

Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women with disability



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Outline

- Regional and national context
- Findings of the Situational analysis on SRHR of women with disabilities in Moldova
- Priorities and challenges
- Recommendations

Countries from EECA region which ratified the CRPD or signed the Optional Protocol

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>

Country	Convention Signature Date	Protocol Signature Date	Convention Ratification Date	Protocol Ratification Date
Albania	22-12-2009			
Armenia	30-03-2007	30-3-2007	22-9-2010	
Azerbaijan	09-01-2008	09-01-2008	28-1-2009	28-1-2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29-07-2009	29-7-2009	12-3-2010	12-3-2010
Belarus				
Georgia	10-07-2009	10-7-2009		
Hungary	30-03-2007	30-3-2007	20-7-2007	20-7-2007
Kazakhstan	11-12-2008	11-12-2008	21-4-2015	
Kyrgyzstan	21-09-2011			
Macedonia	30-03-2007	29-7-2009		
Republic Moldova	30-03-2007		21-9-2010	
Serbia	17-12-2007	17-12-2007	31-7-2009	31-7-2009
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-
Turkmenistan			4-9-2008	10-11-2010
Ukraine	24-09-2008	24-9-2008	4-2-2010	4-2-2010
Uzbekistan	27-02-2009			

Estimated prevalence of disability in EECA countries

Source: USAID, The Prevalence of Disability in Europe and Eurasia, 2009

Country	Population in Year of Most Recent Disability Data (millions)	Estimated Disabled Population	Estimated Disability Prevalence
Albania	3.13 (2007)	94,804	3.0%
Armenia	3.07 (2006)	148,656	4.9%
Azerbaijan	8.58 (2007)	281,000	3.3%
Belarus	9.70 (2007)	512,500	5.3%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	n/a	n/a	n/a
Georgia	4.36 (2008)	137,806	3.2%
Kazakhstan	15.15 (2005)	403,400	2.7%
Kyrgyzstan	n/a	n/a	n/a
Macedonia	2.04 (2006)	26,781	1.3%
Moldova	3.76 (2005)	164,891	4.4%
Montenegro	0.62 (2008)	67,000	10.8%
Serbia	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tajikistan	6.17 (2000)	104,272	1.7%
Turkmenistan	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ukraine	47.45 (2004)	2,500,000	5.3%
Uzbekistan	26.49 (2006)	n/a	n/a



People with Disabilities in Moldova: Basic Facts

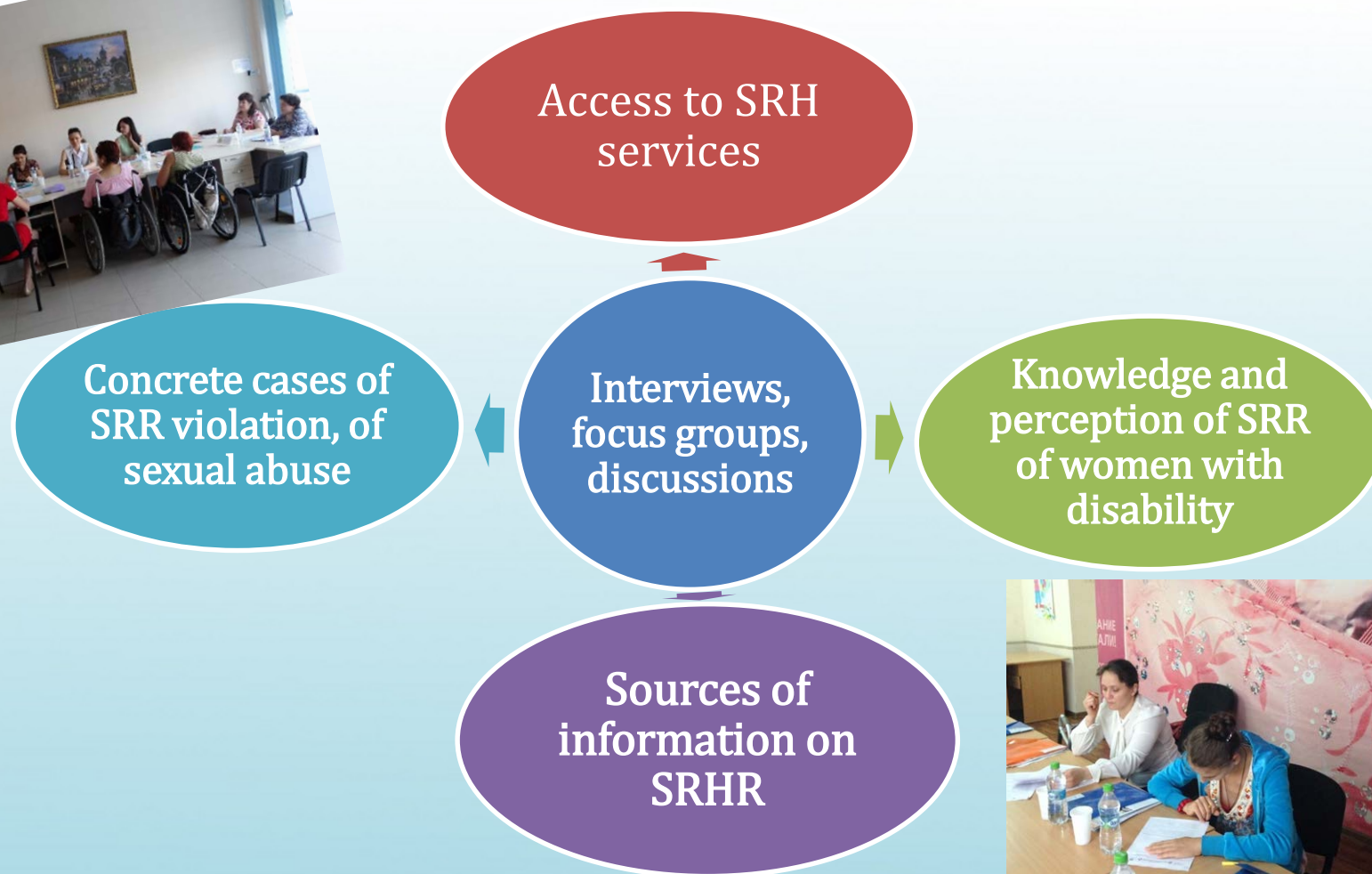
- The total number for 2016 is 184,5 thousand people
- 48% of the total number of persons with disabilities are women.
- 62 % of persons with disabilities are from rural areas
- Over the past decade there had been a 10% overall continuous increase of persons with disabilities



