



International
Civil Society Centre

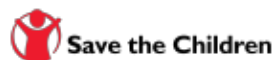


Leave No One Behind

Making voices heard and count



Coalition Members



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Project at a glance

Initiated by a dozen of the world's largest international civil society organisations (ICSOs), 'Leave No One Behind' is a highly-influential coalition bringing together actors from the local up to the international level. Together they aim to fill knowledge gaps and find a concrete solution for the active participation of marginalised groups in the SDG implementation. The coalition works to gain recognition of community-driven data in SDG-monitoring in national and international policy decision making. Overall, marginalised people become more central to decision making processes.

The SDGs' key promise: 'Leave No One Behind'

In 2015, the international community agreed on the SDGs. They promised to [put the most marginalised communities at the forefront of the delivery of Agenda 2030](#). This is without doubt the hardest part – reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

However, as the UN 2017 SDG report shows, the [data required to identify and address these specific groups is often incomplete or unavailable](#): Although national governments and multilateral institutions already collect a wealth of data, they often fail to go the 'last mile' and reach the people who live on the margins of their societies. As a result, [complex issues such as gender inequality, inadequate health services or local drivers of migration remain unsolved](#). Without a solid foundation of evidence that also includes the input of the people we want to reach, marginalised people and their needs will remain unheard. Without a strong collective effort to give voice and agency to these groups, this problem will persist.

Delivering on that promise together

Community workers of [international organisations](#) such as Amnesty International, BRAC, CBM, Save the Children or WWF interact with marginalised communities, be it disabled people, homeless children or threatened human rights activists, on a day to day basis. Together, these organisations operate in almost all countries all over the world. They [command a wealth of knowledge and have a global reach down to community level](#) that could help governments to identify and address the most immediate needs of their people.

There is only one problem: So far, nobody has tried to bring together all these organisations, to set up a system that combines their diverse expertise and capacities to share and jointly collect data and bring this collective evidence to the attention of the national governments. Many people believe that such a collaboration is too cumbersome, either because it demands so many resources or because there are too many egos involved that would break this coalition.

Tackling the problem and succeeding: this is how

We work together because no one can achieve this promise alone

Only by aligning expertise and resources across organisations, sectors and countries, can the SDGs be implemented successfully. The project brings together a highly influential constellation of ICSSOs, multilateral institutions, local partner organisations, community members, and relevant national authorities, to work together. This range of actors covers the spectrum from global to local. Their combined 'weight of action' is unparalleled. Together, they can change the implementation of SDGs to ensure the most marginalised are not left behind.

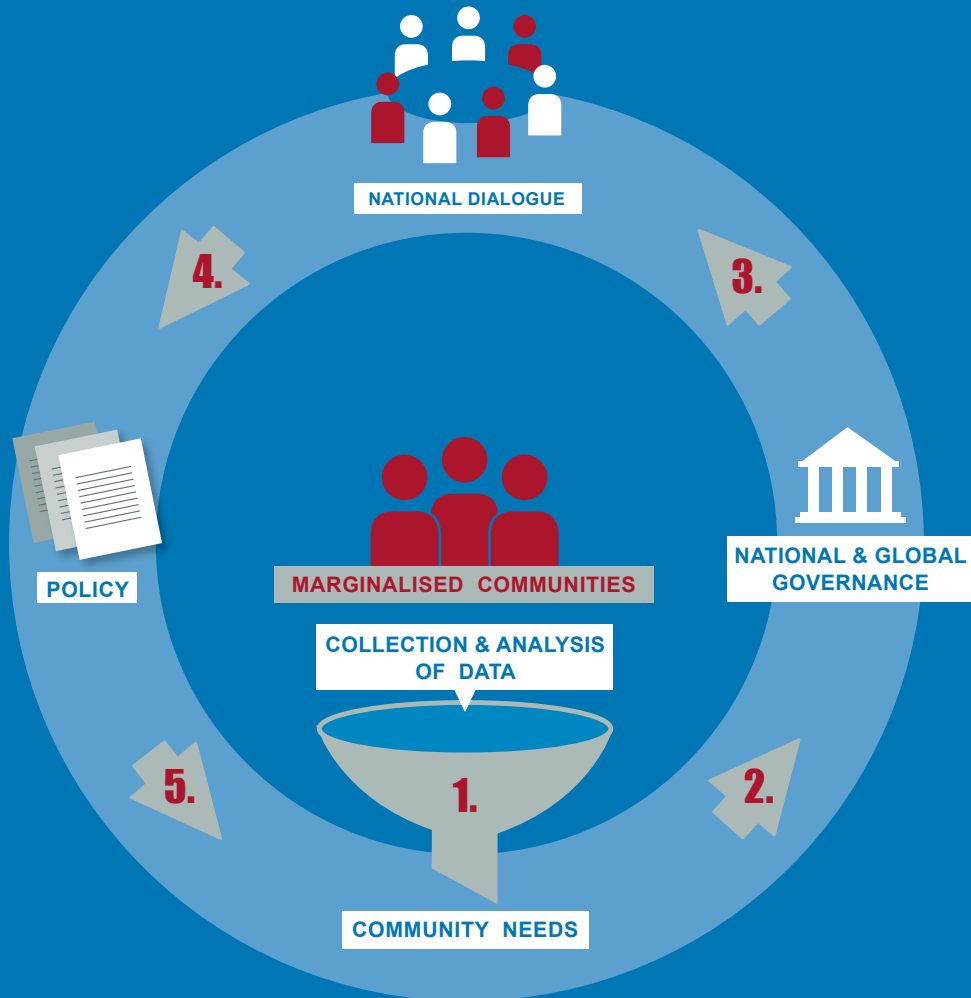
We make voices heard because they have been unheard for too long

In every country our coalition operates, we work at a community level to collect and generate data that allows for a better understanding of the concrete needs and drivers of vulnerability. We do that by working with representatives of marginalised communities. By doing that, we ensure a participatory approach.

