

Kiribati Disability Monograph

From the 2020 Population and Housing Census



Pacific
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du Pacifique

unicef 
for every child

Kiribati Disability Monograph

From the 2020 Population and Housing Census

Kiribati National Statistics Office and the Pacific Community



Noumea, New Caledonia
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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
KNDP	Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan
KNSO	Kiribati National Statistics Office
PDF	Pacific Disability Forum
SPC	Pacific Community
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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FOREWORD

Kiribati aims to be an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society where people with disabilities are empowered and counted, with equal opportunities, meaningful participation and full enjoyment of their human rights.*

The purpose of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. In addition, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets, indicates, and reaffirms that persons with disabilities attain human rights and liberties, which are contextualised into the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The main purpose of this report is to support advocacy for an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for men, women and children with disabilities, which embraces the diversity of all Pacific people. The adoption of important legislative and policy provisions is required to equalize opportunities for persons with disabilities, as is the strengthening of existing frameworks and coordination mechanisms.

This report highlights the state of persons with disabilities in Kiribati and variability across social and economic subdivisions. Overall, 36.0% of people with disabilities stay home and undertake household chores. Despite improvements since 2015, children with disabilities still face difficulties in attending school and accessing clean drinking water and sanitation. The 2020 findings show that among people aged 5–4 years who never attended school, 33.6% have disabilities. The data presented show the areas where progress has been achieved but also the work that still lies ahead to create a more inclusive and accessible society. It is hoped that this report will be used by all stakeholders to inform strategies and policies that foster inclusivity and equal opportunities for all.

Kiribati National Statistics Office, and



Mr Peter Ellis

Director, Statistics for Development Division
Pacific Community

* Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018–2021

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KIRIBATI DISABILITY KEY INDICATORS: 2020

Data source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

Disability prevalence in population aged 5+

Disability is defined, according to the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning, as anyone having at least a lot of difficulty on at least one of the six questions (see Concept and definition).

Disability prevalence	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
National	5.6	94.4
Urban	5.0	95.0
Rural	6.4	93.6
Sex		
Male	5.2	94.8
Female	6.0	94.0
Age group		
5–17	2.4	97.6
18–49	3.2	96.8
50+	19.3	80.7
Is. group		
South Tarawa	2.4	97.6
Northern	3.2	96.8
Central	19.3	80.7
Southern	5.9	94.1
Line & Phoenix Is.	6.9	93.1
Wealth quintile		
Lowest quintile	7.1	92.9
Second quintile	6.9	93.1
Middle quintile	5.6	94.4
High quintile	5.0	95.0
Highest quintile	4.3	95.7

Education participation

Education	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
School attainment (population aged 5+)		
No school	25.0	75.0
Pre-School	3.4	96.6
Primary	6.0	94.0
Junior Secondary	6.7	93.3
Senior Secondary	2.4	97.6
Higher Education	3.2	96.8
Not specified and not classified	33.1	66.9
School attendance (population 5–24)		
Ever Attended school		
Attended School	1.9	98.1
Never attended school	33.6	66.4
Currently attending		
Currently attending	1.8	98.3
Left School	2.1	97.9

Literacy rates of people aged 12+ by disability status

People that are literate	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
National	73.1	95.6
Urban	73.5	96.8
Rural	72.6	93.6
Sex		
Male	74.1	94.8
Female	72.3	96.3
Age group		
5–17	56.3	96.0
18–49	74.6	96.3
50+	73.6	92.7
Is. group		
South Tarawa	73.2	97.1
Northern	72.9	93.0
Central	74.4	92.8
Southern	70.3	95.6
Line & Phoenix Is.	75.6	92.7

Economic activity of people aged 15+ by disability status

People that have this curent economic activity	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
Employee	6.5	24.0
Own-account worker	13.3	15.9
Employer	0.3	0.5
Other (contributing family)	3.0	2.9
Unemployed	1.7	5.6
Homemaker	36.0	36.0
Student	1.2	7.6
Other (not able to work)	38.0	7.5

Marital status of people aged 15+ by disability status

People that have this current marital status	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
Marital status		
Never married	14.7	23.7
Married	47.9	47.1
Widowed	21.1	5.5
Divorced/separated	4.3	3.0
Traditional	12.1	20.7

Demographic characteristics of women aged 15+ by disability status

Demographics indicators	Women with Disability	Women without Disability
Total number of women	2,746	34,901
Median age	59	33
Average number of children ever born per women	2.2	2.0
Median age at first birth	21	22



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Achieving equality for persons with disabilities represents a significant challenge in the Pacific, given that this population is among the most marginalised in their communities. Reliable and consistent statistics on this subject are a global issue, which is why the Washington Group on Disability Statistics¹ designed a set of disability questions to be adopted in population and housing censuses and household surveys. The use of evidence-based information is essential for guiding social and economic policies, with the aim of improving the livelihood of persons with disabilities.

This report is based on the data collected from the 2020 Population and Housing Census. Data collection used the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning, which are recognized as an international best practice for disability measurement in censuses and household surveys. The Short Set of Questions query respondents 5+ years on whether they face difficulty in six core functional domains – seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. Respondents were classified as people with disabilities if at least one domain was coded as a “severe” or “cannot do it at all”, in accordance with the recommendations of the Washington Group. Data was not collected for people living in institutions such as schools, maneaba², health care facilities and other institutions.

Despite societal progress, individuals with disabilities continue to face a multitude of challenges that hinder their full participation in various spheres of life. This can be seen in the reduced opportunities in areas such as education and health care. However, there are changes seen in addressing the needs of disabled persons following the implementation of the Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan (KNDP) and

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

By acceding to the United Nations’ CRPD in 2013, the Government of Kiribati has committed to help and address their needs. People with disabilities are now recognized within society for having equal rights and are considered as stakeholders. The KNDP 2018–2021 provides the framework to guide the work of all stakeholders in implementing the CRPD and is also mandated to promote and achieve the government’s inclusive development efforts aligned with the Kiribati Vision 2020. There is still need of improvement to the disability statistics which has led to various regional initiatives such as the inclusion of Goal 5 which focuses on strengthening disability research, statistics and analysis in the recently adopted 2016–2025 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Summary Indicators:

- Of 99,466 people aged 5+ years, the prevalence of disabilities was 5.6% (1.4% have difficulty in one domain while 4.2% have difficulty in more than one domain).
- The prevalence of disability in the Kiribati population has risen by 2.1 points in five years
- People living in rural area have a higher proportion of disabilities (6.4%) compared to urban areas (5.0%).
- People aged 50+ years had a higher proportion of disabilities (19.3%) compared to younger people aged 18–49 years (3.2%) and 5–17 years (2.4%).
- Wealth Status Differentials: in contrast to the distribution of the population, disabled people

¹ <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

² The maneaba is a meeting house – a large building that is at the centre of village life in Kiribati.

are equally represented in all strata of wealth, from the lowest to the highest wealth quintile (one person in five in each category).

- Literacy rate: 95.6% of people aged 12+ years without disabilities were literate compared to 73.1% of people with disabilities.
- Economic activity: 5.5% of people aged 15+ years with disabilities were employees compared to 22.2 % of people without disabilities. 31.6 % of people with disabilities were craft and related trades workers compared to 15.6 % of people without disabilities.

Compared to past years, there is more accessibility for people with disabilities to resources, infrastructure and a recognition in the society of having equal rights. For example, The University of the South Pacific in Kiribati provided passageways for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM). Areas that need to be monitored to continue to improve quality of life include the literacy and employment rates.



1. INTRODUCTION

“Leave no one behind” is the central and transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aim is to end discrimination and exclusion, to reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave everyone behind, and this requires tackling discrimination and the growing inequalities within countries and addressing their root causes. People with disabilities are a key group in society and their limited access to the resources on the country might be the result of discriminatory policies, or social practices that drag them behind.

In 2006 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) became the international treaty for people with disabilities. It came into force in 2008 and urges the dignity of people with disabilities to be an equal right. The CRPD framework consists of obligations and a guide for inclusion of people with disabilities in all sectors. It guides Governments or responsible stakeholders to identify and address issues faced by people with disabilities and it enables them to enforce the aim of equalisation of opportunities. In particular Article 31 of the CRPD encourages the collection of data on disability with a view to implementing the Convention and informing policy-makers about the barriers faced by people with disabilities.

The issue of disability represents a substantial challenge in the Pacific region. The need to enhance the availability of reliable data on disability has emerged as a key topic of discussion at recent high-level meetings, including the following:

- At the 47th Pacific Islands Forum in September 2016, leaders reiterated that disability remains an issue of significance for the region. They endorsed the 2016–2025 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was developed to support Pacific governments in promoting and protecting the rights of people

with disabilities. Goal 5 of the Framework focuses on strengthening disability research, statistics and analysis.

- Member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific declared 2013–2022 as the 'Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities' and adopted the Incheon Strategy to 'Make the Right Real' for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The strategy includes a specific goal to improve the reliability and comparability of disability data.
- The Fourth Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Heads of Statistics hosted by the Pacific Community (SPC) in 2013 endorsed a proposal to reanalyse existing census and survey datasets to obtain richer information on disability, such as on 'equalization of opportunities', and to include disability as a theme in the SPC's online National Minimum Development Indicator Database.

1.1 Background on disability in Kiribati

The Government of Kiribati has made a number of significant steps in its commitment to people with disabilities. In 2013, it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In 2015, the Inclusive Education Policy was launched to increase and support the number of students with disabilities into mainstream schooling. Six inclusive schools were established in South Tarawa in 2016. The Disability Inclusive Unit within the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) was established in 2015 and was the first government agency to focus specifically on disability affairs in Kiribati. In 2018, the Government released the Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan (KNDP) 2018–21 (MWYSSA, 2018).

The KNDP is a bold initiative to break down social and economic barriers and remove discrimination for all I-Kiribati with a variety of disabilities. It includes a commitment to “better resourcing for the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs (KSCCSN) to meet the education needs of children who require a special teaching environment” and furthermore provides a “commitment to support our most vulnerable citizens to rise above the challenges of poverty and hardship (with) the introduction of a social protection payment” (MWYSSA, 2018 p4).

The Kiribati Disability Monographs are based on the 2015 and 2020 Population and Housing Censuses. In 2017, KNSO in collaboration with UNICEF, SPC, and PDF produced the first Kiribati Disability Monograph based on the 2015 census and following the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) analysis guidelines and definitions described below. In summary, the report addressed the disability prevalence at various cut-off points, the disability status in relation to living conditions, education, economic activities and reproductive health. KNSO employed the same WG-SS in the 2020 Population and Housing Census, enabling a comparison of the evolution for persons with disabilities.

1.2 Concept and definition

In line with the CRPD, Article 1, people with disabilities are defined as ‘those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full effective participation in the society on equal basis with others’. People with disabilities include girls, boys, women, and men of all ages who live in urban or rural areas in a country.

As noted in the Kiribati’s inclusive education policy, the concept of disability incorporates a variety of different components. These include bodily functions and structure, limitations in activities (capacity) and

restrictions in participation (performance), as well as specific characteristics of both the person and their environment.

To address the difficulty of having a comparable measure on disability, in 2001 the United Nations Statistical Commission established the Washington Group on Disability Statistics – commonly known as the Washington Group. It works hand in hand with national statistical offices and other stakeholders to develop questions that are internationally comprehensive and suitable for use in surveys worldwide.³ To define the set of questions, the WG has used the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health as a conceptual framework and as such do not focus on the impairment but rather focus on identifying limitations in functioning. The Short Set of Questions includes six core functional domains – seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. These questions identify people aged 5+ years who are at a greater risk of experiencing restrictions in performing usual activities such as those undertaken in daily living or participating in roles if no accommodations are made (Washington Group, 2006).

