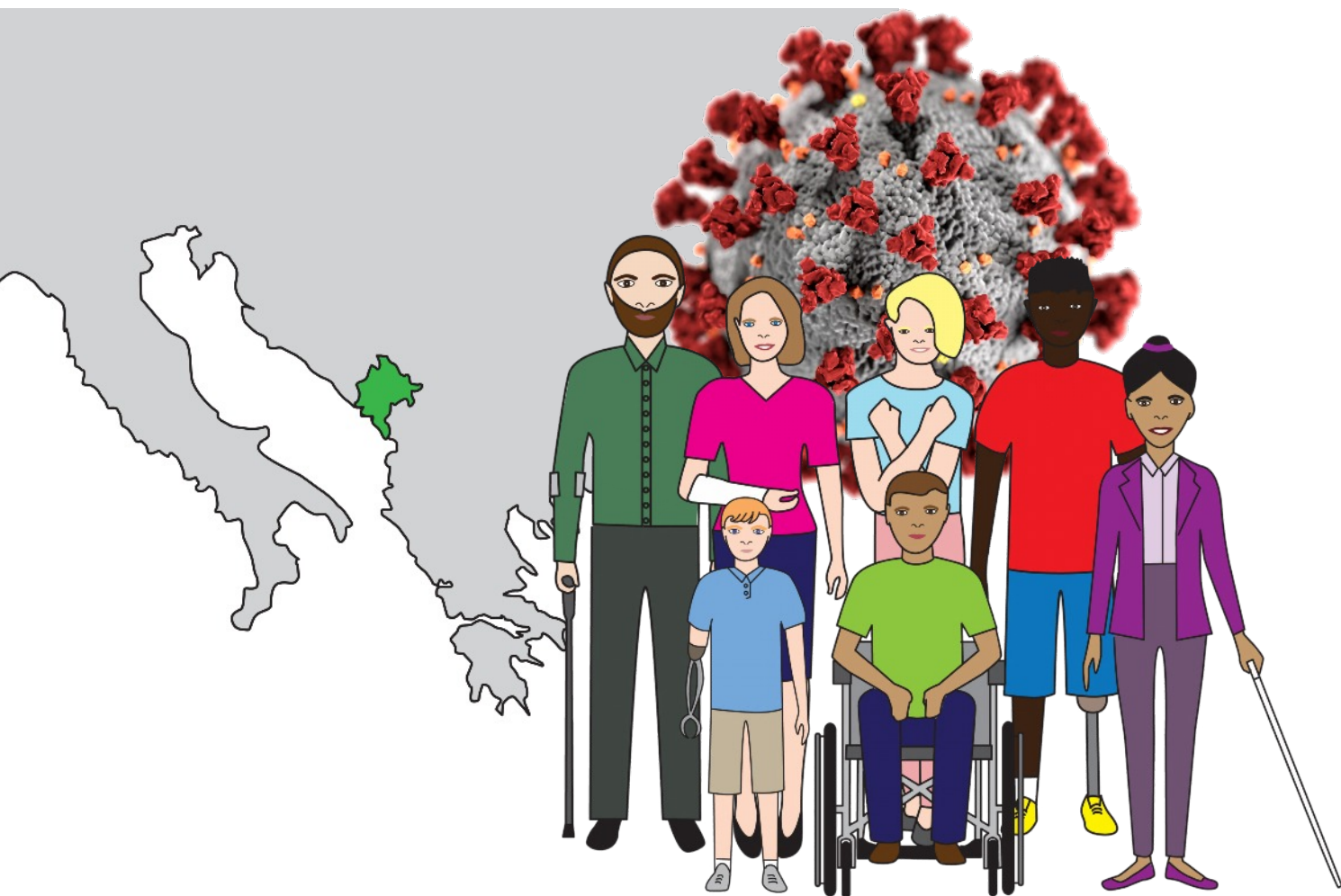


Montenegro



EasyRead version



The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** is part of the United Nations. They make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and has their rights respected.



The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights asked the Association of Youth with Disabilities in Montenegro to write this report.

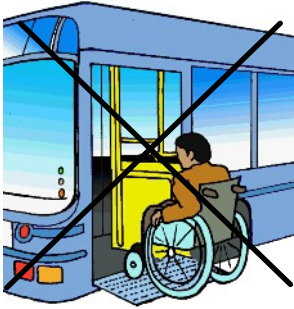


This report is about what happened to people with disabilities in Montenegro during COVID-19 up until February 2021. It is mostly about what happened to young people with disabilities.



Life is already hard for many people with disabilities in the world.

