

High-Level Political Forum Side Event Report

Leaving no-one Behind- From promise to reality



SUPPORTED BY:



19 July, 13:15-14:30

UK Mission, One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue

Partners: CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, Project Everyone

The 2016 High-Level Political Forum considered the implementation and review of the Global Goals, with a focus on the cross-cutting principle and pledge for 'Leaving no-one behind'. This side event focused on the question of how we can work together in partnership to make this bold promise a reality. Increased efforts are needed to deepen our shared understanding of the challenges and perspectives of those who are being left behind and also to share what works to tackle extreme poverty and exclusion. Greater emphasis is required on bringing all key actors together to ensure that the voices of those left behind are brought to the forefront in policy and practice, so that those who are furthest behind can be reached first.

Working in partnership with platforms around the world, key international organisations and networks have come together to launch and invite others to join an exciting new global initiative: the Leave No-one Behind (LNB) Partnership. This event shared the Partnership's three-pronged approach and commitments to:

- **EXAMINE:** we will establish a baseline of who are the groups that have been left behind, through a data led approach; as well as identify those at risk, where they are, and monitor their progress annually;
- **ENGAGE:** we will develop a visual presentation for awareness-raising, built from the real stories of those who are being left behind;
- **EMPOWER:** we will set out a partnership to build local voices for action and accountability to ensure no-one is left behind in their countries,

Partners and stakeholders from three national governments and different constituency groups also shared their perspectives and priorities for strengthening partnerships and putting the principle of Leave No One Behind into practice.

Moderator: *Danny Sriskandarajah, Secretary General, CIVICUS*

Panel 1- 13:15-13:50

CIVICUS - Danny Sriskandarajah

Welcome and introduction to the aims of the Leave No-one Behind Partnership

Danny highlighted the importance of working closely across different parts of society at a time of great challenges. He noted that Leave No One Behind is a powerful principle and phrase, with significant potential, but the challenge and opportunity for the international community is how to make it meaningful and useful. He shared the main areas of work of the Partnership, emphasised the need for different stakeholders to work in partnership across a broad range of areas and invited others to consider how they might want to play a role. It is still early days in terms of implementation of the Goals and therefore a real opportunity to consider new ways to connect across different communities.

The SDGs and Leave No-one Behind principle can be a tool to further empower and amplify people's participation in national and global development. CIVICUS is leading on the 'Empower' workstream of the LNB Partnership, with national consultations to build local voices for action and accountability.

UK Department for International Development - Gwen Hines

Welcome and introduction to the UK's approach

Gwen highlighted the critical importance of this agenda for DFID and the UK government more broadly, since the then Prime Minister David Cameron championed this agenda in 2015. She reiterated the UK's commitment to a true partnership for progress on Leaving No one Behind.

The UK sees the cross-cutting principle of leave no one behind as being at the heart and centre of Agenda 2030. It is the defining feature of the SDGs. No goal, target or indicator should be considered met unless met for every person around the globe.

She also highlighted the importance of understanding, raising awareness and sharing experiences. In the UK's view and approach to Leave No One Behind overseas, if we can understand who, why and where those at risk of being left behind are, we can then work to empower the poorest and most excluded people, give them voice, and include them more effectively in development and growth processes. Getting behind the data and beyond averages is fundamental in order to understand the multiple issues facing different social groups – such as disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation - that can compound each other.

Gwen emphasised that it is imperative we collectively continue to shine a light on those left behind and ensure their voices and perspectives are heard both in national review processes and in international dialogues.

Development Initiatives - Harpinder Collacott

[See presentation of P20 initiative and opportunity to engage through LNB partnership](#)

Harpinder presented work led by Development Initiatives on the P20 initiative (P20i), which takes forward the 'Examine' workstream of the LNB Partnership. This aims to develop baselines and track progress of the poorest 20% of the population, by 'making the invisible visible'. She highlighted opportunities to engage with the Partnership on data and deepen our shared understanding of who is being left behind through tracking key 'bellwether indicators' of who is and who is not benefiting from development processes. The QGAD data disaggregation approach looks at Quintile, Geography, Gender, Age and Disability as key indicators to help focus international attention and keep the spotlight on those at risk of being left behind. Development Initiatives plans to produce its

baseline report by September 2016 and share during UNGA week, with follow up dialogues on key results and findings.

