



# LIBERIA INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES (LISGIS)



## Thematic Report Persons with Disability 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census





## **Disclaimer** Thematic Report: Persons with Disability - 2022 LPHC

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this document as a highlight summary of the upcoming Thematic Report on Persons with Disability from the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC). This summary offers a snapshot of the key findings and insights that will be detailed in the final report.

Please note that the full report is currently undergoing finalization, which includes comprehensive editing, formatting, graphic designing, and proofreading. The finalized version will replace this document once it is completed.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing the complete report with you soon.

Best regards,

Johnson Q. Kei  
Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination  
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)



# Outline

- ⇒ Introduction
- ⇒ Context of Analysis
- ⇒ Disability and SDG
- ⇒ Objectives
- ⇒ Methodology
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- ⇒ Policy Recommendations



# Introduction

- Disability is a universal human experience which can affect anyone at any stage of life
- The causes and degree of disability vary
- Persons with disabilities (PWDS) are diverse group with different experiences across socio-cultural, economic and environmental dimensions
- They experience barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society
- Calls for inclusion to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected and the necessary accommodations are made require data
- The census provides national and regional level data on the population of persons with disabilities needed to inform programmatic interventions
- The report allows for the analysis of the population of persons with disabilities by key indicators like education, health, the economy etc
- Track goals and objectives of development frameworks and the current Agriculture Roads Rule of law Education Sanitation/health and Tourism Agenda (ARREST)
- Offer data needed for tracking the progress of SDGs disability
- Provides data on persons and access to education, labour force participation, access to essential services. This responds to key human security issues by bridging the data gap



## Context of Analysis

- Persons with disabilities in Liberia are among the poorest and most vulnerable to abuse and violence (SIDA report 2014)
- There is limited or no national support system for PWDS
- Informal occupations
- Women with disabilities and their families are at increase of risk of poverty (RoL,2018)
- Children with disabilities are often excluded mainstream education as the current education system and structures do not accommodate them (Collins et al.,2021)
- The impact of the 14years long civil war on disability prevalence
  - **Four specialized institutions in the country for children with disabilities:**
    1. School for the Blind
    2. School for the Deaf and Mute,
    3. Group of 77
    4. Antoinette Tubman Cheshire Home (all in Monrovia)
- Adults with disabilities are discriminated against employment, social and governance structures (SIDA report 2014)
- PWDs suffer abuse and neglect, unstructured formal reporting mechanism to address their plight
- The National Union of Organizations of Disabled (NUOD) an umbrella organization for PWDs
- 28 member organizations, chapters in all the 15 counties



## Context of Analysis *cont...*

- The Government of Liberia signed and ratified the U.N. Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007 and 2008)
- The National Commission on Disability (NCD) in 2005 advocates 4% of employees should be skilled PWDs and tax incentives to businesses
- A 5year National Action Plan (NAP) for the period 2018-2022 to implement key strategies
- The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), oversees promoting, monitoring and coordinating disability rights and for mainstreaming of disability (Deepak, 2018)



# Disability and SDGs



- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all,...and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of **the poor and the vulnerable**
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular **the poor and the vulnerable**, have equal rights to economic resources



- 4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities



- 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and including for young people and persons with disabilities



## Disability and SDGs *cont. ...*



- 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status



- 11.7: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for persons with disabilities



- 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.B: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development



- 17.18: .....to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by.....disability, .....relevant in national contexts





## Objectives

- Provide data on the number of persons with disabilities, the prevalence of the different types, degree of and multiple disabilities
- Examine the demographic and socio-economic characteristics (profile) of persons with disabilities
- Examine proportions of household headship and disabilities status
- Investigate household characteristics and the living conditions of households headed by persons with disabilities
- Make recommendations for future policy formulation and development planning



# Methodology





## Data source

- 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC)
  - The 2022 LPHC used the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions on functional disability which meets international standards of comparability to assess disability in Liberia
- Prevalence of disabilities in at least one activity domain
- Multiple disabilities
- Key Indicators examined
  - age, sex, place and county of residence, level, level of education, marital status, activity status, nature of work
  - Main source of fuel for lighting, cooking, source of water and toilet facilities
  - Graphs and tables to present frequencies and cross-tabulations
  - The analyses focus patterns and distributions



## Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions on functional disability

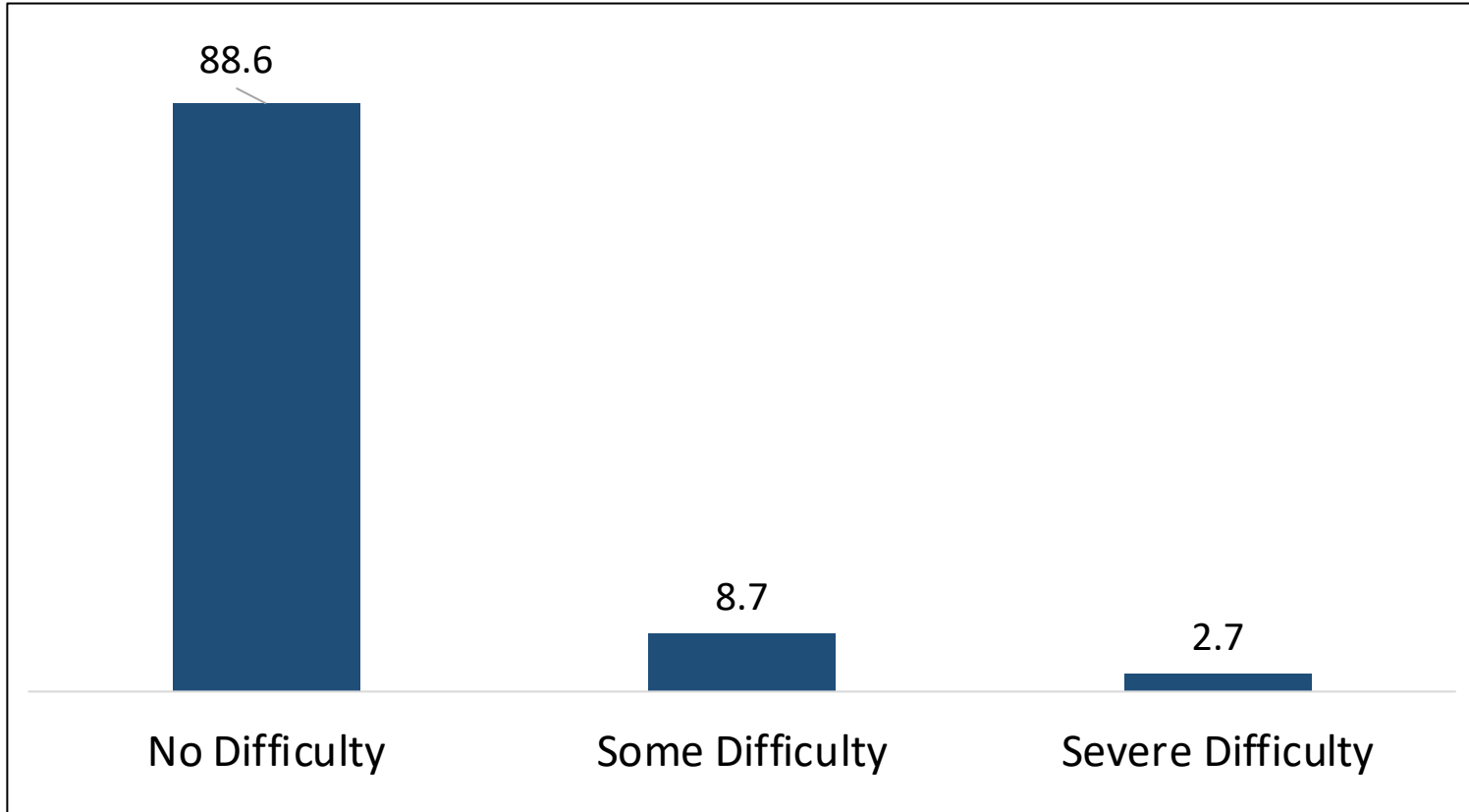
SIX QUESTIONS ON SHORT SET

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |                              |
| Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?                           | Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?                      | Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?                                 | Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?                              | Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?       | Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood? |

- No difficulty – complete absence of any challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activity
- Some difficulty – presence of a partial or mild challenge or problem
- A lot of difficulty – acute challenge or problem
- cannot do at all – complete or total inability to perform a specified function or activity



