Country Profile on Disability
Burkina Faso

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Abbreviations

ADP	African Disability Protocol	
AEPS	Association Evangélique pour la Promotion des Sourds	Evangelical Association for the Promotion of the Deaf
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation	
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CEFISE	Centre d'Éducation et de Formation Intégrée des Sourds et Entendants	Center for the Integrated Education and Training of the Deaf and Hearing
CNAOB	Centre national d'appareillage orthopédique du Burkina	National Orthopaedic Appliance Centre of Burkina
CNDH	Commission Nationale des Droits Humains	National Human Rights Commission
COMUD/Handicap	Conseil national multisectoriel pour la protection et la promotion des droits des personnes handicapées	National Multisectoral Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
DPEIEFG	Direction de la promotion de l'éducation inclusive, de l'éducation des filles et du genre	Directorate for the Promotion of Inclusive Education, Girls' Education and Gender
DRASSN	Direction Régionale de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale	Regional Directorate of Social Action and National Solidarity
ENSP	École Nationale de Santé Publique	National School of Public Health
EU	European Union	
FEBAH	Fédération Burkinabè des Associations pour la Promotion des Personnes Handicapées	Federation of Associations for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
L'APEE	Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Encéphalopathes	Association of Parents and Friends of Children with Encephalopathy
MBDHP	Mouvement Burkinabe des Droits de l'Homme	Burkinabè Human Rights Movement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities	
PNDES	Plan national de développement économique et social	National Economic and Social Development Plan
PNPS	Politique Nationale de Protection Sociale	National Social Protection Policy
PSEF	Plan Sectoriel de l'Éducation et de la Formation	Education and Training Sectoral Plan
ReNOH	Réseau National des Organisations des Personnes Handicapées	National Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
RGPH	Recensement. Général de la Population et de l'Habitation	General Population and Housing Census
ROEHI-BF	Réseau des Organisations Engagées dans le Handicap et l'Inclusion au Burkina Faso	Network of Organizations Engaged in Disability and Inclusion in Burkina Faso
RTB	Radiodiffusion Télévision du Burkina	Radio Television of Burkina
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	

SN-3PH	Stratégie nationale de protection et de promotion des personnes handicapées	National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities
UNABPAM	Union Nationale Des Associations Burkinabé pour la Promotion des Aveugles et Malvoyants	National Union of Burkinabè Associations for the Promotion of the Blind and Partially Sighted
UNADAB	Union Nationale des Associations des Déficients Auditifs du Burkina	National Union of Associations of the Hearing-Impaired of Burkina
UNAFEHB	Union nationale des associations des femmes handicapées du Burkina	National Union of Associations of Women with Disabilities of Burkina
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	
WHO	World Health Organization	
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 982.0	2024

Government expenditure by sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	6.77 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	5.3 %	2023
Social welfare (% of GDP)[3]	0.2 %	2022

Population

Total population	23,548,781	2024
Male (% of total population)	49.8 %	
Female (% of total population)	50.2 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	28.3 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	71.7 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	61.1 years	2023
Male	58.9 years	
Female	63.2 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	13.1 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	44.8	2023

Education

Education system[4]		
Primary education	6 years	
Compulsory education	10 years	
Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	41.4 %	2023
Adult Male	48.4 %	
Adult Female	35.7 %	

[1] Based on the World Bank Database (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 14 January 2026)).
[2] Hereinafter referred to as "GDP."
[3] Based on International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") (2024) *World Social Protection Report*, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 14 January 2026).
[4] Burkina Faso's education system consists of primary school (6 years), lower secondary school (4 years), upper secondary school (3 years) and university (3 years). Children start school at age 6. Based on Education Policy Act (2007, Loi n° 013-2007/AN du 30 juillet 2007 portant loi d'orientation de l'éducation) https://bop.bf/wp-content/uploads/la-loi-013-2007-AN-portant-loi-dorientation-de-l%C3%A9ducation.pdf (Accessed: 9 June 2026).

School enrollment		
Primary (%gross) (total)	77.2 %	2024
Male	76.1 %	
Female	78.3 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	30.0 %	2024
Male	26.8 %	
Female	33.2 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	10.0 %	2024
Male	11.5 %	
Female	8.5 %	

Employment

Unemployment rate (total)	5.1 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	4.8 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	5.6 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Statistics

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

In Burkina Faso, Article 2 of the "Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (2010) (Loi No. 012-2010/AN portant protection et promotion des droits des personnes handicapées)[5] defines a person with a disability as "a person who, whether congenitally or not, has a permanent physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment (incapacités physiques, mentales, intellectuelles ou sensorielles) that limits their capacity to carry out basic personal or social daily activities and their inclusion in society". According to the State Party's Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD") submitted in 2018 by the Government of Burkina Faso (hereinafter referred to as the "State Party's Report"), the fourth census of 2006 (Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation: RGPH) defined a person with a disability as "a person who, whether congenitally or not, has a physical or mental disability" and classified disability into six types: upper-limb disability (handicap membres supérieurs), lower-limb disability (handicap membres inférieurs), mental disability (déficiences mentales), visual disability (aveugle), hearing and speech disability (sourd/muet) and other disability. The fifth

[5] Government of Burkina Faso (2010), *Loi n° 012-2010/AN du 1er avril 2010, portant protection et promotion des droits des personnes handicapées*, https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/11/Burkina-Faso_Law-on-the-protection-and-promotion-of-disabled-persons.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

census of 2019 adopted the classification of the United Nations Washington Group Question Set on disability statistics (six types: seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care and communication)[6].

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

In the fifth census of 2019, data on persons with disabilities were collected using items such as age group, type of functional limitation, sex, area of residence, education level and economic level.

Number of Persons with Disabilities (ages 5 and above)	180,956	1.1 % of the total population[7]	2019
Male	87,209		
Female	93,747		

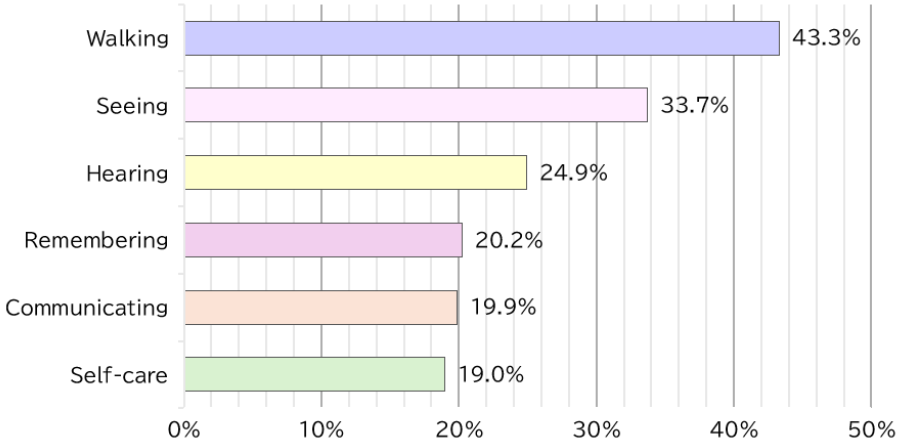


Figure 1 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Type of Functional Limitation (ages 5 and above) (2019)[8]

The highest share is "Walking" at 43.3 %, far exceeding the other items. This is followed by "Seeing" at 33.7 % and "Hearing" at 24.9 %. By contrast, "Remembering" at 20.2 % and "Self-care" at 19.0 % remain relatively low.
Source: Prepared by the study team based on the fifth census (2019)[9]

[6] https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/fileadmin/uploads/wg/Documents/Country_Disability_Reports/WG_Country_Disability_Report-_Burkina_Faso_-_French__WG_09.30.2025_.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[7] Government of Burkina Faso (2019), *Cinquième Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation du Burkina Faso (5e RGPH) Taux de Prévalence du Handicap*, https://burkinafaso.opendataforafrica.org/jidkspf/taux-de-pr%C3%A9valence-du-handicap (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[8] Share of the total population of persons with disabilities.

[9] Government of Burkina Faso (2019), *5e RGPH - Répartition de la Population Résidente Handicapée et Non Handicapée,* https://burkinafaso.opendataforafrica.org/wqdjpbe/r%C3%A9partition-de-la-population-r%C3%A9sidente-handicap%C3%A9e-et-non-handicap%C3%A9e (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

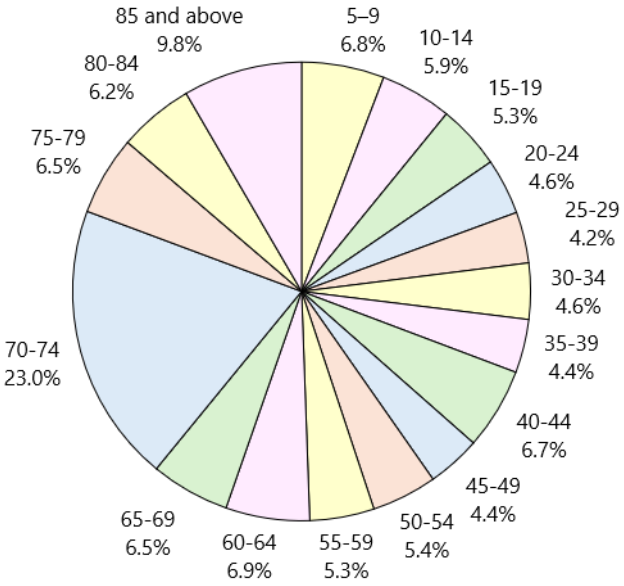


Figure 2 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group (ages 5 and above) (2019)

The highest share is "70–74", at a striking 23.0 %. This is followed by "85 and above" (9.8 %), "60–64 years" (6.9 %), "5–9 years" (6.8 %) and "40–44 years" (6.7 %). By contrast, the young to middle-aged groups remain relatively low, such as "25–29" (4.2 %), "35–39 years" and "45–49" (both 4.4 %), and "20–24" and "30–34" (both 4.6 %).