Project Everyone - Kate Garvey

[See presentation on raising awareness and what can be done in partnership](#)

Kate presented Project Everyone's approach to raising awareness of the SDGs and importance of Leaving No One Behind through the 'Engage' workstream of the LNB Partnership. Her presentation highlighted what can be done to reach and engage large numbers of people and partners to build momentum, encourage action and promote accountability for delivery of the SDGs and promise on Leave No-one Behind. Key approaches include mass text messaging, 'pop up' radio, and video, building on Project Everyone's experience from the launch of the Global Goals, partnership with UNICEF on global classrooms, and tested campaigns for Girls and Women. Project Everyone plan to present key messages through a short film at UNGA in September that aims to bring the principle of Leave No-one Behind to life, by showing the data behind the Goals, and tell the stories of those left behind through their own voices. See key videos here with recent campaign film on Girls and Women: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRfuAYy7MesZmgOi1Ezy0ng>

Ugandan National Planning Authority - Dr Patrick Birungi

Dr Birungi shared observations on how the 2030 Agenda implementation process is working in Uganda. He noted that this is a key moment to reflect. He shared the specific context and challenges in Uganda and the need to work closely with civil society, particularly on data and monitoring.

For implementing Leave No-one Behind, the key challenge in Uganda is how to set priorities and target programmes for different social groups (e.g. youth livelihood programmes, women's economic empowerment, people with disabilities). He shared an interesting example of south-south learning, whereby data gaps and challenges in developing a baseline and process for identifying poor people has motivated the government to start creating a registry of vulnerable groups to help inform targeting, drawing on Brazil's Single Registry approach.

In particular he mentioned the importance of gender equality and the specific challenges of a young population in Uganda - for example due to increased demand for jobs and opportunities to ensure that young people are able to engage and fulfil their potential.

Dr Birungi also emphasised the need to work in partnership between civil society, governments and also the private sector. He welcomed the potential opportunity for support from the Partnership to help with data analysis in Uganda.

Sri Lanka Ministry of Sustainable Development - Uchita de Zoysa, Adviser

[Presentation on Sri Lanka case study](#)

Uchita shared latest developments in Sri Lanka and highlighted their approach for extensive dialogue on setting national priorities and building the National Sustainable Development roadmap.

In his view, the consultation process has been driven by civil society, but government planning is generally an exclusive process. It is important at this stage to open up the process to a broader range

of voices. To ensure that specific targets are achieved there must be a focus on partnerships and data to ensure that governments do deliver and are held to account.

Given the wide range of ministries in Sri Lanka and it is essential that improvements are made for more effective cross-government collaboration and connections. Sustainability standards are now being designed in partnership.

Panel 2- 13:50-14:30 Response from constituency groups

Key constituency perspectives, identifying challenges and ways forward:

Danny invited each constituency representative to share what the LNB agenda means for them. What are the key challenges? What opportunities exist? What advice would they have on priorities for the LNB Partnership?

International Disability Alliance - Ambrose Murangira

The key question is who are the people who are left behind? And what are their specific needs? eg. In the case of a person without hearing, they need a sign language interpreter, but who provides this? The cost is often covered by the individual and many events do not consider these needs. Reasonable accommodation is also a key priority to ensure accessibility.

We therefore need to understand who in particular is being left behind in order to be able to engage them in the planning process. Different groups of people have different needs to enable their inclusion, and we must make sure that they are all included. This is a new development model and mindset – to consider gender, disability, and different forms of discrimination – for which we need better statistics.

