

# People with Disabilities Needs Assessment in Gaziantep



**SANAD**

For people with special needs

**July 2019**



## About SANAD

A dignified life for people with special needs

SANAD is an independent non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2013 and registered in Turkey with the number 27-15-175. SANAD was established by a group of humanitarian and social activists in responding to the Syrians suffer since 2011.

SANAD has become specialized in working with and supporting people with special needs since 2015 due to the realization of the tremendous tragedy that people with special needs live in Syria through periodic visits to their places.

We are working on empowering those vulnerable people through providing capacity building and life skills training, psychosocial support, educational and vocational qualifying, provide supporting equipment, supporting their families, building the capacity of people who deal with them and conducting researches that contribute to advocating their cause and reintegrate them in the community. Additionally, we are not working just to integrate them in the community but also to provide them with decent live conditions along with their families.



## About INDICATORS

INDICATORS is a company specialized in analytics, research, and consulting, established in 2017 in Turkey, Gaziantep, provides services that related to data, which is data collection, development of data collection tools, data quality management, building data coding and archiving systems, as well as data analysis for different types of research studies...

INDICATORS provides services in business, humanitarian, and research sectors, seeks to contribute in the development of the capabilities of the different types organizations in the field of data and analytics, through the provision of consultancy, training and scientific guides, in a way to increase the degree of the use of data and gives a clear vision of organization's situation and estimation of future changes that may occur, which will be reflected as decisions with well-known results.



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## Introduction

Reports by international bodies and organizations, indicate that the numbers of people with disabilities in Syria have risen dramatically during the conflict, with many Syrians suffering from injuries that left them with some kinds of disability. By the end of 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that there were nearly 1 million people with disabilities in Syria. That figure increased due to the war in the country, according to a report by the World Health Organization in 2017 about the needs of the Syrian people that there were 2.8 million people with permanent physical disabilities, of whom 86,000 their limbs were amputated.

As the fighting continues and the Syrian areas are being bombed and destroyed, waves of displacement and asylum in neighboring countries have increased. Turkey has the largest share of the estimated 3.5 million Syrian refugees, including those with disabilities. Syrian refugees in Turkey face difficult living conditions, such as high living costs, low job opportunities, low financial returns, and complicated procedures for extracting official documents such as temporary protection cards and work permits. Living conditions are particularly difficult for people with disabilities as society has low confidence in them and their capacity and poor funding from international donors to launch projects that seek to meet their needs and support them psychologically, healthily, and professionally.

## Research objectives

The report aims to study the situation of people with disabilities residing in the Turkish city of Gaziantep to know their living conditions, their ability to integrate into society, and opportunities available to them in terms of work, education, capacity-building training, and health needs. Also, identify the most significant difficulties they are experiencing and to direct humanitarian support in a way that meets their requirements.

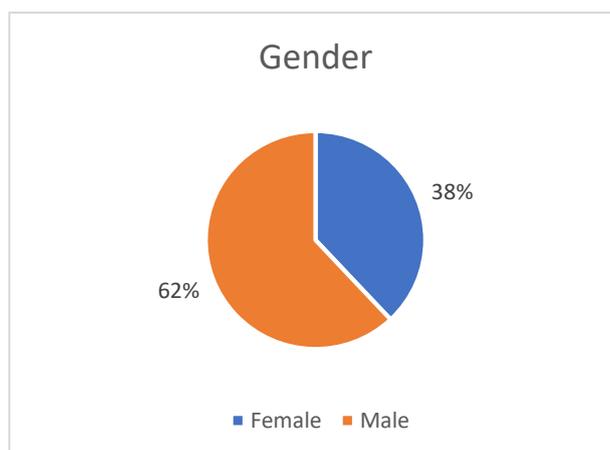
## Research methodology

The data collection took place in July 2019 and included 1,337 people with disabilities living in the Turkish city of Gaziantep. A field survey for people with disabilities was conducted based on Sanad's database. The interviews were carried out using a questionnaire with closed and half-open questions.

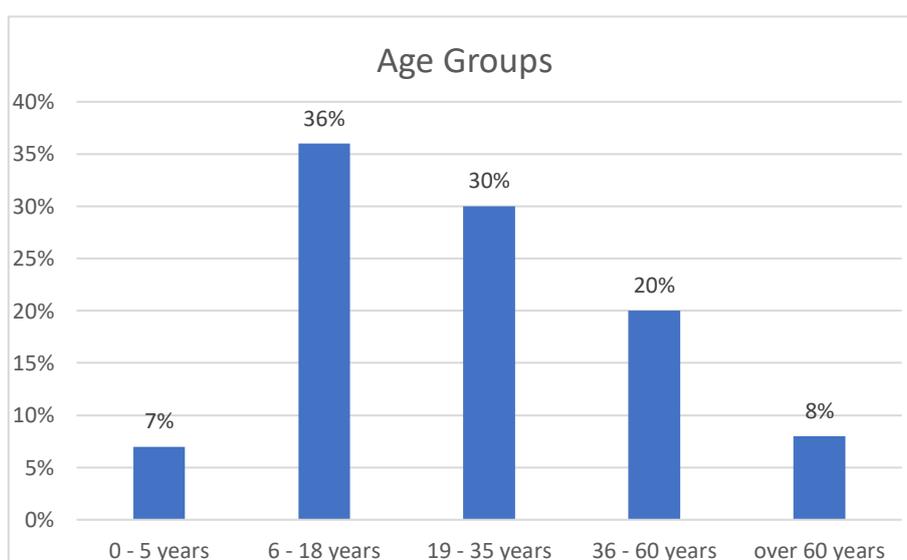
## Findings

### Demographic information:

- 1,337 Cases of people with disabilities were verified during the study, and the current report includes their data. The number of male cases was 830 (62%), and the number of female cases was 507 (38%).



