Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Djibouti

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Abbreviations

ANPH	Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées	National Agency for Persons with Disabilities
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CMI	Carte Mobilité Inclusion	Mobility Inclusion Card
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
DJF	Djiboutian Franc	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
ILO	International Labour Organization	
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	
OPD	Organization(s) of Persons with Disabilities	
RNPH	Réseau National des Personnes Handicapées	National Network of Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 3,552.7	2024

Government Expenditures by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	2.50 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	3.8 %	2018
Social protection (% of GDP)[3]	2.1 %	2018

Population

Total population	1,168,722	2024
Male (% of total population)	49.6 %	
Female (% of total population)	50.4 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	72.9 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	27.1 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	66.0 years	2023
Male	63.5 years	
Female	68.5 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	12.9 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	44.4	2023

Education

Education System[4]		
Primary Education	5 years	
Compulsory education	9 years	
Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	N/A	
Adult male	N/A	
Adult female	N/A	

[1] Based on World Bank (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 13 January 2026))

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

[3] Excluding healthcare. 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] Djibouti's education system consists of primary school (five years), lower secondary school (four years), upper secondary school (three years) and university education (four years). Children start school at the age of six. Based on the Website of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: UNESCO (https://www.uis.unesco.org/en/data/sdg4-country-profiles (Accessed: 13 January 2026))

School enrolment[5]		
Primary (% gross) (total)	99.2 %	2024
Male	101.5 %	
Female	96.7 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	N/A	
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	
Tertiary (% gross)	5.2 %	2011
Male	6.2 %	
Female	4.1 %	

Employment

Unemployment (total)	26.0 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	21.8 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	35.5 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability [6]

In the Republic of Djibouti (hereinafter referred to as "Djibouti"), the definition of disability was previously set out in the Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Special Needs (Law No. 207 of 2017) but was amended by Law No. 151 of 2022 as follows. Before the amendment, persons with disabilities were referred to as "persons with special needs", and the definition was based on the medical model. After the amendment, the definition was changed to align with that of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "CRPD").

- **After the amendment: Article 1 of Law No. 151 of 2022**

"Persons with disabilities: all persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others."

(Original text) "Personnes handicapées: toutes personnes qui présentent des incapacités

[5] The gross enrolment rate for primary education is based on Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle (MENFOP) (2024) *Annuaire Statistique 2023/2024*. According to this source, the gross enrolment rate for lower secondary education in the 2023–2024 school year was 86.7% (boys: 90.9%; girls: 82.2%), while that for upper secondary education was 66.5% (boys: 70.0%; girls: 62.7%).

[6] Based on République de Djibouti (2022) *Loi n°151/AN/22/8ème L abrogeant et remplaçant lesdispositions de la loi n°207/AN/17/7ème L relative à lapromotion et à la protection des droits des personnes àbesoins spéciaux*. and Jourdnal Officiel République de Djibouti (2018) *Loi n° 207/AN/17/7ème L relative à la promotion et à la protection des droits des personnes à besoins spéciaux.* https://www.journalofficiel.dj/texte-juridique/loi-n207-an-17-7eme-l-relative-a-la-promotion-et-a-la-protection-des-droits-des-personnes-a-besoins-speciaux/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

physiques, mentales, intellectuelles ou sensorielles durables dont l'interaction avec diverses barrières peut faire obstacle à leur pleine et effective participation à la société sur la base de l'égalité avec les autres."

- **Before the amendment: Article 2 of the Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Special Needs, Law No. 207 of 2017**

"Person with special needs: any person who is unable to carry out, totally or partially, one or more activities of daily life as a result of a permanent or temporary impairment of sensory, mental or motor functions, whether congenital or acquired."

(Original text) "Est considérée personne à besoins spéciaux au sens de la présente loi, toute personne dans l'incapacité d'accomplir totalement ou partiellement une ou plusieurs activités de la vie courante, consécutive à une atteinte permanente ou occasionnelle de ses fonctions sensorielles, mentales ou motrices d'origine congénitale ou acquise."

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability[7]

In Djibouti, a national disability survey was conducted in 2019 by the National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (l'Institut National de la Statistique de Djibouti), commissioned by the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (l'Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées, hereinafter referred to as "ANPH"). The survey identified the population experiencing difficulties in the six functional domains based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. It covered approximately 10,000 households and was not conducted for the entire population.

Number of persons with disabilities (aged 2 and above)	48,791	8.5% of the surveyed population	2019
Men		8.3% of the surveyed population	
Women		8.7% of the surveyed population	

[7] Based on Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées (ANPH) (2019) *Enquête Nationale de Prévalence du Handicap a Djibouti.*

Table 1 Disability prevalence by type of disability (2019)

Type of disability	Disability prevalence rate (aged 2 and above)
Seeing	4.8 %
Hearing	3.7 %
Walking	5.2 %
Cognition	4.0 %
Self-care	4.4 %
Communication	4.1 %

Source: ANPH (2019)

Table 2 Disability prevalence rate by age group (2019)

Age group	Disability prevalence rate
2–4 years	6.9 %
5–17 years	4.9 %
18–59 years	7.8 %
60 years and above	28.0 %

Source: ANPH (2019)

Table 3 Disability prevalence rate by area of residence (2019)

Area	Disability prevalence rate
Djibouti Ville	8.7 %
Ali Sabieh	13.3 %
Dikhil	3.5 %
Tadjourah	7.7 %
Obock	10.9 %
Arta	7.8 %

Source: ANPH (2019)

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability[8]

Based on Article 33 of the CRPD, the Government of Djibouti established ANPH as the institution responsible for implementing and coordinating matters related to persons with disabilities. ANPH and its local branches (antennes de l'ANPH) play a central role in coordinating with other government sectors and the private sector in the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities throughout the country.

<Central government>

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 4 Institutions responsible for disability-related issues in Djibouti

No.	Name	Overview
1	National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANPH)[9]	・Established in 2018 as a public administrative institution under the direct authority of the Presidency of the Republic (Présidence de la République). ・Promoting the participation, inclusion and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life and serving as the focal point for support services in the national disability sector. ・Undertaking policy coordination, awareness-raising, human resource development and statistical data collection. ・Composed of a 14-member Board of Directors, drawn from representatives of the Presidency of the Republic, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Women and Family, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Budget, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry Delegate in charge of Decentralization, the Ministry of Labour in charge of Administrative Reform, the State Secretariat for Youth and Sports, the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, the National Network of Persons with Disabilities[10], the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), and the private sector.
2	Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé)	・Developing and managing medical facilities nationwide, providing rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and improving the accessibility of health-care institutions.

[8] Based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017) *Initial report submitted by Djibouti under article 35 of the Convention, due in 2014.* (hereinafter referred to as "State Party's Report"), ANPH (2021) *Strategie Nationale du Handicap 2021-2025.* and ANPH (2024) *Revue a mi Parcours de la Strategie Nationale du Handicap 2021-2025.*

[9] Based on ANPH (https://www.anph.dj/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026))

[10] Réseau National des Personnes Handicapées (hereinafter referred to as "RNPH")

		・Training speech therapists, physiotherapists, prosthetists and orthotists, and rehabilitation specialists, and providing training for health-care professionals on how to accommodate persons with disabilities and their families. ・Undertaking early detection and early intervention for disabilities through maternal and child health programmes.
3	Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle)	・Establishing and developing the institutional framework for special schools (École des Enfants à Besoins Spéciaux) and specialized educational institutions to ensure educational opportunities for students with disabilities, while also promoting gradual integration into mainstream schools in some areas. ・Developing school facilities adapted for students with disabilities, preparing teaching materials and training and building the capacity of teachers. ・Expanding vocational training tailored to disabilities and providing financial support, such as scholarships, for students with disabilities attending vocational training schools.
4	Ministry of Women and Family (Ministère de la Femme et de la Famille)	・Implementing capacity-building programmes targeting women with disabilities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity. ・Promoting economic independence through promotional campaigns for handicrafts made by persons with disabilities and participation in trade fairs. ・Promoting the integration of children with disabilities into pre-primary education, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training.
5	Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et des Solidarités)	・Implementing social protection measures and coordinating and improving the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social security, benefit and support systems. ・Providing financial support for special education and vocational training in collaboration with relevant institutions.
6	Ministry of Labour in Charge of Administrative Reform (Ministère du Travail Chargé de la Réforme de l'Administration)	・Promoting the expansion of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through the development of systems and regulations related to their employment. ・Conducting awareness-raising and educational activities on the employment of persons with disabilities for public institutions and private companies.
7	Ministry of the City, Urban Planning and Housing (Ministère de la Ville, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat)	Securing housing for persons with disabilities through measures such as priority allocation in social housing.
8	Ministry of Budget	Securing and coordinating the budget required to implement

	(Ministère du Budget)	disability-related plans and measures.
9	Ministry of Youth and Culture (Ministère de la Jeunesse et de la Culture)	Promoting the social participation of persons with disabilities through sports, cultural activities and various events.

