Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Paraguay

August 2026

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

International Development Center of Japan, Inc.
Koei Research & Consulting Inc.

HM
JR
26-073

This study was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA") and conducted by the International Development Center of Japan Inc. and Koei Research & Consulting Inc. This report is based on an analysis of literature and online surveys conducted in Japan from December 2025 to August 2026, as well as online questionnaires completed by relevant organizations of the target country.

Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Paraguay
Table of Contents

1. Basic Profile 1
1-1. Basic Indicators 1
1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability 2
2. Administration and Policy on Disability 6
2-1. Administration on Disability 6
2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability 10
2-3. Measures on Disability 14
3. International Treaties and International Cooperation 24
3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD 24
3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty 24
3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies 25
3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development 25
3-5. International Cooperation on Disability 26
4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities 29
4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities 29
4-2. Disability Support Organizations 29
5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities 31
5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services 31
5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education 32
5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment 33
5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation 34
5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access 35
5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender 36
6. References 38

List of Tables

Table 1 Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Type of Functional Limitation (2022).....5
Table 2 Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group (2022).....5
Table 3 Disability-Related Responsible Bodies in Paraguay.....7

Abbreviations

CBID	Community-based Inclusive Development	
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation	
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CONADIS	Comisión Nacional de Discapacidad	National Commission on Disability
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
DGEEC	Dirección General de Estadística, Encuentas y Censos	General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses
ILO	International Labour Organization	
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estadística	National Institute of Statistics
INPRO	Instituto Nacional de Protección a Personas Excepcionales	National Protection Institute for Exceptional Persons
INTN	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología, Normalización y Metrología	National Institute of Technology, Standardization and Metrology
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization	
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
SENADIS	Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad	National Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities
VNR	Voluntary National Review	

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 6,416.1	2024

Government Expenditures by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	7.7 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	3.4 %	2023
Social protection (% of GDP)[3]	6.8 %	2023

Population

Total population	6,929,153	2024
Male (% of total population)	50.1 %	
Female (% of total population)	49.9 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	69.9 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	30.1 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	73.8 years	2023
Male	70.9 years	
Female	77.0 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	5.2 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	15.1	2023

Education

Education System[4]		
Primary Education	6 years	
Compulsory education	12 years	
Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	94.9 %	2024
Adult male	95.4 %	
Adult female	94.3 %	

[1] Based on World Bank (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 8 January 2026)).

[2] Gross Domestic Product (hereinafter referred to as "GDP")

[3] Based on ILO (2024) World Social Protection Report, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)

[4] The gross tertiary enrolment ratio is not published in the databases of the World Bank and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (Accessed: 17 January 2026)

School enrolment		
Primary (% gross) (total)	89.4 %	2024
Male	90.1 %	
Female	88.8 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	79.1 %	2024
Male	77.5 %	
Female	80.8 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	N/A	
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	

Employment

Unemployment (total)	6.1 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	4.9 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	7.8 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

According to the combined second and third periodic reports submitted by the Government of Paraguay to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "State Party's Report")[5], no clear definition of disability is presented in the country's legal system. While the State Party's Report refers to the use of terms describing persons with disabilities in provisions such as Article 58 of the Constitution, the terminology used in official documents has historically included "Personas Exceptionales" (Exceptional Persons) and "Personas con Capacidades Diferentes" (Persons with Different Abilities). In recent years, however, a shift toward "Personas con Discapacidad" (Persons with Disabilities), which is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "CRPD"), is being promoted.

In response, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2023 Concluding Observations (hereinafter referred to as the "Concluding Observations")[6], expressed concern that the terminology used to refer to persons with disabilities in the Constitution, various laws, policies, and statistical materials is not fully consistent with the principles of the Convention. The Committee recommended developing a comprehensive strategy to revise the terminology and definitions related to persons with disabilities to align

[5] CRPD/C/PRY/2-3
[6] CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3

with the CRPD, and to review disability assessment criteria and certification systems in line with the human rights model.

On the other hand, a document titled "Sociodemographic Characteristics of Households with Persons with Disabilities," prepared based on the results of the 2012 census, describes disability as "arising as a result of the interaction between individuals and the social environment." In other words, the reason why persons with physical, sensory, or mental limitations cannot participate in social activities lies not in the diagnosed condition itself, but in the social conditions that exclude them from opportunities such as education, employment, and public services.

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

Statistics on disability in Paraguay are captured primarily through population censuses and administrative data. According to the State Party's Report (2019), although Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad (hereinafter referred to as the "SENADIS"), the implementing body for disability-related policies, manages disability registration and administrative data, it is noted that a nationwide statistical survey specific to disability and an integrated data collection system have not been sufficiently established. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its Concluding Observations, also pointed out challenges such as unclear procedures and assessment criteria for obtaining disability certificates, as well as the centralized operation of the certification system. In response, it recommended introducing a comprehensive rights-based assessment system and developing a certification system available in local and rural areas as well. It should also be noted that the National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística; hereinafter referred to as "INE") and SENADIS launched the disability statistics platform "Atlas sobre la Discapacidad (Disability Atlas)" in 2024, aimed at visualizing data on persons with disabilities[7].

As disability statistics based on the population census, the 2012 census long served as the primary reference material. According to the State Party's Report, the then-national statistical agency, the General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos; hereinafter referred to as "DGEEC"), participated continuously in Washington Group international meetings, and the 2012 census introduced a short set of questions to capture the disability situation from the perspective of functional limitations. According to the 2012 census, of 1,232,496 households nationwide, 363,410 (approximately

[7] https://www.ine.gov.py/noticias/2692/atlas-sobre-la-discapacidad-en-paraguay-a-un-ano-de-su-lanzamiento-incorpora-nuevos-datos-y-avanza-hacia-la-unificacion-de-criterios-para-su-medicion, https://estadisticasdiscapacidad.ine.gov.py/elatlas.php (Accessed: 27 March 2026)

29%) had at least one person with a disability. However, because disability-related questions in this survey were asked at the household level rather than the individual level, accurately estimating the total number of persons with disabilities nationwide and the population proportions by age, sex, and type of disability is difficult. While the survey captures functional limitations in daily life such as visual, hearing, mobility, and self-care, disability rates cannot be calculated by simply summing the proportions across functional domains, as one person may have multiple functional limitations or one household may have multiple persons with disabilities.

According to the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2022), 299,839 persons aged 5 years and above in Paraguay were reported to have some form of functional limitation in daily life, accounting for approximately 5.3% of the population aged 5 and above. The census used questions on functional limitations similar to the Washington Group Short Set of Questions to capture disability status, primarily covering the visual, hearing, mobility, self-care, and communication domains.

By type of functional limitation, visual and mobility limitations are reported to be relatively high. According to data published by the National Institute of Statistics (hereinafter referred to as "INE"), among persons with disabilities, approximately 57.9% have visual functional limitations, approximately 55.5% have mobility functional limitations, approximately 27.6% have self-care limitations, and approximately 23.5% have hearing limitations. It should be noted that since one person may have multiple functional limitations, these proportions cannot simply be summed to derive the overall disability rate.

By age group, the proportion with disabilities tends to be higher among older age groups. In particular, the proportion of persons aged 60 and above with functional limitations increases significantly, suggesting a relationship between population aging and the incidence of disability. By sex, a slightly higher proportion of women is reported.

By region, the number of persons with disabilities is higher in the densely populated Central Department and the capital, Asunción; however, when population size is taken into account, some provinces, including rural areas, tend to have higher rates of disability than urban areas.

Total Number of Persons with Disabilities[8]	299,839	5.3%	2022
Male	128,349	4.6%	
Female	171,490	6.1%	

[8] INE (2022) Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2022, Paraguay.

