Leave No One Behind

Evidence-based coalition to put marginalised people at the centre of SDG implementation

Project Concept (Second Phase)

31 May 2018

A. Rationale

in 2015, 192 countries unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pledged *that no one will be left behind[1]. Recognising that the dignity of the all persons is fundamental to realising the Goals and Targets, countries agreed to reach the 'furthest behind first'.*

The UN 2017 SDG report highlights that numerous groups and individuals remain invisible to national statistical systems, leaving many development challenges poorly understood.[2]. Experiences in the pilot phase of the *Leave No One Behind* project supports this, with initial mapping by pilot countries finding limited national government data reflecting the perspectives of those furthest behind.

International civil society organisations (ICSOs) command a wealth of data and evidence that is crucial for delivering a better understanding of the problems of marginalised[3] populations worldwide. The operations of ICSOs cover nearly the entire world and each organisation deals with specific marginalised communities and areas of focus that are of key relevance in the context of "leaving no one behind". Despite the breadth of ICSOs' work, in most cases ICSO data and research on marginalised populations is not included in official SDG monitoring and reporting processes. This is for a range of reasons, including that this data is often limited to particular geographic areas, the methodology is not considered sufficiently rigorous, or that ICSOs are not well connected to SDG monitoring and implementation processes, structures and forums. This disconnect misses opportunities for ICSOs to ensure that SDG processes hold governments accountable for ensuring that those who are furthest behind are reached first.

For ICSOs to maximise their impact in implementing the "leave no one behind" agenda, they need to join forces and build coalitions with each other as well as most marginalised communities to share, learn and empower. When combining their key areas of expertise to reach out to people on the ground and their ability to make people's voices and needs heard in decision making processes on national and global levels, their joint potential is immense. ICSOs also need to work strategically to ensure that the information they hold on the needs and solutions of marginalised communities is not siloed, but instead is used to further national sustainable development processes. By doing so, ICSOs can play a key role in the transformative agenda that seeks to reach the furthest behind first in terms of SDG commitments.

---

[1]
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf

[2] UN, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017, available at:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/TheSustainableDevelopmentGoalsReport2017.pdf

[3] By this we refer to communities/populations who are marginalised due to income, age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country.

B. Overall Objective

This project aims to give voice and agency to marginalised groups and communities within SDG implementation and monitoring processes, through a diverse and globally coordinated approach using community-based data. Through this, we aim to increase the social accountability of key stakeholders (government, UN, ICSOs) and trigger responsive action.

C. Specific Objectives

1. Community driven data on marginalised communities, including generation of data by communities themselves, is recognised by official government and UN agencies as a source of information to monitor SDG progress.

2. Governments plan and implement actions, as part of SDG implementation plans, to respond to the needs and proposed solutions of marginalised and vulnerable communities, articulated in community-driven data.

3. Governments, UN and national stakeholders are able to monitor progress in achieving the SDGs for the most marginalised and vulnerable groups.

4. ICSOs increase their accountability to marginalised communities, based on listening to their concerns and solutions through community-based research processes.

5. In each country, the *Leave No One Behind* coalition is a strong, coordinated and accountable network that includes representatives from marginalised communities and has strong partnerships with national stakeholders integral to the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs.

D. Geographic Scope

During the First Phase (Pilot), the project is being implemented in five countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam. These countries were selected for the project based on the existence of relevant coordination mechanisms on SDGs, country participation in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes, and willingness of lead and participating agencies.

In the Second Phase, the aim is to continue to build on the work and gradually increase the number of participating countries per region over the project duration.

E. Project Implementation Structure

The *Leave No One Behind* coalition is comprised of 12 ICSOs, coordinated by the International Civil Society Centre (in short: Centre). Participating ICSOs are: ActionAid International, Amnesty International, BRAC, CARE International, CBM International, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, VSO International, World Vision International and WWF International.