<Status of Coordination Mechanism>

ANPH serves as the national coordination mechanism for the CRPD. Meanwhile, in order to coordinate the implementation of the National Disability Strategy 2021–2025, the highest-level policy document in the disability sector, across ministries and agencies, the National Technical Committee (Comité National Technique) was established by Presidential Decree No. 84 of 2022 and serves as the framework for national coordination. The National Technical Committee consists of the following two committees.

- Interministerial Committee (Comité interministériel): Chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of ministers responsible for areas such as budget, education, health, and social affairs. It is responsible for proposing the direction of the National Disability Strategy, monitoring its implementation, and mobilizing funding.
- Technical Committee (Comité Technique): Chaired by a representative of the Presidency and composed of representatives of ministries and agencies, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Network of Persons with Disabilities, and technical and financial partners such as United Nations agencies. ANPH serves as the secretariat and is responsible for practical coordination, including mobilizing stakeholders, clarifying the division of roles, and preparing progress reports.

<Local government>

The system responsible for disability-related matters at the local government level, including the regions and the arrondissements of Djibouti City, is handled by ANPH's regional branches.

ANPH is required to establish one regional branch in each administrative region. In Djibouti City, plans are underway to establish branches in each arrondissement. The duties carried out by ANPH's regional branches are as follows:

- Implementing the national disability policy in each region
- Providing information and guidance to persons with disabilities and their families on administrative procedures for receiving support in areas such as health, education, vocational training, and employment
- Conducting biometric registration and identifying persons with disabilities for the issuance of the Mobility Inclusion Card (Carte Mobilité Inclusion, hereinafter referred

to as "CMI"), which is required to access various welfare services

- Ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities and implementing employment support in accordance with laws and regulations
- Organizing and coordinating the activities of local Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPD")

Local authorities, such as regional councils and arrondissement-level authorities, do not have dedicated and independent departments responsible for disability-related matters. However, under the law, they are responsible for cooperating, within the scope of their authority, in the implementation of measures that contribute to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. Therefore, they are expected to promote initiatives in collaboration with ANPH's regional branches, including ensuring the accessibility of public facilities and conducting awareness-raising activities.

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability[11]

Article 1 of the Constitution provides that the State ensures "equality before the law for all, without distinction as to language, origin, race, sex or religion." Following its ratification of the CRPD, the Government of Djibouti enacted Law No. 207/AN/17/7th Legislature on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Special Needs (Loi n°207/AN/17/7ème L relative à la promotion et à la protection des droits des personnes à besoins spéciaux) as the basic law in the disability sector. Furthermore, in 2022, the Government enacted a law repealing and replacing this law and formulated the "National Disability Strategy 2021–2025", the highest-level policy document in the disability sector. Since the beginning of the 2020s, Djibouti has thus been developing its legal, regulatory, and policy framework.

Title	Law No. 151 of 2022 (repealing and replacing Law No. 207 of 2017, "Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Special Needs")
Year of enactment	2022
Overview	A law that repeals Law No. 207 of 2017 and newly strengthens the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. It comprehensively guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities in areas including education, health and social security, employment, accessibility, social participation, political participation, access to justice, protection of family life, and prevention of violence. It also clarifies the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability and the definition of reasonable

[11] Based on Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées (ANPH) (2022) *Recueil des textes juridiques relatifs à la protection et la promotion des droits des personnes handicapées en République de Djibouti.* and the State Party's Report.

	accommodation, and stipulates the responsibility of the State to remove barriers that hinder social participation.

Other major laws and regulations related to the rights of persons with disabilities include the following.

Title	Law on the Establishment of the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANPH) (Law No. 15 of 2018) (La Loi n°15/AN/18/8ème L du 25 juin 2018 portant création de l'Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées)
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	A law establishing ANPH as the core institution for disability-related policies and defining its mandate.

Title	Decree on the Organization and Operation of the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANPH) (Decree No. 293 of 2018) (Le Décret n°2018-293/PRE portant organisation et fonctionnement de l'Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapés (ANPH))
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	A decree that defines the specific composition and roles of ANPH's Board of Directors, Director General, and specialized departments, such as the Department of Administration, Finance and Legal Affairs, the Department of Studies and Planning, and the Department of Social Integration and Rehabilitation, as well as its budgetary mechanism.

Title	Law on the Establishment of the Disability Support Fund (Law No. 168 of 2022) (La Loi n°168/AN/22/8ème L du 09 novembre 2022 portant création du Fonds de soutien pour le Handicap (FSH))
Year of enactment	2022
Overview	A law establishing the Disability Support Fund (Fonds de Soutien Pour le Handicap) under the authority of ANPH to finance national programs related to disability prevention and care, the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities, and emergency response in crisis situations.

Title	Decree on Special Measures for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities (Decree No. 294 of 2020) (Le Décret n°2020-294/PR/MTRA portant dispositions particulières à l'Emploi des Personnes Handicapées)
Year of enactment	2020

Overview	A decree establishing employment obligations for persons with disabilities according to the number of employees. It requires the

	employment of at least one person with disabilities in workplaces with 50 to 100 employees, at least four in workplaces with 100 to 300 employees, at least seven in workplaces with 300 to 500 employees, and at least ten in workplaces with 500 or more employees. It also requires reasonable accommodation in the workplace.

Title	Decree on the Establishment of the Mobility Inclusion Card (CMI) (Decree No. 306 of 2020) (Le Décret n°2020-306/PRE du 2 décembre 2020 portant institution de la Carte Mobilité Inclusion (CMI))
Year of enactment	2020
Overview	A decree providing for the issuance of the CMI, a biometric IC card for persons with disabilities. It stipulates social benefits linked to the CMI, including free access to public health care, discounts on transportation, and priority access to education and housing.

Title	Decree on the Establishment, Organization and Operation of the National Family Solidarity Program (Decree No. 279 of 2015) and its Amending Decree (Decree No. 96 of 2017) (Le Décret n°2017-096/PR/SEAS portant modification du décret n°2015-279/PR/SESN portant création, organisation et fonctionnement du Programme National de Solidarité Famille (PNSF))
Year of enactment	2015/2017
Overview	A decree defining the operation of the National Family Solidarity Program (Programme National de Solidarité Famille), which provides cash transfers to households in extreme poverty and vulnerable households with at least one person with disabilities.

Title	Decree on the Operation of the National Solidarity Fund (Decree No. 231 of 2012) (Le Décret n°2012-231/PR/SESN du 17 octobre 2012 fixant l'organisation et les modalités de fonctionnement du Fonds de Solidarité Nationale)
Year of enactment	2012
Overview	A law establishing the National Solidarity Fund (Fonds de Solidarité Nationale) to support national poverty reduction measures and vulnerable groups in general, including the National Family Solidarity Program.