Table 1 Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Type of Functional Limitation (2022)

Type of Functional Limitation	Number	Proportion
Visual	173,713	57.9%
Mobility	166,457	55.5%
Self-care	82,815	27.6%
Hearing	70,597	23.5%

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INE (2022) Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2022, "Personas con discapacidad.

Table 2 Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group (2022)

Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
5–9	1.4%	35–39	2.4%	65–69	17.1%
10–14	1.6%	40–44	3.1%	70–74	21.8%
15–19	1.7%	45–49	4.7%	75–79	28.5%
20–24	2.0%	50–54	6.5%	80 and above	42.7%
25–29	2.2%	55–59	8.6%		
30–34	2.2%	60–64	11.6%		

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INE (2022) Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2022, "Personas con discapacidad.

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

<Central government>

According to the State Party's Report (2019), in Paraguay, the "National Protection Institute for Exceptional Persons" (Instituto Nacional de Protección a Personas Excepcionales; hereinafter referred to as "INPRO") was established in 1979 under Decree No. 780, providing rights protection and welfare services for socially vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities. However, the system at that time was primarily based on a framework centered on protection and medical and welfare services.

Subsequently, Paraguay ratified the CRPD in 2008, and a shift toward rights-based disability policy was advanced. Following this development, in 2012, the National Secretariat for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) was established under Law No. 4720, as the central coordinating institution for disability policy based on the human rights approach enshrined in the CRPD.

SENADIS promotes the social participation of persons with disabilities and coordinates cross-ministerial measures, while also building cooperative relationships with organizations of persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPDs"), support organizations, and relevant ministries. It also operates disability certification systems, implements awareness-raising activities on disability, and promotes disability mainstreaming. In addition, SENADIS implements services including rehabilitation, medical support, provision of assistive devices, and psychosocial support.

SENADIS has established regional offices that provide specialized services, including physiotherapy, clinical psychology, educational psychology, medical consultations, early intervention, social work, nutritional guidance, speech therapy, and dental care. On the other hand, the number of regional offices and staffing levels remain limited, and challenges persist in establishing a nationwide service delivery system that covers rural and remote areas[9].

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its Concluding Observations, noted that the institutional positioning, authority, budget, and personnel of the disability policy coordination framework centered on SENADIS may be insufficient. The Committee calls for strengthening the overall government policy coordination function and securing the resources necessary for implementing disability sector policies, in order to effectively promote the implementation of the CRPD.

The Committee also points out the importance of ensuring the substantive participation of

[9] Based on information from the JICA Paraguay Office and social media posts, seven regional offices were confirmed: the capital city, San Lorenzo, Encarnación, Ciudad del Este, Caacupé, Coronel Oviedo, and Concepción.

OPDs in the formulation and implementation of disability policy, and recommends institutionally establishing consultations with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the policy-making process.

Additionally, the 2023 Concluding Observations (Article 8(e)) recommend transferring the direct care and service provision functions performed by SENADIS to the Ministry of Social Development, and securing sufficient resources to enable SENADIS to focus on its core functions of mainstreaming the human rights approach to disability, policy monitoring, and technical support to ministries. Additionally, Law No. 6808/2021 (Law on the Establishment of Disability Offices at the Municipal and Provincial Level), enacted in 2021, mandates the establishment of disability offices coordinating with SENADIS in provincial governments and municipalities throughout the country.

In addition to SENADIS, several other ministries in Paraguay are responsible for disability-related measures. In particular, in areas such as education, health, labour, and social protection, each ministry implements disability-related measures according to its respective policy domain.

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 3 Disability-Related Responsible Bodies in Paraguay

No.	Name	Overview
1	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social)	The institution responsible for health and rehabilitation policies for persons with disabilities. Implements healthcare services including medical care, rehabilitation, mental health, early intervention, and provision of assistive devices.
2	Ministry of Education and Sciences (Ministerio de Educación y Ciencias)	The institution responsible for inclusive education policy. Implements measures including ensuring educational access for children with disabilities, special needs education programmes, and provision of educational support services.
3	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social)	Responsible for employment promotion policies for people in vulnerable situations including persons with disabilities. Responsible for formulating and implementing vocational training, employment services, and policies promoting labour market inclusion.
4	Ministry of Social Development (Ministerio de Desarrollo Social)	Responsible for social protection policies targeting households in poverty and social vulnerability. Implements social support programmes for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, such as the conditional cash transfer programme "Tekoporã."

5	National Institute of Technology, Standardization and Metrology (Instituto Nacional de Tecnología, Normalización y Metrología: INTN)	As the national standardization body, formulates technical standards for buildings and public spaces. Responsible for developing technical standards and building codes related to accessibility.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the State Party's Reports (2019)

<Status of Coordination Mechanism>

According to the State Party's Report, Paraguay has established several consultation and coordination mechanisms involving government agencies, parliament, OPDs, and others to promote the implementation of the CRPD. In particular, the National Commission on Disability (Comisión Nacional de Discapacidad: hereinafter referred to as "CONADIS") has been established as a framework centered on SENADIS to coordinate policy among government agencies and ensure OPD participation. In addition, the "Committee for Accessible Voting" has been established to promote the political participation of persons with disabilities.

The Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities note that these domestic coordination mechanisms, particularly the need to further strengthen the policy coordination function centered on CONADIS and to ensure the substantive participation of OPDs, requires further progress.

Committee Name	National Commission on Disability (CONADIS)
Members	Composed of representatives of government agencies including SENADIS, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Sciences, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Finance, the Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, and the Civil Service Secretariat, as well as representatives of OPDs and related civil society organizations. Representatives of local governments and provincial governments also participate.
Role	An institution established as a domestic coordination mechanism for the implementation of the CRPD, aimed at coordinating among government agencies on disability policy, policy consultation, and promoting OPD participation.
Activities	Establishes sector-specific working groups for policy consultation, primarily examining the following areas: ・Inclusive education ・Health and social welfare

	・Employment and social security ・National disability action plan ・Information and communication (including sign language) ・Children and youth ・Accessibility

Committee Name	Committee for Accessible Voting
Members	SENADIS and relevant institutions such as electoral management bodies.
Role	Promotes accessible voting systems to promote political participation of persons with disabilities.
Activities	Promotes systems and environmental development that facilitate participation of persons with disabilities in elections, such as home voting, priority voting, Braille voting, and voting with an assistant.

Committee Name	Permanent Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Comisión Permanente de Defensa de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad)
Members	Composed of members of the Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay.
Role	A parliamentary committee that deliberates on legislative policy relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, reviewing disability-related bills, making legislative proposals, and monitoring policy.
Activities	Deliberates and proposes bills on the rights protection, accessibility, social participation, employment, and education of persons with disabilities, and fulfils a parliamentary oversight function regarding the status of disability policies implemented by administrative agencies.

<Local government>

According to the State Party's Report, SENADIS has its headquarters in the capital Asunción and has established regional offices[10] (regional service centers) in major areas throughout the country, providing various support services to persons with disabilities and their families. These offices provide medical, rehabilitation, and social support services such as physiotherapy, psychological support, speech therapy, social welfare counselling, early intervention, and provision of assistive devices.

At the local level, provincial governments (Gobernaciones) and municipalities (Municipalidades) play a certain role in implementing disability-related measures and providing social services in their communities. Local governments, in coordination with SENADIS and central government agencies, implement activities such as improving local

[10] Regional offices are located in the capital city, San Lorenzo, Encarnación, Ciudad del Este, Caacupé, Coronel Oviedo, and Concepción

accessibility, promoting social participation, and conducting community support activities.

Moves are also seen in local governments to establish departments and committees responsible for disability support, and the development of disability support systems at the regional level is advancing.