The Washington Group also developed an extended set of survey items on functioning to be used as components within population surveys or as supplements to specialized surveys. The questions were tested during several rounds of testing and further information on this is available (Miller et al., 2011). UNICEF, in conjunction with the Washington Group, has also developed tools appropriate for identifying children who are at a greater risk of experiencing restrictions in performing usual activities such as those required for daily living especially to fill the gap for children under 5.

It has been recommended that countries adopt the Washington Group set of questions in censuses and national surveys. When these questions are used,

³ World Health Organisation, International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, <https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health>.

data can be utilised to facilitate a comparison of the levels of participation in education, employment and family life of people with disabilities with the levels of participation among people without disabilities. Furthermore, the data can also be employed to monitor the prevalence and trends for people with disabilities.



2. METHODOLOGY

This section explains the data used in the report, the analysis conducted and the analysis restrictions.

2.1 Population and Housing Census data

This report used data from the Kiribati 2020 Population and Housing Census. The Census is conducted every five years, with 2020 making the inaugural census is administered by the Republic Statistician and using the modernized tool of data collection using computer-assisted personal interviewing. Data was analysed in Stata 17. The Census covers the entire population living in private households or in institutions (boarding schools, maneaba, prisons, hospitals, etc.), with the aim of determining the total population and its characteristics. Regarding disability, the Census only collects information on people living in private households. Children aged up to 4 years old have been excluded from the analysis.

Before the census, a household listing was carried out in March 2020 on South Tarawa where half of the population lives. During the activity time there was an outbreak of measles in a neighbouring country and later COVID 19 leading to increased precautions for the safety of people and staff. Visiting households became a challenge resulting in a delay for the team carrying out its work.

Since 2015, Kiribati has used the Washington Group's short set on Functioning Questions for the 'functioning challenges' section of the questionnaire, as follows:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

3. Do you experience difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or getting dressed?
6. Do you have difficulty communicating using your usual/sign language and Braille? E.g., understanding or being understood by others

Respondents were given the following scaled response options for each question, designed to capture the continuum of functioning

1. No difficulty
2. Yes, some difficulty
3. Yes, a lot of difficulty
4. Cannot do at all.

Further details of the 2020 Census methodology are available from the 2020 Population and Housing: general report and results⁴.

2.2 Data analysis

To identify the population of interest, namely individuals with disabilities, the six variables from the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning were combined. Individuals aged 5+ years who had reported at least one domain as "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" were identified as having disabilities. This classification is in accordance with the recommendations of the Washington Group (Washington Group, 2009).

Additional variables, including wealth quintile, were created for indicators that were not directly available in the final Census data. An analysis of principal components was performed using information on

⁴ See: [Kiribati 2020-2021 Population and Housing Census data](#) | [Kiribati National Statistics Office \(nso.gov.ki\)](#).

the ownership of household goods. Amenities or assets were weighted to obtain wealth scores for each household in the sample. The households were divided into five groups of equal size, from the poorest quintile to the richest quintile, based on the wealth scores. Household members were allocated to the respective category of households for which they lived. The wealth index is assumed to capture underlying long-term wealth through information on the household assets and is intended to be used to rank households by wealth, from poorest to richest. The wealth index does not provide information on absolute poverty, current income or expenditure levels and the wealth scores calculated are applicable only for the data set on which they are based.

The KNSO developed the analysis plan and collaborated with the SPC, UNICEF and PDF. The analysis plan was made locally by the KNSO staff and led by the Deputy Statisticians to follow the methodology of the 2015 Kiribati Disability Monograph. The KNSO produced tabulation data and conducted consultation with internal stakeholders up until the third consultation where everything was checked and ready to use. UNICEF and PDF provided recommendations that were compiled with the writing updated from the last consultation of the internal stakeholders and send for the first drafting to SPC and then UNICEF. The report was then finalised for publication by KNSO and SPC.

2.3 Limitations of the disability data

While it is desirable to have information on all aspects of disability, this is not achievable from data provided from censuses or in surveys that are not dedicated to disability. This analysis is limited to the available data that was collected through the 2020 Population and Housing Census. The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning Questions (see Annex B) was designed for adults and though certain questions may be suitable for some child or youth subpopulations; the questions were not developed with this group in

mind. In other words, the questions are not designed to identify children with disabilities. Questions that are best suited for children were finalized in 2016 by the Washington Group and UNICEF and are now available for use by countries. The Kiribati Social Development Indicator Survey 2018 included a separate module for children under five, which addressed Child Functioning (KNSO, 2021).



3. PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

This section describes the number and proportion of the population living with disability among people aged 5+ years across the various functional domains. Disability status is classified across socio-demographic characteristics: region, sex, age and division. Tarawa and Kiritimati are classified as Urban areas.

3.1 Prevalence of disability

In 2020, the total population of people aged 5+ years is 99,466. Among them, 5,559 people which constitute 5.6% of the population have at least one disability and while 94.4% of the same population do not have any disability. Of the 5.6% with disability, 1.4% had difficulty in one domain while 4.2% had difficulty in more than one domain. The proportion of people with disabilities has risen by 2.1 points in five years (3.1% in 2015).

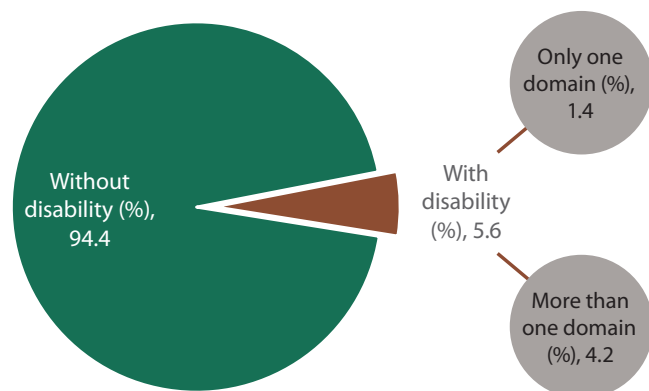


Figure 3.1: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with and without disabilities

From the total population of people with and without disabilities from 5+ years, figure 3.2 express the higher proportion of people with disabilities in rural areas at 6.4% compared to urban areas 5%. The proportion of people with a disability is highest among those aged 50+ years, at 19.3% (11.1% in 2015), while the proportion of this same age in the total population increased by 1.1 percentage point in 5

years. The prevalence of disability is around 3.2% for people aged 18–49 and 2.4% for those aged 5–17 years. The Central Island group have more people with disabilities (8.0%) and South Tarawa group has slightly less (4.8%), compared to the other islands.

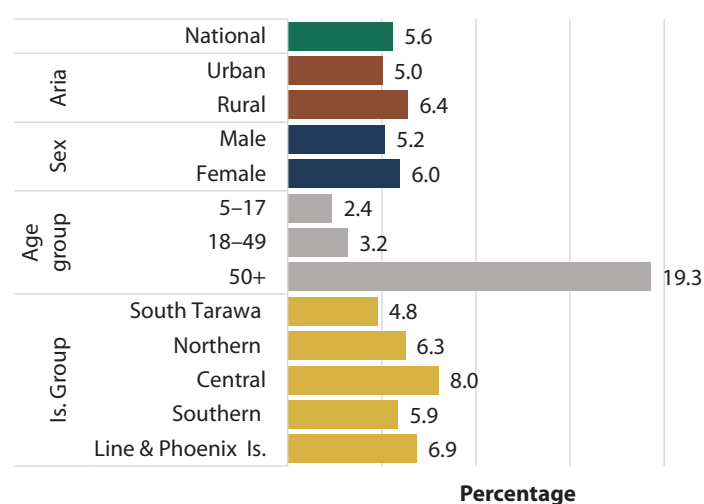


Figure 3.2: Prevalence of disability in the population aged 5+ years by region, age group, and island group, 2020 Census

The prevalence of disability disaggregated by sex (Figure 3.3) shows that: of the male population of 48,617, 5.2% had disabilities compared with 6.0% of the female population of 50,849. The prevalence of disability among female is higher than male, regardless of where they live. Females outnumber male with disabilities in rural and urban areas, and the same pattern is found in all island group. Moreover, the age group 50 and above has the highest proportion for people with disabilities which is 17.4% for men and 20.7% for women.

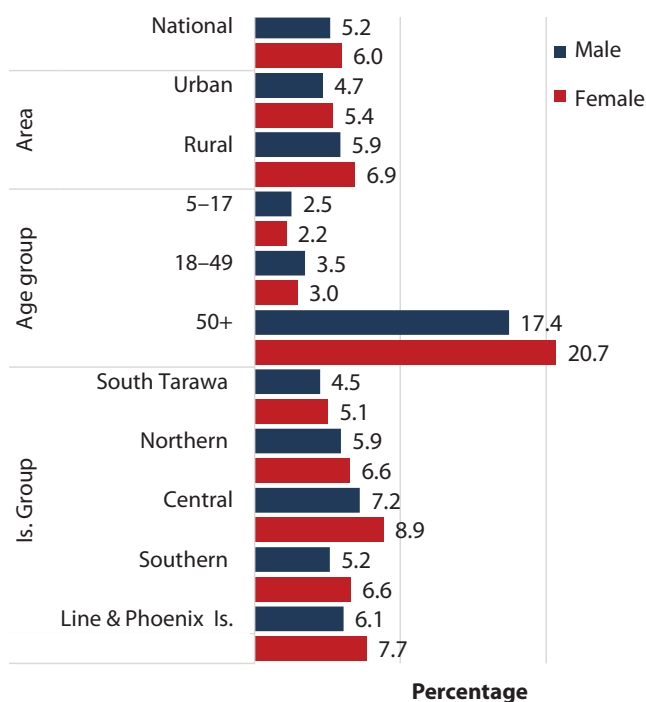


Figure 3.3: Prevalence of disability in the population aged 5+ years by sex, region, age and island group, 2020 Census

Depending on the disability cut-off points, prevalence within the population may vary. Figure 3.4 shows the prevalence of disability if the cut-off points changes. One in five people experience disabilities if the cut-off point for disability is set at “some difficulty” – about 22.6% (22,452 people) among those aged 5+ years. Disability prevalence reduces to about one in 50 people if the level of inclusion is set at “cannot do at all”, which represent 1.5% of (1,465 people) that have a severe difficulty. This group needs special attention from policy makers to support social and economic inclusion. Females faced slightly more disabilities than males, regardless of the disabilities cut-off point.

This report focuses on the people with “at least a lot of difficulties”, including “a lot of difficulty” and “cannot do at all”, of 5.6% (5,559 people) which is the second highest prevalence of people with disabilities according to the Washington Group recommendations.

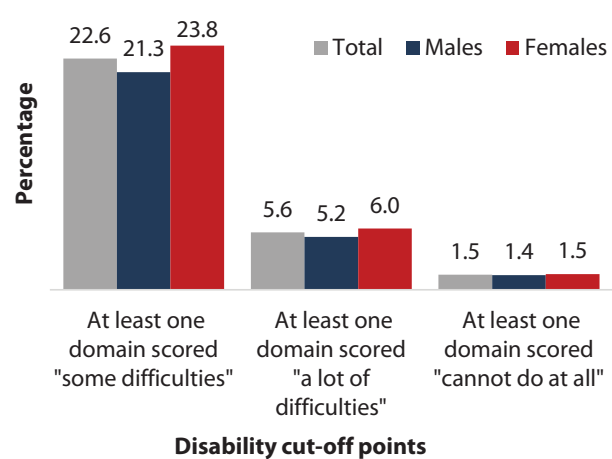


Figure 3.4: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with different levels of difficulty in at least one domain by sex, 2020 Census

3.2 Disability by functional domain and degree of difficulty

The Washington Group questions for scoring disability assess six core domains: vision, hearing, walking, cognition (remembering), communication and self-care. Figure 3.5 shows the prevalence rate for the six-core domains by degree of difficulty. Difficulties with vision are the most common followed by walking and remembering. Self-care is the least prevalent.

In 2020, a sight-related disability is most prevalent among the population when it comes to people experiencing some difficulties. The prevalence of some difficulties for vision is 8.6% (8,514 people), while 1.2% (1,195 people) face a lot of difficulties and 0.2% (176 people) cannot see at all. Six out of 100 people have some difficulty walking, while 2 out of 100 have a lot of difficulty walking. People who cannot walk at all represent 0.9% of population aged 5+ years. Memory or concentration disability affect 6.0% of the population in terms of some difficulty and 1.0% of them have a lot of difficulty or cannot do this at all. Hearing-related disabilities are also present in the population and concern 5.6% of those with some difficulty while 1.3% have a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all. Difficulties with communication

(understanding or being understood) or taking care of oneself (being able to take a shower or get dressed), also affect a part of the population: 2.9% of the population have some difficulty communicating while 2.2% have some difficulty with self-care, respectively 1.0% of the population have a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all those two functions.

Table 3 displays the population aged 5+ years by functional domain, degree of difficulties, and by background characteristics of sex, region and age group. People with no difficulties in each functional domain are not included.

The table shows that there are slightly more female than male with some difficulty in all functional domains (except remembering). Males are more likely to report that they cannot do at all, any functional activities than females. Compared with the older people, young people aged 5–17 years reported the greatest difficulties (cannot do at all) in doing each of these functions.

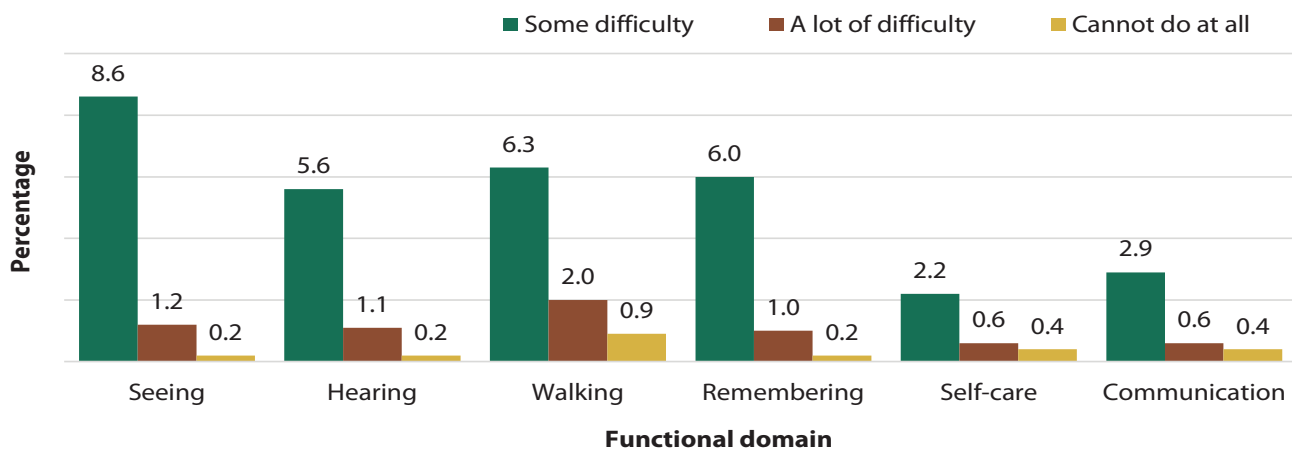


Figure 3.5: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with disability by domain and degree of difficulty, 2020 Census

Population 5+ years by functional domain, degree of difficulty and background characteristics

Functional domain and severity	Total	Sex		Region		Age (years)		
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	5–17	18–49	50+
Seeing total	9,885	4,289	5,596	4,716	5,169	520	3,563	5,802
Yes, some difficulty	8,514	85.5%	86.6%	86.1%	86.2%	77.9%	89.5%	84.8%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	1,195	12.6%	11.7%	12.3%	11.9%	16.5%	9.2%	13.5%
Cannot do at all	176	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	2.6%	1.4%	1.7%
Hearing total	6,758	3,006	3,752	3,144	3,614	903	2,818	3,037
Yes, some difficulty	5,518	81.0%	82.1%	81.4%	81.9%	81.3%	85.2%	78.5%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	1,059	15.3%	16.0%	16.2%	15.2%	13.4%	12.5%	19.3%
Cannot do at all	181	3.7%	1.9%	2.4%	2.9%	5.3%	2.4%	2.2%
Walking total	9,123	3,723	5,400	4,069	5,054	497	2,648	5,978
Yes, some difficulty	6,228	67.3%	68.9%	67.9%	68.6%	65.2%	76.6%	64.8%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	1,973	22.0%	21.4%	21.0%	22.1%	15.9%	16.0%	24.6%
Cannot do at all	922	10.7%	9.7%	11.1%	9.3%	18.9%	7.4%	10.6%
Remembering total	7,151	2,909	4,242	3,161	3,990	716	2,479	3,956
Yes, some difficulty	5,954	83.8%	82.9%	83.3%	83.2%	77.2%	87.3%	81.8%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	1,005	12.8%	14.9%	13.7%	14.3%	15.4%	10.7%	15.9%
Cannot do at all	192	3.4%	2.2%	3.0%	2.5%	7.4%	2.0%	2.3%
Communication total	3,919	2,041	1,878	1,863	2,056	1,404	1,329	1,186
Yes, some difficulty	2,899	73.9%	74.0%	74.5%	73.5%	73.4%	76.5%	71.8%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	628	14.9%	17.2%	15.9%	16.1%	14.5%	14.5%	19.5%
Cannot do at all	392	11.1%	8.8%	9.6%	10.4%	12.1%	9.0%	8.7%
Self-care total	3,180	1,557	1,623	1,406	1,774	1,104	565	1,511
Yes, some difficulty	2,136	65.7%	68.6%	69.5%	65.3%	78.5%	64.4%	59.9%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	603	19.2%	18.7%	18.0%	19.7%	12.3%	20.9%	23.1%
Cannot do at all	441	15.1%	12.7%	12.5%	14.9%	9.2%	14.7%	17.0%

Data Source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020



4. LIVING CONDITIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

This section measures people with disabilities' living conditions and the economic status of their household. For the purposes of this review, people with disabilities are those who report severe or cannot do at all in at least one of the six domains.

4.1 Disability prevalence by wealth quintiles

In the censuses in 2020 and 2015, people who lived in institutions were not interviewed for disability and are not counted in the statistics. This report includes people aged 5+ years who lived in a private household.

Figure 4.1 shows prevalence of disability according to wealth status differentials. The wealth index is calculated based on household asset ownership. While the wealth index is calculated for the household unit, the following analysis is based on the population living in each household. The wealth index distribution among households is evenly distributed, with around 20 % of households in each wealth quintile. Reported at a population level, this distribution varies and shows that there are more people living in high-income households: 22 % of the overall population live in the fourth quintile and 25.9 % live in the highest quintile households. On the other hand, 16.3 % of the population live in the lowest quintile households, 17.2 % live in the second quintile households and 18.6 % live in the middle quintile households.

Disabilities affect all social groups regardless of the wealth level. However, differences in disability prevalence can be observed between lowest and highest quintiles. Of the 16,253 peoples living in

lowest quintile households, 7.1 % have a disability regardless of the type of disability. This proportion decreases as the household wealth quintile increases. Among the population living in highest wealth quintile, 4.3 % have disability.

Disability can be a factor in vulnerability to poverty when it limits opportunities for education, skills development and employment, which lead to reduced lifetime earnings for people with disabilities. Overall, in Kiribati, people with disabilities have limited opportunities in educational activities, and this will be clarified in Section 5. In addition to the core pillar of the Kiribati Vision 2020, the vision will mainstream equity for all clusters in society including those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

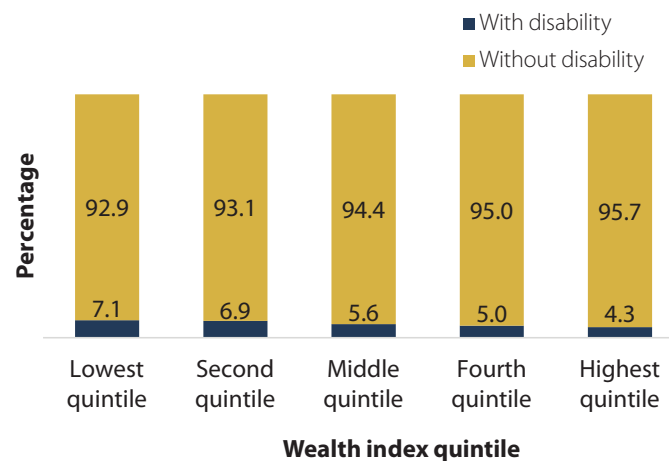


Figure 4.1: Percentage of population aged 5+ years in different wealth quintiles, by disability status

4.2 Water and sanitation

Under the Kiribati National Disability Policy and National Plan Policy Area 4, it is stated that all citizens should enjoy their human rights and have a barrier-free access to the physical environment. People with disabilities should be able to access all infrastructure to increase their opportunities in schools, health

services, work and to participate in all aspects of community life. Access to safe and clean water and sanitation facilities are basic rights for all people, including people with disabilities, and the denial of these basic rights can have serious implications on well-being.

Seven in ten people (71.3%) with disabilities had access to an improved water source, but this was slightly lower than for those people without disabilities (74.8%). Access to improved water is more accessible to people without disabilities and this relates to the setup of the water system installed in the outer island and South Tarawa. The tap for water collection for instance, the solar pump system is installed at a communal collection point from which 2–3 households collect water. The improved system is inclusive of Pub water solar pump system which the majority of people have access to. Most outer islands have access to a solar pump system including South Tarawa as an outcome of development projects such as the Kiribati Adaptation Program – Phase II Project funded by the World Bank.

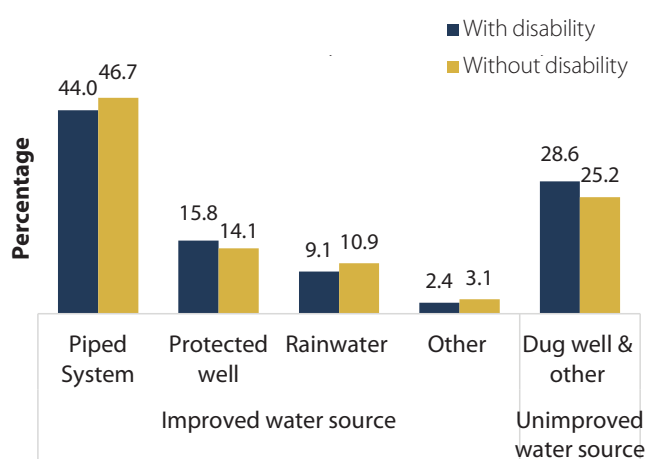


Figure 4.2: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with access to water facilities, by disability status

About three in ten people (28.6%) with disabilities access an unprotected dug well, a higher proportion than for people without disabilities (25.2%). Unimproved water sources like open dug wells are mostly located within the household's boundaries and this would be more accessible for people

with disabilities. It would be the case that disabled people collect water for their daily use from these conveniently located water sources.