The project is managed from the Centre in Berlin and governed by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of the 12 participating ICSOs. Within each country, the project is implemented by a national coalition, including representatives of the participating ICSOs (as relevant in each national context) and other strategic partners in each context, including local and national CSOs, statistical agencies, academia and government.

F. Project Duration and Activities for the Second Project Phase

<u>Pilot Phase</u>: 1 ½ years – September 2017 to February 2019 *(member-funded)*
<u>Second Phase</u>: 4 years – 2019 to 2022 *(to be externally funded)*
The project will culminate at the midpoint of the SDG implementation period.

Timeline	Activities
Rest of Pilot Phase (till February 2019)	**Existing Pilot Countries:** • Steering Committees build mechanisms for connecting with marginalised communities, local civil society, academia, UN and government (existing countries) • Develop a national research focus and research TOR in each country • Conduct a comprehensive stocktake of nationally available secondary data conducted relating to research focus. • Develop methodology for citizen-led primary data collection, building on existing methods • Work with leading data experts and other national stakeholders to validate methodology for citizen-led primary data collection • Build capacity of marginalised communities to apply data collection methodology. • Conduct citizen-led research with marginalised communities in each country • Share the results of primary research through reports and engagement with governments and other stakeholders • Produce one global publication drawing together the lessons and highlights from national research • Regional/Global Events: Facilitate at least 2-3 community representatives to actively participate in regional and global events
Phase 2 - fist stage (2019– 2020)	**New Countries:** • Establish National Steering Committees & mechanisms for connecting with marginalised communities, local civil society, academic, UN and government (new countries) • Develop a National research focus and research TOR/country • Conduct a comprehensive stocktake of nationally available secondary data conducted relating to research focus. • Build capacity of marginalised communities to apply data collection methodology. • Conduct citizen-led research with marginalised communities in each country • Share the results of primary research through reports and engagement with governments and other stakeholders. **Existing Countries:** • Strengthen inclusion of representatives of marginalised groups in national Steering Committees (existing)

	• Work with representatives of marginalised and vulnerable communities to increase their engagement in national and regional SDG processes • Conduct primary research, using methodology developed in the Pilot Phase, which takes stock of changes in processes, structures and implementation to address the needs of the marginalised communities. **Joint Initiatives:** • Advocate for official recognition of citizen-led data collection methodology and inclusion of data collected under the project • Build Partnerships / collaborate with national statistical agencies to work with citizens to generate verifiable & officially acknowledged data, Second national research reports published • Produce second global research report (also to be used for regional and global key moments) • Regional/Global Events: Facilitate at least 2-3 community representatives to actively participate in regional and global events **Evaluation:** • Mid-term evaluation on coalition work (including pilot phase) with different stakeholders
Phase 2 - mid-term (2020– 2021)	**Continuous:** • Advocate for official recognition of citizen-led data collection methodology and inclusion of data collected under the project • Build partnerships/collaborate with national statistical agencies to work with citizens to generate verifiable & officially acknowledged data • 3rd Global research report • Regional/Global Events: Facilitate at least 2-3 community representatives to actively participate in regional and global events
Phase 2 - final stage (2021– 2022)	**Continuous:** • Advocate for official recognition of citizen-led data collection methodology and inclusion of data collected under the project • Build partnerships/collaborate with national statistical agencies to work with citizens to generate verifiable & officially acknowledged data ➔ *Desired target:* official recognition of approach in at least 30 countries **Knowledge Products:** • Final Global Synthesis report • Lessons Learnt Publication **Evaluations:** • Final Evaluation with stakeholders

G. Project Outputs and Knowledge Products
• Reports on stocktake of secondary data in each country (one report per country): this will highlight gaps in existing secondary data relating to marginalised populations. The report will be used to inform the next stage of the project, as well as to contribute to national SDG data collection.

- Validated methodology for citizen-led data collection: this methodology guide will be used by the project, but will also be an important knowledge product generated by the project for use by NGOs and governments for future SDG and project monitoring.

