

DISABILITY INCLUSION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES



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CONTENTS

List of acronyms	4
1. Introduction	5
1.1. Background	6
1.2. Purpose and objectives of the report	7
2. Methodology	8
3. Disability inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	10
3.1. Including disability in the SDGs	11
3.2. Inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in the 2016 HLPF	14
4. Inclusion of disability in national SDG processes and instruments	16
4.1. Disability in national development plans	17
4.2. Disability-inclusive budgeting for the implementation of SDG commitments	18
4.3. Disability data in SDG monitoring systems and reporting	21
5. Participation of DPOs in national SDG processes	23
5.1. Involvement of DPOs in institutional frameworks of the 2030 Agenda	24
5.2. SDG awareness and ownership among persons with disabilities and DPOs	26
5.3. Role of DPOs in SDG stakeholder processes	28
6. Recommendations	32
6.1. Promoting disability in national development frameworks to integrate the SDGs	33
6.2. Strengthening the participation of DPOs in SDG nationalisation and implementation processes	33
7. Conclusions	35
Annex: Country briefs	37
Bangladesh	38
Kenya	40
Sierra Leone	42
Zambia	44
Bibliography	46

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfP	Agenda for Prosperity
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DPO	Disabled People's Organisation
EDAN	Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network
EENA	Enabling Environment National Assessment
FGD	Focus group discussion
FY	Fiscal year
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit
HI	Handicap International
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
IDA	International Disability Alliance
IDDC	International Disability and Development Consortium
IRF	Integrated Results Framework
JPUF	Jatio Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MGoS	Major groups and other stakeholders
MSWGCA	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
NDP	National Development Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLUDI	Sierra Leone Union for Disability (SLUDI)
TOR	Terms of reference
UDPK	United Disabled People of Kenya
UN	United Nations
VNR	Voluntary National Review
ZAFOD	Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations

1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1. BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in many ways distinctly different from its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is more comprehensive, integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and addressing related systemic barriers. Being a universal agenda, it applies to all countries, whether high- or low-income. This implies not only solidarity between countries (as with the MDGs), but also joint responsibility and action. The 2030 Agenda represents an unprecedented opportunity to initiate and implement catalytic changes for persons with disabilities. The agenda's core commitment to *'leave no one behind'* means that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be considered a success unless they are met for *everyone* – persons with disabilities included.

The MDGs were silent on disability. Consequently, persons with disabilities were excluded from many development initiatives and funding streams. While extreme poverty fell, primary school enrolment increased, and millions of infant deaths were averted, persons with disabilities were largely left out of these achievements. By contrast, the 2030 Agenda explicitly includes and references disability and persons with disabilities in a variety of areas such as employment, education, inclusive cities, reducing inequalities and data collection.

The historic commitments on disability contained in the 2030 Agenda (see section 3) imply empowerment and equality for persons with disabilities. Realising these ambitions will entail the inclusion of disability in government policies, strategies and budgets, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). At the same time, it requires space for the meaningful input by and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. Much will depend on whether and how these two trends pick up and gain momentum over the next 15 years.

Global thinking on disability and development has come a long way since the Millennium Declaration 15 years ago. In including persons with disabilities, the 2030 Agenda has made considerable progress from the MDGs already. But it remains to be seen how these advances will be achieved for persons with disabilities, and if the implementation process will live up to the potential that the SDGs hold for the rights of persons with disabilities. The foundations laid at the beginning of the 2030 Agenda will have a considerable impact on the achievement of the SDGs, particularly for persons with disabilities as a key target group in efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

The annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The thematic focus of the 2017 HLPF is *'Eradicating Poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world'* (UN, 2017a). The following goals will be reviewed in depth:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 17: Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Two years into the 2030 Agenda, countries will show what progress they have made in laying out the solid foundations for the years to come. The meaningful inclusion of disability and related progress and challenges into the discussions throughout the HLPF is vital to heighten the visibility of the commitments of the 2030 Agenda on disability in the review process and support their implementation.

1.2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

This report was prepared on the occasion of the 2017 HLPF in New York. It presents the findings of four country case studies: Bangladesh, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia. The report explores the scope and practice of the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting processes at national and sub-national levels to date. Almost two years after the approval of the SDGs by the UN General Assembly, this report focuses on evidence of how the global commitments to disability inclusion in the SDGs have actually trickled down ‘to the ground’ and are translated at national level. As such, the specific objectives of the report are to:

- Summarise how disability is articulated within the 2030 Agenda;
- Examine the consideration of disability in development plans, policies and budgets to nationalise the SDGs as well as related reporting and monitoring;
- Determine the role and extent to which persons with disabilities and Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) are involved and participate in mechanisms and processes of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs;
- Identify examples and challenges on the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in SDG nationalisation processes so far and identify relevant gaps.

Based on the above, the report provides a set of recommendations in order to strengthen the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in country SDG nationalisation processes in the future.

2. METHODOLOGY

2. METHODOLOGY

The report draws from multiple lines of evidence, combining the collection and analysis of both primary and secondary data:

- (i) Four case studies were commissioned, exploring the extent of disability inclusion in alignment with the SDGs in Bangladesh, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia. The criteria for the selection of countries included the existence of Leonard Cheshire Disability operations with strong links to the local DPO movement, the ratification of the CRPD and current, past and future engagement with the SDGs. Zambia will report in 2018 on the SDGs; Kenya and Bangladesh this year; and Sierra Leone reported in 2016. The case studies were implemented between February and May 2017, using primarily a qualitative research approach. More than 40 DPOs were consulted during data collection, including key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) in the four study countries. In Zambia, the research was implemented by the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD), which further underpinned the pivotal role of DPOs in the process.
- (ii) A literature review identified internet-based policy, legal and strategic documents related to disability and the 2030 Agenda, as well as documentation and reports on different SDG nationalisation initiatives (both disability-specific and mainstream).

Out of necessity, the report is selective and not exhaustive with respect to practices and examples.

3. DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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3.1. INCLUDING DISABILITY IN THE SDGS

Following the strong advocacy of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs contain 11 explicit references to disability and persons with disabilities, as a key target group in global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

2030 Agenda – Declaration

Paragraph 19 on Human Rights emphasises the responsibilities of all states, in conformity with the UN Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, regardless of disability and other risk factors.

Paragraph 25 on Education stipulates the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education and access to life-long learning opportunities for all people, including persons with disabilities, to help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society.

Paragraph 23 on Vulnerable Groups is particularly strong: *‘People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/Aids, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants’* (UN, 2015).

Accordingly, persons with disabilities are included wherever vulnerable is referenced (18 times) throughout the text. Including persons with disabilities in the definition of vulnerable people significantly increased their inclusion throughout the 2030 Agenda and makes their status more prominent.

Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Seven targets, relating to five out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, specifically mention persons with disabilities: SDG 4 on quality education – 4.5, 4.a; SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth – 8.5; SDG 10 on reduced inequalities – 10.2; SDG 11 on inclusive cities and communities – 11.2, 11.7; and SDG 17 on data collection and monitoring of the SDGs – 17.18.

Follow-up and review

Paragraph 74g of the declaration stipulates the principles for SDG follow-up and review processes at all levels, and includes data disaggregation by disability.

Indicator framework

Data is extremely important in realising disability in the SDGs. The official list of SDG indicators requires data disaggregation by disability where relevant (UN, 2017b). In addition, it contains 11 disability-specific indicators for those targets which explicitly refer to disability and persons with disabilities. These were developed by the Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) based on advocacy of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI), IDA and IDDC.

3. DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The references to disability and persons with disabilities in the SDGs and the final global indicator framework are summarised in the table below:

TARGET	INDICATORS
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities , pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities , indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status , indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated
4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities ; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive & sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities , and equal pay for work of equal value	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities
	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability , race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

TARGET	INDICATORS
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
	11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive , participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	
17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability , geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	

In order to realise the catalytic potential of these disability commitments for persons with disabilities ‘on the ground’, they must be tailored to national and local contexts. Disability-related targets and indicators need to be included in national sustainable development plans. Institutional mechanisms and (governance) structures that lead and coordinate national SDG action need to become inclusive of disability and persons with disabilities. Ownership and the participation of disability actors – persons with disabilities and their organisations in particular – must be ensured.

3. DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.2. INCLUSION OF DISABILITY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE 2016 HLPF

At the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)¹ in 2016, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would require reaching those lagging furthest behind as an urgent priority. During the annual HLPF meetings, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of developing and developed countries, UN entities and other stakeholders serve as a basis to assess progress at national and sub-national levels.^{2,3} The VNRs aim to facilitate sharing of experiences, including good practice, challenges and lessons learned, and should look at the following aspects:

- **Creating ownership of the SDGs** – including efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs and targets;
- **Incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks** – including national efforts made to integrate the SDGs into national legislation and policy;
- **Integration of the three dimensions** – how economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are being integrated into policy;
- **Goals and targets** – information on progress of all SDGs, including critical difficulties in achieving them, and whether a baseline for the SDGs has been defined;
- **Thematic analysis** – analysis of progress and initiatives related to the HLPF's thematic focus;
- **Institutional mechanisms** – how the country's institutional framework has been adapted in order to implement the 2030 Agenda (UN General Assembly, 2016).

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the central UN platform for the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda as well as other frameworks related to sustainable development. It is tasked to 'ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues' (UN, 2016a).

The HLPF is a highly inclusive and participatory UN forum: Besides UN state members and state members of specialised agencies, it is open for all people through the UN mechanism of **Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)**⁴ who can also register **multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments**⁵ in support of the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda (paragraph 89) emphasises that 'the high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda' (UN, 2015, p.34). This is further reiterated in resolution A/70/L.60 that calls 'to major groups and stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda' (UN, 2016b).