As Figure 4.3 shows, there is higher number of pit latrines compared to PUB flush toilets and this is the main type of toilet for people. These facilities are located within the household's boundary meaning access is more convenient for people with disabilities. Overall, there is a little difference with access to improved sanitation for people with and without disabilities. This is due to the locality of sanitation facilities nearby households. In addition, the inclusiveness of disability access in the design of new toilets as one of the requirements has improved the access to sanitation facilities at community level, including for people with disabilities. However, there is still a higher proportion of people with disability practicing open defecation compared to those without disability and this links to their needs not having been considered in the design of existing sanitation facilities and the use of old sanitation facilities (with no disability access). Just over two thirds of people without disabilities have access to improved sanitation services, compared to just over six in ten people with disabilities. This means almost four in ten people with disabilities are still accessing an unimproved sanitation facility.

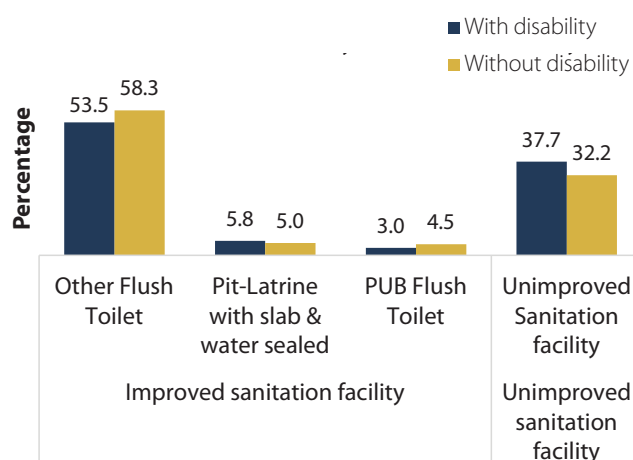


Figure 4.3: Distribution of population age 5+ years with and without disability with access to sanitation facilities

Figure 4.4 shows the percentage of population age 5+ years with and without disability with access to clean and unclean cooking fuels. The Kiribati 2020 census revealed that 36,3% (2,016 people) with disabilities used Kerosene for cooking, and 23,1% (1,285 people) used wood. Of 1,684 Households containing people with disabilities, the most common cooking source is kerosene (540 households) followed by coconut husks (471 households) and wood (440 households). On the other hand, people without disabilities are more likely than disabled people to access Propane Gas/Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (10,558 or 11.5%) compared to people with disabilities (447 or 8.3%). This is consistent with the Kiribati 2006, Household and Expenditure Survey (HIES), launched by the Kiribati Energy Planning Units which states that use of kerosene is correlated with income. As such, lower income groups tend to use kerosene as opposed to LPG (Ministry of Works and Public Utilities, 2014). This might be the reason for the usage of the unimproved source of cooking fuel in Kiribati particularly among people with disabilities. In the 2020 Census findings, 14.2% of people with disabilities had access to clean fuel, compared to 18.1% of people without disabilities.

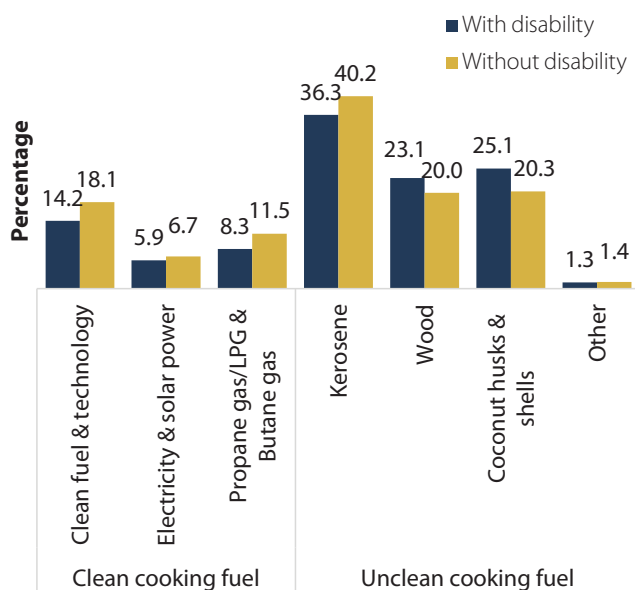


Figure 4.4: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with access to clean and unclean cooking fuel, by disability status

Figure 4.5 shows that most of the population have access to an improved source of lighting. As shown in this figure, Solar generated energy is now a significant factor in the everyday life of many I-Kiribati. In the 2020 Census, of the total households of 20,354 across all Divisions, there is a high usage of solar power and also general electricity use, with more than 6,141 households or 30.2% using this form of power. Among the population of 5,559 people with disabilities (in 1,684 total households), 52.8% have solar energy for lighting and 39.1% have electricity. For the people of Kiribati, the census shows that Electricity, solar and dry batteries are the most commonly used source of lighting in households.

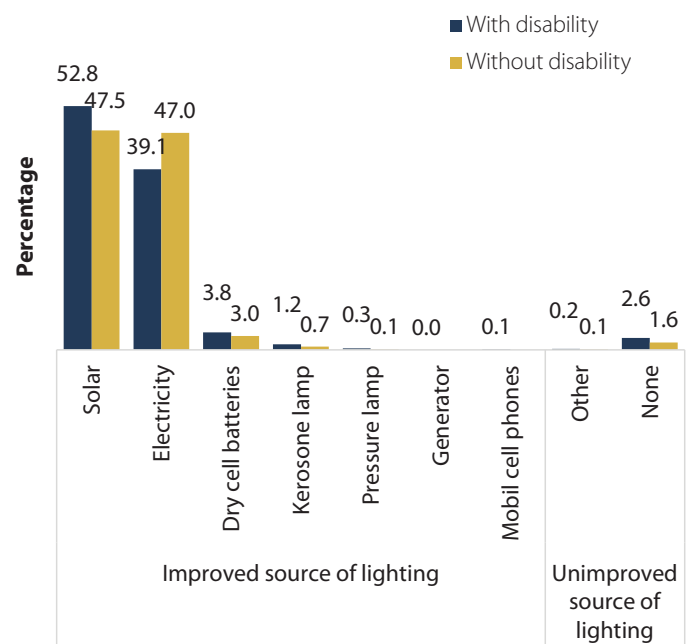


Figure 4.5: Percentage of population aged 5+ years with access to an improved source of lighting, by disability status

Key findings

- People with disabilities are more likely to live in households that do not have access to improved water and sanitation facilities.



5. EDUCATION, LITERACY AND DISABILITY STATUS

The Kiribati Vision 2020 aims at Kiribati having a highly educated and skilled population. The Government of Kiribati will increase the number of school aged children receiving formal education which includes increasing primary and secondary level from 80 % to 85 %. This section covers educational attainment, literacy and school attendance across disability status with the purpose of highlighting any inequalities between people with disabilities compared to those without disabilities.

5.1 Education levels

In 2020, Kiribati had 300 early childhood care and education centres and 140 schools (97 primary, 24 junior secondary, 11 combined junior/senior secondary and 8 senior secondary) providing education services to almost 40,000 enrolled students (Ministry of Education, 2022). In 2015, the Inclusive Education policy was launched to increase and support the number of students with disabilities. There were six inclusive schools established in South Tarawa in 2016 (Kiribati Atlas, 2020).

Educational attainment, or the highest level of education that an individual has attended, shows that people with disabilities are more likely to have attained junior secondary school (about 2 in 5 people) whereas the most common level attained by those without disabilities was senior secondary. The number of people with disabilities with no qualifications is 13.9% (down from 18% in 2015) compared to 1.6% for non-disabled. This mean, people with disabilities are under-represented at senior secondary qualification at 13.6% compared to 32.2% for non-disabled. This reflects free and compulsory education for children 6–14 years of age in Kiribati. (Annex A, Table A.6).

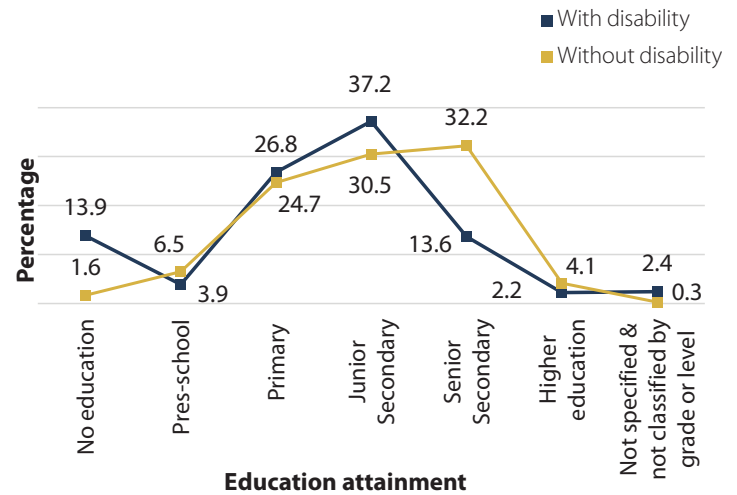


Figure 5.1: Percentage of population 5+ years of educational attainment levels, by disability status

5.2 School attendance

Table 5.1 shows the number of people aged 5–24 years with and without disabilities who have attended school. There were 44,591 people without disabilities and 847 people with disabilities who have/had attended school. From that number, people without disability who are currently attending school is 30,930 (69.4%) and 13,654 (30.6%) who have left school. For those with disabilities, 550 (64.9%) young people are currently attending school while 296 (35.0%) have left school.

Table 5.1: Percentage of population aged 5–24 years, by school attendance and disability status

Category	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
Ever attending school		
Attended school	81.2	99.1
Never attended school	18.7	0.9
Missing	0.1	0.0
Currently attending school		
Attended school	64.9	69.4
Left school	35.0	30.6
Missing	0.1	0.0

Data source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

People with disabilities are likely to have a poor rate of attending school that is also reflected in Figure 5.1 where the most frequent highest educational attainment, of 37.2%, is junior secondary school, which then dropped across the higher educational levels. Likewise in Figure 5.2 below, the trend is that the majority of students from the younger ages are currently attending schools due to free education for primary and junior secondary school in Kiribati. Student official school-going ages are 6–11 years for primary, 12–14 years for lower secondary, and then we see a sharp decline from the age of 15 years in the

senior secondary attendance for young people with disabilities.

The number of children with disabilities attending school is high in the Census data compared to the Ministry of Education statistics, with a difference of more than 1,000. This difference may have several causes, including school leaders may not be fully aware of the types of disabilities or the student with disabilities might absent when the school leaders and teachers were working on the Schools Annual Survey form, and public awareness of the disability allowance.