- Report of primary research in each country (1-2 reports per country): each report will have a specific targeted focus and will contribute to knowledge generation on key issues (eg: discrimination against women, access to healthcare, civic participation, etc)

- National policy briefs (2-3 briefs per country): these short advocacy and communication products will draw out key results from the primary research and allow for dissemination of key project learnings among a wide audience.

- International synthesis reports (4 reports): The project will produce an international report each year, focusing on a different aspect of the project's learnings. In 2019, this report will focus on gaps in data around SDG implementation for marginalised groups, and highlight promising solutions from the project. Future international reports will draw on proven approaches in the project and replicable methodologies.

- Mid-term evaluation report: this report will focus on the lessons learned during the first two years of the project for continuation and scale up in years 3 and 4.

- Lessons learned and final evaluation report: this report will focus on lessons learned throughout the project for replication and scale up in future. It will aim to contribute to learning of civil society coalitions on the SDGs globally.

H. Stakeholder Engagement Matrix

Stakeholder Group	Areas of Engagement
Community organisations	- ICSOs currently work with a diverse group of CBOs in their respective countries and will broaden and deepen these networks through this project - ICSOs will work with community organisations to develop joint actions to support capacity development initiatives which can be based on ICSO areas of expertise - Community organisations are key stakeholders to input into the development of a methodology for citizen-led data collection, and to engage in primary data collection under the project.
Government statistical offices	Knowing when, where and how data is collected on SDG implementation by statistical offices will facilitate identifying the gaps which can be filled by the project. Government statistical officers are also a key advocacy target under the project – which will aim to see greater acknowledgment and use of citizen and civil society generated data at national level.
SDG coordination units of government	The Units bring together different Government Departments and Ministries responsible for SDG implementation. These are key agencies to be informed / willing to use / recognise community driven data as part of their regular reporting processes and also ensure the voices of the marginalised are included in consultations at all levels.

International Civil Society Centre gGmbH · www.icscentre.org · Agricolastraße 26 · 10555 Berlin / Germany · T +49 30 20 62 46 97 11 F +49 30 20 62 46 97 19 · Registered Office Berlin · AG Berlin-Charlottenburg · HRB 10 93 33 · Executive Director: Dr. Wolfgang Jamann · Tax Number 27/614/03466· VAT Reg. No. DE 257 906 389

5

Academia and think tanks	Academia and think tanks will be important stakeholders to support recognition of community driven data in official national and global reporting processes. Academica and think tanks can also be national project partners for supporting primary or secondary research.
UN agencies at national, regional and global level	Key influencers with strong ties to national governments. Their engagement/support to using of the data generated can also facilitate wider discourse not only in one countries but across the regional and international spaces.
Other multilateral actors (GPSDD, World Bank)	Multilateral actors are key influencers of SDG implementation at national level. Their engagement in the project will assist in ensuring there is resourcing and support at national level for community-led monitoring.
Media	Their engagement across both online and offline platforms facilitate dissemination of key messages, voices and data in key spaces at all levels.

I. Sustainability of our approach

One of the core objectives of the project is the recognition of community-driven data through official government and UN agencies as a source of information to monitor SDG progress. As a subsequent step, the project will elaborate MoUs and (national) action plans in close collaboration these stakeholders, making sure the findings of the project will lead to services and actions that correspond with the particular needs of marginalised communities and reach them directly in their local context.
The project will leverage its globally connected structure and wide influence of its members and supporters from across the sectors to help building an official community-based feedback system in a growing number of countries. This way, the project will make sure the voices of the most marginalised will be both 'heard and count' in the SDG implementation until 2030.

The findings of the researches at national level, the additional competencies being built in terms of planning and implementing data-driven approaches in field work, as well as the monitoring and learning from the project's evolution over the next four years will have a long-term impact on the way how partnering organisations plan and execute their programmes. Thereby, the project will trigger and intensify a positive development in the CSO sector: the increased application of evidence-driven approaches with a focus on the active involvement of marginalised communities, combined with a widespread sharing of best practices with other partners at global and national levels will boost the Social Accountability of the sector overall.