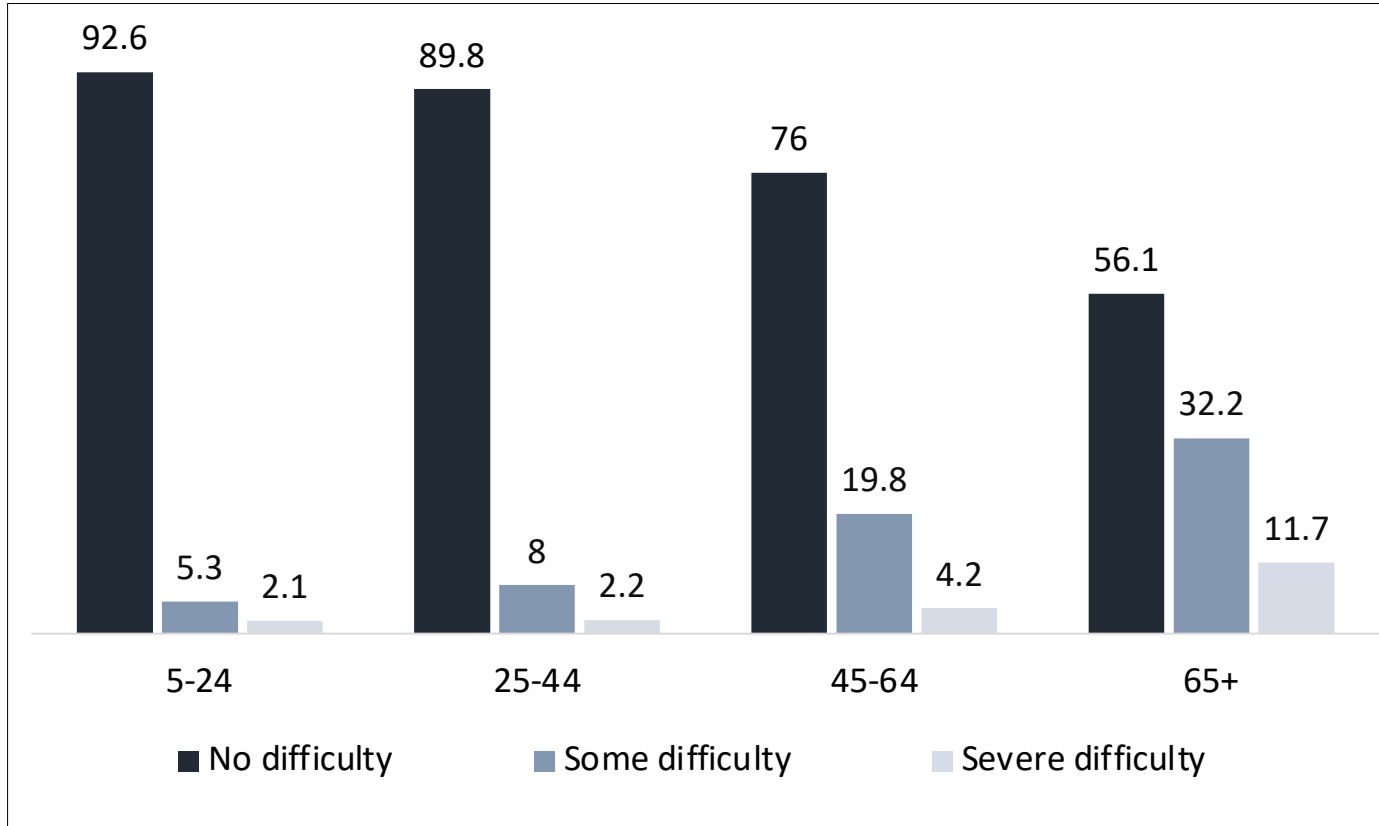
## Key Findings; Disability in Liberia



- **11.4%** (534,316 ) of the population 5years and above have varying degrees of disability in 2022.
  - In 2008 it was 3.2%
  - 8.7% (409,291) have some difficulty
  - 2.7% (125,025) have a lot of difficulty or cannot do any activity at all (severe) in at least one domain
- 
- Ghana = 7.8% have varying degree of disability
  - 6% have some difficulty
  - 1.8% have severe difficulty



## Key Findings; Severity of Disability by Age

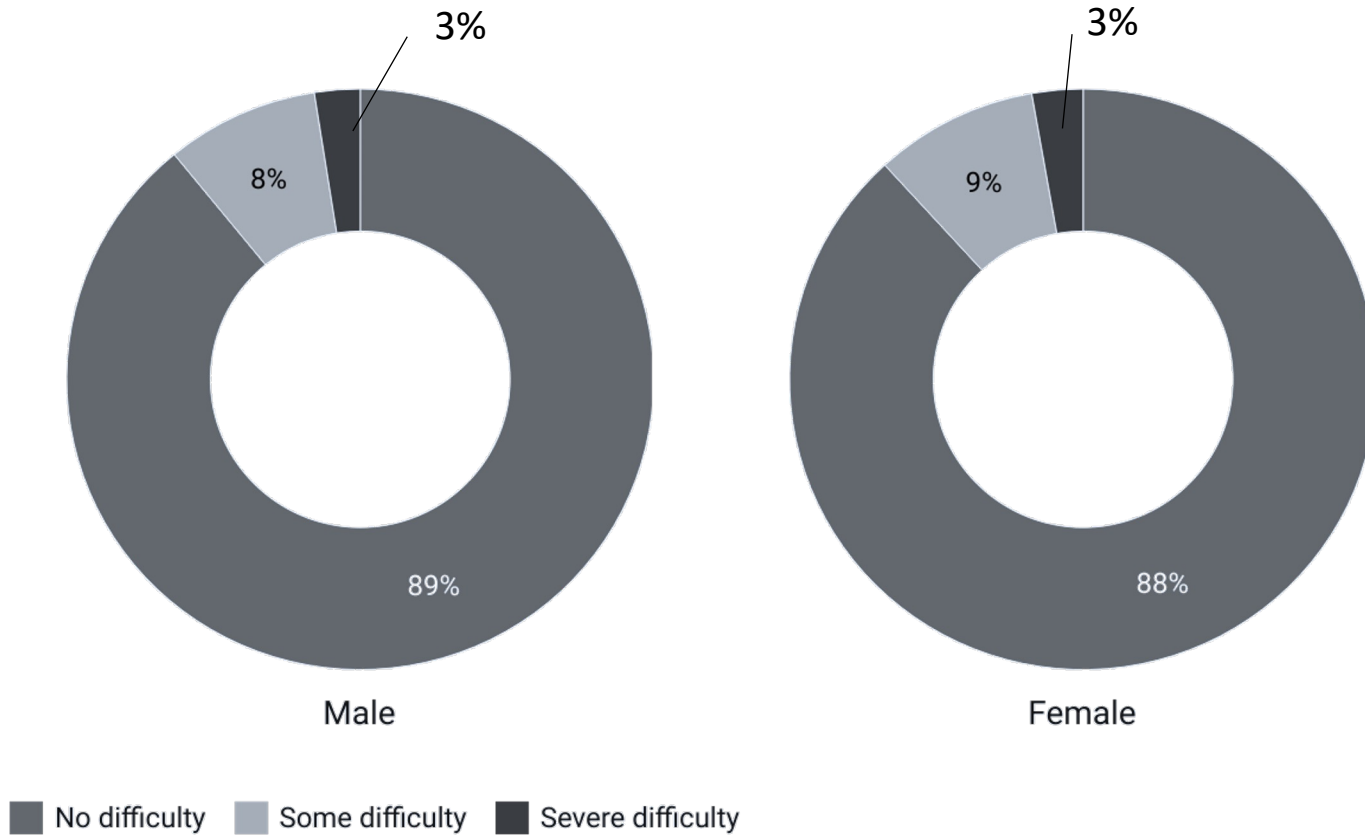


Among those 5-24 years, 5.3% have some disability in at least one activity domain

Among those 65 years and above, 32.2% have some disability



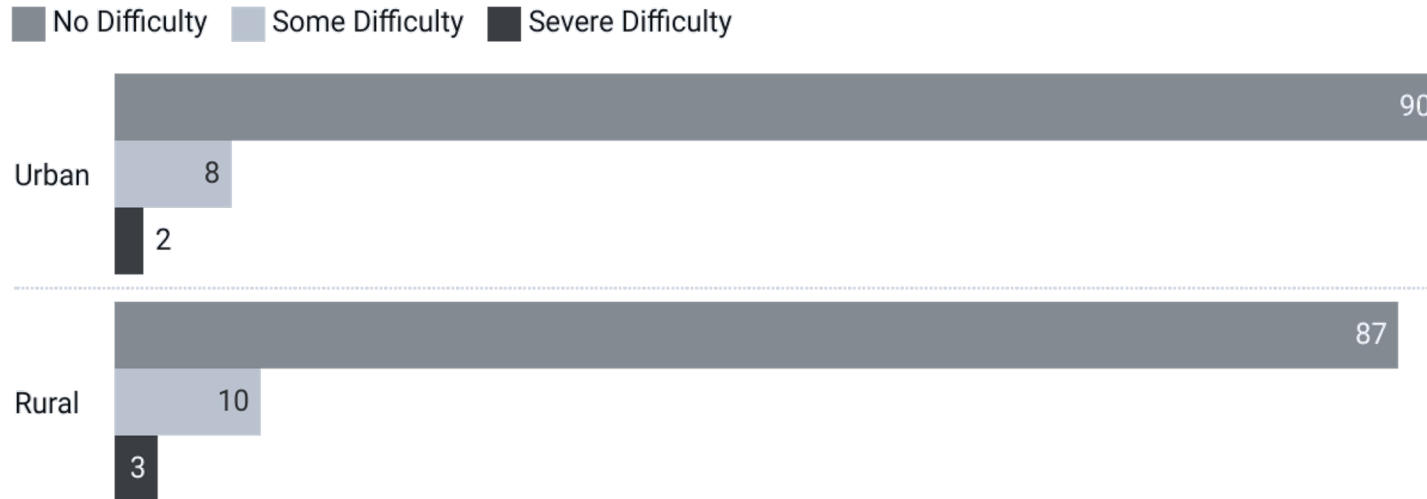
## Key Findings; Severity of Disability by Sex



- 8% of males have some disability in at least one activity domain
- 9% of females have some disability
- Equal proportions of males and females have severe disabilities



