



World Health
Organization

Helping people with developmental disorders

Meeting report: Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disorders, World Health Organization, Geneva, 16-18 September 2013

**Easy
Read**



All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization are available on the WHO website (www.who.int) or can be purchased from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: bookorders@who.int).

Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications –whether for sale or for non-commercial distribution– should be addressed to WHO Press through the WHO website (www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright_form/en/index.html).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland

Helping people with **developmental disorders**

About this report

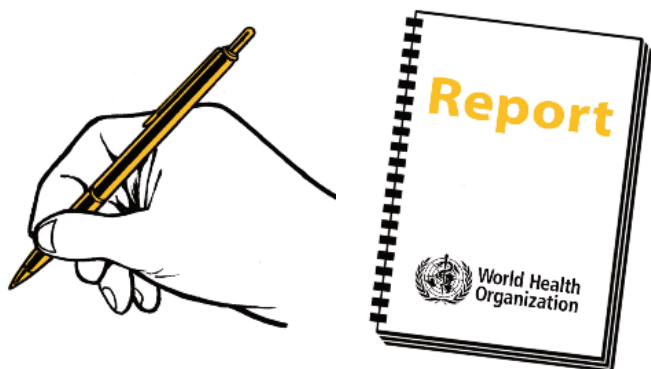
The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has written this report.

The **World Health Organization** is an organization that makes sure all people are as healthy as possible.

In 2013 world governments signed a list of promises about autism spectrum disorders.

This report says:

- what we know about people with developmental disorders and their families

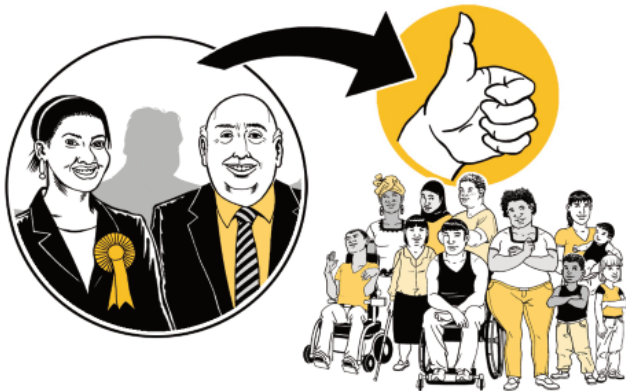




- what research organizations need to do to make things better for people with developmental disorders



- what local communities need to do to make things better for people with developmental disorders



- what governments need to do to make things better for people with developmental disorders



- how **WHO** can help countries improve their ability to help people with developmental disorders

Helping people with **developmental disorders**



Governments are a group of people who look after a country and make decisions for the people who live in that country.



Research is a planned and careful way of finding out about things.

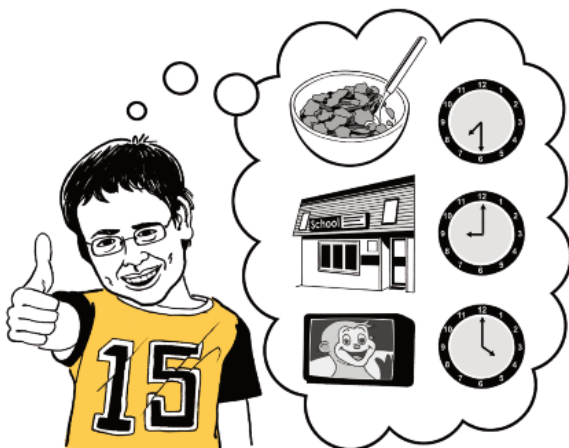
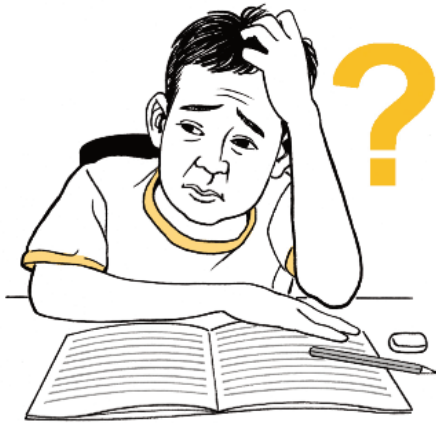


What we know about developmental disorders

When we talk about developmental disorders we mean illnesses starting during the first years of life and affecting the brain.