Persons with disabilities were officially recognised as a **Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities**⁶ at the Rio+20 conference in 2012 and, as such, became part of the UN 'Major Groups and other Stakeholder' Coordination Mechanism. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities places the international disability movement at the heart of UN sustainable development processes and the monitoring and implementation process of the

¹ The HLPF replaced the former Commission on Sustainable Development after Rio+20 as the main UN platform providing global political leadership and guidance on sustainable development issues.

² Ideally countries will complete two VNRs by 2030.

³ The HLPF is also informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport>) which aims to strengthen the science-policy interface at the HLPF. The next edition is planned for 2019.

⁴ sustainabledevelopment.un.org/aboutmajorgroups.html

⁵ sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction

⁶ The responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities cover the Rio+20 outcome (incl. the 2030 Agenda), SDGs, HLPF, Financing for Sustainable Development, global and regional UN policy processes. The TOR are available at www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/resources/hlpf-major-groups-and-other-stakeholders-coordination-mechanism-terms-reference

2030 Agenda in particular. It provides the opportunity for persons with disabilities, their representative organisations, non-governmental and other organisations working on the rights of persons with disabilities to engage with relevant inter-governmental processes at the UN, make interventions and speeches at the HLPF discussions and organise side-events.

The HLPF in 2016 was the first since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It focused on the theme *‘Ensuring that no-one is left behind’* and included

thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs as well as VNRs of 22 countries. The recognition as a Stakeholder Group was critical for the successful engagement of the disability movement at the HLPF 2016 and the visibility of disability in the discussions. With the leadership of the IDA, in partnership with the IDDC, and representatives of other DPOs and disability organisations worldwide, it took full advantage of this role and the rights granted to them by member states to participate and contribute in the HLPF 2016.

The IDA highlights the following achievements of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for the 2016 HLPF (IDA, 2016):

- 17 out of 22 countries referenced persons with disabilities in their written reports⁷ while eight oral presentations⁸ of member states explicitly elaborated on the situation of persons with disabilities in their national context.
- Prior to the 2016 HLPF, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities submitted an official position paper⁹ on the annual theme *‘Ensuring that no one is left behind’* which was endorsed by over 370 organisations around the world.
- 22 representatives of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities attended the 2016 HLPF under the leadership of the IDA (12 persons with disabilities and 10 advocates). Two representatives were invited to be official presenters at the HLPF.
- The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities co-organised several side events (e.g. the IDA/IDDC event on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in national review processes).
- Representatives of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities presented at ten HLPF side events (e.g. at a high level event over early action to leave no one behind by the Netherlands, Kenya, and Overseas Development Institute and a side event hosted by the UK and the Uganda on *‘Leaving no-one behind – from promise to reality’*).

The 2016 HLPF provided a vital occasion for the disability community to ensure visibility of disability in the discussions, collaborate cross-disability and connect. IDA (2016) referred to it also as a learning opportunity on how to draw global attention to national challenges, and offered new options to strengthen the CRPD as a guiding framework for the implementation of the SDGs. The latter is a key notion that was also recognised in the President’s HLPF summary (see quote opposite).

‘Inclusiveness means that all people can participate as partners, rights-holders and full citizens, not as subjects or mere beneficiaries. Relevant international instruments often exist, such as the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities, but are not always respected’ (UN, 2016c).

H.E. Oh Joon, 2016 HLPF President

⁷ Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

⁸ Egypt, Finland, France, Madagascar, Morocco, Norway, Sierra Leone, and Samoa.

⁹ www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/resources/leave-no-one-behind-hlpf-2016-position-paper-persons-disabilities

4. INCLUSION OF DISABILITY IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES AND INSTRUMENTS

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4.1. DISABILITY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Critical in implementing the 2030 Agenda and enabling action to achieve the SDGs at country level is their domestication into national development plans and strategies – central instruments that guide the work of governments, the development of legislation and the allocation of financial resources. At the 2016 HLPF, countries reported that despite their efforts to leave no one behind, challenges remained in the inclusion of specific groups (UN, 2016e). Mexico, for example, reported difficulties in bringing indigenous peoples, the LGBT population, older persons and also persons with disabilities among others into the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The country case studies revealed varying references to disability and persons with disabilities in action plans and development plans to nationalise the SDGs.

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, activities around the SDGs gained momentum as the country decided to present their first VNR at the 2016 HLPF. In July 2016, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development published an advanced draft report on the adaptation of the SDGs in Sierra Leone. The document recognises the marginalisation and discrimination that persons with disabilities face in accessing education, justice and social welfare. It includes the CSO position paper which calls for meaningful participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (Government of Sierra Leone, 2016). However, the case study also showed that a lack of clarity of roles between key government functionaries responsible for disability issues may slow down responses to disability issues in the SDG commitment plans.

Consultations resulted in a draft national integrated results framework (IRF) and a draft set of 91 country-specific indicators. The IRF combines three key development responses of the government: the SDGs, the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) and the National Ebola Recovery Strategy. However, disability and persons with disabilities are hardly referenced in the IRF (the AfP references disability in the areas of education and social protection) and only one disability-related indicator is included (see section 4.3). The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development engaged all 19 local councils to integrate the SDGs into their district and municipal development plans.

ZAMBIA

Zambia is using five year National Development Plans in order to achieve its long-term plan, the Vision 2030. The country nationalised the SDGs through the **7th National Development Plan 2017-2021**,¹⁰ ensuring synergies between different national and international development frameworks (e.g. the SDGs, the African Union 2063 Agenda). As far as disability and persons with disabilities are concerned, the plan alludes to an inclusive approach referring to infrastructure development, disability pension, access to social services, such as health, education, skills and entrepreneurship training, and the overall reduction of vulnerability of persons with disabilities. However, greater detail is only provided on the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, targeting an increase in the employment rate of persons with disabilities from 45.5% in 2005 to 55% in 2021 (Government of Zambia, 2017).

¹⁰ www.lusakatimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Final-7NDP-07-06-17.pdf

4. INCLUSION OF DISABILITY IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES AND INSTRUMENTS

KENYA

The government of Kenya is actively promoting disability mainstreaming in order to anchor disability into government policies, plans and programmes. Kenya has a National Action Plan for the Implementation of the SDGs, which consequently includes the commitment to include disability in the development agenda. The government developed a roadmap to transition from the MDGs to the SDGs that contains action in six key areas: Stakeholder Mapping (including CSOs), Advocacy and Awareness, Domestication and Localisation, Resource Mobilisation, Tracking and Reporting and Capacity Building.

Kenya's next medium-term plan,¹¹ which is set to be launched in December 2017 for the period 2018-2022, will mainstream the SDGs based on the six above key areas. Accordingly, the SDGs will be integrated into the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Both national and devolved functions will integrate the SDGs into their annual work plans and performance contracts. However, how disability and persons with disabilities will be reflected remains to be seen.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has no specific national plan for SDG implementation, but has already integrated the 169 targets of the SDGs with the **7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)**¹² targets and strategy (11 targets are not directly relevant for Bangladesh), stating that *'the development approach underlying the 7th Plan is consistent with the global agenda for higher growth in developing countries with appropriate measures for protection of the environment'* (Government of Bangladesh, 2015, p. 31). In relation to education and technology, *'special attention will be given to the disadvantaged groups, women, children and persons with disabilities'* (Government of Bangladesh, 2015, p. xlvi). The 7th Five Year Plan highlights the commitment of the government to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in a dedicated section. In addition, there are numerous references to disability and persons with disabilities throughout the plan. The areas covered are inclusive education, access to information, healthcare and rehabilitation, basic infrastructure and services, skills development, social security and social inclusion.

¹¹ The government of Kenya operationalises its long-term development blue-print, the Vision 2030 Kenya, through five year medium term plans

¹² www.plancomm.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/7FYP_after-NEC_11_11_2015.pdf

4.2. DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE BUDGETING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG COMMITMENTS

As Colombia mentioned during its presentation at the 2016 HLPF, ‘if something is within the planning system, that means it is part of the investment budget’ (UN, 2016e, p. 18). The importance of allocating and mobilising adequate financial resources from public, private, national and international sources was highlighted in the 2016 VNRs. In order to ensure inclusion-oriented necessary support services and social protection for persons with disabilities, it is important for the development agenda and actors to recognise disability-related financing needs. However, evidence suggests that to date significant barriers to disability-inclusive financing remain (IDA & IDDC, 2017). The findings of the four country case studies provide a mixed picture of the inclusion of disability in national budgets. It was challenging to obtain information on whether recently developed budgets related to SDG action plans are disability-inclusive, on allocations beyond disability-specific interventions and the adequacy of budgets in relation to needs. With regards to the latter, all case studies highlighted the need for better and more reliable data on disability and persons with disabilities in order to support adequate planning and budgeting.

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, SDG funding remains a critical challenge. The country reportedly lacks wider donor support for specific SDG implementation activities. At present, the country relies to a large extent on domestic resource mobilisation and plans to draw up a national SDG investment plan which is to be based on a comprehensive assessment to determine the required resources (Government of Sierra Leone, 2016). Sierra Leone has integrated the SDGs into the 2016 National Budget, and has also aligned these to the eight pillars of Sierra Leone’s development roadmap – the *Agenda for Prosperity (AfP)* (Government of Sierra Leone, 2016, p. 6). SDGs are aligned to each spending category of the budget, and the budget statement will define actors and responsibilities for reporting within the government units that will be allocated resources.