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

In Paraguay, the "Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities" (Law No. 122/90) was enacted in 1990, and institutional development to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and to provide various services has been advancing. Following the ratification of the CRPD in 2008, the development of legal systems to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting their social participation has been progressing. In particular, since the 2010s, laws and policy documents have been developed in areas such as inclusive education, employment promotion, accessibility, and information access that reflect the principles of the CRPD.

In 2025, the "Law Guaranteeing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Amending the Civil Code and the Law on Judicial Organization" (Law No. 7371/2025) was enacted to comprehensively guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities based on the principles of the CRPD, advancing institutional reforms toward full recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including the abolition of the traditional interdiction and guardianship system and the introduction of individualized support systems.

The major laws related to the rights of persons with disabilities, listed in reverse chronological order, are as follows.

Title	Law Guaranteeing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Amending the Civil Code and the Law on Judicial Organization (Law No. 7371/2025)
Year of enactment	2025
Overview	A law comprehensively guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities based on the principles of the CRPD. Amends the Civil Code and the Law on Judicial Organization to abolish the traditional interdiction and guardianship system and transition to individualized support systems, thereby fully recognizing the legal capacity of persons with disabilities. Also includes mandatory prohibition of discrimination and reasonable accommodation, rehabilitation, accessibility, and other provisions.

Title	Disability-Inclusive Tourism Law (Law No. 7134/2023)

Year of enactment	2023
Overview	A law to promote inclusive access for persons with disabilities in the tourism sector. Mandates ensuring accessibility of tourism facilities and services. One of the legislative measures recognized in the Concluding Observations (2023).

Title	Law on the Establishment of Disability Offices at the Municipal and Provincial Level (Law No. 6808/2021)
Year of enactment	2021
Overview	A law mandating the establishment of disability offices responsible for coordination with SENADIS in all provincial governments and municipalities throughout the country. Aimed at strengthening the implementation framework for disability policy at the local level. One of the legislative measures recognized in the Concluding Observations (2023).

Title	Law on the Official Recognition of Paraguayan Sign Language (Law No. 6530/2020)
Year of enactment	2020
Overview	A law officially recognizing Paraguayan Sign Language as a means of communication and stipulating the development of a training and certification system for sign language interpreters. One of the legislative measures recognized in the Concluding Observations (2023).

Title	Law on the Promotion of Information and Awareness Regarding the Rights and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 6667/2020)
Year of enactment	2020
Overview	A law to promote the implementation of regular and large-scale information and awareness campaigns on the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. One of the legislative measures recognized in the Concluding Observations (2023).

Title	Law on Ensuring Communication Access for Persons with Hearing Disabilities and Hard-of-Hearing Persons in National Institutions (Law No. 6354/2019)
Year of enactment	2019
Overview	A law mandating all national and public service institutions to deploy at least one staff member responsible for communication with persons with hearing impairments and hard-of-hearing persons. Also requires national institutions to provide access to online sign language interpretation systems, offer sign language courses, and install visual guidance and

	signage.

Title	Law on Equal Opportunities in Vocational Training for Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 5421/2015)
Year of enactment	2015
Overview	A law to ensure equal opportunities in vocational training for persons with disabilities. Prohibits discrimination based on disability and guarantees access to vocational training systems. Stipulates the provision of reasonable accommodation in the vocational training system of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Title	Inclusive Education Law (Law No. 5136/2013)
Year of enactment	2013
Overview	A law to introduce an inclusive education model at all levels of education. Stipulates the provision of necessary support to enable students with disabilities to access the education system, enrol, learn, and participate in school activities.

Title	Law on Incentives for Employers Encouraging Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector (Law No. 4962/2013)
Year of enactment	2013
Overview	A law stipulating preferential measures for companies that promote employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector. Introduces incentives such as tax benefits to promote employment of persons with disabilities by companies.

Title	Law on Accessibility of the Physical Environment for Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 4934/2013)
Year of enactment	2013
Overview	A law mandating the provision of accessible physical environments in public facilities and public transport. Stipulates the development of accessibility standards for buildings and public spaces.

Title	Law Establishing the National Secretariat for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) (Law No. 4720/2012)
Year of enactment	2012
Overview	A law stipulating the establishment of SENADIS. Established as a government institution responsible for coordinating and supervising disability policy.

Title	Law on Priority Seating for Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 4616/2011)
Year of enactment	2011
Overview	A law mandating the installation of priority seating for persons with disabilities in public facilities and cultural and sports facilities.

Title	Law on Sign Language Interpretation in Audiovisual Media Information and News (Law No. 4336/2011)
Year of enactment	2011
Overview	A law promoting the deployment of sign language interpretation in audiovisual media to ensure information access for persons with hearing impairments.

Title	Law on Disability Employment Quota System in the Public Sector (Law No. 3585/2008)
Year of enactment	2008
Overview	A law aimed at promoting the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector. Mandates central government agencies, local governments, public institutions, and others to employ a certain proportion of their staff as persons with disabilities. Also ensures opportunities for persons with disabilities to work as civil servants and prohibits discrimination in employment.

Title	Law Mandating Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Public Institutions (Law No. 2479/2004)
Year of enactment	2004
Overview	A law mandating all public institutions with 50 or more administrative staff (central government agencies, decentralized agencies, provincial governments, and municipalities) to employ persons with disabilities at 2% or more of the total number of administrative staff. To be eligible for employment, the degree of disability must be 40% or more, and certification from INPRO and the Paraguayan equivalent must be obtained.

[Disability Policy]

Title	National Development Plan 2050 (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Paraguay 2050)
Year of enactment	2025
Overview	A new long-term national development strategy that emphasizes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, human development,

	institutional strengthening, and correction of regional disparities. In the disability sector, promoting inclusive access to education, employment, and social participation under the principle of "Leave No One Behind" is positioned as a related policy challenge.

Title	National Development Plan 2030 (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2030)
Year of enactment	2014
Overview	A plan showing Paraguay's long-term national development strategy, consisting of three strategic areas: 1) poverty reduction and social development, 2) inclusive economic growth, and 3) appropriate integration into international society. In the disability sector, the promotion of social participation of persons with disabilities and equal opportunities are positioned primarily in the area of "poverty reduction and social development."

Title	National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2015–2030 (Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad)
Year of enactment	2016
Overview	A national plan aimed at respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring equal opportunities. Based on the principles of the CRPD, shows a policy framework aimed at realizing the rights of persons with disabilities in areas such as education, health, employment, accessibility, and social participation. Defines specific actions and responsible agencies at the national, provincial, and municipal levels.

2-3. Measures on Disability

This section presents content organized primarily based on information from the State Party's Report (2019) and the Concluding Observations (2023).

1) Healthcare

In Paraguay, healthcare services and rehabilitation support for persons with disabilities are provided primarily by SENADIS and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. SENADIS was established in 2012 and, as the coordinating body for disability policy based on the Paraguayan Constitution and the CRPD, implements services including rehabilitation, medical support, provision of assistive devices, and psychosocial support. It also provides services such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, psychological support, and social welfare at multiple regional offices throughout the country.

According to the State Party's Report, SENADIS operates a disability certification and

registration system that enables access to medical services and social support through the issuance of disability certificates. Statistical data on users of SENADIS services are also managed through the Social Information Integration System (Sistema Integrado de Información Social).

In the mental health sector, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare provides mental health services through the national healthcare network. In cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "PAHO"), the Ministry is developing Integrated Health Services Networks (Redes Integradas e Integrales de Servicios de Salud) and advancing the provision of comprehensive health services including primary care. Community-based support services for persons with mental disabilities are also being developed.

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its initial Concluding Observations of 2013, expressed concern about situations where persons with disabilities cannot sufficiently access medical services and the insufficient development of a comprehensive rehabilitation policy. The Committee recommended taking necessary measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have full access to medical services, and formulating a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy that incorporates a gender perspective.

