

# NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISABILITIES (PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION) SYMBOLS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



## BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Community Development has approved the symbols for People of Determination in line with Federal Law No.(29) for the year 2006 concerning the Rights of the Disabled, Amended Federal Law No. (14) for the year 2009, Chapter V article (34).

And in support of the National Classification of Disabilities (People of Determination) in the country, attached to Cabinet Decision No. (3) for the year 2018 which provides a unified nationwide classification<sup>1</sup> of disabilities.

The purpose of the classification is to provide services to persons with disabilities with ease, and to raise the level of collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders by unifying the definition of disability, diagnosis of People of Determination and the identification of their needs.

## THE SYMBOLS

This collection of symbols has been created for use across the UAE, they reflect current thinking and international ISO standards.

The objective is to use them to easily identify appropriate services and accessibility for all People of Determination, their families, carers, professionals and the general public.

- Symbols are created using stylised drawings to convey information quickly and simply.
- They guide users easily to appropriate information and services.
- They are easy to understand regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration levels.
- They are high contrast (using International Standard colours) and, therefore, accessible.

The symbols are to be used to replace words in order to easily identify and standardise services, centres, facilities, information, communication and accessibility throughout the UAE.

There are four types of symbols:

- **GENERAL** – Universal symbol for use for all People of Determination.
- **BROAD CATEGORIES** – that embraces a number of different types of a given disability such as physical disability.
- **COMBINATION** – where more than one disability is present such as multiple disability.
- **SPECIFIC** – for use exclusively with a specific disability such as the neurodevelopmental disorder ADHD

This booklet explains the different disabilities<sup>2</sup>, the symbols representing them and their intended use.

1 The Classification is based upon IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth edition, DSM-5TM, American Psychiatric Association(2013), UNCRPD (United Nations Convention Regarding People with Disabilities)2006 and Federal Law No. (29) for the Year 2006 Concerning the Rights of Disabled. Amended by Federal Law No. (14) for the Year 2009

2 For detailed definition please refer to the above sources.

## THE SYMBOLS:

### GENERAL SYMBOL



Internationally accepted and recognised symbol representing People of Determination which is to be used for ANY information and or service for ALL People of Determination.

It is to be used in way finding (signage) and to indicate all accessibility in the built environment (everywhere that people go).

### BROAD CATEGORIES SYMBOLS



These symbols represent BROAD CATEGORIES of disability: physical, visually impaired and hearing impaired.

There are many different disabilities that fit into these broad categories.

These are the second most commonly used and recognised international symbols.



They are to be used to indicate all services, aids and equipment and facilities that support the specific group. (e.g platform lifts, large print, induction loops, sensory room).

### COMBINATION SYMBOLS



These symbols are for multiple disability and deaf/blind.

They should be used to indicate specific support services or centres and for information and records.

### SPECIFIC SYMBOLS



The UAE have recognised the importance of clearly identifying and supporting neurodevelopmental disorders and Psycho/Emotional disorders.

Specific symbols have therefore been created for Intellectual Disability, Specific Learning Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorders, Communication Disorders and Psycho/Emotional Disorders.



They are to be used for specialist centres and rehabilitation services, information (both hard copy and digital) and communication aids.

## GENERAL SYMBOL

### PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION



In the UAE people with disabilities are referred to as “**People of Determination**”.

This is the internationally accepted and recognised symbol which indicates all disabilities. The Ministry of Community Development have chosen to show an active symbol instead of the more usual passive symbol in recognition of the independence of People of Determination.

**Disabled** is defined in Federal Law No.(29) for the Year 2006 Concerning the Rights of the Disabled. Amended Federal Law No. (14) for the Year 2009 as:

“Each person with an incapacity, total or partial, permanent or temporary, in their physical, sensory, mental, communication, educational, or psychological abilities to an extent of being unable to fulfil their regular requirements in the same conditions like those non-disabled”.

People can be born with disabilities or acquire them, they can be temporary or permanent.

The UAE is committed to complete inclusion of all People of Determination in the community.

It is important to recognise that although the symbol is a wheelchair it is for **ALL DISABILITIES** not just physical disability.

### USE

The GENERAL symbol should be used:

For **ANY** information and/or service for **ALL** People of Determination.

To indicate accessibility in the built environment (everywhere that people go).

For signage that indicates accessible facilities or accessible emergency routes.

For any formal documentation such as ID cards or to indicate vehicles used by People of Determination.

For information and communication of any sort, such as web sites, brochures, promotional material (both hard copy and digital) that relates to all People of Determination.

New and refurbished environments are encouraged to use the new symbol.

## BROAD CATEGORIES SYMBOL

### PHYSICAL DISABILITY



Chronic neuro or muscle or bone disability that limits the person's ability to use their body normally, which affects their daily life activities as a result and especially school activities in the regular teaching environment, this disability could be caused by birth deformities, certain diseases, broken bones or amputation.

