South Africa - Leave No One Behind:
Findings from National Dialogue

Introduction and background

The South African Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hosted series LNB dialogues on the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for SDGs. The Dialogue is focused on identifying communities and groups of people most in need of priority access to the resources and programmes being mobilised for the realisation SDGs.

The pledge to Leave No One Behind (LNB) is at the heart of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This project will galvanise partners to deliver the key commitment of the SDGs to be inclusive and transformative in a way that respects indivisibility, universality and equity. As set out in the Leave No One Behind promise in September 2015, this project aims at putting the last first in order to eradicate extreme poverty; addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, including holding decision-makers to account; and to ensuring fair opportunity for all.

The project's objective is to strengthen the voices of marginalised and excluded people from different backgrounds, so that they can use the SDGs and the LNoB agenda to challenge social barriers and hold decision-makers to account. This is seen as an opportunity and indeed a responsibility to recruit and empower key citizens and civil society partners to put pressure on power-holders to make sure that no one is left behind.

Purpose:

- Enable those who are being left behind and most marginalised to speak for themselves in demanding the delivery of the Agenda 2030 commitments;

- Understand the challenges and develop evidence of who is left behind, as well as where, why and what works to promote inclusion;
- Empower poor and excluded people to be agents of change (in policy and programme design, implementation and feedback, challenging discrimination and increasing accountability); and
- Include those being left behind through inclusive policies and programmes (e.g. for inclusive growth, inclusive services and political settlements).

In South Africa, three community dialogues were hosted in Gauteng, Western Cape and Free State, stakeholders were able to engage and ways that will provide a safe space for disenfranchised groups and communities; and national dialogue which brought together civil society , government and chapter 9 (statutory bodies).

Emerging perspective from LNB dialogues

The LNB dialogues took place in three different provinces, the first one was held on the19th October 2016 in Free State, in the Western Cape on the 27th October 2016 and lastly on the 28th October in Gauteng. The national dialogue was held on the 16th November 2016 in Johannesburg.

The discussion was focused on identifying the systemic causes of exclusion and marginalization of communities, causes and effects of marginalisation and what needs to be done differently to ensure that the marginalised groups are included in the development system. Marginalisation's comes in the form of structural, economic, and social forms. These have adverse effects on social and economic services provided to these groups both in terms of access and quality.

Some of the localities specific challenges faced by marginalised group include:

- Ocean View – Fishing rights have been denied to the bona fide traditional fishermen.
- Young people are facing issues of unemployment and poverty, drugs and substance abuse as well as teen pregnancy which subsequently lead to the youth engaging in criminal activities
- Poor and marginalised residents of informal settlements like Khayelitsha, often do not have access to clean water and sanitation. Sanitation is poor with no cleaning of the streets. The communities feel neglected by the local municipalities.
- The Girls and Women from SALT highlighted that many young girls drop out of school from an early age and young pregnancy becomes a large factor which leads to this problem. It was stressed that the police do not work together with the community to help with minimizing the criminal activities in townships.
- People living with disabilities face transport challenges that can be a large hindrance for residents to commute.

- Indigenous People – Khoisan are having land problems whereby their land is being taken from them without permission.
- Community treatment of the blind coming from a place of shame.

Focus groups:

The target community is called Feloane Trust/ village and is situated outside Thaba Nchu in the Free State Province, 58 Km from Bloemfontein. The community falls under Greater Mangaung Municipality, Ward 41 a trust / village community under King Moroka. The village was founded in 1960. The village has had no running water for the past 3 years and the only source of water is a community bore hole, on arrival **we witnessed women pushing wheel barrows with water containers**, the villagers still use Pit latrines – water and sanitation is a continues struggle in this community. There is a general lack of infrastructure, there is a gravel road, poor housing, the community uses a mobile clinic, the local school is from Grade 1 to Grade 07, after that children have to move out of the village and most end up dropping out of school and resort to working on farms over the mountain. There are no parks and recreational spaces in the community. The land is control by the King and villagers have to pay R250.00 to get a piece of land to build a house but

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1. *Which population groups are more likely than other to experience poverty, discrimination or violence?*

The various forms of discrimination are experienced by participants or the grounds, under which they have been discriminated against, are: Racism; Xenophobia; Tribalism – ethnic rivalries and consciousness, Age; Sexism; Homophobia; Gender and Disability; therefore Black people, Migrants , Rural farm workers, Youth, women children and Elderly, and People living with disabilities . African and disable people – mostly marginalised people around the area of work. Women, Elders are not cared for .They are discriminated, Children are bread winners, as their social grants are now used to feed and upkeep the whole family, Children are not taken care of even with their social grants, they suffer from malnutrition, People living with Albinism, LGBTI and the Youth.