The incorporation of the SDGs into the district and municipal development plans will ensure that future annual budget proposals of councils are aligned to the SDGs to aid progress reporting at the local level. The national budget includes allocations to support DPOs which have been channeled through the Sierra Leone Union for Disability (SLUDI) and the National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPD). However SLUDI claims that access to funds has been one-off, and clarity on the amount disbursed towards DPOs remains a critical challenge for DPOs. The national budget allocations for the NCPD have been consistent in recent years. However, the management of the budget for DPOs has been difficult for the NCPD due to limited budget allocation and a mismatch in program/activity planning with the DPOs.

4. INCLUSION OF DISABILITY IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES AND INSTRUMENTS

BANGLADESH

As with the other case study countries, Bangladesh has no national budget specifically allocated for the realisation of the SDGs. Annual budget preparations are made on the basis of its 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). Each ministry prepares its own annual budget as per the identified objectives. All ministerial and departmental/divisional budgets are consolidated at the national level. At the time of the declaration of the annual budget for the financial year 2016-2017 (June 2016-July 2017), the government was not yet ready to align it with the SDGs and targets.

The current budget covers various vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities with budgetary provision in the areas of poverty alleviation, human resource development (education, health and population), gender equality, income equality and social protection, social welfare and social inclusion. The 7th Five Year Plan stresses that additional efforts will be needed to finance the education of students with disabilities (Government of Bangladesh, 2015, p. 14). Financing of the SDGs still remains a great challenge. Only the next annual budget and the upcoming Five Year Plans will show how the SDGs will be reflected and how this will impact on allocations for disability-related commitments.

KENYA

In Kenya, funding dedicated to persons with disabilities is integrated into various government development programs for inclusive development. In addition, affirmative actions for persons with disabilities are supported by public resources such as tax exemption, social protection or livelihoods programmes. During the financial year 2016-2017, the operational budget allocated for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities is Ksh 289,500,000¹³ and Ksh 1.2 billion for cash transfers to households with persons with severe disabilities. Another Ksh 0.4 billion is allocated for the National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities. This is aimed at improving the livelihoods of persons with disabilities, physical accessibility in learning institutions, enrolment and retention of students with disabilities in schools, transition to higher levels of education and the participation of persons with disabilities in development activities. In the health sector, Ksh. 0.3 billion is allocated for a Health Insurance Subsidy Programme for the elderly and persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities).

In the FY 2017/18 – 2019/20 Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the Public Administration and International Relations Sector intends to implement 36 programmes aimed at fulfilling constitutional mandates including implementing affirmative initiatives for the empowerment of youth, women and persons with disabilities.

ZAMBIA

Zambia's National Development Plans are broken down through annual budgets. The government has developed a system of financing the nationalised SDGs through the 7th National Development Plan 2017-2021. The government will continue funding the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) – the government disability focal point – for the implementation and monitoring of disability-related programmes. However, the funding is perceived to be inadequate to meet its obligations as a coordinator of disability programmes. The 2017 national budget also saw a substantial increase in the allocation for social protection by 85%, to K2.7 billion, including K552 million for the Social Cash Transfer Scheme under which households with persons with disabilities are covered.¹⁴ The number of beneficiary households for the cash transfers was increased from 242,000 to over 500,000 and monthly amounts increased by 28% (Government of Zambia, 2016).

¹³ The government committed to reserve 1% of public procurement for persons with disabilities, and the NCDP will provide financial assistance to persons with disabilities who win government tenders and are not financially viable.

¹⁴ There are several programs under Zambia's Social Cash Transfer Scheme, including one that targets households headed by women or an elderly person with one orphan or households with at least one disabled member.

4.3. DISABILITY DATA IN SDG MONITORING SYSTEMS AND REPORTING

There is general recognition of the importance of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda at country level, and data and statistics that are broader, more disaggregated, with greater frequency and shorter lags. This was an important lesson learned from the experience with the MDGs. The 2016 VNRs revealed significant efforts in order to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the development of statistical capacity, the identification of suitable national indicators, and the establishment of reporting and monitoring mechanisms (UN, 2016e). Good practice regarding disability at the HLPF in 2016 included Egypt, where data on persons with disabilities was to be included for the first time in the national census.

The country case studies revealed a lack of consideration of disability and disability indicators in M&E frameworks and mechanisms, although it has to be noted that the process of developing M&E systems is not yet completed in many countries. Above all, the case studies highlighted the urgent need for more reliable (baseline) data on disability and persons with disabilities. This refers not only to quantitative but also qualitative data on the situation of persons with disabilities and their families, and the barriers they encounter in their specific contexts. The limited availability of disability data as well as the difficulties in data collection to reflect the situation of persons with disabilities remains a challenge which severely hampers not only planning but also effective monitoring of disability inclusion in the realisation of the SDGs.

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

As discussed in 4.1, the government developed a draft national integrated results framework (IRF) and a draft set of 91 country-specific indicators to nationalise the SDGs. It includes two tiers, with tier 1 indicators (113 indicators) showing baseline and targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030; and tier 2 presenting over 200 further indicators. However, no disability indicators are included in tier 1, while tier 2 has only one disability indicator.¹⁵ In addition, national baseline indicators on disability are lacking and no supplementary data such as a national benchmarking report or specific M&E indicators on disability were available from key institutions, including the Ministry of Social Welfare and NCPD. The Sierra Leone International Benchmark Systems (SLIBS) is intended to serve as a formalised hub for all benchmarks used for reporting the development status of the country. However, this may be a missed opportunity in terms of disability since baseline information on disability is either outdated or missing. At present only the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs claims to include disability and persons with disabilities in their Performance Tracking Table (PTT).

The research found increased interest on the inclusion of disability among key state actors involved in the SDG process. However, cohesiveness was observed to be weak between institutions and organisations working on disability issues, due to a lack of coordination between the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), NCPD, DPOs and disability (I)NGOs. Building cohesiveness among these state and non-state operatives may serve as a trajectory for disability inclusion in the SDG governance and accountability mechanisms.

¹⁵The proportion of births by women with a disability attended by skilled health personnel (Goal 3).

4. INCLUSION OF DISABILITY IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES AND INSTRUMENTS

ZAMBIA

In Zambia, the Ministry of National Planning integrated different national and international development frameworks, including the SDGs, into the 7th National Development Plan. The government feels this approach will make it easy to report on the different frameworks using one major monitoring report. The country case study provided no information on SDG-related monitoring frameworks and the inclusion of disability indicators. The monitoring of national disability programmes is done by the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) and the ZAPD. Zambia will present its first VNR at the 2018 HLPF. It will be important for ZAFOD and ZAPD to ensure the inclusion of disability and related data in the preparation and the country report.

KENYA

Kenya has put in place a number of reporting and monitoring mechanisms to track the progress of SDG implementation. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning established an SDG Unit which brings together Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the private sector, CSOs and other development partners. It is the national focal point for Kenya's inaugural VNR at the 2017 HLPF and coordinates CSO input. Notably, the disability sector is participating in this process and has been tasked with reporting on Goals 1, 17 and a statement on 'leave no one behind'. In its endeavour to mainstream disability in national development plans, the government introduced a Disability Mainstreaming Indicator in 2009 for the mandatory Public Sector Performance Contracting Guidelines of all ministries, agencies and departments.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh established the 'SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee' which includes 16 key ministries and a Planning Commission. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission will work as the Secretariat of the committee. There is also a plan to develop a separate Unit called 'Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E)' under the GED. The Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning is also a part of the national M&E structure. The SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee published a handbook: '*Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with the 7th Five Year Plan*' in July 2016. A '*Data Gap Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective*' was published in January 2017. It showed that for the majority of disability-related Proposed Global Indicators for Performance Measurement data is only partially available (GED, 2017).

The Governance Innovation Unit of the Prime Minister's Office ensures that the SDGs and targets are well reflected in the ministry's annual work plan and Annual Performance Agreement. The GED will prepare a National Action Plan for implementing the SDGs based on the inputs prepared by ministries/divisions in a phased manner. An Action Plan for SDG implementation will be followed by preparing an M&E framework. The Draft Action Plan for SDG implementation has used the IAEG-SDGs Proposed Global Indicators. Local indicators will be identified from the Development Results Framework of 7th FYP and Key Performance Indicators of the Ministries/Division. However, the Development Results Framework of Bangladesh's 7th Five Year Plan contains only one disability indicator (number of enrolled children with disabilities, by gender). It will be vital to ensure that disability inclusion is reflected adequately in the M&E framework. Bangladesh formed a National Monitoring Committee on disability in 2016, but it is not clear how it may feed into future SDG monitoring in relation to disability.

5. PARTICIPATION OF DPOS IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES

5. PARTICIPATION OF DPOS IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES

It is understood that the inclusive and accountable implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the active participation of civil society, especially in view of the shrinking space for civil society across the globe. The proposed reporting guidelines for the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) underpin the importance of civic participation in the nationalisation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda (UN, 2016d). They encourage presentations on how stakeholders from civil society were involved in the review and preparation of country reports, and on efforts to create civil society ownership of the SDGs by civil society through information and involvement.

The 2016 VNRs showed that the degree to which civic stakeholders are able to participate meaningfully in the national formulation and implementation of sustainable development policy varies. Countries have adopted several forms of engagement for civil society, including participation of stakeholders through institutions, advocacy efforts, meetings to gather inputs from multiple stakeholders, communication strategies to make the SDGs more understandable, dialogue with line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms or web-based platforms to engage civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (UN, 2016e).