Sexual and reproductive rights are fundamental human rights!

- Persons with disabilities have the same sexual and reproductive health needs and rights as other people
- That is why we have made it our aim to identify the **issues confronting women and girls with disabilities in exercising their sexual and reproductive rights in Moldova**

Situational Analysis of SRHR of Women with Disability in Moldova, the framework



Challenges during the data collection

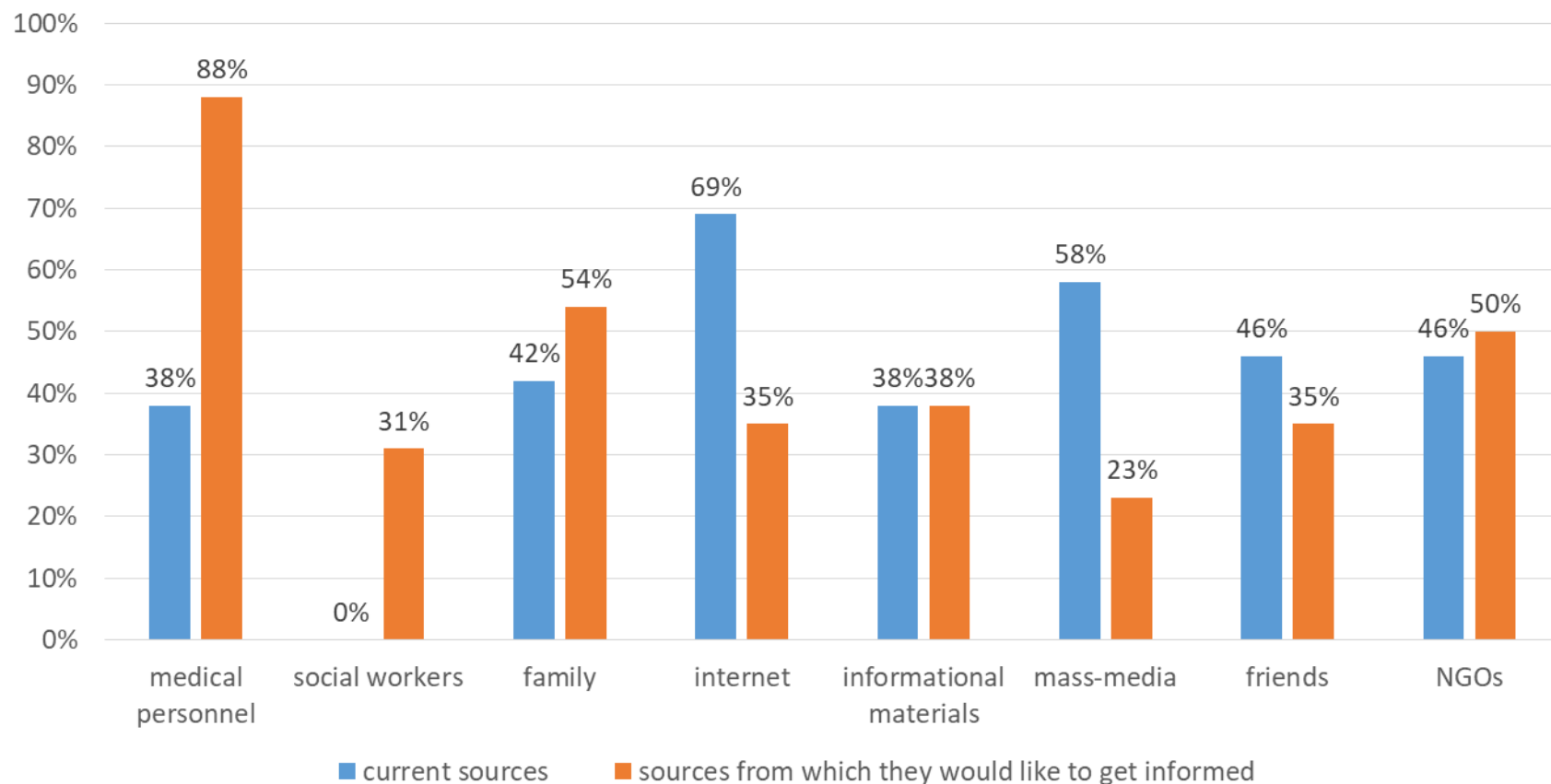
30% of invited women couldn't make it:

- A number of them are immobilized in bad, not all of them have wheelchairs
- Others have wheelchairs, but can not leave the house because of the lack of infrastructure: adapted public transportation, bad roads
- To be able to travel they need a support person, who are busy at work or don't want to go
- Some of them were shy to come to talk about the “taboo” topic - SRHR

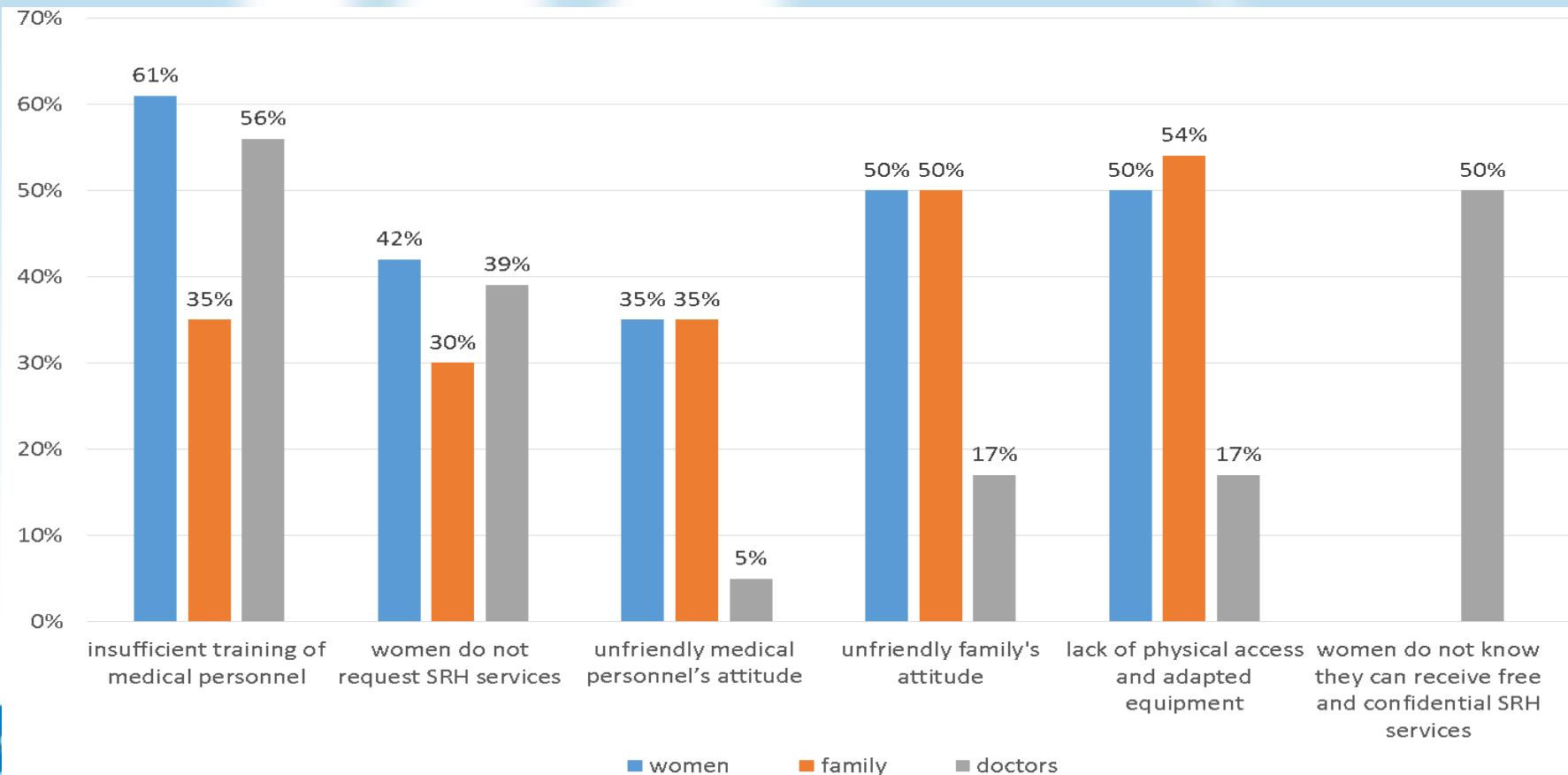


Sources of information on SRHR: mainly Internet, **only 1/3 from health and social sectors**

Fig.2. Sources of information about SRH of women with special needs



Barriers and Causes of the limited access to SRH services: difficult **physical access** in medical facilities, fear to be **judged**; **unfriendly and accusatory** attitude when accessing the services





SRH Service Providers: capacity gaps in providing the SRH services to women with disabilities

- Lack of counseling skills
- Lack of time and resources/materials
- Limited knowledge of the FP methods' applicability to particular types of disabilities and groups of women

Cases of infringement of persons with disabilities' sexual and reproductive rights :

- Women received suggestions to not **plan a pregnancy** because of their disability and that a **baby with disability would be born**.
- Medical personnel repeatedly **refused to offer counseling** for contraception and pregnancy;
- The family physician refused to refer to a gynecologist, saying that a **woman with disability does not need such a visit**;
- The doctor suggested to a woman with disabilities **to terminate the pregnancy** on grounds of disability;
- The person with disability was virtually obliged by the doctor to get an abortion, because she already had a child and "that was enough";
- During a visit to the gynecologist, **he refused to perform a pap test**, because "he was not obligated to help her up the gynecologic chair", which was not adapted for women with locomotor disabilities;

Summary of the findings

- ❑ Poor knowledge among women with disability about their SRHR, fear to have a disabled baby;