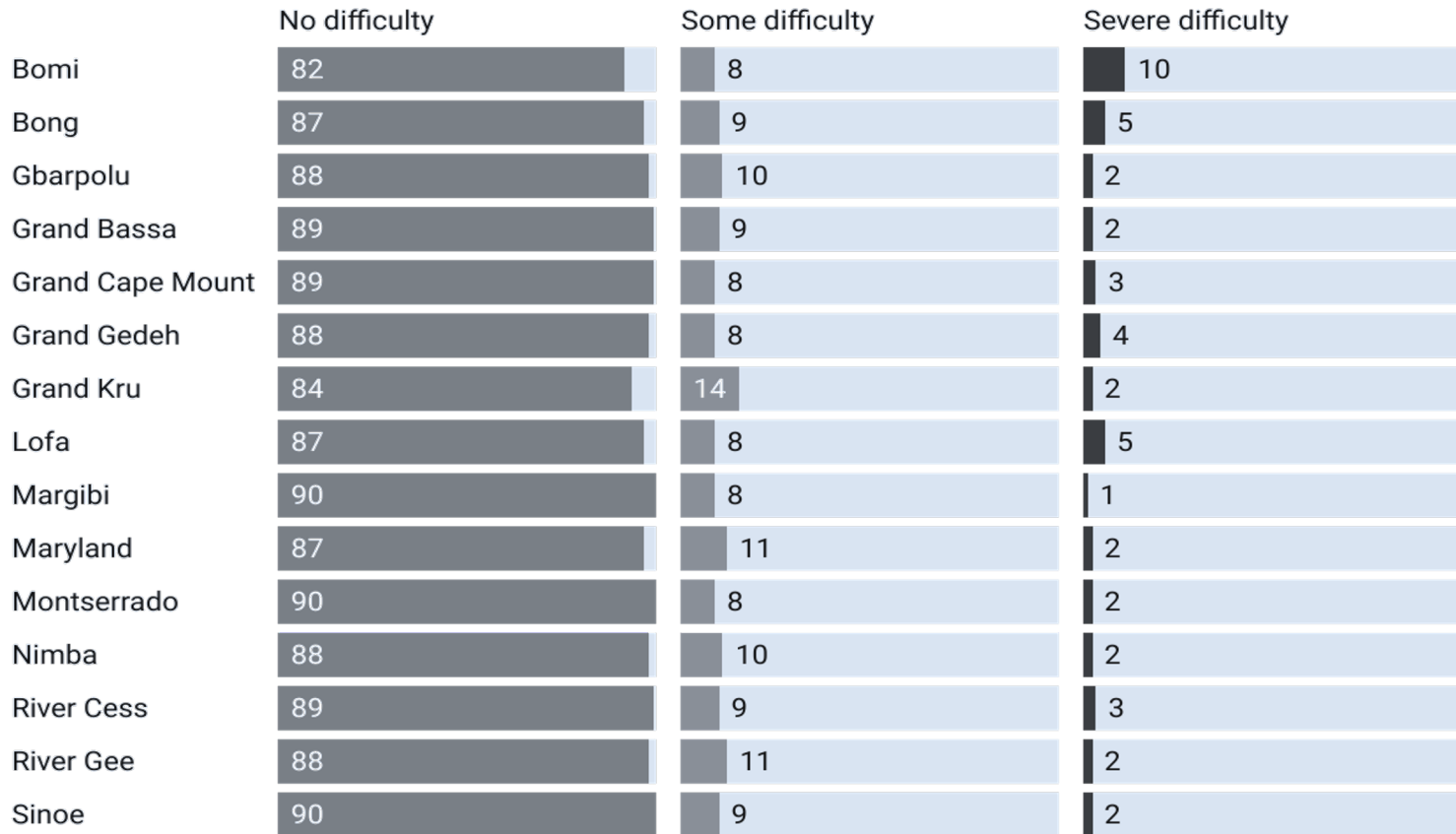
## Key Findings; Severity of Disability by Place of Residence



- 8% of the urban population has some disability in at least one activity domain
- 10% of the rural population has some disability
- 2% of urban population has a lot of disability
- 3% of rural population has severe a lot of difficulty



# Key Findings; Severity of Disability by County of Residence



14% of the population of Grand Kru reported living with some disability- highest across counties

1 in 10 of the population of Bomi County live severe disabilities

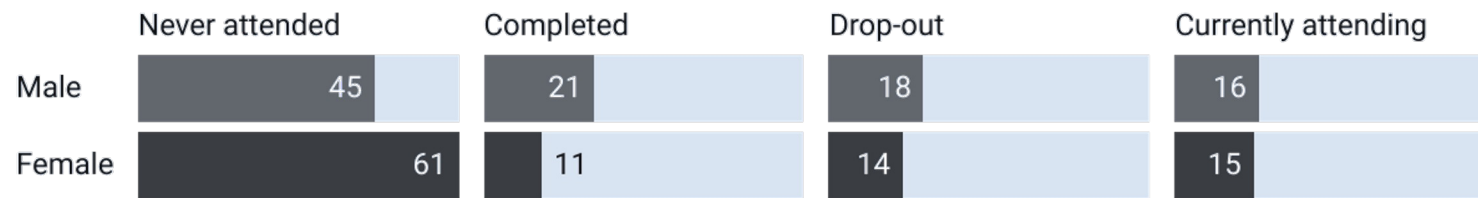
1% of the population of Margibi County reported same





# Key Findings; School Attendance and Functional Disability by Sex

## Some difficulty



**Some disability**  
 45% of males have never attended school  
 61% of females have never attended school

## Severe disability



**Severe disability**  
 37% of males have never attended school  
 54% of females have never attended school



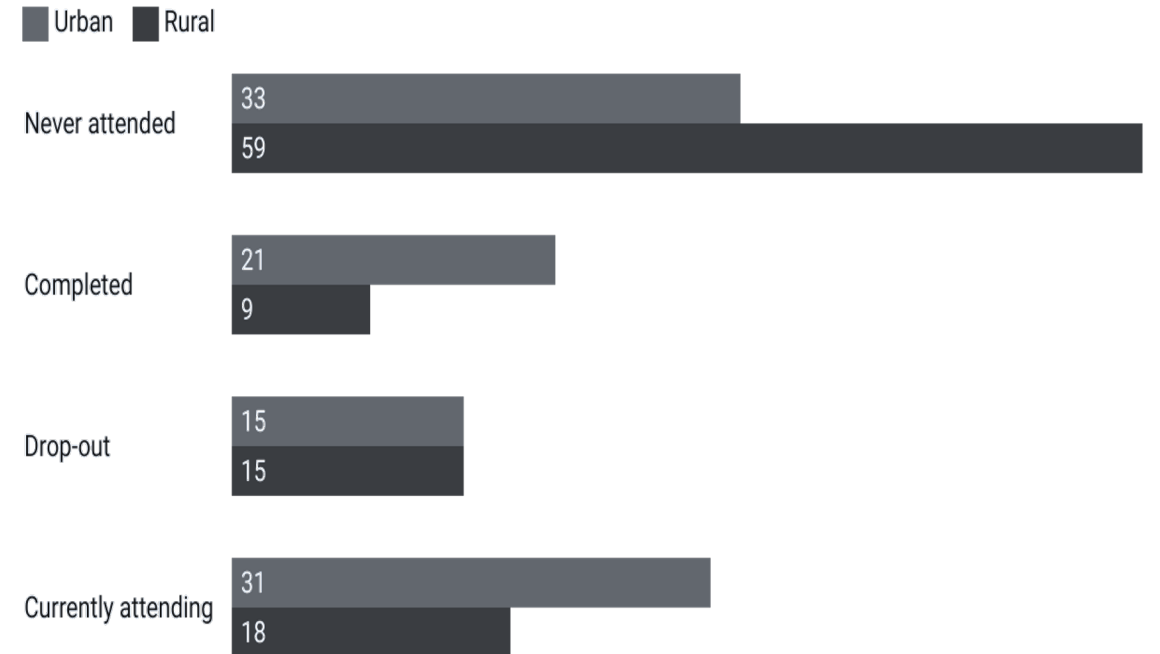
# Key Findings; School Attendance and Functional Disability by Sex

## Some difficulty



44% of urban population have never attended school  
63% of urban population have never attended school

## Severe difficulty

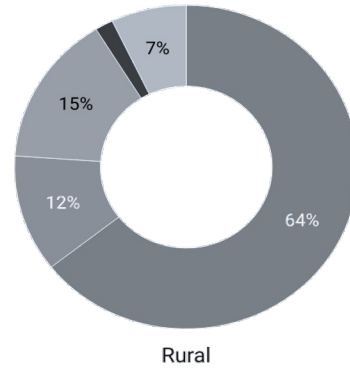
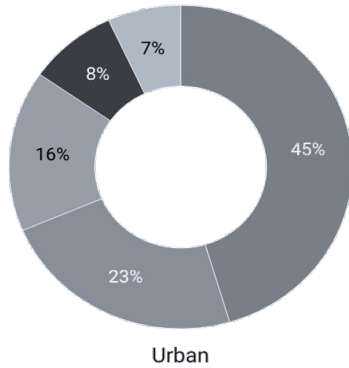


33% of urban population have never attended school  
59% of urban population have never attended school



