



2 ZERO HUNGER



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# Policy Brief

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### Towards Zero Hunger: How Responsive to Disability are the Implementation Frameworks for SDG 2?

#### Background

Hunger is one of the negative forces that tend to exclude Persons with disabilities from participating in development programs. Malnutrition is among the most common causes of disabilities. It stops millions of people from attaining their full physical and intellectual potential, and prevents many from participating in development.

The diet of many Ugandans remains inadequate both in terms of quantity (adequacy and availability) and quality (diversity and safety). With most of them not able to meet their required dietary intake and relying highly on staples for caloric intakes.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy. Despite its importance, the agricultural sector's performance in recent years in terms of production and productivity, food and nutrition security has not been satisfactory.

Over 75% of the total Uganda population is dependent on agriculture. However, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 80% of the total land area of Uganda is arable but only 20% is productively utilized .

Majority of the peasants in the country are marginalized or vulnerable persons and remain subsistence-oriented, using few intermediary inputs and rudimentary technology to produce low-value crops yet we know agriculture has the potential in poverty reduction among Persons with disabilities.

#### Implementation Framework for SDG 2

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. It has taken effort 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 localization of SDG 2 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.

The NDP II commits to 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 by

2020. It also emphasizes commercialization of agriculture, to increase production and productivity along the value chains; and agro-processing and marketing as a launch path to industrialization.

It was noted that some targets are phrased as “for all”. This could imply that targets will reach every Ugandan, including persons with disabilities. However, absence of specificity in the targets, puts persons with disabilities at risk of exclusion.

Framework	Mandate	SDG 2 Related Roles
Agricultural Sector	To transform subsistence farming to commercial agriculture	Improving household food and nutrition security
Education Sector	To provide for, support, guide, coordinate, regulate and promote quality education and sports to all persons in Uganda	Provision of school meals
Health Sector	To facilitate the attainment of a good standard of health by all people of Uganda	Addressing the key determinants of health including nutrition
Water and Environment Sector	To promote and ensure the rational and sustainable utilization, development and effective management of water and environment resources	To develop and efficiently use water supply for production

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 the reduction of hunger and promotion of food security and nutrition using the Likert scale revealed the following scores:



Criteria	MAAIF	MOES	MOH	MWE
Universal Design: all interventions / services are easily accessible and usable for all persons with disabilities	2	4	4	4
Reasonable Accommodation: necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments in place to ensure equal participation and involvement of persons with disabilities	3	4	3	4
Partnership with DPOs: collaboration with DPOs in addressing disability issues	3	4	3	3
Human Resources Policy and Practices; and Disability Inclusion Staff Development	3	4	3	2
Legal Framework: existence of legal and policy frameworks for Disability	4	5	5	3
Financial Support: dedicated financing for disability interventions	2	4	4	3
Total	17	25	22	19

The social development sector recognizes the role of nutrition for development. The Social Sector Development Plan (2015-2020) has prioritized social protection aiming at improvement in food and nutritional security for vulnerable populations. The Government is implementing a range of social protection and empowerment programs aimed at socio-economic transformation designed with special provisions for persons with disabilities with a vision of leaving no one behind.

Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) aims at enhancing household participation in commercial agricultural. It was designed to benefit every farmer in Uganda with special focus on the marginalized persons. An assessment of its inclusivity in 2016 found that 59% of the Persons with disabilities had benefited from the inputs of OWC Program. Misinformation on how to access the program was a major reason

for limited access by persons with disabilities to the program funds. Deficiencies, were also revealed in the input distribution process and consideration of the marginalized. Distribution of small quantities of inputs by the OWC secretariat was found to have contributed to the discrimination rate of 3.8% towards disability reported by the assessment.

In terms of access to NAADS program, it was established that persons with disabilities 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.

The findings however reveal uneven progress in improving the food security situation across the country. Eastern Uganda is regressing, registering an increase in the prevalence of food insecurity from 33 to 46 percent during 2009/10 and 2015/16. In 2016, 29% of Ugandan children age 6-59 months were stunted, 4%



were wasted, 11% were underweight and 4% were overweight.

The agricultural sector presents a unique challenge as there is inadequate statistics with respect to the involvement and participation of Persons with disabilities.

Studies have established that 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 is intrinsic in their design that social protection programs have to be disability inclusive. But there still exists a discrepancy in the translation of the program guidelines into actions especially with regard to persons with disabilities.