- People with disabilities range in age from 1 to 94 years and have an average age of 27. The following chart shows the percentage of people with disabilities by age group:

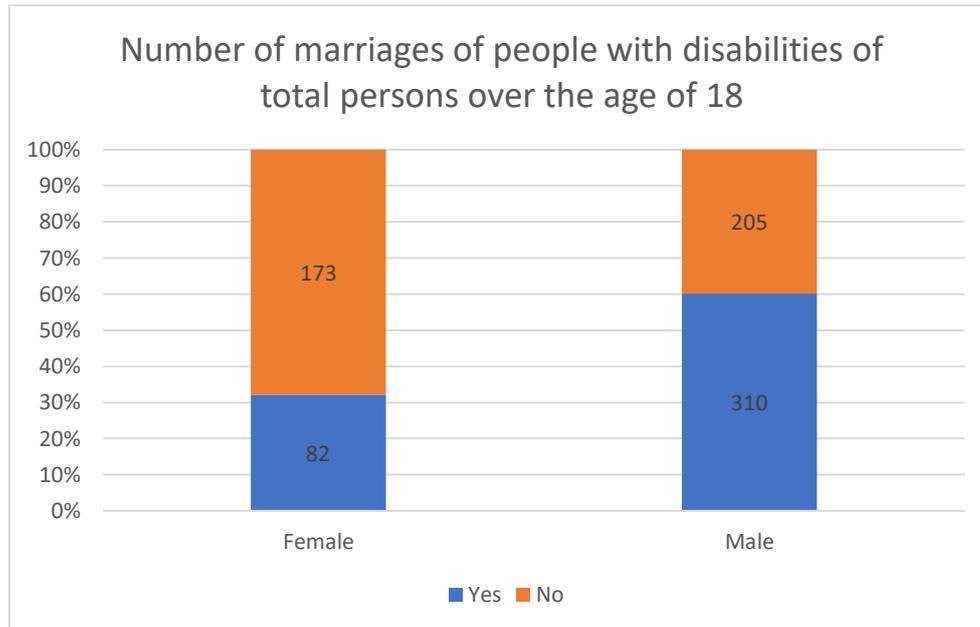


- The number of people with disabilities with the temporary ID card (Kimlik) is 1323 (99%), while 14 (1%) are unable to obtain it for many reasons, including:
  - the inability of people with disabilities to cope with the hassle of overcrowding and waiting times in centers of temporary ID card issuance, especially since these periods can last for long hours;
  - the difficulty of access for people with disabilities to temporary ID card centers due to lack of adequate means of transport;
  - the lack of financial means for families of some people with disabilities and their inability to secure the costs of transporting their children to the temporary ID card centers;
  - the absence of a state-registered address due to living in houses not officially registered with the state.

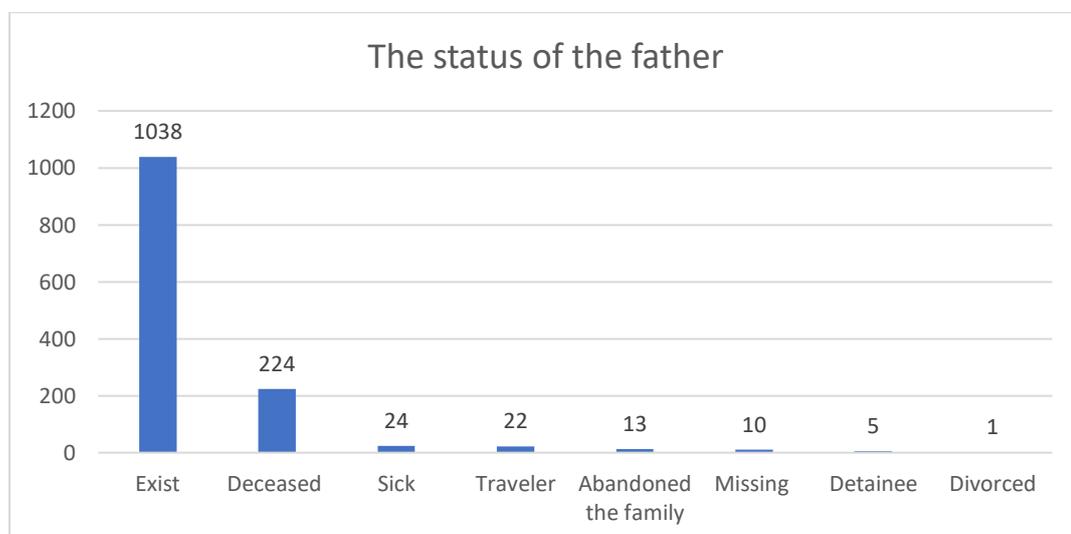
### Marital status:

- The number of people with disabilities under the age of marriage is 583 out of the total number of the participants in the research, which is 44%.

- There are no marriages of people with disabilities under the age of 18.
- The number of married people with disabilities is 392 out of 770 persons (over the age of 18), which is 51%.
- There is a higher rate of marriage among males than females, with 60% of married males (over the age of 18), and only 32% female.



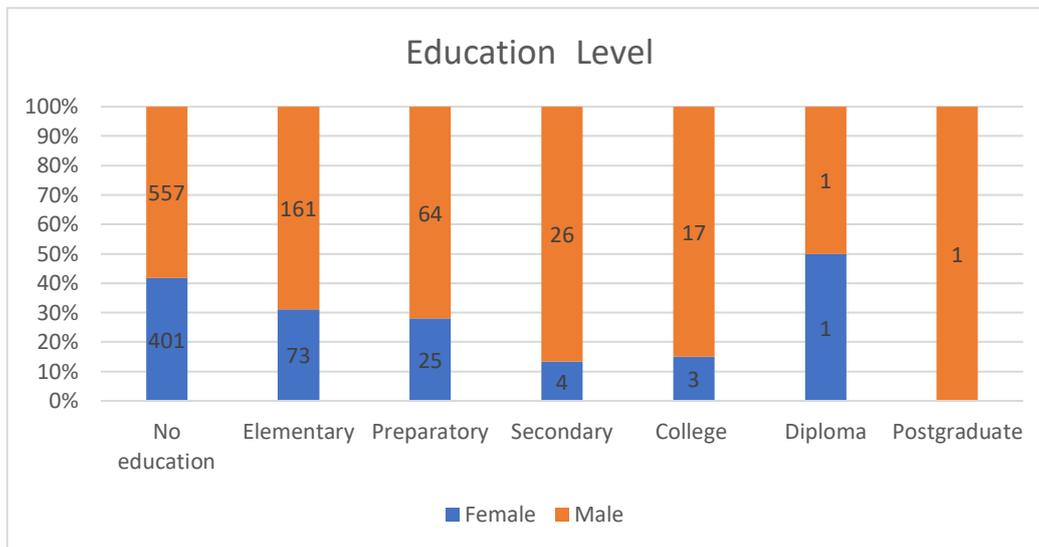
- The average number of family members with a person with disabilities is 6, with an average of 3.02 males in the family.
- The average number of working people in families with a disability is only one person.
- The father in more than three-quarters of families with disabilities exists, while 17% of those families the father is deceased, and the following chart shows the status of the father in the family according to the total number of families:



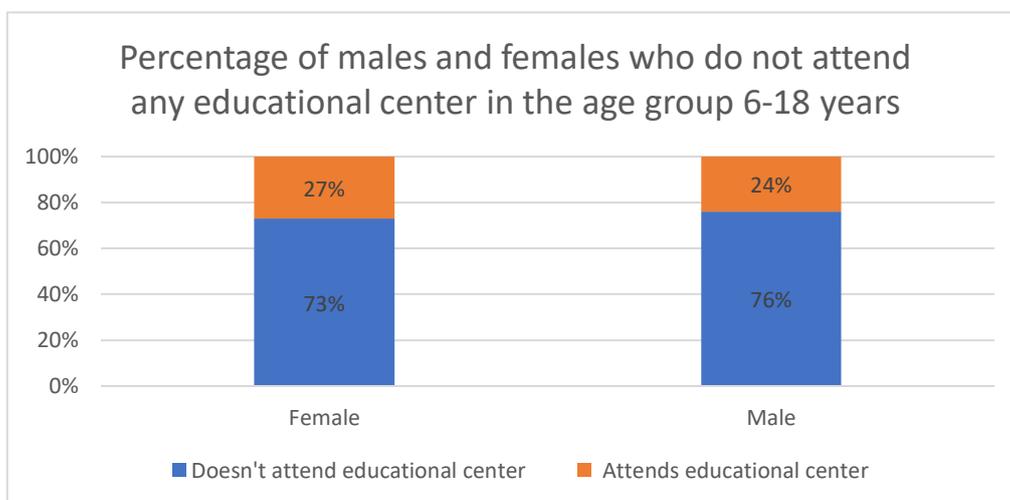
**Education:**

- The number of children with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 18 with the ability to read and write is 65 out of 478, which is only 14%.

- Overall, only 26% of people with disabilities over 6 years of age can read and write (313 out of 1221).
- The proportion of males over 6 years of age who can read and write is higher than the proportion of females, at 30% for males (229 out of 766) and 18% for females (84 out of 455).
- There is a general decline in the educational level of both males and females as the majority of people with disabilities do not have any educational qualifications. The following chart shows the numbers of both males and females at each level of education:

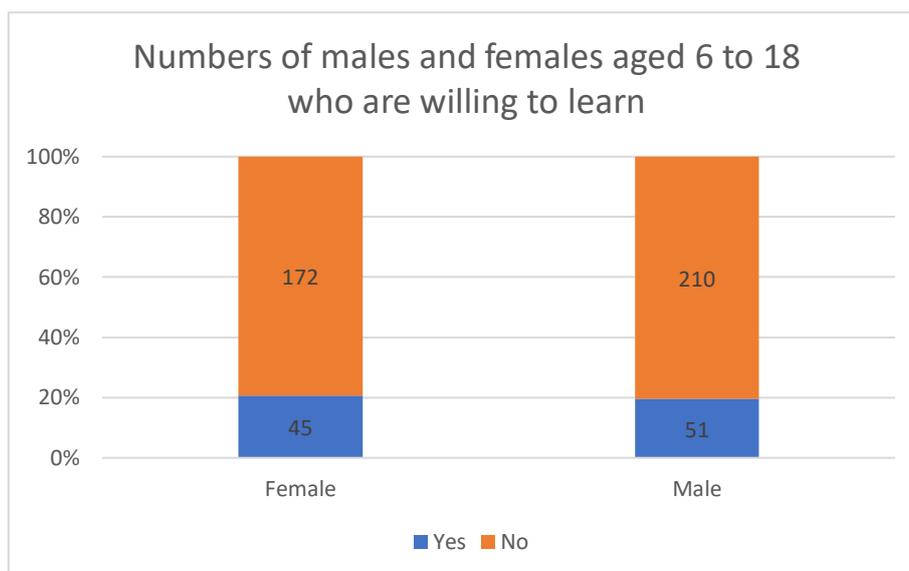


- The number of children with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 18 who do not attend any educational center is 358 out of 478, or 75%.
- The percentage of males aged 6 to 18 who do not attend educational centers is 76% (199 out of a total of 261 males), while for females aged 6 to 18, 73% (159 out of 217 females).



- The results of the study show a decrease in the number of people with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 18 who wish to receive education, with only 96 of the 478 people indicating their desire to learn, which is 20%.

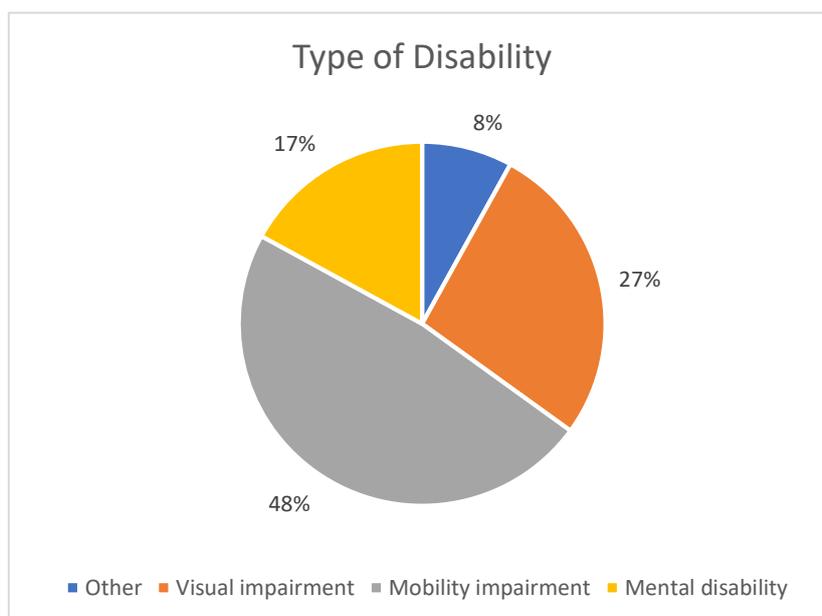
- The degree of desire to pursue learning in females aged 6 to 18 is close to males in the same age group. The percentage of females wishing to receive an education is 21% (45 out of 217 female), while males wishing to receive an education is 21% (51 out of 261).



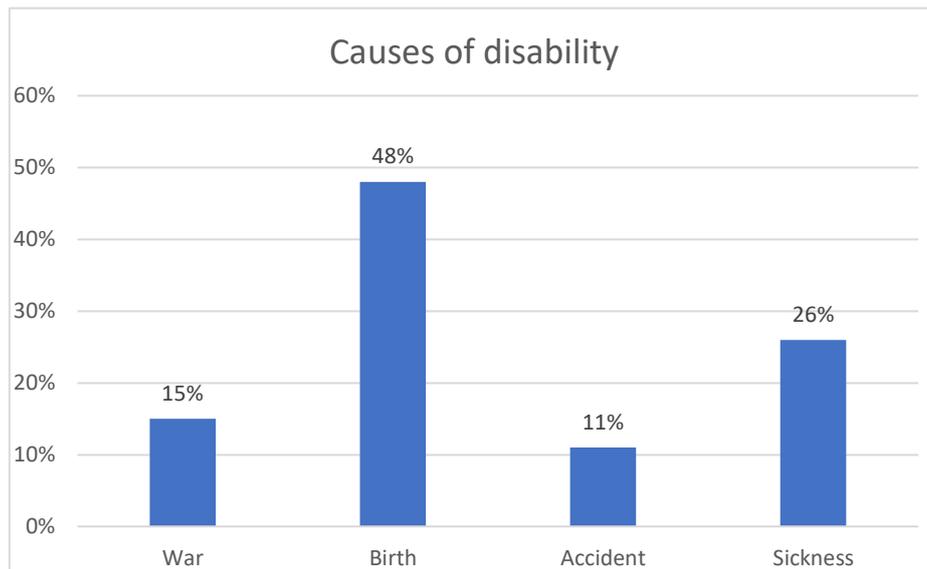
- The main reasons leading to the disruption of education for people with disabilities and their unwillingness to pursue it are as follows:
  - a. the psychological state of people with disabilities and the fear that society will not accept them;
  - b. the lack of suitable school seats for people with disabilities in public schools;
  - c. the lack of teachers' knowledge of how to deal with children with disabilities;
  - d. the poor financial situation of families with disabilities and their inability to bear the cost of their children's education;
  - e. private educational centers are expensive, and families with disabilities cannot afford them;
  - f. the lack of free transportation to and from school and the inability of families to afford transportation due to the economic situation;
  - g. some people with disabilities do not have a refugee identity;
  - h. not being able to speak Turkish;
  - i. many people with disabilities are unable to pursue their educational attainment during periods of displacement and asylum and are unable to obtain qualifying lessons;
  - j. lack of assistive devices (chairs - crutches - diapers - medical shoes - etc.);
  - k. the inability of some people with disabilities to attend educational centers because of the nature of the disability itself, which does not allow them to continue education.