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone proposed a framework that involves a Presidential Board on the SDGs (PBS), a Ministerial Committee on the SDGs (MCS) and the Pillar Working Groups (PWGs) of Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity. The MCS will provide technical guidance on the SDG process, and will work collaboratively with CSOs/NGOs etc. The PWGs are existing working groups of Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity which are expected to be modified to capture 'technical follow-ups and reporting on the SDGs within the Pillars'. The framework is supposed to bring together a wide array of stakeholders at different levels. Civil society should be part of the Ministerial Committee on the SDGs. However, recent CSO activities show no evidence of the participation of DPOs and persons with disabilities. A cross section of CSOs launched the 'Sierra Leone Coalition 2030 on Sustainable Development' in 2016 to advocate for social accountability and strategies for inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs, and to coordinate related CSO and NGO efforts. So far, there is no DPO among the current 15 member organisations.¹⁶

5.1. INVOLVEMENT OF DPOS IN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The importance of institutions in ensuring coherence and coordination was widely recognised in the 2016 VNRs as one of the first steps in the implementation of the SDGs (UN, 2016e). Most countries reported significant progress in establishing and/or strengthening existing institutional frameworks, coordinating bodies, committees or commissions. Several countries (including Colombia, Egypt and Morocco) also highlighted efforts to ensure the participation of multi-stakeholders, including civil society, in their institutional structures for sustainable development (UN, 2016e).

The country case studies found little evidence of the participation of persons with disabilities and DPOs in institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

¹⁶ Caritas (as the lead), Sightsavers, Campaign for Good Governance, Leonard Cheshire Disability, HI, Conservative Society, CAFOD, Civil Society Movement, DADA Sierra Leone, Council for Churches Sierra Leone, Action Aid Sierra Leone, Trocaire, Sierra Leone Young Christian Students, Environmental Forum for Africa and Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organization (SLANGO).

BANGLADESH

The government of Bangladesh created the inter-ministerial 'SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee' which includes a Planning Commission. It has been noted that DPOs and persons with disabilities were so far not involved in national monitoring processes. At the non-governmental end, there is a civil society SDGs Platform led by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) but it has not involved any DPOs. In March 2017, a 'Disability Alliance on SDGs' was founded by ADD, Sightsavers, CBM, the Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA), the National Council for Disabled Women (NCDW), the National Grassroots Disability Organisation (NGDO), the Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID), and the Centre for Disability and Development (CDD). The objective of this platform is to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the 2017 VNR process and subsequent SDG implementation. The alliance completed a national consultation and two district level consultations and produced a position paper based on the findings and recommendations for submission to the Principal Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office.

ZAMBIA

Following the 2016 elections, Zambia created the Ministry of National Development and Planning. This was charged with the responsibility of overseeing the nationalisation and implementation of the SDGs in Zambia. The country case study did not provide information about if and how DPOs will participate in the monitoring of the new National Development Plan, as it was only launched in June 2017. Zambia does not have a well-defined participative monitoring mechanism to track progress in the implementation of the CRPD. So far, the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) and the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) monitor government programmes for persons with disabilities on their behalf. As a result, persons with disabilities are largely unaware of the monitoring mechanisms of the government. The capacity of ZAFOD to represent DPOs in the monitoring of developmental programmes was questioned by DPOs, considering its limited resources to hold the government accountable, leaving the monitoring mechanisms of persons with disabilities in Zambia extremely weak.

KENYA

In Kenya the government has an objective to ensure the participation of all: The Inter-Agency Technical Committee is mandated to manage the implementation of the SDGs and has members from the government, CSOs, the private sector and counties, among others. DPOs are encouraged to participate in consultations with constituencies or even through multiple constituencies. However, it remains to be seen how this will translate into practice. To date, the government does not engage with DPOs or persons with disabilities directly, but rather works through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) only. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning has also established an SDG Unit which brings together MDAs, the private sector and CSOs and other development partners. Recently, the Director of the SDG Unit held a meeting with various DPOs. This was considered a positive sign of goodwill to engage with persons with disabilities in the implementation of the SDGs.

5. PARTICIPATION OF DPOS IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES

The studies also identified **notable initiatives and positive examples** to enhance the participation of DPOs in coordinating structures. In Bangladesh, the **Citizen's Platform for SDGs**¹⁷ was launched in 2016 to contribute to the delivery of the SDGs and enhance accountability in its implementation process. There are three DPOs among the 40 partner organisations (Access Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Somity and the Turning Point Foundation). The Bangladesh Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) tries to organise disability organisations and DPOs in a platform. The Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has formed a Working Committee focusing on the SDGs and included DPOs in its consultations.

In Sierra Leone the Open Data Council (see box) has been formed to promote the Open Data Revolution. This initiative creates an open data portal to foster improved accountability mechanisms in the SDG processes, and presents opportunities for DPO participation in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The Sierra Leone Government recognises the Sierra Leone Coalition 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals as a channel to promote community participation in SDG implementation and reporting. The Coalition 2030 has also engaged with the Parliamentary Committee on the SDGs (PCS). The Committee reportedly resolved that Coalition 2030 should provide basic information on the SDGs to Members of Parliament to improve knowledge on SDG issues. This provides an opportunity through which the views of DPOs could be easily channeled if properly tapped.

In Kenya, the SDG Forum brings together CSOs, including DPOs (e.g. the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)). The SDG Forum provides the opportunity for DPOs to make contributions through disability sector consultative meetings of about ten organisations. They report to a committee that forwards their recommendations to the SDG Unit. DPOs also use the SDG Forum to make their submissions for the VNR of Kenya at the 2017 HLPE.

The Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) supported the SDG Forum in the implementation of a workshop on the SDGs in 2016. Leonard Cheshire Disability, United Disabled Persons of Kenya, Kenya Association for the Intellectually Handicapped, Sense International and NCPWD were represented at the workshop. One of the outputs was the formation of a technical committee on how to get involved in the SDG processes under the coordination of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN).

Open Data Council in Sierra Leone

The Rights to Access Information Commission (RAIC) of Sierra Leone is a member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) – a platform to adopt the Open Data Revolution initiative to increase access to reliable data in support of policy decisions and development. The platform is further supporting the development and implementation of SDG Data Revolution roadmaps. These roadmaps will ensure that guidelines and good practices are pooled together to harness efficient data for the SDGs and sustainable development priorities. The Open Data Council of Sierra Leone (coordinated by the RAIC) guides this process, and presents opportunities for DPO participation in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. According to the Commissioner of RAIC, Southern Sierra Leone, disability is already captured in the Open Data Revolution Initiative and the Open Data Council includes representatives with disabilities. It is important to further develop its capacity on accessible formats that may allow all persons with disabilities to participate in the open data profiling. This can ultimately lead to increased and inclusive accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs.

¹⁷ bdplatform4sdgs.net

5.2. SDG AWARENESS AND OWNERSHIP AMONG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DPOS

Despite the high involvement of multiple stakeholders, the 2016 VNRs noted that increasing awareness and ownership of the SDGs is a considerable challenge (UN, 2016e). The country reports recognised the lack of capacity of civil society for meaningful participation and representation in debates on development. They also recognised the need to empower them to access relevant information and understand their roles in the development process. The reports identified a broad range of activities to increase national ownership and awareness of the 2030 Agenda. For example, including the SDGs in school curricula and textbooks; developing communication plans to raise public awareness of the SDGs; disseminating a simplified version of the SDGs; holding launch events with government, stakeholders and general public; appointing SDG ambassadors and champions (Bond, 2016, p. 25) – as well as exchanging information on approaches taken by different countries to reach out to specifically vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. The case studies confirmed this situation. Except for the case of Zambia, the findings highlighted poor levels of awareness and information on the SDGs and related processes among persons with disabilities and DPOs, and a lack of capacity to implement and monitor the SDGs.

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, about 70% of participating DPO representatives had low awareness of the SDGs. DPOs only came to know about the SDGs through their networks (e.g. the National Forum of Organisations working with Disabled (NFOWD)). In the absence of proper orientation, such knowledge remains superficial. Details of the SDGs and related processes are not understood by the majority of DPOs, especially those at the grassroots and in remote areas. A few DPOs were engaged in seminars and awareness raising on the SDGs. However, this was only after the 2016 HLPF, where Sierra Leone presented its first VNR, and as such came too late for the process of nationalising the SDGs.

'I did not know they have become SDGs, I still thought they are MDGs.'
(Rural DPO representative, Kenya).

KENYA

The research in Kenya confirmed an urban-rural awareness gap. EDAN made significant efforts in training DPOs on the SDGs, the linkages with the Agenda 2063 and Kenya's long-term development agenda Vision 2030, as well as DPOs' role in SDG implementation and monitoring. However, most of the activities of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning to roll out SDGs are implemented in county headquarters or Nairobi.¹⁸ As a result, DPOs at lower levels are not conversant with the SDGs. During a FGD, a representative of a rural DPO said: *'I did not know they have become SDGs, I still thought they are MDGs.'*

The Government of Kenya aims to strengthen the policy and institutional framework for enabling consultation between the state and persons with disabilities in the development of disability policy and legislation. Recently, presentations on the SDGs were made to DPOs during a consultative meeting of the government. Priority areas were identified that DPOs would integrate into their programs. The government of Kenya provided training to more than 15 DPOs on SDG programming, reporting and monitoring, particularly in relation to disability. Plans are underway to train more DPOs and other organisations in the disability sub-sector.

¹⁸ The government's strategy is to complete a roll out of the SDGs by the end of 2018. A county sensitisation plan is being developed and plans are underway to ensure awareness for and through the parliamentary caucus on SDGs.

5. PARTICIPATION OF DPOS IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, INGOs have intervened to address the lack of awareness and capacity on the SDGs among many DPOs, including a National Consultation on the SDGs. They also arranged a National Consultation on the SDGs and some workshops at district and sub-district level in 10 districts of 4 divisions of Bangladesh. Over 500 DPO members participated in the workshops.