Title	Labour Code (Law No. 133 of 2006) (Loi n°133/AN/05/5ème du 26 janvier 2006 Code du Travail)
Year of enactment	2006
Overview	A law that includes special provisions for the protection of the employment of persons with disabilities, including the prohibition of

	discrimination in employment on the basis of disability (Article 117) and the definition of workers with disabilities (Article 118).

Title	Penal Code (Law No. 59/AN/94 of 5 January 1995) (La loi n°59/AN/94 du 5 janvier 1995 portant Code pénal)
Year of enactment	1995
Overview	A law that establishes penalties for violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, as well as for placing them in inhuman working or living conditions. It also provides for criminal responsibility of persons with mental or neuropsychic disabilities.

Title	Decree on the Adoption of the 2022-2024 National Action Plan for the National Disability Strategy (Decree No. 30 of 2022) (Décret n°2022-030/PRE portant adoption du Plan d'Action National 2022-2024 de la Stratégie Nationale du Handicap 2021-2025)
Year of enactment	2022
Overview	A decree that adopts the concrete three-year action plan for implementing the National Disability Strategy 2021–2025 and requires relevant ministries and agencies to implement it.

Title	Decree on the Establishment of the National Technical Committee Responsible for the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Disability Strategy (Decree No. 84 of 2022) (Décret n°2022-084/PRE portant création du Comité National Technique chargé de l'exécution, du suivi et de l'évaluation de la Stratégie Nationale du Handicap 2021-2025)
Year of enactment	2022
Overview	A decree establishing the National Technical Committee, composed of the Interministerial Committee and the Technical Committee, to monitor the progress of the National Disability Strategy 2021-2025 and coordinate collaboration among ministries and agencies.

Disability-related policies

Title	National Disability Strategy 2021–2025 (Stratégie Nationale du Handicap 2021–2025)[12]
Year of enactment	2021
Overview	The highest-level policy document in the disability sector. ANPH is responsible for its concrete implementation and coordination, while the National Technical Committee supports its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It consists of three pillars: (i) provision of services and

[12] Based on ANPH (2021).

	improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities; (ii) promotion of access to livelihoods; and (iii) building an inclusive society. It identifies four priority areas: education, health, employment, and social protection.

Title	National Social Protection Strategy 2018–2022 (Stratégie Nationale de Protection Sociale 2018–2022)
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	A national strategy for social protection and poverty reduction. Its overall objective is to establish a "social protection floor" for all citizens, and it provides for cash transfers and employment support for persons with disabilities.

2-3. Measures on Disability[13]

1) Healthcare

The 1999 Health Act (Loi n°48/AN/99/4ème L du 03 juillet 1999 portant Orientation de la politique de la Santé) recognizes the right of all persons to health and introduced a framework for shifting from free health care to a system under which all persons contribute to public health-care costs according to their resources. At the same time, articles 4 and 5 of the Act provide for the need to give special assistance to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.

According to the 2016 State Party's Report, the Government guaranteed free health care to vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities, through the universal health insurance system introduced in 2014. As measures for the prevention and early detection of disabilities, the Government worked to prevent conditions such as polio and meningitis and achieved high immunization coverage rates according to the 2014 survey. It also provided early screening for children who were with hard-of-hearing or visual impairments through its school health service. In addition, since 2014, a project based at Balbala Hospital has provided primary health care and community-based rehabilitation for 6,250 persons with physical disabilities. A centre providing prosthetic, orthopaedic, and physiotherapy services was also established at the hospital.

However, in its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the CRPD, while acknowledging these efforts, identified several important challenges. In particular, the Committee expressed concerns about the barriers

[13] Unless otherwise indicated, this section is based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017) *Initial report submitted by Djibouti under article 35 of the Convention, due in 2014.* (hereinafter referred to as "State Party's Report"), United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021) *Concluding observations on the initial report of Djibouti.* (hereinafter referred to as "Concluding Observations"), ANPH (2021) and ANPH (2024).

faced by persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas and persons with disabilities living in refugee camps, in gaining access to quality public health-care services, as well as the lack of a comprehensive policy to ensure the accessibility of health-care facilities, services and information. It also identified as issues the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health-related services, the lack of measures to ensure respect for the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities in medical treatment and intervention, and the lack of rights-based training for health-care personnel. In addition, the Committee pointed to the lack of availability of comprehensive and community-based habilitation and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.

In response to these findings, the Government of Djibouti identified the provision of quality healthcare services as one of the priority areas of the National Disability Strategy 2021–2025. The strategy calls for strengthening the prevention and early detection of disabilities, establishing support and follow-up mechanisms to promote the autonomy of persons with disabilities, and enhancing the capacities of healthcare professionals. In addition, the CMI, institutionalized at the end of 2020, clarified the right of persons with disabilities to receive free treatment at public healthcare facilities. Furthermore, around 2023, initiatives were implemented to support cochlear implant surgery, provide breast cancer screening for women with disabilities, and improve nutrition. Efforts have also been undertaken in the field of mental health to strengthen rehabilitation services and develop specialized human resources.

However, according to the 2024 Mid-Term Review of the National Disability Strategy, serious challenges remain in the health sector. These include weaknesses in the provision of physical and mental health care across the health system, insufficient follow-up on the health status of persons with disabilities, and the limited preparedness of health facilities to receive persons with disabilities, including in terms of physical accessibility and sign-language support. The review also identifies weak early detection mechanisms, limited data and studies on disability-related health issues, and insufficient disability-inclusive communication and awareness-raising activities.

To address these challenges, the Readjusted Action Plan (Plan d'Action Réajusté) 2024–2025 of the National Disability Strategy envisages the integration and establishment of rehabilitation services within existing healthcare facilities, including the regional hospital in Ali Sabieh and prefabricated health facilities in Tadjourah. It also provides for the training of specialized rehabilitation professionals, including physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, orthotists and prosthetists, and specialists in physical and rehabilitation medicine.

In addition, the plan aims to improve access to healthcare through interoperability between the CMI system and the national universal health insurance database, while expanding disability-awareness and disability-inclusive service training for healthcare personnel and social workers.

2) Education

According to the 2016 State Party's Report, the 2000 Education Act (Loi n°96/AN/00/4ème L du 10 juillet 2000 portant Orientation du Système Educatif Djiboutien) recognizes the right of every Djiboutian to education and provides that basic education is compulsory and free of charge for children between the ages of 6 and 16. At the same time, it contains a provision under which the parents of children with disabilities who are unable to follow a general educational programme are exempt from the obligation to send the child to school. With regard to the forms of educational provision, inclusive education was still at an early stage, while special schools for specific types of disabilities had been established. Schooling for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing has been in place since 2004, and a school for children who are blind or with visual impairments has been operating since 2013. In the regions where the public education system was not yet sufficient, educational opportunities were partly supplemented by initiatives such as a school for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and a school for children with special needs in Ali-Sabieh, supported by private actors, charitable organizations, and international associations.

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the prevalence of segregated special education and the absence of a policy for implementing inclusive education with specific targets and deadlines. It also identified as a challenge the lack of sufficient teaching and support staff trained in Braille, sign language and accessible modes of teaching. Furthermore, the Committee noted that women and children with disabilities, particularly girls with disabilities, children with disabilities living in rural areas and refugee camps, faced barriers in gaining access to inclusive education, and that their educational opportunities were significantly restricted.

