Disability, poverty and poverty dynamics

In rural Bangladesh

One third of all households directly affected by disability related barriers and discrimination*

One third of chronically poor households include a person with a disability**

A life history

Asif
51 years old
Born 1966

Having or acquiring a disability has strong associations with living in or failing into poverty due to:

- High medical expenses
- Social stigma, harassment and discrimination
- Exclusion from education
- Limited scope for income generation

Women and children are particularly vulnerable due to:

- Marriage problems
- Abandonment
- Threats of divorce
- Dowry problems

There are signs of improvement in Bangladesh...

Private sector: taking on more employees with disabilities.

National political leadership: addressing disability issues and developing more inclusive policies.

The Sustainable Development Goals have contributed to improvements by drawing links between disability and the eradication of poverty.

Our findings were reached using:

1. The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), 2010
   Allows for an overall understanding of the relationship between poverty and disability.

   Allows for poverty trajectories and their drivers to be assessed.

3. In-depth qualitative investigation
   Revisiting select households from the panel survey reveals participants’ own perceptions of their poverty trajectories and its drivers.


However, there is much more work to be done to reduce poverty and ensure those affected by disability related barriers and discrimination are not left behind. We need:

- Household surveys that show intra-household dynamics and links between disability and multidimensional poverty.
- A strong alliance of anti-poverty and special interest organisations to challenge the government to expand social protection provision.
- A targeted approach to social protection for poor and vulnerable persons with disabilities and their households.