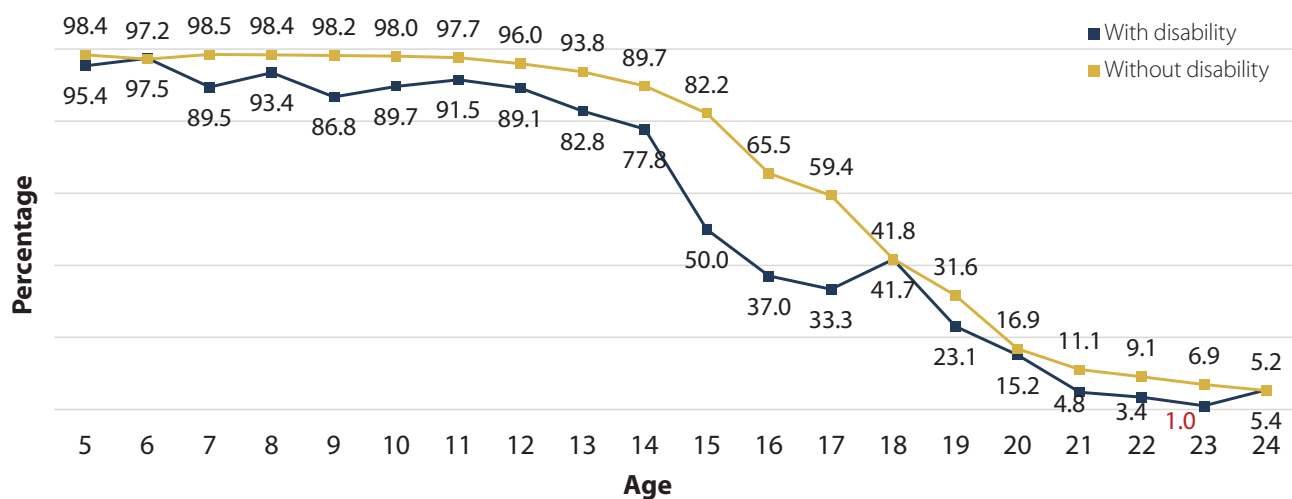


Figure 5.2: Percentage of population attending school, by age and disability status

5.3 Literacy

The census collects information on self-assessed basic literacy skills (reading and writing). In 2020, The literacy rate includes people who have “no difficulty” or “some difficulty” with reading and writing⁵. Table 5.3 below shows the literacy rate of the population aged 12+ years by disability status across sex, region, age and division or island group. More than nine people out of ten (94.2%) in Kiribati are literate, regardless of their situation. The literacy rate is slightly higher for people without disabilities (95.6% or 71,347 literate) compared with people with disabilities, where this rate is lower than average

(73.1% or 3,679 people). People living in urban areas are more likely to be literate (95.5%) than others living in rural areas (92.1%). This is also true for people with disabilities, where 73.5% of people who are literate live in urban areas, compared with 72.6% in rural areas. Females with disabilities are slightly less literate than male with disabilities (72.3% against 74.1%). However, Females without disabilities are slightly more literate than male (96.3% against 94.8%). Young people aged 12–17 years with disability are much less able to read and write (correctly or with some difficulty) than their peers without disability. A difference of 39.7 percentage points is observed between them.

⁵ In line with the UNESCO definition of literacy, the literacy rate includes people who have some difficulty with reading and writing in addition of those who have no difficulty for doing both in 2020 analysis. As the question was not asked in the same way in 2015, caution is called for when comparing this indicator between the two years.

Table 5.2: Literacy rates of population aged 12+ years by disability status, region, sex, age and island group

	Literate (%)			Illiterate (%)		
	With Disability	Without Disability	Total	With Disability	Without Disability	Total
Urban/Rural						
Urban	73.5	96.8	95.5	26.5	3.2	4.5
Rural	72.6	93.6	92.1	27.4	6.4	7.9
National	73.1	95.6	94.2	26.9	4.4	5.8
Sex						
Male	74.1	94.8	93.6	25.9	5.2	6.4
Female	72.3	96.3	94.7	27.7	3.7	5.3
Age Group						
12–17	56.3	96.0	95.2	43.7	4.0	4.8
18–49	74.6	96.3	95.6	25.4	3.7	4.4
50+	73.6	92.7	89.0	26.4	7.3	11.0
Total	73.1	95.6	94.2	26.9	4.4	5.8
Division						
South Tarawa	73.2	97.1	95.9	26.8	2.9	4.1
Northern	72.9	93.0	91.5	27.1	7.0	8.5
Central	74.4	92.8	91.2	25.6	7.2	8.8
Southern	70.3	95.6	93.9	29.7	4.4	6.1
Line Is. & Phoenix	75.6	92.7	91.3	24.4	7.3	8.7
Total	73.1	95.6	94.2	26.9	4.4	5.8

Data Source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

Key findings

- People with disabilities who have attended school are more likely to have attained only junior secondary school level (about two in five people with disabilities).
- People without disabilities are more likely to attain senior secondary school (32%) compared to people with disabilities (14%). The reason for this may be the parents of children with disabilities may not have a necessary resources and information the absence in most schools in Kiribati of structures designed for disabled students, and issues in travelling to school for people with disabilities.
- Across all the socio-economic characteristics, literacy rates were lower for the disabled population.



6. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND DISABILITY STATUS

This section will elaborate on the performance of labour function within the country. Paid work is the pillar for anyone for their daily life survival. For inclusivity, everyone including the people with disability need to be included in economic activities and also have support from the Government allowances in order to not feel discriminated against, and to be able to achieve their own consumption and wellbeing for their families. The “economically active” population is defined as those that are available for work and could be currently employed or actively seeking work. “Non-economically active” refers to those who are unable to work such as students and homemakers.

6.1 Employment Status

Of the total population aged 15+ years, 34,139 people (47.2%), participated in the labour force (including the unemployed). There is a wide gap between people with disabilities and people without disabilities, with significantly more people without disabilities engaged in economic activity (48.8%) compared to 24.8% for people with disabilities. Seven out of ten (75.2%) people with disabilities are outside the labour force, with only 6.5% employed and 13.6% either an employer or own-account workers (Annex A, Table A.8).

Figure 6.1 shows the percentage of people aged 15+ years by current activity. Of a total of 72,341 people 15+ years, 5.4% were unemployed, 22.8 % were employees, 15.7% were own-account worker 0.5% were employers, 2.9% were other economically active (contributing to family work), 36.0% were homemakers, 7.2% were students and 9.6% were other outside the labour force (not able to work). Only 6.5% of people with disabilities were employees,

while 23.9% of people without disability were employees. People with disabilities who participated in the labour force were more likely to work on their own account (13.3%) than to be employed (6.5%). Those without disabilities are more likely to work as an employee (23.9%) than on their own account (15.8%).

The majority of people with disabilities is outside the labour force, with 36.0% classified as homemakers and 38.0% classified as not able to work.

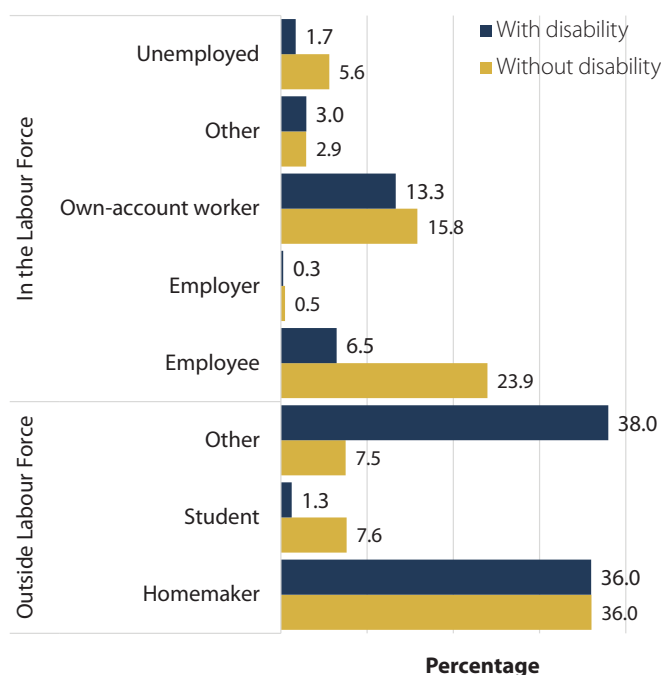


Figure 6.1: Percentage of population 15+ years, by current economic activity and disability status

Note: This figure represents the distribution of the current activity within the population and do not correspond to the labour force indicators.

Analysis by socio-economic characteristics such as urban/rural residence, age and sex are essential to identifying groups of the most disadvantaged groups in society. Disaggregated results for economic

activity are presented in Annex A, Table A.8. In similar results to 2015, across disability status, males are more likely than females to be an employee while the latter are more likely to be homemakers.

6.2 Employment status of heads of households by disability status

Figure 6.2 shows the employment status of heads of household by disability status. Of a total 1,684 people aged 15+ years with disabilities identified as household heads in the 2020 Census, 34.9% participated in the labour force compared to 68.6% of household heads without disabilities. For those who are in the labour force, one in ten household heads with disabilities are employees, while almost four in ten (36.5%) household heads without disabilities are employees. Household heads with disabilities who participated in the labour force are more likely to work on their own account than to be an employee. The proportion of household head own-account workers remains lower for those with disabilities (19.6% versus 25.7%). In 2020, 67.9% of males and 60.0% of females identified as household heads were in the labour force. This situation was lower for female-headed households with 30.1% of women with disabilities identified as household heads being in the labour

force (37.1% for men), compared to 63.1% of women household heads without disabilities (70.5% for men), table 6.1.

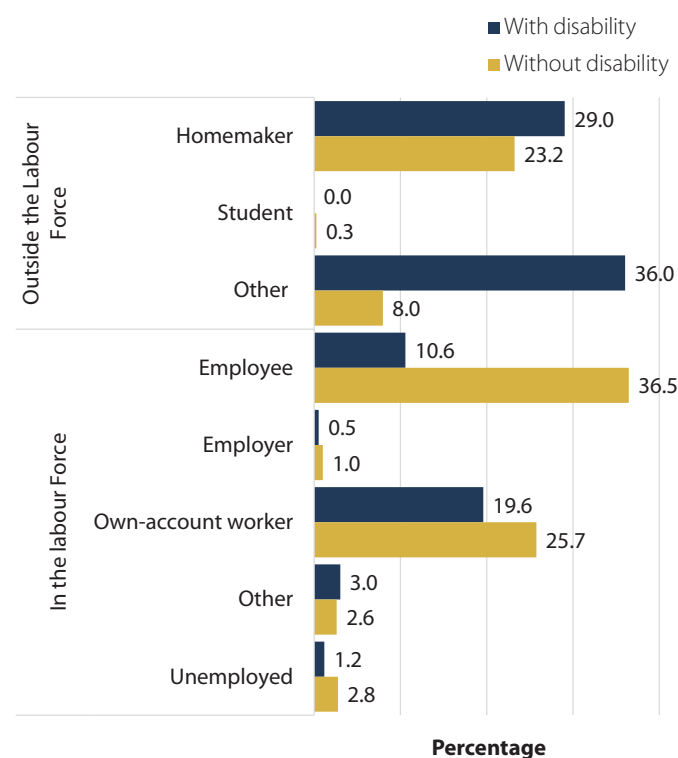


Figure 6.2: Percentage of head of household aged 15+ years, by current economic activity and disability status

Note: This figure represents the distribution of the current activity within the population and do not correspond to the labour force indicators.

Table 6.1: Percentage of head of household aged 15+ years, by current economic activity, sex and disability status

Category	In the Labour Force (%)					Outside the labour Force (%)		
	Employee	Employer	Own-account worker	Other	Unemployed	Homemaker	Student	Other
With disability								
Total	10.6	0.5	19.6	3.0	1.2	29.0	0.0	36.0
Male	11.7	0.3	20.1	3.4	1.5	25.2	0.0	37.8
Female	8.1	1.0	18.5	2.1	0.4	37.8	0.0	32.2
Without disability								
Total	36.5	1.0	25.7	2.6	2.8	23.2	0.3	8.0
Male	35.2	1.0	28.4	3.0	2.9	20.5	0.1	8.8
Female	40.0	1.1	18.2	1.5	2.4	30.8	0.6	5.5

Data source: Kiribati population and housing census, 2020

Note: This table represents the distribution of the current activity within the population and do not correspond to the labour force indicators.