In response to these findings, Law No. 151 of 2022 granted children with disabilities the right to priority admission to the nearest mainstream schools to their place of residence, required educational institutions to provide the reasonable accommodations necessary for their inclusion, and repealed previous provisions that were inconsistent with these principles. In addition, the National Disability Strategy (2021–2025) identifies ensuring equitable access to quality education as one of its priority areas and promotes strengthened action in this field. As part of these efforts, in 2017, the existing educational institutions for children with visual and hearing impairments were merged into a comprehensive education centre (centre

éducatif) serving children with a wide range of disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. In the area of teacher training, the Teacher Training Centre for Fundamental Education Teachers (Centre de Formation pour les Enseignants de l'Enseignement Fondamental) introduced training modules on the early identification of disabilities and sign language beginning in 2019, and since 2022 has strengthened its training system through measures such as the deployment of specialized trainers. Furthermore, in rural areas, school infrastructure was developed in Dorra, Tadjourah Region, in conjunction with initiatives to improve access to safe water and support agricultural livelihoods. This integrated approach sought both to expand educational opportunities for persons with visual impairments and to support the settlement and stability of their families.

However, according to the 2024 Mid-Term Review of the National Disability Strategy, although the enrolment of students with disabilities in mainstream schools has been gradually progressing, the education system continues to rely primarily on special education facilities. The review also reports an overall shortage of teachers specialized in special education, as well as insufficient arrangements for receiving children with disabilities, particularly at the pre-primary level. In addition, in rural areas, the lack of transport and accessible facilities, together with stigma surrounding disability, continues to hinder school enrolment.

To facilitate the transition toward inclusive education, the Readjusted Action Plan (2024-2025) of the National Disability Strategy includes the following measures:

- Establishment of pilot inclusive schools in Djibouti City;
- Development and provision of accessible learning materials, including Braille textbooks and a sign language dictionary;
- Promotion of the inclusion of children with disabilities from the pre-primary education level onward; and
- Introduction of disability sports programmes in schools.

3) Gender

In its 2016 State Party's Report, the Government of Djibouti explained that the legislative and policy measures adopted to protect women's rights and empower women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW"), to which Djibouti acceded in 1998, and the National Gender Policy for the period 2011–2021, also applied to women with disabilities. Women with disabilities were included in programmes for women, such as counselling, information and guidance services for girls and women who were victims of violence, awareness-raising programmes on gender-based violence and family planning, microcredit and microfinance programmes,

literacy and post-literacy programmes, and vocational training. However, these measures remained general protections and programmes targeting women as a whole.

According to the 2019 national disability survey, women with disabilities face greater social disadvantages compared to men with disabilities. For instance, the proportion of those who have never attended school is 59.2% for men with disabilities, whereas it reaches 73.7% for women with disabilities. Furthermore, the proportion of the inactive population (inactifs), those who are neither employed nor seeking employment, is 72.8% for men with disabilities, while it is at an even higher level of 85.1% for women with disabilities.[14]

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed serious concern about the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities. It pointed out the lack of inclusion of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of gender perspectives in disability policies and programmes, and noted that, as a result, women and girls with disabilities, particularly women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities living in rural areas and in refugee camps, and older women with disabilities, were further marginalized and excluded in all areas, including public and political life, employment, education, vocational training and health care. The Committee also expressed concern about discriminatory legal provisions under which women may enter into marriage only with the consent of a guardian, as well as the continued practice of female genital mutilation against girls and women with disabilities. It recommended that the government take concrete measures to eliminate such multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and to empower women and girls with disabilities in all areas.

In light of these findings, recent legal and policy frameworks have shown a move toward explicitly incorporating the perspective of women with disabilities. First, Law No. 151 of 2022 newly clarified provisions relating to women and girls with disabilities. Article 2 of the law explicitly identifies “equality between men and women” as one of its fundamental principles. Article 17, concerning social protection and poverty reduction, further specifies the need to ensure access “in particular for women, girls and older persons,” thereby positioning them as groups requiring priority protection. Moreover, Article 36 states that women and children with disabilities shall benefit from the existing provisions on the protection, prevention, and care of women and children who are victims of violence.

The National Disability Strategy 2021-2025 establishes a gender-based approach as a distinct strategic pillar and sets out more specific measures targeting women with disabilities. The strategy explicitly identifies the strengthening of the capacities and skills of women with

[14] Based on ANPH (2019).

disabilities, as well as support for their employment and entrepreneurship, as key objectives. In practice, vocational sewing training was provided to 25 women with disabilities in 2023, enabling them to acquire technical skills and improve their income-generating opportunities. In addition, 150 women with disabilities and young persons participated in entrepreneurship support programmes. In the health sector, women with disabilities were supported and accompanied in accessing early breast cancer screening services, while mothers of children with disabilities received nutrition education aimed at preventing malnutrition among their children.

However, according to the 2024 Mid-Term Review of the National Disability Strategy, women with disabilities remain at a disadvantage compared with men with disabilities in both education and employment. In addition, there remains a significant lack of statistical data on violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly gender-based violence, weakening the evidence base for understanding the situation and formulating appropriate policies. Furthermore, the specific barriers faced by women with disabilities in starting and running businesses have not yet been sufficiently addressed.

To address these challenges, the Readjusted Action Plan (2024–2025) further envisages the development and implementation of programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of women with disabilities and supporting their self-employment and entrepreneurial activities. In addition, measures to prevent gender-based violence against women with disabilities, together with enhanced public awareness-raising activities, have been identified as priority areas for future action.

4) Vocational Training and Employment

According to the 2016 State Party's Report and the 2019 replies to the list of issues[15], the Government of Djibouti had defined workers with disabilities in article 118 of the Labour Code (Act No. 133 of 2006), and article 117 provided that "persons with disabilities shall not suffer discrimination in employment." The Government had also indicated plans to require companies to employ persons with disabilities at a rate of between 1 and 5 per cent, depending on the size of their workforce, and to establish a fund to support the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market. Furthermore, from the perspective of improving livelihoods and supporting independence, it reported that persons with disabilities were given priority under a microcredit programme for the poor and were supported in income-generating activities, such as the management of telephone booths (gestion des

[15] Based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019) *Replies of Djibouti to the list of issues in relation to its initial report.*

cabines téléphoniques)[16] and the operation of small restaurants. Subsequently, Decree No. 2020-294 made employment quotas mandatory: at least one person with a disability for companies with 50 to 100 employees, at least four for companies with 100 to 300 employees, at least seven for companies with 300 to 500 employees, and at least ten for companies with more than 500 employees. It also provided that companies that failed to meet these quotas would be subject to a financial penalty (pénalité pécuniaire) equivalent to ten times the minimum wage for each missing worker with a disability, and that the proceeds would be allocated to the Fund for the Vocational Integration of Persons with Disabilities.

However, according to the 2019 national disability survey, among persons with disabilities aged 15 and over, only 12.3% are actually employed, while 79.4% remain in an inactive state (inactifs)—neither employed nor seeking employment. For persons without disabilities, the employment rate is 25.9%, and the inactivity rate is 43.7%. Although labor market participation is limited for the country as a whole, persons with disabilities are placed in a significantly more disadvantaged position even when compared to this national baseline.[17]

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities identified several serious challenges concerning the employment and working environment of persons with disabilities. First, it expressed concern about the high rate of unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in both the public and private sectors, including in rural areas. In addition, it identified as issues the fact that the definition of disability in the Labour Code remained based on the medical approach to disability, emphasizing individual impairments, and that the denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace was not explicitly prohibited as discrimination. The Committee also considered that the employment quotas under Decree No. 2020-294 were too low, standing at approximately 2 % of the total workforce. It therefore recommended that the State party amend the Labour Code to align it with the human rights-based approach to disability and to legally recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination. It also recommended that the State party increase the quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities and develop policies to ensure that women with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural areas and in refugee camps have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to vocational and professional training.

In response to these findings, the Government of Djibouti has advanced the

[16] The term is understood to refer to small-scale retail outlets providing telecommunications-related services. According to ANPH (2024), telecommunications companies and service providers, including D-Money, Djibouti Télécom, and UNDP, supported income-generating activities for unemployed youth, particularly youth with disabilities, by providing refurbished multi-service booths (cabines multiservices) offering services such as telecommunications and mobile money transactions.