The 2023 Concluding Observations also highlight challenges such as regionally disparate access to medical services, the shortage of community rehabilitation services, and the need to transition from institution-centered mental health services to community-based support. It has also been pointed out that the Mental Health Law (Law No. 7018/2022), enacted in 2022, remains based on the medical model of disability and is inconsistent with the human rights model of the CRPD, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has called for its revision.

2) Education

In Paraguay, the Ministry of Education and Sciences is responsible for educational policy for children with disabilities. In 2013, the Inclusive Education Law (Law No. 5136/2013) was enacted, and the promotion of inclusive education guaranteeing the enrolment, learning, and participation of children with disabilities at all levels of education was set as a policy goal. Based on this law, institutional development is advancing to transition from the conventional special needs education system to an inclusive education model.

According to the State Party's Report, the Ministry of Education and Sciences implements training and technical support for educational administrators, school principals, teachers, and parents to promote inclusive education. It is also reviewing the functions and roles of special needs education institutions and developing systems to support students with special

educational needs within the regular education system.

According to the Ministry's statistics, as of 2018, 603 children with disabilities were enrolled in special schools nationwide, 244 were in special needs classes in regular schools, and 22,586 were enrolled in regular schools (primary and secondary). Additionally, 3,679 children are receiving support programmes in special schools.

The State Party's Report indicates that the Ministry of Education and Sciences is providing training and technical support to education-related personnel to promote inclusive education. For example, training on inclusive education targeting persons in charge at education offices and legal advisors in all 17 provinces was held, with 694 participants. Technical support training for school principals, teachers, and parents of children with disabilities was also held, with 3,758 participants.

The Ministry of Education and Sciences is advancing deliberations on the reorganization of educational institutions to promote inclusive education, and is conducting surveys and data collection to review the functions and roles of special needs education institutions.

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations, pointed out the need to implement inclusive education nationwide to ensure that all children with disabilities can access the education system, and recommended reviewing the educational concept based on the medical model and advancing the transition from segregated education to inclusive education.

Additionally, the 2023 Concluding Observations acknowledge certain progress such as the enactment of the Inclusive Education Law, while pointing out challenges, including continued heavy dependence on special schools, insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation, and insufficient teacher training and support systems. Concerns are also expressed about cases where children with disabilities are still excluded from the education system.

3) Gender

In Paraguay, policies for the protection of rights and the prevention of violence against women with disabilities are primarily promoted by the Ministry of Women (Ministerio de la Mujer). As measures against violence against women, the "Law on Policies for Rural Women" (Law No. 5446/2015) was enacted in 2015, and the "Law on Comprehensive Protection of Women against All Forms of Violence" (Law No. 5777/2016) was enacted in 2016, establishing a legal and institutional framework for the prevention, protection, and support of violence against women.

According to the State Party's Report, SENADIS participates in the "Inter-Institutional Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women," established based on Article 27 of the Women's Protection Law, and is involved in policy consultations on preventing violence

against women with disabilities and providing support. This inter-institutional meeting aims to coordinate national policies on the prevention of violence against women, support for victims, and the implementation of protective measures.

The Ministry of Women operates "Casa de la Mujer" (House of Women), a facility to support women who have experienced violence, providing services such as temporary shelter, psychological support, legal advice, and social support. According to the State Party's Report, between 2014 and 2018, 5 women with disabilities (1 with hearing disability, 1 with physical disability, and 3 with visual disabilities) received support at this facility.

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations, expressed concern about situations where women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination and violence, and recommended taking effective measures to address violence and discrimination against women and girls with intellectual, mental, and hearing disabilities in particular. The need to develop accessible support services and care centers for victims of violence was also pointed out.

In addition, in the 2023 Concluding Observations, it is pointed out that women and girls with disabilities still face risks of multiple discrimination and violence, and the need to sufficiently incorporate the perspective of women with disabilities in both gender policy and disability policy is emphasized.

4) Vocational Training and Employment

In Paraguay, policies on employment and vocational training for persons with disabilities are promoted primarily by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and SENADIS.

According to the State Party's Report, as of 2018, 1,947 persons with disabilities were employed in public institutions nationwide, of whom 1,303 were male (66.9%) and 644 were female (33.1%). Of these, 1,347 (69.2%) were in permanent employment and 600 (30.8%) were in fixed-term employment such as contract positions.

In Paraguay, to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, the "Law on Disability Employment Quota System in the Public Sector" (Law No. 3585/2008) has been enacted, mandating that central government agencies and public institutions to employ a certain proportion of persons with disabilities. In 2011, a decree was enacted to promote the implementation of this system and expand the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in public institutions.

To promote the employment of persons with disabilities in private companies, the "Law on Incentives for Employers Encouraging Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector" (Law No. 4962/2013) has been enacted. This law stipulates tax incentives for

companies that employ persons with disabilities[11]. SENADIS, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Saraki Foundation, and the United States Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "USAID") have designated May 20 as "National Day for Labour Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities," to promote employment of persons with disabilities.

Regarding vocational training for workers, including persons with disabilities, is implemented through institutions such as the National Professional Promotion Service (Servicio Nacional de Promoción Profesional) and the National System for Vocational Training (Sistema Nacional de Formación y Capacitación Laboral) under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. Additionally, specific vocational training programmes for persons with disabilities were also implemented in 2016 and 2017.

As an employment support programme for persons with visual impairments, the AGORA programme is being implemented. This programme is a vocational training and employment support programme aimed at promoting labour market participation of persons with visual impairments, with implementing bodies including the National Professional Promotion Service and the Visual Disability Rehabilitation Center. According to the State Party's Report, in 2016, 275 persons completed a capacity-building programme, and in 2017, 331 persons participated in 66 types of training courses.

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations, pointed out the need to introduce affirmative measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, prohibit workplace discrimination, and develop redress mechanisms for violations of labour rights.

The 2023 Concluding Observations point out challenges such as insufficient implementation of the disability employment quota system in the public sector, the continued prevalence of many persons with disabilities in the informal economy, and insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation. It has also been recommended that strengthening vocational training systems and improving the effectiveness of employment promotion measures by private companies are necessary to expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

In addition, it has been pointed out that the application forms under the Ministry of Finance required for the implementation of the "Law on Incentives for Employers Encouraging Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector" (Law No. 4962/13) have not been updated for a long period, and employers have been unable to utilize tax incentives. The

[11] The employment quota system does not apply to private companies.

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has called for the prompt updating of these forms and for additional measures to complement and reinforce the tax incentives.

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

One of the major measures of social security and social services targeting persons with disabilities in Paraguay is the "Tekoporã Programme" implemented by the Ministry of Social Development. This programme is a national social protection policy aimed at improving the lives of, and promoting the social inclusion of, households in poverty or vulnerable situations, and is a support system centered primarily on Conditional Cash Transfers.

"Tekoporã" means "better life" in Guaraní, and aims to improve quality of life by promoting access to healthcare services, education, and rehabilitation, as well as basic living conditions such as food, clothing, and shelter. This system provides cash grants to poor households on the condition that they meet certain requirements, such as using education and health services for their children.

This programme also targets households with persons with disabilities, with support content and grant amounts determined using "Disability Inclusion Criteria." In particular, additional grants are available to households with one or two persons with severe disabilities, and reasonable accommodations are provided as necessary. Households receiving support are also required to fulfil certain shared responsibilities in education and health management, rather than merely receiving grants.

The Tekoporã Programme prioritizes groups with particularly high social vulnerability, including children aged 0–14, youth aged 15–18, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. According to the State Party's Report, as of end of 2017, 19,595 persons with disabilities were targeted by this programme, of whom 2,176 were persons with severe disabilities. Additionally, as of April 2018, the number of beneficiaries had risen to 20,068, a slight over the previous year.