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the fifth census (2019)[10]

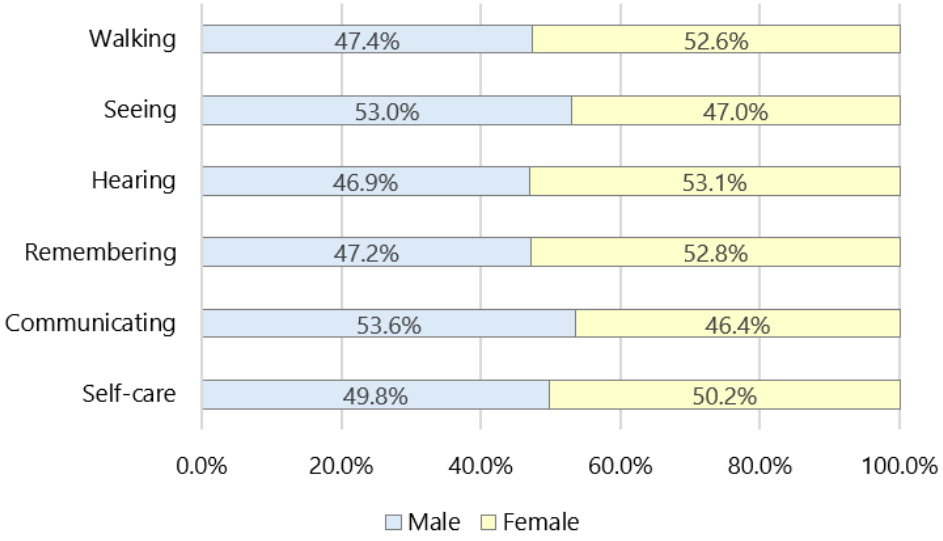


Figure 3 Percentage of Disability by Sex (ages 5 and above) (2019)

For "Seeing" and "Communication", the male share is slightly higher, at 53.0 % and 53.6 % respectively. By contrast, for "Hearing", "Walking" and "Remembering", the female share is slightly higher, at 53.16 %, 52.6 % and 52.8 % respectively. For "Self-care", it is almost equal, at 49.8 % male and 50.2 % female.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the fifth census (2019)[11]

[10] Government of Burkina Faso (2019) *5e RGPH - Taux de Prévalence du Handicap*

[11] Government of Burkina Faso (2019) *5e RGPH - Répartition des Personnes Handicapées*, https://burkinafaso.opendataforafrica.org/wqdjpbe/r%C3%A9partition-de-la-population-r%C3%A9sidente-handicap%C3%A9e-et-non-handicap%C3%A9e (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

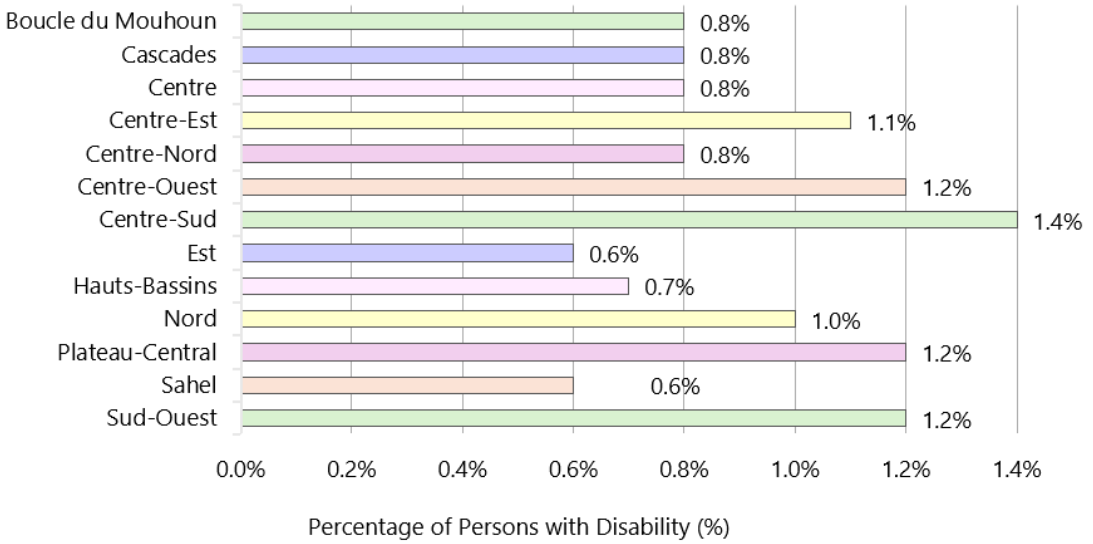


Figure 4 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Area of Residence (ages 5 and above) (2019)

The highest share is the "Centre-Sud" at 1.4 %. This is followed by the "Centre-Ouest", "Plateau-Central" and "Sud-Ouest" regions, all at 1.2 %, and the "Centre-Est" is also relatively high at 1.1 %. By contrast, the "Est" and "Sahel" regions remain low at 0.6 % and the "Hauts-Bassins" at 0.7 %. The "Boucle du Mouhoun", "Cascades", "Centre" and "Centre-Nord" regions are at a similar level, all at 0.8 %.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the fifth census (2019)[12]

[12] Government of Burkina Faso (2019), 5*e RGPH - Taux de Prévalence du Handicap*, https://burkinafaso.opendataforafrica.org/jidkspf/taux-de-pr%C3%A9valence-du-handicap, and Population du Burkina Faso par Région et Selon le Sexe en Milieu d'Année, https://burkinafaso.opendataforafrica.org/iebcqme/population-du-burkina-faso-par-r%C3%A9gion-et-selon-le-sexe-en-milieu-d-ann%C3%A9e (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

Burkina Faso's "Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (the 2010 Act) provides that the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity (Ministère de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale) is the body responsible for issuing the Disability Card (Carte d'invalidité), but there is no detailed provision regarding the roles of other administrative bodies. In practice, the specific tasks and the roles of each ministry are determined by decrees (décrets).

<Central Government>

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 1 Entities responsible for disability issues in Burkina Faso

No.	Name	Overview
1	National Multisectoral Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Conseil national multisectoriel pour la protection et la promotion des droits des personnes handicapées[13])	A national multisectoral council for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, established by the 2012 decree (Décret n°2012-406/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS). It is positioned as the body responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and domestic law (Act 012-2010/AN); its main activities are as follows. ・ Advocacy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities ・ Training for OPDs[14] and other stakeholders ・ Monitoring the implementation status of the Convention and disability-related laws ・ Coordinating all measures for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities
2	Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Persons living with Disabilities and the Fight against Exclusion (Secrétariat d'État chargé des affaires sociales, des personnes vivant avec un handicap et de la lutte contre l'exclusion)	A secretary-of-state-level body based on Article 31 (Provisions on the Responsibilities of Members of Government) of the 2018 decree No. 2018-0272/PRES/PM/SGG-CM, positioned as overseeing disability policy as a whole and coordinating policy implementation. Its responsibilities are as follows[15]. ・ Organising, supervising and controlling the operation of public and private institutions that provide care to persons with disabilities and to socially excluded people. ・ Promoting support and social protection for persons in need, such as older persons, persons with disabilities and marginalized people.

[13] Hereinafter referred to as "COMUD/Handicap."

[14] Organizations of Persons with Disabilities; hereinafter referred to as "OPD."

[15] S. A. Ngoutane Peyou, African Disability Rights Yearbook (2022), Burkina Faso, https://www.adry.up.ac.za/images/adry/volume10_2022/Burkina%20Faso%20country%20Report%202022.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

		・ Providing information and raising awareness among the population on the rights of older persons, persons with disabilities and socially excluded people. ・ Promoting, in cooperation with the relevant ministers, socio-economic activities for older persons, persons with disabilities and other socially vulnerable people.
3	Ministry of Family and Solidarity (Ministère de la Famille et de la Solidarité)	The social policy department of the Government of Burkina Faso, mainly responsible for women's rights and gender policy, family policy, the protection of socially vulnerable people, social solidarity policy, and humanitarian assistance and social protection. As one of the central institutions for disability policy, it is responsible for formulating disability policy, providing social services for persons with disabilities, cooperating with OPDs, social protection and the implementation of international conventions. Its name was changed by the government's ministerial reorganization in January 2026. Previously, it was the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity (Ministère de l'Action humanitaire et de la Solidarité nationale)[16].
4	Directorate for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (La Direction de la protection et de la promotion des personnes handicapées)	Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Family and Solidarity[17], with the following responsibilities. ・ Formulating strategies for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their implementation. ・ Disseminating information on regulatory and legislative measures favourable to persons with disabilities. ・ Promoting cooperation with non-governmental organizations[18], associations and other stakeholders active in the disability field. ・ Monitoring and coordinating the activities of stakeholders in the field of the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities. ・ Providing advice and support to organizations working for persons with disabilities.
5	Directorate for the Promotion of Inclusive Education, Girls' Education and Gender (Direction de la promotion de	Belonging to the Ministry of Basic Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages (Ministère de l'Enseignement de Base, de l'Alphabétisation et de la Promotion des Langues Nationales), it has the following responsibilities under Article 2 of Decree No. 2018-007/MENA/SG/DPEIEG of 10 January 2018. ・ Coordinating various activities to support the

[16] The name was changed by the government's ministerial reorganization in January 2026. https://newscentraltv.com/burkina-faso-reshuffles-cabinet-renames-key-ministries/, https://www.presidencedufaso.bf/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CONSEIL-DES-MINISTRES-N%C2%B0033-DU-16-OCTOBRE-2024.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[17] https://newscentraltv.com/burkina-faso-reshuffles-cabinet-renames-key-ministries/ (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[18] Hereinafter referred to as "NGO."

	l'éducation inclusive, de l'éducation des filles et du genre: DPEIEFG)[19]	promotion of inclusive education, girls' education and gender equality. ・ Formulating strategies to promote the access, enrollment and continued learning of girls, children with disabilities, socially marginalized children and children in vulnerable situations in educational institutions. ・ Building a monitoring system for inclusive education, girls' education and gender equality. ・ Identifying and promoting any activity likely to contribute to the analysis of issues concerning the schooling of girls, children with disabilities, socially marginalized children and children in vulnerable situations. ・ Collecting and distributing documents on girls' education and gender, the education of children with disabilities, and marginalization and vulnerability.
6	National Human Rights Commission (Commission Nationale des Droits Humains[20])	An independent public authority (autorité publique indépendante) responsible for the promotion and protection of rights. Established in 2001. As a human rights institution, it is involved in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through the monitoring of disability discrimination and the monitoring of the implementation of international human rights conventions.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the State Party's Report (2020)

Status of Coordination Mechanism

Name of the mechanism	COMUD/Handicap
Commission Members	Composed of 13 government ministries and 7 national bodies, comprising institutions and ministries including representatives of regional governors, regional directors responsible for social action, local authorities, customary and religious authorities, OPDs, and technical and financial partners[21].
Role and status of operation	It has the role of overseeing the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and is the body responsible for the various activities listed in Table 1 above. It is required to hold a regular meeting once a year, and individual committees are established to address specific issues[22]. Its implementation status could not be confirmed in

[19] https://gouvernement.gov.bf/conseil-des-ministres/conseil-des-ministres-du-jeudi-5-mars-2026-2 (Accessed: 20 August 2026)

[20] Hereinafter referred to as "CNDH."