[17] Based on ANPH (2019).

implementation of Decree No. 2020-294 and, under the National Disability Strategy 2021–2025, identified "promoting access to means of subsistence" as its second pillar, positioning the improvement of employment and lifelong learning as policy objectives. As concrete progress, 150 public-sector employment positions for young persons with disabilities were first created under the leadership of the President. In terms of employment support systems, a database of job seekers with disabilities was established at the National Agency for Employment, Training and Professional Integration (Agence Nationale de l'Emploi, de la Formation et de l'Insertion professionnelle), while ANPH prepared an "occupational mapping adapted to persons with disabilities." In 2023, skills development for persons with disabilities was further supported through sewing training for 25 women with disabilities and English-language training for 10 young persons. Support for entrepreneurship and income-generating activities has also been strengthened. In collaboration with the Djiboutian Social Development Agency (Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social) and other partners, ANPH implemented an entrepreneurship support programme targeting 150 young persons and women. In addition, in cooperation with telecommunications companies and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNDP"), initiatives were undertaken to provide renovated small shops to unemployed young persons with disabilities.

However, according to the 2024 mid-term review of the National Disability Strategy, although an employment quota system had been introduced in the legal framework, it had not been sufficiently implemented by either private companies or public administrations, owing to the high costs associated with bringing their premises into compliance, including making workplaces accessible. The review also noted that sanctions against private companies and public administrations that failed to comply with the quota were not functioning effectively in practice, and that the labour inspection system lacked sufficient human and financial resources to monitor and enforce compliance. In addition, it identified persistent discrimination in recruitment and stigma in the labour market, the limited employment opportunities in the private sector in the regions, and the significant shortage of vocational training adapted to persons with disabilities and of support for entrepreneurship among women with disabilities.

To address these challenges, the Readjusted Action Plan (2024–2025) of the National Disability Strategy sets out concrete measures to accelerate the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market. The main measures include:

- Widely disseminating the "occupational mapping adapted to persons with disabilities" in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the National Agency for Employment, Training and Professional Integration, while strengthening cooperation with employers willing to provide reasonable accommodation;

- Developing tools such as good practice guides, reception handbooks and tutorials for public administrations and private companies on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and providing related training;
- Organizing an employment fair for persons with disabilities with the participation of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors; and
- Establishing a coaching system for persons with disabilities who wish to start businesses, while continuing to support their participation in trade fairs for the sale and promotion of handicrafts and other products made by persons with disabilities.

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

In its 2016 State Party's Report and its 2019 replies to the list of issues[18], the Government of Djibouti reported that it had implemented a social protection and safety net strategy targeting vulnerable groups, including persons living in extreme poverty and persons with disabilities. Specifically, under the National Family Solidarity Programme, vulnerable households, including those with persons with disabilities, received cash transfers of 30,000 Djiboutian francs (hereinafter referred to as "DJF")[19] (approximately JPY 27,000) on a quarterly basis. In addition, as a measure to support access to higher education, a project was implemented to provide students with disabilities with a monthly scholarship of DJF 15,000 (approximately JPY 13,500) and laptop computers. Furthermore, as measures to support their independence, the Government provided premises to OPD, covered their water and electricity costs, distributed sewing machines to women with disabilities, and gave priority to persons with disabilities in the provision of microcredit for small-scale businesses, such as the management of telephone booths (gestion des cabines téléphoniques).

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted that, despite the existence of such systems and initiatives, the level of social protection for persons with disabilities remained insufficient, and that persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with disabilities living in refugee camps, and older persons with disabilities were not adequately covered. It also identified as a concern the fact that existing poverty reduction schemes did not sufficiently cover disability-related expenses. Furthermore, the Committee expressed serious concern about the lack of accessible independent living support services necessary for persons with disabilities, such as in-home, residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance, and called for the expansion of such services.

[18] Based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019) *Replies of Djibouti to the list of issues in relation to its initial report.*

[19] 1 DJF = JPY 0.898560 (JICA rate for April 2026)

To address these challenges, the Government of Djibouti introduced the CMI system through Decree No. 306 of 2020, establishing a framework that enables persons with disabilities to access education, healthcare, public transport, and other services on a priority or free-of-charge basis. The issuance of the CMI involves biometric registration, making it possible to identify beneficiaries of support more accurately. By 2024, 5,747 persons had been registered. In addition, as part of ANPH's social programmes, support has been provided to directly assist daily living, including the free distribution of mobility assistance devices such as electric motorcycles, wheelchairs and white canes, as well as food distribution during Ramadan and clothing distribution for Eid.

The 2024 mid-term review of the National Disability Strategy also identified several challenges in the area of social protection. It noted that many persons with disabilities, particularly in the interior regions, had not yet been enrolled in the biometric registration system and were therefore left out of support schemes. It further pointed out the lack of interoperability between the databases of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity and ANPH, which hindered the integration of social protection programmes. The review also highlighted the insufficient adjustment of support according to the type and degree of disability and vulnerability, as well as the complexity and fragmentation of the various support schemes, which made the process difficult and sometimes confusing for beneficiaries.

To address these challenges, the Readjusted Action Plan (2024–2025) of the National Disability Strategy sets out the following concrete measures to enhance the effectiveness of social security and social welfare systems:

- Deploying ANPH branch offices in each arrondissement of Djibouti City and in the regions, thereby establishing local access points for services and information;
- Linking ANPH's biometric database with the social registry system of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity in order to improve the efficiency of support schemes;
- Reorganizing cash transfers, scholarships, and other social benefits into a single integrated programme; and
- Flexibly adjusting the amount and type of support, including cash transfers, according to the degree of disability and the vulnerability of the household.

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

In its 2016 State party report, the Government of Djibouti explained that the granting of construction permits for buildings intended to be open to the public must take into account the situation of persons with reduced mobility, including through the construction of access ramps and the provision of reserved parking spaces. It also reported that, when preparing and checking tender documents for public infrastructure projects, the Government ensured

strict adherence to standards for access by persons with reduced mobility. At the same time, it acknowledged that only limited progress had been made in improving the accessibility of administrative buildings, and that only a few new public buildings complied with universal accessibility standards.

The 2019 National Disability Survey found that 65.5% of persons with disabilities aged 18 and above reported that they were completely unable to access public transportation independently. The survey also highlighted challenges in the accessibility of public transport, including the lack of ramps, lifts, and other boarding facilities on buses and similar modes of transport[20].

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities pointed out that specific standards and regulations for the effective implementation of accessibility provisions had not yet been established, and that there was no system of sanctions for non-compliance or complaints mechanisms through which persons with disabilities could challenge denial of access and other barriers. It also identified as a matter of concern the lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering not only buildings and public facilities, but also public transport and the overall mobility environment, including in rural areas. It therefore recommended that the State party establish a national accessibility strategy and legal framework covering all areas, including complaints and sanctions mechanisms.

In response to these findings, Law No. 151 of 2022 recognizes equal access to the physical environment and transportation as a right of persons with disabilities, and requires the development of national minimum standards in line with international standards, as well as the introduction of complaint and compensation mechanisms that persons with disabilities may use in cases of non-compliance with these standards. The law also requires all public and private means of transport and related services to be made accessible and mandates the reservation of parking spaces for persons with disabilities.

However, the 2024 mid-term review of the National Disability Strategy reported that, although a legal framework had been established, the implementing decree had not yet been adopted, and accessibility of public facilities and public transport therefore remained extremely insufficient. The Readjusted Action Plan (2024–2025) of the National Disability Strategy also sets out the following concrete measures to translate physical accessibility into practical improvements in the built environment:

- Adopting and implementing decrees for the application of accessibility legislation in practice, in collaboration with the relevant ministries, municipal authorities, and regional

[20] Based on ANPH (2019).

councils; and

- Securing budgets within each ministry to conduct accessibility assessments of public facilities and to establish administrative service counters that can be used equitably by persons with disabilities.