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations, pointed out the insufficient development of a comprehensive national strategy for poverty reduction targeting persons with disabilities and their families. The Committee called for developing policies to ensure that persons with disabilities can access appropriate housing, social services, and necessary support, and recommended expanding social protection systems targeting persons with disabilities.

In recent evaluations, the social protection system in Paraguay is still centered on cash transfers, and the insufficient development of social services such as welfare services, care services, and rehabilitation services in communities has been pointed out as a challenge. For persons with disabilities to lead independent lives in their communities, in addition to cash

transfers, the expansion of community-based support services and social services for persons with disabilities is considered important.

The 2023 Concluding Observations recommend developing personal assistance systems for persons with disabilities who require support and the securing of budgets for these systems. At present, Paraguay has no institutional framework for personal assistance, and establishing the support systems necessary for persons with disabilities to lead independent lives in their communities is a challenge.

6) Transportation and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

Physical Accessibility

As a major legal system for ensuring physical accessibility in Paraguay, the "Law on Accessibility of the Physical Environment for Persons with Disabilities" (Law No. 4934/2013; hereinafter referred to as the "Accessibility Law") was enacted in 2013. This law mandates ensuring physical environments are accessible to persons with disabilities in public facilities and public spaces, and aims to ensure accessibility in public buildings, public facilities, roads, and public transport.

Under this law, penalties for non-compliance with accessibility obligations are to be stipulated in municipal ordinances. However, in practice, there are many municipalities where ordinances have not been enacted, and challenges to the system’s effectiveness have been noted. Instituto Nacional de Tecnología, Normalización y Metrología (hereinafter referred to as "INTN"), which is responsible for the certification of physical accessibility and technical auditing, has not been functioning sufficiently in this role.

Regarding technical accessibility standards, Paraguay's standards were established in 2011. This has led to the installation of ramps and accessible toilets in commercial facilities and the like. However, these facilities do not always adequately reflect the actual usage by persons with disabilities, and there are cases where the perspective of persons with disabilities as users is lacking.

To address these challenges, INTN implemented "Physical Accessibility Auditor Training" to improve the quality of accessibility audits. This training emphasized auditing that incorporates the perspective of persons with disabilities, and a total of 49 auditors were trained, including 28 persons with physical or visual impairments. This aims to build systems to confirm whether accessibility facilities meet the needs and convenience of actual users and to drive improvements.

Additionally, a guidebook explaining Paraguay's accessibility standards has been created to ensure accessibility from the stage of architectural design, and to disseminate the concept of accessibility throughout society.

Based on the Accessibility Law, an advisory committee on accessibility has been established separately from INTN. This advisory committee is an institution responsible for formulating, implementing, following up, and evaluating technical policy on accessibility, composed of diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, local governments, academic institutions, architectural professionals, civil society organizations, and disability representatives. Specifically, it includes INTN, the Ministry of Justice, SENADIS, local government coordination organizations, the architectural sector, universities, and others.

This advisory committee formulated the "Accessibility Strategic Plan 2016–2018" and clarified specific action plans and responsible agencies for advancing the implementation of the Accessibility Law.

At the local government level, Asunción City adopted the "Ordinance on Adoption of Basic Essential Conditions and Standards for Physical Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities" (Ordinance No. 186/2018) in December 2018. This ordinance aims to strengthen the implementation of the Accessibility Law at the local level and specifically stipulates accessibility standards for buildings and public spaces.

In response, the advisory committee formulated a plan to implement training by INTN and SENADIS in all 252 municipalities nationwide so that the content of this ordinance would be applied nationwide. Physical accessibility guides created by technical teams have also been provided to each municipality.

Public Transport Accessibility

In the public transport sector, improvements to the transport environment, with persons with disabilities in mind, are being advanced as part of the government's "Bus Reform Plan." As part of this plan, approximately 350 buses equipped with air conditioning and wheelchair ramps have been introduced.

However, the development of accessible public transport systems remains limited, and the development of environments where persons with disabilities can use public transport safely and independently is not yet sufficient.

Concerns Raised by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has repeatedly highlighted challenges in the accessibility sector in its Concluding Observations (2013, 2023).

The 2013 Concluding Observations called for setting deadlines for renovations to ensure building accessibility, developing penalties for cases where renovation obligations are not fulfilled, and advancing the enforcement of physical environment accessibility-related laws in consultation with OPDs. It also called for advancing the development of accessible and

reasonable transport environments, including stations, vehicles, signals, and maps in public transport at the national level.

The 2023 Concluding Observations expressed concern that despite the development of laws and technical standards on accessibility, accessibility in public facilities, educational institutions, and public services remains insufficient.

These indications show that while the development of accessibility systems and standards in Paraguay is advancing, the situation in which their implementation and supervision systems are not functioning adequately remains a challenge.

7) Information Accessibility

In Paraguay, various initiatives are being advanced primarily by SENADIS to develop environments where persons with disabilities can access information and communication.

According to the State Party's Report, the importance of providing information from public institutions in formats accessible to persons with disabilities is recognized, and the dissemination of alternative communication means such as Braille, audio materials, and sign language is being advanced. Efforts are also being made to improve information provision and make public relations materials accessible so that persons with disabilities can access administrative information and public services. In 2019, the Law on Ensuring Communication Access for Persons with Hearing Disabilities and Hard-of-Hearing Persons in National Institutions (Law No. 6354/2019) was enacted, stipulating the guarantee of communication and information access for persons with hearing impairments and hard-of-hearing persons when conducting procedures at national institutions[12].

On the other hand, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations, expressed concern about the insufficient provision of accessibility of information and communication. In particular, it was recommended to strengthen access to public information and promote sign language, Braille, and other alternative and augmentative communication means.

The 2023 Concluding Observations point out that ensuring information accessibility remains insufficient, and the need to provide diverse communication means, including Braille, sign language, easy-to-read materials, and alternative and augmentative communication in public information, education, and administrative services, is again emphasized.

These indications show that while efforts to improve information accessibility are underway, the development of environments where persons with disabilities can equally access information across society remains insufficient, and the implementation of systems and the

[12] https://www.lanacion.com.py/pais/2019/08/13/promulgan-ley-que-garantiza-comunicacion-a-personas-sordas-en-entes-estatales（Accessed: 27 Marcg 2026）

expansion of services continue to be challenges.

8) Disaster risk management

Disaster risk reduction policy in Paraguay is overseen by the National Emergency Secretariat (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional). Based on the "National Action Plan on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities," in 2014, this body enacted a decree to approve the "National Policy Document on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management." This policy advances the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and crisis management policies in cooperation with diverse stakeholders including government agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

However, regarding the extent to which concrete measures to ensure the safety of, and to provide support to persons with disabilities in disasters and emergencies are clearly articulated in these policy documents, sufficient information has not been confirmed.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its 2013 Concluding Observations on Paraguay's initial State Party's Report (2010), recommended ensuring the participation of OPDs in the formulation and implementation of disaster prevention policies and promptly adopting risk management policies that reflect the views and recommendations of persons with disabilities.

In the 2023 Concluding Observations as well, concerns are expressed that the needs of persons with disabilities are not sufficiently reflected in disaster risk management and emergency response policies and plans. The Committee recommends developing inclusive disaster risk management systems that include persons with disabilities and ensuring the participation of OPDs in policy formulation and implementation processes, so that persons with disabilities can receive appropriate protection and support in disaster and humanitarian emergency situations.

These indications show that while an institutional framework for disaster risk management in Paraguay is being developed, the concretization of inclusive disaster prevention policies that include persons with disabilities and the development of implementation systems remain insufficient.

