

The ICF Framework Adapted to Deafblindness

Understanding functioning and disability through the interaction of health conditions, body functions and structures, activities, participation, and contextual factors.

Deafblindness is a unique condition characterized by combined vision and hearing loss that affects access to information, communication, and mobility.

HEALTH CONDITION

Deafblindness
(congenital or acquired)
e.g., Usher syndrome,
CHARGE syndrome, diabetes,
meningitis, aging

BODY FUNCTIONS & STRUCTURES



- Sensory functions (hearing and vision)
- Additional functions (e.g., touch, balance, cognition, speech)
- Body structures (e.g., eyes, ears, neurological system)

Impacts can vary in severity and combination.

ACTIVITIES

- Learning
- Communicating
- Mobility
- Self-care
- Domestic life
- Interacting with objects and technology

How a person performs tasks in their daily life.

PARTICIPATION



- Education
- Employment
- Social relationships
- Community life
- Recreation and leisure
- Spirituality

Involvement in life situations and roles in society.

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

These factors influence functioning and disability and can act as barriers or facilitators.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



Attitudes and social support



Communication access
(e.g., tactile, sign, Braille, AAC)



Technology and assistive devices



Physical environment
(lighting, contrast, safety, access)



Policies and services

Support, accessibility, and resources in the surroundings.

PERSONAL FACTORS



Age



Gender identity



Life experiences



Coping strategies



Strengths, preferences, goals

Individual background and characteristics.

KEY PRINCIPLE OF THE ICF:

Functioning and disability are dynamic and result from the interaction between the health condition (deafblindness), the person, and their context.
The goal is to enhance functioning and participation and improve quality of life.

↔ Indicates bidirectional interaction