



Executive Summary of the Alternative Report of Organizations of People with Disabilities on Compliance with the SDGs by the State of Colombia

Colombia, July 2021

The present report was realized by four Organizations of Persons with Disabilities of Colombia: Redescol, Conalivi, Asdown and Fenascoll, with the support of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Latin American Network of Non-governmental Organisations of persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

In order to determine the diagnosis of the progress of the commitments made by the State of Colombia, four organizations representing Persons with Disabilities, recognized in the National order, joined together to prepare this report. National Network of Networks of Persons with Disabilities for Colombia. (Redescol), Conalivi (National Coordinator of Organizations for the Visually Handicapped), Colombian Association of Down Syndrome (Asdown) and Fenascal (National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia), supported by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of People with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).

This report, prepared by the organizations mentioned above, focuses on the analysis of SDG 8, 10 and 16 of the 2030 agenda, including the barriers to their implementation, as well as main recommendations for the government and other stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs in Colombia.

According to the 2018 National Population and Housing Census, 7.1% of people report some difficulty in carrying out daily living activities (3,134,036 people), 4% of the population report higher levels of severity in the difficulty (1,784,372 people). According to this information, the population with disabilities represents between 4% and 7.1% of the country's population. The proportion of women with disabilities is higher than that of men, and the urban area is higher than in the rural area

In line with this general statistical data of the situation of the population with disabilities in Colombia, it is expected that the SDGs will be articulated with the rights of the population, in hand with the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and statutory law 1618 from 2013.

Since 2000, Colombia worked on the Millennium Development Goals focused on reducing poverty and addressing basic needs until 2015, from which and on this basis it assumed the 2030 agenda and the SDGs, implementing among other strategies, the multi - actor approach and the articulation to the National Development Plan 2014-2018 and to the departmental and municipal plans, so that in their implementation, Nobody is left behind. This strategy was also applied in the 2018-2022 national development plan, where there are indicators to measure the achievement of the goals.

Additionally on the 15 of march 2018, a national policy was approved in line with the CONPES1 2918 Document, "Strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Colombia"

Analysis of SDG 8, Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, goals 8.3 and 8.5

Current situation of the State of Colombia:

According to the National Population and Housing Census carried out by the National Department of Statistics - DANE in 2018, it shows that 24.59% of People with disabilities are permanently disabled to work, 20.83% worked at least one hour in an activity that generated some income (especially for men) and 23.82% were dedicated to doing housework (main activity for women) (health, 2020) .

Regarding employability, 167,729 people registered in the Location and Characterization Registry for People with Disabilities - RLCPCD (2018) refer to being working, of which 80% indicate they do not have any type of contract, while 11% indicate they have an indefinite term contract and a 7% refer to have a fixed term contract. On the other hand, 57,639 people

with disabilities state that they are looking for a job. All of this makes evident the low level of formality and the precariousness of the employment relationship of people with disabilities.

Some barriers to the implementation of SDG 8 are:

The low levels of employability of people with disabilities, which are mainly related to barriers to access to basic and secondary education, with an irrelevant offer on work-oriented education, deficiency in job placement, lack of information and Accompaniment for contact with employers and connection to the labor market, the employer's ignorance about the implementation of reasonable accommodations, inclusion policies, tax exceptions that they have when hiring and the fear of ignorance of rights and duties in hiring. Failure to link People with Disabilities to the labor market would be generating losses for the country that range between 5.3 and 6.9% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As well as the lack of information on the enterprises of people with disabilities, which is why it is considered necessary to adopt an instrument that allows the collection of records on this population, for the purposes of productive inclusion

Recommendations to be taken into account by governments and by other actors such as civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, among others.

- It is recommended to establish labor inclusion indicators.
- Continue with the expansion of educational coverage including reasonable adjustments and virtual education strategies, guarantee the existence of teaching and support staff in all Educational Institutions attended by Children and Adolescents with Disabilities (NNAcD) it is recommended that this quality coverage be extended to universities and articulated with a employability route.
- Consider accessibility as a transversal principle to all axes of public policy on disability.
- Promote universal design from the normative point of view and, in terms of regulation, for compliance with current standards.
- Implement reasonable supports and adjustments for communication and continue to raise awareness among citizens to reduce attitudinal barriers

Analysis of SDG 10 Reduction of inequality and non-discrimination, goals 2, 3 and 4

Current situation:

In Colombia there is still no parameter that indicates the index of people with disabilities employed, the location and characterization registry has not been a tool that indicates exact data of the population with disabilities and their socioeconomic condition, that can allow knowing how many people with disabilities are in Colombia and thus generate programs, plans and projects to benefit this population.