- ❑ The low demand for services, due to existing barriers, poor knowledge where to address for services
- ❑ Lack of infrastructure: lack of ramps, toilets, placement of the offices in the 2nd floor and not adapted elevator, lack of adapted gynecological chairs
- ❑ Medical personnel: unfriendly attitude and discriminatory behavior,
- ❑ Low quality of services due to services providers capacity gaps;
- ❑ Poor knowledge of the SR rights and needs of people with disability,
- ❑ Gaps in policies/standards, making service providers accountable for respecting these rights



Follow – up

- **Trainings of care-givers** on SRHR, conducted by experts from Romania, “**Keep me safe**” manual used
- **Trainings for women** and girls with disability, enabling them to become peer-to-peer educators
- The Report widely **disseminated**, including to the Ministries, UNFPA and UN Human Rights
- The report’ **recommendations** were included in the **action plan** of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and in the **National Programme on SRHR, 2018-2011**
- The Situational Analysis findings were included in Moldova **shadow report to the Committee of the Rights of People with Disability.**
- CRPD gave recommendations to the country **to stop discrimination on SRHR**



Continue challenges/needs

- Addressing the capacity gaps of the SRH service providers at all levels by updated training curriculums, education and certification opportunities.
- Inclusion of SRHR issues of people with disability, including **mental**, in national policies and programmes, development of M&E system, disaggregated data
- IEC for people with disability, adapted to their needs
- Scientific data on the aspects of FP, pregnancy and delivery of women with disability (?)
- **Networking and cooperation with professional societies for introducing best European models and experience in EECA countries**

*"We are all equal and have the right to a family and be happy, to have a beautiful life, like all other people",
woman with special needs*



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