[21] United Nations "Burkina Faso – IMM situation", https://www.ohchr.org/es/treaty-bodies/crpd/burkina-faso-imm-situation (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[22] Government of Burkina Faso (2012) *DECRET N° 2012-406/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS du 15 mai 2012 portant création,*

	the online literature review and questionnaire survey of this study. The parallel report by the CRPD civil society coalition[23] points out that many of the committee's members (50 of 79) are from administrative bodies, and that the posts of chair and vice-chair are automatically held by the ministers responsible for social action, human rights and health, raising problems of administrative independence and financial autonomy. The CRPD Concluding Observations (2024) point out that the committee's independence, budget and functioning are insufficient, and recommend that it comply with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the Paris Principles)[24].

<Local Government>

Burkina Faso's administrative divisions are organized into 17 regions, 47 provinces and 350 departments[25], and local authorities include regional councils at the regional level and communes at the department level. Under the decentralization policy, each ministry establishes a Regional Directorate in each region in order to implement central-ministry policy at the regional level.

Entities responsible for disability issues

Name	Overview
Regional Directorate of Social Action and National Solidarity (Direction Régionale de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale: DRASSN)	A regional field office of the Ministry of Family and Solidarity, responsible at the regional administrative level for social welfare, social protection and support for persons with disabilities[26]. In support for persons with disabilities, it carries out activities such as social welfare services, assistive device and rehabilitation support, and social reintegration support for persons with disabilities in cooperation with NGOs, OPDs, international organizations and others[27].

attributions, composition et fonctionnement du Conseil national Multisectoriel pour la protection et la promotion des Droits des personnes handicapées au Burkina Faso. JO N° 22 DU 31 MAI 2012

[23] Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*

[24] United Nations CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2024) Concluding observations on the initial report of Burkina Faso, September 2024.

[25] Based on the bill adopted by the Transitional Legislative Assembly on 2 July 2025. https://burkina24.com/2025/07/03/burkina-faso-le-nouveau-decoupage-repond-a-un-critere-fondamental-celui-de-la-defense-strategique-du-territoire/ (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[26] Government of Burkina Faso (2011) *Décret N° 2010-834/PRES/PM/MASSN du 31 décembre 2010 portant adoption du programme national pour la protection et la promotion de la famille 2011-2015. JO N° 11 DU 17 MARS 2011*, https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/90587/BFA-90587.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[27] Government of Burkina Faso (2009) *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Third and fourth periodic reports of States Parties due in 2008 Burkina Faso*, https://clr.africanchildforum.org/pdf/burkina-faso-third-and-fourth-uncrc-sr_en.pdf, and Handicap International (2016) *Federal Information, Burkina Faso Country Card*, https://www.handicap-international.de/sn_uploads/country/2016-08_cc_burkinafaso_en_ok.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

Regional Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender (Direction Régionale de la Promotion de la Femme et du Genre)	A regional field office of the Ministry of Family and Solidarity, responsible for implementing the central government's gender policy, women's social-participation policy and support for socially vulnerable people at the regional level[28]. It supports the social participation and economic activities of women with disabilities[29].
Regional Council (Conseil régional)	As a regional administrative body, the regional council is responsible for regional development, social services and community support[30]. Under the decentralization system, it plays a role in promoting the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and social welfare policy at the regional level[31].
Commune	The most basic unit in local administration, implementing public services and social policy at a level close to local residents. In disability administration as well, it plays a role in achieving the social inclusion of persons with disabilities through the provision of social services and local development plans[32].

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

The Constitution of Burkina Faso (enacted in 1991, amended in 2015) guarantees equality before the law and fundamental freedoms for all citizens in Articles 1, 2, 4 and others. According to the CRPD State Party's Report (2020), the Constitution "prohibits discrimination based on race, origin, belief and the like" and is interpreted as conforming to a comprehensive anti-discrimination framework that includes disability. Article 18 (social and cultural rights) also explicitly states "support for persons with disabilities" as part of social and cultural rights[33]. The disability-related laws are as follows, with the 2010 "Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" being the basic disability law.

Title	Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Loi No. 012-2010/AN portant protection et promotion des droits des personnes handicapées)[34]

[28] https://www.action-sociale.gov.bf/ministere/structures (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[29] Handicap International (2016) *Federal Information, Burkina Faso Country Card*, https://www.handicap-international.de/sn_uploads/country/2016-08_cc_burkinafaso_en_ok.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[30] Institut National Démocratique pour les Affaires Internationales (2006) *Cahier de la Conseillère de la Collectivité Territoriale*, https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/2071_bf_cahier_030106_fr.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[31] Government of Burkina Faso (2004) *Loi N° 055-2004/AN Portant Code Général des Collectivités Territoriales au Burkina Faso*, https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf92244.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[32] *Ibid.*
[33] https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Burkina_Faso_2015 (Accessed: 27 January 2026)
[34] https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/migrated/15/2019/11/Burkina-Faso_Law-on-the-protection-and-promotion-of-disabled-persons.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

Year of enactment	2010
Overview	A basic law to protect the dignity of persons with disabilities and to guarantee the protection, promotion and assurance of their human rights and their equal enjoyment of fundamental freedoms. It comprises 6 chapters and 58 articles. It establishes a disability card system (Article 3) and enables holders to receive support and preferential measures across a wide range of fields, including health, education, vocational training, employment, transport, housing, culture, political participation and social welfare. It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability (such as refusal to hire or dismissal) and provides penalties for violations. It also provides penalties for breaches of the law and provides for the establishment of cross-sectoral coordination, monitoring and evaluation bodies for implementation, forming a framework that institutionally advances the guarantee of rights. From Article 4 onward, it sets out preferential measures for disability card holders by field (health, education, transport, infrastructure, vocational training, employment, sports/leisure/the arts, participation in political and public activities, social activities).

The decrees detailing, by field, the implementation of the "Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" are as follows.

Title	Decree on Social Measures for Persons with Disabilities in Health and Education (Décret No. 2012-828/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS/MENA/MESS portant adoption de mesures sociales en faveur des personnes handicapées en matière de santé et d'éducation)
Year of enactment	2012
Overview	One of the implementing rules formulated under Article 4 of the 2010 Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It sets out the following preferential measures that disability card holders can receive in health and education. ・ Health: free basic medical services where recognized as indigent, reduction of the cost of medical supplies and assistive devices, and reduction or exemption of the cost of medical supplies and equipment for persons with disabilities not recognized as indigent[35]. ・ Education: free or reduced tuition and registration fees, provision of teaching materials and mobility-support items, priority admission opportunities, deferral of age limits, permission to repeat within a learning cycle, extension of time for examinations and assessments, and the installation of accessibility equipment in public education facilities[36].

[35] State Party's Report (2020)

[36] Government of Burkina Faso (2016), *Quatrième, Cinquième et Sixième Rapports Périodiques Cumulés du Burkina Faso Sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Charte Africaine des Droits et du Bien-être de l'Enfant pour la Période de 2011 à 2015*,

Title	Decree on Social Measures for Persons with Disabilities in Employment, Vocational Training and Transport (Décret No. 2012-829/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MJFPE/MTPEN portant adoption de mesures sociales en faveur des personnes handicapées en matière d'emploi, de formation professionnelle et des transports)[37]
Year of enactment	2012
Overview	Under Article 4 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it sets out the following preferential measures in the fields of employment, vocational training and transport for persons with disabilities. ・ Vocational training: free vocational training for persons with disabilities recognized as indigent, reduction measures (25% or 50% discount) for persons with disabilities not recognized as indigent, and priority admission to vocational training centers and consideration regarding age and grade progression. ・ Employment: preferential measures in civil service recruitment examinations and recruitment by the State and local authorities, and the setting of an employment quota for persons with disabilities (10% of the total). ・ Transport: full exemption from public transport fares for persons with disabilities recognized as indigent, partial discounts (25% or 50%) for persons with disabilities not recognized as indigent, and a 50% subsidy for the purchase of mobility-support devices.

Title	Decree Fixing the Conditions of Employment and Vocational Training of Persons with Disabilities (Décret No. 2009-530/PRES/PM/MTSS/MASSN/MS portant fixation des conditions d'emploi et de formation professionnelle des personnes handicapées)
Year of enactment	2009
Overview	Under Article 40 of the Labor Code (Code du travail), it sets out the following on the access of persons with disabilities to employment and vocational training[38]. ・ It prohibits employment discrimination against persons with disabilities and makes mandatory the securing of an employment quota (10% in the civil service and public institutions, and 5% or more in enterprises with 50 or more employees).

https://www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2022-09/Burkina%20Faso%202nd%20Periodic%20report%20FR.pdf (Accessed: 27 January 2026)

[37] Government of Burkina Faso (2012), *DÉCRET N°2012-829/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MJFPE/MTPEN du 22 octobre 2012 portant adoption de mesures sociales en faveur des personnes handicapées en matière de formation professionnelle, d'emploi et des transports. JO N° 49 DU 06 DÉCEMBRE 2012*,
https://academiedepolice.bf/index.php/telechargement/category/47-national?download=97 (Accessed: 2 February 2026)

[38] State Party's Report (2020)

	• It guarantees the eligibility of persons with disabilities to participate in vocational training institutions, the provision of necessary accommodation (reasonable accommodation) during training, and the relaxation of conditions for participation in training.