We make voices count because we want real policy change

Having better data is not enough! We also need to make sure that decision making authorities all over the world act upon this knowledge. This is why we establish official dialogues with national governments in which representatives from marginalised communities will be at the table. In these consultations, we will help governments to plan their service delivery and policies in alignment with the needs of people living at the margins of society. Ultimately, we will hold governments to account to deliver on the promise they made when they signed up to the SDGs.

Make voices heard and count



1. Make voices heard

Together with data experts, we developed an adaptive approach to identify concrete needs of marginalised communities. To learn more, get in touch about our detailed project concept and methodology.

2. Advocate for recognition

Marginalised community members and coalition project partners advocate with national and global decision making bodies, so they officially recognize the community data.

3. Convene in national dialogues

All stakeholders including marginalised communities, coalition partners and government representatives develop national responsive action plans.

4. Address specific needs

As a result of national dialogues, government bodies implement policies that address specific needs of marginalised communities in their country.

5. Make voices count

Eventually, marginalised communities are included in data collection, advocacy and policy implementation processes. By that, the project makes all voices heard and count.

Evidence from our Pilot Phase

In 2017, a dozen ICSSOs started an 18-month pilot phase in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam. The pilot aims to create a 'blueprint' for a successful collaborative approach between civil society and governments to fill knowledge gaps in SDG implementation:

In Bangladesh, for example, a coalition led by BRAC and joined by the country offices of seven other ICSSOs came together as a country-task force. They took stock of their organisations' data on marginalised communities and compared this with existing knowledge gaps in official data from the government. As a group, they assessed that they could have the most meaningful impact in the area of universal healthcare for marginalised communities (SDG 3.8). Together with the James P Grant School of Public Health concrete entry points for data

generation at community level were assessed. The group sought active consultation with relevant government authorities in this context, e.g. the SDG Principal Coordinator and the NGO Affairs Bureau. The country task force now prepares their community-level intervention, aiming to fill knowledge gaps in national SDG monitoring with a focus on SDG 3.8, being in constant exchange with government representatives and key multilateral actors like the United Nations Development Programme or the World Health Organisation.

A similar process is in motion in Kenya, in Vietnam, in Nepal and in India – all work with specific local and national project partners and look at the immediate specific needs in the current context the country group operates in.



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Now it's time to scale up!

We got the ball rolling by building and strengthening this coalition in our five pilot countries. Now it is time to take it to the next level and replicate our approach in **as many countries as possible by 2022.**

We believe that working with national governments is only the first step. The **SDG Agenda is of global concern and this is why we will advocate on a global level** with bodies such as the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the World Economic Forum or the G20. Eventually, we seek recognition of our data by UN agencies such as the United Nations Statistics Division, thereby reinforcing the broad recognition of our approach at global scale.

With our extensive advocacy work from local and global level, national governments will be urged to speed up and implement their national policies.

Together, we will be able to realise what has only been talked about in theory so far. We will mainstream a solution for the practical inclusion of marginalised groups in SDG implementation.

We will deliver on our promise and make the voices of the most marginalised heard and count.



“The key value and benefit of the project is that it will support and serve those who do not have a voice or their own agency. As a result, funded services will be more accountable to the people and adequate in what they offer them. Only then, will we have really changed something!”

Azad Rahman, BRAC



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Let's all pull in the same direction to achieve the same goal because failure is not an option!

We believe that we have the right combination of expertise and resources across organisations, sectors and countries. By bringing together highly influential ICSSOs, we have created a [high impact coalition](#). Added to that are multilateral institutions, local partner organisations, community members and relevant national authorities. Our setup [reaches the local and goes up to the global level](#) and unites the expertise from the field with the support from each organisations global CEO.

Last but not least, we have a special ingredient and that is [trust](#): The project is an unprecedented and game changing collaborative effort of the ICSSO community which has jointly decided to carry this project forward – they committed significant resources and time to guarantee the success of this project.

Our coalition has the weight of action that is necessary to bring about a meaningful change for the most marginalised groups.



“I thought the global development community would never come up with a programme like this, bringing together data and advocacy for marginalised communities. This is an unexpected but highly welcome exception! The project will bring together actors from the local up to the international level across various countries and all in a joint space. That is why we immediately joined!”

Annie Namala, Wada Na Toda Abhiyaan (local project partner in India)



International
Civil Society Centre

The Centre helps international civil society organisations maximise their impact for a sustainable and more equitable world.

To find out more, please contact Peter Koblowsky, our LNOB Project Manager:
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www.facebook.com/icscentre.org/
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Why it's worth supporting us:

To scale up, we are looking for supporters that want to join and resource our ambitious goals. Together we will make a meaningful impact to make marginalised voices heard and count. On top, the project offers specific added values for our supporter community:

- **Meaningful and innovative investment** by supporting a newly designed programme that addresses “off the radar” development challenges
- **Better knowledge about beneficiaries needs** by gathering specific data that will be useful for other grantee projects as well
- **Improved accountability towards beneficiaries** by assuring close alignment of programmes with people’s actual needs
- **Reliable evidence for future donor strategies** by building on lessons learnt and best practices of concrete community engagement