### Health information:

- Nearly half of people with disabilities have motor disabilities, 27% have hearing impairment and 17% have mental disabilities.

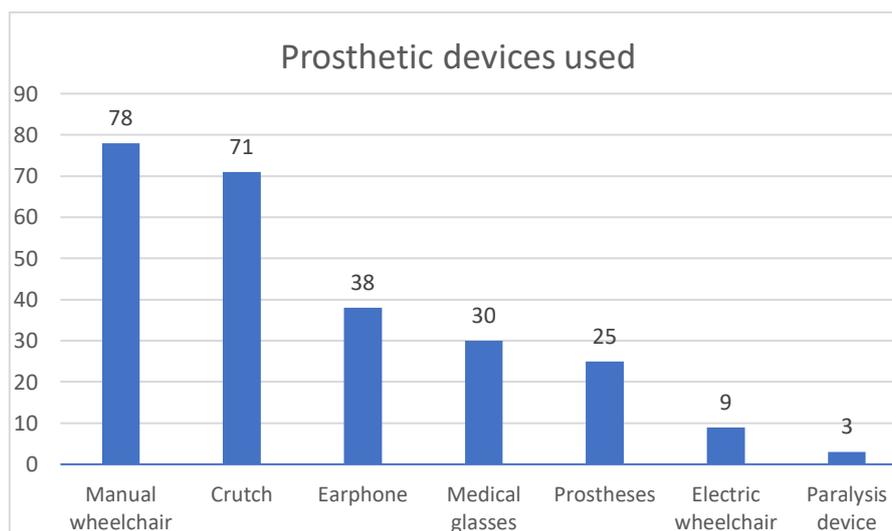


- The most common cases of disability are: (limb paralysis, cerebral palsy, polio, hemiplegia, amputation of limbs, epilepsy, Down syndrome, autism, muscular dystrophy, mental atrophy, total or partial deafness, speech difficulties, weakness or lack of vision).
- The number of people with disabilities having disability document is 564 out of a total 1,337. As for the type of document they hold, 434 people have a medical report issued by a Turkish government hospital, while the number of people with a disability document drops to 130, or only 10% of the total number of people with disabilities.
- There is a slight increase in the proportion of females who do not have a disability document compared to males, as 62% of females do not have a disability document, while 55% of males do not have it.
- Nearly half of people with disabilities were born with some type of disability, while 11% of them were disabled due to accidents (e.g. traffic accidents, work accidents, etc.).
- The number of people with disabilities resulting from hostilities is 215, which is 15% of all people with disabilities surveyed. The bombings are the main cause of war-related disability, with an average of 170 cases, as well as injuries in combat, gunshot wounds or disabilities caused by landmine. It should also be noted that there are two cases of people with disabilities whose disability resulted from the torture suffered during their detention.
- The following graph shows the proportions of people with disabilities according to the cause of their disability:

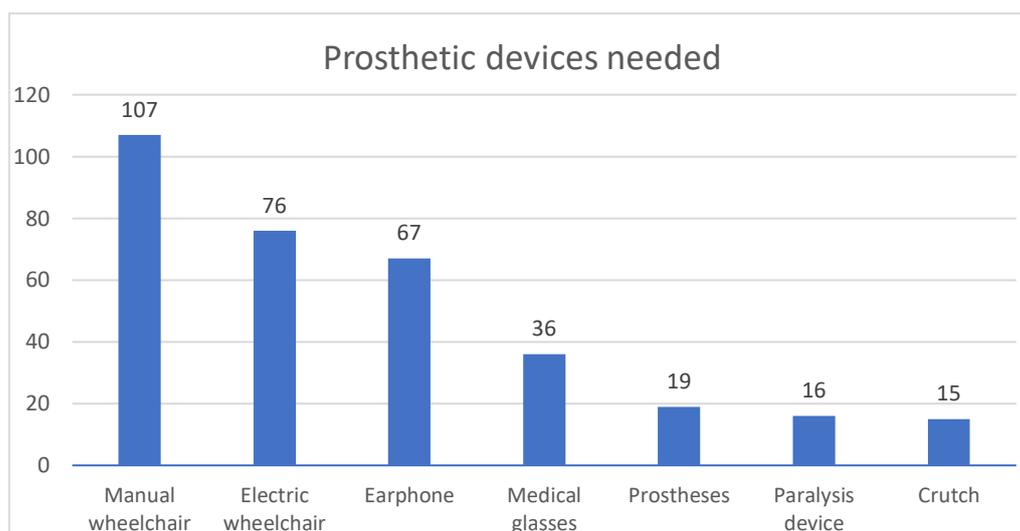


**Prosthetic devices:**

- 224 out of 1337 people with disabilities use prosthetic devices, meaning that only 17% use prosthetic devices.
- There are 254 prosthetic devices used, meaning that some people with disabilities use more than one device at the same time. The following chart shows the numbers of devices used:



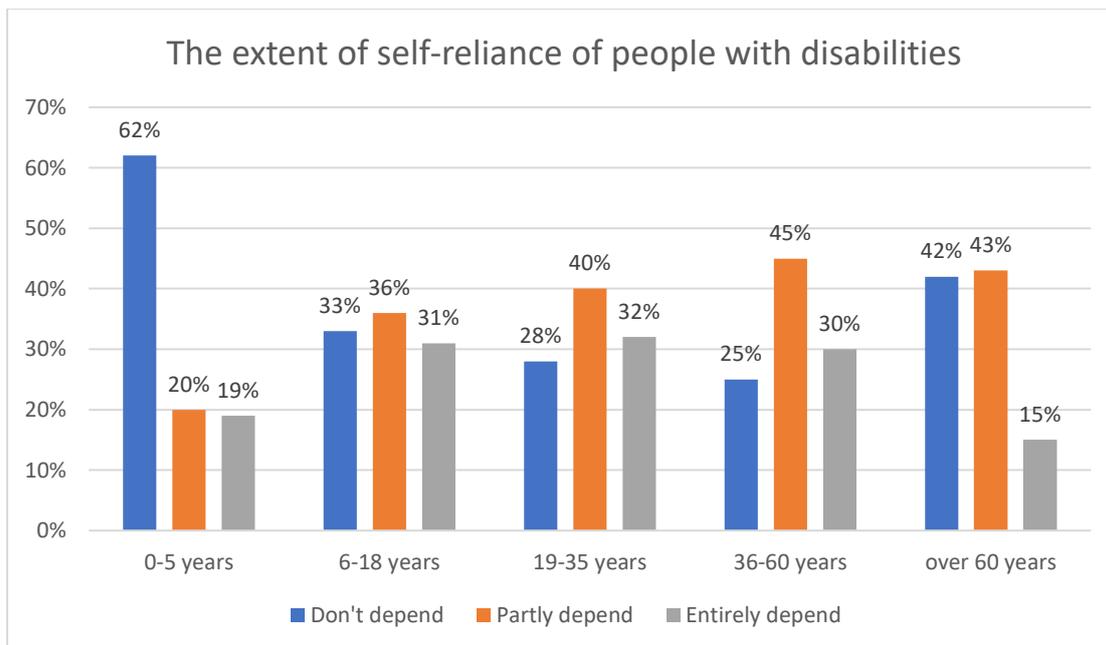
- The number of prosthetic devices needed by people with disabilities is 336, which is shown in the following scheme:



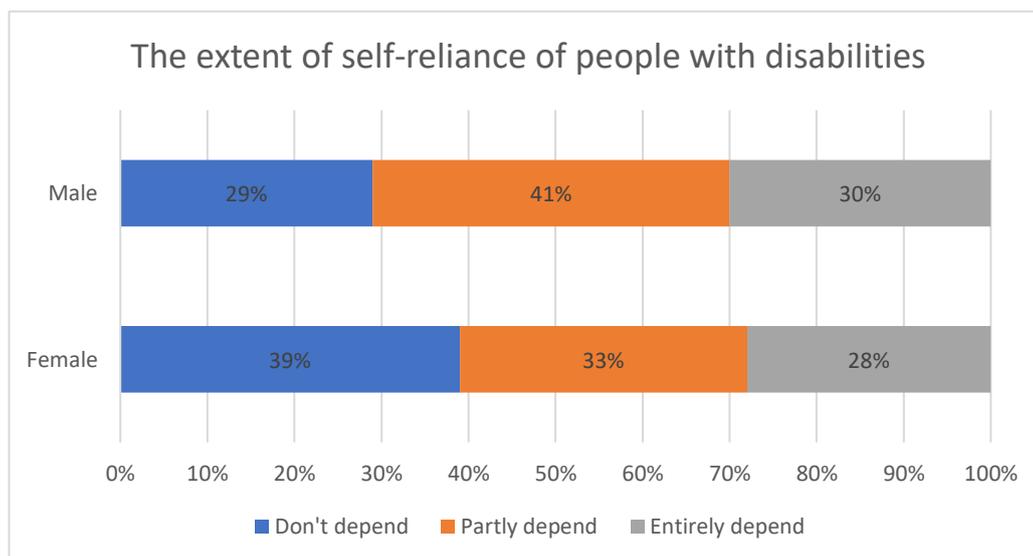
- 11% of people with disabilities included in the study need medical assistance or surgical intervention (soft palate lifting, eye surgery, cochlear implant, leg-lengthening, medical speech therapy, facial reconstruction surgery, treatment of back and foot curvature, heart surgery, tendon transfer, lump removal, nerve and bond connecting surgery, plate installation surgery) as well as the need for medicines.
- 10% of people with disabilities included in the study need physical therapy.
- There are many additional needs for people with disabilities, as 152 of them need diapers and 22 cases indicate their need for medical shoes, as well as many other requirements, including: (toilet chair - baby stroller - knee brace - device to compensate soft palate - special feeding bottle - cervical collar device - pumping iron device - cardiovascular device - dentures - air mattresses - batteries for electric chairs and earphones)

### Self-Reliance:

- The largest group of people with disabilities can partially rely on themselves by 38%, followed by 33% of people with disabilities who cannot rely on themselves at all. The percentage of those who can fully rely on themselves is 29%.
- The ability to self-reliance for people with disabilities significantly reduces for children under the age of five.