Title	Labour Code (Loi No. 028-2008/AN portant Code du Travail)[39]
Year of enactment	2008
Overview	A comprehensive labor code aimed at protecting workers' rights, ensuring fair working conditions and regulating labor-management relations. Article 4 prohibits discrimination in employment and work based on all attributes, including disability. Article 40 provides that workers with disabilities have the right to appropriate accommodation in the workplace.

Title	Education Policy Act (Loi No. 013-2007/AN portant loi d'orientation de l'éducation)[40]
Year of enactment	2007
Overview	Sets out the basic guidelines for the entire education system. As a basic principle, it guarantees free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 16 and the provision of educational opportunity without discrimination, and explicitly states that children with disabilities are included.

Title	Framework law on the prevention and management of risks, humanitarian crises and disasters (Loi No. 012-2014/AN portant loi d'orientation relative à la prévention et à la gestion des risques, des crises humanitaires et des catastrophes)[41]
Year of enactment	2014
Overview	Comprehensively provides for the prevention, preparedness, response, relief and recovery of natural disasters, humanitarian crises and other risks. It prohibits discrimination based on all attributes in disaster prevention and management, and, together with the Disability Rights Act (2010), is interpreted to mean that vulnerable people such as persons with disabilities, children and women should be given priority[42].

[39] https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2008/fr/150619 (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[40] Government of Burkina Faso (2007), *Loi No. 013-2007/AN Portant loi d'Orientation de l'Éducation*, https://bop.bf/wp-content/uploads/la-loi-013-2007-AN-portant-loi-dorientation-de-l%C3%A9ducation.pdf (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[41] Government of Burkina Faso (2014) *Décret N° 2014-466/PRES du 02 juin 2014 promulguant la loi n° 012-2014/AN du 22 avril 2014 portant loi d'orientation relative à la prévention et à la gestion des risques, des crises humanitaires et des catastrophes. JO N°35 DU 28 Août 2014*, https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bkf139545.pdf (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[42] Government of Burkina Faso (2020), *State Party's Report* (2020)

Title	Act on the universal health insurance scheme covering the entire population (Loi No. 060-2015/CNT portant régime d'assurance maladie universelle)[43]
Year of enactment	2015
Overview	Establishes a health insurance scheme covering the entire population. It provides that everyone is covered for enrollment and services without discrimination based on "race, nationality, sex, origin, medical history" and the like[44].

Title	Penal Code (Code Pénal Loi No. 025-2018/AN portant Code Pénal)[45]
Year of enactment	2018
Overview	Article 322(2) defines as "discrimination" any distinction, restriction or preference based on race, ethnicity, sex, religion and the like, but disability is not explicitly stated. In reports to the UN and in human rights commission materials, the penal code, the code of criminal procedure and other parts of the legal system are said to include a "prohibition of discrimination applying equally to all", and in practice disability is treated as something that should be included in this "non-discrimination"; however, the CNDH and others recommend that disability be explicitly stated[46].

Disability policies

Title	National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (Stratégie nationale de protection et de promotion des personnes handicapées; hereinafter referred to as "SN-3PH")
Year implemented	2012-2021 and 2021-2025
Overview	A national strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities established under the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to achieve social inclusion. It was prepared with the participation of relevant ministries, OPDs, international organizations and civil society, centered on COMUD/Handicap. The main pillars (priority areas) of the 2021–2025 strategy are as follows[47]. 1. Access to social services and protection: developing policies to

[43] Government of Burkina Faso (2016) *Loi N° 060-2015/CNT portant régime d'assurance maladie universelle au Burkina Faso. JO N°07 du 18 février 2016*, https://extranet.who.int/cpcd/sites/default/files/public_file_repository/BFA_Burkina-Faso_Loi-n-060-2015-CNT-portant-regime-d-assurance-maladie-universelle_2015.pdf (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[44] State Party's Report (2020)
[45] Government of Burkina Faso (2018) *Loi N°025-2018/AN portant Code Pénal*, https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2018/fr/122706 (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[46] Replies to the List of Issues (LOI) (2024)
[47] https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/burkina-faso-advances-development-action-plan-implementation-national-disability-strategy/ (Accessed: 2 February 2026)

	facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to basic services such as health, education and social protection. 2. Economic empowerment: planning measures to support economic independence, such as promoting the employment of persons with disabilities, supporting entrepreneurship and providing income-generating opportunities. 3. Information, awareness and capacity building: strengthening awareness raising and information provision for persons with disabilities themselves, their families and communities, and government officials, and promoting social understanding of disability. 4. Participation and inclusive governance: establishing mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities and OPDs participate centrally at each stage of strategy formulation, implementation and monitoring. 5. Multisectoral cooperation and policy coordination: building collaboration among ministries and agencies and ensuring policy coherence and sustainable implementation. The CRPD Concluding Observations (2024) point out that the 2012–2021 strategy was not implemented because a practical action plan and sufficient resources were not secured, and that the three-year implementation action plan (2021–2023) of the 2021–2025 strategy was only implemented to a limited extent.

Title	National Economic and Social Development Plan (Plan national de développement économique et social: PNDES)[48]
Year implemented	PNDES I: 2016–2020; PNDES II: 2021–2025
Overview	The government's national development strategy, aiming to achieve sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and social inclusion through economic, social and institutional reform. It is formulated in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs") and the national long-term development strategy. PNDES II refers to the social and economic participation of persons with disabilities, inclusive education, the guarantee of decent work, and ensuring the accessibility of the transport system and public spaces.

Title	Education and Training Sectoral Plan (Plan Sectoriel de l'Éducation et de la Formation: PSEF 2017-2030)[49]
Year implemented	2017-2030
Overview	It calls for the phased implementation of inclusive education and is

[48] Government of Burkina Faso (2021), *Plan National de Développement Économique et Social 2021-2025 (PNDES-II)*
[49] Government of Burkina Faso (2017) *Plan Sectoriel de l'Éducation et de la Formation: PSEF 2017-2030,* https://www.globalpartnership.org/fr/node/document/download?file=document/file/2020-11-Burkina-Faso-plan-sectoriel-education-2017-2030.pdf (Accessed: 2 February 2026)

	advancing the response to the special-support and social/medical needs of children with disabilities, the making of existing facilities accessible, and the introduction of teaching materials and assistive devices[50].

Title	National Social Protection Policy (Politique Nationale de Protection Sociale: PNPS)
Year implemented	2013-2022; 2024-2028
Overview	A comprehensive policy framework to strengthen social protection and support all people facing poverty, risk and vulnerability. Persons with disabilities are explicitly addressed as part of "vulnerable groups", and disability is included in the categories to be protected as an attribute representing a state with a high probability of life risks and social exclusion[51].

Title	Labor, Employment and Social Protection Sector Policy (Politique sectorielle Travail, Emploi et Protection sociale 2018-2027)[52]
Year implemented	2018-2027
Overview	A sectoral policy for the implementation of the national social protection policy (PNPS), a comprehensive policy framework to strengthen social protection and support all people facing poverty, risk and vulnerability. It explicitly states persons with disabilities as part of vulnerable groups and lists employment (promotion of employment and vocational training for persons with disabilities), social protection (social assistance and social services) and social inclusion (promotion of social participation) as policy areas[53].

2-3. Measures on Disability

1) Healthcare

Article 7 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2010) provides that persons with disabilities recognized as indigent (holders of a disability card) receive free consultations, examinations, medicines and hospitalization at public health facilities and can obtain, free of charge, assistive devices suited to their disability, such as wheelchairs and white canes. Persons with disabilities not recognized as indigent also receive discounts on medical costs and assistive devices according to the degree of their disability. With respect to rehabilitation, there are 43 rehabilitation centers, including the

[50] https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso/~inclusion (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[51] https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowCountryProfile.action?iso=BF&lang=PT (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[52] Government of Burkina Faso (2017) *Politique sectorielle Travail, Emploi et Protection sociale 2018-2027*, https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/Media.action?id=18251 (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[53] https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowCountryProfile.action?iso=BF&lang=PT (Accessed: 2 February 2026)

national benchmark center, the National Orthopaedic Appliance Centre of Burkina (Centre national d'appareillage orthopédique du Burkina: CNAOB), most of which provide physiotherapy, assistive devices or both[54]. Physiotherapists and prosthetists/orthotists used to be trained abroad, but the establishment of a physiotherapy education program at the National School of Public Health (École Nationale de Santé Publique: ENSP) has been advanced since the early 2020s with support from the Belgian government and others[55], and in October 2025 the country's first 21 physiotherapists completed the training course and were assigned to clinical settings[56].

With respect to Community-based Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as "CBR"), the formulation of SN-3PH (2012−2021) drew on the guidelines of the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WHO") and others, and as of 2018 it was reported that CBR pilot projects had been implemented in 5 of the country's 13 regions at the time in cooperation with NGOs[57]. According to the government's replies to the list of issues from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the "Replies to the LOI"), a CBR plan including activities such as awareness raising, sports and leisure, and monitoring and referral was formulated[58], but no further detail could be obtained in this study.

In its Concluding Observations adopted in 2024, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that, because the disability card is difficult to obtain, persons with disabilities are unable to use medical services free of charge or at low cost, about the lack of training of medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities and their prejudice and lack of awareness, and delays in training for home care and early detection. It recommended simplifying the conditions for obtaining the disability card, providing training for medical personnel on the rights of and support skills for persons with disabilities, and implementing home-care training as planned[59].