# Key Findings; Level of Education and Functional Disability by Locality

## Some difficulty

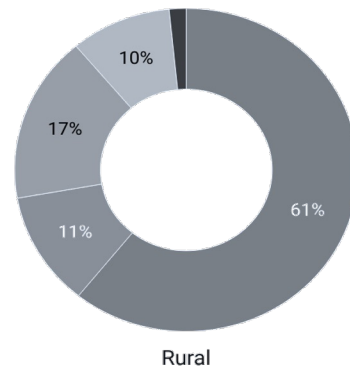
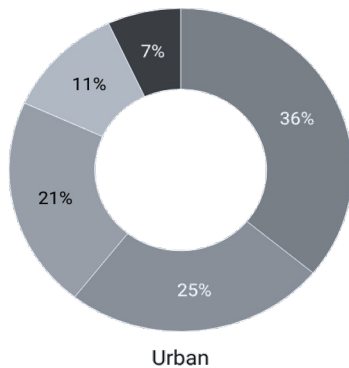


■ None ■ Secondary ■ Primary ■ Tertiary ■ Preschool

8% of urban population with some disability have tertiary education

1.7% of rural

## Severe difficulty



■ None ■ Secondary ■ Primary ■ Preschool ■ Tertiary

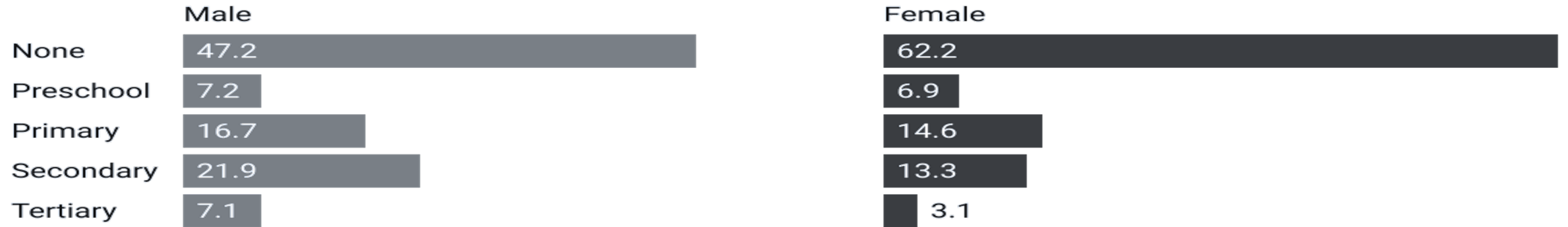
7% of urban population with severe disability have tertiary education

1.6% of rural



# Key Findings; Level of Education and Functional Disability by Sex

## Some difficulty



7.1% of males with some difficulty have tertiary education

3.1% of females with some difficulty have tertiary education

## Severe difficulty



6.2% of males with some difficulty have tertiary education

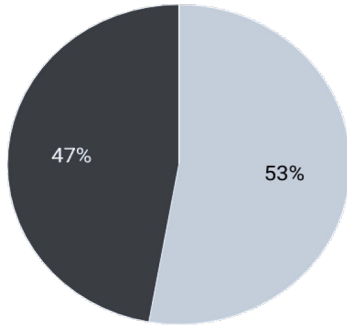
2.5% of females with some difficulty have tertiary education



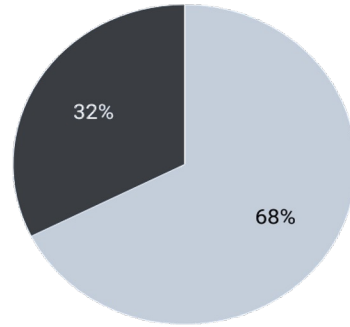
# Key Findings; Literacy and Disability by Sex

## Some difficulty

Not literate  
Literate



Male

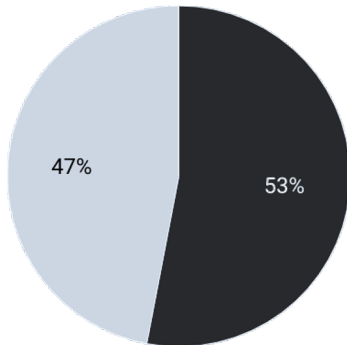


Female

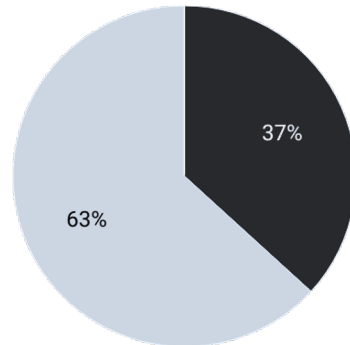
- 47% of males with some difficulty are literate
- 32% of females with some difficulty are literate

## Severe difficulty

Literate  
Not literate



Male



Female

- 53% of males with some difficulty are literate
- 38% of females with some difficulty are literate



## Key Findings; Literacy and Disability by Locality

|                     | Some difficulty |       | Severe difficulty |       |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|                     | Urban           | Rural | Urban             | Rural |
| <b>Literate</b>     | 48.8            | 30.5  | 56.2              | 33.3  |
| <b>Not literate</b> | 51.2            | 69.5  | 43.8              | 66.7  |

- 48.8 % of urban dwellers living with some disability are literate
- 30.5 % of rural dwellers are literate
- 56.2 % of urban dwellers living with some disability are literate
- One in three (33.3%) of rural dwellers are literate



# Key Findings; Marital Status and Disability by Locality

## Some difficulty



- 57% and 41.4% of persons in urban rural areas who are have some difficulty
- 6.5% and 7.8% of urban and rural populations who are widowed have some difficulty

## Severe difficulty



- 56.1% and 40.9% of urban and rural population who are have some difficulty
- 8.3% and 11.4% of urban and rural populations who are widowed have some difficulty



## Key Findings; Marital Status and Disability by Sex

|                           | Some difficulty |         | Severe difficulty |        |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
|                           | Male            | Female  | Male              | Female |
| <b>Never married</b>      | 50.1            | 48.5    | 51                | 45.9   |
| <b>Married monogamous</b> | 39.9            | 32.7    | 37.9              | 31.8   |
| <b>Married polygamous</b> | 3.2             | 2       | 3.4               | 2      |
| <b>Separated</b>          | 1.6             | 1.9     | 1.6               | 1.7    |
| <b>Divorced</b>           | 0.7             | 1       | 0.8               | 1      |
| <b>Widow/widower</b>      | 2.5             | 11.6    | 3.6               | 15.5   |
| <b>Consensual Union</b>   | 2.1             | 2.4     | 1.7               | 2      |
| <b>Total</b>              | 172,794         | 182,068 | 48,612            | 53,769 |

### Some disability

- 2.5% of widowed males
- 11.6% of widowed females

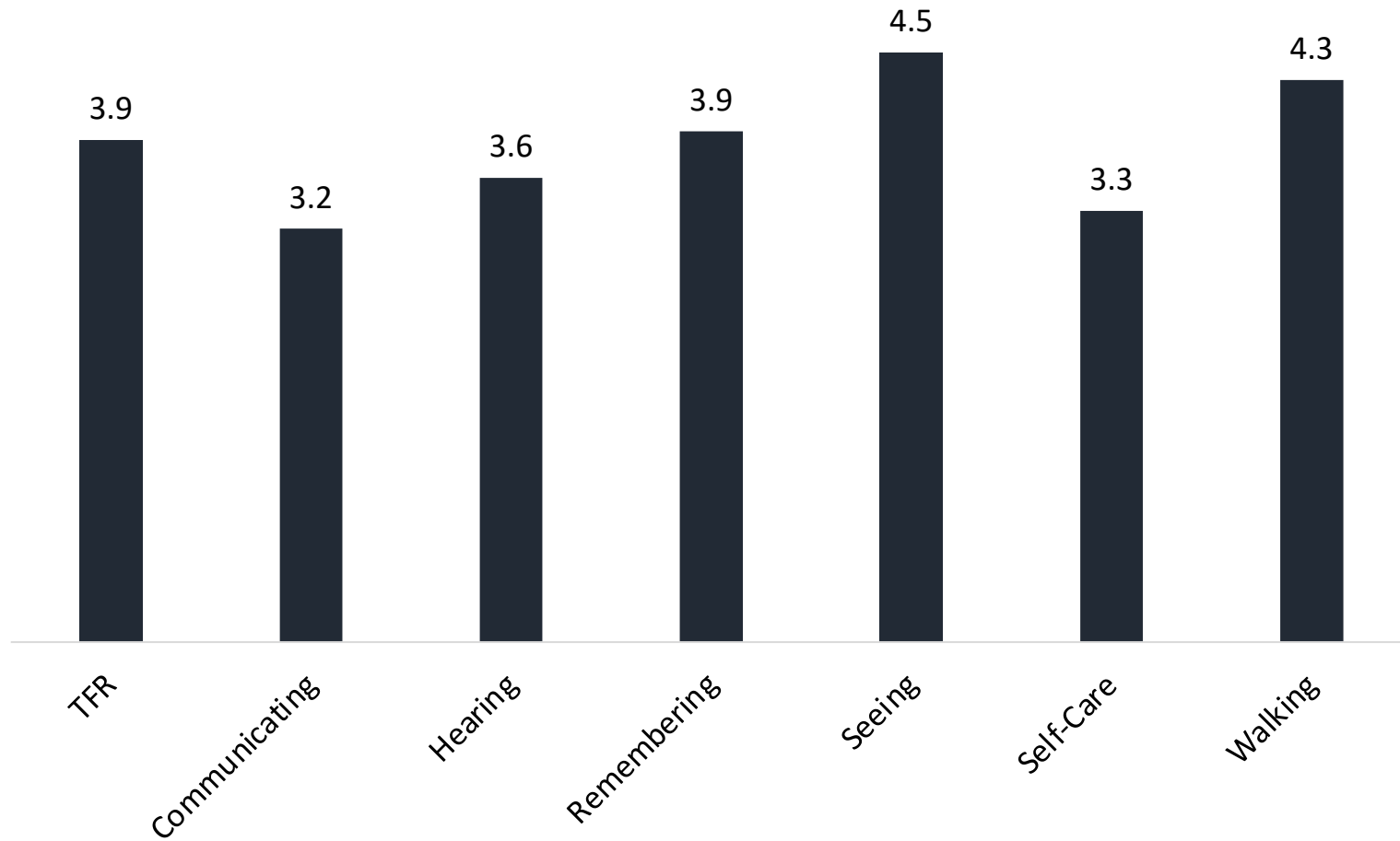
### Severe disability

- 3.6% of widowed males
- 15.5% of widowed females





## Key Findings; Disability and Fertility Rate



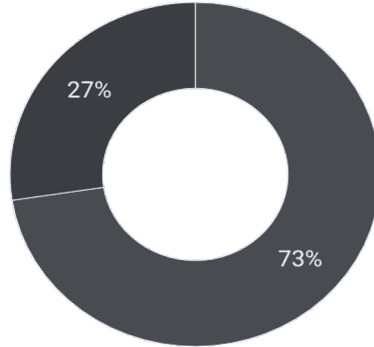
TFR of 4.5 among persons with visual impairment



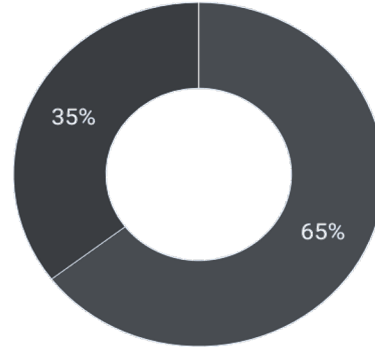
# Key Findings; Activity status and functional disability by locality

## Some difficulty

■ Did Not work  
■ Worked



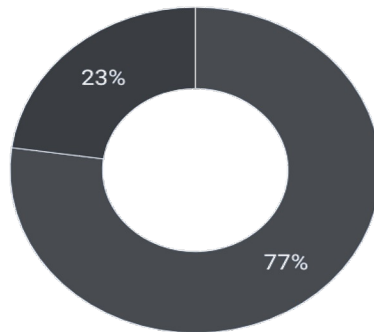
Urban



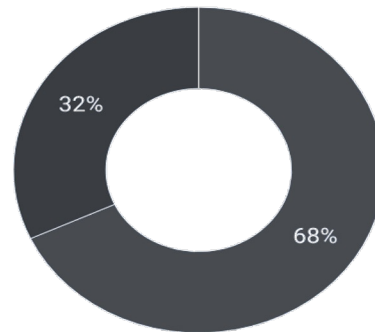
Rural

## Severe difficulty

■ Did Not work  
■ Worked



Urban



Rural

### Some disability

- 27% of urban population worked 7 days preceding the census
- 35% of rural residents worked

### Severe disability

- 23% of urban population worked
- 32% of rural residents worked



# Key Findings; Activity Status and Functional Disability by Sex

## Some difficulty



## Severe difficulty



### Some disability

- 34.3% of male population worked 7 days preceding the census
- 28.6% of female residents worked

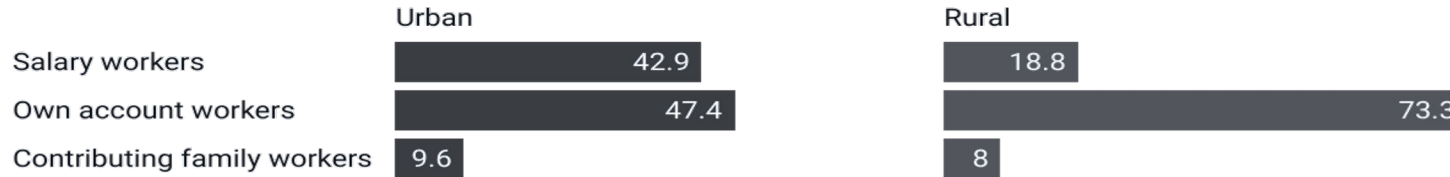
### Severe disability

- 30.3% of male population worked
- 24.8% of female residents worked

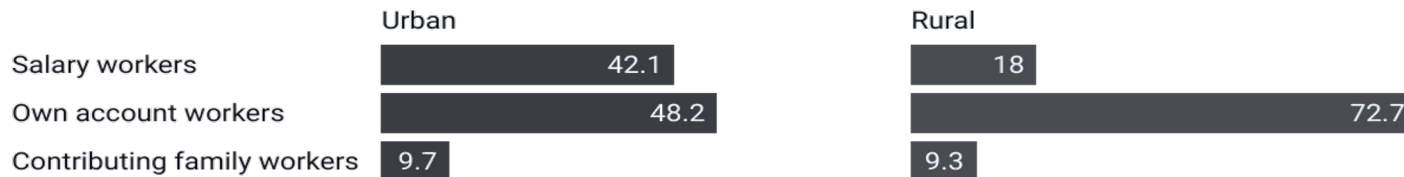


# Key Findings; Nature of Work and Functional Disability by Locality

## Some difficulty



## Severe difficulty



## Some disability

- 42.9% of urban population are own account workers
- 18.8% of rural residents are

## Severe disability

- 42.1% of urban population are own account workers
- 18% of rural residents are



## Key Findings; Nature of Work and Functional Disability by Sex

|                             | Some difficulty |        | Severe difficulty |        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
|                             | Male            | Female | Male              | Female |
| Salary workers              | 37.8            | 19.7   | 36.6              | 18.1   |
| Own account workers         | 54.4            | 70.7   | 54.8              | 71.5   |
| Contributing family workers | 7.9             | 9.7    | 8.6               | 10.4   |
| Total                       | 68,439          | 59,570 | 18,155            | 16,060 |

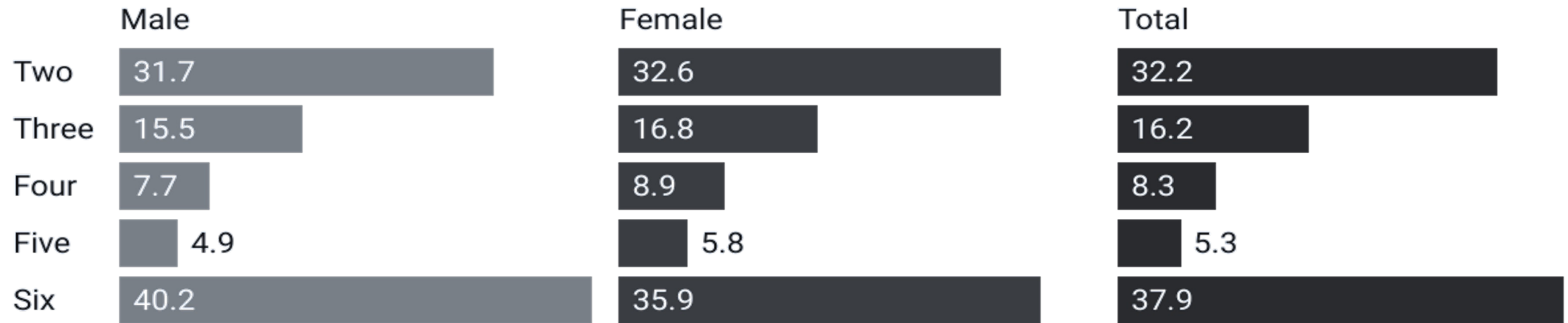
54.4% of males who are own account workers have some difficulty

70.7% of females have some difficulty



## Key Findings; Multiple Disabilities by sex

### Population with multiple disabilities by sex

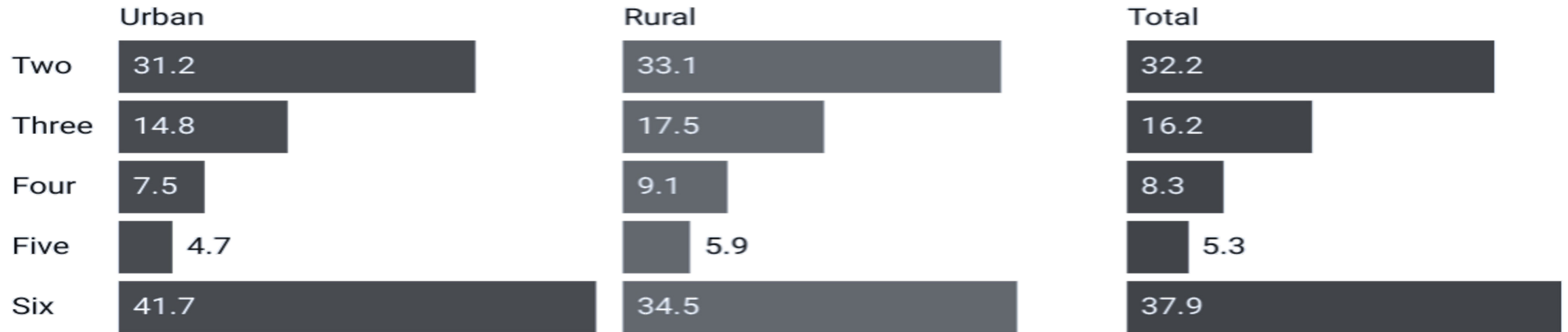


- Among men with multiple disabilities, 40.2% have up to six types of disabilities
- For females 35.9% of have up to six types of disabilities



