# Disability-inclusive digital inclusion as a driver for sustainable growth

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### Outline

- Overview of persons with disabilities in Asia and Pacific
- Vicious cycle on digital inclusion and persons with disabilities
- Cycle of inclusive and sustainable growth with disability-inclusive digital inclusion
- Examples of benefits of disability-inclusive digital inclusion
- ESCAP initiatives to support disability UNITED NATIONS inclusive digital inclusion

# Disability: transformer of a landscape in Asia and the Pacific

- Estimated population of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and it ratio: 690 million/15 per cent
- Estimated working age population of persons with disabilites:465 million
- Estimated population of older persons in 2030: 605 million/12 per cent, increase from 400 million in 2019.
- Estimated proportion of existence of disability among older population: at least 46 per cent



### Vicious cycle on digital inclusion and persons with disabilities



## Cycle of inclusive and sustainable growth with disability-inclusive digital inclusion

Digital divide: Inaccessible information/lower access to devices and internet

More demands for inclusive products and services/more needs to close digital gaps

Improved access to education, employment, health, politics, disaster relief/business/innovate products and services for wider customer base

crisis and

boom/remote

Investment to Improve close digital divide gaps from ICT and innovation sectors in government/ business sector

Equity/human rights/business approach

More equitable participation and closed gaps in inequality

## Examples of benefits of disabilityinclusive digital inclusion



## Improved innovation for all Mr. Vint Cerf

- One of the father of internet and e mail
- Hard of hearing
- "It's a crime that the most versatile device on the planet, the computer, has not adapted well to people who need help, who need assistive technology".

#### Evidence of improved profit after disability inclusion

- Some financial products via the website increased profit by 300% (L&G)
- > 90% increase in online life insurance sales (L&G)
- £13 million increase in annual revenue from a £35,000 investment to develop an accessible website (Tesco)
- 68% uplift in revenue to £62 million after a redesign to incorporate After a construction of the redesign to incorporate After a construction of the red of the re

## **ESCAP initiatives** to support disability-inclusive digital inclusion

- Promotion of concepts/campaign/ good practices of disabilityinclusive business
- Assisting the Government of Thailand in developing and implementing disability-inclusive public procurement
- Assisting governments/OPDs in improving digital accessible communication
- Collaborating with ITU to promote disability-inclusive digital inclusion: i.e., accessible and inclusive communication platforms





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