2) Education

The Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2010) provides the following regarding education[60].

- Inclusive education must be mainstreamed at all levels of education.

[54] State Party's Report (2020)
[55] Implemented in cooperation with a support programme of the government (Ministry of Health) and the Belgian government-affiliated body APEFE (Programme de Renforcement des Capacités en Médecine Physique et Réadaptation), with the aim of training rehabilitation and physiotherapy professionals.
[56] https://www.africa-press.net/burkina-faso/photo/kinesitherapeutes-formes-localement-au-burkina-faso (Accessed: 2 February 2026)
[57] State Party's Report (2020)
[58] Replies to the LOI (2024)
[59] Concluding Observations (2024)
[60] State Party's Report (2020)

- Priority must be given to enrolling children with disabilities in the schools closest to their homes.
- Students with disabilities must be provided with teaching aids (aides spécialisées) and methods adapted to their educational needs.
- All schools shall be physically accessible and equipped with adequate facilities for students with disabilities.
- Students with disabilities are to receive scholarships.
- During examinations, persons with disabilities are to be provided with extra time or special arrangements, or both, depending on the nature of the disability.

Burkina Faso takes inclusive education as the basis, but several types of schools exist[61]. At Specialized Centers under the supervision of the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action (MFSNFAH), rehabilitation aimed at re-adaptation and reintegration into the school system and society is carried out for attending children and adults with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities or learning disabilities, or persons with difficulties in personal adaptation or social integration.

Special schools provide segregated education for children with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, hearing disabilities and visual disabilities, using teaching methods and materials suited to the characteristics of each disability. Staff receive specialized training suited to each disability type. Specific examples include the School for Blind Youth (École des Jeunes Aveugles) in Gounghin, Ouagadougou, and the Special School for Deaf Children (École spécialisée des enfants sourds) in Garango.

The Education and Training Sector Strategy (2017–2030), which is advancing the phased implementation of inclusive education, is building a mechanism for socio-educational care (prise en charge socio-éducative) in ordinary school, higher education and vocational training settings, and, through teaching materials, equipment and teacher training, building a system that embraces children and persons with disabilities within the education system as a whole rather than as a special category. To that end, the following concrete measures are set out[62].

- Renovation of infrastructure and improved access: installation of equipment to ensure accessibility in school facilities (ramps to buildings, wheelchair-accessible toilets (special toilets), etc.).
- Development of teaching materials and Information and Communication Technology (hereinafter referred to as "ICT"): support using special teaching materials for children with disabilities (large-print materials, braille materials, audio materials).

[61] https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso/~inclusion#School%20organization (Accessed: 30 March 2026)
[62] https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/burkina-faso/~inclusion (Accessed: 2 February 2026)

- Capacity building of teachers and support staff: teacher training to implement inclusive education (provided through teacher training colleges and complementary support by NGOs).
- Data development and monitoring indicators: setting indicators to grasp the situation of inclusive education in figures (the enrollment rate of girls with disabilities in rural and urban areas, the rate of acceptance and support of children with disabilities, the number of teachers trained, the number of awareness activities for parents and guardians, the number of accessibility improvements within schools (ramps, teaching-material support, etc.), the number of support services provided for children with disabilities, etc.).

With respect to the National Strategy for the Development of Inclusive Education (2018–2022) adopted in 2018, according to the Replies to the LOI (2024), although full implementation was not achieved owing to institutional difficulties, some planned activities were implemented by development partners. In 2019, the "National Strategy for Education in Emergencies 2019–2024" was adopted to ensure the right to education in situations of insecurity and humanitarian crisis, and efforts aiming at the improvement of access to education for boys and girls in areas with serious security challenges and the provision of safe and protected learning environments were made. Specifically, schools were built and developed in such areas, subsidies were allocated for displaced and vulnerable children, and awareness campaigns were conducted to enroll out-of-school and unenrolled children. As a result, as of 2023, 277,521 internally displaced students, including 8,990 with disabilities, were enrolled or re-enrolled[63].

The number of children with disabilities enrolled in regular schools as of December 2022 is shown in the table below.

Table 2 Number of children with disabilities enrolled in regular schools (December 2022)

	Boys	Girls	Total
Pre-school	1,089	661	1,750
Primary school	31,385	21,427	52,812
Lower secondary school	6,100	7,071	13,171
Total	38,574	29,159	67,733

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the Replies to the LOI (2024)[64]

[63] *Ibid.*
[64] *Ibid.*

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the national policy on inclusive education does not cover all persons with disabilities and that segregated education continues, about the insufficient implementation of the national strategy, the lack of standards and guidelines for schools implementing inclusive education, and the plan to make families bear the cost of support staff. It recommended concrete measures to achieve high-quality inclusive education, such as reviewing the law and national strategy, formulating standards for inclusive schools, and ensuring the physical and institutional accessibility of education facilities[65].

3) Gender

Burkina Faso acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1987. Based on the National Gender Policy (Politique nationale genre) (2009), the following gender-related laws and policies are in place[66].

- Act on the Prevention, Suppression and Compensation of Violence against Women and Girls and Support for Victims (Loi No. 061-2015/CNT portant prévention, répression et réparation des violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles et prise en charge des victimes)
- National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Girls (Stratégie nationale de la protection et de la promotion des droits de la jeune fille 2017-2020)
- National Strategy for Accelerating Girls' Education (Stratégie nationale d'accélération de l'éducation des filles: SNAEF 2015-2021)
- Formulation of an integrated programme for women's empowerment through the Directorate-General for Women's Economic Empowerment (Direction générale de l'autonomisation économique de la femme)[67]
- Interest-free loans for women with disabilities
- Participation of the OPD “National Union of Associations of Women with Disabilities of Burkina (Union nationale des associations des femmes handicapées du Burkina; hereinafter referred to as “UNAFEHB”)” in COMUD/Handicap

The National Gender Strategy (2020–2024) (Stratégie nationale genre 2020-2024) is the medium-term gender policy strategy. It positions women with disabilities as “particularly vulnerable women (groupes vulnérables)”, and lists as priority areas taking into account the special needs of women with disabilities in development policy, improving access to social

[65] Concluding Observations (2024)
[66] State Party's Report (2020)
[67] The unit of the Ministry of Family and Solidarity responsible for women's economic autonomy.

services, combating violence, economic empowerment, and promoting participation in decision-making[68]. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that consideration of the multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities is insufficient in policy, about the lack of participation in decision-making, and about the lack of data. It recommended reviewing policies from an intersectional perspective, ensuring the participation of persons concerned in decision-making, and promoting equality by strengthening data collection[69].

4) Vocational Training and Employment

The Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2010) and the Labor Code (2008) prohibit discrimination based on all attributes, including disability. The Decree on Social Measures for Persons with Disabilities in Employment, Vocational training and Transport (2012) introduces a 10% quota for persons with disabilities in civil service recruitment[70]. Private enterprises with 50 or more employees are required to allocate 5% or more of their workforce to persons with disabilities[71]. As employment support for persons with disabilities, four vocational training centers in the country target persons with disabilities, and the following funds, aimed at entrepreneurship support and the like, also include persons with disabilities among their beneficiaries[72].

- Informal Sector Support Fund (Fonds d'appui au secteur informel)
- Employment Promotion Support Fund (Fonds d'appui à la promotion de l'emploi)
- Youth Initiatives Support Fund (Fonds d'appui aux initiatives des jeunes)
- Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Support Fund (Fonds d'appui à la formation professionnelle et à l'apprentissage)
- Women's Income-Generating Activities Support Fund (Fonds d'appui aux activités rémunératrices des femmes)
- National Solidarity Fund (Fonds national de solidarité national)

According to the 2020 evaluation report of the first National Economic and Social Development Plan, 5,883 persons with disabilities received financial support of 1,030.60 million CFAF for income-generating activities, and 100 young people received vocational training[73]. In addition, sheltered workshops where persons with disabilities work are operated at the National Center for Persons with Motor Disabilities (Centre national des personnes

[68] Government of Burkina Faso (2020), Stratégie Nationale Genre 2020-2024
[69] Concluding Observations (2024)
[70] Between 2017 and 2023, 275 persons with disabilities were recruited into the civil service. Replies to the LOI (2024)
[71] Replies to the LOI (2024)
[72] *Ibid.*
[73] *Ibid.*

handicapées moteur), the Association Manegré Nooma for the Protection of Orphans (Association Manegré Nooma pour la protection des orphelins), and two other vocational training centers[74]. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the continued employment of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops fosters segregation from open employment, about the lack of awareness of remedies for employment discrimination, the low effectiveness of the quota system, the lack of participation of persons with disabilities in employment measures, and the lack of vocational training and market-oriented skills. It recommended raising awareness of the prohibition of discrimination and developing remedial systems, the transition from sheltered employment to inclusive open employment, the effective operation of the quota system, ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making, and expanding employment opportunities through strengthened vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship support[75].

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

As noted above, persons with disabilities holding a disability card can receive preferential measures in healthcare, education, employment, vocational training and transport. With respect to the actual operation of the disability card, it is pointed out that the cost of obtaining the medical certificate required for its approval is high, that administrative procedures are slow, and that awareness of the system is lacking, and the proportion of persons with disabilities holding a card is said to be low, at about 4.91%[76]. Only 11,104 cards were issued between 2018 and 2022[77]. It is also noted that cardholders are in fact unable to receive preferential measures[78]. The Concluding Observations (2024) note that the assessment criteria for issuing the disability card do not conform to the human rights model of disability established by the CRPD[79].

