

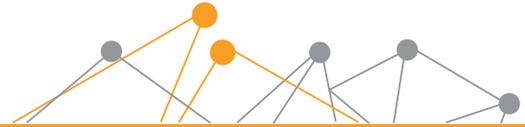


11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Policy Brief



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable Cities and Communities for All: Responsiveness to Disability of the Implementation Frameworks for SDG 11

Background

Urbanization is currently one of the most important global trends of the 21st century. About 6.25 billion people, (15% of them with disabilities), are predicted to be living in urban centres by 2050 . Uganda records one of the highest urbanization growth rates of 3.5% per year suggesting increased scramble for land for settlement, industrialization, agriculture and commercial infrastructure.

The 2014 census estimates that the prevalence of disability is higher in urban areas (15%) compared to rural areas (12%). However, the physical infrastructure, road network and public transport systems most especially in rural areas restricts the right to movement and participation of persons with disabilities especially in family and community life.

Persons with disabilities still face difficulties when accessing the built-up environment. Most public roads, markets, shopping malls, schools, banks, courts, hospitals, places of worship,

sports facilities, places of employment, cultural sites and other business and public buildings do not meet the basic accessibility standards which affect universal access and equal enjoyment of the various services.

The private sector has been found to be slow to introduce the necessary adjustments to increase accessibility. For example the hospitality (specifically hotels) and retail sector (shopping malls) must incorporate accessibility standards.

These accessibility limitations contribute greatly to the marginalization faced by persons with disabilities, leading to deprivation and exclusion.

Implementation Framework for SDG 11

The Government recognizes that most persons with disabilities are adversely affected by the conventional design of infrastructure and other facilities that often hinder access and utilization of facilities and services especially in rural communities.



The localization of SDG 11 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.

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

Framework	Mandate	SDG 11 Related Roles
Lands, Housing and Urban Development Sector	To ensure sustainable land management, orderly development and adequate housing for all	Develop environmentally resilient cities in Uganda
Office of the Prime Minister	To instill and maintain efficient and effective systems in Government that enable Uganda to develop rapidly	Coordinates risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response actions in the country
Water and Environment Sector	To promote and ensure the rational and sustainable utilization, development and effective management of water and environment resources	Increase the country's resilience to the impacts of climate change
Works and Transport Sector	To promote adequate, safe and well maintained works and Transport Infrastructure and Services for Social Economic Development of Uganda	Develop adequate, reliable and efficient multi modal transport network in the country

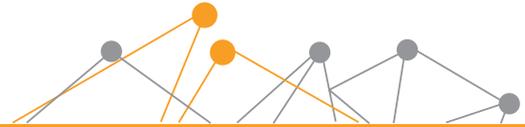
All these frameworks recognize the existence of disability needs in their respective sectors and as a result, disability is mainstreamed to some extent. However, the major gap is in the implementation of the equity provision thus making them ineffective in addressing persons with disabilities' inclusion.

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.





In a bid to promote human rights and democracy, the Works and Transport Sector has prioritized to address the issue of limited means of transport for the vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and Persons with disabilities.

It has also made great strides in the inclusion of social development issues in the general specifications for roads and bridges works. The Sector Development Plan (2015 – 2019) recommends the adoption of key measures to address the concerns of Persons with disabilities and older persons during implementation of road works.

The Uganda National Roads Authority is required to ensure that its operations maintain a high degree of responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups. However, road design is typically not responsive to gender and equity concerns. The needs of the Persons with disabilities are not adequately taken into consideration during construction of infrastructure.

A review of the Ugandan disaster and climate risk environment revealed that most disaster risk management activities do not adequately involve and benefit women and other vulnerable groups. The relief items provided do not meet the practical needs of persons with disabilities affected by hazards.

The launch of the National Accessibility Standards by the Government in 2010 has contributed significantly to the creation of accessible environment in Uganda, including; influencing the establishment and

commissioning of the nine (9) member National Accessibility Audit Team (NAAT) to assess public buildings and facilities for accessibility at national level.