How can we transform these promises on leave no one behind into reality and really walk the talk? It's time to check if governments can bring different people into the official dialogue. All groups and communities at risk of being left behind need to be considered as partners.

Indigenous Peoples Major Group - Roberto Borrero

Globally, indigenous peoples are some of the most excluded groups, in both developing and developed countries. For example, Pine Ridge is the poorest place in the USA. Rarely are indigenous people consulted but businesses come into their territories to exploit resources, often with little regard for their long-term stewardship of the land.

It is also important to note that the highest levels (80%) of biodiversity is to be found in Indigenous Peoples' territories. In terms of sustainable development, Indigenous People have their own long-term solutions and must be enabled to speak for themselves. He concluded that they have to demand a seat at the table, and that 'if you're not on the table, then you're on the menu!'

Women's Major Group - Luisa Emilia Reyes

Measuring poverty is like trying to catch a rainbow; it will always slip away from your hands, unless we look at the macro-economy. In this view, wealth is concentrated in very few hands; there is a need to address those who are most ahead as well as those who are left behind, not just the crumbs

from the table. We also need to think about deep structural inequalities, eg. Illicit financial flows mean that flows of money from corruption are greater than ODA from the Global South. So this means that actually the South is a donor to the North!

In terms of gender equality, 60% of work in the world is done by women and is often unpaid, women are subsidising the entire economy.

Finally, Leave No One Behind is about Human Rights, citizen voice and recognition of core rights. It is essential to support civic space and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), including women HRDs who are directly threatened in many places.

Stakeholder Group on Ageing - Sylvia Beales

Ageing is finally getting a place in the sun! Everyone wants to age well with dignity and ensure connections with families, societies and government services. Ageing is not just a category. This is a good opportunity to work together with other key stakeholder groups as ageing cuts across all dimensions and boundaries. Ageing trends should both affect and inform planning. The LNB Partnership provides the opportunity to look at the intersection between age, gender, disability, indigenous people and migration.

Sylvia proposed that a key way to define the groups that may be left behind is to consider using SDG Target 17.18 as a focus for developing a Framework on LNB. This target highlights the importance of improving availability of high quality and timely data according to income, age, ethnicity etc.

She offered that they can provide a strong base of support on LNB in the Stakeholder group on Ageing- with a survey on SDGs: good awareness by members about SDGs, key issues- income, planetary survival, sustainable income. She concluded that it is time to use citizen data and bring a diverse range of people's voices into the key consultations at national level, using Target 17.18 groups as a checklist, and to ensure connections are made across all parts of society.

Older people will not be air-brushed out!

Major Group for Children & Youth, Nazy Amin, Youth Accountability Advocate

Youth Accountability Advocacy is a project supported by EC in countries including Uganda & Ghana by Restless Development working with African Monitor and other local partners. The intention is to track the progress of key Global Goals from a youth perspective and to build their leadership skills to hold governments to account for delivering the SDGs (with a particular focus on Goals 3 and 5, tackling Violence Against Women and Children and strengthening Data).

It is important to challenge tokenism in terms of engaging young people. We need to take young people seriously - they should be participants and can take a lead in implementation, review and accountability processes.

Let's remember that half the world's population is under 30 - so let's work together and build on youth power!

Uganda National NGO Forum - Richard Ssewakiryanga

The SDGs could be considered too broad and varied, like a Christmas tree!

However the notion of Leave No-one behind is essential. The question is how can this be done? Should the one at the front stop? The one behind can then catch up? Or the one at the front should turn back to collect the others?

Whilst there is a need to address the issue of poverty, a question remains, how to deal with the backsliding of some countries? Creating MICs or middle income classes?

A key priority is to decide how we work together across society, so that all different voices are heard equally (whether running or being collected). We need to co-create new pathways to develop together and create citizen consensus on rights.

Conclusion

Danny closed the event by thanking all the panellists and participants and to the UK Mission for hosting. He invited people to keep in touch with the key LNB partners as this work develops, and welcomed wider engagement for taking forwards the aims of the Partnership.