There are a range of different developmental disorders.





People with developmental disorders can have difficulties in:

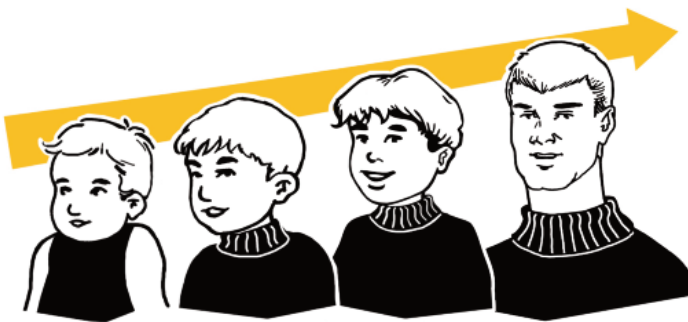
- learning new things such as reading and writing
- communicating with other people (telling people what they are feeling and what they need)
- making new friends and interacting with other people

People with developmental disorders may feel uncomfortable when changing routine or environment and may have very specific and limited interests.

Helping people with **developmental disorders**



People with developmental disorders often face problems in carrying out everyday activities and may need support from family members.



These difficulties appear when a person is very young, but usually they continue when the person grows up.



The **WHO** thinks these conditions are important because there are many people with developmental disorders around the world and life is often hard.



People with developmental disorders are often discriminated against.

Discrimination means treating someone worse than other people for some reason.



For persons with developmental disorders it is more difficult to learn and find information and services linked to health.

Children with developmental disorders often have more difficulties in school than the other children in their class.

Adults with developmental disabilities find it more difficult to get and keep jobs.

What needs to happen

Governments must work together with families and communities, international organizations, and organizations that do research on development disorders.

Helping people with **developmental disorders**



Sometimes governments will need to support each other and share what they know.

We wrote a list of suggestions (called recommendations) for all the people that could help create better opportunities and services for persons with developmental disorders.



Organizations that research information on developmental disorders should:



- Collect more information and look for better ways to give people with developmental disorders what they need to feel better, especially in poor places



- Look for better ways to teach family members and other persons who help persons with developmental disorders in their homes



- Work together with local communities



- Try to find the money to do research on developmental disorders



Local communities should:



- Convince and help governments remember that developmental disorders are very important



Helping people with **developmental disorders**



- Work together with communities from other countries to create a global network
- Help the public understand developmental disorders and the rights these people have. Rights are things that should happen for everyone
- Get involved in deciding laws and planning good quality services for people with developmental disorders
- Help to collect good information and do good research on developmental disorders



- Help to find the money to help people with developmental disorders



Governments should:



- Help the public (people) understand what developmental disorders are



- Speak up for people with developmental disorders and make sure that their rights are guaranteed



- Help to collect more information from each country on developmental disorders

Helping people with **developmental disorders**



- Make sure that doctors, nurses, social workers and teachers know how to help persons with developmental disorders
- Help with research on developmental disorders
- Help to find the money to help people with developmental disorders



WHO should:



- Help governments to make and maintain more promises to help people with developmental disabilities



- Help other organizations and people who know a lot about developmental disorders connect with each other and share information
- Help institutes that do research and governments to find better ways to help all people with developmental disorders
- Suggest ways to identify people with developmental disorders and help them during their whole life
- Help countries understand if people with developmental disorders are being helped in a good way



Helping people with **developmental disorders**



- Teach doctors, nurses, teachers and family members and others about developmental disorders
- Help countries to find ways to create good services for people with developmental disorders
- Help to find the money to help people with developmental disorders



World governments have promised to support the rights of people with developmental disorders.



This report says how things are now and what needs to be done.



We hope these ideas will help make a better world where people with developmental disorders have good opportunities to stay in good health and enjoy life.

This easy read document was produced by **CHANGE** in collaboration with and for **WHO** and with financial support from **Autism Speaks**.

The content is based on the contribution of all participants that attended the WHO Consultation on autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders, which took place in Geneva on 16-18 September 2013.

There is No Health Without Mental Health

For more information, go to: www.who.int/mental_health



**World Health
Organization**



www.facebook.com/WHO



www.twitter.com/who