However, the functionality of this team is in question. The Uganda National Action on Physical Disability (UNAPD) is in the process of establishing District Accessibility Audit Teams (DAAT) in 40 districts and these will be mandated to do NAAT work at district level.

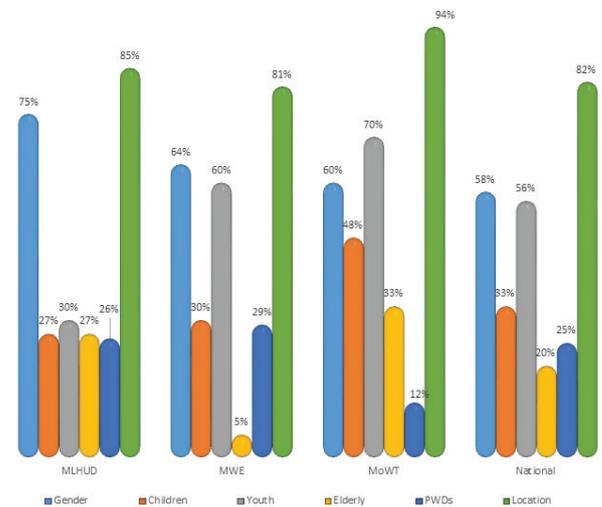
The type of disability affects differently involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in development. However, there is limited effort to address the specific needs of the different categories of persons with disabilities. Focus, if at all, is limited mostly to physical disabilities leaving behind many persons with disabilities.

Disability Inclusive Budgeting for the Implementation of SDG 11

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 2018/2019 for the key Ministries implementing the SGD 11 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.



Opportunity for Involvement of PWDs and DPOs in SDG 11 Implementation

The commitments made by the Government at the Global Disability Summit (2018) provides renewed opportunity for persons with disabilities. The Government amongst others committed to:

- I. Promote the leadership and diverse representation of all persons with disabilities. this includes the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities of all ages
- II. Enact important laws and policies which will further disability inclusion.
- III. Make humanitarian action fully inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.



- IV. Gather and use better data and evidence to understand and address the scale and nature of challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

The operationalization of the Building Control Act (2013) provides renewed hope in ensuring that all future building programs meet accessibility standards. The law provides for the establishment of National Building Review Board, District Building Committees and Building Control Officer, all of which are entry points for disability inclusion in the Housing Sub-sector.

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

It's important that all institutions at the forefront of service delivery both in the public and private sector realize the importance of having provisions to allow for accessibility of all persons including Persons with disabilities to enhance their involvement and participation.

Policy Recommendations

Possible Actions to Promote Disability in National Development Frameworks to Integrate SDG 11

- I. Enactment/Review of the Ministry policies and rules of business to mainstream disability.
- II. Gender and equity responsive sector outcomes, outputs and indicators developed and integrated into sector M&E framework
- III. Political commitment to disability mainstreaming through placement of a disability technical attaché to support in mainstreaming disability
- IV. Conduct persons with disabilities' accessibility audit of public transport systems and make effort to retrofit them to adequately take into consideration the unique needs of Persons with disabilities
- V. Dissemination and implementation of the Buildings Control Act of 2013
- VI. Implement the 2018 Global Disability Summit commitments in relation to SDG 11

Disability Inclusive Planning and Budgeting to integrate SDG 11

- VII. 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.
- VIII. Strengthen the gender and equity dimension in planning and implementing sector activities.
- IX. Improve statistics on persons with disabilities to support the planning and budgeting processes.

Possible Actions to Strengthen the Participation DPOs in the SDG 11 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 11. 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. Government should develop and maintain mechanisms and practices that will ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in all national activities and the monitoring and evaluation of programs.

- XII. Effective engagement of DPO representatives on SDG 11 at national, sub-national and local levels.

References

1. National Agricultural Policy (2015)
2. National Development Plan (2015/2016 – 2019/2020)
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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