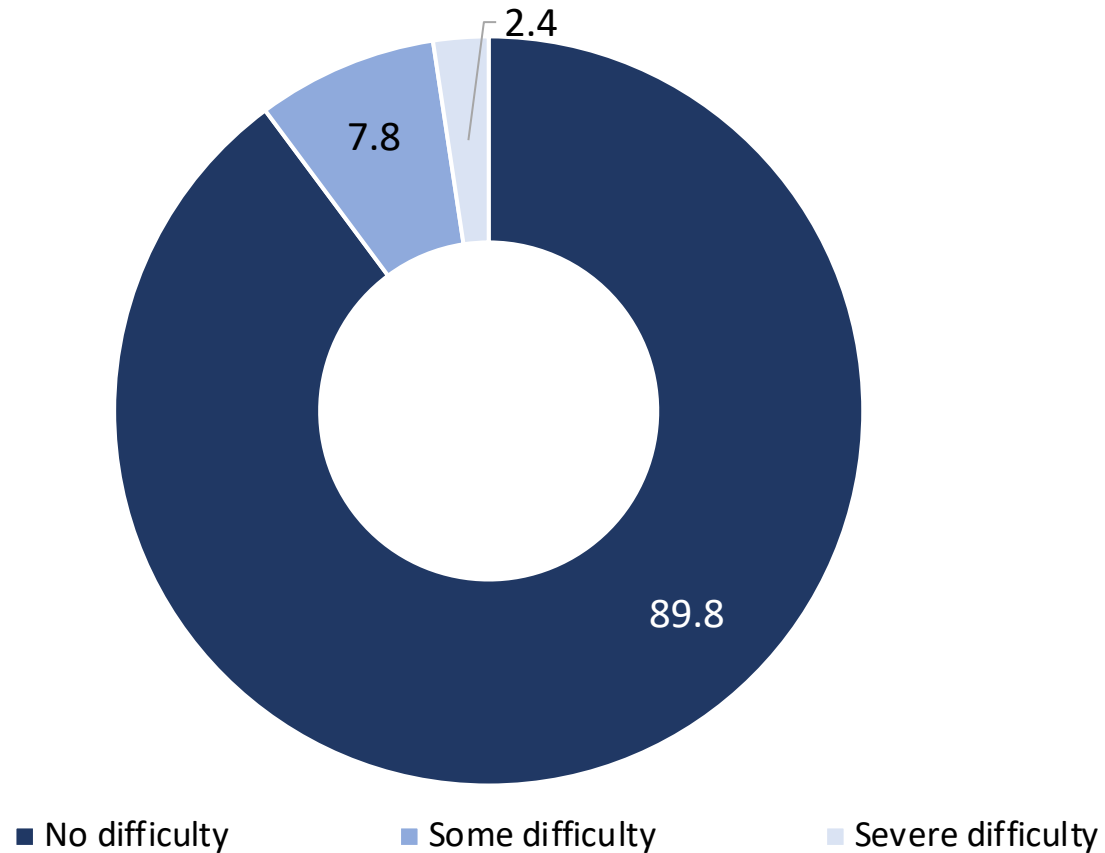
## Key Findings; Multiple Disabilities by locality

### Population with multiple disabilities by locality



- 31.2% of urban residents have live with two types of disabilities
- 33.1% of rural residents reported living with two types of disabilities

 **Key Findings;** Functional Disability of Heads of Households



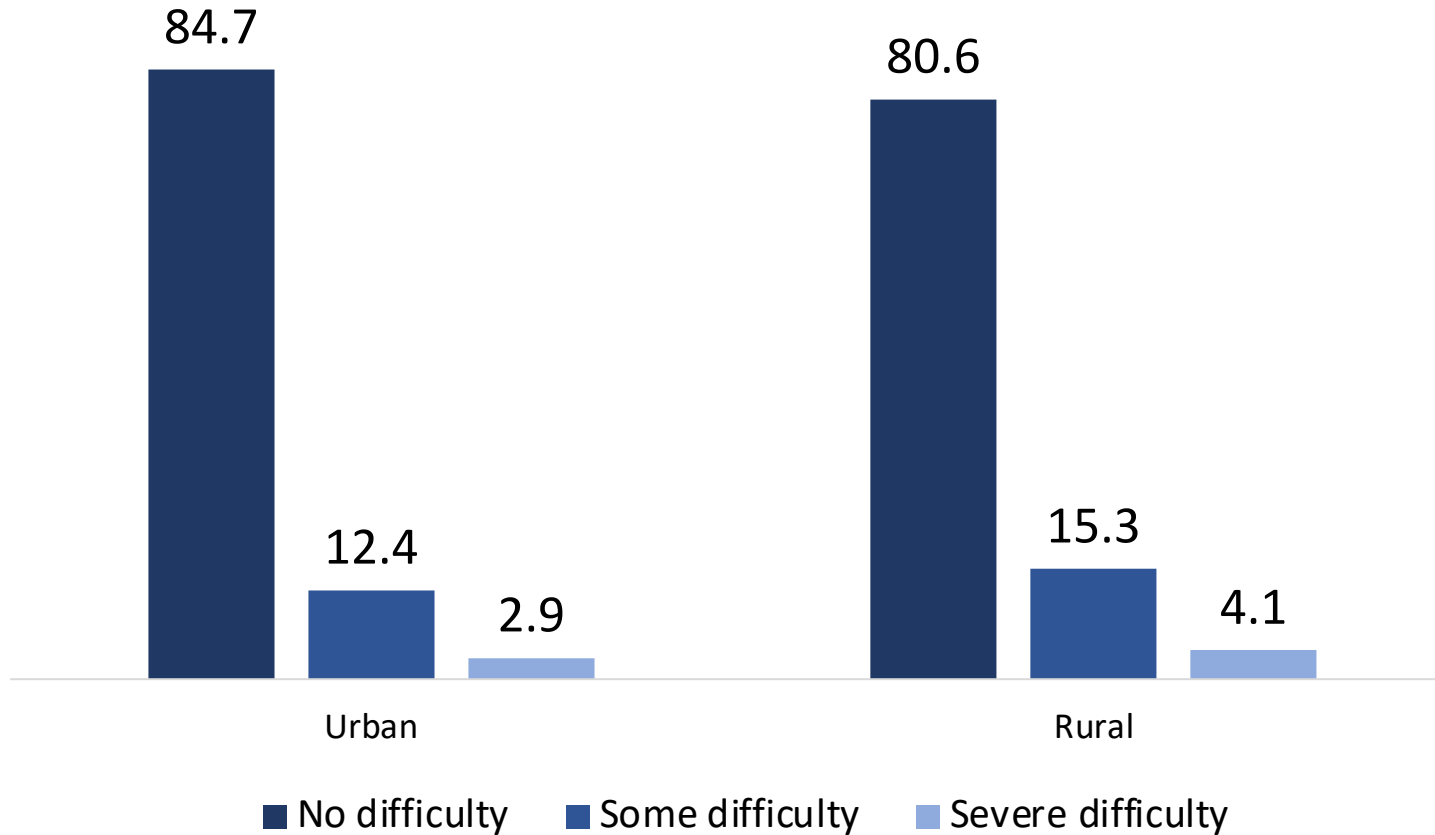
2.4% (125,025) of household heads have severe disability on at least one domain

