



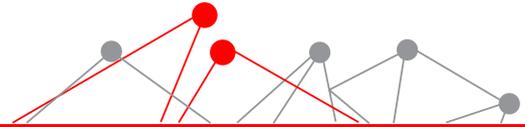
1 NO POVERTY



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# Policy Brief

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## 1 NO POVERTY



## Disability and Poverty: How Responsive to Disability are the Implementation Frameworks for SDG 1?

### Background

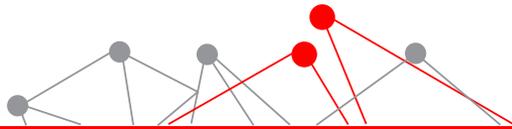
Disability is significantly associated with poverty as well as lower education attainment, lower employment rates and higher medical expenditures.

There are extremely low enrolment and completion of primary and secondary schools by children with disabilities. About 9% of those of school going age attend primary school and only 6% of them continue to secondary school. This causes subsequent challenges for them in joining the labour market, limits their incomes, and escalates poverty in later years.

Inequality in employment is one of the main stumbling blocks to social and economic development for persons with disabilities. They are often exploited at work and paid substantially lower than others for the same work.

The number of people needing social and economic support is increasing and thus the need for planners to ensure that interventions include a response to the disability challenges across the life-cycle.

The 2014 census estimates that the prevalence of disability is higher in urban areas (15%) compared to rural areas (12%). Persons with disabilities in urban areas are more likely to be poor. This highlights the need to understand the nature of poverty and social exclusion of persons with disabilities in urban areas, to complement the current focus on rural areas.



Not all people with disabilities are marginalized in the same way. Women with disabilities experience the combined disadvantages associated with gender, and disability such as sexual and gender-based violence, limited access to education opportunities, limited productive economic opportunities, poverty, among others.

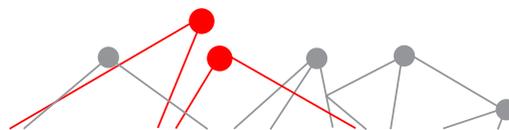
## Implementation Framework for SDG 1

The Government's recognition and consideration of the unique needs of persons with disabilities in development has paved way for the localization of the disability inclusive SDGs. Effort has been taken to ensure

reasonable accommodation of disability through the development of disability friendly legislations and policies to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities; and apportioned financial resources to support the implementation of the different interventions aimed at achieving the SDGs.

The strategies in the NDP II targeting persons with disabilities are geared toward socio-economic transformation to be achieved through equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in community activities. The localization of SDG 1 has accordingly cascaded to sector and local government planning and implementation frameworks with the National Development Plan (NDP) II as the key national guiding framework as illustrated in the table below.

Framework	Mandate	SDG 1 Related Roles
Education Sector	To provide for, support, guide, coordinate, regulate, and promote delivery of quality Education and Sports to all persons	Coordinates and supports the provision of Special Needs Education and skilling of persons with disabilities
Equal Opportunities Commission	To eliminate discrimination and marginalization against any individual or groups of persons	Ensure compliance with the provisions for the promotion of equal opportunities for all
Social Development Sector	Promotion of gender equality, social protection and transformation of communities	The gist of the Ugandan Government's poverty reduction programs lies under this sector
National Council for Disability	To promote equalization of opportunities and realization of the rights of persons with disabilities	Promotes equalization of opportunities and realization of the rights of persons with disabilities



All these frameworks recognize the existence of disability needs in their respective sectors and as a result, disability is mainstreamed to some extent. However, the major gap is in the implementation of the equity provisions of these frameworks thus making them ineffective in addressing persons with disabilities' inclusion. There is inadequate translation of the existing disability sensitive policies and laws into inclusive programs and interventions. Some government programs and interventions are being implemented in a disability-neutral way, where it is assumed that the interventions benefit Persons with disabilities and Persons with No Disabilities equally. A ranking of the disability inclusion levels of the key sectors related to poverty reduction revealed the following scores:

Criteria	MAAIF	MOES	MGLSD
Universal Design: all interventions / services are easily accessible and usable for all persons with disabilities	2	4	5
Reasonable Accommodation: necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments in place to ensure equal participation and involvement of persons with disabilities	3	4	5
Partnership with DPOs: collaboration with DPOs in addressing disability	3	4	4
Human Resources Policy and Practices; and Disability Inclusion Staff Development	3	4	4
Legal Framework: existence of legal and policy frameworks for Disability	4	5	5
Financial Support: dedicated financing for disability interventions	2	4	3
Total	17	25	26

To address the poverty issue in the country, the Government has commenced implementation of a range of social protection and empowerment programs aimed at socio-economic transformation designed with special provisions for gender and equity with a vision of leaving no one behind.

A review of these programs in the country reveals an elaborate effort to include persons with disabilities where they are clearly stated as targeted beneficiaries. As a result, it has been established that the poverty reduction

interventions have contributed positively in overcoming negative attitude towards PWDs through addressing the poverty levels.

It is postulated that the special grant has directly benefited more persons with disabilities than any other government poverty alleviation program in Uganda. More specifically, the epileptic and people with physical disabilities have benefited more from the special grant than any other category of disability. Persons with multiple disabilities have been left out. In terms of access to NAADS program, it was



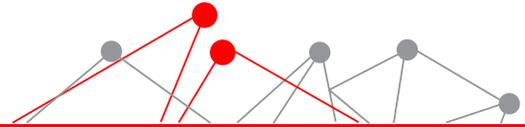
established that they have benefited but this was mostly limited to food security as very few persons with disabilities are considered under commercial farmers and market oriented enterprises.

There is a discrepancy in the translation of the program guidelines into actions especially with regard to persons with disabilities.

Issues of inadequate mobilization of persons with disabilities to participate and benefit from the programs come to light. The concept of being demand driven cut across all these programs yet persons with disabilities are probably not empowered or assertive enough to demand and utilize the opportunities brought about by these programs. A brief description of the social protection programs is shown in the table below with key issues in their implementation highlighted.

Program	Target	Intervention	Issues
Senior Citizens Grant	Elderly (65 years and above)	Income support	Limited awareness of program; unfavorable selection criteria
Skilling Uganda	All people	Skills development	Poor tertiary education completion rates for PWDs
Special Grant for PWDs	All persons with disabilities	Improving socio-economic development and employment opportunities	Limited awareness of program; unfavorable selection criteria
Special Needs Education	Special Needs Students	Educating persons with disabilities	Limited financing; lack of policy support
Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program	Women (18 – 65 years)	Improving access to financial services	Limited awareness of program; unfavorable selection criteria
Youth Livelihood Program	Youth	Vocational skills development and livelihood support	Limited awareness of program; unfavorable selection criteria

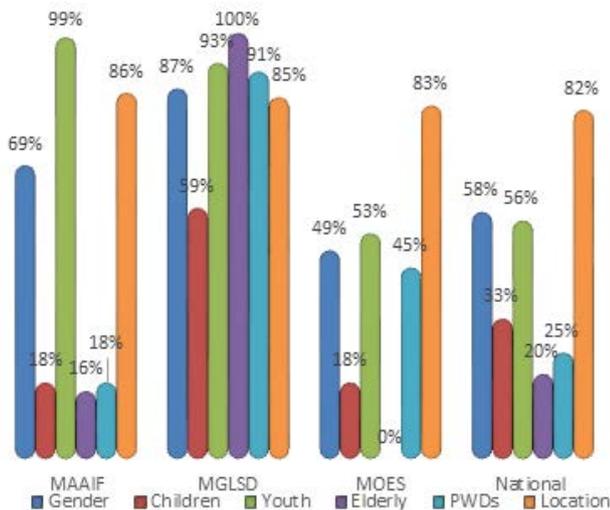
The type of disability affects differently the participation of persons with disabilities in development programs. However, there is limited effort to address the specific needs of the different categories of persons with disabilities in the country. Focus, if at all, is limited mostly to physical disabilities leaving behind many persons with disabilities. It was also discovered that there is limited participation of persons with disabilities in the livelihood programs of the Civil Society Organizations. Their participation is limited to Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and not in other mainstream CSOs probably as a result of stigma, discrimination and limited awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities.



