Youth with disabilities
Covid-19 online survey

6.8.2020
Survey population and method

• Data were collected from 12 June – 24 July 2020.
• Eligible respondents included youth with disabilities aged 15-30 years living in Thailand.
• The survey was administered online through Google Forms.
• The online questionnaire was shared through the members of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand and the networks of UNFPA, Ratchasuda College and the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. This included sharing the survey via Facebook pages, community leaders and volunteers.
• The survey generated a convenience sample of 186 respondents.
Background information
Disability type and help during survey

- **Hearing or communication**: 26.3%
- **Visual**: 24.7%
- **Mobility or physical**: 19.9%
- **Intellectual**: 15.1%
- **Autism**: 10.2%
- **Learning**: 2.2%
- **Mental or behavioral**: 1.6%

Who filled in the questionnaire?

- **Myself**: 58.6%
- **Helper**: 26.3%
- **No answer**: 15.1%

186 respondents
Age group and biological sex

Age group
- 15 to 19: 29.6%
- 20 to 24: 48.9%
- 25 to 30: 21.5%

186 respondents

Sex
- Male: 51.6%
- Female: 48.4%

186 respondents
Province and area of residence

### Province
- Other provinces: 35.5%
- Bangkok: 14.5%
- Nakhon Pathom: 12.4%
- Chiang Mai: 7.5%
- Chiang Rai: 5.4%
- Nakhon Si Thammarat: 4.8%
- Lampang: 4.3%
- Pathum Thani: 3.2%
- Nonthaburi: 3.2%
- Samut Prakan: 2.2%
- Tak: 1.8%
- Surat Thani: 1.1%
- Nakhon Ratchasima: 1.1%
- Lamphun: 1.1%
- Chai Nat: 1.1%
- Cha Choeng Sao: 1.1%

### Area of residence
- Urban: 57.5%
- Rural: 26.9%
- No answer: 15.6%

186 respondents
Majority of disabled youth were singles and had never been married. 12% had children.
68% of disabled youth lived with family and 21% alone. Majority had family members as caretakers.
Majority of respondents had Bachelor degree. Among those still studying, about half were in non-formal/special education.
Majority of disabled youth relied on employment or parents for money. 83% received disability allowance.

**What is your main source of money for spending?**

- Work/employment: 46.5%
- Parents: 39.5%
- Family members: 5.9%
- Government subsidies: 4.3%
- Husband, wife, etc.: 2.7%
- Loans (student, etc.): 0.5%
- Partner's family: 0.5%

185 respondents

**What kind of social welfare do you and/or your family members receive from the government?**

- Disability allowance: 78.9%
- Social welfare card: 20.0%
- Scholarship: 5.9%
- Elderly allowance: 5.9%
- No social welfare: 4.3%
- Other subsidies: 2.7%
- Loan: 0.5%
- Support for poor: 0.5%
- Child subsidy: 0.5%
- 5000 Baht scheme: 0.5%

186 respondents
A minor share received social services from other organizations. More than half used DSC services.

What kind of social services do you and/or your family members receive from other organizations?

- None
- Food and goods
- Transport fares
- Emergency aid
- Basic need support
- Screening/nursing
- Community services
- Interpreter
- Living space fitting
- SRH services

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, did you access any service of the Disability Service Center (DSC)?

- No
- Yes

186 respondents
Large majority had health insurance coverage

What kind of healthcare plan are you currently on?

- 30-Baht scheme
- Social Security Fund
- Student or employee insurance
- I don’t know
- No healthcare coverage
- Disability card/insurance
- Private insurance
- Parents’ insurance
- Other, specify

186 respondents
Impact of Covid-19
and coping strategies
Youth with visual and other impairments faced most problems. Common problems included difficulty to access shops, lack of sanitation products, inability to go out and difficulties in accessing public services.

Which of the following difficulties did you face during the Covid-19 outbreak?

- Visual
- Hearing/communication
- Mobility/physical
- Other

181 respondents
Youth with hearing/communication impairments had to change their caretaker/personal assistant due to the lockdown more than other disability groups

Due to the Covid-19 situation, did you have to change your caretaker or personal assistant?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing/communication</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobility/physical</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of respondents

143 respondents
Youth with hearing/communication impairments experienced problems in accessing health care due to the Covid-19 outbreak more often than other disability groups

Have you experienced any problems in accessing health care due to the Covid-19 outbreak?