7.8% (40,9291) have some disability





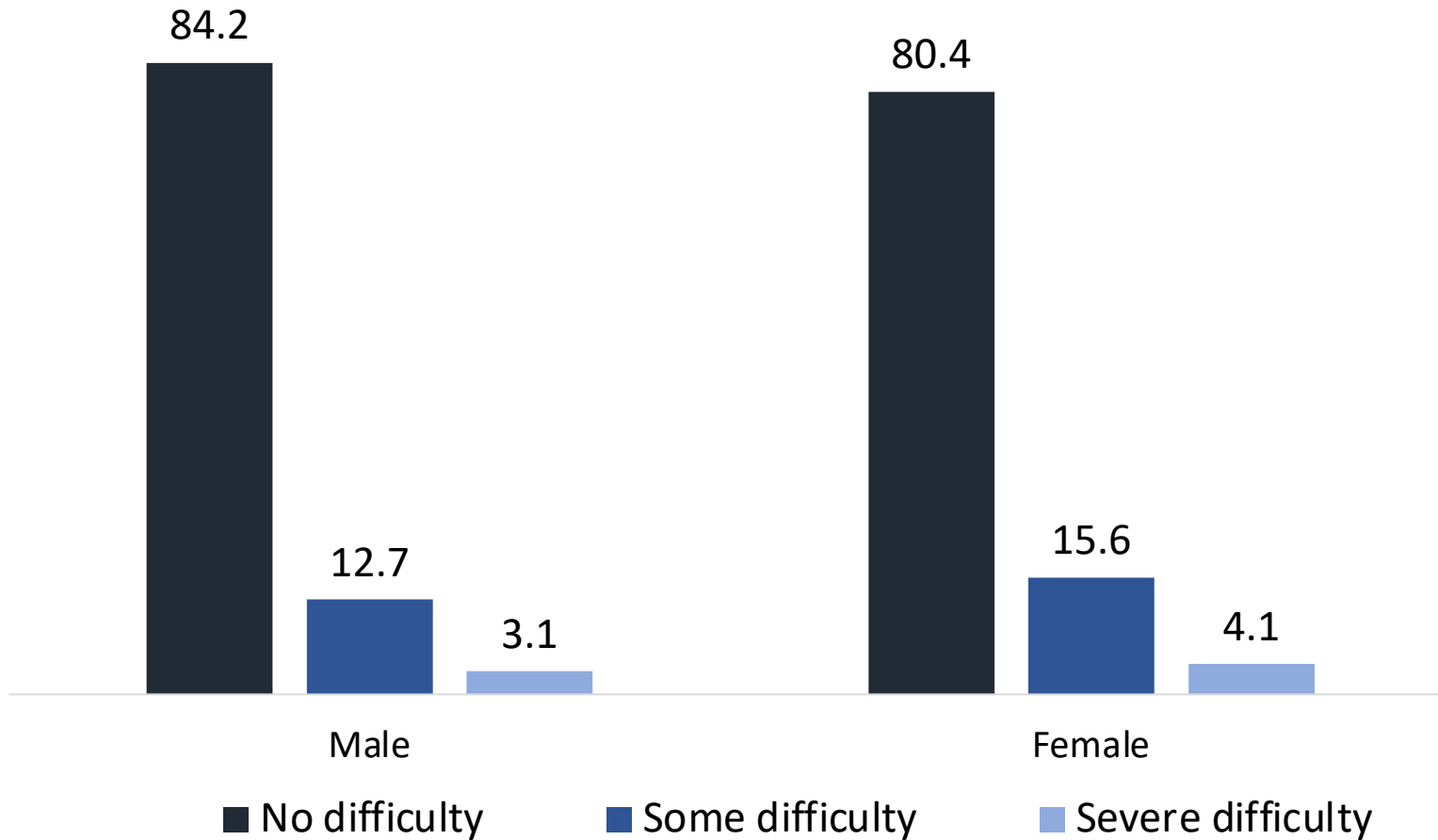
## Key Findings; Disability and Household Headship by Locality



- 12.4% of household heads in urban areas have some difficulty compared to 15.3% of those in rural areas
- 2.9% of household heads in urban areas have severe difficulty compared to 4.1% of those in rural areas



## Key Findings; Disability and Household Headship by Sex

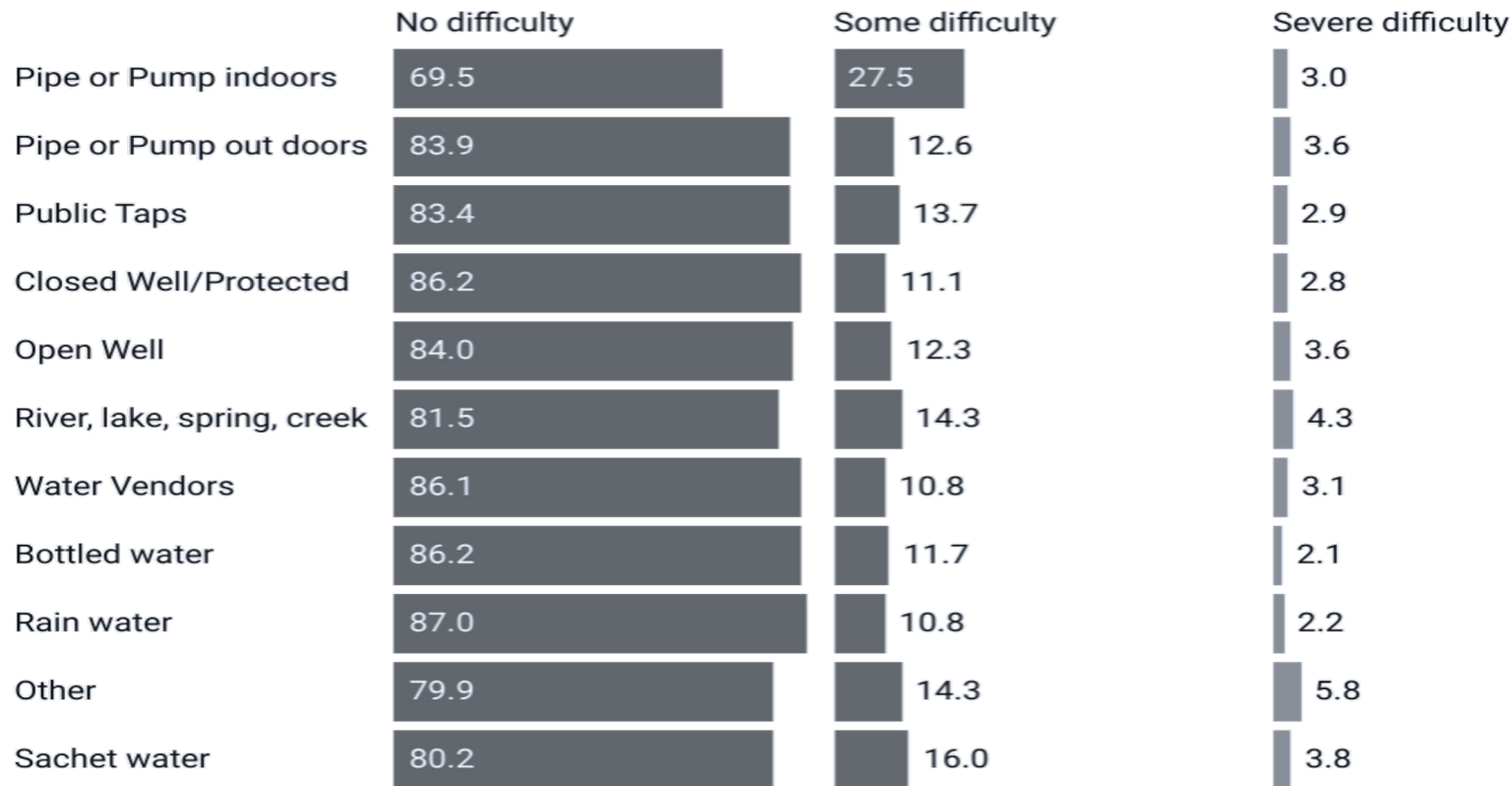


- 12.7% of male household heads have some difficulty compared to 15.6% of female households heads
- 3.1% of male household heads have severe difficulty compared to 4.1% of female household heads



## Key Findings; Disability and Access to Amenities

### Household of Persons with Disability having access to drinking water

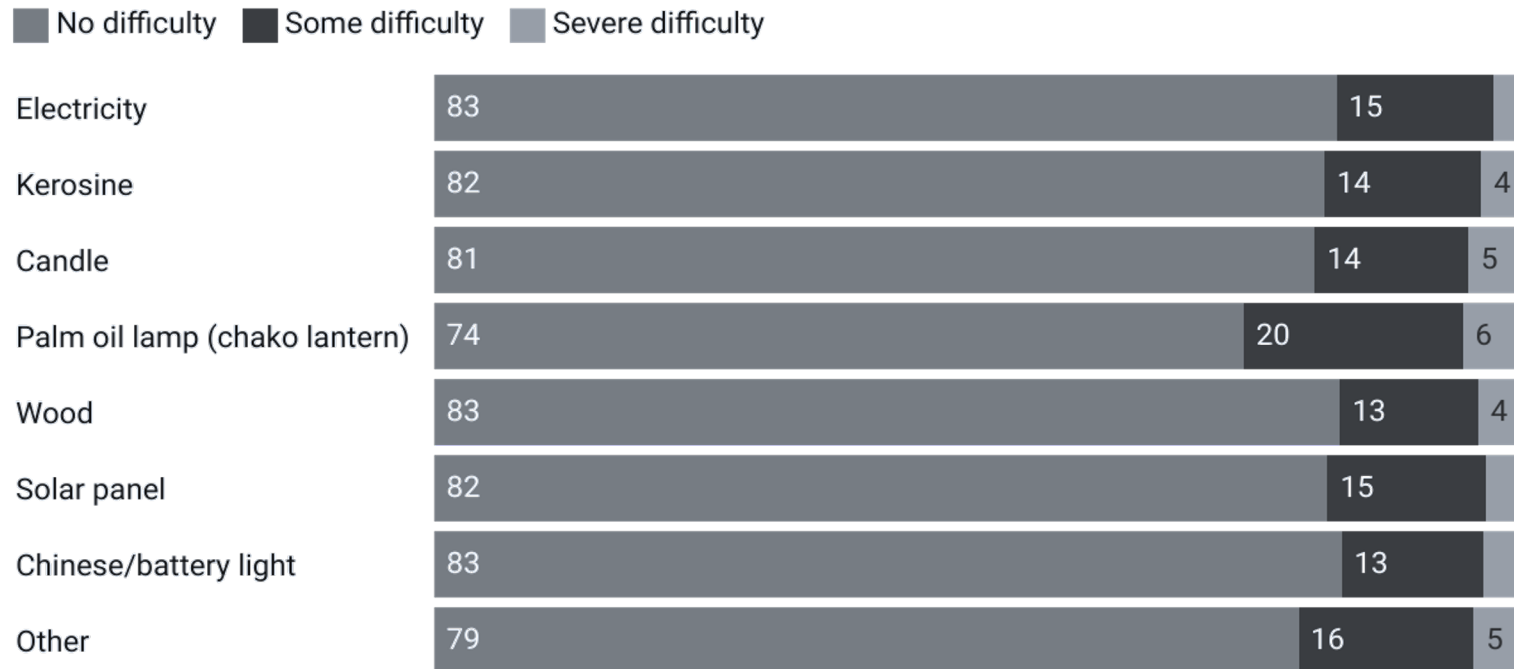


- 27.5% of households with pipe indoors reported some disability compared to 3% with severe disability
- 14.3% of households who use open wells as main source of drinking water have some disabilities compared to 4.3% with severe disabilities