Having identified the principal cause of their collective deprivation, which they considered as being discrimination, the participants then identified the groups or categories of people which are most likely to suffer discrimination. The analogy given by the participants was drawn from both the recent fees must fall and service delivery protests. The participants agreed that, from this view point black people in communities, in particular the youth were most susceptible to discrimination, violence and poverty because it is these members of the community that are most enraged and affected by the injustices that occur in our communities. This discussion also touched on a very sensitive yet prevalent matter in our society, and that is the

question of white privilege and how discrimination, violence and poverty are concepts very farfetched from their existence. This was even evident from people who had attended the dialogue and the areas that they came from. Albinos were amongst the groups identified as a group likely to experience discrimination, violence and poverty and this is evident in the irrational killing of albinos in communities around South Africa. Elders also came up in the discussion, especially considering how they are targeted and often killed for their grant money in rural and township areas. And because elders are often seen as senile and vulnerable members of society, they end up being prone to the experiences posed by this question. The next group identified were women. This group was said to be even more discriminated against due to women also falling victim to the patriarchal behaviours in society. The discrimination with women materialises, as an example, in the concept of primogeniture: where a girl child is born before a boy child, but it is the boy child who stands to inherit by virtue of being male. This goes back to the concept of discrimination based on culture. These are critical issues that are ignored but they affect members of these communities a lot.

2. *Which groups of people do you know perceive to be the most marginalized in the areas you work?*

Groups that are mostly discriminated against in communities are:

- The Elderly (mostly targeted and experience violence because of their grant money);
- Women and Children
- Refugees and Migrants (who are not accepted in the communities)
- Ex-convicts (labelled as bad people and therefore are not accepted in the communities even after undergoing rehabilitation)
- The poor black people
- The LGBTI (who experience a lot of 'hate crime')
- Farm workers and domestic workers

The most contributing factor to communities being marginalised is lack of resources and high rate of unemployment. This leads to people being constantly angry because of desperation to get employment and other resources. Poverty that was inherited from apartheid was an overriding factor. The attitude of members of society which have inherited from the past, have influenced the behaviours of today. According to participants, there was no proper restitution created between these two times. Therefore the behaviours of today have been influenced by what has been inherited.

One of the important factors that were found to influence or led to marginalisation of certain individuals and groups within these communities is the language barrier. The primary form of this marginalisation is the inability to communicate with locals like they would amongst themselves. Communication is one of the most important

things in the world; as if we cannot communicate, we cannot understand each other. This brings about the element of self-exclusion by a certain group due to the issue of the language barrier, as locals cannot engage with non-locals. In addition, there are instances where this marginalisation comes in the form of violence, discrimination, as well as xenophobia. Wherein, in other cases marginalisation is found amongst locals themselves, in the form of tribalism.

One finds that there are NGO's and support groups as well as the embassy to assist non-locals in adjusting to and familiarising non-locals to South African life. However this is still not enough with regards to protecting these groups from being marginalised. Locals have access to community leaders and empowerment groups such as peace builders and organisations such as Sonke Gender Justice to assist in addressing these and tackling these issues.

The general consensus at the dialogue was that discrimination is hard to address because it is self-perpetuating. People are born and reared with certain ideas and these ideas inform their worldview. People grow up to be parents and they transmit whatever prejudices or stereotypes they have about certain groups of people to their children. For example, the whole society might be consciously or unconsciously sexist because of how they are socialized into understanding gender by institutions such as the family (father is the head of the house, he is expected to provide for the family etc. while mother is expected to cook and clean), the media, education, religion and so forth.

Participants agreed that discrimination in communities differ. It was also discovered that one could be from the same township e.g. Diepsloot, but that the discrimination experienced may differ based on the section you hail from within the very same township. Over and above the more common types of discrimination, such as xenophobia, tribalism and sexuality appeared regularly, with issues such as financial status, being educated or not, as well as having children out of wedlock as opposed to having children in the sanctity of marriage, emerging.

