

**Table I.** Summary of current health systems/resources for disability in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation member countries

| Country                         | Afghanistan   | Bangladesh  | Bhutan  | India   | Maldives  | Nepal   | Pakistan  | Sri Lanka   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population <sup>a</sup>         | 30.6 million  | 156.6 million   | 0.75 million  | 1.2 billion   | 0.35 million  | 27.8 million  | 185.1 million (2014) <sup>b</sup>   | 21.3 million  |
| Economic statistics             | GNI per capita: \$2,000<br>Total expenditure on health: 8.1% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 175<br>Annual disability spending: <b>US\$34.8</b> million   | GNI per capita: \$2,030;<br>Total expenditure on health: 3.7% of GDP<br>43% living below poverty line (US\$ 1.25/day)<br>HDI rank: 146;<br>Annual disability spending: no information   | GNI per capita: \$7,210<br>Total expenditure on health: 3.6% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 140<br>Annual disability spending: no information  | GNI per capita: \$5,350; Total expenditure on health: 4.2% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 136<br>Annual disability spending: Indian rupee 4.8 billion  | GNI per capita: \$8,110; Total expenditure on health: 10.8% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 104<br>Annual disability spending: no information   | GNI per capita: \$2,260; Total expenditure on health: 6.0% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 157<br>Annual disability spending: no information  | GNI per capita: \$4,920;<br>Total expenditure on health: 2.8% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 146<br>Annual disability spending: 366 million Pakistani rupee  | GNI per capita: \$9,470;<br>Total expenditure on health: 3.4% of GDP<br>HDI rank: 92<br>Annual disability spending: Lankan rupee 25 million                             |
| Human resources (healthcare)    | Physicians: 2.3/10,000 people;<br>No specific specialization in PM&R<br>No data on other healthcare and allied health personnel   | Physicians: 3.6/10,000 people;<br>Currently active: PM&R physicians: 200; PT: 1300; PT assistants: 600; SLTs: 33; P&O technicians: very few; over 900 persons completed CBR training courses  | Physicians: 0.074/10,000 people; nurses/midwives: 0.3/10,000 people<br>No information on rehabilitation professionals   | Physicians: 7/10,000 people;<br>several national institutions and 250 private institutions conduct training courses for rehabilitation specialists  | Physicians: 16/10,000 people; nurses: 44.4/10,000 people; PT: 22 (2005)<br>No information on rehabilitation professionals   | Physicians: 8/10,000 people (113,700 doctors; 21,800 specialist doctors); Nurses 6/10,000 people (46,000 nurses and 4500 lady health visitors); PM&R specialists: 38 (25 in armed forces)<br>No trained PM&R physician  | Physicians: 8/10,000 people (113,700 doctors; 21,800 specialist doctors); Nurses 6/10,000 people (46,000 nurses and 4500 lady health visitors); PM&R specialists: 38 (25 in armed forces)<br>No trained PM&R physician                                      | Physicians: 6.8/10,000 people; currently employed in government hospitals: 363 PTs; 107 OTs and 35 S&LTs; 8,000 of the 14,000 CBR volunteers; No trained PM&R physician |
| Health services/infrastructures | Access to health centres: 51% and hospital: 32.4%;<br>Many rehabilitation services funded by NGOs and charities<br>PT services: 44/364 districts; CBR and outreach programmes implemented: 80/364 districts; orthopaedic centres: 13/34 provinces | Approximately 4 beds/10,000 people; piloting 68 Integrated Disability Service Centres in 64 districts, with 323 PTs, 83 OTs, 37 P&O and 19 speech therapists. Many rehabilitation services funded by NGOs and charities   | 32 hospitals, 192 basic health units, 48 indigenous hospitals and over 550 outreach clinics, free healthcare services to cover 90% population (2012). No information on rehabilitation centres  | 5 composite, 4 regional and 120 district rehabilitation centres, institutions at intermediary and district level exist for PwD  | 1 main referral general public hospital, 6 regional public general hospitals, 13 hospitals, 132 healthcare centres, professionals. Many rehabilitation services funded by NGOs and charities  | 19 medical colleges, >100 paramedical institutions, no rehabilitation professionals. Many rehabilitation services funded by NGOs and charities  | 989 public, 800 private hospitals, 596 rural health centres and 4910 basic health units at the primary healthcare level (2010). 15 departments of rehabilitation medicine, 32 PT departments (mainly in army)<br>Approximately 6 beds/10,000 people         | 5 rehabilitation hospitals; 50 base and district hospitals with PT units, 8 physical rehabilitation centres in 6 districts produce P&O devices.                         |
| Disability data                 | PwD: 0.9 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 2.7 (2005); 4.8% of total population  | PwD: 13.3 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 9.0 (2008); (approximately 750,000 persons) of the population in need of P&O services  | PwD: 0.02 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 3.4 (2005)   | PwD: 22 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 2.1 (2001)<br>Proportion of PwD to total population: 1.8-2.1%;   | PwD: 9.216; Disability prevalence: 3.4 (2002)   | PwD: 0.1 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 0.5 (2001)  | PwD: 3.3 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 2.5% (1998)<br>Approximately 105,000 persons require P&O services   | PwD: 0.3 million;<br>Disability prevalence: 1.6 (2001);<br>Approximately 105,000 persons require P&O services   |
| Disability type                 | Physical: 36.5%, visual and hearing: 25.5%, intellectual: 18.8%, mental: 9.7%, multiple: 9.4%   | Physical: 22.5%, visual: 13.7%, hearing: 16.8%, intellectual (memory loss): 10.1%, mental: 12.8%, others 24.2%  | Physical (mobility): 17.4%, visual: 23.5%, hearing: 35.7%, speech: 17.8%, mental: 5.5%  | Movement: 27.9%, visual: 48.5%, hearing: 5.8%, speech: 10.3%, mental: 10.3%   | Visual: 33.2%, speech: 28.6%, Mental: 27.8%, others 10.4%   | Physical: 39.3%, blind: 15.9%, deaf: 24.6%, mental (retarded): 12.7%, multiple: 7.5%  | Physical: 18.9%, visual: 8.1%, hearing: 7.4%, intellectual: 7.6%, mental: 6.4%, multiple: 8.2%, others 43.4%  | Physical: 55.3%, visual: 25.2%, hearing/speech: 26.7%, mental: 25.1%  |
| Disability legislation for PwD  | CRPD ratified: 2012;<br>Comprehensive national disability policy 2003;<br>National Disability Action Plan (2008-2011);<br>National Priority Programme "Health for All Afghans" from 2012;<br>Physical Rehabilitation Strategy                     | CRPD signed and ratified: 2007; Disability Welfare Act (2001); National Policy on Disability (2004);<br>National Action Plan on Disability (2006); Disability Rights and Protection Act (2013);<br>signatory to the Asian and Pacific Decade of PwD (2002-2012) and (2013-2022) | CRPD signed and ratified: 2007; PwD Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act (1995); Mental Health Act (1987); National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2006); Rehabilitation Council of India Act (1995) | CRPD signed and ratified: 2010; Law on Protecting the Rights of People with Special Needs and Financial Assistance (2009); National Disability Policy; Strategic Action Plan 2009-2013; National Disability Action Plan with Disabilities 2008-2013 | CRPD signed 2007 and ratified: 2010; National Policy for PwD: 2002; National Policy of Action 2006-2025; the Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981; Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990; Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women 1996 | CRPD signed 2008 and ratified: 2010; National Policy for PwD: 2002; National Policy of Action 2006-2025; the Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981; Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990; Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women 1996 | CRPD signed 2007; Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (1996); RanaViru Seva Act (1999); Visually Handicapped Trust Fund Act (1992); Disabled Persons' Accessibility Regulation (2003); National Policy on Disability (2003); Action Plan for PwD (2011) |   |

Table I cont

| Country                 | Afghanistan   | Bangladesh   | Bhutan                              | India   | Maldives  | Nepal                               | Pakistan   | Sri Lanka   |
|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Support scheme for PwD  | Financial support only to persons with war-related disabilities; services available for all PwD | Allowances programme: 300 Taka per person/month                                  | No information                      | Disability pension for persons living below the poverty line, aged 18–59 years, with severe (>80%) or multiple disability | Home for people with special needs (psychiatric and geriatric patients); monthly financial allowance for persons with visual disability (totally blind) | No information                      | Benazir Income Support Programme; Financial assistance through Pakistan Bait ul Mai; Free medical treatment to PwD and their dependent family members in Federal/Provincial Government hospitals/dispensaries; 50% concession in air/train fare for PwD; 2% employment quota reserved in public and private sector; 10-year age relaxation in upper age limit for Government service | No information  |
| Research and evaluation | Limited research in rehabilitation field  | Research in rehabilitation field limited to acute care outcomes. Member of ISPRM | No research in rehabilitation field | Currently an upward trend in research in the medical rehabilitation field. Member of ISPRM                                | No research in the rehabilitation field   | No research in rehabilitation field | Currently an upward trend in research in the medical rehabilitation  | Research in rehabilitation limited mostly to acute care outcomes. |

Main sources: WHO Country Profile; WHO Health Statistics 2011; WHO Disability and Rehabilitation status 2004 (14); ESCAP 2012.

<sup>a</sup>Population in millions in 2013 unless stated otherwise; <sup>b</sup>Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014.

CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; HDI: Human Development Index; GDP: gross domestic product; GNI: gross national income; ISPRM: International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine; OT: occupational therapists; NCDs: non-communicable diseases; P&O: prosthetics and orthotics; PM&R: physical medicine and rehabilitation; PT: physiotherapists; PwD: persons with disability; SLTs: speech and language therapists; WHO: World Health Organization; CBR: community-based rehabilitation.