7) Information Accessibility

In its 2016 State party report, the Government of Djibouti stated, on the basis of article 15 of the Constitution and other provisions, that the right of access to information is guaranteed for all. As measures to ensure access to information for persons with disabilities, it reported that television stations had been strongly encouraged to make their programmes, including news programmes, debates, and documentaries, accessible through sign language interpretation. It also reported that journalists had been trained in sign language. Furthermore, the State had begun introducing universal symbols indicating services for persons with disabilities in public buildings and spaces, with signs displayed visually and their content communicated in audio and Braille format.

However, in its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities identified as matters of concern the absence of an officially recognized national sign language, the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language, and Easy Read, and the lack of teachers and relevant professionals trained in the use of such formats. It also expressed concern about the limited accessibility of websites and television channels for persons with disabilities, particularly blind, deaf, or hard-of-hearing persons. The Committee therefore recommended that the State party support deaf persons, through their representative organizations, in developing a national sign language and recognizing it as an official language; develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and teachers trained in the use of tactile communication, Braille and Easy Read; and strengthen the work of the National Commission on Communication so as to ensure the accessibility of websites and television channels for all persons with disabilities.

In light of these findings, the National Disability Strategy 2021–2025 also promotes information accessibility through the use of digital applications and the digitalization of services. Furthermore, Articles 24 and 25 of Law No. 151 of 2022 legally guarantee equal access to information and communication systems and electronic services and also provide for the installation of easy-to-read signage in public facilities, as well as the provision of human assistance, including sign language interpreters and readers. In addition, Article 43 of the same law stipulates that State media shall allocate free airtime for persons with disabilities.

Around 2023, pilot implementation of the Mobile ID project was undertaken to facilitate secure access to digital services, while development of ANPH's official mobile application was

also advanced. Furthermore, the digitization of a sign language dictionary has been progressing in order to facilitate communication for persons with hearing impairment.

However, according to the 2024 mid-term review of the National Disability Strategy, while the legal framework and policy direction were gradually being put in place, public information, administrative procedures, and online services used by persons with disabilities in their daily lives had not been sufficiently converted into accessible formats. The Readjusted Action Plan (2024–2025) of the National Disability Strategy further sets out the following measures to advance accessibility in information and digital environments:

- Raising awareness and providing support, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, municipal authorities, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that public administrative documents are made available in digitally accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
- Advancing the digitization of a sign language dictionary and expanding sign language training for front-desk staff and communication officers in public administrations and private companies;
- Identifying, promoting, and piloting open-source technologies and applications that can improve access to learning and employment for persons with disabilities; and
- Establishing a virtual library on ANPH's website to strengthen access to information for persons with disabilities.

8) Disaster Risk Management

In its 2016 State Party's Report, the Government of Djibouti explained that it implemented disaster risk reduction and risk management measures under the 2006 Act on the national policy for risk and disaster management. Risk and disaster management was incorporated into the national poverty reduction programme, which gave priority to the most vulnerable communities and to areas at highest risk of drought, flooding, and other hazards, including persons with disabilities. The government also reported that the National Office for Refugees and Disaster Victims (Office National d'Assistance pour les Réfugiés et Sinistrés) provided support to refugees and disaster victims, and that, as part of its food distribution programme, targeted food assistance was provided to poor and vulnerable households, including persons with disabilities, in cooperation with OPD, which helped identify eligible households.

In its Concluding Observations (2021), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed serious concern about the position of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and in the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In particular, it pointed out that the Act on the national policy for risk and disaster management was not sufficiently aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

Reduction 2015–2030, and that inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to support and protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies were lacking. The Committee also expressed concern about the absence of consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities regarding the development and implementation of immediate and long-term responses to the pandemic. It therefore recommended that the State party amend the disaster management legislation to align it with the Sendai Framework, and mainstream disability into its COVID-19 response and recovery plans in order to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities to necessary support.

In response to these findings, the Disability Support Fund, established under Law No. 168 of 2022, explicitly identifies as one of its objectives the provision of immediate and appropriate responses to prevent social exclusion when persons with disabilities and their families face crises or emergencies. In addition, as part of efforts to align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, preparations are underway to introduce a new disaster response organizational plan that identifies the protection of persons with disabilities during emergencies and natural disasters as one of its priority areas.

In addition, ANPH conducted a survey in 2023 on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities. According to the survey, 84% of the persons with disabilities surveyed reported that they had not received public financial support during the crisis, indicating that emergency assistance had not sufficiently reached those in need. The survey also noted that, due to mobility difficulties, persons with disabilities often face challenges in traveling to obtain food or medical care during crises, making them particularly vulnerable to severe food insecurity when combined with extreme poverty. Furthermore, many persons with disabilities do not have access to mobile phones or the internet, preventing them from obtaining emergency information disseminated through mainstream media or social media and leaving them isolated in terms of access to information. In light of these findings, recommendations were made to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind in future disasters or pandemics. These include prioritizing persons with disabilities in emergency food assistance, securing safe means of transport for persons with disabilities who have difficulty evacuating or moving independently, and establishing alternative and accessible communication channels to ensure that emergency information reaches persons with disabilities who do not have access to telephones or the internet[21].

[21] Based on Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées (ANPH) (2023) *Enquête de recherche sur l'impact de la crise de la covid19 sur les personnes handicapées.*

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD[22]

The Government of Djibouti accessed to the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on 18 June, 2012. The State party's report was due to be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by 18 July, 2014, but was submitted to and received by the Committee on 2 February 2016. The Committee issued its list of issues on 27 September, 2019, and the Government of Djibouti submitted its replies on 17 December, 2019. Two parallel reports by civil society organizations and others were submitted by organizations outside Djibouti in 2019–2020[23]. The Concluding Observations were adopted on 14 September, 2021.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty[24]

The Government of Djibouti signed the Marrakesh Treaty in June 2013, but had not ratified it as of April 2026.

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies[25]

In relation to policies concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as the "SDGs"), ANPH participated as a member of the national steering committee and the technical committee in the preparation process for Djibouti's Voluntary National Review 2025. In addition, persons with disabilities were identified from the initial stage as specific stakeholders to be consulted, alongside civil society organizations, the private sector, women, and young people, and their views were sought.

In the United Nations Statistics Division SDG Indicators Database, the only disability-related indicator published for Djibouti is "the proportion of primary schools with access to infrastructure and materials adapted for students with disabilities", which remains extremely low at 0.9% in 2023.

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[22] Based on United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (n.d.) *Treaty Body Database: Countries.* https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx (Accessed: 23 March 2026)

[23] The submitting organizations and submission dates were World Policy Analysis Center (July 2019) and Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights (March 2020), respectively.

[24] Based on World Intellectual Property Organization (https://www.wipo.int/en/web/marrakesh-treaty (Accessed: 2 April 2026))

[25] Based on République de Djibouti (2022) *Examen National Volontaire. Djibouti «Initiative innovante pour une Éducation robuste, un renforcement de la condition de vie des femmes et des filles et un écosystème résistant après COVID-19». and* United Nations Statistics Division (n.d.) SDG Indicators Data Portal: Country Profiles. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ (Accessed: 3 April 2026)

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development[26]

The status of Djibouti's ratification of international treaties related to disability and development is as follows:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as the "CRC"): ratified on 6 December 1990.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): accessed on 2 December 1998.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (hereinafter referred to as the "Maputo Protocol"): ratified on 2 February 2005.