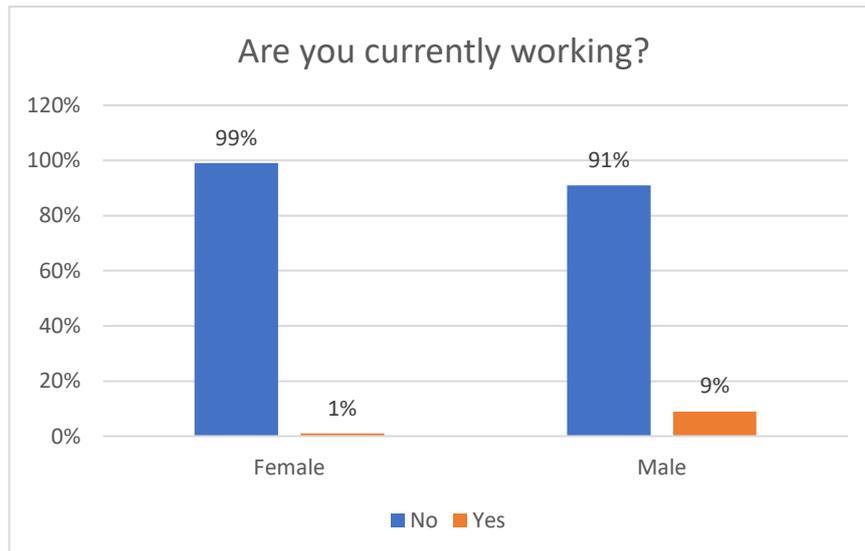


- The proportion of males and females who can rely entirely on themselves is almost similar, while the proportion of females who can partly rely on themselves is lower than that of males.

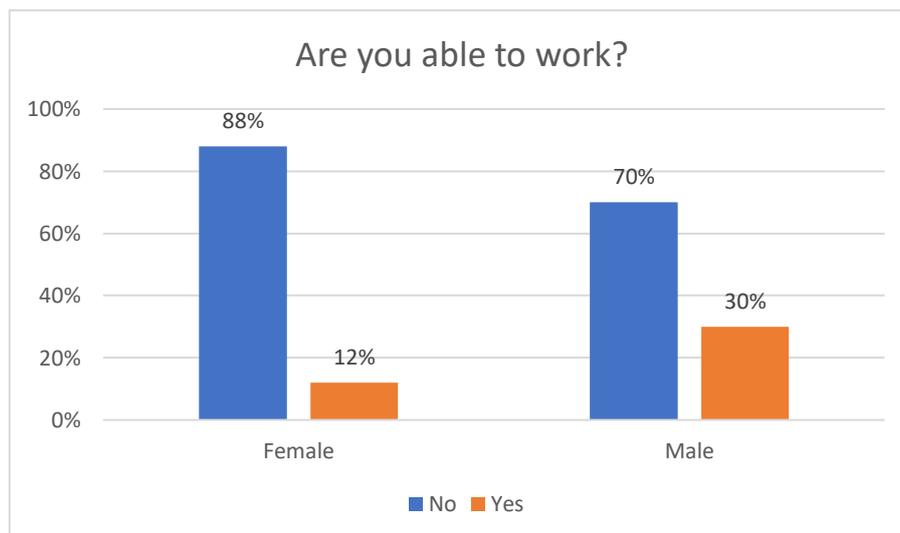


**Employment:**

- There is a marked decrease in the proportion of people with disabilities over the age of 18 who are currently employed, as this percentage does not exceed 7% (53 out of 805 people over the age of 18), and they work in many areas, the most important of which are (sewing, shoe industry, shoe repair workshops, self-employed, worker).
- The percentage of male workers is currently higher than female workers, with 9% male workers, while only 1% of people with disabilities surveyed are female workers.



- 70% of people with disabilities over the age of 18 have no previous work experience in any area of work.
- The percentage of previously employed males over the age of 18 is 42%, significantly higher than the 5% of females over the age of 18 who previously worked.
- The most prominent areas of work that males have previously worked in are: (self-employed - shoe industry - teacher - employee - salesman - car repair - nursing - blacksmith- grocer - Farmer), while the most active female areas of work are: (sewing - nursing - handicrafts - teacher - textile - hairdresser- employee - saleswoman).
- 24% of people with disabilities over the age of 18 indicate that they can work (191 out of 805 people) and the following chart shows the ability of both males and females to work:

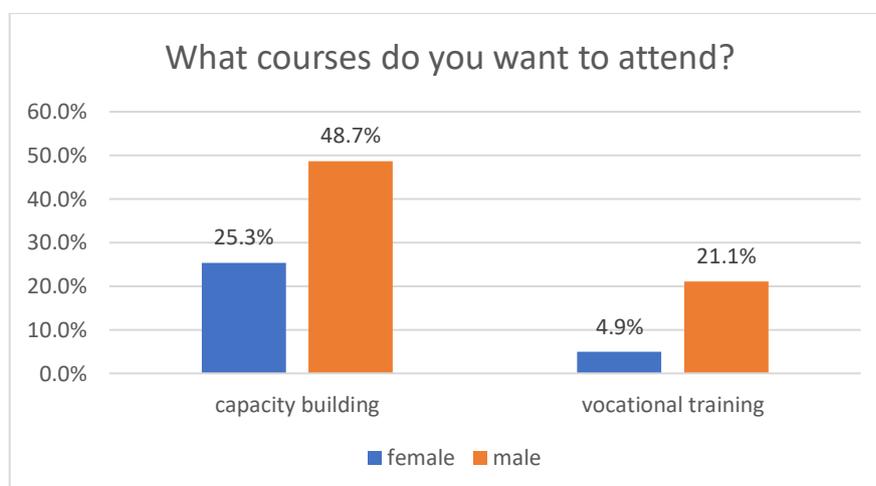


- There is a marked increase in the proportion of females over the age of 18 who wish to work, at 17%, while the proportion of males over the age of 18 who wish to work is 18%. The most preferred works for people with disabilities are the following (in order of most preferred): handicraft - sewing, entrepreneurship - professional business - office work - employment.

