



**NATIONAL
COUNCIL
FOR DISABILITY**



**DISABILITY | UGANDA
STATUS REPORT | 2019**

DISABILITY STATUS REPORT UGANDA, 2019

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Foreword

The National Council for Disability (NCD) envisions a society where persons with disabilities irrespective of their age participate fully in the development process. Section 6(1b) of the NCD Act 2003 mandates the Council to among other functions monitor and report on Disability inclusive program implementation at all levels. In this regard therefore, the council has compiled a report on the status of disability in the fiscal years 2015/16, 16/17 and 17/18.

The report will contribute to the measurement of equity in Uganda as provided for by the Public Finance Management Act (2015) since Disability is one of the key parameters of measuring Equity.

The report outlines the performance of NCD in the period under review and the extent to which Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are implementing disability inclusive programmes, plans and budgets. It further makes both long and short-term recommendations towards disability inclusion in all sectors and programmes at all governance levels.

The report is in line with the NCD mandate, the NDP II, other national and international legal instruments ratified by Uganda and guidelines that seek to promote and protect disability rights/needs as well as concerns and opportunities.

The Council therefore appeals to all Government and non-government actors to continue including Disability in their development agenda.

On behalf of the National Council for Disability and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who were involved in the process of compiling this report for their unreserved commitment to duty and their devotion for the cause of disability inclusion in Uganda.

JUMA MULESA

CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY



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The Council would like to extend her gratitude to all her stakeholders for their generous and constructive contributions to this Report. The Council is strongly convinced that the Report will greatly enhance performance and delivery of programmes that seek to empower and include persons with disabilities in Uganda.

NCD would therefore like to acknowledge the following among others who made enormous contributions:

The NRM government under the leadership of His Excellence Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the support provided that enabled not only the formulation and sustenance of the Council but also continually recognizing the place of disability in both national and international development;

The Parliament of Uganda under the leadership of the Rt. Hon. Speaker for the legislative roles of enacting Disability inclusive laws and budget allocation for Disability work in Uganda.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the financial support to the Council and the entire Disability work in the country.

The Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development under the leadership of Hon. Minister Hajat Janat Mukwaya for moral support and political leadership and Mr Pius Bigirimana (the Permanent Secretary) who has continually provided technical guidance to the Council.

The Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPWDs); other civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as UN agencies and other Development partners that supported the process of compiling this report in one way or the other.

All those who provided information for enriching the report especially Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other Development partners.

The Council through the programmes committee who ensured that the report is fit for public usage; the Secretariat and the Resource Person who have been instrumental in ensuring that the document meets the acceptable standards of national reporting.

BEATRICE GUZU

Executive Secretary

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY

Key terms

Accessibility: the ability to reach the possible benefits of a product, system, service entity and is used to describe the degree to which a product such as a device, service, and environment is accessible by as many people as possible. The concept of accessible design ensures both “direct access” (i.e. unassisted) and “indirect access” meaning compatibility with a person’s assistive technology (for example, computer screen readers). (Jiao & Lissitz, 2017)

Disability inclusion: This involves guidelines, practices and policies designed to identify and remove barriers such as physical, communication, and attitudinal, that hamper individuals’ ability (of persons with disabilities) to have full participation in society as other persons without disabilities

(<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-strategies.html>).

Inclusion: is as a dynamic process, which encompasses the transformation of education systems, cultures and practices ‘in celebration of diversity’ (Barton & Armstrong, 2007, p.5).

Persons with with disabilities: Those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others’ (Article 1 of the CRPD, 2007, page 4)



Acronyms

ACPF	African Child Policy Forum
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DCD	District Council for Disability
DFID	Department for International Development (UKAID)
DMIS	Disability Management Information System
EAC	East African Community
EADF	East Africa Disability Fund
EARS	Education Assessment and Resource Services
EC	Electoral Commission
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ENT	Ears Nose and Throat
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
ESPP	Expanding Social Policy Programme
FY	Financial Year
HESFB	Higher Education Students Financing Board
HMIS	Health Management Information Systems
HSD	Health Sub District
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Health and Disability
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDD	International day for persons with Disabilities
IDEC	Interventions for Disability in Early Childhood
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IT	Information Technology
JLOS	Justice, Law Order Sector
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MFPEd	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NAD	Norwegian Association of the Disabled
NAP-CWDs	National Action Plan for Children with Disabilities



NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NCD	National Council for Disability
NCHE	National Council for Higher Education
NDP	National Development Plan
NER	Net Enrollment Ratio
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority
NITA-U	National Information Technology Authority-Uganda
NPA	National Planning Authority
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NUDIPIU	National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
NUWODU	National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda
OPDs	Organisations of persons with disabilities
OSIEA	Open Society Initiative of East Africa
OTT	Over the Top Tax
OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSNs	Persons with Special Needs
PTC	Primary Teachers' College
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNE	Special Needs Education
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health Surveys
UFB	Uganda Foundation for the Blind
UFDS	Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education
USL	Uganda Sign Language
UTAMU	Uganda Technology and Management University
UWEP	Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
YLP	Youth Livelihood Programme



Executive Summary

The disability status report-Uganda 2019 highlights the contributions made by the Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other development partners to promote national objectives and articles on inclusion and non-discrimination as provided in the national and international legal framework: For example, the provisions enshrined in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); the National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006) among others. The report covers the financial year 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The purpose of the report is to assess the disability inclusive programme implementation of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and private sector to improve participation of persons with disabilities in development programmes in the country.

The report is divided into four chapters. The first chapter makes analysis of the current disability situation, legal and policy framework as well as statistics. The second chapter mainly analyzes the performance of NCD in the period under review as provided in the NCD Act 2003. The third chapter analyzes the sectoral performance in implementing disability inclusive programmes plans and budgets; the fourth and last chapter makes recommendations. In the analysis of the different sectors, emphasis was put on 11 sectors of the 18 currently in Uganda. The sectors under review in this report mainly have empowerment and participation components and directly made mention of in the CRPD concluding observations report.

In Uganda, the 2014 population and hous-

ing census report (UBOS 2016) indicated that 12.4% of the Ugandan population lives with some form of disability hence making it a development concern. This nearly correlated with the World Health Organisation Report of 2010 which put the global disability prevalence rate at 15%. Disability is currently recognized as a development concern that require inclusion as noted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); National Development Plan (NDP II) 2015/16 – 2019/20 and; the Social Development Sector Plan (SDSP1) 2015/16 – 2019/20 among others.

Despite the recognition of disability as a development issue, Persons with disabilities are among the most neglected groups in the policy domain as well as in the private sphere. The majority of these face enormous economic, political, and social barriers that have an adverse impact on their physical, social and intellectual development and wellbeing. Many of them do not have access to basic needs such as health services and education, experience multiple deprivations even within their family and are invisible in national policy agenda.

In a bid to protect and promote the rights of the persons with disabilities in Uganda, Government has focused on provision of health services, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), vocational training, universal primary and secondary education and holistic representation as some of the key measures to empower Persons with disabilities.

In the period under review, NCD has registered progress in: increasing awareness of disability rights; support for electoral processes – particularly the disability electoral college; improving disability reporting as well as policy engagement at both national and international levels; monitoring of disability inclusion; advocacy for improv-



ing the administration of special grants; improved engagement and capacity for disability inclusive research for development; improved capacity of District Councils for Disability to manage inclusion and effectively administered NCD business.

As a result of the inadequate financing and other concerns that arose in the period, a number of challenges were noted that circumvented NCD's capacity to deliver on her mandate and these included the following: inadequate staffing; absence of the Disability Management Information System (DMIS) in Uganda; inadequate funding to monitor the special grant and other poverty reduction programmes implemented by government and her partners; inadequate capacity and Knowledge of District Council for Disability (DCD) members and other lower councils; lack of funds to carry out comprehensive voter education for Persons with disabilities; high cost of rent for office premises and; delay to the amendment of the NCD Act hence affecting the effective functioning of the Council.

Sectoral performance towards disability inclusion

Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development developed a Disability friendly action plan ensuring that all the recommendations made on Uganda's initial CRPD report are sustainably implemented.

The Government of Uganda deliver her mandate through eighteen sectors which are: accountability; agriculture; education; energy and mineral development; health; Information Communication Technology (ICT); Justice, law order sector (JLOS); lands, housing and urban development; legislature; public administration; public sector management; security; social development; tourism, trade and industry; water and environment and; works and transport. In the sectoral analysis, the report makes

a description of the sector and the corresponding CDRP articles, policy provisions, CRPD concluding observations, sector performance, gaps and recommendations for disability inclusion. Overall, remarkable achievements have been made in including persons with Disabilities for purposes of inclusive Development.