6.3 Occupation/industry

In 2020, the highest proportion of people with disabilities are employed in wholesale and retail (37.5%), compared to 28.8% for people without disabilities. This is followed by agriculture 19.9% for people with disabilities and 17.3% for people without disabilities. Manufacturing accounts for 7.5% for people with disability while this is only 3.9% for people without disabilities. People without disability are more likely to be engaged in public administration (14.8%) and education industries (8.9%) than people without disabilities.

In 2015 the highest proportion of people with disabilities are employed in the manufacturing industry (21.6%), followed by agriculture (19.7%), wholesale and retail industries (12.9%) and fishing (10.4%). The highest proportion of people without disabilities are employed in agriculture (14.5%), manufacturing (14%), public administration (12.6%) and wholesale and retail (12.3%).

Table 6.2: Percentage of employed population 15+ years, by industry and disability status

People in industry	With Disability	Without Disability	Total
Total	1,130	29,137	30,267
Agriculture	19.9	17.3	5,278
Fishing	6.3	5.8	1,751
Mining		0.1	15
Manufacturing	7.5	3.9	1,225
Utilities	0.2	0.5	149
Construction	1.2	1.4	435
Wholesale and retail	37.5	28.8	8,816
Transport postal	1.7	3.4	1,024
Hotels/motels	0.5	0.6	174
Restaurant & food production	2.2	2.4	738
Printing, recording an	0.1	0.5	155
Financial/legal services	0.2	0.9	264
Real Estate	0.5	0.3	98
Rental and business	1.4	2.1	634
Public administration	6.5	14.8	4,380
Education	5.8	8.9	2,646
Health	1.2	3.2	953
Entertainment & creation	0.4	0.2	63
Membership	2.1	2.2	670
Personal services	4.8	2.4	745
Foreign services	0.1	0.2	54

Data source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

Figure 6.3 shows the occupation for the 1,130 people with disabilities and 29,137 people without disabilities who are employed. People with disabilities are more represented in elementary occupations, craft and related trades and skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery areas than people without disabilities. In total, 31.6% of people with disabilities were craft and related trades workers compared to 15.6% of people without disabilities. Elementary occupations were the most common for both those with and without disabilities, representing about one-third of all occupations.

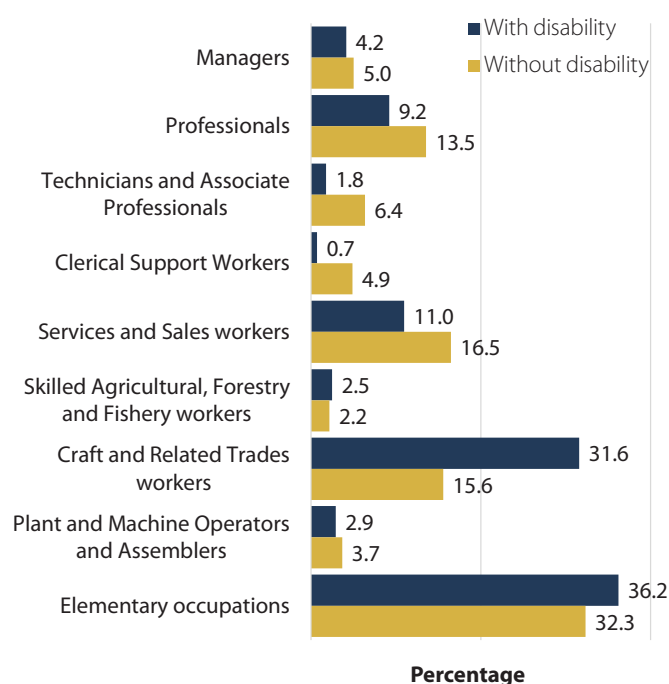


Figure 6.3: Population aged 15+ years, by occupation and disability status

Key findings

- Seven out of ten (75.2%) people with disabilities are not economically active, with only 6.5% employed and 13.6% either an employer or own-account workers.
- Nearly four in ten people with disabilities that are economically active are engaged in wholesale and retail. Those with disabilities are under-represented in government-related roles such as public administration, education and health.



7. HEALTH BEHAVIORS AND DISABILITY STATUS

The World Health Organization World report on disability reported that overall, people with disabilities report poorer general health and higher levels of psychological distress than people without disability. They also have higher rates of some modifiable health risk factors and behaviours, such as poor diet and tobacco smoking, than people without disability. The Kiribati 2015 Population and Housing census had limited data on sport engagement and substance use while the 2020 Population and Housing Census is limited to substance use/abuse.

7.1 Kava, alcohol and tobacco use

Figure 7.1 depicts the substance usage patterns among individuals aged 15+ years in the I-Kiribati population, segmented according to their disability status. This visualization showcases the frequency of narcotic substance consumption per day, spanning from "Never" to different levels of weekly intake. These levels include "Rarely" and "Occasionally" combined (1–2 drinks per week and 3–7 drinks per week, respectively), "Sometimes" (8–14 drinks per week), "Regularly" (15–21 drinks per week), and "Frequently" (22+ drinks per week). For cigarettes intake, these levels include rarely (1 packet per week) to heavy (more than 1 packet a day).

Substance use was measured by the consumption of alcohol, kava, cigarettes and kouben (chewing tobacco). A higher proportion of people with disabilities have never consumed alcohol, kava, and kouben compared to people without disabilities. As shown in Figure 7.1 and 7.2 however, substance use is generally low for both those with and without disabilities. The level of cigarette smoking is slightly higher among people with disabilities. People with disabilities are more likely to be regular or

heavy smokers (6.1%) compared to people without disabilities (5.0%). For all other substances, the pattern is for people with disabilities to consume less.

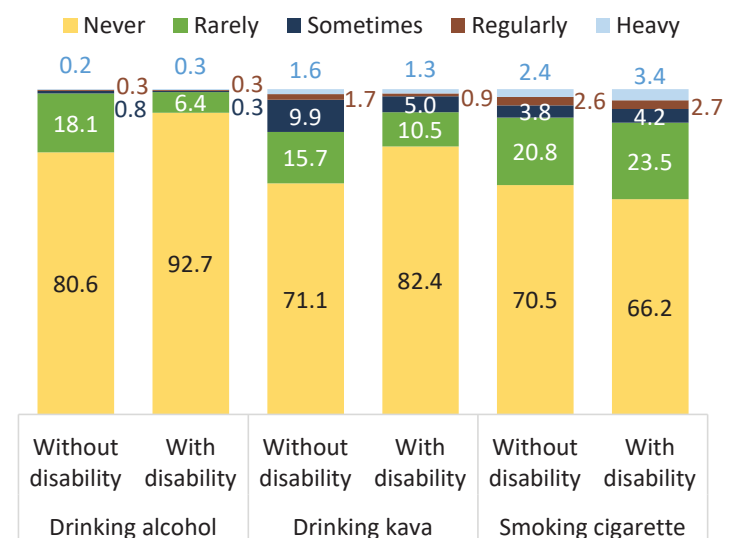


Figure 7.1: Kava, alcohol and tobacco use of population aged 15+ years, by disability status

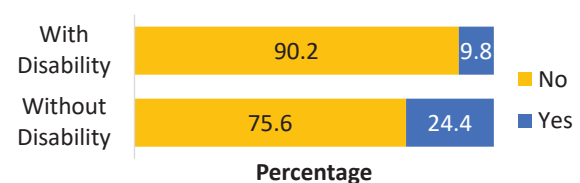


Figure 7.2: Percentage of the population aged 15+ years, having consumed chewing kouben, by disability status

Key findings

- Low rates of substance use were found for those with and without disabilities. People with disabilities are slightly more likely to be regular or heavy smokers.
- The frequency of substance uses ranges from infrequent or non-existent ("Never") to more frequent patterns such as "Regularly" and "Frequently," suggesting a spectrum of consumption habits within this population.

8. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND DISABILITY STATUS

This section shows characteristics of reproductive health by disability status. The section reviews the marital status of people with and without disabilities, followed by women reproductive health issues such as children ever born, and median age at first birth.

8.1 Marital status

Table 8.1 presents the marital status of individuals aged 15+ years in Kiribati, categorized by disability status. Among respondents, a total of 72,341 individuals provided information on marital status, while 62 did not specify their marital status. Additionally, 42,920 individuals belong to the age group of 0–14. Combining these figures to 119,438, reflecting the total population of Kiribati in the 2020 census.

Out of a total of 72,341 people aged 15+ years, 4,902 have disabilities while 67,439 do not. Most people, whether they have disabilities or not, are either married or in a de facto relationship. Specifically, 63% of people with disabilities are married or in a de facto relationship, compared to 71% of those without disabilities. More men with disabilities are married than women with disabilities. About one in every five people with disabilities are widowed, which is more than four times the rate for those without disabilities. This difference might mean that people with disabilities lack support for their daily needs.

Table 8.1: Population aged 15+ years by disability and marital status

Category	Never married	Legally married	Traditional	Widowed	Separated	Divorced	Total population (15+)
National	16,732	34,076	14,544	4,765	1,437	787	72,341
With disability							
Total	719	2,347	592	1,032	132	80	4,902
Sex							
Male	20.7%	53.8%	13.8%	8.0%	2.2%	1.4%	2,156
Female	9.9%	43.3%	10.7%	31.3%	3.1%	1.8%	2,746
Age							
15–17	96.0%	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	100
18–49	28.3%	42.7%	21.5%	2.9%	2.7%	1.9%	1,634
50+	5.1%	52.0%	7.5%	31.1%	2.7%	1.5%	3,166
Without disability							
Total	16,008	31,724	13,948	3,733	1,303	707	67,439
Sex							
Male	28.7%	46.4%	20.6%	2.2%	1.4%	0.8%	32,538
Female	19.1%	47.7%	20.8%	8.7%	2.4%	1.3%	34,901
Age							
15–17	95.4%	0.9%	2.8%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	4,784
18–49	22.2%	47.7%	25.2%	1.9%	1.9%	1.0%	49,389
50+	3.7%	61.4%	10.2%	20.8%	2.6%	1.4%	13,250

Data source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

8.2 Children ever born

There were 56,301 children ever born to 28,295 women aged 15–49 years in 2020, a slight decline from the 56,418 in 2015. Figure 8.1 shows the average number of children ever born by mother's age and disability status. Children ever born refers to the mean number of children born alive to women in a specific age group. In 2020, women had an average of 2 children ever born, whatever their disability status. This pattern switches from ages 25–29 years up where the average number of births for women without disabilities is higher. (Annex A, Table A.10).

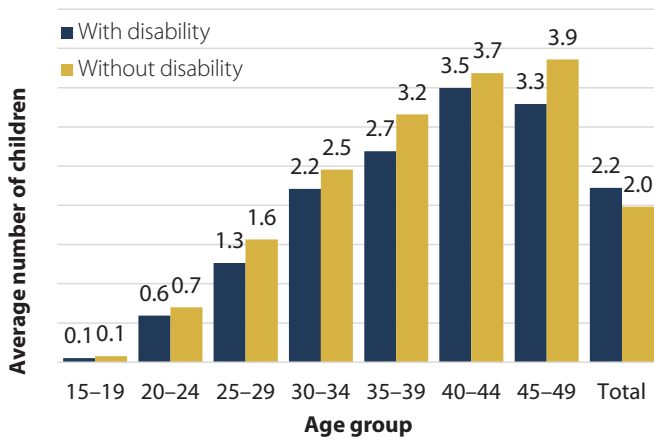


Figure 8.1: Average number of children ever born alive, by women's age group and disability status

8.3 Age at first birth

Figure 8.2 presents the percentage distribution of age groups from 15–49 years old, segmented by the disability status of mothers and their age at first birth. This offers valuable insights into the demographic patterns associated with maternal age at first birth. The age at first birth peaks between the age of 20–24 years at 42.2% for women with disabilities and 47% for women without disabilities. The proportions of women having their first birth at later ages drastically declines for both groups, but it is interesting to note that women with disabilities still retain a higher rate of age at first birth from age groups 30–34 and above. Childbirth at a young (i.e. under 20 years old) or advanced maternal age (i.e., over 35 years old) is associated with increased risk of adverse maternal perinatal outcomes.