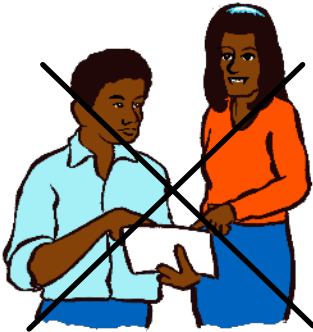
In Montenegro it is hard for people with disabilities:



- to access transport



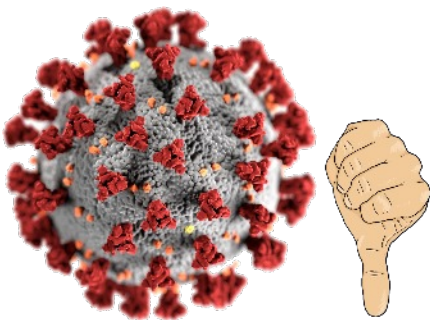
- to access public buildings like hospitals and schools



- to access information



- to live independently in the community



- COVID-19 has made this much worse.

People with disabilities in Montenegro

?



Montenegro doesn't know how many people with a disability:

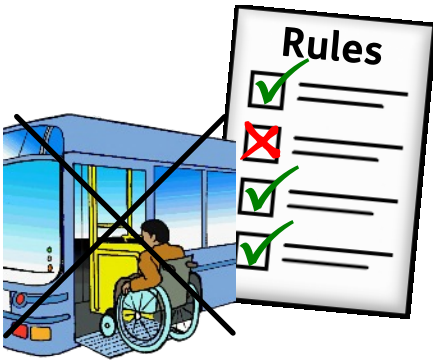
- live in the country
- got COVID-19
- have died from COVID-19.

What helped people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?



Rules to keep everyone safe

During the COVID-19 emergency there were rules to keep people safe.



Some of the rules made it harder for people with disabilities to move around the community.



The rules to keep people safe were changed so some people with disabilities could:

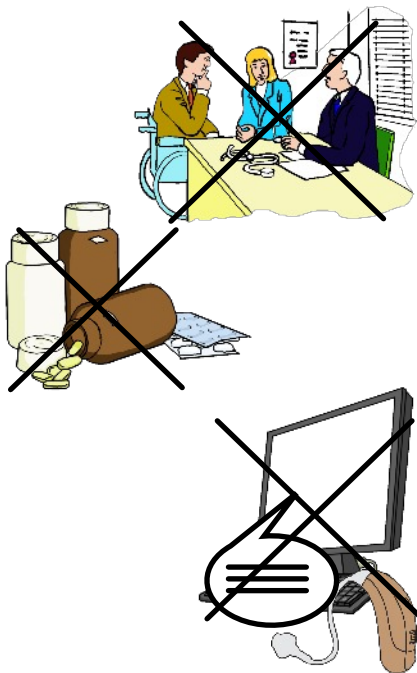
- get the help they needed
- move around the community.



What happened to people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?

Health

Some people with disabilities felt sicker during COVID-19 because it was hard to:



- go to the doctors
- get the medicine they needed
- get the things they needed like wheelchairs, hearing aids and screen readers.

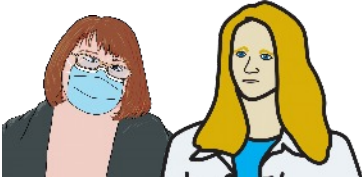
Some people with disabilities found it hard to cope during COVID-19 because they didn't have support. They:



- did not feel good
- found it hard to do everyday things.

Mask wearing

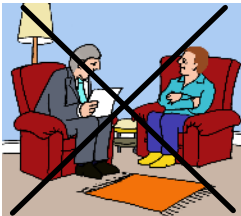
For some people with disabilities wearing masks during the COVID-19 emergency made it hard:



- to read lips and understand what people were saying
- for them to breath well.

Living in institutions

People with disabilities living in institutions:

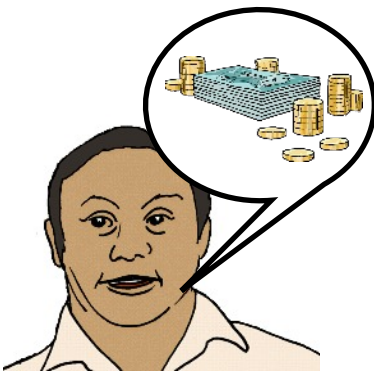
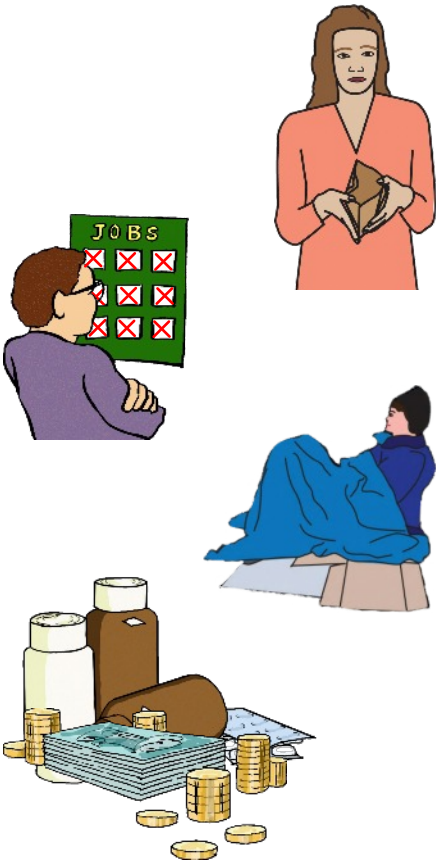


- could not have visitors
- felt lonely
- felt scared
- families were worried about them.