Up on realisation of what is implemented by different stakeholders, the report made the following recommendation;

1. The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development and Parliament of Uganda to increase the budget allocation for NCD to effectively perform her functions as stipulated in the NCD Act 2003 and to monitor and report on other national laws, policies and programmes as well as the international legal framework that Uganda is a party to.
2. The Parliament of Uganda to amend the Constitution and other laws that still infringe the rights of persons with disabilities. For instance, referring to persons with disabilities with derogatory terms such as lunatic, unsound mind, imbecile among others.
3. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in consultation with the National Council for Disability and other disability actors needs to annually analyse and communicate disability statistics in the annual statistical abstracts for effective disability inclusive programming;
4. The Ministry of Health, Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and Medical Research Centre (MRC) need to consult NCD in the on-going scientific research on nodding disease/ syndrome for documentation of the social and economic aspects of the situation. This will go a long way to understand and address the social nature and needs of persons living with nodding disease/ syndrome;



5. All sectors respect the coordination role of Disability under the NCD, 2003 for improved service delivery.
6. The office of the President to speed up the process of assenting to the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2018 so that the CRPD is domesticated.
7. Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development to revitalize the National Disability steering committee, comprising of MDAs and other institutions to periodically meet and discuss disability-related concerns and matters as they arise
8. All sectors mostly health and Education should consider inclusion of multiple disabilities most especially persons with deaf blindness, cerebral palsy among others.
9. The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to set up a disability fund for mitigating the high costs associated with disability.



CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND ON DISABILITY IN UGANDA

1.1. Introduction

In order to effectively promote the rights of persons with disabilities, government of Uganda established the National Council for Disability (NCD) by an Act of parliament in 2003 (CAP 14). This is an institution mandated to monitor and report on the disability issues in the country. In fulfillment of her mandate, the council has compiled a Disability status report for the fiscal years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 that highlights what the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as other actors have done to promote the national objectives and articles on inclusion and non-discrimination as enshrined in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The report makes a pointer on progress made and gaps towards implementing key provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as national laws, policies and documents that have recommendations in regard to targeted disability inclusion and analysis .

The report is divided into four chapters. The first chapter makes analysis of the current disability situation, legal and policy framework as well as statistics; the second chapter mainly analysing the performance of NCD in regard to delivering her mandate; the third chapter reports on sectoral performance in disability inclusion in terms of programmes, activities and budgets and; the fourth chapter makes recommendations to the various findings.

In the analysis of the different sectors and how they have responded to disability inclusion in the reporting period, emphasis was put on 11 sectors that mainly have empowerment, participation components and those that were highlighted in the CRPD concluding observations and recommendations.

¹ Article 31 (2) of the CRPD states that, 'The information collected in accordance with this article shall be desegregated, as appropriate, and used to help, assess the implementation of state parties' obligations under the present convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.' and s article 31 (3) states that, 'State parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others'

² UBOS (2016) Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2016; UBOS (2016) National Population and Housing Census 2014; UBOS (2011) Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2009/2010 and; UBOS (2006) Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2006 among others.



The end users of the report include: all Ugandans – particularly persons with disabilities, the international community, Ministries, Departments and, Agencies (MDAs), private sector, Civil Society Organisations and, all those that have been pivotal in the design, implementation and reporting on the implementation of disability inclusive programmes.

1.2. About the National Council for Disability

National Council for Disability is a Public Institution established by Act of Parliament - Cap 14 (National Council for Disability Act, 2003) as a monitoring and reporting mechanism on disability issues in Uganda. Section 6 (1) of the NCD Act, 2003 stipulates the functions of NCD as presented in the Text box below