There is no special social security scheme for persons with disabilities; private-sector workers can prepare for pensions and occupational accidents (health insurance is not included) by paying contributions to the National Social Security Fund (Caisse nationale de sécurité sociale), and civil servants to the Autonomous Pension Fund for Civil Servants (Caisse

[74] In the 2022/23 school year, an estimated 16 learners with disabilities were enrolled in vocational training schools and technical training schools. Replies to the LOI (2024)
[75] Concluding Observations (2024)
[76] https://burkina24.com/2021/02/11/carte-dinvalidite-au-burkina-faso-le-sesame-de-la-desillusion/; https://cndhburkina.bf/carte-dinvalidite-et-inclusion-socio-professionnelle-la-cndh-mene-la-reflexion-avec-les-acteurs-pour-une-effectivite-des-droits-des-personnes-handicapees/ (Accessed: 4 February 2026)
[77] Government of Burkina Faso (2023), Voluntary National Review 2023: Burkina Faso Report, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), United Nations
[78] *Ibid.*
[79] Concluding Observations (2024)

autonome de retraite des fonctionnaires). A medium-term strategy formulated in 2009 aimed to cover 90% of the population by 2020 under the 2006 social security law[80], but the enrollment rate as of 2019 was very limited, at about 3%[81]. According to a World Bank survey conducted from June to July 2020[82], the health insurance enrollment rate was 6.6%.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the holders of disability cards required to use social services are limited, that barriers exist in the acquisition of procedures and certification, and that the national social security system does not sufficiently cover the additional costs associated with disability. It recommended simplifying the procedures for obtaining the disability card and improving access (including easing certification criteria and the burden of proof), and, in the social security system, taking into account disability-specific needs and additional costs and ensuring substantive access to basic services, including water and housing[83].

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

Articles 16 and 18 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provide for appropriate measures for persons with disabilities to be able to use all means of transport, such as roads, railways, air and buses, and development to facilitate their access. Articles 21 to 25 of the law make the installation of handrails and ramps mandatory for buildings open to the public (including private ones) and require that reception desks and other facilities be accessible for persons with disabilities. Violations are subject to a fine of 50,000 to 100,000 West African CFA francs[84].

Article 34 of the Act on the Code of Urban Planning and Construction (Loi No. 017-2006/AN du 18 mai 2006 portant Code de l'Urbanisme et de la Construction au Burkina Faso) provides that residential collective buildings, workplaces, public buildings, educational facilities and health and medical facilities should be designed so as to facilitate access for persons with disabilities[85].

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that, owing to the insufficient scope and implementation of accessibility legislation, barriers remain in access to buildings, transport, water and sanitation, and public services among others, particularly in rural areas, about the lack of budget for implementation plans, and about the lack of awareness raising

[80] https://www.issa.int/gp/161992 (Accessed: 4 February 2026)
[81] https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/reports/country_report_2024_BFA.pdf (Accessed: 4 February 2026)
[82] "The Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso: Results from a High Frequency Phone Survey of Households," Round 1 (August 2020). https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/492101598297943489/pdf/The-Socio-Economic-Impacts-of-COVID-19-in-Burkina-Faso-Results-from-a-High-Frequency-Phone-Survey-of-Households.pdf
[83] Concluding Observations (2024)
[84] State Party's Report (2020)
[85] *Ibid.*

and training for professionals in the construction and design fields. It recommended improving comprehensive accessibility through conducting surveys to grasp the current state of accessibility, strict enforcement and monitoring of relevant laws, and strengthening training and awareness-raising for professionals in the construction field[86].

7) Information Accessibility

Article 39 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides that all persons with disabilities have the right to receive public communication services online, in print and audiovisually, and requires the development of various media (websites, print materials, audiovisual services, etc.) so that information can be obtained despite functional impairments. The provisions on the accessibility of the electoral system also provide that electoral procedures, equipment and materials shall be provided in a form suited to persons with disabilities.

The General Regulations for Electronic Communication Networks and Services (2008, Loi No. 061-2008/AN portant réglementation générale des réseaux et services de communication électronique au Burkina Faso) takes the universal service of information (reaching everyone) as the basis and requires measures for people who have difficulty accessing information, such as persons with disabilities[87].

The Replies to the LOI (2024) report that the state radio and television station, as measures to respond to hearing or visual disabilities, has trained four sign language interpreters to convey, in sign language, the news, other programmes and coverage of major events of Radio Television of Burkina (Radiodiffusion Télévision du Burkina; hereinafter referred to as "RTB"), provides audio description for persons with visual disabilities, provides accessible audiovisual materials through RTB, and trains higher vocational school students in sign language and braille[88]. Meanwhile, the provision of information in formats accessible to persons with disabilities is insufficient, and the provision of sign language interpretation in audiovisual media and in the broadcasting of major events is not mandatory; therefore, the Concluding Observations (2024) recommend taking all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the use of communication formats accessible to all persons with disabilities for all public information, including television and media services and administrative information, making it mandatory for all public and private television stations to provide sign language interpretation, particularly in the broadcasting of news programs and national events, and developing digital accessibility standards[89].

[86] Concluding Observations (2024)
[87] *Ibid.*
[88] Replies to the LOI (2024)
[89] Concluding Observations (2024)

8) Disaster Risk Management

Article 46 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides that "the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, conflict, humanitarian crisis and natural disaster must be ensured as a priority, in the same way as for women and children"[90]. In practice, however, it is pointed out that, because the protection given to persons with disabilities in emergencies and dangerous situations is the same as that given to persons without disabilities, they continue to face the limits of humanitarian assistance owing to general delays and inadequacies in support[91]. The government is promoting support for persons with disabilities through its signing of the "Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action" on 31 August 2023 and the introduction of a database of internally displaced persons including persons with disabilities. In addition, the National Strategy for the Recovery of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities (2023－2027) (Stratégie nationale de relèvement des personnes déplacées internes et des communautés d'accueil 2023-2027), formulated in June 2023, calls for making humanitarian assistance inclusive, consideration for the needs of persons with disabilities in support, and the priority provision of supplies to internally displaced persons with disabilities[92].

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended ensuring that all persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual, mental and developmental (neurodivergent) disabilities, can access information and means of communication in accessible formats, including easy-to-read versions, braille and sign language[93].

[90] *Ibid.*
[91] United Nations (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif de la Coalition des OSC Sur La Mise En Œuvre de la Convention Relative Aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*
[92] Replies to the LOI (2024)
[93] Concluding Observations (2024)

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

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

Burkina Faso ratified the CRPD and the Optional Protocol to the CRPD on 23 July, 2009. The State Party's Report was submitted to and received by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 November, 2018. Parallel reports were submitted by three organizations (the "Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (Coalition des organisations de la société civile)" (2019 and 2024), the "Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children" (2020), and the CNDH (2020)). The list of issues was presented by the Committee on 17 September, 2020, and the Government of Burkina Faso's replies were submitted on 5 February, 2024. The Committee's Concluding Observations were subsequently issued on 30 September, 2024.

The next State Party's Report is due on 30 September 2036, and the dialogue with the Committee and the adoption of Concluding Observations are scheduled for around 31 March, 2039[94].

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Government of Burkina Faso deposited its instrument of ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty with the World Intellectual Property Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WIPO") on 31 July 2017. With this ratification, the treaty entered into force for Burkina Faso on 31 October 2017[95]. The domestic law on copyright is the "Act on Literary and Artistic Property" (2019) (Loi No. 048-2019 portant protection de la propriété littéraire et artistique)[96], and the domestic body responsible for copyright is the Burkinabè Copyright Office (Bureau Burkinabè du Droit d'auteur), established in 1983, under the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism (Ministère de la Culture, des Arts et du Tourisme)[97]. As for Marrakesh Treaty authorized entities, no Burkinabè body is listed on WIPO's list of Authorized Entities[98]. Regarding the cross-border sharing of works, the National Union of Burkinabè Associations for the Promotion of the Blind and Partially Sighted (Union Nationale Des Associations Burkinabé pour la Promotion des Aveugles et Malvoyants; hereinafter referred to as "UNABPAM") is listed among the participating organizations of the Global Book Service, which enables the exchange of books in accessible formats, operated by the Accessible Books Consortium[99]. In

[94] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/MasterCalendar.aspx?Treaty=CRPD (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[95] https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/notifications/details/treaty_marrakesh_32 (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[96] https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/19510 (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[97] https://bbda.bf/ (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[98] https://www.wipo.int/en/web/marrakesh-treaty/authorized-entities (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[99] https://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/en/web/abc/globalbooks#B (Accessed: 5 February 2026)

cooperation with OPDs, the government has prepared a guide on the Marrakesh Treaty and accessible information and communication technology in Burkina Faso to increase ownership of the treaty. Burkina Faso, as a member of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, is also working to improve access for persons with visual disabilities to printed materials and publications[100].

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

PNDES is a national development strategy aimed at economic growth, social development and poverty reduction, and is aligned with the SDGs. Through this plan, the SDGs are implemented in fields such as education, health, social protection and employment. With respect to disability policy, the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities is rooted in the principles of the CRPD and oriented toward the SDG agenda[101].

Burkina Faso conducted Voluntary National Reviews, through which progress on the SDGs is reported to the UN in 2019 and 2023. Although input from OPDs on the review is attached in Annex 2, it is not referred to at all in the body of the report, and OPDs point out that the analysis of disability policy is insufficient[102].

In addition, the Burkinabè Federation of Associations for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (Fédération Burkinabè des Associations pour la Promotion des Personnes Handicapées; hereinafter referred to as "FEBAH"), with the cooperation of the West African Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (Fédération Ouest Africaine des Associations de Personnes Handicapées: FOAPH) and the Africa Disability Forum, prepared a report in 2023 with the aim of clarifying the relationship between the SDGs (Goals 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16) and the CRPD. The report addresses, as challenges, access of persons with disabilities to sexual and reproductive healthcare (SDG 3), inclusive education (SDG 4), the political participation of women with disabilities (SDG 5), employment and social integration (SDG 10), and the justice system (SDG 16)[103].

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

[100] Replies to the LOI (2024)
[101] Bridging the Gap Project (2021) Final Report – Narrative Section Burkina Faso, https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Report-Burkina-Faso-AICS-1.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[102] https://www.includovate.com/disability-mainstreaming-burkina-fasos-missed-opportunities-in-sdg-reporting/ (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[103] Fédération Burkinabè des Associations pour la promotion des Personnes Handicapées (2023) Rapport De La Mise En Œuvre Des Objectifs De Développement Durable (ODD) Conformément À La Convention Relative Aux Droits Des Personnes Handicapées (CDPH)

and Development

Burkina Faso acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW") in 1987. The most recent Concluding Observations issued by the CEDAW Committee in 2017 recommend formulating and implementing strategies on the effective access of women and girls with disabilities to medical and support services relating to justice, political and public life, education, income-generating activities, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as awareness activities to change negative attitudes toward women and girls with disabilities and women with albinism and stricter punishment of perpetrators of abuses[104].

Burkina Faso ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "CRC") in 1990. The most recent Concluding Observations from the CRC Committee (2010) recommend strengthening data collection on children with disabilities, eliminating discrimination, and improving access to appropriate medical, educational and employment opportunities.

Burkina Faso ratified the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (ILO Convention No. 159) in 1989[105]. As of 2025, no observations or requests on the implementation status have been adopted by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), which substantively examines and evaluates the implementation status of conventions[106].

With respect to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (African Disability Protocol: ADP; adopted in 2018, entered into force in 2024), which is a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities that maintains the principles of the CRPD while reflecting Africa's own context, Burkina Faso signed it in 2019 but, as of 2025, had not ratified it[107].

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[108]

• The Government of Japan[109]

<Grant aid> (main projects promoting disability mainstreaming)

[104] UN CEDAW (2017), *Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Burkina Faso*

[105] https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103033 (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[106] https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13201::::13201:P13201_COUNTRY_ID:103033 (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[107] https://www.chr.up.ac.za/latest-news/28-units/dru-unit/4157-status-of-ratification-on-the-protocol-to-the-african-charter-on-human-and-peoples-rights-of-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-africa (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[108] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

[109] JICA (2025) *Aiming for a world where all people benefit: Initiatives for "Disability and Development"* [In Japanese].

- Project for the Construction of Lower Secondary School Buildings Second Phase (2017)
- Project for the Construction of Lower Secondary School Buildings (2015)

[Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects]

- Project to develop wells and school farm at 4 primary schools in Oula, Yatenga Province, Nord region (2020)
- Project to construct a maternity ward in Bandatoega village, Pabré, Kadiogo Province, Centre region (2020)
- Project to construct a primary school in Lagunda village, Yako, Passoré Province, Nord region (2020)
- Project to expand the re-education center for deaf-mute persons in Ziniaré (2010)[110]

• Other donors

<International organizations>

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Humanitarian Action for Children (2020–) (at least 15% of beneficiaries are persons with disabilities)[111]
- Inclusive Education Programme (2017–) (linked with PSEF 2017–2030, in cooperation with Humanity & Inclusion)[112]
- Second Chance School (2024–) (including at least 3% children with disabilities)[113]
- Modular Qualifying Training and Support for Employment and Entrepreneurship (Formation Modulaire Qualifiante et d'appui à l'installation) (2023–) (modular vocational training for young people affected by insecurity)[114]
- Youth and women empowerment programme (2025–) (funded by Denmark)[115]
- Disability Inclusion UN volunteer (2024–)[116]

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative (Burkina Faso) (2019–) (policy and institutional strengthening)[117]
- Burkina Faso – Health System Strengthening & Multisector HIV/AIDS Program (2021–2025) (institutional strengthening of universal health coverage)[118]

[110] www.sangiin.go.jp/japanese/kokusai_kankei/oda_chousa/h25/pdf/2-3.pdf (Accessed: 24 March 2026)
[111] https://www.unicef.org/media/169131/file/2025-HAC-Burkina-Faso.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[112] https://www.unicef.org/burkinafaso/recits/le-handicap-daminata-nest-pas-une-barriere-pour-lecole (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[113] https://www.unicef.org/burkinafaso/en/node/1791 (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[114] https://www.unicef.org/burkinafaso/recits/nassiratou-au-del%C3%A0-des-limites (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[115] https://www.unicef.org/burkinafaso/recits/jeanine (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[116] UNICEF (2025), *UNICEF Burkina Faso Annual Report 2024*
[117] https://www.who.int/initiatives/rehabilitation-2030 (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[118] https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/682751468226776530 (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

World Bank

- Improving the education of children with disabilities (2021–2024)[119]

<Bilateral and multilateral donors>

European Union (EU)

- Bridging the Gap II (2017–2021) (strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities)[120]
- RECOSA – Strengthening the resilience and social cohesion of vulnerable populations in the cross-border regions of Burkina Faso (Sahel region) and Niger (Tillabéry region) (2019–2024) (support for vulnerable people in border areas)[121]

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

- Support for mental health and inclusive education and vocational training (2024–2027)[122]

<International NGOs>

Light for the World

- Since 2004, working on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities (support for visual disabilities, inclusive education, economic empowerment) in various parts of Burkina Faso[123].

Christian Blind Mission (CBM)

- Since 2013, implementing activities such as basic needs (food and living support), healthcare (comprehensive healthcare, cataract surgery, rehabilitation), humanitarian response that does not exclude persons with disabilities, and policy dialogue and advocacy to promote inclusion[124].

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- Working on the rights of persons with disabilities, community rehabilitation, training for medical and rehabilitation professionals, inclusive education support, support for vulnerable people in the Sahel region, humanitarian assistance for internally displaced

[119] https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/8557ee3cd6421321d9481a884caebd4f-0360012025/original/JSDF-FY25-result-stories-Burkina-Faso-JA.pdf (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[120] https://www.iddcconsortium.net/our-work/our-projects/bridging-the-gap-ii/ (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[121] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/events/infopoint-conference-disability-inclusive-livelihoods-2024-11-21_en (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[122] https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/juillet-2022-afd-soutient-31-nouveaux-projets-osc-francaises (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[123] https://www.light-for-the-world.org/our-work/project-countries/burkina-faso/ (Accessed: 10 March 2026)
[124] https://www.africa-press.net/burkina-faso/photo/inclusion-des-personnes-vivant-avec-un-handicap-long-cbm-global-presente-son-plan-strategique-2023-2027 (Accessed: 5 February 2026)

persons, and strengthening the disability inclusion of humanitarian response[125].

Plan International

- Working on the promotion of inclusive education and the like so that everyone, including children in vulnerable situations such as children with disabilities, girls with disabilities and children who have dropped out, can receive high-quality primary and secondary education[126].

[125] https://www.hi.org/en/country/burkina-faso (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[126] https://www.plan-international.jp/activity/country/cop_burk/ (Accessed: 24 March 2026). A support video by Plan International on internally displaced persons with disabilities (with Japanese subtitles) (https://youtu.be/flW7hj-gkUA?si=N_ps-mlZnXTN5xUZ).

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Name of Organization	Overview
Burkinabè Federation of Associations for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (Fédération Burkinabè des Associations pour la Promotion des Personnes Handicapées: FEBAH)	The largest federation/network of organizations of persons with disabilities, integrating OPDs across the country. Organizations of various disabilities, such as physical, sensory, intellectual and others, are members. Through advocacy, rights promotion, inclusion policy dialogue and network building, it strengthens the voice of OPDs at the national and regional levels. In December 2024, in cooperation with the National Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities[127] below, it held a briefing (press conference) and conducted advocacy activities, including appealing to the reality that the disability-rights provisions adopted in the country are not in fact sufficiently applied[128].
National Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (Réseau National des Organisations des Personnes Handicapées: ReNOH)	One of the two main national federations of OPDs in Burkina Faso. Established in 2012 after internal conflict within FEBAH. It functions as a coordinating body for various OPDs at various administrative levels (municipal, provincial, regional) (compared with FEBAH, it has a smaller scope of activity and fewer members, with activities concentrated around the capital). Together with FEBAH, it aims to function as a national representative and advocacy organization for persons with disabilities in Burkina Faso.
National Union of Associations of Women with Disabilities of Burkina (Union Nationale des Associations des Femmes Handicapées du Burkina: UNAFEHB)	A representative organization aiming to promote the rights, empowerment and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. Established in April 2003, it functions as a national umbrella organization overseeing about 60 member associations across all 47 provinces of Burkina Faso. It advocates incorporating the disability and gender perspective into national development and humanitarian assistance projects. It works on improving access to education, employment and medical services through approaches such as CBR, and on the economic empowerment of its members.
Burkinabè Human Rights Movement (Mouvement Burkinabe des Droits de l'Homme: MBDHP)	A domestic non-governmental human rights organization, established in 1989 for the promotion, protection and defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the African

[127] Réseau National des Organisations des Personnes Handicapées; hereinafter referred to as "ReNOH."
[128] https://www.africa-press.net/burkina-faso/photo/des-organisations-de-personnes-handicapees-demandent-lapplication-reelle-des-textes-les-concernant (Accessed: 5 February 2026)

	Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981). Its activities include raising public awareness of rights and civil liberties; legal aid, judicial assistance and advocacy for victims of rights violations; monitoring and recording human rights violations; conflict prevention, peacebuilding and awareness raising; and advocacy on public policy and human rights. It operates throughout Burkina Faso through regional branches and grassroots organizations[129].
National Union of Burkinabe Associations for the Promotion of the Blind and Visually Impaired (UNABPAM)	A nationwide union promoting the rights and social participation of blind persons. Established in 1979, at the time of this study it has 65 member organizations in 30 of the country's 47 provinces. It works on raising awareness about persons with visual disabilities, vocational training for persons with visual disabilities, education and schooling support for young persons with visual disabilities, and promotion of participation in sports and cultural activities[130].
National Union of Associations of the Hearing-Impaired of Burkina (Union Nationale des Associations des Déficients Auditifs du Burkina: UNADAB)	An organization of deaf persons that conducts activities such as the human rights of deaf persons, education and literacy, sign language research, support for deaf children living on the streets, the promotion of vocational training and employment, CBR, reproductive health, and cultural and sports activities[131].
Association of Parents and Friends of Children with Encephalopathy (Association des Parents et Amis d'Enfants Encéphalopathes: L'APEE)	An organization of parents and supporters of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, established in 1988. It continuously conducts activities such as running school programmes on inclusive education and special needs education, providing social support and events, as well as awareness raising[132].