For national, departmental and municipal governments, knowledge about disability and its regulations is not a relevant issue, public officials are not trained in the subject, there are no disability indicators that mainstream the articulated action of the different government sectors and the resources destined are minimal for the fulfillment of norms, programs and projects that generate real solutions for the Colombian population with disabilities.

There is legislation in Colombia on the issue of accessibility, but it is implemented very slowly for the daily needs of the population.

Regarding the differential approach to rights in Colombia there are differences between the same women for socioeconomic reasons, ethnicity, between regions, rural or urban sector, age group, disability, sexual orientation, among others, which lead to other forms of discrimination and increase the risks of vulnerability to the exercise of their rights. (outdoors, 2020)

Some barriers found:

- Deficiencies in governance by the counseling for the participation of people with disabilities.
- The pact for the inclusion of people with disabilities 2018-2022 has had a very low impact results from the perception of people with disabilities and is reflected in the evaluation of the public policy on disability and in the reports of the SDGs (mentioned in the general diagnosis)
- High unemployment rate for people with disabilities
- Low salaries of the employed people with disabilities.
- Lack of attention to the basic needs of the population with disabilities
- Lack of knowledge of the disability and the approach to the population by public officials and the community in general.
- Difficulty on the access to health, education, work, social and justice services, among others
- Lack of representation of people with disabilities in Colombia in international spaces and in economic contexts.

Recommendations:

- Request to the National Government to review the regulations on disability and to make the necessary adjustments so that it is in accordance with the terminology, concepts and definitions specified in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Review the National disability system in Colombia, because it exists as an indicator of structure, but the indicators of products and results have totally failed, because the system has not allowed to change the realities of the territories.
- Review the composition, functions, resources and objective of the National Disability Council, as the highest entity of the National Disability system, so that its actions really affect people with disabilities in the departments and municipalities they represent, and the processes can be articulated and working in the territories in an appropriate and participatory way.
- Guarantee that the national, departmental, municipal government, the interior ministry, and civil society must generate actions aimed to the strengthening and monitoring compliance with the laws that are in favor of non-discrimination of people with disabilities.
- Promote greater and effective participation of members with disabilities in advocacy and decision-making spaces at the National and international level
- Increase the budget for income generation by the victims unit because there are 500,000 victims with disabilities without life projects in order to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.

Analysis of SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions and its goals 2 and 3

Current Situation:

El objetivo de desarrollo sostenible 16 busca promover sociedades pacíficas e inclusivas, facilitar el acceso a la justicia para todos y crear instituciones eficaces y responsables en todos los niveles (DNP, ODS, 2019). Dentro de este marco, en cumplimiento de este objetivo y en aplicación a la normatividad vigente, en especial a la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad, se promulgó la Ley 1996 de 2019 “por medio de la cual se establece el régimen para el ejercicio de la capacidad legal de las personas con discapacidad mayores de edad.”

Sustainable development goal 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, facilitate access to justice for all, and create effective and accountable institutions at all levels (DNP, SDG, 2019). Within this framework, and in compliance with this objective and in application of current regulations, especially the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Law 1996 of 2019 was promulgated “through it, it is established that the regime for the exercise of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities at the legal majority of age.”

The said above is relevant, since in Colombia before the entry into force of this rule there was the figure of interdiction, which was declared judicially and totally subtracted the legal capacity of the person subject to the process. (Law, 2019)

Barriers

- Little training of professionals for the care of people with disabilities.
- Lack of real statistics, or statistical data on how many people are physically, psychologically or sexually violated, this is due to the lack of complaints that turns out due to the lack of clear and accessible information.
- Lack of access to justice due to physical, and communication barriers.
- Precarious conditions and systematic violations within the penitentiary system, even though there are no statistics in this regard.
- Lack of legal guarantees.

Recommendations

- Create and develop indicators of coordinated actions between the Ministry of Justice and Law, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health and ICBF, Dissemination by the national, departmental and local government in coordination with organizations of people with disabilities (OPD) , municipal, departmental disability committees, social development secretaries, women's secretary, childhood, adolescence and youth secretary, to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities, especially boys, girls, adolescents, older adults and women with disabilities.
- Request to the National, departmental and municipal governments to guarantee clear and accessible channels of attention, whether these are: face-to-face, telephone or virtual, giving priority to people with disabilities

- Create prevention, care, mitigation strategies and design outreach strategies articulating the different institutions that allow real care and resolution of cases of violence and abuse suffered by people with disabilities, taking into account reasonable adjustments.
- Educate people with disabilities, especially women, boys and girls, in their rights and in the mechanisms of justice so that they are guaranteed access to justice, reparation and the restoration of their rights.
- Guarantee spaces for the participation of Persons with Disabilities and their organizations at the work tables for the consolidation of a long - lasting peace during the post-conflict process.