Text box 1: Functions of the National Council for Disability

- a. To act as a body at a national level through which needs, problems, concerns, potentials and abilities of persons with disabilities can be communicated to Government and its agencies for action;
 - b. To monitor and evaluate the extent to which Government, NGOs and the private sector include and meet the needs of persons with disabilities in their planning and service delivery;
 - c. To act as a coordinating body between Government departments, other service providers and persons with disabilities
 - d. To solicit for and acquire funds and other resources from government and other donors for use in the performance of the Council's function;
 - e. To advocate for the promotion of and encourage activities undertaken by institutions, organisations and individuals for the promotion and development of programmes and projects designed to improve the lives and situation of Persons with Disabilities;
 - f. To Carry out or commission surveys and investigations in matters or incidents relating – (i) to violation of rights of Persons with Disabilities, (ii) Non-compliance with programmes, policies or laws relating to disabilities; and take appropriate action in relation there to or refer the matter to the relevant authority;
 - g. To hold annual general meetings of representatives from lower councils for persons with disabilities for the purpose of reviewing the council's performance and also plan for subsequent years;
 - h. To consider and recommend ways and means of controlling the unnecessary increase of disability in Uganda;
 - i. To assist the Electoral Commission to ensure the conducting of free and fair elections of representatives of persons with disabilities to Parliament and Local Government Councils;
 - j. To identify and give guidelines to organisations working for persons with disabilities and;
 - k. To perform any other functions relating to the above as the minister may determine.
2. For the purpose of carrying out its functions under paragraph (f) of subsection (1) the council shall have powers to call witnesses and demand the production of documents that it may require. Source: National Council for Disability Act 2003 (Pages 4-5)

³ The key MDAs and Civil Society organisations here may include: government ministries and institutions, civil society organisations/ non-government organisations, organisations of Persons with disabilities and, development partners among others.



NCD has national, District and Sub-county structures as provided for in the Act. At the national level, the Act provides for a National Executive of 22 members appointed by the Minister responsible for Disability Affairs in consultations with organisations of persons with Disabilities and the eight ministries of Local government; Finance planning and economic development, Health, Education and Sports, Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Gender Labour and Social Development, Public Service, Housing and Urban Planning; 2 persons with disabilities (1 male and 1 female) from each of the 4 regions of Uganda; 1 parent of a child with disability; 1 professional and experienced person in the field of disability; 1 youth with disability; 1 representative of the Federation of Uganda Employers; 1 representative of Non-Governmental Organisations working with persons with disabilities and; 1 member of parliament. The members are further allocated committees to deliver on. Similar compositions and functions are replicated in the District and Sub County councils for Disabilities.

1.3. Methodology

This report was mainly compiled through a desk review of existing documents related to disability inclusion. Related literature in form of reports, articles and budgets were reviewed to understand the contextual framework of existing disability inclusion endeavors and opportunities in different sectors. In so doing, the use of: annual performance reports, ministerial policy statements, budget framework papers and, related reports were visited.

A validation workshop was organised where participants from the various MDAs and other non-governmental institutions provided information to enrich the report.

1.4. Overview of Disability in Uganda

History of disability in Uganda

The understanding and implications of disability in the world and Uganda in particular is as old as humanity. Responding to programming for persons with disabilities in Uganda predates the colonial times (before 1962) where special services and units were created to take care of persons with disabilities – in secluded places (Ndezi,

2004). This approach was based on both the medical and philanthropic model. Probably the first documented response to disability was the enactment of the Uganda Foundation for the Blind (UFB) Act (1954) which opened sustained advocacy for disability rights based on a specific impairment (blindness).



Text box 2: Section 2(1) of the UFB Act (1954)

2. Establishment of trust.

(1) There is established a trust to be known as the Uganda Foundation for the Blind for the purpose of administering the trust property in such manner as to make provision for the promotion of the welfare, education, training and employment of blind persons (including persons who are totally or partially blind, or who are intermittently deprived of sight or who are threatened with blindness) and for the prevention and alleviation of blindness.

The services provided emphasized separation of persons with disabilities from the communities and were seen as preserve for charity endeavours. This scenario obscured and isolated disability issues from the society's main concerns, divided persons with disabilities along largely medical lines, created dependency on institutions; stifled individual initiatives, stifled the morale, self-esteem and confidence amongst persons with disabilities. The establishment of rehabilitation centres in Mbarara, Jinja, Rweza and Kireka for both sheltered employment and training as a response then gave birth to the establishment of associations that would later spur the rights of persons with disabilities. 1987 saw the formation of the first national umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities – National Union of Disabled persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) and this has grown into a strong national advocacy and implementing institution in Uganda.

