In depth workshop for Uganda DPOs

**Treaty Body Reporting, SDGs and Global Disability Summit 2022**

# **Background**

The disability prevalence in Uganda has been estimated to range between 12.4% to 16.5% of the population.[[1]](#footnote-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 2006 Persons with Disabilities Act, 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 poverty[[2]](#footnote-2) in Uganda especially on account of exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labour markets.[[3]](#footnote-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 were not included in this outreach, and inclusive education is still elusive, with only 5% of children being able to access education in inclusive settings and 10% through special education or annexes.[[4]](#footnote-4) The 2016 review by the CRPD Committee highlighted many of the barriers that continued to exist for persons with disabilities.

These inequalities have certainly worsened during the COVID-19 Pandemic. 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.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Underrepresented groups, such as persons with albinism, reported lack of access to services and products that had potentially life-threatening consequences.[[6]](#footnote-6) The harsh means of enforcing the lockdown, including police violence, affected persons with disabilities especially those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities disproportionately.[[7]](#footnote-7) 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 disabilities[[8]](#footnote-8) which certainly would have exacerbated during the lockdowns.

Uganda also has active presence of organizations working in disability and development, and on humanitarian issues. They are also a focus country associated with the DFID Funded Consortium project Inclusion Works Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme. At the Global Disability Summit (GDS), held in London in July 2018, there was significant participation from the Ugandan Government. The Ugandan commitments were launched in a pre- GDS meeting held in Uganda. Since the GDS, the Government has increased the disability grant from 3 to 5 billion Ugandan shillings. As per the commitments, a new Persons with Disabilities Act was passed in 2020 and a study about persons with disabilities in Uganda was also conducted.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Uganda is also up for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the upcoming cycle, as well as a review by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Government of Norway - co-chair of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network - is leading the next Global Disability Summit, along with IDA and a developing country, which is still to be identified, in 2022.

The DPOs in Uganda, having seen the positive impact of the GDS are thus uniquely posed to bring together the lessons from the good practices and data being generated towards ensuring better outcomes for the disability sector.

# **Proposed outcomes**

The African Disability Forum (ADF), Down Syndrome International (DSi), National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) are hosting a series of workshops in Uganda to bring together representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities who have been involved in CRPD and SDGs related processes, including alumni of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative, Inclusion Works DPO Engagement Officers and Fellows of various initiatives of IDA and their members including the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing (IFHOH), the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) and others to strengthen capacities for engagement on the UPR, CEDAW, making linkages with the CRPD and SDGs with specific focus on Article 27 of the CRPD, and the GDS Commitments.

The purpose of this workshop is to build on the existing work of the participants regarding the Art 27 of the CRPD as well as on the use of UN monitoring mechanisms, in Uganda, and to support them find synergies with one another, and to ensure a wide representation of participants with disabilities, including from underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities,[[10]](#footnote-10) to participate in opportunities for monitoring of the Government commitments under the CRPD, Agenda 2030, CEDAW and the GDS. DPOs will also have the opportunity to participate in deciding the priority areas and themes for the 2022 GDS and for planning their own strategies towards the Summit.

# **Objectives**

The 4 (four) days’ workshop schedule for 22 to 25 February 2021, is being organized with the objectives to:

- Improve DPOs understanding of UPR process and all opportunities for participation,

- Prepare DPOs for engaging with the CEDAW review and the preparation of a parallel report from the perspective of women and girls with disabilities,

- Prepare DPOs for collection of evidence and case studies towards creating an intervention on the proposed General Comment No. 8 on Article 27 of the CRPD,

- Review commitments under the Agenda 2030 and progress with respect to persons with disabilities, and

- Review commitments made during the GDS 2018 and prepare recommendations to the GDS 2022.

# **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, as well as facilitators of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs, IDA member representatives and fellows, including DPO representatives of the Inclusion Works programme. External stakeholders will also be identified to participate particularly with regards to SDGs implementation. As far as possible, the [Bridge CRPD-SDGs quality criteria](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/bridge_quality_criteria_principles_development_oct2018.pdf) will be respected in the identification of participants to these consultations, particularly with regard to ensuring a gender balance and participation of underrepresented groups.