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name of Organization	Overview
Network of Organizations Engaged in Disability and Inclusion in Burkina Faso (Réseau des Organisations Engagées dans le Handicap et l'Inclusion au Burkina Faso: ROEHI-BF)	A network of civil society organizations and disability-support organizations working on the rights, social inclusion and welfare of persons with disabilities. In September 2025, it launched a three-year programme (2025–2028) entitled "Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Promotion et protection des droits des personnes handicapées)", focusing on the health, rehabilitation, education,

[129] https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/africa/french/fburkina.htm (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[130] https://www.fasoamazone.net/2017/03/11/a-la-decouverte-de-lun-abpam/ (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[131] https://www.ds-international.org/burkina-faso (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[132] https://apee-bf.org/ (Accessed: 5 February 2026)

	employment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Oubri and Nando. It also conducts training on CBR for local community facilitators and member organizations[133].
Evangelical Association for the Promotion of the Deaf (l'Association Evangélique pour la Promotion des Sourds; hereinafter referred to as "AEPS") and the Center for the Integrated Education and Training of the Deaf and Hearing (Centre d'Éducation et de Formation Intégrée des Sourds et Entendants; hereinafter referred to as "CEFISE")	AEPS is an NGO/association centered on support for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in Burkina Faso, carrying out a wide range of activities particularly in the fields of education, training and rehabilitation. It was accredited as a social development NGO in 1993. Its operating body, CEFISE, is an education and training center that provides inclusive education, sign language education, literacy and vocational skills training, and awareness and prevention activities[134]. The center is the first inclusive education institution in Burkina Faso and is regarded as a hub for inclusive education[135].

[133] https://share-net-burkinafaso.org/news/ (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[134] https://www.cefise.org/ (Accessed: 5 February 2026)
[135] https://www.mediaterre.org/iles/actu%2C20160122121645%2C5.html (Accessed: 5 February 2026)

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

In the parallel report submitted by OPDs to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[136], it is reported that, although there are measures for free or reduced medical costs in law, they are not sufficiently implemented. In practice, this depends on medical personnel's understanding and the resource situation of facilities, and activities planned in the government's strategy, such as home-care training for persons with severe disabilities and training for early detection of disability, are not implemented. The rehabilitation field is not sufficiently incorporated into the Ministry of Health's reporting, making it difficult to grasp the need and the results, and rural medical centers and hospitals have insufficient equipment to respond to accidents and trauma, with shortages of specialized personnel, equipment and infrastructure, particularly in the fields of mental health, eye health and rehabilitation. Against this background, it is pointed out that there is a need to ensure that persons with disabilities can actually receive the free or reduced medical care provided by law, to simplify the conditions for obtaining the disability card and make it accessible, to develop effective medical coverage including for persons with mental disabilities and severe disabilities, and to collect rehabilitation data, develop facilities and train specialized personnel[137]. Furthermore, the CNDH points out that COMUD/Handicap's independence is weak and that there are challenges in the effectiveness of rights protection, including in the health field. Because many of its members are from administrative bodies and the chair and vice-chair are held by the ministers responsible for social welfare, human rights and health, strengthened independence and the securing of a sufficient budget are called for[138].

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

According to the World Bank, more than 72% of children with disabilities do not attend school, and major challenges remain toward achieving inclusive education[139]. SN-3PH calls for the promotion of inclusive education, but its implementation is mainly limited to awareness raising, training and schooling support, or to the efforts of private schools and OPDs, with weak institutionalization and implementation, and it is pointed out that, owing to a lack of funding, much of the "National Strategy for the Development of Inclusive Education

[136] The 2019 and 2024 parallel reports by the "Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (Coalition des organizations de la société civile)"

[137] Coalition of OSC (2024) *The Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*; and La Coalition des OSC (2019) *La Mise En Œuvre de la Convention Relative Aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*

[138] Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (2020) *Rapport Alternatif de La Commission Nationale des Droits Humains sur La Mise en Œuvre De la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*

[139] https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/8557ee3cd6421321d9481a884caebd4f-0360012025/original/JSDF-FY25-result-stories-Burkina-Faso-JA.pdf (Accessed: 24 March 2026)

(2018–2022)" was not implemented[140]. Although there is support for the schooling and re-schooling of children with disabilities, the overall numbers remain small, and the development of education facilities, teaching materials and learning environments is insufficient. Therefore, the development of appropriate education facilities, teaching materials and support measures to underpin inclusive education, support for the continued schooling of children with disabilities, particularly children in displacement and vulnerable situations, and the securing of a budget and an evaluation system to implement plans are called for[141]. Another parallel report points out that, with respect to corporal punishment of children with disabilities, although it is illegal in pre-school and primary education, in some schools it is still lawful or not explicitly prohibited, and at the secondary level there is no law explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment. Based on this, it calls for a legal amendment to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all schools and clear legal protection to protect children, including children with disabilities, from all violence at school[142]. Furthermore, because the illiteracy rate of women with disabilities in particular is high and the educational gap is deep, focused educational support for women and girls with disabilities is also needed[143].

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment[144]

The unemployment rate of persons with disabilities is high, reported at 55.2%[145]. Reasons for unemployment cited include discrimination, prejudice, lack of education and training, and employers' reluctance, and many people lose their jobs after acquiring a disability. The great majority of women with disabilities are out of work, and occupational inclusion is a major challenge. Low-wage, and unstable employment and underemployment are also seen[146]. Although there are prohibitions of employment discrimination and protective provisions, there are no statistics on their application, and it is pointed out that persons with disabilities are largely unable to use the courts or remedy systems. The reasons cited include the lack of procedural accommodation, the difficulty of physical access to courts, and the lack of

[140] *Ibid.*
[141] Coalition of OSC (2024) *The Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH);* and Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (2020) *Rapport Alternatif de La Commission Nationale des Droits Humains sur La Mise en Œuvre De la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*
[142] The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (2020) *Briefing on Burkina Faso for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 14th Pre-Sessional Working Group, September 2020*
[143] La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*
[144] Information from La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées* and Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*
[145] La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*
[146] *Ibid.*

awareness of the legal system. The employment quota system is not sufficiently implemented in the private sector, and while there are special recruitment slots in civil service recruitment, the improvement of the accessibility of general competitive examinations is insufficient, which is particularly disadvantageous for persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities. It is also noted that there are no statistics on sheltered workshops or the current employment condition, and that the plans for vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship support projects are not implemented. Therefore, making the employment quota effective in both the public and private sectors, developing recruitment examinations and vocational training that consider of persons with disabilities, strengthening entrepreneurship, employment and vocational training support, and making employment-discrimination complaint and remedy systems easier to use are called for[147]. Reasonable accommodation and employment security so that people can continue working even after acquiring a disability, and livelihood support, particularly for women with disabilities, are also needed[148].

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation[149]

There are no statistics on the use of reduced fares in state and municipal public transport. The system of import-tax exemption or reduction for vehicles for persons with disabilities is undeveloped, most public infrastructure remains inaccessible, many buildings lack elevators and ramps, and there are almost no parking spaces for persons with disabilities. Accessibility audit tools are also not widely introduced owing to a lack of funding. Therefore, implementing tax preferences for vehicles and mobility-support devices, developing buildings, roads and infrastructure from the standpoint of guaranteeing mobility in both urban and rural areas, and improving the accessibility of the mobility environment including public transport are called for[150]. In addition, because the free provision of mobility-support devices by the State is also irregular and very limited in quantity, the continuous supply of mobility-support devices is expected[151].

[147] Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*; Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (2020) *CRPD Shadow Report*
[148] La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*
[149] Information from La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées,* and Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*
[150] Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH);* Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (2020) *CRPD Shadow Report*
[151] La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access[152]

It is pointed out that there is strictly no government policy or plan to develop sign language and other accessible means of communication, that the use of sign language and braille is limited, and that the conversion of administrative documents into braille, audio and tactile media is not common. In court and similar settings, the shortage of sign language interpreters and the lack of support services are major barriers. Therefore, ensuring effective access of persons with disabilities to information and communication, the dissemination of sign language, braille, audio and tactile media, the making of administrative documents and public information accessible, and the development of an information provision system accessible also in emergencies and health crises are called for.

5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

Women with disabilities are placed in a disadvantaged situation in each aspect of access to education, employment, household finances, housing and water, facing difficulties such as a high illiteracy rate, a lack of educational opportunities and a low employment rate. In particular, female heads of household with disabilities and women with disabilities in rural areas face fragile living conditions, and measures from a gender perspective are called for, such as educational support, income-improvement support and livelihood support for women with disabilities, and comprehensive support relating to the foundations of life, including household finances, housing and access to water[153]. In addition, protection from corporal punishment within the family remains insufficient, corporal punishment is not completely prohibited in alternative care, day care and some schools, and, given the inadequate legal framework, a legal amendment and implementation measures to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings including the home and to eliminate violence against children with disabilities are called for[154]. Due to the lack of adequate access measures to justice specifically for women and girls with disabilities, low awareness, and limitations on their autonomy, it is difficult for women with disabilities to use, and no accommodations are being made for victimized women and girls. Although SN-3PH has a goal of expanding political participation, it lacks gender perspective. While it references education and income-generation support, it is noted that sufficient institutional design and implementation specific to women with disabilities are not in place. Therefore, special access-to-justice support for women and girls with disabilities, the re-development of legal and institutional protection

[152] Coalition of OSC (2024) *CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH)*; La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*

[153] La Coalition des OSC (2019) *CRPD Rapport Alternatif sur la Mise en Œuvre de la Convention Relative aux Droits des Personnes Handicapées*

[154] The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (2020) *CRPD Shadow Report*

against gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming in political participation, education and income-generation support, and policy design and implementation premised on the needs of women with disabilities are called for[155].

[155] Coalition of OSC (2024) CRPD Shadow Report - the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Burkina Faso (COSC/CDPH); Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (2020) CRPD Shadow Report

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