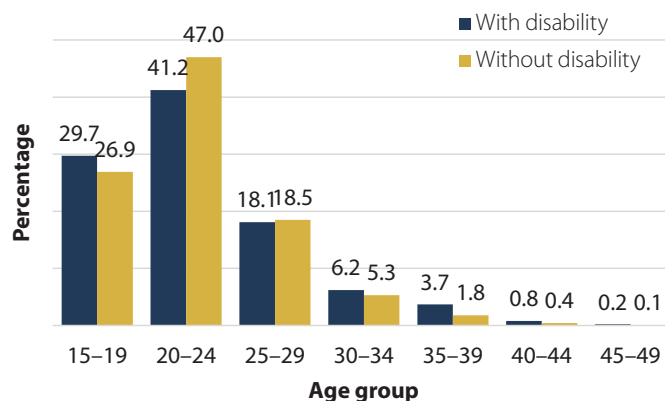


Figure 8.2: Age of mother at birth of first child, by disability status

The median age of women who gave birth was 22 years in 2020 (21 years in 2015). Notably, there was one year difference in the median age at birth between women with disabilities and those without disabilities. (Table 8.4).

Table 8.2: Median age at first birth

Disability status	Median age
Total	22
With disability	21
Without disability	22

Key findings

- Women with disabilities are less married than men with disabilities
- People with disabilities reported much more being widowed.
- Women with disabilities have higher levels of age at first birth under age 19 and over age 35.

9. CONCLUSIONS

This report provides an overview of the situation of people with disabilities in relation to people without disabilities, based on data from the Kiribati population and housing census in 2020. Considering all the findings in this report on the socio-economic, health, literacy and the household access to some facilities, people living with a disability can be seen as being among the most vulnerable population groups in Kiribati. The Washington Group set of questions for disability was used to identify disabled people during the census collection. The functional limitation referred to having “a lot of difficulty” or “can’t do at all” is used to identify the disparities among the people with and without disabilities.

The 2020 Census data reinforces the fact that disability exists in the population in Kiribati and is increasing. This report is intended to serve as a tool for informing policy makers and highlight areas for improvement to include the needs of people with disabilities. However, disability programs and activities in Kiribati will also benefit from research, support or grants from other developed countries.

Policies implemented by the Kiribati Government for the benefit of the disabled people are starting to show improvements when compared to the 2015 data. For example, the KNDP, introduced in 2018, committed to Education for All. While 18.7 % of disabled young people had never attended school in 2020, this is down from 25.3 % of disabled young people who had never attended school in the 2015 Census.

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ANNEX A: TABLES

Data source: Kiribati Population and Housing Census, 2020

Table A.1: Population aged 5+ years with and without disabilities by area, sex, age and island group

Category	Total Population	With disability (%)	Without disability (%)
National	99,466	5.6	94.4
Area			
Urban	59,607	5.0	95.0
Rural	39,859	6.4	93.6
Sex			
Male	48,617	5.2	94.8
Female	50,849	6.0	94.0
Age group			
5–17	32,009	2.4	97.6
18–49	51,037	3.2	96.8
50+	16,420	19.3	80.7
Is. group			
South Tarawa	53,422	4.8	95.2
Northern	16,705	6.3	93.8
Central	6,717	8.0	92.0
Southern	13,339	5.9	94.1
Line & Phoenix Is.	9,283	6.9	93.1

Table A.2: Prevalence (%) by domain and degree of difficulty (5+ years)

Core Domains	At least some difficulty	At least a lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all
Vision	8.6	1.2	0.2
Hearing	5.5	1.1	0.2
Mobility (walking only)	6.3	2.0	0.9
Cognition	6.0	1.0	0.2
Communication	2.9	0.6	0.4
Self-care	2.1	0.6	0.4

Table A.3: Population aged 5+ years, by wealth quintile and disability status

Wealth Quintile	Total	With disability	(%)	Without disability	(%)
Total	99,466	5,559	5.6	93,907	94.4
Lowest	16,253	1,162	7.2	15,091	92.9
Second	17,083	1,175	6.9	15,908	93.1
Middle	18,458	1,032	5.6	17,426	94.4
Fourth	21,878	1,088	5.0	20,790	95.0
Highest	25,794	1,102	4.3	24,692	95.7

Table A.4: Household distribution and percentage, by wealth quintile and disability status

Wealth Quintile	Total	With disability	(%)	Without disability	(%)
Total	20,354	1,684	8.3	18,670	91.7
Lowest	4,071	423	10.4	3,648	89.6
Second	4,071	419	10.3	3,652	89.7
Middle	4,071	331	8.1	3,740	91.9
Fourth	4,071	292	7.2	3,779	92.8
Highest	4,070	219	5.4	3,851	94.6

Table A.5: Population 5+ years, by disability status, access to water and sanitation facilities

Category	Improved water source												Unimproved water source			Total population
	Piped into dwelling	Piped into yard	Public tap	Piped neighbour	Protected well	Rainwater inside	Rainwater outside	Communal tanks	Bottle water	PUB water	Rainwater from neighbour	Desalinated water	Unprotected dug well	Tanker truck	Other	
National	3,504	27,682	10,812	4,302	14,152	1,419	6,192	2,901	728	1,897	188	65	25,071	393	160	99,466
With disability																
Total	152	1,507	566	223	881	54	255	193	30	1	83	6	1,582	17	9	5,559
Aria																
Urban	4.5%	40.2%	11.8%	5.1%	10.3%	1.6%	7.4%	2.4%	1.0%	2.6%	0.2%	0.0%	12.0%	0.6%	0.2%	3,004
Rural	0.6%	11.7%	8.3%	2.7%	22.3%	0.2%	1.3%	4.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	47.8%	0.0%	0.1%	2,555
Sex																
Male	3.1%	26.1%	9.8%	3.9%	15.7%	1.2%	4.6%	3.7%	0.5%	1.6%	0.2%	0.0%	29.2%	0.3%	0.0%	2,517
Female	2.5%	28.0%	10.5%	4.1%	15.9%	0.8%	4.6%	3.3%	0.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	27.8%	0.3%	0.3%	3,042
Age group																
5–17	3.4%	26.3%	6.9%	4.5%	19.6%	0.7%	4.2%	4.2%	0.4%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	27.7%	0.5%	0.1%	757
18–49	2.9%	29.8%	10.9%	4.2%	15.7%	1.2%	3.2%	3.2%	0.4%	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	26.4%	0.1%	0.1%	1,635
50+	2.5%	25.9%	10.6%	3.8%	15.0%	0.9%	5.4%	3.4%	0.6%	1.5%	0.1%	0.0%	29.7%	0.4%	0.2%	3,167
Is. group																
South Tarawa	4.0%	42.0%	13.5%	5.3%	7.7%	1.8%	8.5%	1.6%	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	11.2%	0.5%	0.2%	2,556
Northern	0.3%	12.3%	7.5%	1.8%	28.3%	0.1%	1.1%	5.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	42.3%	0.0%	0.2%	1,044
Central	1.1%	9.3%	8.3%	1.3%	12.6%	0.6%	2.8%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	62.2%	0.0%	0.0%	539
Southern	0.8%	15.1%	11.1%	5.1%	14.6%	0.1%	0.3%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.9%	0.0%	0.0%	783
Line & Phoenix Is.	5.7%	21.7%	1.7%	3.5%	32.5%	0.6%	1.7%	6.6%	0.0%	1.9%	0.8%	0.0%	22.4%	0.6%	0.3%	637
Without disability																
Total	3,352	26,175	10,246	4,079	13,271	1,365	5,937	2,708	698	1,814	182	64	23,469	376	151	93,907
Aria																
Urban	5.3%	39.4%	13.1%	5.2%	7.9%	2.3%	9.0%	1.7%	1.2%	3.1%	0.2%	0.1%	10.6%	0.7%	0.2%	56,603
Rural	1.0%	10.3%	7.5%	3.1%	23.5%	0.2%	2.3%	4.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	46.9%	0.0%	0.1%	37,304
Sex																
Male	3.5%	27.6%	10.7%	4.4%	14.4%	1.4%	6.1%	2.9%	0.7%	1.9%	0.2%	0.1%	25.7%	0.4%	0.2%	46,100
Female	3.7%	28.2%	11.2%	4.3%	13.9%	1.5%	6.5%	2.8%	0.8%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	24.3%	0.4%	0.1%	47,807
Age group																
5–17	3.5%	27.1%	10.7%	4.3%	14.4%	1.3%	5.9%	2.8%	0.7%	1.8%	0.2%	0.1%	26.5%	0.4%	0.2%	31,252
18–49	3.6%	28.7%	11.2%	4.4%	13.7%	1.5%	6.4%	2.8%	0.8%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	24.0%	0.4%	0.2%	49,402
50+	3.7%	26.5%	10.3%	4.2%	15.0%	1.6%	6.8%	3.3%	0.7%	1.9%	0.1%	0.1%	25.2%	0.5%	0.1%	13,253
Is. group																
South Tarawa	4.7%	40.0%	14.3%	5.3%	6.5%	2.4%	9.7%	1.4%	1.3%	3.2%	0.2%	0.1%	10.2%	0.5%	0.2%	50,866
Northern	0.4%	9.3%	5.7%	2.5%	26.3%	0.2%	2.4%	5.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	46.9%	0.0%	0.1%	15,661
Central	1.4%	13.1%	14.3%	1.3%	14.6%	0.4%	4.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	48.9%	0.0%	0.0%	6,178
Southern	1.6%	11.6%	8.0%	5.2%	18.8%	0.1%	1.0%	5.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	47.4%	0.0%	0.0%	12,556
Line & Phoenix Is.	6.7%	24.4%	2.4%	2.7%	29.7%	0.6%	2.4%	3.8%	0.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	23.1%	1.5%	0.6%	8,646

Table A.6: Population 5+ years, by disability status, access sanitation facilities

