



Overview of the Leave No One Behind Partnership

From June 2016 until July 2017 the Leave No One Behind Partnership, formed by CIVICUS, Development Initiatives (DI) and Project Everyone, supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) set out to identify ways to ensure that the pledge to 'leave no one behind' was truly delivered within the 2030 Agenda.

The partnership focused on 3 main areas:

- 1) **Examine:** New quantitative and qualitative data produced and used on LNB:
 - **Global P20 report** establishing a baseline of who/where the poorest 20% of people are globally.
 - **Data platform** sharing data on who's being left behind, where and why launched within DI's Development Data Hub, including a series of data visualisations.
- 2) **Engage:** Greater awareness built of the SDGs and the LNB pledge amongst multiple stakeholders with an interest in social justice and combating exclusion:
 - **High profile film shown to Heads of State** at opening of UN General Assembly (UNGA) and around the world, with over 45,000 website visits. **4 short films** created through Africa Hub.
 - **Mobile campaign** and online app sent out via mobile operators to over 500 million people.
 - **LNB and SDG Advocacy Toolkit** and data visualisation templates developed and shared.
- 3) **Empower:** Broad engagement created to connect across different communities and networks at country-level and globally to implement the LNB principles.
 - **Advocacy and awareness raised through 30 national dialogues** around the world, including in fragile and conflict affected states. Global report and mapping produced.
 - Survey on LNB priorities reaching approx. **5,000 respondents** from over 100 countries.
 - **High level events** at UNGA 2016 and High Level Political Forum (2016, 2017) and regional fora.
 - **LNB Community of Practice engagement** with UNDP, governments and key global civil society partners (e.g. Action for Sustainable Development and Overseas Development Institute).

The programme did increase understanding, awareness, engagement and empowerment on the importance of leaving no one behind around the world, reaching thousands of citizens, from Southern community organisations through to world leaders at UNGA and HLPF. The programme has driven forward growing global interest and momentum on leave no one behind, building a grassroots movement, set of tools, and shared national and global civil society perspectives on excluded groups' key priorities with the highest levels of government and UN officials.



Key lessons from the programme:

1. The importance of broad partnerships to leave no one behind:
 - Partnership-led side events and sessions at major global meetings, such as the UN HLPF 2016 and 2017, GPEDC 2016 meeting in Nairobi, the Global Festival of Ideas in Bonn and the UN's Human Rights Council in Geneva.
 - Key Regional sustainable development meetings alongside regional bodies such as UN ECA in Addis Ababa and UN ESCAP in Bangkok, and with national coalitions.
 - The UN Major Groups and other Stakeholders (on Women, Disability, Children & Youth, Older People, Indigenous People etc.) and Bond LNB working group network..
 - LNB Partnership pages on the A4SD network's website platform, with interactive global map and Global National Dialogues report (with key lessons below).
2. Data: There is clear demand for accessible quantitative and qualitative data to identify the groups who are left behind, so that the impact of public policy choices for SDG implementation can be fully understood and progress monitored. There are still major gaps in terms of verifiable data on the most excluded people, with many instances of 'hidden' communities who do not feature in official national statistics. Citizen generated data can play a key role in supplementing official statistics to give a fuller profile of local realities.
3. Awareness raising: Civil society, multi-stakeholder coalitions and networks can play a crucial role by providing a joint space for sharing information, positive examples, good practice, online and 'in country' events, as well as continuing to raise awareness about LNB and the SDGs at all levels. As LNB is a very broad agenda it may be valuable to identify 2-3 specific focus themes for communication, for example disability or gender equality.
4. Intersectionality and tackling drivers of exclusion: Strong demand was expressed from many of the national dialogues to give greater consideration to acknowledging and addressing the complex, inter-connected nature of exclusion, breaking down silos, and tackling the broader societal drivers of marginalisation. While basic needs and service delivery are essential for more just and equitable implementation of the SDGs, it is also crucial to push for longer-term reform of the social, cultural, legal and regulatory systems and structures that can create and perpetuate systematic marginalisation in different countries and communities.
5. Civil society as a trusted partner: CSOs can play a key role in supporting the engagement of marginalised groups in the SDG process. Widening collaboration with local organisations and networks can help bring specialised knowledge and voices of excluded groups to improve policy and implementation.
6. Sub-national and local participation: National Dialogue partners recognised the complexity of attempting to present a single picture of a country given local variation. Many dialogues were therefore hosted in a decentralised approach, with multiple sub-national meetings. Local levels of government are often where excluded groups have the most influence.
7. Build on existing national coalitions: it takes time to enable national partners to build a broad engagement process, so they should be encouraged to build momentum for longer term coalitions, particularly in challenging contexts. Building in flexibility for national partners on their delivery approach can help to support innovation.



Recommendations for the future

Data:

- a) Continued emphasis should be placed on ensuring best practice for monitoring the indicators and targets within the SDGs by governments and research bodies, including on data disaggregation and identifying the impact of intersecting challenges for groups who face multiple forms of exclusion.
- b) Closer working relationships should be developed between the data monitoring community and civil society advocacy teams, in order to ensure that insights from LNB data can be used to inform government-civil society dialogues for improved policy development and accountability.
- c) Further work is required to explore the potential of cross-verification of official data sources with citizen-generated data to ensure a more comprehensive picture of people being left behind.
- d) Future programmes should consider support to the development of capacity of national level research and civil society bodies to generate their own citizen-led data.

Awareness-raising:

- a) Global products with diverse images and voices such as the Leave No One Behind film developed for UNGA 2016 help to play a powerful role in reaching influencers and mass audiences. It is important to continue to use and develop such products which speak to different themes and groups within the agenda and match these where possible to potential influencing opportunities and activities.
- b) It is important that awareness raising products and activities are developed in collaboration with local civil society, LNB national partners, and are informed by and sensitive to local realities. Adequate budget and planning time needs to be allocated, with realistic expectations of what is achievable. Regional 'communication' hubs can play a useful role in supporting national and regional awareness raising on the LNB agenda, particularly where scope to link to regional agendas, key events and wider audiences (e.g. youth).
- c) A wide range of user-friendly, high quality and adaptable content and guidance on LNB has been developed by Project Everyone for the Partnership, including the toolkit and data visualisation. This material should be further disseminated, adapted and used by civil society and other networks in the future to ensure maximum uptake and benefit and to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'.

Alliance-building:

- a) Use the insights and policy suggestions on next steps set out in the final [Leave No One Behind Report](#) and LNB toolkit; as well as the evolving country pages in order to identify priorities and effective approaches.
- b) Support the continued development of existing global and national civil society coalitions for engagement with different marginalised communities on policy, programme design and SDG progress monitoring.



SUPPORTED BY:



- c) Build a national model that also extends to sub-national levels, supporting excluded groups and community organisations to engage directly with district/municipal governments, where they consider they have the greatest potential for engagement and influence.
- d) Work through trusted national CSO partners who have the reach to representatives from social groups and marginalised communities who are most often left behind, in order to establish an inclusive dialogue and meaningful participation.
- e) Continue advocacy to ensure that the space is defended for civil society to provide effective delivery, partnership and represent the voices of poor and excluded groups. Challenges to civil society's ability to operate are increasing in many countries.
- f) Ensure sufficient time to build meaningful dialogue between civil society representatives and governments over coming years, at national level, at the HLPF in 2018 and the key Heads of State & Government review year of 2019.