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD

Paraguay ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol in September 2008. The government submitted its initial State Party's Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on October 21, 2010, and on October 15, 2012, the Committee presented a List of Issues. In response, the government submitted its replies on February 19, 2013, and the Committee adopted the Concluding Observations on March 15, 2013.

The Concluding Observations (2013) recognized positively the establishment of SENADIS, the enactment of laws on sign language interpretation in audiovisual media, and laws on priority seating for persons with disabilities in public facilities. On the other hand, the revision of terminology used for persons with disabilities, the development of a legal system consistent with the CRPD, the promotion of human rights-based disability policy, and the establishment of a system for continuous consultation with OPDs were pointed out as challenges.

Subsequently, the Government of Paraguay submitted its combined second and third periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on March 19, 2019. In this report, in addition to the establishment of SENADIS in 2012, it reported that domestic institutional development based on the principles of the CRPD is advancing, such as the development of legal systems including the Inclusive Education Law (2013), the Accessibility Law (2013), and the Law on Equal Opportunities in Vocational Training (2015), as well as the enactment of the Law on Access to Communication and Information for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons in State Institutions (Law No. 6354/2019) in 2019.

In response, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted the Concluding Observations on the second and third reports on September 6, 2023 (published on October 17 of the same year). These Concluding Observations recognize certain progress such as the development of legal systems and the formulation of national disability policies, while pointing out ongoing challenges in areas such as the social participation of persons with disabilities, inclusive education, employment opportunities, accessibility, and the development of disability statistics. Ensuring the substantive participation of OPDs in policy formulation and implementation, and securing resources for SENADIS are also raised as important challenges.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Government of Paraguay ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled on January 20, 2015. Through this, the country participates in the international framework for developing

environments where persons with visual impairments and others can access works in accessible formats (Braille, audiobooks, electronic data, etc.).

According to the State Party's Report, in Paraguay, the provision of Braille and accessible learning materials is being advanced by the Ministry of Education and related institutions to improve access to education and information for persons with disabilities. Organizations of persons with visual impairments and educational institutions are also involved in creating accessible materials and providing information. On the other hand, specific domestic laws enacted to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, or authorized institutions formally designated under the Treaty, cannot be clearly confirmed from publicly available information.

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

The Government of Paraguay is promoting inclusive development policies including socially vulnerable groups under the spirit of "Leave No One Behind" toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs"), through the National Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2030) and national SDG implementation frameworks. These policies promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in areas such as poverty reduction, education, employment, social protection, and urban development.

Paraguay submitted Voluntary National Reviews (hereinafter referred to as "VNRs") to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in 2018 and 2021. In the most recent 2021 VNRs, disability is explicitly mentioned as one of the factors causing inequality from the perspective of "Leave No One Behind." In addition, the Inclusive Education Strategy 2030 explicitly addresses the needs of children with disabilities, and it is noted that disability inclusion is being reflected in certain policies.

As described above, while the importance of disability inclusion is recognized to a certain extent within the SDG policy framework in Paraguay, disparities still exist in areas such as education, employment, social protection, and access to public services, and the concretization of inclusive policies that include persons with disabilities toward achieving the SDGs is an important future challenge.

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

Paraguay has ratified several international human rights treaties related to the rights of persons with disabilities, and challenges concerning persons with disabilities have also been identified during the review processes of these treaties.

Regarding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW"), Paraguay accessed to it in 1987. The CEDAW

Committee, in its 2017 Concluding Observations[13], expressed concern that women with disabilities are easily exposed to risks of multiple discrimination and violence. It also called for improving access for women with disabilities to education, employment, and healthcare services.

Regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "CRC"), Paraguay ratified it in 1990. The CRC Committee, in its 2024 Concluding Observations[14], pointed out that children with disabilities still face difficulties in accessing education, healthcare, and social services. In particular, the high number of children with disabilities placed in institutions and the shortage of community-based support services were noted.

Regarding the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") Convention No. 159) [15], Paraguay ratified it in 1991. This convention aims to promote vocational rehabilitation and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and ILO is calling for strengthening policies to promote vocational training and labour market participation for persons with disabilities. In Paraguay, while the development of legal systems related to the employment promotion of persons with disabilities is advancing, challenges remain in the actual expansion of employment opportunities and improvement of workplace accessibility.

As described above, while Paraguay has ratified major international human rights treaties, challenges related to education, employment, and the social participation of persons with disabilities have been repeatedly highlighted in the review processes of each treaty body. These indications show the need to further strengthen efforts to incorporate the disability perspective across policy sectors, with a focus on mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities.

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[16]

• The Government of Japan[17]

<Technical Cooperation Projects: Disability-Specific Initiatives>

- Project for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (2024–2028)
- Project for Strengthening the Japan-Chile Partnership Programme (JCPP) 2030 for the Co-creation of New Triangular and Regional Cooperation Mechanisms (2024–2027)

[13] CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7
[14] CRC/C/PRY/CO/4-6
[15] Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention、1985。
[16] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.
[17] Based on the Cabinet Office of Japan Annual Report on Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities, the JICA Disability and Development pamphlet, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Country-by-Country Grant Aid Exchange of Notes (E/N) Data https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/data/zyoukyou.html（Accessed: 22 March 2026）

- JCPP – Improvement of Early Intervention Services at the Provincial Level in Paraguay (2009–2012)
- Project for Reduction of Mental Retardation (2008–2011)

<Dispatch of Experts>

- Advisor on Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (2016–2018)
- Advisor on Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (2021–2023)

<Training Programmes>

- Strengthening the Capacity of Disability Leaders for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through a Community-Based Inclusive Approach (SENADIS, Asunción City Government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Policy)
- Strengthening Inclusive Education Practices (Ministry of Education)
- Special Needs Education in South America (Ministry of Education / Inclusive Education Department, 1st Inclusive Education Center, General Center for Special Education for Youth)
- Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities in Latin America (PARIGUAL (Non-Governmental Organization (hereinafter referred to as "NGOs")))
- Disability Support Systems Course for Latin America (Spanish) (Ministry of Education)

< Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects >

- Project for Extension of Divino Niño Jesús Care Facility (2013)
- Project for Extension of Rehabilitation Room of Medical Facility for Persons with Disabilities in Misiones Province (2013)
- Project for Construction of Facility for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (2015)
- Project for Construction of Special Support Classroom (2015)
- Project for Construction of Care Facility "House of the Daughters of Our Lady of Caacupé" (2017)
- Project for Construction of Inclusive Education Facility (2018)

<JICA Volunteer>

Support for children/persons with disabilities, etc.

• Other donors[18]

<International organization>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Support for the formulation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Plan Nacional de Derechos Humanos)

United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNICEF")

[18] Based on the State Party's Report (2019)

- Policy support on inclusive education and rights of children with disabilities

World Health Organization (WHO) / PAHO

- Support for capacity building in rehabilitation, disability statistics, and health sectors

<Bilateral Aid>

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

- Programme "Combating Violence against Women in Latin America"

<International NGO>

CBM (Christian Blind Mission)

- Community-based Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as "CBR") and support for strengthening OPD capacity

Humanity & Inclusion

- Support for promoting social participation of persons with disabilities and inclusive development

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

In Paraguay, a range of OPDs and disability support organizations are active. Among them, Saraki Foundation (Fundación Saraki), established in 1996, is one of the representative disability-related organizations, working toward the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. It engages in a wide range of areas including vocational training, employment promotion, accessibility advocacy, and rights protection, and has a track record of collaboration with government agencies, private companies, and international organizations. It has also been involved in parallel report preparation for CRPD reviews.