People with physical disability often need equipment such as crutches, wheelchairs or other assistive aids to be able to move around.

For People of Determination with physical disabilities, accessibility and safety are important issues. Therefore, adaptations to the physical environment such as level surfaces, ramps, lifts, push pads to open doors, low level counter tops and appropriate door width all help to create an accessible environment.

### USE

This BROAD CATEGORY symbol should be used:

To indicate all buildings or centres that support Physical Disability.

To indicate all services that support Physical Disability.

To indicate all aids and equipment that support Physical Disability.

To indicate all facilities that support Physical Disability.

For all accessible services including<sup>3</sup>:

- PARKING SPACE
- WASHROOM
- TRANSPORTATION
- INDICATE A BUTTON TO ACTIVATE AN AUTOMATIC DOOR
- ROUTES SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
- FOR ANY COMMUNICATION IN HARD OR SOFT COPY THAT RELATES TO PHYSICAL DISABILITY

New and refurbished environments are encouraged to use the new symbol.

In existing environments, the Ministry of Community Development is advising for the transition to the new symbols.

<sup>3</sup> These are examples, the list is not exhaustive.

## BROAD CATEGORIES SYMBOL

### HEARING IMPAIRMENT



Hearing impairment includes:

#### Deafness:

A malfunction in the hearing nervous system which means hearing is lost which limits the use of verbal communication. The individual will use other means of communication such as sign language and the hearing loss will be more than 90 dB (profound hearing loss). People can be born deaf or become deaf.

#### Hard of Hearing:

Variable or fixed hearing loss which affects methods of communication through dependence on hearing devices as a source of hearing. There are degrees of hearing loss starting from 26 – 90 dB. There are many types: bilateral or unilateral hearing loss, identical and nonidentical hearing loss, advanced, sudden, and fixed hearing loss. People can be born with hearing impairment or become hearing impaired.

### USE

This BROAD CATEGORY symbol should be used:

To indicate all buildings or centres that support the Hearing Impaired.

To indicate all services that support the Hearing Impaired.

To indicate all aids and equipment that support the Hearing Impaired.

To indicate all facilities that support the Hearing Impaired.

For information and communication of any sort such as web sites, brochures, promotional material (both hard copy and digital) that relates to the Hearing Impaired.

For vehicles driven by the Hearing impaired (to indicate inability to hear).

## BROAD CATEGORIES SYMBOL

### VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Loss of sight ranges from complete sight loss (blind) to partial sight loss. People can be born blind or become blind and can also be, either born with or develop visual impairment.

It can be categorised into:

**Blindness:** complete or nearly complete vision loss to less than 20 degrees even with glasses use.

**Partially Sighted:** where the visual acuity in best cases, reaches to 6/60 or less in the dominant eye.

**Low Vision:** partial loss of sight in the dominant eye which cannot be compensated with spectacles or lenses or medication or surgeries, where the severity differs from one person to another.

### USE

This BROAD CATEGORY symbol should be used:

To indicate all buildings or centres that support the Visually Impaired.

To indicate all services that support the Visually Impaired.

To indicate all aids and equipment that support the Visually Impaired.

To indicate all facilities that support the Visually Impaired.

For information and communication of any sort such as web sites, brochures, promotional material (both hard copy and digital) that relates to the Visually Impaired.

## COMBINATION SYMBOL

### MULTIPLE DISABILITY



A person with a disability which falls under one of the following categories (Neurodevelopmental disorders, Sensory disorders, Physical, Psycho/ Emotional Disorders) accompanied by another disability (or more) which falls under another category such as: intellectual and physical disability together, or hearing impairment and intellectual disability together.

This does not include hearing and visual impairments together as they fall under sensory disabilities, or two disabilities together under the umbrella of neurodevelopmental disorders.

This disability affects a person's development and education performance directly, which makes it difficult for a person to join special programs which are not for multiple disabilities, sometimes multiple disabilities are compared to severe disabilities due to the complex difficulties a person faces in their daily life functions.

### DEAF/BLIND DISABILITY



Losing hearing and sight together is a sensory disability, which leads to profound needs in communication, developmental and other educational needs, which cannot be provided solely through special education programmes provided to blind or hearing impaired.

### USE

COMBINATION symbols should only be used:

- To indicate all buildings or centres that support Multiple Disability or Deaf/Blind.
- For information and communication of any sort, web sites, brochures, promotional material (both hard copy and digital) that relates to Multiple Disability or Deaf/Blind.
- Where there is a value in identifying these specific disabilities with a symbol.



## SPECIFIC SYMBOLS



Specific symbols have been created for **THE NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS**: Intellectual Disability, Specific Learning Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit/ Hyperactive Disorder and Communication Disorders. And for **PSYCHO\ EMOTIONAL DISORDERS**.