Fatima, noted how discrimination affects confidence and self-esteem, and mentioned how it makes you think less of yourself. Participants also added that discrimination is pointless and that society would do well to learn tolerance because since there is not much that we can do to change each other, we are better off if we accept each other for the way we are. This would result in a lot less suffering throughout the world.

3. ***What do you consider to be the most important factors that lead to the marginalization of individuals and groups in your locality? And what are the primary forms of marginalization in your locality?***

Factors which contribute to marginalization and being left behind include Race; Unemployment; Illiteracy and Lack of citizenship status makes one ineligible for

social grants and various other socio-economic benefits. The factors can be categorised in to:

a) Administrative

There are political, legal and administrative aspects which lead to marginalisation. Communities struggle to get access to necessary documentations (IDs, birth certificates etc). They usually receive unsatisfactory services at government service points (municipal levels) and struggle to get heard. Some of the administrative exclusion issues experienced by community members include the following:

• Limited community participation and no proper platforms for communities to share their views. There is an understanding that if the space is created, the communities can make difference.
• Community members feel the legal systems as well as the economic systems (financial systems) are barriers to inclusion.
• There is a sense that there is no functional communication and feedback system at local government level. As one participant puts it " we engage with government officials but what role does mis- translation play in our communities, implementation polices tend to leave out grassroots demand (needs) due to lack of accountability" there is need for the grassroots to understand policies and hold government accountable .
• Migrants and refugees could not get access to IDs as the policy states that IDs would be issued in 14 days but that are not the case in practice.
• Policy lack follow through- at times good polices do not get implemented and change the livelihoods of grass roots communities.
• There are cases where the councillors are neither accessible nor accountable to community, example was given that the liquor store licences does not take into consideration the community view.

b) *Social – dignity, culture and community empowerment*

Disabled, LGBTI, Refugee and indigenous communities face social exclusion due stereotypes surrounding their circumstances:

o Not recognising the rights of indigenous people: i.e. African culture, traditions, indigenous knowledge and ways of life not being recognised and one participant noted "remember how proud we are as Africans and what assets we have [but the] problem is that we are not reminding ourselves of what we have", another participant commented "Why taken so long to recognise indigenous people -not easy to talk about the pain now I feel happy to talk here". There is understanding that western concepts are prevailing in society.
o Indigenous knowledge and practices - such as the role of traditional healers in communities is not being recognised "Born in African made in Africa, plants

and roots", natural and organic farming practises of communities is not promoted.

- o Growing community consciousness and love for each other. Policy will not change people behaviours how do we relate with each other and address our needs.
- o Traditional healers- they demand recognition for what they do, the information exchange is uneven and they feel they are being used by government centres for information, there is apparent regulatory imbalance created by government.
- o Informal urban settlement is not dignified and there is a loss of dignity, culture, and Stereotypes. There is discrimination and stigma, and community disempowerment. Perception and stereotypes – acceptance with in diverse communities.

c) *Economic – lack of economic opportunities and supporting services.* Economic exclusion due the lack of access to- land for farming communities, fishing rights for coastal communities, to quality education and skills development, to financial services, to economic infrastructure and services creates barriers for these communities to be economically active.

- Fatima from Cape Association of Disabilities noted there is need for Life skills training for people with disability and access to technology could help.
- Coastal Communities from Ocean view spoke about allocation fishing permits. Bona fide traditional fishermen are not getting the fishing permits.
- Farm workers do not have access to land and water.
- The spatial exclusion where townships are formed far from economic centres is another form economic exclusion.
- Unemployment essentially means disengagement from economic life of the country. Communities engaged in informal sector do not get access to necessary municipal permits and economic service which hinders communities from participating in the economic life of the state.

d) Lack of Social Services

There is lack of quality social services- including, health, education and water and sanitation and policing. Due to lack of water and sanitation facilities some community members are using disposable toilets, no electricity, and lack transport services for disabled community member. At times this leads to conflict in the communities.

- Long administrative processes hinder service delivery. there certain Legal system which barrier to inclusion, there is a problem with beneficiary

targeting systems leading to providing food to people who do not need it. School dropouts are rampant in certain parts of the country.

