



Disability Inclusive Social protection

In depth workshop for Uganda DPOs

20-22 April 2021

Hotel Africana

Background

The disability prevalence in Uganda has been estimated to range between 12.4% to 16.5% of the population.¹ Uganda was very early to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008, and persons with disabilities were recognized under the Constitution as well as under the Persons with Disabilities Act 2019, however, organizations of persons with disabilities have raised concerns over the implementation of these laws and realization of rights. Numerous studies have pointed to the strong linkages between disability and poverty² in Uganda especially on account of exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labour markets.³

While Uganda is one of the pioneers in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of setting targets to achieve universal access to basic education and achieving gains in primary school enrolment, children with disabilities have still been left behind with only 5% of children being able to access education in inclusive settings and 10% through special education or annexes.⁴

The 2016 review by the CRPD Committee highlighted many of the barriers that continued to exist for persons with disabilities and raised concern about the lack of measures and specific schemes to provide social protection for persons with disabilities in employment and out of employment. Concerns were also raised on persons with disabilities being excluded from the national health

¹ Inclusive Futures and Institute of Development Studies, *Inclusion Works Uganda Situational Analysis, June 2020 update*, p. 9 opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/15481/Uganda_IW_SITAN_June%202020_updated.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y

² Chrispas Nyombi and Alexander Kibandama, "Access to Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Uganda". *Labor Law Journal*, Vol. 65 Issue 4, p. 249, Available at SSRN: ssrn.com/abstract=2645008

³ 46% of the respondents to a 2006 United Nations Health Survey reporting that they had been excluded from employment on the grounds of disability *cf Ibid.*

⁴ Nadege Riche and James Anyimuzala, Research study on children with disabilities living in Uganda: Situational analysis on the rights of children with disabilities in Uganda, 2014, issuu.com/if_sbh/docs/unicefuganda_cwdsstudy_situational See also the World Bank, "Education For All: Making Education Inclusive, Accessible to Uganda's Children With Special Needs", July 2020 www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/02/07/education-for-all-making-education-inclusive-accessible-to-ugandas-children-with-special-needs Children with special needs access education in three types of schools in Uganda: special schools, units attached to mainstream schools and all-inclusive schools that allow access to children with or without disabilities. There are currently 17 special schools, 84 attached units, and 27 all-inclusive schools at primary. Secondary level has five special schools, 10 mainstream units and 26 are all-inclusive schools.

insurance programme.⁵ In terms of social protection for persons with disabilities and their families there is limited income support across the lifecycle and what is available does not adequately address the vulnerabilities and risks of persons with disabilities⁶ which certainly would have exacerbated during the lockdowns.

A November 2020 study conducted by the Inclusive Futures Programme found that persons with disabilities in Uganda reported an increased risk of economic, physical, psychological and/or sexual violence after Covid-19 linked to livelihood loss, significant losses in income and inadequate access to support mechanisms.⁷ Underrepresented groups, such as persons with albinism, reported lack of access to services and products that had potentially life-threatening consequences.⁸ The harsh means of enforcing the lockdown, including police violence, affected persons with disabilities especially those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities disproportionately.⁹

Social protection, and the importance of disability inclusive social protection in particular, is emerging as an important area of interest of countries in the African region of both Governments and international aid agencies, and development of a common understanding on what this means is extremely timely crucial for persons with disabilities.¹⁰ A recent [call to action](#) issued by the African Disability Forum, with the support of the International Disability Alliance and the EU-funded initiative Bridging the Gap II (BtG-II), the UNPRPD-ILO-UNICEF inclusive social protection project,¹¹ has highlighted the gaps that exist with regard to social protection coverage and responsiveness for persons with disabilities¹², and it is of utmost importance that Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) continue the momentum for advocacy at the national levels.

