awareness about the issue of disability** or are guided by traditional and medical models of disability;
- **The rehabilitation programmes** for persons with disabilities developed by the Medical and Social Expert Commission **are not provided with the necessary high-quality habitation and rehabilitation knowledge and services** and persons with disabilities largely do not know they have the right to a rehabilitation plan;



⁴ UNICEF 2021 "Situation Analysis: Children and Adolescents Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan"

⁵ UNICEF 2021, "Situation Analysis: Children and Adolescents Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan".

- **Lack of funding for rehabilitation programmes**, a lack of qualified rehabilitation therapists, inconvenient locations of rehabilitation centres or absence of required equipment in some health care institutions, a lack of easy access to rehabilitation rooms (no elevators, mechanical devices, or ramps), the absence of rehabilitation centres in regions outside Bishkek, the indifferent attitude of healthcare personnel regarding the rehabilitation of disabled people, and disabled people's lack of awareness about their rights in matters of rehabilitation.

List of meetings and discussions with stakeholders for the preparing

- Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Solidarity Centre;
- Kyrgyz Society of the Blind and Deaf;
- Foundation "Providing legal assistance to persons with disabilities".
- NGO "Equality";
- Public association "Movement of young people with disabilities";
- Centre for Research on Social and Labour Relations.

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