- Visual: 8.9% Most of the time, 24.4% Sometimes, 37.8% Rarely, 28.9% Not at all
- Hearing/communication: 16.3% Most of the time, 34.7% Sometimes, 16.3% Rarely, 32.7% Not at all
- Mobility/physical: 5.4% Most of the time, 40.5% Sometimes, 40.5% Rarely, 13.5% Not at all
- Other: 13.0% Most of the time, 33.3% Sometimes, 31.5% Rarely, 22.2% Not at all

185 respondents
78% of disabled youth in employment reported that their work was affected by Covid-19. Common problems: inability to travel to work, lack of equipment and space for home office, business closure.

Has the Covid-19 situation affected your work?
- No: 77.9%
- Yes: 22.1%

95 respondents

How has Covid-19 affected your work?

- Unable to travel to work: 45.0%
- Lack of home office equipment/space: 41.6%
- Had to close down business: 31.1%
- Could not receive re-/upskill training: 17.5%
- Job coaching stopped: 12.8%
- Was among the first to leave the job: 7.9%

63 respondents
35% could not cope with the disruption of their employment situation. Some used savings, bought new technical equipment and switched to working online. Finding a new job/business or loans was rare.
Unemployment increased by 10 percentage points during the lockdown. One-person businesses and daily wage workers were most affected. Partial recovery since easing of lockdown.
More than half of disabled youth in education had problems studying online. Many lacked necessary equipment and space, barrier-free learning materials, internet connection and guidance.

During the COVID-19 situation, did you have any problems studying online?

- No
- Yes

74 respondents

Which difficulties in studying online did you have during Covid-19?

- Lack of equipment at home
- No help for learning from home
- Lack of barrier-free learning materials
- No space for online learning
- No internet
- No preparation or support
- Lack of skills in using computer
- Poor format of submission documents
- Communication barriers
- Slow PC and internet
- No interpreter

37 respondents
28% of disabled youth who need SRH services encountered previously unknown difficulties accessing these services during the Covid-19 lockdown.
More youth with visual impairments had to move during Covid-19 than other disability groups

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, has your living arrangement changed?

- **Visual**: 80.4% No, 19.6% Yes
- **Hearing/communication**: 89.8% No, 10.2% Yes
- **Mobility/physical**: 94.6% No, 5.4% Yes
- **Other**: 90.7% No, 9.3% Yes

186 respondents
Large share of disabled youth benefited from disabled support, reduced fees for utilities and the 5,000 Baht scheme. Youth with visual impairments received less disabled support and relied more on in-kind support.

Have you or your family received financial/social support during the outbreak?

148 respondents
Internet and social media were main sources of information for disabled youth, except for those with intellectual, learning, mental or behavioral problems or autism, who relied more on personal communication.

What are the sources of information from which you have received most information about COVID-19?

- Visual
- Hearing/communication
- Mobility/physical
- Other

183 respondents
Summary of key findings

- Youth with visual, intellectual, learning, mental or behavioral impairments as well as those with autism faced most problems during the Covid-19 outbreak. Common problems included difficulty to access shops, lack of sanitation products, inability to go out and difficulties in accessing public services.

- More youth with hearing/communication impairments had to change their caretaker/personal assistant due to the lockdown than youth with other disabilities.

- Youth with hearing/communication impairments experienced problems in accessing health care due to the Covid-19 outbreak more often than other disability groups.

- 79% of disabled youth in employment reported that their work was affected by Covid-19. Common problems included inability to travel to work, lack of equipment and space for home office, and business closure.

- 36% of disabled youth whose work was affected could not cope with the disruption of their employment situation. Some used savings, bought new technical equipment and switched to working online. Very few were able to find a new job/business or take on a loan.
Summary of key findings

- Unemployment among disabled youth increased by 10 percentage points during the lockdown. One-person businesses and daily wage workers were most affected. A partial recovery has taken place since the easing of lockdown.

- More than half of disabled youth in education had problems studying online. Many lacked the necessary equipment and space, barrier-free learning materials, internet connection and guidance.

- 28% of disabled youth who need SRH services encountered previously unknown difficulties accessing these services during the Covid-19 lockdown.

- More youth with visual impairments had to move during Covid-19 than other disability groups.

- Large share of disabled youth benefited from disabled support, reduced fees for utilities and the 5,000 Baht scheme. Youth with visual impairments received less disabled support and relied more on in-kind support.

- Internet and social media were the main sources of information for disabled youth, except for those with intellectual, learning, mental or behavioral problems or autism, who relied more on personal communication.