⁵ CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1 paras 54 and 55

⁶ Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda, *Harnessing their potential: the state of disability in Uganda*“, Summary Report, September 2020 p. 38 www.developmentpathways.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Summary-Report-Disability-Uganda-Final-26th-August.pdf

⁷ Inclusive Futures and ADD International, “COVID 19 Income loss, risk of violence and the response of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in Uganda” November 2020 add.org.uk/file/4321/download?token=U-U2lhDu

⁸ “Voices of some underrepresented groups in Uganda” www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/voices-some-under-represented-groups-uganda

⁹ Interview with Robinah Alambuya, Vice Chair of the African Disability Forum, and Ugandan DPO activist www.pri.org/file/2020-05-05/stringent-lockdown-restrictions-uganda-harm-people-disabilities?fbclid=IwAR2plsF4ljiTPgxpPXsRtRs_DpVomORDKswJe22wcOMnfBE3wkF4xnx4gak

¹⁰ See the recent call to action developed for the Policy Dialogue Conference, an initiative of the European project Bridging the Gap II in partnership with the UNPRPD/ILO/UNICEF inclusive social protection program, the International Disability Alliance and the African Disability Forum www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/social-protection-africa-conference

¹¹ <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/bridging-gap-ilo-unicef-unprpd-inclusive-social-protection-programme-ida-adf-call-action-equal-access-social-protection-programs-africa/>

¹² Call to Action <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Call-for-Action-Social-Protection-in-Africa.pdf>

Objectives

The African Disability Forum (ADF), National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU), the Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy (UNAC) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), in partnership with the Disability Rights Fund and the Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP), are hosting a 3 day workshops in Uganda to bring together OPDs to build a common understanding of what disability inclusive social protection means for persons with disabilities and to learn more about regional initiatives and advocacy around this issue, towards building the capacity of OPDs to advocate for social protection for persons with disabilities that aim to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society. This training also serves as a pilot of the Social Protection training being developed by IDA in partnership with the UNPRPD-ILO-UNICEF inclusive social protection project, involving the ToT participants of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative.

Participants

Participants for this workshop will be invited from the diversity of persons with disabilities, drawing from Bridge CRPD-SDGs training alumni from the national cycle that took place in 2018, grantees of the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund in Uganda and representatives proposed by NUDIPU, NUWODU and UNAC. External stakeholders will also be identified to participate particularly with regards to the discussions on the final day regarding the way forward. As far as possible, the Bridge CRPD-SDGs quality criteria will be respected in the identification of participants to these consultations, particularly with regard to ensuring a gender balance and participation of underrepresented groups.

Facilitation will be led by those involved with the development of the training, both in person and from distance, with overall supervision from the ADF and IDA.

Language

Sessions will be in English with Ugandan Sign Language interpretation. Captioning and tactile Sign Language interpretation will also be provided.

Curriculum in summary

Day 1, 20 April

Registration, welcome message, round of introductions

Session 1 - Introduction to social protection

Session 2 - Key instruments related to social protection

Session 3 - The rationale for social protection for persons with disabilities

Session 4 - Disability Data for Social protection purposes

Day 2, 21 April

- Session 5 - Cash transfers, concessions and services
- Session 6 - The four functions of social protection
- Session 7 - The four functions for social protection (continued)
- Session 8 - Disability assessment, determination and eligibility

Day 3, 22 April

- Session 9 - What do we need to change in the social protection system in our countries to achieve its four functions
- Session 10 – Preparatory session for exchange with external stakeholders
- Session 11 - Exchange with external stakeholders (government officials from social protections programmes, UNICEF, ILO, etc)
- Session 12 - Debrief on the exchange with stakeholders

Logistics

Though the pandemic is still of grave concern, the fallout of the lockdowns and the window of opportunity presented by the Call to Action for Equal Access to Social Protection Programmes in Africa¹³ makes this event extremely timely and necessary.

Hence, organizers, facilitators and participants have committed to taking the highest level of precautions with regard to the organization of these workshops and the safety of participants and reducing the risk of exposure to the virus. To this end, they will be adhering to the IDA COVID-19 safety protocols with regard to procurements and arrangements, and all participants will be bound to comply with the safety protocols of the workshop including but not limited to wearing of masks, face shields and maintaining social distancing.

Venue and other arrangements will be decided in accordance with compliance with these requirements.

For further information on the workshop, kindly contact Djina Milic dmilic@ida-secretariat.org, and Alradi Abdalla (aabdalla@ida-secretariat.org).

¹³ Call to Action <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Call-for-Action-Social-Protection-in-Africa.pdf>