- People with disabilities face many difficulties that prevent their ability to work, the most prominent of which are:
  - a. poor self-confidence of people with disabilities and fear that society will not accept them;
  - b. employers' lack of confidence in the skills and capabilities of people with disabilities and their ability to accomplish the tasks assigned to them;
  - c. the poor financial situation of people with disabilities prevents them from being able to open their own businesses in the absence of small business support programs for them;
  - d. many people with disabilities do not have the necessary skills and experience to start work;
  - e. poor capacity-building and vocational training programs targeting people with disabilities in particular;
  - f. the difficulty for people with disabilities to move to and from the workplace.

### Qualification and vocational training

- 318 Males and 140 females with disabilities wish to attend training courses.
- The following chart represents the most prominent training courses that people with disabilities of both genders wish to attend:



- The main training courses that people with disabilities wish to attend are foreign languages, computer skills, drawing, hairdressing, sewing, Quran memorization course, shoe molding, protection and psychological support sessions, and speech training.
- People with disabilities face many difficulties to attend vocational training and capacity-building programs conducted by training institutions and centers. The most prominent of these difficulties are:
  - a. the poor financial situation of families with disabilities and their inability to pay for paid training courses;
  - b. the weak interest of international donors and supporters in establishing training centers for the rehabilitation of people with disabilities;
  - c. mobility difficulties to and from training centers;
  - d. most training centers are not equipped to meet the requirements of people with disabilities;
  - e. the negative psychological state of people with disabilities and their fear of mixing with society;
  - f. lack of training programs that suit their disability.

### Living situation:

- The vast majority of families with disabilities live in apartments with 97%. The remaining ones live in uninhabitable places (16 of the total number of people with disabilities), a shop (10 cases), or a basement (4 cases), while two people with disabilities live in a youth housing.
- The average rent of a house for people with disabilities and their families is TL 460 per month.
- 44% of people with disabilities (589 of the total number of people with disabilities) did not receive a food card, while the rest received a food card from the Turkish Red Crescent.

### Comparison of the situation of PWDs between 2016 and 2019

In 2016, Sanad conducted a study on people with disabilities in Gaziantep and addressed the same information as the current study. The following table shows the differences in the conditions of people with disabilities between 2016 and 2019:

Conditions of people with disabilities	2016	2019
The number of people with disabilities cases covered in the report	624 case	1337 case
Percentage of people with disabilities who do not have a temporary ID card	%15 (97 person)	%1 (14 person)
Percentage of married people with disabilities	%51	%51
The percentage of people over 6 years and can read	%30	%26
Percentage of children with disabilities between 6 and 18 years of age who do not attend any educational center	%60	%75
Percentage of people with disabilities with a disability document	%29	%42
Number of prosthetic devices required	279	336
Number of people with disabilities over the age of 18 able to work	131	191
Number of people with disabilities wishing to attend training workshops	151	458

## Recommendations:

- a. facilitating the procedures for issuing the temporary protection ID card (kimlik) for people with disabilities;
- b. facilitating the procedure for updating the address of the residence and transferring the address to other states to find job opportunities;
- c. including Syrians with disabilities in the system of people with disabilities in order to benefit from the advantages of that system, just like those Turkish with disabilities;
- d. working on providing rehabilitation centers for children with disabilities to qualify and integrate them into formal schools and the community;
- e. qualifying educational staff on how to deal with people with disabilities;
- f. activating protection and psychological support programs and helping them get rid of the negative psychological effects they suffer, which can increase their ability to integrate into society;
- g. working on raising awareness of the community about the potential and creativity of people with disabilities in various fields, and can be guided by many success stories for people with disabilities;
- h. working on providing free transportation for people with disabilities;
- i. working on providing the necessities of people with disabilities such as prosthetic devices, medicines, diapers, and other basic requirements;
- j. increasing the ability of people with disabilities to work by providing them with the financial support needed to open their businesses and subject them to training courses that contribute to raising their abilities and competencies;
- k. enabling people with disabilities to pursue their educational attainment by creating special schools for them, allocating a percentage of the seats in university, and providing them with scholarships;
- l. offering free Turkish and English language classes for people with disabilities with compensation for attendance;
- m. supporting humanitarian organizations and bodies concerned with the affairs of people with disabilities and helping them launch projects that aim to meet their health and material requirements;
- n. conducting similar surveys in Syria and other Turkish states with high numbers of Syrians to identify the conditions of people with disabilities in those areas;
- o. facilitating access to work permits for people with disabilities.



**SANAD**

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[sanad.ngo](http://sanad.ngo)

[info@sanad.ngo](mailto:info@sanad.ngo)

**INDICATORS**  
Analytics, Research, Consulting

[info@indicator-s.com](mailto:info@indicator-s.com)

[www.indicator-s.com](http://www.indicator-s.com)