



Problem Statement

There is a direct correlation between poverty and disability (World Health and UNICEF) and while poverty is a focus in South Africa and measured regularly, disability and its impact on impoverished families receives limited attention. The additional burden placed on families that might come about as a result of looking after a disabled individual is as yet undefined and unquantified. Understanding the extent and effect of a disabled family member on a family in poverty and their ability to contribute to a thriving family dynamic is critical to building social inclusion.

We plan around disabled individuals instead of families and we measure our programme's impact against these individuals, not realising that it is the family unit that is providing the daily support that cares for these disabled individuals. Additionally, having a disabled family member does not affect families uniformly, therefore solutions to create an inclusive and thriving family dynamic will differ for each family.

Broad Objectives

- Provide a poverty snapshot of a family through a disability lens
- Quantify and qualify additional challenges faced by a family with a disabled family member
- Identify the barriers to overcoming poverty experienced by families with a disabled family member
- Assist in describing the support structure and family dynamic in relation to the person with the disability
- Encourage a shift from charity and pity to social development that ultimately will lead to social inclusion

Aim of Implementation

Use of this tool will allow organisations to effectively understand and address the needs of families with disabilities.

The aim is to:

- Count the number of impoverished families who have disabled family members (# families, # disabled family members)
- Identify dimensions of poverty as they relate to disability, i.e. the key effects of different disabilities on the poverty status of a family
- Explore if having a disabled family member impacts on a family's ability to escape poverty
- Highlight areas for prioritised engagement, which can be used to influence budget support and policy
- Surface additional family issues that arise as a result of having a disabled family member

The definitions have been tested for credibility and validity in an outreach project run by Shonaquip.

Please note: This version of the tool is NOT available online yet – there is no app available for use on a tablet. It has to be done on paper for the moment. We are waiting for the new Greenlight technology app and reporting platform to be completed and made available before we can load this tool for digital use.

List of dimensions and indicators

➤ Income and Employment

1. Contribution to income
2. Identity documents
3. Costs
4. Freedom to work
5. Impact on work life
6. Savings
7. Debt

➤ Health and Environment

8. Access to assistive equipment
9. Caring needs
10. Emotional health of person with disability
11. Mental health of supporters and care-givers
12. Drug and alcohol use related to dealing with stress
13. Access to appropriate health care
14. Nutrition

➤ Housing and Infrastructure

15. Access to home
16. Safety in the home
17. Sanitation and Sewerage
18. Suitable sleeping spaces
19. Transport
20. Security
21. Access to services and spaces

➤ Education and Culture

22. Belief in ability to learn
23. Children and early development needs
24. Access to quality education
25. Getting to and from school
26. Opportunities to gain knowledge and skills
27. Communication within family
28. Entertainment and recreation
29. Cultural traditions and heritage

➤ Organization and Participation

30. Influence on behalf of the disabled
31. Support networks

➤ Self-Awareness and Motivation

32. Motivation of the main carer
33. Skills and competence of the main carer
34. Stigma
35. Discrimination

Examples of indicators in this survey

Indicator	Impact on work life	Area: Income and Employment
<p>Level 3: Family members are able to work without regular interruption because they don't need to leave work to attend to the needs of the family member with a disability.</p>	<p>Level 2: Some family members are disrupted at work to attend to the needs of a family member with a disability, which puts their jobs at risk.</p>	<p>Level 1: Family members often have to take time off work to attend to the needs of a family member with a disability, e.g. go to hospital. This causes job loss and impacts on career and work opportunities.</p>
		

Indicator	Stigma	Area: Self-Awareness and Motivation
<p>Level 3: The family does not experience any form of shame or blame. Having a family member with a disability does not stop them from engaging with their community. They are a proud family.</p>	<p>Level 2: The family does experience some form of shame or blame by having a family member with a disability. They are sometimes left out of community activities and feel excluded.</p>	<p>Level 1: There is strong disapproval against the family. Unkind words and stories are spread and the community avoid interaction. Some family members may even experience harm or abuse. The family feels victimised and traumatised.</p>
		

Indicator	Contribution to income	Area: Income and Employment
<p>Level 3: The family member with a disability contributes towards the family's income by earning money or receiving a social grant.</p>	<p>Level 2: The family member with a disability is not able to earn income but does contribute from their social grant.</p>	<p>Level 1: The family member with a disability is unable/does not contribute any income.</p>
		