- Homes given to people on wheelchairs are not sufficient for them to move around do not have Jobs , do not treat us differently give us permanent jobs to help sustain ourselves and our homes , poverty of disabled is not acceptable , society has disabled people with disabilities even more. Transport system does not cater for people living with disabilities.

e) *Break down community order leading to lack of community safety*

- Community safety- there is perception that there is a breakdown of order in certain communities, as participants noted "Children cannot play in the streets". There is need to create a safe environments within all communities. There is a perception of poor policing some participants felt that the police are scared of gangsters or the police are corrupted. They "don't care" for township people. Issues of drugs, gangsters, prostitution and human trafficking are prevalent in the urban slums.

- Moreen has worked in delft for 9 years and has been actively involved in the neighbourhood. She recounted that young people are getting murdered, gangsterism and human trafficking is big problem in her community. Police not working together with community, she tells a story of her daughter's murder. She says the police never found the killer "I gave up".

In general, the Leave No One Behind participants generally agreed that the factors which contribute to marginalization are closely linked to the discrimination that they suffer. In aiding to address these issues and helping these groups the government can offer workshops where people are trained to deal with these issues and then sent back into their communities to train others. These issues are not isolated and have nothing to do with being poor or rich, what needs to be addressed is people's mentalities. Racism is everywhere, even in institutions where they are supposed to be progressive, such as your universities and corporate companies. In theory, racism has ended but in reality it is still a strong and on-going force because we are still feeling the effects of apartheid even today. South Africans treat people who are not from South Africa differently because they have this mentality that "I am from South Africa and they are from Africa" as though they are speaking of two different things. South Africa is a part of Africa, it is the same continent, and it is not an island on its own. The government needs to do more to eradicate the old apartheid mentality instilled in people of colour. As the youth are getting more involved with the discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals; however one of the groups that is being left behind is South African elders, as these elders are surviving on their old teachings. Participants requested that next time these kinds of dialogues takes place, it needs to be taken to the elders, their parents and grandparents.

4. *What aid and/ or government services do marginalized groups in your locality benefit from?*

Social grants (SASSA), expanded public works programme, water and sanitation services, primary health care, education, and access to infrastructure and transportation. And other programmes focused on specific population groups.

5. *What aid and/ or government services do marginalized groups need*

a. There is a need for administrative reform for improved governance at local government level that empowers communities and ensures community participation. This includes accessible local municipal offices and councillors, proper consultation with community in designing programmes, implementation and user feedback, as well as allocation of sufficient Funding for community projects and proper accountability systems. There is a need for building capacity for active citizenry, lobbying and advocacy and campaigning and Right Based Approach methodologies

b. Improved the access and quality social service - education, health, electricity, water and sanitation, and social welfare. This should involve forming a community structure that will deal with service delivery issues, governed by the needs of the community outside the local government structures i.e. a Civic Structure

c. Economic assets and services – Access to land both for residential and farming, equitable access to fishing rights for coastal communities , access to infrastructure and services for informal sector and Community empowerment through education, skills and entrepreneurship training.

d. Community safety through an empathetic and dedicated, police force committed to protecting all in the republic and police should work in empowering community to property themselves

e. Inclusive Infrastructure in all its forms, accessible transport modes including suitable to disabled members of community

f. Civic education that would end intolerance amongst South Africans who perpetuate hate crimes against other Africans. Information services like libraries, Wi-Fi connectivity, among other things including Community involvement in empowering the youth with life skills

g. Need for participatory democracy: voices of the common ordinary man and woman need to be heard by politicians and by those who formulate policy. Citizens want to be involved in political decision making. Political parties are only keen to visit and speak to communities only during election time, when on the campaign trail. Citizens want to exercise input into high-level decision making, decisions which after all affect their lives, as well exercise input in the formation of policy.

h. Educating marginalized communities about their rights in a democratic country.
i. Formalise informal settlements by building adequate and decent housing for communities.
j. Participants mentioned that people do things when they are incentivised. Government must give an incentive if they want to bring about change. The incentive should be based on the successful establishment of a community project that seeks to address and abolish these problems of discrimination, as well as in conjunction with outreach programmes and the funding of such to ensure sustainability.