## Disability Inclusive Budgeting for the Implementation of SDGs

There is an elaborate effort to provide opportunity for persons with disabilities and DPOs to participate in the National Planning and Budget processes. However, their participation has been limited mostly due to low capacity to engage in the processes and inability of the MDAs to engage persons with disabilities. An assessment of the Ministerial Policy Statements (MPS) for FY 2018/19 for the key Ministries implementing the SGD 1 revealed that their commitment and reporting are more inclined to location (82%) followed by gender (58%).

Majority of the votes assessed still have challenges in ensuring that their respective plans and budgets equally target children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. As a result, interventions addressing issues related to disability in most sectors are not adequately backed up by commensurate resources and this is delaying progress towards their inclusive implementation.



## Renewed Opportunity for Involvement of DPOs in SDG 1 Implementation

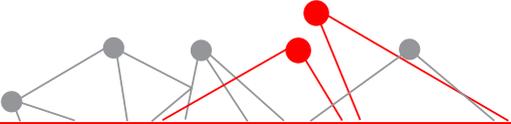
The commitments made by the Government at the Global Disability Summit (2018) provides renewed opportunity for persons with disabilities. Commitments were made to enhance disability inclusion around 4 core themes including: tackling stigma and discrimination; routes to economic empowerment of persons with disabilities; inclusion in education and harnessing technology and innovation.

The development and launch of the National Disability Inclusive Planning Guidelines for Uganda provides an opportunity for DPOs to participate and monitor the integration of disability as a cross-cutting issue in national, sectoral and local government plans.

## Policy Recommendations

Possible Actions to Promote Disability in National Development Frameworks to Integrate SDG 1

- I. The Youth Livelihood Program and Senior Citizens Grant guidelines reviewed to provide for a specific quota for youth and persons with disabilities.
- II. Disbursement guidelines for special grant for persons with disabilities reviewed.
- III. Implement the 2018 Global Disability Summit commitments related to SDG 1.
- IV. Development of key Monitoring and Evaluation indicators to monitor progress on the inclusive implementation of SDG 1. This will improve disability disaggregation of data used as evidence for accountability and decision-making.

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- V. Include a disability clause into funding requirements/policies of donors for projects linked to SDGs 1, including specific fund allocations for reasonable accommodations.

### **Disability Inclusive Planning and Budgeting to integrate SDG 1**

- VI. Disseminate and Implement the National Disability Inclusive Planning Guidelines (2017) to ensure that the unique needs of persons with disabilities are reflected in the national planning and budget frameworks.
- VII. Increased budget allocation to social economic empowerment programs for persons with disabilities
- VIII. Planners should maintain disability inclusion to ensure equalization of opportunities.

### **Possible Actions to Strengthen the Participation of DPOs in the SDG Localization and Implementation Processes**

The participation of Persons with disabilities and DPOs is crucial in the national efforts to achieve disability inclusive implementation of the SDGs. In order to strengthen their participation, the following measures are suggested:

- IX. Increased collaboration between DPOs and Government through effective high level consultations with persons with disabilities and their organizations
- X. Establishment of effective institutional mechanisms that ensure the participation of DPOs in the planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of progress of poverty eradication programs

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7. Uganda Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the SDGs (2017)
8. Uganda's Senior Citizen's Grant: A success story from the heart of Africa
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10. Youth Livelihood Program (YLP), Program Document (2013)
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National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) is an indigenous NGO of persons with disabilities that exists to promote their equalization of opportunities and active participation in mainstream development processes.

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