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Name of Organization	Overview
National Union of People with Visual Disabilities (UNPDV)	An organization aimed at protecting the rights and promoting the social participation of persons with visual impairments. Conducts capacity building, needs assessment, and promotion of social inclusion.
Centro de Sordos del Paraguay (CSPy)	An organization operated primarily by persons with hearing impairments. Aims to protect the human rights of persons with hearing impairments, promote social participation, and develop community.
Asociación de Sordos de Coronel Oviedo (ASORCO)	A non-profit organization established by persons with hearing impairments. Aims to protect the human rights, promote the rights, and strengthen the social participation of persons with hearing impairments.
TEA Paraguay	An organization of families of persons with autism spectrum disorder. Aims to guarantee the rights of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder, advocate for policy, and improve quality of life.

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name of Organization	Overview
Fundación Solidaridad[19]	Since 1969, has been working to improve the quality of life of persons with physical disabilities, and also provides comprehensive and effective rehabilitation services to users.
Saraki Foundation[20] (Fundación Saraki)	Established in 1996. A representative NGO aimed at social participation and realization of rights for persons with disabilities. Implements policy advocacy, social awareness, and promotion of inclusion through collaboration with companies and the government.

[19] https://www.fundacionsolidaridadpy.org/（Accessed: 22 March 2026）
[20] https://www.saraki.org/(Accessed: 22 March 2026)

Teleton Foundation	A large charitable organization providing rehabilitation and habilitation services for children with physical disabilities.
Fundación Down Paraguay	An organization providing support to persons with Down syndrome and their families. Implements medical, educational, and social participation support.
Marcando Pasos Rehabilitation Centre	A rehabilitation center providing physiotherapy, speech therapy, early stimulation therapy, and other services.
Asociación Voluntarios Guai	A civil society organization conducting rights advocacy and social awareness activities for persons with disabilities. Implements empowerment activities at the community level.

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities

This chapter is based on information from the parallel report submitted in 2021 by civil society organizations constituting CONADIS and the National Union of People with Visual Disabilities (UNPDV) and others, and the parallel report jointly submitted by multiple OPDs in 2023.

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

In Paraguay, access to healthcare services for persons with disabilities remains insufficient, and parallel reports point out challenges in many areas including medical services, rehabilitation, early intervention, and communication support.

First, in medical services, the lack of information support and communication support when persons with disabilities use medical institutions is a major challenge. In particular, in the case of persons with hearing impairments, cases are reported where patients cannot sufficiently understand the content of consultations because doctors do not understand sign language and interpreters are not deployed. While remote interpretation services (Relay Centre) exist, they are not available 24 hours a day, and some doctors refuse to use them, making it difficult to respond in emergencies.

The shortage of specialized medical services for children with disabilities is also pointed out. For example, at a pediatric hospital in Asunción, the waiting period for consultations with neurologists and pediatric specialists may extend to 3–4 years, and the national programme for autism spectrum disorder has a limited number of target patients and lacks a sufficient consultation system.

Additionally, regarding habilitation services, urban concentration and supply shortage are problematic. Parallel reports identify that these services are primarily concentrated in the capital area and are scarcely provided in rural areas. Since private rehabilitation facilities are few and have limited slots, consultation intervals may be once every few months, making continuous support difficult.

According to the State Party's Report, mental health services are provided within the national healthcare network, with specialized services by psychiatrists and psychologists provided at multiple medical facilities. SENADIS is also reported to operate rehabilitation facilities in several regions of the country.

However, civil society points out that these services are still not sufficient, and that shortages of medical personnel, regional disparities in services, long waiting periods, and insufficient understanding of disability among healthcare workers are impeding medical access for persons with disabilities. Early detection and early support systems for children with disabilities are also not sufficient, and services are barely provided in rural areas in

particular.

In the mental health sector, the fact that forced hospitalization and forced treatment are still being carried out is pointed out as a major human rights challenge. Parallel reports report cases of involuntary hospitalization in psychiatric hospitals and drug therapy and electroconvulsive therapy conducted without the consent of the individual, which are of concern as being contrary to Article 14 (Liberty and security of person) and Article 15 (Freedom from torture) of the CRPD. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also called for the abolition of these forced practices in its 2023 Concluding Observations.

In addition, it is also pointed out as a problem that the enrolment of persons with disabilities in private health insurance is refused, or that medical expenses related to disability are excluded from coverage.

As described above, challenges in the healthcare sector for persons with disabilities in Paraguay include: 1) regional disparities in medical services, 2) shortage of rehabilitation services, 3) insufficient knowledge of disability among healthcare workers, 4) shortage of communication support, and 5) discriminatory treatment in health insurance systems.

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

In Paraguay, the Inclusive Education Law (Law No. 5136/2013) was enacted in 2013, indicating a policy of accepting students with disabilities in regular schools. However, parallel reports from civil society highlight a significant gap between the system and the actual educational field. In particular, insufficient school accessibility, shortage of support personnel, and insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation are the main factors impeding the educational participation of children with disabilities.

For example, even when accepting children with disabilities in regular schools, the placement of support teachers (support teachers) is not institutionalized, and cases are reported where the cost is treated as a condition of enrolment to be borne by parents. In this case, some households may not be able to secure support teachers due to their economic situation, resulting in difficulties enrolling in school. The roles and expertise of support teachers are not clearly defined, and in some cases they are treated as mere escorts rather than as actual educational support.

In the education system, there remains a strong dependence on special schools, and the situation continues where many children with disabilities learn in segregated educational environments. While the government has indicated a policy of converting special schools into inclusive education support centers, the specific plans and deadlines have not been sufficiently presented, and the progress of institutional reform is noted as limited.

In addition, it has been pointed out that Decision No. 29664 issued by the Ministry of Education and Sciences prohibits gender theory content in school education, and the Committee has recommended its abolition as it conflicts with the empowerment of women in general, including women and girls with disabilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the transition to remote education had a major impact on children with disabilities. In particular, for children with visual impairments or multiple disabilities, individual instruction and physical support are necessary for educational support, and it has been reported that sufficient learning support was not provided in online education. For children with hearing impairments as well, many households did not have internet environments or communication devices, and situations arose where they were left behind in education.

As described above, while the institutional framework for inclusive education is being developed in Paraguay's education sector, many challenges remain, such as support personnel, educational resources, accessibility of school facilities, and regional disparities. Major challenges still exist in ensuring educational opportunities for children with disabilities.

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

In Paraguay, legal systems have been developed to promote employment of persons with disabilities, including provisions for disability-employment quotas in the public sector. However, according to parallel reports, employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the actual labour market remain limited, and situations are pointed out where many persons with disabilities cannot access stable employment. In particular, the unemployment and non-employment rates of persons with disabilities are high, and even when employed, cases of working in the informal sector or low-wage jobs are frequently reported.

On the company side as well, understanding of and experience with disability employment are not sufficient, and the failure to provide reasonable accommodation and adjust workplace environments is a major challenge. Vocational training and employment support services are also not sufficiently developed, and the support system for persons with disabilities to enter the labour market is pointed out as limited. In rural areas in particular, there are few vocational training institutions and employment support institutions, and there are cases where it is itself difficult for persons with disabilities to access employment support services.

Additionally, constraints on educational opportunities for persons with disabilities and insufficient vocational training are also pointed out as leading to restrictions on employment opportunities. Since many persons with disabilities have not received sufficient basic education, it is difficult to acquire the skills and qualifications necessary to participate in the

formal employment market. On the employer side as well, understanding of the capabilities and job suitability of persons with disabilities is not sufficient, and passive attitudes toward disability employment remain.

As described above, while an institutional framework exists in Paraguay's employment sector, shortages of employment opportunities, vocational training and employment support shortage, and insufficient employer understanding act in complex ways as factors impeding the labour market participation of persons with disabilities. The insufficient formal statistics on the employment situation of persons with disabilities also makes it difficult to grasp the actual situation and improve policy measures and support.