In its Concluding Observations (2022), the CRC Committee expressed concerns and made recommendations regarding the protection of the human rights of children with disabilities, including the following:

- **Non-discrimination and access to services:** The Committee urged the government to ensure access to health, education, and social protection services for children with disabilities, and to strengthen measures to protect them from violence. It particularly called for improved access to services for children with disabilities living in rural areas and refugee camps.
- **Promotion of inclusive education:** The Committee called for measures to ensure that all children with disabilities can receive inclusive, high-quality education in mainstream schools. Specific measures include the placement of specially trained teachers, the development of accessible infrastructure, and the provision of teaching materials adapted to individual needs.
- **Educational disparities and attention to preschool education:** In addition to ensuring access to free, high-quality primary and secondary education, the Committee recommended addressing inequalities caused by homeschooling by providing children with disabilities with computer equipment and Internet access. It also called for particular attention to be paid to children with disabilities in access to preschool education.
- **Awareness-raising:** The Committee called for awareness-raising activities targeting government officials, the general public, and families, in order to eliminate stigma and prejudice against children with disabilities and promote their recognition as rights

[26] Based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (2022) *Concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Djibouti.*、United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2024) *Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Djibouti.*, and Center for Human Rights (2026) *Virtual Platform State Reporting on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.* https://www.maputoprotocol.up.ac.za/countries/countries-table (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

holders.

- **Guaranteeing the right to express views:** The Committee recommended incorporating the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities into policies and providing disability-sensitive and age-appropriate assistance so that they can freely express their views on matters affecting them.
- **Data collection:** The Committee recommended that data on children's rights be disaggregated by disability status and used for the formulation of policies and programmes.

In its Concluding Observations (2024), the CEDAW Committee expressed concerns and made recommendations regarding the protection of the human rights of women with disabilities, including the following:

- **Improving access to justice:** The Committee called on the State party to ensure the operation of the courts established outside the capital, as they are not operational due to a lack of financial resources, so that access to justice is secured outside the capital as well. It also called for these courts to be made accessible to women and girls with disabilities.
- **Introduction of temporary special measures:** The Committee recommended the adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, special scholarships, and preferential measures in employment, in order to accelerate equality for disadvantaged groups, including women with disabilities, in areas such as political, public and economic life, education, employment, health care, and access to justice.
- **Participation in political and public life:** The Committee expressed concern about the limited access of women with disabilities to decision-making processes in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and community projects. It recommended ensuring equal representation with men by providing capacity-building in political leadership and adequate campaign financing for women candidates with disabilities.
- **Economic empowerment:** The Committee called for the participation of women with disabilities to be ensured in the formulation and implementation of economic empowerment strategies.
- **Data collection:** The Committee called for the collection of data disaggregated by disability, including data on the coverage of health-care infrastructure and on health status, such as abortion and malnutrition.

Djibouti has not ratified ILO Convention No. 159 concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons).

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[27]

The Government of Japan [28]

<Grant Assistance>

- Project for the Renovation of the Djibouti Protestant Evangelical Church Vocational Training Center (Projet de Réhabilitation de Deux Locaux du Centre de Formation de l'Église Protestante de Djibouti) (Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects) (FY2018)

<Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF)>

- Support through International Organizations for the Social Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Djibouti

Other donors

<International organization>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP

- Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Djibouti (2019-2021)[29]

UNDP

- Soutien aux personnes ayant des besoins spéciaux (2019-2027)[30]

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Conducted workshops for women and young people with disabilities on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights (2020)[31]

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Conducted workshops for health facilities to improve care and reception of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising activities for OPD, training for ANPH staff, and provided Braille teaching materials to education centres offering special education.[32]

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[27] 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.

[28] Based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (2025) *Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of Djibouti*, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website (https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/data/zyoukyou.html (Accessed: 22 March 2026)) and JICA ODA Visualization Site (https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/ (Accessed: 22 March 2026))

[29] Global Disability Fund (n.d.) *Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Djibouti.* https://globaldisabilityfund.org/programme/djibouti/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026) UN Partnership Programme

[30] UNDP (n.d.) *Soutien aux personnes ayant des besoins spéciaux.* https://www.undp.org/fr/djibouti/projets/soutien-aux-personnes-ayant-des-besoins-speciaux (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[31] UNFPA (2020) *Empowering women and young people living with disabilities.* https://djibouti.unfpa.org/en/news/empowering-women-and-young-people-living-disabilities (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[32] ANPH (2023) *Rapport annuel des activités de l'Agence Nationale des Personnes Handicapées.* and UNICEF (2023) *Renforcer l'inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap dans les structures sanitaires.* https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/renforcer-linclusion-des-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap-dans-les-

World Bank[33]

- Improving Inclusion of Vulnerable Children with Disabilities (2025-) (JSDF)
- Djibouti Skills Development for Employment Project (2022-2027)

<Bilateral Aid>[34]

According to the Global Disability Summit (2025), among the major bilateral donors to Djibouti, the following three countries were identified as having provided official development assistance aimed at "disability inclusion" in 2023.

- Sweden: 100% of the total assistance of approximately USD 850,000 targeted disability inclusion.
- Italy: 33.3% of the total assistance of approximately USD 1.08 million targeted disability inclusion.
- France: 1.6% of the total assistance of approximately USD 33.82 million targeted disability inclusion (only 38% of activities were assessed).

<International NGO>

Johanniter Auslandshilfe[35]

A Germany-based NGO that has been operating in Djibouti since 1994. From 2014 to 2017, it implemented a project to improve access to basic medical care and community-based rehabilitation for persons with physical impairments and their families.

structures-sanitaires (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[33] World Bank Group (2025) *New World Bank Project to Support Children with Disabilities in Djibouti*. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/07/11/new-world-bank-project-to-support-children-with-disabilities-in-djibouti and World Bank Group (2026) Djibouti - MID EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AFG, PAK- P175483- Djibouti Skills Development for Employment Project - Procurement Plan (English) https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099012026030029574 (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[34] Based on Global Disability Summit (2025) *Implementing the Amman-Berline Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion Country briefing note: Djibouti.*

[35] Based on State Party's Report.

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities[36]

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Name of Organization	Outlines
National Network of Persons with Disabilities (Réseau National des Personnes Handicapées: RNPH)	A national network organization of OPD in Djibouti. It is also a member of the Board of Directors of ANPH and is expected to serve as a bridge to local communities in supporting persons with disabilities in rural areas.
Vivre Plus Fort	The oldest OPD in Djibouti, established in 1988. It conducts advocacy activities for the protection of rights targeting policymakers, supports job-search activities for persons with disabilities, and provides small-scale loans to support their economic independence.
Djibouti Association of the Blind (Association Djiboutienne des Aveugles)	An organization representing persons with visual impairments, established in 2006. It raises awareness of the rights and dignity of persons with visual impairments and supports their access to social services, including health care, education, and sports.
Association of Mine Victims and War-Wounded Veterans (Association des Blessés Invalides des Mines et Mutilés de Guerre)	An association of people who were injured and experience disability during the Djiboutian Civil War in 1992. It began its activities in 2014 and aims to eradicate poverty and illiteracy.

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name of Organization	Outlines
Action Handicap	An organization established in 2007 that aims to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and eradicate social exclusion. In addition to awareness-raising activities for the general public and companies and support for income-generating activities, it implements projects to provide mobility assistive devices such as wheelchairs, nursing care beds, and walkers.
Association Trisomie 21	An organization established in 2011 that aims to identify children with Down syndrome (Trisomy 21) and support them in receiving social security coverage and accessing education.
Centre for Child Protection (Centre de Protection des Enfants)	A charitable organization that supports orphans and children in vulnerable environments. It operates a primary school and lower secondary school attended by children with hearing impairments, and also provides transportation support for school attendance, care services, and vocational training.

[36] Based on United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017) and ANPH (2024).

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities

The barriers and needs faced by persons with disabilities in each sector are described based on the CRPD parallel reports (2019, 2020) and the responses provided by Mr. Doualeh Said Mahamoud, Director General of ANPH, to the interviews conducted for this survey (received on April 26, 2026). It should be noted that the parallel reports were submitted prior to the enactment of Law No. 151 of 2022 and the formulation of the National Disability Strategy (2021–2025); therefore, some descriptions may differ from the situation as of 2026.