Money and jobs

Some people with disabilities:

- found it harder to get money
- lost their jobs
- lost their place to live
- had to pay more for things like medicine and food.



People with disabilities can ask the Government for social protection money if they need help.

Not many people with disabilities tried to get the money during the COVID-19 because:

- it took a long time





- it was hard to understand



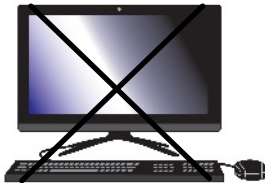
- people worried they would get sick if they went out



- it cost money to travel to ask



- people didn't know how to use the computer to ask



- people didn't have a computer to use



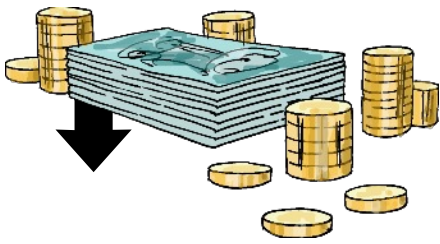
- it takes a long time to find out if you will get the money.

Supports

OPDs (organisations of persons with disabilities) and NGOs that support people with disabilities:

- did not have enough masks and gloves to keep people safe





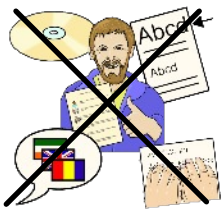
- did not have enough money and resources to help everyone who wanted help.

Education

During COVID-19 many students with disabilities missed out on learning:



- they could not access the internet



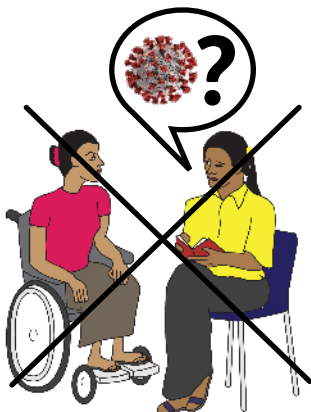
- materials were not accessible



- they didn't have the extra support they needed.

Participation

People with disabilities were not asked what they need and what they think about what should happen:



- during the COVID-19 emergency



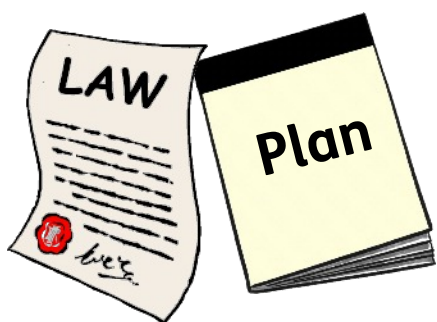
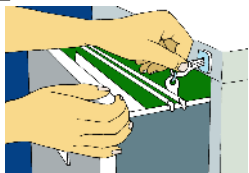
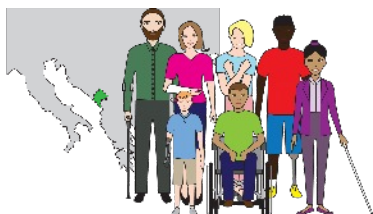
- in plans to make things better after COVID-19.

What we think should happen in Montenegro

The Government should:

Collect, keep and share information about how many people with disabilities:

- live in Montenegro
- their type of disability
- are men or women
- their age
- live in institutional settings
- live in residential settings
- in a way that keeps information safe.



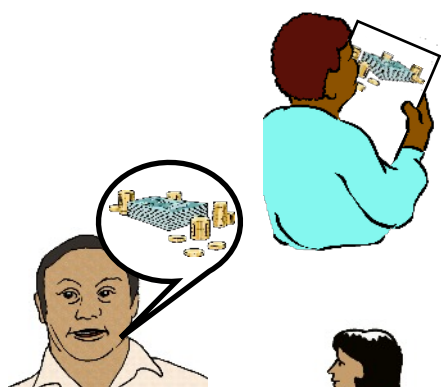
Use the information to make laws and plans that are fair for people with disabilities.

Make sure in emergencies like COVID-19 people with disabilities:



- are included in the plans
- are treated fairly
- can get food, housing and other important things they need
- get information in accessible ways like Easy Read and sign language.

Change how people with disabilities can get Government social protection money. Make it:



- easy to understand
- easy and quick to ask for
- free to ask for.

After COVID-19:



- make plans to help people with disabilities learn at school, learn skills for jobs, learn skills for using computers, get jobs
- ask people with disabilities and OPDs what should be in the plans
- think about what they say to help make the plans.



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