## USE

These SPECIFIC SYMBOLS are to be used exclusively for the specified disorder:

For specialist centres and rehabilitation services.

For information and communication of any sort, web sites, brochures, promotional material (both hard copy and digital).

For communication aids.

For special accommodations such as sensory rooms.

Where there is a value in identifying these specific disabilities with a symbol.

## SPECIFIC SYMBOL

### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY



A disorder which starts during the developmental period that includes both intellectual and adaptive functioning deficits in conceptual, social and practical domains. The following criteria must be met:

**Deficits in intellectual function**, confirmed by both clinical assessment and standardised intelligence testing.

**Deficits in adaptive functioning** that result failure to meet developmental and sociocultural standards for personal independence and social responsibility, possibly in one or more daily activities.

**Onset of both deficits occurs during the developmental period.**

#### Global Developmental Delay (ages under 5 years):

This diagnosis is reserved for children aged 5 years and below where it is not possible to reliably assess the severity of their intellectual disability at this early stage of childhood. This category is diagnosed when the child does not meet expected developmental milestone in several areas of intellectual functioning. Reassessment is required after a period of time.

#### Unspecified intellectual Disability (ages 5 years and above):

This category should only be used in exceptional circumstances and applies to individuals over the age of 5 who are difficult to assess because of associated physical or sensory impairments or the presence of severe problem behaviours or co-occurring mental disorder. Reassessment is required after a period of time.

## SPECIFIC SYMBOL

### SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS



Disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes, including the understanding or use of the language, both oral and written, which appear in the inability to listen, think, read, write, spell, or perform calculations, including cognitive disabilities, for example, dyslexia.

The term does not include education problems that are primarily the result of visual, auditory or motor disabilities, mental, emotional disorders, or environmental, cultural or economic constraints. The mental abilities of this group are measured by intelligence tests which are within or above normal level.

## SPECIFIC SYMBOL

### AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER



A neuro-developmental disorder that is caused by a malfunction in the central nervous system (brain) which impacts the development of sensory and linguistic perception hence the ability to communicate, speak, learn, and interact socially.

Symptoms must be present in the early development period (but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed limited capacities or may be masked by learned strategies in later life).

Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of current functioning.

Characterised by persistent deficits in social communication and interaction across multiple contexts currently or by history.

The severity is defined across the spectrum based on the assessment of social communication impairments and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour.

### ATTENTION DEFICIT\ HYPERACTIVE DISORDER (ADHD)



A persistent pattern or inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development as characterised by inattention and/or hyperactivity and impulsivity.

To diagnose of ADHD requires that six or more symptoms of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity have persisted for at least six months to a degree that is inconsistent with developmental level and that negatively impacts directly on social and academic/occupational activities.

Several inattentive or hyperactive-impulsive symptoms were present prior to age 12 years.

Several inattentive or hyperactive- impulsive symptoms are present in two or more settings.

There is clear evidence that the symptoms interfere with, or reduce the quality of social, academic and occupational functioning.

The symptoms do not appear exclusively during the course of a psychotic disorder and are not better explained by another mental disorder.

## SPECIFIC SYMBOL

### COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



Disorders of communication include deficits in language, speech, and communication. Speech is the expressive production of sounds and includes an individual's articulation, fluency, voice, and resonance quality.

Language includes the form, function, and use of a conventional system of symbols (i.e., spoken words, sign language, written words, pictures) in a rule-governed manner for communication.

Communication includes any verbal or nonverbal behavior (whether intentional or unintentional) that influences the behavior, ideas, or attitudes of another individual.

Assessments of speech, language and communication abilities must take into account the individual's cultural and language context, particularly for individuals growing up in bilingual environments.

The standardized measures of language development and of nonverbal intellectual capacity must be relevant for the cultural and linguistic group (i.e., tests developed and standardized for one group may not provide appropriate norms for a different group).

The diagnostic category of communication disorders includes the following: language disorder, speech sound disorder, childhood-onset fluency disorder (stuttering), social (pragmatic) communication disorder, and other specified and unspecified communication disorders which manifest during or after the developmental stage.

## SPECIFIC SYMBOL

### PSYCHO/EMOTIONAL DISORDERS



Psycho/Emotional Disorders include many types of emotional, behavioural and mental illness disorders.

It is a complex conscious state accompanied by a specific physical and physiological activity so that emotional reactions are not appropriate whether more or less than normality.

A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

- (A) An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.
- (B) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
- (C) Inappropriate types of behaviour or feelings under normal circumstances.
- (D) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.
- (E) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

The disorders include schizophrenia, severe phobia, severe depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). This list is not exhaustive. For more details, you can refer to DSM-V.