## Key Findings; Disability and Access to Amenities

### Household of Persons with Disability having access to fuel for lighting

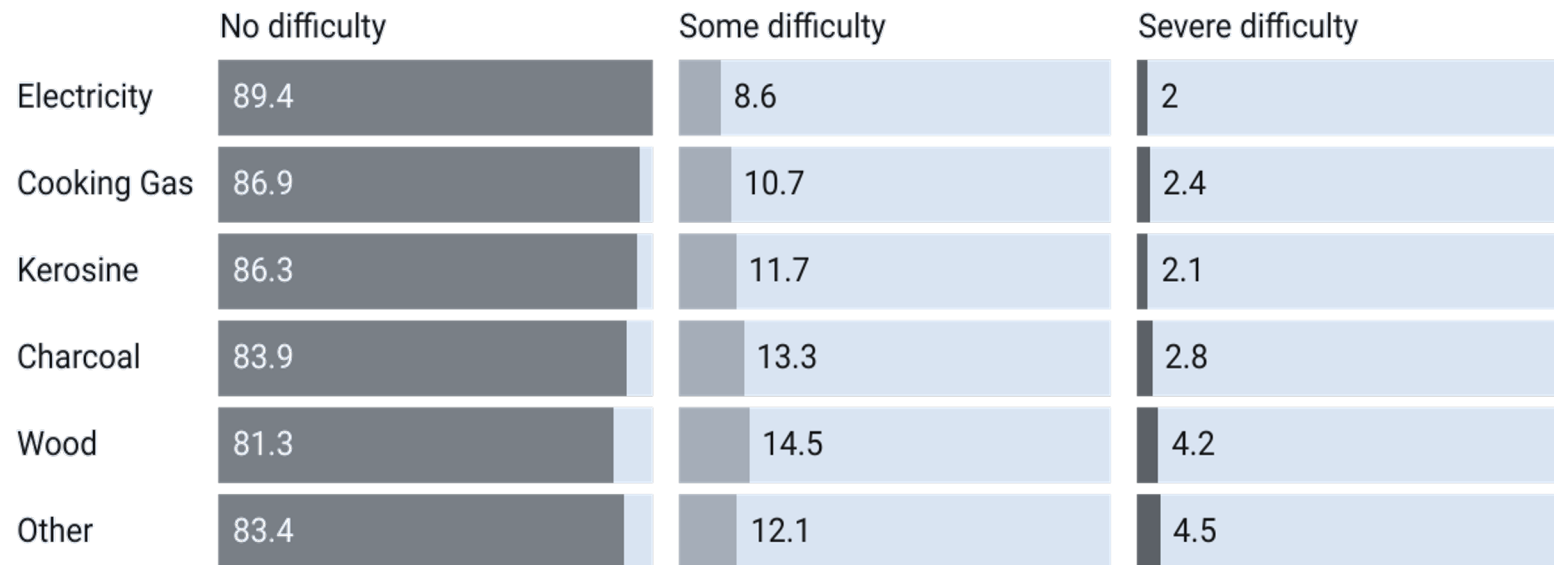


- 15% of household who rely on electricity have some difficulty
- 20% of households who rely on palm oil lamp



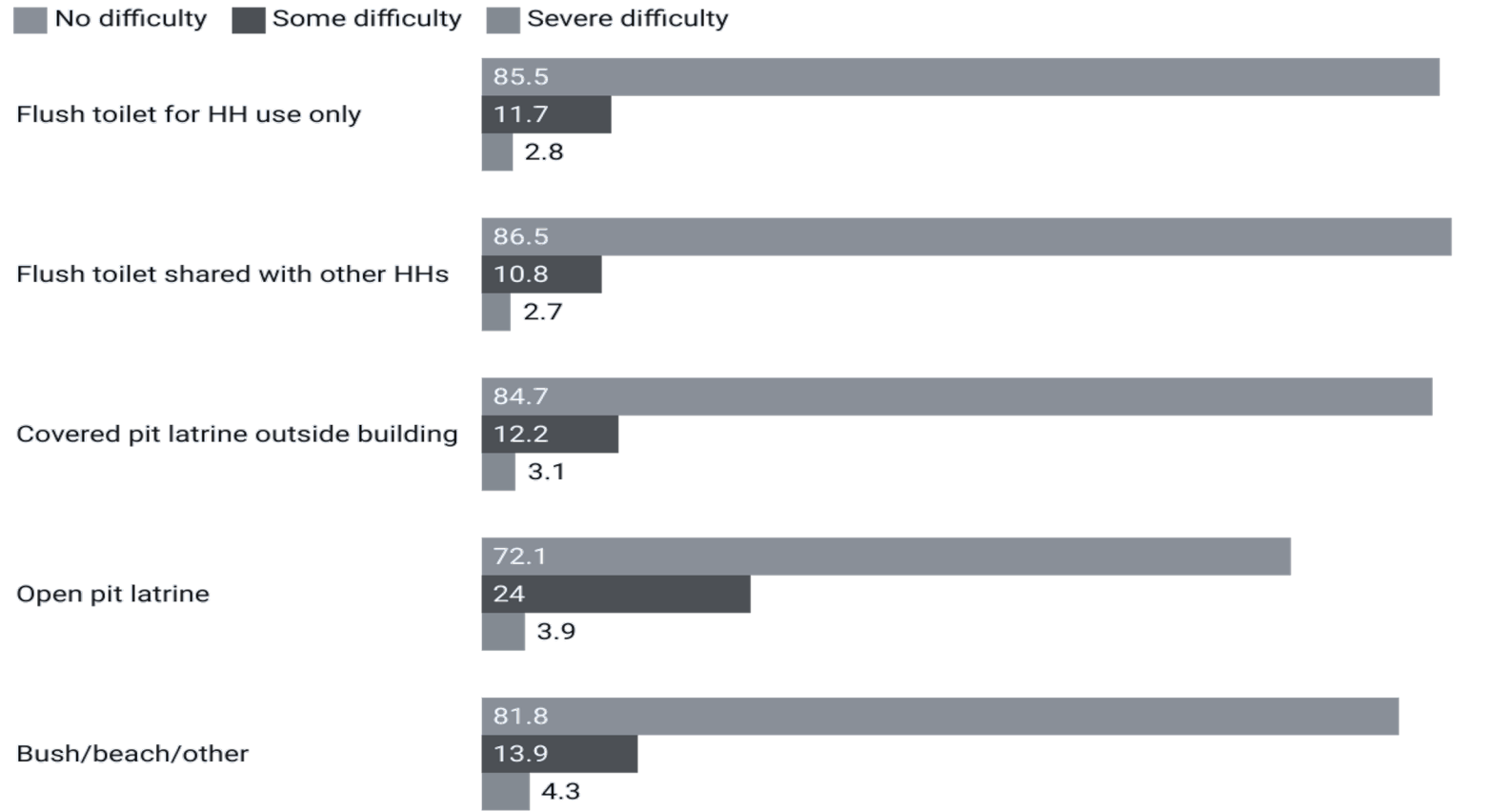
## Key Findings; Disability and Access to Amenities

### Household of Persons with Disability having access to fuel for cooking



- 13.3% and 15.5% of households who rely on charcoal and wood respectively for cooking have some disability

## Household of Persons with Disability having access to toilet facility



- 24% of households who rely on open pit latrine have some disability



## Policy Recommendation; Education

- Inclusive education would promote higher enrolment for persons with disability especially for those in rural areas and across counties
- Emphasise specific targets for women, girls and boys with disabilities to improve access to interventions such as education
- Consider enforcing accessible environments - improving infrastructure and transportation system to ensure full participation of PWDs especially in schools
- Scholarship incentives to support persons with disability in schools



## Policy Recommendation; Health

- Visual and physical impairments were the most common forms of disability in Liberia in 2022
- Interventions such as health screenings, awareness programmes and creating more accessible environments should be considered as old age disability is high
- State institutions responsible for providing social protection on healthcare, basic income and food security for PWDs as emphasised in the ARREST Agenda should be strengthened





## **Policy Recommendation;** Economic Advancement

- Local Government and in partnership with private entities should continue and improve upon rural development initiatives and poverty alleviation programs by investing in:
  - agriculture
  - small-scale industries
  - livelihood assistance strategies
  - skills training to households
- To stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities among heads of households especially those with disabilities



## **Policy Recommendation;** Other Recommendations

- The National Commission on Disability (NCD) should continue to be empowered to execute its mandates
- Stakeholders including civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations should intensify educational campaigns advocating for zero tolerance against all forms of violence and discrimination towards PWDs in Liberia
- National strategies such as the National Action Plan for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Liberia (2023 – 2027) must be adhered to in order to foster the rights of persons with disability
- Organizations for Persons with disability such as National Union of Organizations of Disabled should be empowered to champion the rights of persons with disabilities