Category	Improved sanitation					Unimproved facility					Total population
	Flush to piped sewer system	Flush to septic tank	Flush to pit latrine	Pit latrine with slab	Water sealed	Flush to somewhere else	Pit latrine without slab - open pit	No facility, beach, bush etc.	Other	Not stated	
With disability											
Total	166	2,534	307	125	196	133	37	2,051	10	0	5,559
Area											
Urban	5.5%	55.3%	4.4%	0.7%	5.4%	1.8%	0.3%	26.2%	0.3%	0.0%	3,004
Rural	0.0%	34.1%	6.8%	4.1%	1.3%	3.1%	1.1%	49.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2,555
Sex											
Male	2.9%	43.7%	5.2%	2.0%	4.0%	2.7%	0.9%	38.4%	0.2%	0.0%	2,517
Female	3.1%	47.1%	5.8%	2.5%	3.1%	2.2%	0.5%	35.7%	0.1%	0.0%	3,042
Age group											
5–17	3.2%	40.6%	4.1%	4.6%	3.2%	2.1%	0.7%	41.6%	0.0%	0.0%	757
18–49	3.5%	42.3%	4.8%	2.3%	2.9%	2.3%	0.6%	41.1%	0.1%	0.0%	1,635
50+	2.7%	48.5%	6.2%	1.6%	3.9%	2.5%	0.7%	33.6%	0.3%	0.0%	3,167
Is. group											
South Tarawa	6.2%	56.3%	4.4%	0.7%	6.2%	1.9%	0.3%	23.6%	0.3%	0.0%	2,556
Northern	0.0%	39.4%	5.9%	6.1%	0.9%	3.1%	0.0%	44.5%	0.1%	0.0%	1,044
Central	0.0%	32.8%	3.5%	5.6%	1.3%	6.7%	3.5%	46.6%	0.0%	0.0%	539
Southern	0.0%	31.2%	9.7%	0.6%	0.4%	1.3%	0.9%	55.9%	0.0%	0.0%	783
Line & Phoenix Is.	1.3%	41.1%	5.8%	1.3%	2.8%	0.9%	0.5%	46.0%	0.3%	0.0%	637
Without disability											
Total	4,268	47,786	4,919	652	4,082	2,000	196	29,734	113	2	93,907
Area											
Urban	7.5%	58.5%	3.4%	0.7%	6.4%	1.3%	0.2%	21.7%	0.2%	0.0%	56,603
Rural	0.0%	39.3%	8.0%	0.7%	1.2%	3.4%	0.6%	46.8%	0.0%	0.0%	37,304
Sex											
Male	4.4%	50.3%	5.3%	0.7%	4.2%	2.1%	0.4%	32.5%	0.1%	0.0%	46,100
Female	4.7%	51.5%	5.2%	0.7%	4.5%	2.2%	0.4%	30.9%	0.1%	0.0%	47,807
Age group											
5–17	4.2%	50.3%	5.4%	0.7%	4.1%	2.2%	0.3%	32.7%	0.1%	0.0%	31,252
18–49	4.8%	50.9%	4.9%	0.7%	4.5%	2.0%	0.4%	31.7%	0.1%	0.0%	49,402
50+	4.5%	52.2%	6.2%	0.7%	4.3%	2.4%	0.4%	29.2%	0.1%	0.0%	13,253
Is. group											
South Tarawa	8.2%	58.8%	3.4%	0.7%	7.0%	1.4%	0.2%	20.2%	0.2%	0.0%	50,866
Northern	0.0%	41.3%	8.2%	0.6%	1.3%	3.2%	0.0%	45.4%	0.1%	0.0%	15,661
Central	0.0%	39.7%	3.8%	1.2%	1.4%	8.6%	1.6%	43.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6,178
Southern	0.0%	38.6%	9.6%	0.5%	0.6%	1.8%	0.5%	48.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12,556
Line & Phoenix Is.	1.4%	47.4%	5.3%	1.0%	2.0%	0.7%	0.6%	41.4%	0.0%	0.0%	8,646

Table A.7: Population 15+ years, by disability status, education attainment, age, sex and island group

Category	Highest level attended						Not specified and not classified by grade or level	Total population
	No education	Pres-school	Primary	Junior Secondary	Senior Secondary	Higher education		
National	2,314	6,341	24,695	30,703	31,017	3,993	403	99,466
With disability								
Total	770	216	1,491	2,068	758	123	133	5,559
Area								
Urban	12.4%	3.4%	23.5%	38.6%	15.9%	3.1%	3.0%	3,004
Rural	15.6%	4.5%	30.7%	35.5%	10.9%	1.1%	1.7%	2,555
Sex								
Male	12.2%	4.9%	25.0%	38.1%	14.4%	2.9%	2.5%	2,517
Female	15.3%	3.1%	28.4%	36.4%	13.0%	1.6%	2.3%	3,042
Age group								
5–17	18.6%	24.8%	42.3%	9.5%	1.5%	0.0%	3.3%	757
18–49	12.2%	0.9%	16.1%	35.9%	30.0%	3.1%	1.8%	1,635
50+	13.6%	0.4%	28.7%	44.5%	8.1%	2.3%	2.5%	3,167
Is. group								
South Tarawa	12.6%	2.8%	24.6%	36.5%	16.6%	3.4%	3.4%	2,556
Northern	20.0%	3.4%	27.5%	35.2%	10.9%	1.4%	1.5%	1,044
Central	11.5%	5.9%	31.0%	32.5%	15.0%	0.9%	3.2%	539
Southern	13.9%	4.5%	33.3%	38.2%	8.2%	1.1%	0.8%	783
Line & Phoenix Is.	10.8%	6.4%	22.9%	46.2%	11.6%	0.9%	1.1%	637
Without disability								
Total	1,544	6,125	23,204	28,635	30,259	3,870	270	93,907
Area								
Urban	1.6%	6.1%	21.9%	27.4%	37.3%	5.4%	0.3%	56,603
Rural	1.6%	7.2%	28.9%	35.2%	24.5%	2.3%	0.3%	37,304
Sex								
Male	1.9%	7.0%	26.5%	31.9%	28.6%	3.9%	0.2%	46,100
Female	1.4%	6.0%	23.0%	29.2%	35.7%	4.3%	0.3%	47,807
Age group								
5–17	0.8%	19.3%	54.2%	21.2%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	31,252
18–49	1.4%	0.2%	7.2%	30.1%	54.7%	6.3%	0.2%	49,402
50+	4.4%	0.2%	20.5%	54.1%	14.0%	5.6%	1.3%	13,253
Is. group								
South Tarawa	1.6%	5.9%	21.8%	27.0%	37.9%	5.5%	0.3%	50,866
Northern	2.0%	7.5%	29.9%	34.2%	24.2%	1.9%	0.2%	15,661
Central	1.6%	6.4%	26.1%	35.4%	27.6%	2.4%	0.4%	6,178
Southern	1.2%	7.0%	29.0%	35.7%	24.4%	2.6%	0.2%	12,556
Line & Phoenix Is.	1.8%	7.9%	25.2%	33.0%	28.2%	3.6%	0.3%	8,646

Table A.8: Population 15+ years, by disability status and activity

Category	Paid work					Not in labour force			Total population 15+
	Employee	Employers	Own-account workers	Other	Unemployed	Homemakers	Student	Other	
National	15,239	2,886	337	5,061	10,222	27,778	5,136	5,682	72,341
With disability									
Total	269	151	14	234	257	2,064	65	1,848	4,902
Area									
Urban	8.7%	0.4%	8.0%	1.5%	2.3%	37.1%	2.0%	40.0%	2,655
Rural	3.9%	0.1%	19.6%	4.7%	1.1%	34.7%	0.4%	35.5%	2,247
Sex									
Male	9.5%	0.3%	14.7%	3.0%	1.9%	28.9%	1.4%	40.3%	2,156
Female	4.1%	0.3%	12.2%	2.9%	1.6%	41.6%	1.1%	36.2%	2,746
Age group									
15–17	2.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%	1.0%	33.0%	29.0%	29.0%	100
18–49	13.1%	0.3%	16.6%	4.1%	3.5%	38.3%	1.9%	22.1%	1,635
50+	3.2%	0.3%	12.0%	2.4%	0.8%	34.9%	0.1%	46.4%	3,167
Is. group									
South Tarawa	8.9%	0.4%	7.5%	1.1%	2.0%	36.9%	2.2%	40.9%	2,268
Northern	3.5%	0.2%	16.9%	7.0%	1.4%	39.6%	0.4%	31.0%	927
Central	5.8%	0.0%	20.4%	4.4%	0.2%	27.9%	0.4%	40.9%	452
Southern	3.4%	0.0%	22.0%	2.4%	1.1%	31.7%	0.3%	39.1%	713
Line & Phoenix Is.	6.3%	0.4%	14.0%	3.3%	3.1%	38.4%	0.7%	33.8%	542
Without disability									
Total	14,970	2,735	323	4,827	9,965	25,714	5,071	3,834	67,439
Area									
Urban	27.3%	0.6%	19.1%	3.2%	6.0%	27.7%	7.0%	9.2%	41,899
Rural	20.8%	0.4%	12.8%	2.7%	5.3%	43.8%	8.3%	5.9%	25,540
Sex									
Male	29.0%	0.7%	7.5%	1.6%	6.9%	35.8%	10.5%	7.9%	32,538
Female	15.7%	0.2%	29.5%	5.1%	3.4%	36.3%	2.9%	6.9%	34,901
Age group									
5–17	1.2%	0.0%	4.3%	2.4%	2.8%	20.9%	64.1%	4.2%	4,784
18–49	28.0%	0.4%	15.8%	3.0%	7.0%	35.9%	4.2%	5.7%	49,402
50+	16.9%	0.8%	20.3%	2.8%	1.5%	42.1%	0.1%	15.5%	13,253
Is. group									
South Tarawa	29.0%	0.7%	7.0%	1.3%	6.9%	36.2%	11.0%	7.9%	37,906
Northern	14.4%	0.2%	23.4%	5.0%	4.4%	43.4%	2.6%	6.6%	10,550
Central	17.1%	0.2%	32.5%	5.3%	2.8%	29.6%	3.0%	9.5%	4,267
Southern	16.9%	0.1%	32.4%	5.1%	3.0%	33.2%	2.9%	6.4%	8,800
Line & Phoenix Is.	23.9%	0.5%	22.5%	4.8%	5.3%	30.6%	5.1%	7.3%	5,916

Table A.9: Employment status of heads of households with and without disability

Category	Employee	Employer	Own-account worker	Other economically active	Unemployed	Homemakers	Student	Other non economically active	Total
With disability									
Total	10.6%	0.5%	19.6%	3.0%	1.2%	29.0%	0.0%	36.1%	1,684
Area									
Urban	105	29	7	17	34	293	0	306	791
Rural	51	41	2	136	33	341	0	289	893
Sex									
Male	11.7%	0.3%	20.1%	3.4%	1.6%	25.2%	0.0%	37.8%	1,165
Female	8.1%	1.0%	18.5%	2.1%	0.4%	37.8%	0.0%	32.2%	519
Without Disability									
Total	36.5%	1.0%	25.7%	2.6%	2.8%	23.2%	0.3%	8.0%	18,667
Area									
Urban	46.6%	1.6%	12.1%	1.4%	3.7%	26.0%	0.5%	8.2%	9,860
Rural	25.1%	0.3%	41.1%	4.0%	1.7%	20.1%	0.0%	7.7%	8,807
Sex									
Male	35.2%	1.0%	28.4%	3.0%	2.9%	20.5%	0.2%	8.8%	13,789
Female	40.0%	1.1%	18.2%	1.5%	2.4%	30.8%	0.6%	5.5%	4,878

Table A.10: Female population aged 15+ years, by number of children ever born alive

Age of women	Number of women	Child ever born	Average number of children ever born by women
With disability			
Total	812	1,805	2.2
15–19	74	4	0.1
20–24	103	61	0.6
25–29	98	124	1.3
30–34	104	230	2.2
35–39	113	304	2.7
40–44	141	493	3.5
45–49	179	589	3.3
Without disability			
Total	27,483	54,496	2.0
15–19	3,770	289	0.1
20–24	5,252	3,677	0.7
25–29	4,867	7,625	1.6
30–34	4,512	11,073	2.5
35–39	3,869	12,219	3.2
40–44	2,918	10,753	3.7
45–49	2,295	8,860	3.9

ANNEX B: WG SHORT SET ON FUNCTIONING QUESTIONS

Introductory phrase: The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a HEALTH PROBLEM.

- 1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
- 2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
- 3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
- 4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
- 5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
- 6. Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?**
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all

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Pacific Community

B. P. D5 - 98848 Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Telephone: + 687 26 20 00

Email: spc@spc.int

Website: <https://www.spc.int>

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