Capacity building of DPOs on the SDGs emerged as an important need. The participation of DPOs in SDG planning and implementation processes and related engagement with governments is greatly hampered by their inadequate access to information about and low technical capacity on the SDGs.¹⁹ The Bangladesh case study stressed that this is particularly important, since most DPOs do not have experience in policy advocacy and project development. Bangladesh has a very proactive movement with around 500 registered and non-registered DPOs. However, fragmentation and the lack of a national umbrella organisation or a unified platform, leadership or voice to promote the rights and participation of persons with disabilities in sustainable development processes present a further challenge for the ownership and meaningful engagement of DPOs in SDG processes.

The case studies of both Bangladesh and Kenya also cite a lack of financial resources as yet another key barrier for DPO engagement and the implementation of activities to support the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in SDG implementation. In Bangladesh, social funds on disability issues disbursed from the national budget have been channeled through the Sierra Leone Union for Disability (SLUDI) and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). However, SLUDI claimed that access to funds has been one-off, and clarity on the amount disbursed towards DPO activities remains a critical challenge for DPOs. In Kenya, persons with disabilities cite the lack of resources to attend participatory meetings in Nairobi, where most of the national stakeholder meetings are held. There are disability officers at the county level but their role is peripheral and thus, there is low accountability. The SDG unit at the Ministry of Devolution and Planning reports that they engage with persons with disabilities at the county level. However, the scope of engagement seems to be minimal. The government may have to consider partnering with counties through clustering in order to reach groups such as persons with disabilities instead of calling them to Nairobi.



¹⁹ The study in Kenya additionally cites low capacity on national priorities in planning for persons with disabilities and a lack of capacity on budget advocacy which is not part of the programmatic portfolio of most DPOs in Kenya.

5.3. ROLE OF DPOS IN SDG STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES

At the 2016 HLPF, nearly all countries reported involvement by a wide range of government and non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also the process of preparing VNRs (UN, 2016e). Madagascar's VNR included a declaration by the Platform of Persons with Disabilities of Madagascar on the SDGs as an annex. Among other issues, this stressed that the concerns of persons with disabilities must be mainstreamed in the implementation of the SDGs and that they must be able to participate meaningfully in processes for SDG implementation. Countries have already adopted several forms of engagement with civil society. However, overall the findings of the four case studies revealed limited engagement of DPOs in national SDG processes so far. The scope and depth of their engagement will have to grow as they play a crucial role in offering feedback, policy advice, thematic expertise and M&E loops at central and local levels. The case studies in Bangladesh, Kenya and Sierra Leone particularly highlighted the lack of recognition of their role and the relevance of their participation in development processes and dialogue compared to international or governmental disability actors.

COUNTRY FINDINGS

SIERRA LEONE

DPOs in Sierra Leone have previously successfully advocated their involvement in the implementation of the CRPD and provisions of the Disability Act. Whereas broader consultations on the SDGs were reportedly carried out prior to the 2016 HLPF, engaging DPOs in the current SDG processes was noted to be highly limited. DPOs provided no input to the national adaptation plans on the SDGs. 90% of DPO representatives that participated in the research reported that they have not been involved in any SDG activities. 10% claimed to have been involved in SDG processes through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA). However, it remained unclear whether MSWGCA-coordinated activities with DPOs were related to the SDGs. The MSWGCA reported to regularly engage with DPOs (including SLUDI etc.), but failed to clarify the linkages of these discussions with the SDGs. Following the 2016 HLPF, technical working groups on natural resources, governance and social protection were held. These resulted in the development of sector policy papers on the SDGs. Yet, DPOs reported that only disability INGOs were invited to represent persons with disabilities. DPO representatives argued this to be *'...an idealist approach from which responses to the needs of rights owners are based on theory, and therefore have often resulted to little impacts on their livelihoods.'*

The participation of DPOs in the SDG process could have promoted the richness of the national integrated results framework (IRF), which now lacks disability indicators and benchmarks for disability issues. This creates a huge knowledge gap on disability in the national SDG implementation.

ZAMBIA

DPOs in Zambia were also not involved in the process of nationalisation of the SDGs into the 7th National Development Plan, although government officials insisted that all stakeholders were consulted. The majority of respondents from DPOs were not even aware that the SDGs would be nationalised into the plan.

5. PARTICIPATION OF DPOS IN NATIONAL SDG PROCESSES

BANGLADESH

Despite efforts from civil society, there was little initiative from the government of Bangladesh to consult CSOs, including DPOs, on the SDGs. DPOs in Bangladesh were involved in a consultation meeting during the formulation of national SDG targets and indicators, but largely left out of the national SDG planning, implementation or monitoring process. The Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) participated in the SDG preparatory meeting arranged by the Planning Commission of the government. However, they were not present as a DPO, but as a member of the CEDAW platform of Bangladesh. A key challenge for the inclusion and participation of DPOs in Bangladesh is the fact that the government does not differentiate between different civic actors but considers NGOs and CSOs as a whole. As such, there is a need for a common platform of DPOs in the country to advocate for their involvement in SDG-related activities.

The Ministry of Social Welfare considers the *Jatio Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)* – a government body – to be the key resource on disability. It consults the JPUF on all matters related to disability without an understanding of the need for wider consultations, including DPOs. There are around 1,200 disability committees at all levels,²⁰ in which DPOs are to be represented. But many so-called disability activists, mostly without disabilities, uphold their participation, while persons with disabilities are often provided with very limited access to those and other decision-making committees. Moreover, the government generally invites disability INGOs rather than DPOs. Therefore, it was mainly international representatives that participated in the SDG country planning process.

The research also showed that there are still many opportunities for DPOs in Bangladesh to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. The national action plan by GED and the national monitoring framework are yet to be developed. The annual budget planning and the development of performance agreement present vital avenues for meaningful participation.



²⁰ The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 stipulates the establishment of five types of committees from national to town level, including a national coordination committee, national executive committee, district level committees, Upazila (sub-district) committees and city committees.



KENYA

In Kenya, DPOs have to a moderate extent been involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of national programmes. DPOs (through the federation of organisations of persons with disabilities – the United Disabled People of Kenya (UDPK)) were engaged by the government in the development of policies such as the National Disability Policy. They have also been involved through a Constitutional Implementation Caucus of DPOs in the review of the Persons with Disability Act.

As far as the SDG processes are concerned, the case study noted an overall lack of substantial engagement and consultation of DPOs and persons with disabilities in the national discussions. As such, there were also no in-depth consultations with DPOs during the preparation of the SDG roadmap (see 4.1). The Kenyan government acknowledges that DPOs are key stakeholders in the planning, implementation and monitoring of SDGs and should be represented in the sector working groups. However, in most cases, the Ministry does not engage with DPOs directly, but works rather through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). As mentioned previously, for the 2017 VNR of Kenya, the disability sector has been tasked with reporting on Goals 1, 17 and a statement on 'leave no one behind.' The SDG Forum Kenya was requested by the SDG unit to coordinate CSO input for Kenya's VNR. DPOs agreed to use the SDG Forum and other channels to make their submissions and explored the possibility of developing a shadow report.

The issues regarding self-representation do not only relate to persons with disabilities and their organisations: the country case studies further noted the under-representation of certain organisations and groups of persons with disabilities in SDG participation processes. The Kenya report highlighted the need to ensure opportunities for the most excluded groups to meaningfully participate and be recognised in accountability processes, particularly women with disabilities. In Sierra Leone, DPO engagement was found to focus largely on the National Association of the Deaf (SLNAD) and SLUDI in SDG-related discussions organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. PROMOTING DISABILITY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS TO INTEGRATE THE SDGS

In order to further promote the inclusion of disability in national development plans and monitoring processes, the country case studies highlighted the following recommendations:

Disability-inclusive budgeting to ensure that financing for sustainable development leaves no one behind:

- For the successful financing of projects for and of persons with disabilities, countries ought to opt for multiple sources of finance, including public / private partnerships.
- Local governments need to consult persons with disabilities and their organisations in the preparation of budgets and related stakeholder processes.
- National budget allocation towards disability should be increased to address the need.
- Donors funding projects linked to the SDGs should include the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities, including specific allocations for reasonable accommodations (sign language interpreters, audios, non-visual desktop accessories, Braille etc).

Improved disability data to provide evidence for accountability and decision-making:

- Governments and disability (I)NGOS need to improve consensus around the definition of disability and disability indicators in line with the CRPD as a prerequisite for any data collection.
- Institutions mandated to collect data need support to develop their capacity on disability data and relevant frameworks and instruments (WHO ICF and the Washington Group questions etc.)
- Governments and (I)NGOs should provide frameworks and capacity building for the collection of disability disaggregated data to facilitate monitoring of relevant SDG indicators.
- Disability situation analyses should be used to establish a baseline as a measure of accountability and to ensure effective monitoring of disability inclusion.

- Governments need to support the inclusion of disability into national poverty data in order to facilitate SDG benchmarking on poverty.

Capacity building for government officials to promote disability inclusion:

- Disability (I)NGOs need to develop the understanding and capacity of government actors on disability rights, and the relevance of disability inclusion in processes for sustainable development.
- Ministries should review policies and rules of business to mainstream disability as a cross-cutting issue and be given space and accountability to ensure disability inclusion.

6.2. STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF DPOs IN SDG NATIONALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES

The development of the SDGs was premised on the principle of 'Leave no one behind'. The exclusion of DPOs and persons with disabilities from national SDG stakeholder processes could undermine international efforts to include persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda. In order to strengthen their participation, the following recommendations emerged from the country case studies:

Capacity building for DPOs to promote their effective participation:

- Governments and INGOs need to provide financial resources and interventions to equip DPOs and their representatives with knowledge, skills and resources and improve their access to relevant information in order for them to assume a meaningful role and make effective contributions in the process.
- Governments (and INGOs) should support regular (disability sub-sector) forums or other platforms to share experiences and consolidate good practices on advocacy for disability-inclusive SDG implementation.
- Disability (I)NGOs must ensure that resources are pooled for continuous support towards capacity building of DPOs to establish institutional sustainability within the DPO structures.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

More inclusive partnerships to leave no one behind:

- Governments and INGOs need to expand the spectrum of DPOs they work with, address or consult, ensuring the involvement of DPOs from the grassroots to national level as well as the representation of different groups of persons with disabilities in SDG discussions, mechanisms and projects.

Consolidated positions to ensure that the voices of DPOs are heard:

- DPOs need to integrate the SDGs into their strategic plans, decide how they contribute to the SDGs and develop a consolidated position in order to realise effective advocacy for the disability-inclusive implementation, reporting and monitoring of the SDGs.
- Disability INGOs need to provide relevant technical and financial support to DPOs and their federations and umbrella organisations to develop a consolidated position and effective advocacy campaigns and interventions.
- DPOs should intensify interactions with local government

Accessible communication to facilitate understanding of persons with disabilities:

- Governments and (I)NGOS need to ensure the dissemination of SDG-related information, education and communication and monitoring frameworks in accessible formats including Braille, audio, large print, sign language interpretation etc.
- Governments can engage DPOs who can support in community dialogue and the design of accessible information, education and communication to ensure that all persons with disabilities will be reached.
- Dissemination efforts of governments, DPO umbrella organisations and federations and (I)NGOs need to ensure that SDG-related information reaches persons with disabilities at the grassroots.

Inclusive processes and mechanisms to promote participation of persons with disabilities:

- Government, INGOs and local civil society must make efforts to ensure that DPO representatives form a continuous part of all national SDG processes to increase strengthened commitments towards disability inclusion on the SDGs (e.g. inclusion of DPOs into the TOR of relevant committees etc.).
- Governments should identify effective mechanisms to ensure the participation of DPOs in the planning, implementation and monitoring of progress of the SDGs (e.g. specifications in TOR etc.).
- Effective engagement of DPO representatives on the SDGs at national, sub-national and local levels is of high importance to improve their knowledge on the key indicators and processes involved in developing the national SDGs commitment plans.

Capacity building for development actors and government officials to improve recognition of DPOs:

- Disability (I)NGOs need to develop the understanding and capacity of governmental and non-governmental mainstream development actors on disability rights, the relevance of participation of persons with disabilities in processes for sustainable development and reasonable accommodations.
- Encouraging DPOs to strengthen partnerships and build networks with NGOs implementing SDG-related projects, think-tanks, and local governments at national and local levels can evoke widespread recognition of disability in SDG governance and accountability.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7. CONCLUSIONS

The exclusion of disability from the MDGs, which guided the development agenda for 15 years, highlighted the fact that until recently, disability was not even considered a development issue and persons with disabilities not development actors. In 2015, following concerted and intense lobbying efforts, disability has been included in the successor to the MDGs – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These developments brought a wave of enthusiasm among disability organisations, DPOs and activists which now needs to be harnessed. Without implementation, the promises will go undelivered, and persons with disabilities will continue to be left behind.

One and a half years into the implementation of the SDGs, this report synthesizes the findings of one of the first few researches to explore how the commitments to the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in sustainable development processes are translating into practice. A number of concerns emerged from the four country case studies: Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations have low levels of awareness and weak capacity on the SDGs, related processes and advocacy. They are still poorly consulted and involved in national SDG processes and coordination mechanisms and structures. There are huge gaps on disability (rights) in processes and instruments/plans to nationalise the SDGs, especially in the monitoring of often vague and rudimentary commitments to disability in national development plans with a lack of concrete disability indicators.

These findings highlight an urgent need for action if the potential that the SDGs hold for persons with disabilities is to be realised. Mentioning disability in the SDGs is not enough to impact on the lives of millions of persons with disabilities and their families around the world. It is critical to reflect on what the inclusion of disability in the SDGs means and how these commitments can be put into practice. Is the development sector and the international development community ready to become disability-inclusive in their discussions, planning and funding streams? Are national resources, capacities and commitments in place to ensure the inclusion of disability in the nationalisation of the SDGs? How can we strengthen local civil society working on disability and governments, recognising that they are best placed to address issues of disability rights and inclusion in their national contexts?

Persons with disabilities themselves will be vital actors in this process. They are the watchdogs; they talk to decision makers, and influence them to back the disability agenda. The inclusion of disability in the SDGs is a powerful tool for them to use as they raise their concerns with their governments. It will be vital to support them and their DPOs to put the SDGs effectively to use in the promotion of their rights and ensure that the grassroots are kept informed and are able to contribute in a meaningful way.

The SDGs will only succeed if they are taken up nationally. While we have seen huge progress in the inclusion of disability in global SDG processes, there is little evidence for this at country level. It is highly critical that we get this right and move forward at national levels in order to reach the last group of people, the bottom billion.

ANNEX: COUNTRY BRIEFS

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is one of the most successful countries in achieving the MDGs, and has made significant progress over the last two decades in areas such as poverty alleviation, health, and education. Available data on the disability prevalence varies greatly: The Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES) in 2010 found a disability prevalence rate of 9.07% (Government of Bangladesh, 2012) whereas the 2011 National Census estimated the disability prevalence at only 1.41% (Government of Bangladesh, 2015).

Methodology

The research was implemented by a national consultant using a qualitative approach that combined primary and secondary data collection. A review of disability and SDG-related reports, plans, laws and policies was followed by key informant interviews and FGDs with more than 10 representatives of DPOs. A national workshop was organised to validate the findings. The assignment also included the identification of DPOs and the team verified a total of 112 registered DPOs during the study.

Legal, policy and institutional framework

Bangladesh ratified the CRPD in 2007, and enacted the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2013. The establishment of the National Monitoring Committee in line with Art. 33 of the CRPD followed in 2016 to monitor disability-related activities. The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013 stipulates different committees from national to city level, which include, among others, members of DPOs and self-help organisations. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability and secures the right to social security for persons with disabilities. The Information and Technology Policy of 2010 and the Women Development Advancement Policy of 2011 specifically refer to improving access and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Disability inclusion in SDG planning

Bangladesh integrated the SDGs into its **7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)**, which includes numerous references to persons with disabilities on inclusive education, access to information, healthcare and rehabilitation, basic infrastructure and services, skills development, social security and social inclusion. An Action Plan for SDG implementation will be

followed by preparing an M&E framework. The Draft Action Plan for SDG implementation has used the IAEG-SDGs Proposed Global Indicators and local indicators will be identified from the Development Results Framework (DRF) of the 7th FYP. However, the latter contains only one disability indicator (number of enrolled children with disabilities, by gender).

Bangladesh has no national budget specifically allocated for the realisation of the SDGs. Annual budget preparations are made on the basis of its 7th FYP. Financing of the SDGs still remains a great challenge. Only the next annual budget and the upcoming Five Year Plans will show how the SDGs will be reflected and how this will impact on allocations for disability-related commitments. Bangladesh has an inter-ministerial 'SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee' and a Planning Commission. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission will work as the Secretariat of the committee. There is also a plan to develop a separate Unit called 'Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E)'. A *'Data Gap Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective'* was published in January 2017. It showed that for the majority of disability-related proposed global indicators for performance measurement data is only partially available (GED, 2017).

Participation of persons with disabilities

Bangladesh has an active DPO movement with around 500 registered and non-registered DPOs. Still, DPOs have not been involved in the national SDG processes so far, except a consultation for the formulation of SDGs targets and indicators for the country agenda. In addition, DPOs lack information and knowledge on the SDGs and related processes and advocacy. Most DPOs heard about the SDGs through their networks but lack the details – especially DPOs at the grassroots and in remote areas who are by now familiar with the CRPD. Thus, capacity building of DPOs on the SDGs and related processes has emerged as an urgent need. Not only are DPOs absent from the discussions and decisions regarding the nationalisation and implementation of the SDGs, there is also no common platform of DPOs or concerted efforts to advocate for their

involvement in SDG-related activities. To date, the movement and DPO initiatives are rather fragmented and sporadic and a national umbrella organisation of DPOs as well as a consolidated position are yet to be established.

The participation of DPOs in SDG processes is further hampered by the fact that the government does not yet fully recognise their role, but instead invites representatives of disability (I)NGOs. It was international representatives of INGOs who participated in a relevant UN meeting and in the SDG planning process. Besides these organisations, the Ministry of Social Welfare consults the *Jatio Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)* – a governmental body – on all matters related to disability, without any understanding of the need for wider consultations. In March 2017, a ‘Disability Alliance on SDGs’ was founded by ADD, SightSavers, CBM, Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA), National Council for Disabled Women (NCDW), National Grassroots Disability Organisation (NGDO), Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID), and Centre for Disability and Development (CDD) to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the 2017 VNR process and SDG implementation. Following national and district consultations, the alliance developed a position paper which is to be submitted to the Principal Coordinator at the Prime Minister’s Office.

The Citizen’s Platform for SDGs includes 40 organisations from across the country, including three DPOs (Access Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Somity (BPKS) and Turning Point Foundation). The Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) tries to organise 20 organisations and DPOs in a platform. The Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has formed a Working Committee focusing on the SDGs and consulted with some DPOs. There is a civil society SDG Platform led by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) but DPOs are not yet involved. There are also still many opportunities to get involved with state actors: The national action plan by GED and the national monitoring framework is yet to be developed besides the annual budget cycle and also the annual performance agreement.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the research team provided the following recommendations:

Policy level:

- Government and ministries should involve DPOs in the preparation of FYP and national action plans;
- Government should allocate adequate budget for disability with the active participation of DPOs;
- Each ministry should review its policies and Rules of Business and mainstream disability;
- Ministries should mainstream disability and be held accountable for disability inclusion.

Operational level:

- Government should align SDG implementation with the CRPD and the Rights & Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013;
- Government should identify mechanisms to involve DPOs in SDG planning, M&E and reporting;
- Government should generate disability disaggregated data to facilitate monitoring of inclusion;
- Public and private partnership planning, implementation and monitoring process of SDGs.
- DPOs should receive orientation on the SDGs and related implementation processes;
- Persons with disabilities / DPOs should engage in local committees, dialogues and with governments;
- SDG-related information should reach persons with disabilities at the grassroots;
- Development actors should support the capacity building of DPOs on the SDGs and advocacy.

KENYA

Kenya was a co-facilitator in drafting the 17 SDGs, and will continue to play a key role in the near future. Kenya will present its first VNR at the HLPF 2017. According to the National Survey on Disability from 2008, about 4.6 % of men and women are living with a disability in Kenya (Government of Kenya, 2008).

Methodology

The research applied a qualitative approach. The data collection included 16 key informant interviews (3 interviews with DPO representatives and 13 with disability (I)NGOs and government officials), FGDs with representatives of more than ten DPOs and workshop engagements.

Legal, policy and institutional framework

The rights of persons with disabilities are well articulated in the existing legal and policy frameworks. The new Constitution (2010) prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability. Kenya ratified the CRPD, which by virtue of the Constitution is part of Kenyan law. Actions are still guided by the 2003 People with Disabilities Act but it is currently under review to align it with the CRPD. Kenya's initial report to the CRPD was submitted in 2011 and reviewed in August 2015, for which both the Government and CSOs, including DPOs, were present. The Act further provides for the establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, which includes the membership of DPO representatives.

Disability inclusion in SDG planning

To anchor disability into government policies, plans and programmes, the government has been promoting disability mainstreaming. Kenya has a National Action Plan for the implementation of the SDGs, which consequently commits to the inclusion of disability in the development agenda. Kenya's next medium-term plan,²¹ which is set to be launched in December 2017 for the period 2018-2022, will mainstream the SDGs based on key thematic areas. Accordingly, the SDGs will also be integrated into the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Both national and devolved functions will integrate the SDGs into their annual work plans

and performance contracts. However, how the government's commitments related to disability inclusion will be reflected in the new plan remains to be seen.

Kenya has put in place a number of reporting and monitoring mechanisms to track the progress of SDG implementation. In its endeavour to mainstream disability in national development plans, the government introduced a Disability Mainstreaming Indicator in 2009 for the Public Sector Performance Contracting Guidelines of all ministries, agencies and departments. Funding of programmes targeting persons with disabilities is integrated into various government development programmes for inclusive development. In addition, affirmative actions for persons with disabilities are supported by public resources such as tax exemption, social protection or livelihoods programmes. During the financial year 2016-2017, the budget included allocations for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, cash transfers to persons with severe disabilities, the National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities, and a Health Insurance Subsidy Programme for the elderly and persons with disabilities. In the FY 2017/18 – 2019/20 *Medium Term Expenditure Framework*, the Public Administration and International Relations Sector intends to implement 36 programmes aimed at fulfilling constitutional mandates including implementing affirmative initiatives for the empowerment of youth, women and persons with disabilities. The Kenya case study highlights the need for reliable data on disability and persons with disabilities, with population being a key parameter for budget allocations.

Participation of persons with disabilities

The government seeks ways to bring in the participation of everyone and acknowledges that DPOs are key stakeholders. Recently, presentations on the SDGs were made to DPOs during a consultative meeting and priority areas were identified that DPOs would integrate into their programming. However, overall participation and consultation of DPOs is limited, and to date the government still engages rather with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

²¹ The government of Kenya operationalises its long-term development blue-print, the Vision 2030 Kenya through five-year medium term plans.

Kenya's proposed institutional framework includes an Inter-Agency Technical Committee to manage the implementation of the SDGs with members from the government, CSOs, the private sector, and counties, among others. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning also established an SDG Unit which brings together ministries, departments and agencies, the private sector, CSOs and other development partners. It is the national SDG focal point that also leads the VNR process. Recently, the Director of the SDG Unit met with various DPOs, which was considered a positive sign of goodwill to engage with persons with disabilities in the implementation of the SDGs. CSOs formed the SDG Forum which includes DPOs among its members. DPOs make contributions to the SDG Forum through disability sector consultative meetings. They report to a committee that forwards their recommendations to the SDG Unit. In the preparation of the 2017 VNR, the disability sector has been tasked with reporting on Goals 1, 17 and a statement on 'leave no one behind'. DPOs will use the SDG Forum to make their submissions.

The majority of activities of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning to roll out the SDGs take place in county headquarters or Nairobi. As a result, persons with disabilities at the grassroots have very limited awareness, understanding of and information on the SDGs. They lack the capacity to engage meaningfully with government officials on the issue and the resources to attend meetings in Nairobi, where most of the national stakeholder meetings are held. There are disability officers at the county level but their role is peripheral in dealing with issues of disability. The government therefore needs to think of alternatives in order to reach such groups at the grassroots. The government is in the process of developing a county sensitisation plan, and plans are underway to ensure awareness through the parliamentary caucus on SDGs. The Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) has made significant efforts in training DPOs to understand the SDGs, linkages with the Agenda 2063 of the Africa Union and Kenya's Vision 2030, and the role of DPOs in implementation and monitoring. The research highlighted the need to ensure opportunities for the most excluded persons with disabilities to participate in accountability processes, particularly women with disabilities.

Recommendations

Below is a selection of key recommendations provided by the research team:

- Government should promote the participation of DPOs in the SDG monitoring and share information;
- DPOs should get involved in the preparation of the VNR and ensure their issues are reflected;
- The County Integrated Development Plans 2017-2022 should be reviewed to see how they respond to the SDGs, especially in relation to disability;
- DPOs need to integrate the SDGs into their strategic plans and indicate how they contribute to SDG processes;
- DPOs and other disability actors need to participate in SDG planning, implementation and monitoring;
- DPOs need to develop a consolidated position and strategic advocacy agenda to strengthen their monitoring role;
- Financing of projects for and of persons with disabilities should consider public / private partnerships;
- Institutions mandated to collect data need to receive training on disability data;
- Information including the monitoring framework must be accessible to allow meaningful participation;
- A resource website needs to be set up to inform DPOs on progress and accountability mechanisms.

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone recorded notable progress towards the achievement of a number of MDGs. Unfortunately, the Ebola virus disease broke out in May 2014, which undermined the acceleration of progress. Sierra Leone presented its first VNR in 2016. According to the final report of the last Population and Housing Census in 2015, about 1.3% of the total population are persons with disabilities (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2016). The National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPD) and disability stakeholders have expressed serious doubts about this figure and requested a disability survey to be carried out.

Methodology

The study used an exploratory design and combined a desk review phase with 17 key informant interviews, including 11 DPO representatives and 2 FGDs with DPOs. One session was with participants with mobility impairments, and one with persons with visual, speech and hearing impairments. A one day national validation workshop was held with national DPO platforms to fill in information gaps.

Legal, policy and institutional framework

Sierra Leone ratified the CRPD in 2009 and enacted the Persons with Disability Act in 2011 in order to domesticate the Convention. In 2011, Sierra Leone adopted a National Social Protection Policy which aims to provide social protection for vulnerable groups. A National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPD) is the official governance body for the rights of persons with disabilities. The Disability Act stipulates the participation of CSOs in the National Commission, specifically of DPOs which are actively engaged in the implementation of the Disability Act and have taken several actions in ensuring that they are involved in the implementation of the CRPD and the Disability Act.²²

Disability inclusion in SDG planning

Preparations for the 2016 HLPF resulted in a draft national integrated results framework (IRF) and a draft set of 91 country-specific indicators. The IRF combines three key development responses of the

government: the SDGs, the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) and the National Ebola Recovery Strategy. However, disability and persons with disabilities are hardly referenced in the IRF and only one disability-related indicator is included.

Financing the SDGs remains a critical issue, and Sierra Leone plans a comprehensive SDG assessment to inform the preparation of an SDG Investment Plan for the country, in order to determine required resources. The country has integrated the SDGs into the 2016 National Budget, and has also aligned these to the eight pillars of Sierra Leone's development roadmap – *the Agenda for Prosperity* (AfP). The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development engaged all 19 local councils to integrate the SDGs into their district and municipal development plans. This will ensure that future annual budget proposals of councils are aligned to the SDGs to aid progress reporting at the local level. The national budget includes allocations to support DPOs which have been channeled through the Sierra Leone Union for Disability (SLUDI) and the NCPD. However, disbursement mechanisms and the amount disbursed remain challenging.

Sierra Leone developed a draft integrated M&E framework with specific SDG indicators. It includes two tiers, with tier 1 indicators (113 indicators) showing baseline and targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030; and tier 2 presenting over 200 further indicators. However, no disability indicator is included in tier 1 and only one in tier 2.²³ The Sierra Leone International Benchmark Systems (SLIBS) is intended to serve as a formalised hub for all benchmarks used for reporting the development status of the country. However, this may be a missed opportunity in terms of disability since baseline information on disability is either outdated or missing. At present, only the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs claims to include disability and persons with disabilities in their Performance Tracking Table (PTT).

²² For instance in January 2012, prior to the National Elections in Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues (SLUDI) issued a 90 days ultimatum for the government to set up the National Commission in line with the Disability Act and threatened to boycott the voters registration in preparation for the election. The ultimatum was eventually withdrawn when the government set up a Technical Committee for the establishment of the National Commission.

²³ The proportion of birth by women with disability attended by skilled health personnel (Goal 3)

Participation of persons with disabilities

The study established limited engagement of DPOs in the national SDG processes. Whereas broader consultations on the SDGs were reportedly carried out prior to the 2016 HLPF, engaging DPOs in the current SDG processes was noted to be highly limited and DPOs provided no input to the national adaptation plans on the SDGs. 90% of DPO representatives that participated in the research reported that they have not been involved in any SDG activities. The participation of DPOs in the SDG process may have had a positive effect on the inclusion of disability indicators and benchmarks for disability issues in the national IRF. However, it seems that the government actors have not yet embraced the role of DPOs and persons with disabilities in the discussions on sustainable development. Following the 2016 HLPF, technical working groups on natural resources, governance and social protection were held. These resulted in the development of sector policy papers on the SDGs. Only disability INGOs were invited to represent persons with disabilities. DPO representatives argued this to be *'...an idealist approach from which responses to the needs of rights owners are based on theory, and therefore have often resulted to little impacts on their livelihoods.'*

However, the research also identified opportunities for DPOs to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in future: The national action plan by GED and the national monitoring framework is yet to be developed and the annual budget planning and development of performance agreement present vital avenues for meaningful participation.

The (proposed) governance and accountability structures are so far not inclusive of DPO representatives, except the Open Data Council to roll out the Open Data Initiative. The 'Sierra Leone Coalition 2030 on Sustainable Development' has gained state recognition as an effective coordinator of CSO and NGO efforts on SDG implementation but has no DPO member among its 15 partners. Civil society is part of the Ministerial Committee on the SDGs, but recent CSO activities show no evidence of DPO participation.

The study also observed a lack of information on the SDGs and SDG processes: About 70% of DPOs representatives in the research are reportedly not well informed about the SDG processes. Only a few DPOs attended seminars and awareness raising on the SDGs, but since this was provided after the 2016 HLPF, DPOs did not provide input to the national adaptation plans on the SDGs. In addition, the engagement of DPOs by the Ministry of Social Welfare is limited to the National Association of the Deaf (SLNAD) and SLUDI, while other DPOs are largely unaware of these opportunities.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the research team provided the following recommendations:

- Ensure participation of DPO representatives in national structures and activities on the SDGs, especially the Coalition 2030 to ensure inclusion of disability in SDG discussions and processes;
- Increase budget allocations for disability and improve the system of fund disbursement to DPOs;
- Update national poverty data to include disability for SDG benchmarking on poverty and conduct a national disability survey to obtain disaggregated data (sex, location, socio-economic status, etc);
- Develop consensus around disability definition and disability indicators for national data collection;
- Maintain regular dialogue with the Open Data Council and build its capacity on accessibility;
- Include a disability clause into funding requirements/ policies of donors for projects linked to SDGs, including specific fund allocations for reasonable accommodations;
- Build cohesiveness among state and non-state operatives. This may serve as a trajectory for disability inclusion in the governance and accountability mechanism for SDG implementation;
- Build the capacity of all public institutions on disability rights, including training on disability-sensitive M&E for all SDG pillar leads.

ZAMBIA

Zambia has not achieved most of the MDGs, but saw some positive growth in the areas of health and education. According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census in Zambia, 2.7% of the population lives with a disability. However, it is understood that the prevalence of disability is much higher than projected by the Zambian Central Statistical office. In 2006, a study of living conditions of persons with disabilities found prevalence rates from 7.3% in Luapula to 22.2% in the Western province, with an average national prevalence rate of 13.3% (SINTEF, 2006).

Methodology

The research was implemented by the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) – a national umbrella organisation for disability organisations in Zambia that represents 12 affiliated member organisations. A total of 48 representatives of 40 organisations participated in the data collection, including DPOs as well as local and international disability organisations. It employed both qualitative and quantitative methods for inquiry, using key informant interviews, FGDs and questionnaires.

Legal, policy and institutional framework

The Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health is the lead agency on disability and related policy formulation. The Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) is the government focal point on disability. Zambia ratified the CRPD in 2010 and adopted the Persons with Disabilities Act in 2012 in line with the Convention. Currently, Zambia does not have a well-defined monitoring mechanism to track progress in the implementation of the CRPD. Persons with disabilities depend on ZAPD and the non-governmental Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) who monitor government programmes for persons with disabilities on their behalf. As a result, persons with disabilities are largely unaware of the monitoring mechanisms of the government and the resources of ZAFOD to represent DPOs is questionable. The majority of government officials nowadays recognise disability

as a cross-cutting issue. As a result, there have been significant efforts to make Zambia's legal and social protection framework inclusive of persons with disabilities. The Zambian government has developed a number of well-formulated and well-intended policies and strategies pertaining to persons with disabilities, including a National Policy on Disability. However, implementation of the framework remains a huge challenge, particularly because of the absence of statutory instruments to operationalise the 2012 Disability Act.

Disability inclusion in SDG planning

In 2006, Zambia developed its first long-term plan, the Vision 2030, which sets out the goals and targets for Zambia to become 'a prosperous middle-income nation'. The Vision is operationalised through five year development plans. It recognises streamlining of service delivery for persons with disabilities as key to achieving the objectives of the Vision. In the previous 6th National Development Plan (NDP), disability was not systematically mainstreamed but merged into the section on 'Social Protection' only.

In 2016, Zambia decided to nationalise the SDGs through the 7th National Development Plan (NDP), bringing together different national and international development frameworks (e.g. SDGs, the African Union 2063 Agenda). As far as persons with disabilities are concerned, the plan alludes to an inclusive approach referring to infrastructure development, disability pension, access to social services, such as health, education, skills and entrepreneurship training, and overall reduction of vulnerability of persons with disabilities. Greater detail is only provided on the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, targeting an increase in the employment rate of persons with disabilities from 45.5% in 2005 to 55% in 2021 (Government of Zambia, 2017).

Participation of persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities expressed little awareness of the monitoring mechanisms of the government in relation to the implementation of disability commitments. Only a few DPOs reported to have

²² For instance in January 2012, prior to the National Elections in Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues (SLUDI) issued a 90 day ultimatum for the government to set up the National Commission in line with the Disability Act and threatened to boycott the voters registration in preparation for the election. The ultimatum was eventually withdrawn when the government set up a Technical Committee for the establishment of the National Commission.

²³ The proportion of birth by women with a disability attended by skilled health personnel (Goal 3)

been involved in the monitoring of disability-related programmes. Persons with disabilities depend on the monitoring of national programmes by ZAFOD and the government focal point ZAPD. The two monitor on behalf of persons with disabilities and provide feedback to the affiliate members.

According to the findings, DPOs are aware of the SDGs, but so far have been left out of the process to nationalise them into the new NDP. Many persons with disabilities who participated in the study were unaware that the SDGs were domesticated into the 7th NDP or even that the 7th NDP was being developed. Government officials claim that persons with disabilities were consulted. However, they refer to the representation by the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health and the **Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)** – a civil society anti-poverty advocacy network of over 70 organisations. But most persons with disabilities reject the idea that other organisations or stakeholders speak on their behalf, without opportunities for self-representation. The Ministry of National Development and Planning explained that after the launch of the 7th NDP that persons with disabilities may be involved in the implementation of specific programmes.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the research team provided the following recommendations:

The government should:

- Improve statistics on persons with disabilities to support the planning and budgeting for disability;
- Include DPOs in planning for national financing of inclusive policies;
- Strengthen means and political will to implement disability-related policies;
- Equip DPOs with knowledge, skills and resources to be able to monitor national activities and hold the government accountable;
- Make efforts to strengthen partnerships with all DPOs;

- Develop and maintain mechanisms and practices that will ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organisations in all national activities and the monitoring and evaluation of programmes;
- Increase funding for ZAPD to strengthen the implementation of disability-related programmes.













































DPOs should:

- Make use of existing organisational structures to develop a united position and collaborate closely on advocacy for inclusion in SDG processes and programmes;
- Take action to increase their knowledge and skills on relevant national and international legal, policy and development frameworks in order to facilitate meaningful participation;
- Ensure effective information sharing between persons with disabilities and DPOs at grassroots and national levels.

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MENTIONS OF DISABILITY IN 2017 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNRS)

		2017 VNR FULL REPORT MENTIONS DISABILITY	2017 VNR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / MAIN MESSAGES MENTION DISABILITY	CRPD RATIFICATION STATUS
	Afghanistan	●	-	●
	Argentina	-	-	●
	Azerbaijan	●	-	●
	Bangladesh	●	-	●
	Belarus	-	-	●
	Belgium	●	-	●
	Belize	N/A	-	●
	Benin	●	-	●
	Botswana	N/A	●	-
	Brazil	●	-	●
	Chile	●	●	●
	Costa Rica	●	-	●
	Cyprus	●	-	●
	Czech Republic	●	-	●
	Denmark	●	●	●
	El Salvador	N/A	-	●
	Ethiopia	N/A	-	●
	Guatemala	N/A	N/A	●
	Honduras	-	-	●
	India	-	-	●
	Indonesia	●	●	●
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	N/A	-	●
	Italy	●	-	●
	Japan	N/A	-	●
	Jordan	●	●	●
	Kenya	●	●	●
	Luxembourg	●	-	●
	Malaysia	●	-	●
	Maldives	●	-	●
	Monaco	●	-	-
	Nepal	N/A	●	●
	Netherlands	●	-	●
	Nigeria	●	●	●
	Panama	N/A	-	●
	Peru	●	-	●
	Portugal	●	-	●
	Qatar	-	-	●
	Slovenia	●	-	●
	Sweden	●	●	●
	Tajikistan	●	●	-
	Thailand	●	-	●
	Togo	N/A	-	●
	Uruguay	●	-	●
	Zimbabwe	●	-	●

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