



Organizations of persons with disabilities and engagement with data in the VNRs

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Introduction

- The inclusion of specific references to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda and the global indicators is quite positive.
- Collecting data on persons with disabilities remains challenging, despite explicit references.
- A key challenge is that countries may define disability in different ways leading to data which are unreliable, inconsistent and not comparable.
- Data are not being collected, or non-traditional data sources are rarely considered.
- Consequently this affects measuring progress and impact of persons with disabilities.

Disability Data Advocacy Working Group

- The Working Group and partners have been key in engaging organizations of persons with disabilities in the transition toward evidence-based advocacy work.
- Engagement is consistent and numbers indicate high demand for more capacity building workshops, trainings and toolkits.
- Pilot projects focusing on data collection and disaggregation for evidence-based advocacy and policymaking are needed.
- In 2020, we will complete a disability data advocacy toolkit and training module for DPOs that we will test in a few countries.

Global Report

- In 2016, out of the 19 countries with full reports, 17 referenced persons with disabilities directly.
- *Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (DPOs) in Voluntary National Reviews in 2017*
- The report highlighted Argentina, Bangladesh, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Sweden and Togo.
- Data were gathered from DPOs and partners at the national level on SDG implementation
- Focus: statistics on persons with disabilities (if available), engagement in the VNR process, analysis of VNR report and thematic areas

Methodology

- Coordination mechanism: created a working group on VNRs with a focus on the 43 volunteering countries in 2017
- Shared information: conducted webinars in which countries provided examples of national VNR preparatory processes
- Gathered data: carried out three surveys targeting national DPOs in the 43 countries: initial, in-depth, and follow-up on national-level engagement of persons with disabilities within VNR countries with governments
- Out of the 43, 13 were selected based on the strength of DPOs' engagement and activities, regional diversity and interest from members



Survey questions were framed on:

- engagement of persons with disabilities and DPOs at the national level in VNR processes
- inclusion - or lack of inclusion - of persons with disabilities within the submitted short and long VNRs
- statistics on persons with disabilities
- the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to poverty alleviation, health care, accessibility and women with disabilities

Key Findings

- Official data on persons with disabilities often were not satisfactory because data collection was not carried out in a cooperative way with DPOs.
- Often official data on persons with disabilities did not reflect the national reality.
- DPO-gathered data often indicated a much greater number of persons with disabilities in the country.
- Generally, there was no information on abuse or violence against women and girls disaggregated by disability.

Key Recommendations

- Data on all aspects of accessibility should be gathered on transportation, public services, public buildings, public websites, information and communication.
- DPOs should be included in decisions made around systems and monitoring bodies of the SDGs.
- Disaggregation of data by persons with disabilities should be a priority for the government to implement disability-inclusive development programs and to make the rights real for persons with disabilities in line with the SDGs and the CRPD.

SDG Reports 2017-2019

- In 2017 DPOs were supported to:
 - increase capacity to engage fully with SDG and human rights monitoring processes; and
 - strengthen advocacy through building robust evidence.
- Outcome: evidence-based national and regional-level reports on SDG implementation for persons with disabilities in line with CRPD
- All reports were developed and led by DPOs, thus highlighted different thematic areas, reflected national and regional priorities and collected data with different methodologies.
- Reports had two overall requirements:
 - To have a cross-disability perspective
 - To include a section on women and girls with disabilities

SDG Country Reports

- Reports are from Colombia, Iraq, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda and Vietnam.
- Data gathered on persons with disabilities came from a mixture of quantitative and qualitative sources.
- The advantage of using qualitative data methods was that it allowed research participants to detail their lived experiences.
- When gathering disability data, the diversity of the population was addressed to reflect differences.
- Consultations were carried out with DPOs on what SDGs to focus on as priority areas, and then those became the focus of the report.

Key Recommendations

- Ensure at the global level, disability disaggregated data are collected by all countries using the Washington Group short sets to ensure comparability.
- Increase reliable disaggregated data to better understand the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities.
- Create a mechanism of reporting activities of and for persons with disabilities for data collection purposes.
- Establish mechanisms for gathering data on persons with disabilities at the national level that could, for example, start at the village level upward.
- The government could strengthen its role in training persons with disabilities about the SDGs and the CRPD.

Next Steps

- Pilot program: country engagement to support DPOs to engage in 2020 VNR processes at the national level
- Timeframe: January to May 2020 / HLPF / follow up
- Objective: to invest in influencing the VNRs at the country level by supporting DPOs to engage in and influence the national VNR consultations and follow-up process
- Advocacy via webinars, surveys, information sharing, and in-person trainings
- Countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria and Zimbabwe



Thank you!

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