



Republic of Turkey  
Ministry of Family and  
Social Policy

**General Directorate of  
Services for Persons with  
Disabilities and the Elderly**

# DISABILITY POLICY IN TURKEY

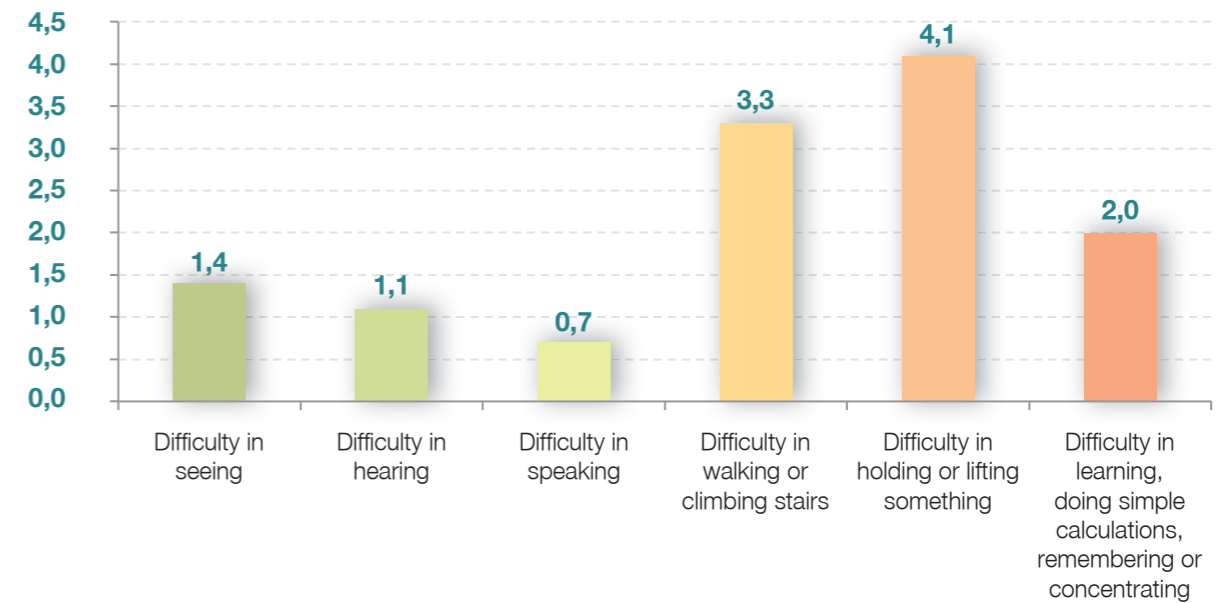
Human rights approach is adopted as the basis of disability policy of the Republic of Turkey. Within this scope, the main objective has been designated to ensure that persons with disabilities lead a dignified life as equal citizens based upon the respect to diversity and social inclusion. While Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was ratified by the Republic of Turkey, constitutes the international basis in terms of disability policy, the national basis of Turkey is the Constitution and the Turkish Disability Act.

The guiding principles of disability policy and practices in Turkey are:



General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (EYHGM) is the focal point of Turkey for promoting the implementation and monitoring of CRPD at national level. EYHGM aims at providing intersectoral coordination at national level and thus, reflecting the rights based approach to national legislation and practices. In this context; a sustainable, efficient and fruitful process of policy making in cooperation with civil society is targeted. By providing public sector and civil society cooperation, EYHGM coordinates harmonization of national policy, laws, public services and resources with CRPD.

Figure: Proportion of Persons with Disabilities in Total Population by Type of Disability



\* Above figures are based on the Turkish Population and Housing Census, 2011. All the categories include population aged 3 and above except for persons having difficulty in seeing and hearing.

EYHGM carries out various activities and projects in the fields of education, employment, participation to social life, accessibility, healthcare and rehabilitation, care, ageing, research and development.

In the field of education; mainstreaming, educational evaluation, early education, individualized education program, lifelong learning, accessible and safe learning environments, diversified educational and supportive materials, training for family members, peers and educators.

