

Second World Summit for Social Development

Side Event

Event Title	<i>Citizen Data for Social Integration:</i> Empowering Marginalised Voices through Evidence and Action
Event Date	4 November 2025 , 11.00-12.30h Doha time
Event Duration	90 minutes
Event Registration	World Summit for Social Development Side Event
Main organiser	International Civil Society Centre
Co-organisers	Islamic Relief Worldwide, Plan International

Context

Inclusive development and social integration require that all individuals – especially those from marginalised communities – are seen, heard, and included in public decision-making. Despite global commitments to ‘leave no one behind’, many communities remain excluded due to their exclusion in decision-making spaces and due to a lack of data that is sufficiently disaggregated and capable of delivering insights into the realities of smaller population segments at the local level. Citizen Data¹ offers a promising solution to this challenge by enabling communities to document their own realities and advocate for change. Citizen Data not only fills critical data gaps but also strengthens civic engagement and accountability by placing citizens at the centre of evidence generation and policy dialogue.

This side event, co-organised by Islamic Relief Worldwide, Plan International, and the International Civil Society Centre, will explore how Citizen Data can be used to foster both social integration and economic empowerment. Drawing on practical experiences from Nepal, India, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the session will highlight how participatory data initiatives are helping to identify structural barriers, amplify marginalised voices, and influence inclusive policy reforms:

¹ Citizen Data is data that is generated, collected, or contributed by individuals, communities, or civil society organisations, often outside of official statistical systems, on issues that are deemed of relevance to these actors, with a perceived need for driving change and improving the status quo in different decision-making and planning spaces and accountability processes.

The session will begin by revisiting the Centre's *Voices Count* initiative in Nepal, where participatory data tools such as the Intersectional Community Scorecard have helped document barriers faced by Dalits, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and Muslim minorities. These insights have informed inclusive governance reforms and strengthened civic engagement at the provincial level.

Building on this, the event will highlight a new project in India focused on *Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)* – historically marginalised groups excluded from mainstream development. Through Citizen Data and institutional engagement, the initiative empowers local leaders and civil society organisations to advocate for recognition and inclusion in public programmes.

The third case from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, led by Islamic Relief Worldwide, challenges the notion that *People with Disabilities (PwDs) and Older People (OP)* are inherently vulnerable. Instead, it highlights how they are systematically marginalised due to a lack of meaningful data and recognition in policymaking and service design. The initiative empowers PwDs and OP, along with their representative organisations, to generate and use community-driven data. This locally-led, people-centred approach ensures their direct involvement in advocacy and planning processes, ultimately fostering inclusion informed by lived experiences. The project aims to improve service delivery tailored to different disabilities and enhance equitable access to opportunities based on individual strengths.

The event aligns with the World Social Summit's theme of advancing social integration and will showcase how Citizen Data can be institutionalised to support long-term, systemic change.

Objectives

- Showcase practical examples of Citizen Data initiatives that promote social and economic inclusion in Nepal, India, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Discuss the role of Citizen Data in identifying exclusionary barriers and informing policy and programming towards more social integration.
- Explore strategies for institutionalising Citizen Data in governance systems and development planning.
- Facilitate dialogue among civil society, policymakers, and data practitioners on the potential of Citizen Data to advance the goals of the World Social Summit.

Agenda

Time	Session Title	Details	Speaker/Moderator
11:00–11:10	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by co-organisers • Brief overview of the session objectives and relevance to the World Social Summit theme 	Peter Koblowsky International Civil Society Centre Jacqueline Gallinetti Plan International
11:10–11:20	Framing Input	Introduction to Citizen Data and its role in inclusive development	Peter Koblowsky International Civil Society Centre
11:20–11:55	Case Study Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal: Voices Count initiative and Intersectional Community Scorecard • India: Citizen Data for Denotified and Nomadic Tribes • Occupied Palestinian Territory: Inclusive data for PwDs and Older People • Cross-country: Young citizen's scorecard 	Shikha Shrestha VSO Nepal Annie Namala WNTA India Hussam Judah Islamic Relief Palestine Damaris (young citizen ambassador) Kenya
11:55–12:20	Panel discussion	Moderated panel discussion: The potential of Citizen Data in fostering social integration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to institutionalise it in relevant governance and planning systems? • What form of partnership is needed between CSOs, policy makers, donors and data practitioners? 	Damaris (young citizen ambassador) Kenya Awa Faly Ba Plan International Geoffrey Gichunji Kariuki Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
12:20–12:30	Interactive Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience invited to post questions in chat – to be answered by input providers and panellists 	Audience
12:30–12:35	Closing Remarks	Summary of key takeaways and thank-you from organisers.	Peter Koblowsky International Civil Society Centre