The education sector is key in the fight against malnutrition in Uganda. In line with its mandate, the sector is responsible for the provision of school meals. MOES is implementing a strategy to address school feeding and nutrition for school going children. The ministry is also promoting the integration of nutrition modules into curricular of health training institutions as a way to build nutrition human resource.

The health sector works mostly towards nutrition health rehabilitation and nutrition counseling for better health. However, the Government's efforts to ensure access to nutrition services by persons with disabilities is being hampered amongst others by inadequate translation of public health information into accessible formats; and limited human resource for addressing specific health needs of persons with disabilities.

A review of the current nutrition policies, guidelines and interventions in the health sector reveals limited consideration of the nutrition needs of persons with disabilities. The focus of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan I was on infants, young children, and mothers, both women of reproductive age and adolescent girls. With little consideration of persons with disabilities under these categories.

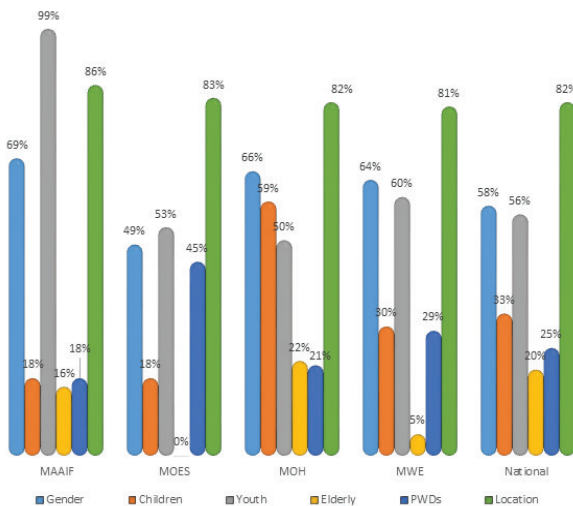
## Disability Inclusive Budgeting for the Implementation of SDG 2

There is an elaborate effort to provide opportunity for persons with disabilities and Disabled Peoples Organizations (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 2018/2019 for the key Ministries implementing the SGD 2 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 of these sectors especially agriculture are not adequately backed up by commensurate resources and this is delaying progress towards their inclusive implementation.



## Policy Recommendations

There is an elevated level of Persons with disabilities' inclusion in existing Government legal, policy and institutional frameworks in relation to SDG 2. 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.

## Possible Actions to Promote Disability in National Development Frameworks to Integrate SDG 2

- I. Development of key Monitoring and Evaluation indicators to monitor progress on the inclusive implementation of SDG 2. This will improve disability disaggregation of data used as evidence for accountability and decision-making.
- II. Conduct studies to develop or identify appropriate agricultural technologies for the different forms of disability
- III. Political commitment to disability mainstreaming through placement of a disability technical attaché to support in mainstreaming disability
- IV. Implement the 2018 Global Disability Summit commitments related to SDG 2
- V. There is need for specific consideration of the nutrition needs of Persons with disabilities who fall under the UNAP target population.

## Disability Inclusive Planning and Budgeting to integrate SDG 2

- VI. 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 food security and nutrition programs related to persons with disabilities



- VIII. Government institutions should improve disability disaggregated data to provide evidence for accountability and decision-making.
- IX. Planners should maintain disability inclusion to ensure equalization of opportunities.

### **Possible Actions to Strengthen the Participation of DPOs in the SDG 2 Localization and Implementation Processes**

The participation of Persons with disabilities and DPOs is crucial in the national efforts to achieve disability inclusive implementation of SDG 2. In order to strengthen their participation, the following measures are suggested:

- X. Increased collaboration between DPOs and Government through effective high level consultations with persons with disabilities and their organizations.
- XI. Identification or establishment of effective institutional mechanisms that ensure the participation of DPOs in the planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of agricultural and nutritional needs of persons with disabilities.
- XII. Development of a consolidated position and strategic advocacy agenda by DPOs to strengthen their SDG monitoring role.

## **References**

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2. National Development Plan (2015–2020)
3. Rapid Analysis of the Participation and Involvement of Persons With Disabilities in the Implementation Frameworks of SDG 1, 2 and 11 (2018)
4. Report on Compliance of Ministerial Policy Statements with Gender and Equity Requirements FY 2018/2019
5. Strategic Sector Investment Plan for the Water and Sanitation Sector in Uganda
6. Uganda National Population and Housing Census Report 2014
7. Uganda Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the SDGs (2017)
8. Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (2011–2017)

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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