



5 March 2026

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EAT) | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (CET)

United Nations Trade & Development

Poverty and disability: Evidence from Africa

Background

Despite sustained economic growth in several African countries over the past three decades, fighting poverty and deprivations remains a major challenge. Recent evidence underscores that disability both contributes to and is exacerbated by poverty, creating a vicious cycle that undermines inclusive development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The recently published UNCTAD Working Paper *“Poverty and Disability: Evidence from Africa”* provides new empirical insights into the scale, drivers, and policy implications of disability-related poverty across the continent. Against this backdrop, the proposed webinar will create a platform for dialogue among policymakers, development practitioners, UN actors, and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to discuss evidence, lived experiences, and policy responses aimed at reducing poverty and inequality in Africa in an inclusive manner.

Objective

- Present and discuss recent evidence on the relationship between poverty, inequality, and disability in Africa.
- Amplify the perspectives and lived experiences of persons with disabilities in relation to poverty.
- Examine policy options and institutional approaches to promote inclusive poverty reduction and reduce inequalities.
- Foster dialogue between governments, UN country teams, and civil society on translating evidence into action.





Target participants

- Government officials and policymakers responsible for trade, services, and development policies;
- Services trade negotiators and regulators;
- Statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices, central banks, and line ministries;
- Representatives of regional economic communities;
- Researchers, academics, and development partners working on services trade and data.

Modalities

Online webinar – 1h30 duration.

Languages supported

English

Speakers

- Junior Davis – Acting Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD (TBC)
- Olga Solledder – Economist, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
- Collins Yao Losu – Disability Inclusion and Social Protection Professional, Ghana
- Parliamentarian (TBC)
- Policymaker (TBC)
- UN Country Teams representative (TBC)
- Diane Sayinzoga – Chief, UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa