

Realising the global commitment to Leave No One Behind

Ensuring that persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups are included in development cooperation

Leaving No One Behind: General Recommendations

“As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind [...] And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.” (Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - hereafter Agenda 2030)

“Millions of people are being left behind, especially the poorest and those disadvantaged because of their sex, age, disability, ethnicity or geographic location. Targeted efforts will be needed to reach the most vulnerable people.”¹

Background

11 years after the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) entered into force, four years into the implementation of Agenda 2030, and considering the conclusions of the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development (2018), the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) notes with concern that too little is done to effectively realise the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle.

Together with like-minded partners, we consider the LNOB principle as a fundamental requirement for the successful implementation at all levels of Agenda 2030. Hence, we state that:

- The LNOB principle and the need to reach the furthest behind first were amongst the key lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015): the failure of the MDGs to put the most marginalised groups on top of the agenda resulted in unreached goals and sometimes even in widening development gaps at the expense of those groups.
- Agenda 2030 clearly identifies marginalised groups that have been left behind and that should now be the primary focus of all implementation efforts.
- The LNOB principle is deeply rooted in human rights law and principles and hence requires a rights-based approach. Disregarding the principle and the rights of all

¹ United Nations, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, p. 8

human beings, including those considered as marginalised, amounts to stigma, discrimination and a breach of human rights obligations.

- No policy, programme or other measures for realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be implemented without consistent and continuous application of the LNOB principle.

Recommendations

Moving forward with the overall implementation of Agenda 2030, we recommend all governments and relevant stakeholders to ensure:

Participation

1. Effective, consistent and continuous involvement, and participation of persons directly affected by marginalisation and exclusion including Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) in implementation efforts. They are best placed to identify their own needs and know how to address them.

Accessibility

2. Accessibility is a pre-condition for the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities. From the outset with universal design and the expectations of reasonable accommodation, ensure access to the built environment, transportation, information and communication, assistive technologies (AT) and new technologies for all.

Accountability

3. Clear responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and share them publicly by publishing periodic reports and including indicators for tracking progress towards LNOB, including equity as a measure to track the impact of all programs.

Inclusive financing

4. State actors and multilaterals provide adequate financial resources to effectively implement the LNOB principle. This includes a) tracking investments in disability inclusion within mainstream development programmes (using the OECD DAC Policy Marker) and b) establishing dedicated funds to remove barriers to effective participation by persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in those programmes.

Data collection and disaggregation

5. The systematic collection of disaggregated and globally comparable data. As a minimum standard and recognising the existing capacities of national statistical systems, we recommend using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions and the Washington Group/UNICEF Child functioning model for SDG data disaggregation as a basis for data collection.