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (2020) points out that the mental health care system in the country is extremely fragile. In addition to the lack of specialized mental health facilities, there is reportedly only one psychiatrist in the country, who works at a general hospital in the capital, making access to mental health services extremely difficult. For this reason, cases have been reported in which persons with psychosocial disabilities who may pose a danger to themselves, or others are imprisoned at the request of their families, even though they have not committed any crime. Since specialized mental health services are not provided in prisons, they cannot receive appropriate treatment and care. In order to provide appropriate care, the construction of a psychiatric hospital is recommended as an essential need.

According to the responses from ANPH (2026), due in part to limited coordination with maternal and child health services, a nationwide mechanism for the early detection of disabilities remains insufficiently developed. In addition, although support is provided for the distribution of hearing aids and mobility assistive devices, including electric wheelchairs, standard wheelchairs, electric scooters, white canes, and prosthetic and orthotic devices, challenges remain, such as limited supply in some regions and the absence of a maintenance system. It is therefore necessary to expand the volume of supplies so that support can be received equitably in all regions, and to establish a system capable of providing maintenance and repair services. Furthermore, it is also necessary to strengthen training for health personnel, equip health facilities with inclusive environments that comply with universal accessibility standards, and develop rehabilitation services, including by establishing physiotherapy units, particularly in inland areas.

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

The parallel reports identify barriers faced by persons with disabilities in education, mainly in terms of gaps in the legal framework and the lack of an established inclusive education system. According to the World Policy Analysis Center (2019), no provisions were identified

in the legal framework that explicitly prohibit discrimination in education based on disability, and the legal basis for ensuring that children with disabilities are treated equally in educational settings has not been sufficiently established. No legislation was identified that explicitly guarantees inclusive education, and the right of children with disabilities to learn together with other children within the general education system has not been sufficiently established in the legal framework. As a result, inequalities may arise in access to educational opportunities and in the quality of education. According to Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (2020), the government has made certain efforts to promote inclusion in education, such as creating an independent service for children with special educational needs. However, the development of a legal basis and a systematic support framework to underpin these efforts remains a challenge.

According to the responses from ANPH, students with mild disabilities are enrolled in mainstream schools and can enjoy the same educational opportunities as other students, while students with visual, hearing, and intellectual disabilities are generally referred to special education facilities. However, the number of facilities providing special education is limited, and there are significant regional disparities. It is therefore necessary to expand the placement of specialized teaching staff, develop special education facilities nationwide, and reduce regional disparities in access to education for children with disabilities. In mainstream education as well, it is necessary to consolidate the inclusive school model currently in the pilot phase and promote more inclusive education. Specifically, it is necessary to promote the development of toilets and recreational spaces, improve the physical accessibility of general classrooms, develop teaching materials for children with disabilities, strengthen teacher training on inclusive education, and introduce school buses.

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

According to the World Policy Analysis Center (2019), with regard to the employment of persons with disabilities, discrimination in hiring and recruitment, career advancement, and terminations is prohibited, while there is a lack of clear provisions prohibiting discrimination in vocational training at work or guaranteeing equal remuneration for work of equal value. The report also points out that there are no explicit provisions prohibiting modern forms of discrimination, such as indirect discrimination and harassment. Furthermore, although provisions exist to prevent retaliatory action when disability-based discrimination is reported, the effective operation of a discrimination reporting process accessible to all workers, regardless of income, is required.

In addition, although obligations to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace have been established under labour-related legislation, there is concern that even when

persons with disabilities obtain employment opportunities, the lack of workplace adjustments that take their disabilities into account may make it difficult for them to continue working or fully demonstrate their abilities.

According to the responses from ANPH, efforts related to the employment of persons with disabilities have made some progress following the enactment of Decree No. 294 of 2020. However, challenges remain in access to employment, recruitment procedures, and working environments, including employers' insufficient understanding of disability, the lack of reasonable accommodation, and insufficient support systems. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the application of regulatory provisions concerning the employment of persons with disabilities, prevent discrimination in recruitment and employment, and promote inclusive employment practices, as well as the necessary equipment and adjustments in the workplace. With regard to vocational training, training that responds to diverse types of disabilities is not sufficiently provided due to issues such as the accessibility of facilities and teaching materials, as well as a shortage of instructors with specialized knowledge of disability. In particular, women with disabilities have limited access to vocational training. Another challenge is that the training provided does not necessarily match the needs of the labour market. It is therefore necessary to develop and provide vocational training programs that respond to labour market needs and accommodate diverse types of disabilities.

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (2020) points out that access to public facilities and government services is not sufficiently ensured, and that buildings and infrastructure are not adapted for use by persons with disabilities. It also notes that, as transportation commensurate with the capabilities of persons with disabilities has not been sufficiently developed, mobility in daily life and social participation is constrained. Therefore, it is necessary to make infrastructure, including roads, public facilities, and living environments, accessible, and to develop transportation adapted to persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the introduction and implementation of concrete measures to ensure access to public services are required.

Similar issues were also raised in the responses from ANPH. With regard to public transportation, accessibility for persons with disabilities is not sufficiently ensured, as buses are not equipped with ramps or wheelchair spaces, and training for drivers is insufficient. As a result, persons with disabilities often use taxis for transportation and, in many cases, require accompaniment by relatives. With regard to public buildings, accessibility challenges remain in many buildings, including ramps that do not meet standards, the absence of elevators, and the lack of Braille signage and audio guidance. As for roads and sidewalks, although urban

development initiatives have begun in some areas, passage is difficult in certain districts due to deteriorated sidewalks, obstacles, and level differences. In addition, the lack of sufficiently developed safe pedestrian crossings, the shortage of signals and signs for persons with visual impairments, and heavy traffic make mobility not only difficult for persons with disabilities but also highly risky in terms of safety. It is therefore necessary to strengthen accessibility across the entire urban environment, including public transportation, public buildings, roads and sidewalks, signals, and signs. It is also necessary to raise awareness of accessibility among drivers, public officials, and the general public.

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (2020) identifies the development of assistive devices, such as hearing aids, white canes, Braille touch-reading systems, and headphones, as a challenge in relation to ensuring access to information for persons with disabilities. Although the government is proceeding with the procurement of these assistive devices, continued support is required to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to services, devices, and public assistance covering the costs associated with disability. The report also points out the need to provide appropriate training programs for state officials who are in regular contact with persons with disabilities, indicating the need to establish a system to improve service provision for persons with disabilities.

According to the responses from ANPH, access to information for persons with disabilities is gradually improving through awareness-raising activities and the expanded use of digital and audiovisual media. However, accessibility measures remain limited, particularly in public information in the fields of health, employment, and education, and information is not sufficiently provided in accessible formats such as Braille, audio, sign language, and easy-read versions. It is therefore necessary to improve digital accessibility. At the same time, it is also necessary to train sign language interpreters and digital accessibility specialists. In addition, while information and services are concentrated in urban areas, the most vulnerable people and those living outside urban areas face inequalities in access to information and communication technologies. Furthermore, online procedures may not be intuitive to use, and some persons with disabilities require support when using them. It is therefore necessary to provide the support and subsidies needed to enable persons with disabilities to use information and communication technologies appropriately.

5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (2020) points out that, as a challenge, sufficient policy measures specifically targeting women with disabilities have not been taken.

Although protection measures for women rely on general frameworks for the protection of women, such as CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol, responses that take into account disability-specific needs are limited. As a result, the situation does not sufficiently address the multiple challenges faced by women with disabilities.

The responses from ANPH also point out that women may face inequalities in access to education, employment, social participation, and other areas, and that women with disabilities are likely to be placed in an even more vulnerable situation. Women with disabilities are at higher risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation, and may have limited access to health services as well as sexual and reproductive health services.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote access to education, vocational training, and employment, particularly formal employment, for girls and women with disabilities, while also advancing efforts to prevent gender-based violence and strengthen protection.

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