Leave No One Behind: Togo National Dialogue

Report on Findings

1) Who are the groups and communities in your country that are being left behind?
In Togo, the most marginalized are the children and the elderly, representing respectively 45% and 39% following the LNB survey. It also has people with disabilities 36%.

2) Where are people being most left behind? Is there a particular region/locality?
The proportion of people marginalized is more prevalent in villages and outside large cities. But in the case of our inquiry the further away we go from the capital (the big city) the more people are poor. So in Togo the poorest region is the region of the Savannah (region border pheasant with Burkina Faso). In this region more than 90% people are poor.

3) Why are they being left behind?
They are left behind because not only local communities have no vision of development, but also because everything is concentrated in the capital. That is, there is no decentralization of public power.

4) What are the data and evidence gaps?
According to the QUIBB survey of 2015 the poverty rate is 58.7%. The adult literacy rate is 77.8% in urban areas and 47.4% in rural areas. The unemployment rate is 26% in rural areas and 18.5% in urban areas. According to "The Life is unfair" an online magazine, Togo is one of the 10 poorest countries in the world and is even ranked the unhappy country in the world according to the 2015 world rankings on happiness.

5) What are some stories or testimonies and priorities from those furthest behind?
The main priority of the populations and especially the marginalized is access to land, because the main economic activity is agriculture. In addition to the lack of land marginalized people suffer enormous access to drinking water. The next are, the lack of some infrastructure such as energy, training (school) and good road that link villages to the towns.

6) What are the main obstacles that marginalized groups are facing in accessing services, resources and opportunities?
The main obstacle is the lack of political will of the local and national authorities to develop their community. If not, the populations have a will to carry out innovative actions for a sustainable development of their locality.

7) What can be done to remove these obstacles? What lessons exist on what works to leave no one behind in your national context? (E.g. practical, cost effective, innovative).
To break this barrier, advocacy programs are needed to inform the authorities about the benefits of an inclusive development policy. We must also support people in the implementation of innovative projects. Our LNB survey has enabled us to identify many innovative projects, such as the transformation of waste into charcoal, transformations of water hyacinths into electricity, or the establishment of a green bank to accompany Women in the most marginalized communities.

8) Which SDG goals, targets and indicators need particular focus in your country and why in order to ensure no one is left behind?

Following the LNB survey, two SDGs were targeted.

SDG1: Eradicate poverty in all its forms and around the world
Target: By 2030, eliminate extreme poverty altogether in all regions of Togo
Indicator: proportion of the population living below the poverty line, by age, sex, employment and residence.

SDG2: Eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Target: by 2030, eliminate hunger and ensure that everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable, including infants, have access to a healthy, nutritious and adequate diet throughout the year
Indicator: the prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity in the regions of Togo.

These two SDGs (especially the SDG2) are very important for our population because they are basic needs to meet in advance for achieving the other 15 SDGs.

9) What steps, as a coalition, are you planning on taking in the next few years to ensure?

a) The inclusion of marginalized groups in policy decisions and implementation
We already engaged in advocacy to accelerate the ongoing process of decentralization. For the inclusion of marginalized groups, we have targeted communities to serve as an example to demonstrate the benefits of an inclusive development policy.

And

b) Feedback on national progress towards the delivery of the SDGs and the LNB pledge?
For feedback we plan to use social networks to share our experiences. We also plan to set up a website for the platform in order to allow a high visibility of our actions. We also believe making publications online platforms of our partners. We will hold regular press conferences to inform on the progress of the ODD.