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

In Paraguay, while legal systems to improve the accessibility of public transport, roads, and buildings have been developed, parallel reports point out that safe and independent mobility environments for persons with disabilities are not adequately secured. In particular, accessibility of public transport in urban areas is limited, and it is reported that it is difficult for wheelchair users and persons with visual impairments to use public transport in their daily lives.

Specifically, many buses lack ramps or lifts in many cases wheelchair users cannot board. Bus stops and sidewalks are also insufficiently developed, and it is pointed out that safe movement for persons with visual impairments and those with difficulty walking is impeded by steps, deficient paving, and lack of tactile paving. Drivers and transport operators do not have sufficient understanding of disability, and cases of refusing boarding by persons with disabilities or being unable to provide appropriate support are also reported.

In rural areas, public transport itself is limited, and mobility means for persons with disabilities to access medical institutions, educational institutions, and employment opportunities are severely lacking. For this reason, there are many situations where persons with disabilities have no choice but to depend on family support or private transportation, which consequently becomes a factor restricting social participation opportunities.

Insufficient consideration of accessibility in urban planning and public infrastructure development is also pointed out as a challenge. Universal design is not necessarily fully implemented even in newly established public facilities and roads, and it is pointed out that renovation of existing facilities is also not progressing.

In addition, the 2023 Concluding Observations point out that high-quality wheelchairs, hearing aids, white canes, Braille displays, and other assistive devices are expensive, and persons with disabilities and their families must bear almost the entire cost themselves. The Committee recommends developing national strategies to ensure the availability,

affordability, and access of assistive technology, and providing financial support to subsidize the costs of assistive devices in whole or in part.

As described above, in Paraguay's transportation sector, despite the development of legal systems, insufficient accessibility of public transport, deficiencies in pedestrian environments, and shortage of transport means in rural areas are pointed out as the main challenges restricting independent mobility of persons with disabilities.

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

In Paraguay, while the development of systems for ensuring information access and communication support for persons with disabilities is advancing, many persons with disabilities actually face various barriers in information access. Parallel reports point out the shortage of information access support for persons with hearing impairments and visual impairments in particular as a major challenge.

Regarding persons with hearing impairments, the insufficient deployment of sign language interpreters at public services, administrative procedures, and medical institutions is a major problem. For example, in consultations and procedures at administrative agencies and medical institutions, there are many cases in which services are provided without sign language interpretation, resulting in necessary information not being accurately understood. It is also pointed out that the provision of sign language interpretation and subtitles in television broadcasts and public information is insufficient.

On the other hand, regarding information access for persons with visual impairments, the insufficient development of accessible information, such as Braille and audio materials is also a challenge. In particular, regarding information on education and public services, provision in accessible formats is limited, and it has been reported that persons with visual impairments have difficulty obtaining necessary information independently.

While online information provision is increasing with the advancement of digitalization, many websites and online services do not fully comply with accessibility standards. This is becoming a barrier when persons with disabilities access information on administrative services and social security systems.

As described above, in Paraguay's information and communication sector, insufficient sign language interpretation and subtitles, shortage of accessible information formats, and insufficient web accessibility are key challenges that restrict information access and the social participation of persons with disabilities.

5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

In Paraguay, it is pointed out in parallel reports[21] by civil society that women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination arising from both disability and gender. In particular, in many areas such as education, employment, healthcare, and social participation, women with disabilities are said to be in a disadvantaged situation compared to men with disabilities and women without disabilities.

First, women with disabilities tend to be overly protected at home, and there are cases where educational and social participation opportunities are restricted. While it is pointed out that women with disabilities have high risks of violence and abuse within families and communities, the support systems and consultation services for reporting victimization are not sufficiently developed. In addition, there are also cases where reporting victimization and relief procedures become difficult because support institutions such as the judicial system, police, and healthcare institutions do not have responses that give sufficient consideration to disability.

Women with disabilities also face major constraints in terms of employment opportunities. While employment opportunities are limited for persons with disabilities overall, it is pointed out that women with disabilities have even fewer employment opportunities and tend to work in the informal sector or domestic labour. In addition, restrictions on access to vocational training and educational opportunities are factors that make economic independence difficult.

In policies and programmes on the rights of women with disabilities, the insufficient incorporation of intersectional perspectives combining disability and gender is also cited as a challenge. There is a tendency for disability policy and gender policy to proceed independently, and it is pointed out that the needs of women with disabilities are not sufficiently reflected.

The 2023 Concluding Observations point out that the implementation of the 14th pillar of the National Action Plan on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, regarding protection from exploitation, violence, and abuse, is stagnating. The Committee calls for strengthening protective measures, particularly for indigenous women with disabilities, women with disabilities in rural areas, and women with intellectual, mental, and multiple disabilities, and also addresses the problem that shelters for victims of violence are not accessible to persons with disabilities, recommending deployment of trained staff and other measures.

As described above, in Paraguay, multiple discrimination and risks of violence faced by

[21] Coalición de Organizaciones de Personas con Discapacidad del Paraguay, etc.,（2023）(INT/CRPD/CSS/PRY/53278）

women with disabilities, constraints on educational and employment opportunities, and shortage of support systems are major challenges, and comprehensive policy responses that take into account both disability and gender perspectives are required.

6. References

Coalición de Organizaciones de Personas con Discapacidad del Paraguay and others (2023) *Complementary Report to the Shadow Report of Civil Society Organisations of and for Persons with Disabilities of Paraguay*.

CONADIS constituting civil society organizations and National Union of People with Visual Disabilities (UNPDV) and others (2021) *Informe Alternativo, Paralelo o Sombra sobre el II y III Informe Combinado del Estado Paraguayo sobre el Cumplimiento de la CDPD* (INT/CRPD/CSS/PRY/52335, April 2021).

DELTA Consultora Integral (2012) *Informe Final: Estudio de Prevalencia de Discapacidad en la Región Oriental del Paraguay*.

Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos (2016) *Características sociodemográficas de los hogares particulares con personas con discapacidad 2012*.

Gobierno Nacional de Paraguay (2010) *CRPD Informes iniciales presentados por los Estados partes de conformidad con el artículo 35 de la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad*.

Gobierno Nacional de Paraguay (2019) *Combined second and third periodic reports submitted by Paraguay under article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD/C/PRY/2-3).

Gobierno Nacional de Paraguay (2014) *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Paraguay 2030*.

International Labour Organization (2015) *Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Employment and Social Protection Systems*.

JICA (2002) *Country Profile on Disability: Republic of Paraguay*.

JICA (2015) *Thematic Guidelines: Disability and Development*.

JICA (2017) *Toward a World Where All People Benefit: Initiatives on "Disability and Development.*"

JICA (2019) *Technical Cooperation Project Summary*.

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura (2011) *Plan Nacional de Educación 2024*.

Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad (SENADIS) (various years) *Informes y documentos institucionales sobre políticas de discapacidad en Paraguay*.

United Nations (2013) *Concluding observations on the initial report of Paraguay* (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1).

United Nations (2023) *Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Paraguay* (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3).

United Nations (2006) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

World Health Organization & World Bank (2011) *World Report on Disability*.

＜Web Information＞

Cabinet Office of Japan (2013–2019) Annual Report on Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities https://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/whitepaper/index-w.html

International Labour Organization (ILO) NORMLEX – Ratification of ILO Convention No. 159 (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention) https://www.ilo.org/normlex

Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad (SENADIS) https://www.senadis.gov.py/

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child – Concluding Observations: Paraguay

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – Concluding Observations: Paraguay

UN Treaty Body Database https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Marrakesh Treaty – Contracting Parties: Paraguay https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/