At the end of these discussions, the overall consensus, and what each participant walked away with from this dialogue was that discrimination is a major problem in our communities that is destroying rather than building and is hindering the progress of said communities. Every participant going back into their various communities agreed that change began with the individual in their individual spaces, especially before it can be done in a local or national scale.
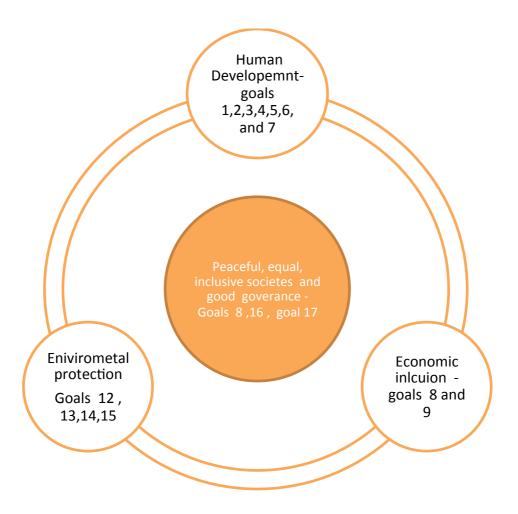
6. ***Which SDG goals, targets and indicators need particular focus in your country and why in order to ensure no one is left behind?***

The application of on SDGs goals and targets should be seen in a circular flow in form three sets priority goals and targets – first set of priority goals focused on human and social development that would support the human capability of the marginalised communities to be an integral part of the society this includes basic income and social welfare(goal 1), food security (goal 2), health(goal 3) , access to quality education (goals 4) , housing(goal 11), energy(goal 7) and water and sanitation(goal 6) .

The priority targets with in this set with regards to goal 1 are 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.b. From goal 2, 3 and 4, the priority targets are 2.1, 2.4, 3.3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7 and 4 c. The priority targets for this set under goal 6, 7 and, 11 are 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.b, 7.1, 7.3, 11.1, 11.2, and 11.7.

The second set priority goals that create an enabling environment for social and economic wellbeing of marginalised group's in society - which is both a means and an end. The systemic form of exclusion and marginalisation has to be addressed to ensure the formation of an inclusive society. Both Goals 5 and 8 on gender equality and empowerment as well as reduced inequality does addresses the root causes of marginalisation. Participatory governance and peaceful societies would support and the social and political inclusion of marginalised communities.

Within this set of goals - the following targets need to be safeguarded, target 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5 and, 8.6.

The third set priory goals deals with transforming the economy to ensure that it becomes inclusive. As the economy becomes broad based and inclusive, the extent of exclusion and marginalisation will eventually shrink. Thus targets with in on goals 8 and 9 that would transform the economies to bread based and inclusive economies needs to be prioritised. Within this set the following targets need to be safeguarded – target 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 8.a, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.a, and 9.c.

Another set of goals related environmental protection and climate change could have adverse effects and increase the levels of marginalisation in communities. Marginalised communities in rural areas and coastal communities find themselves vulnerable to climate change as well as depletion ocean resources. So addressing these set of goals will be relevant to marginalised communities. In the South African context, the following goals and targets need to be safeguarded - goal 13, target 13.1. 13. 3 and goal 14, target 14.2, 14.5, and 14.6.

9) What steps, as a coalition, are you planning on taking in the next few years to ensure a) the inclusion of marginalised groups in policy decisions and implementation and b) feedback on national progress towards the delivery of the SDGs and the LNB pledge?

The LNB national dialogue on Agenda 2030 hosted on 16th November 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, brought together CSO from different sectors including the national and provincial government representatives and chapter 9 institutions. It was hosted with the view to reconstitute the working groups with the following aim:

- To assess the domestication and mainstreaming of SDGs in national development plans by applying the Leave No One Behind principle
- To consolidate the voices of marginalised and excluded groups
- To collaboratively devise a CSO's road map that will enable collective action by key stakeholders in the implementation of SDGS

It was noted Statistics South Africa is currently undertaking provincial and national consultations focused on follow-up and review systems. It further noted, there is a limited engagement with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) which has been mandated to   be a central coordinating agency for implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals.   The department has not provided a clear direction on CSO participation yet. There was an observation that in other countries multi-stakeholder platforms have been created to facilitate domestication and localization of the Agenda 2030, and various models of engagement exist.

