



ADVENTIST[®] SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES

ALL ARE GIFTED, NEEDED & TREASURED

3. Facts and Stats

General disability

- ✚ Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, psychosocial, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in, and access to society. (UN Charter)
- ✚ More than one billion persons lived with disabilities – 15% of the world's population.
- ✚ 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries.
- ✚ Persons with disabilities are statistically more likely to experience poverty, while poverty itself also increases the incidence of disability.
- ✚ 20% of the world's poorest persons are living with a disability.
- ✚ Cerebral palsy occurs in approximately 2 per 1000 live births. This frequency rate hasn't changed in more than four decades.
- ✚ One in four people globally will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime.
- ✚ Mental health conditions, including alcohol abuse, are amongst the 10 leading causes of disability in both developed and developing countries.

Hearing

- ✚ Over 5% of the world's population – 360 million people – has disabling hearing loss (328 million adults and 32 million children).

- ✚ The majority of people with disabling hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries.

Sight

- ✚ Over 285 million people in the world are visually impaired, of whom 39 million are blind and 246 million have moderate to severe visual impairment (WHO, 2011). Without extra interventions, these numbers will rise to 75 million blind and 200 million visually impaired by 2020.
- ✚ 80% of all blindness is preventable or curable.
- ✚ It is estimated that at least 7 million people go blind every year.
- ✚ About 90% of the world's visually impaired people live in developing countries
- ✚ Of the six WHO world regions, South East Asia and Western Pacific account for 73% of moderate to severe visual impairment and 58% of blindness.
- ✚ 63% of those with low vision and 82% of blind people are over 50 years of age.