In the field of employment; open employment policy, supported employment, vocational training and rehabilitation, reasonable accommodation, workplace modifications, disability awareness of employees and employers, access to information, affirmative action, occupational health and safety.

In the field of participation to social life; participation to cultural, touristic, sports and artistic activities and to political and public life, diversity of services, assistive technology, protection from violence and abuse, measures against disasters and emergency cases.

In the field of accessibility; accessibility and diversification of information and communication technology and service provision processes, accessibility of physical environment, accessible transportation, standards development, technical support.

In the field of healthcare and rehabilitation; health protection, early diagnosis and intervention, accessible information and service provision, healthcare services at home, assistive technology, protection of personal data, disability assessment.

In the field of care services; transition from institutional to community based care, development of care standards, home care services, services to support independent living, auditing care services.

In the field of ageing; active ageing, intergenerational solidarity, health protection, social integration, full participation, protecting social status.

In the field of research and development; rights based approach, inclusion policy, international cooperation, capacity building, strengthening public and civil society dialogue, data collection and statistics, developing indicators to be used in monitoring disability rights, monitoring and reporting, providing guidance on seeking legal remedies and reparation mechanisms.

<b>Domain of EYHGM</b>	Awareness Raising	National Monitoring and Reporting
	Harmonisation of Legislation	Indicator Development & Data Collection
	Pilot Projects	Strengthening Public & Civil Society Dialogue
	Promoting Inclusive Policies	Empowerment of Civil Society

### **Awareness Raising**

- Seminars on Human Rights and Disability
- Awareness raising seminars for institutions to be held on demand
- Publications on disability rights in accessible formats
- Distant training on accessibility for local governments
- M-CARE (Mobile Training Module for Home and Health Caregivers For People with Disabilities and Older People) Project
- Preparation of books, spot films and brochures for raising public awareness
- UNICEF Project on reducing social distances

### **Promotion of Inclusive Policies**

- Harmonisation of legislation
- Turkish Disability Act as a Framework Law
- Work on developing Turkish Sign Language

### **Indicator Development and Data Collection**

- Project on Fighting Against Disability Discrimination in Turkey
- UNDP Project on Supporting the Capacity of Implementing and Monitoring Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Preparation of Accessibility Map and Inventory of Turkey
- Project on Researching the Efficiency of Supportive Special Education Services
- Project on Analysis of Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Public Sector

### **Activities on Empowering Civil Society and Local Governments**

- Capacity Building Seminars for Civil Society
- Support Programme for Older Persons

### **Activities on Strengthening the Dialogue Between Public Sector and Civil Society Organisations**

- IPA Project on Improving Integration of Persons with Disabilities into Society
- Project on Providing Support to Persons with Disabilities

### **Activities on National Monitoring and Reporting**

- Preparation of National Report to CRPD Committee in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- Accessibility Monitoring and Auditing Commissions

### **Pilot Projects**

- Improving Integration of Persons with Disabilities into Society Grant Scheme
- Accessibility Support Projects
- Supported Employment (Join the Workforce, Join the Life Project)
- IPA Project on Improving Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Project on Transferring Social and Cultural Values Through Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity

### **Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly**

- Community Based Care
  - Barrier Free Living Centres
  - Hope Houses
- Institutional Care
  - Disability Care and Rehabilitation Centres
  - Rest Homes



Republic of Turkey  
Ministry of Family and  
Social Policy

**General Directorate of  
Services for Persons with  
Disabilities and the Elderly**

**Ministry of Family and Social Policy**  
General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly

**Address:** Eskişehir Yolu Söğütözü Mah. 2177.Sok. No:10/A  
Çankaya - Ankara / TURKEY  
**Phone:** +90 (312) 705 40 00  
**Fax:** +90 (312) 705 70 50  
**Web page:** [www.aile.gov.tr](http://www.aile.gov.tr)  
**E-mail:** [ehis@gov.tr](mailto:ehis@gov.tr)