Given the investment that has already taken place in Uganda to build inclusive facilitation teams, the workshop facilitation will be undertaken among peers, with overall supervision from the IDA Secretariat.

# **Language**

Sessions will be in English with Ugandan Sign Language interpretation.

# **Curriculum in summary**

**Day 1, 22 February**

Registration, welcome message, round of presentations

Session 1 - **CRPD recap** (main elements of the CRPD, object, non-definition & principles), Questions & answers

Session 2 -  **Overview on the UN Human Rights monitoring mechanisms – particularly the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** and its mains functions. States Parties review cycle and opportunities for organisations of persons with disabilities,

Session 3 -  **CEDAW Reporting** (current situation of the review, drafting of parallel report and making linkages with mainstream womens’ organizations)

**Day 2, 23 February**

Session 4 -  **Inclusive employment and livelihood** under the CRPD and Agenda 2030, a recap

Session 5 -  **UN Intersectionality Toolkit discussion** (remote presentation on the toolkit and process, stages of consultation and participation)

Session 6 -  **Overview of the CRPD General Comment on Art 27** (opportunities for intervention, brainstorming on potential areas of collaboration, case studies)

**Day 3, 24 February**

Session 7 -  **Intro to Agenda 2030** and CRPD linkages – refresher and exercise on linkages

Session 8 -  **IDA Global Survey**

Session 9 - **Follow up on SDG Implementation** – presentation on the VNR processes so far and representation of persons with disabilities

**Day 4, 25 February**

Session 10 -  **Intro to the GDS 2018** – Overview of the Global Disability Summit

Session 11 -  **GDS commitments** – Analyse and review commitments made by the Government of Uganda

Session 12 - **Recommendations towards the GDS 2022** - Preparation of recommendations to be presented during the GDS 2022

Wrap up and **conclusions**

# **Logistics**

Logistics are being organized by the IDA Logistics Team with on ground presence as well as from the IW DPO Engagement Officer.

Given the fact that there are COVID-19 related restrictions in place, all workshops will be organized keeping in mind safety protocols and local regulations as well as IDA COVID-19 Safety Protocol.

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

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](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/15481/Uganda_IW_SITAN_June%202020_updated.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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](https://ssrn.com/abstract%3D2645008) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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\_situationala](https://issuu.com/if_sbh/docs/unicefuganda_cwdsstudy_situationala) 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](http://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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 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](https://add.org.uk/file/4321/download?token=U-U2lhDu) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Voices of some underrepresented groups in Uganda” [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/voices-some-under-represented-groups-uganda](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/voices-some-under-represented-groups-uganda) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 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=IwAR2plsF4IjiTPgxpPXsRtRs\_DpVomORDKswJe22wcOMnfBE3wkF4xnx4gak](https://www.pri.org/file/2020-05-05/stringent-lockdown-restrictions-uganda-harm-people-disabilities?fbclid=IwAR2plsF4IjiTPgxpPXsRtRs_DpVomORDKswJe22wcOMnfBE3wkF4xnx4gak) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda, *Harnessing their potential: the state of disability in Uganda”ˆ,* Summary Report, September 2020 p. 38 [www.developmentpathways.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Summary-Report-Disability-Uganda-Final-26th-August.pdf](https://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Summary-Report-Disability-Uganda-Final-26th-August.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Atlas Alliance, “African Voices: Our Expectations : GDS past and present” [atlas-alliansen.no/global-disability-summit-2021/african-voices-our-expectations-gds-past-and-present/](https://atlas-alliansen.no/global-disability-summit-2021/african-voices-our-expectations-gds-past-and-present/) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The International Disability Alliance understands the term “under-represented groups” to be those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision making processes. The disability movement, like other social movements, is not homogenous. There are some groups that have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, or harder to reach, or face higher barriers to participation such as: persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with autism or deaf people. It can also include those who may be less engaged in decision making such as women, children, older people and indigenous persons, as well as people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities. This understanding may differ in different countries, culture and contexts, [↑](#footnote-ref-10)