LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

DELIVERING ON THE AGENDA 2030 PROMISE

INSIGHTS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AROUND THE WORLD



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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ABOUT THE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND PARTNERSHIP

In 2015 world leaders came together and made a historic promise for Agenda 2030. They signed up to 17 Global Goals – the Sustainable Development Goals – that have the potential to create just societies, end extreme poverty, reduce inequality and tackle climate change in 15 years.

At the heart of the goals is a commitment to ensure that 'no one is left behind' and that no goal is considered met unless met for all. That's because, although we have witnessed huge progress in the fight against poverty and injustice, too many people - the most impoverished, those that are excluded, disadvantaged and at risk of violence and discrimination – still face terrible inequalities when it comes to accessing resources and rights. The world must focus on reaching these groups and ensuring they can make their voices heard if we are to achieve a better world for all.

This report focuses on the key insights gained from the 'empower' work programme, led by CIVICUS, of the Leave No One Behind Partnership. The partnership was launched in July 2016 at the High Level Political Forum in New York to drive global momentum to make sure the Leave No One Behind pledge is delivered. Founded by three international non-profit organisations (CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, and Project Everyone), with the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, we have come together to catalyse a global movement to ensure that the Leave No One Behind promise turns from words to reality..

The partnership stands to:

- **Examine**: provide new data on who is at risk of being left behind, why and where; putting a spotlight on the most excluded or marginalised groups to monitor progress on reaching those furthest behind first.
- **Engage:** sharing information with people all around the world, including civil society activists, world leaders and the wider public, through the creation of compelling content and telling the stories of those who are being left behind
- **Empower:** supporting those who are currently at risk of being left behind and who may be excluded or marginalised to be able to speak for themselves. We work with partners in at least 30 countries to build local voices and identify good practice for action and accountability.

In order to deliver the 'empower' strand, CIVICUS worked closely with other global and national partners around the world, including many civil society organisations and networks focused on themes including gender equality, disability, indigenous people's rights, children and youth, older people and the wider human rights community to ensure all voices are heard.

The partnership complements the work of existing initiatives and information has been widely shared through the Action for Sustainable Development (www.action4sd.org) platform. The Leave No One Behind partnership has worked within this platform to engage a wide range of emerging civil society coalitions at the national level. We are grateful for the inspiring collaborations and joint action that has been possible within this process in at least thirty countries with such strong and diverse partners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report focuses on the key insights gained from the 'empower' work programme, led by CIVICUS, of the Leave No One Behind Partnership. The partnership was launched in July 2016 at the High Level Political Forum in New York to drive global momentum to ensure that the Leave No One Behind pledge of the Sustainable Development Goals is delivered.

CIVICUS worked closely with other global and national partners around the world, including many civil society organisations and networks focused on themes including gender equality, disability, indigenous rights, children and youth, older people and wider human rights to ensure all voices are heard. Between September 2016 and February 2017 CIVICUS worked in close partnership with many emerging national coalitions in 30 countries to run National Dialogues and an online survey. This process aimed to gather views from civil society all around the world on who are the people being left behind, how they can engage in holding their governments to account on the Agenda 2030 pledge to Leave No One Behind, and good practice and priorities for effective support, ensuring that the voices of the poorest and most excluded people are heard. It is intended that the insights gathered in these dialogues are shared with governments in their national planning process and can also be shared for lesson learning on what works at the international level, for example at UN meetings.

The National Dialogues took place in a diverse range of countries from Bolivia to Togo, Rwanda, Nepal, Bangladesh and Fiji. The full list, 30 country summary reports and dialogue toolkit are available on the website here (www.leavenoonebehind.global). The online consultation ran in parallel to the national dialogues and included a diverse range of participants. A total of 4,747 individuals took part in 102 countries; of those 44% were women, 55% men. The age distribution was spread quite evenly as follows: 17% under 20 years of age; 14% 20-40; 32% 40-60; 27% 60-80; 10% over 80 years old.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From this wealth of information we have been able to draw out a range of recommendations and suggestions for future engagement as follows:

1. **Data gaps-** While this report offers insights from the ground, it also clearly demonstrates that there are still major gaps in terms of verifiable data on the most excluded people around the world, with many instances of 'hidden' communities who do not feature in official statistics. It is proposed that further work is required to enable cross-verification of official data sources with citizen-generated data to ensure a more comprehensive picture of people being left behind.

2. **Awareness raising-** There is still a clear need for much greater awareness of the SDGs in a wide range of countries, with many community-based organisations making limited links between their own struggles and the global SDG framework. It is proposed that there should be a greater role for coalitions and networks to provide a joint space for sharing latest information and highlighting inspiring examples, online and in country events and continued activity to raise awareness about the Goals at all levels.

3. **Tackling drivers and root causes-** There is an urgent demand from many of the national dialogues to give greater consideration to the inter-connected nature of exclusion and the need to tackle broader societal drivers of marginalisation. This report does not seek to provide a definitive list of all forms of exclusion but it identifies some of the individuals and social groups who are most excluded and how their situation is compounded by intersecting inequalities and challenges. While basic needs and delivery of services are essential to ensuring just and equitable implementation of the SDGs, it is also crucial to push for longer-term reform to those social, cultural, legal and regulatory systems, structures and frameworks that can create and perpetuate systematic marginalization in different countries and communities. It is proposed to continue to widen collaboration with organisations and networks that can bring specialised knowledge of specific excluded communities and to enable them to share their insights more effectively in order to complement knowledge gaps.

4. **Building government-CSO partnerships-** Civil society can play an essential role in creating spaces and opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement in the SDG agenda and in delivery to ensure no one is left behind. This is a role that national dialogue participants flagged for civil society moving forward, and would be a powerful role in terms of the outcomes for excluded groups as well as building the legitimacy and reputation of the sector in participating countries. It would be beneficial to build a national model that can also extend to the community level, supporting excluded groups and community organizations to engage directly with municipal governments (which as noted in the dialogues, is often the level of government where excluded groups have the most engagement and influence).

5. **Community level participation-** The National Dialogue organising partners recognised the complexity of attempting to present a single picture of an entire country given local variation. Therefore many of the dialogues were hosted in a decentralised approach that involved multiple separate sub-national meetings in different parts of each country. There is a real demand to continue this engagement and participation at the community level to understand the ongoing challenges and offer consistent locally sensitive support.

6. **Support to coalitions-** throughout this work, there has been a demonstrable enthusiasm from coalition partners in each country and additional support has been provided on a pro bono basis to ensure broad and diverse coverage in a very limited period of time. Further support would enable the coalitions to broaden their engagement at national and also regional level in order to continue momentum for building local voices for action and accountability for progress on the pledge to Leave No One Behind.