The consultation deliberated on multi-stakeholder approaches and discussed key elements for developing a national platform.

- There is need to establish a national umbrella body to coordinate and monitor progress at provincial l and national level, through the provincial structures with focal points at local level to link with municipalities.

- The CSO attend the consultation will be regarded as the working group and the organizer of the consultation   will be tasked to formulate the working mechanisms and submit a document for further input and comments by all other stakeholders
- The task team to develop a partnership document for multi stakeholder platform includes chapter 9 institutions, CSO, businesses and government.

The proposed strategic focus of the working group

1. Creating awareness and restructuring   constituencies and alliances round each SDG goals. Building capacities of CSOs to help them to mainstream SDGS in advocacy engagement
2. In the processes of mainstreaming and domestication of   SDG into NDP and medium term strategic frame work. Leverage the SDG commitment to drive sectorial agendas to improve citizen's livelihoods.   Going further, looking at sectorial policies and programmes to ensure alignment and the state deliveries on its international commitment   to its citizens.
3. Effective delivery of SDGs will depend on means of implementation that is financial, technological   and institutional resources.   Various sources of finance

should be considered in line with the Addis Ababa action agenda. CSos have to strengthen their engagement both on tax justice and budget monitoring (including ODA and its effectiveness).

4. Statistics South Africa has been leading the MDG reporting for the last 15 years and it is transitioning to lead the follow-up and review mechanism of SDGs and various workshops is being conducted to this end. CSO need to effectively use this mechanism for enhanced delivery as well as ensuring accountability. It is going to be important for CSO generate additional data both qualitative and quantitative to inform better service delivery.

The following will form the key activities:

1. Platform and partnerships
   o Reconstitute the working group to bring together CSOs and CBOs from all provinces and various sectorial focuses
   o Establish partnerships with various CSOs coalitions (eg. Food sovereignty, tax justice etc) and partnership with organised businesses
   o To support and facilitate sector level CSOs consultations at a national and provincial level.
   o To facilitate engagements with DPME and Statistics South Africa
   o To provide continuous feedback to group members to enrich the process and content of developing the action plan.
   o Facilitate and link the country, regional, continental and international processes.
   o Become a resource and knowledge contact

2. Domestication and mainstreaming
   o Conduct a study to assess the alignment of MTSF with SDGS and prepare a matrix of sectoral programmes and polices
   o Workshop with CSOs to place their advocacy plans with SDG framework
   o Sector focused CSO consultation on mainstreaming of SDGs followed by engagement with state on respective goals
   o Engagement with provincial and local government officials on domestication of SDGS
   o Working DPME and provincial authorities in mainstreaming the SDGS
   o Provide technical support to CSOs for provincial and natioanal consultations
3. Popularisation and constituency
   o Build constituency for SDGs
   o Conduct a popularisation campaign in all provinces
   o Set up SDGs student clubs in all provinces
4. Follow-up and review

o   Strengthen the engagement of the national follow-up and review by generating data from grassroots to supplement the data generated by the state

o   Capacity building to CSO to assist effective engagement at provincial and national levels

Conclusion

This paper shed light on the structural and socio- economic exclusion faced by many South African communities. The dialogues highlighted those communities such as Feloane in the Free State experience issues such as high youth unemployment, landlessness, youth delinquency and poverty. The Western Cape dialogue showed that the marginalisation of children, youth, farm workers, coastal communities, disabled communities in the province. The Gauteng dialogue shows that most communities are affected by high youth unemployment and poverty, LBGTIQ communities, the elderly and people from other countries was highlighted as issues affecting the people residing the province.

Issues that emerged during the dialogues that need urgent action prioritising the needs to poor and excluded groups both in rural and urban areas. Lasting solution to exclusion and marginalisation would require addressing the underlying causes of the marginalisation. Structural and administrative exclusion requires institutional and legal reforms; the social and economic exclusion requires major structural transformations towards inclusive society.

SDG   provides a framework for social and economic transformation that addresses the marginalisation and exclusion in communities. Citizens' participation both at national and local levels, improved services delivery, broad based and inclusive economies and other systemic factors need to be addressed for such socio economic transformation to materialise.   Piece-meal social safety nets could only be a temporary relief, a long term and sustainable solution could come through series   political, social and economic reforms   even if it may cause unease to the current social and economic system