It was not until 1994 through the constitutional making process that disability was first recognised and rightly catered for in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. This was later followed by the enactment of the NCD Act (2003), National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006) and, the persons with disabilities Act (2006) strengthened by the ratification of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) in 2008.

Currently, the states and other actors are jointly working towards reforming perceptions, participation of persons with disabilities and ultimately including disability in their programmes – right from design. For some, it means a paradigm shift from the charity models to the Rights based models and the principles thereof as documented in the Human Rights Based Approaches.

Defining Disability in Uganda

The persons with disabilities Act (2006) define disability as, '*a substantial functional limitation of daily life activities caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment and environment barriers resulting in limited participation*'. Similarly, the National Council for Disability Act (2003) states that, "*Disability*" means *substantial functional limitation of daily life activities of an individual caused by physical, sensory or mental impairment and environmental barriers*'

Whereas the definitions above make consideration for the resultant limited participation; a unifying definition for disability (although not fully domesticated in Ugandan laws) is one provided for by the CRPD and adopted by the UFDS (2017)



The UFDS 2017 report adopts the CRPD definition of disability as stated in the text box 3.

Text box 3: Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others' UNCRPD 2007, Article 1 (page 4)

The categorization of disability in Uganda is enshrined in schedule B of the NCD (amendment) Act (2013) provides for disability codings to include: sensory disabilities – Deaf with speech, Deaf without speech, Deaf-blind, Hard of hearing, total blindness and, low vision (nose readers); physical disabilities – amputations, one-arm, both arms, one leg and, both legs; Deformities – lower limb, upper limbs, shoulders, forearm and hand, club feet, spina bifida, spinal code injuries, rheumatism , little persons and persons living with albinism. However, there are concerns on certain impairments that are not yet considered in the disability coding particularly mental and psychosocial disabilities and vitiligo among others.

1.5. Disability demographic information in Uganda

In Uganda, UBOS 2016 report indicated that 12.4% of the Ugandan population lives with some form of disability and malaria is one of the leading causes of disability in Uganda, particularly among children (accounting for 32%). The UFDS, 2018 further noted that Disability is a development concern. This nearly correlated with the World Health Organization Report of 2010 which put the global disability prevalence rate at 15%.

Uganda has had six censuses since 1948. The 1991 census was the first attempt at collecting national-level disability data. The 2002 and 2014 National Population and Housing Censuses (NPHCs) included questions on disability based on, the International Classification of Functioning, Health and

Disability (ICF) and the Washington Group short questions respectively. Additionally, statistics on disability have also been sourced from official data: other UBOS surveys; education statistical abstracts, Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) of the Ministry of Health; operational data of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD); National Council for Disability (NCD) researches; Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)- Directorate of Refugees; Equal Opportunities Commission (EoC); Electoral Commission, reports of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and; specific programme reports of development partners, CSOs/NGOs and OPDs.

Between 2014 and 2017, there has been a



dilemma in understanding the national disability prevalence. 12.4%, 18.7 and 13.5% are all statistics that relate to disability in Uganda and authored by the same institution – Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). The prevalence of disability is higher in urban areas (15%) compared to rural

areas (12%).

Overall, for the population aged 2 years and above the disability prevalence rate was 12.4 percent while the equivalent for 5 years and above was close to 14 percent' (UBOS, 2016, page 221)

⁵Government of Uganda (2016): National Population and Housing Census Report 2014, Kampala, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (<http://www.ubos.org>)

Disability prevalence rate for persons aged 2 years and above 13.5% (UBOS, 2018, page 72)

The Disability prevalence by district count and difficulty count-off is 18.7% (UBOS, 2016, page 80-833). Details of this can be found in Annex 1 herein.

The national agreeable statistics therefore used for the purposes of this reporting period is 12.4%. Of these, 49.26% and 50.74% are males and females and; the overall national population aged 2 years and above. The census estimates that the highest forms of disability are: difficulty seeing (6.5% of the population), difficulty remembering (5.4%); difficulty walking (4.5%); and difficulty hearing (3.1%).

It should be noted that statistics are an imperative aspect in influencing the policy and legislative framework of a given phenomenon and disability is not exceptional and homogeneous. It should be noted that UBOS statistics on disability have left out children with disabilities below the age of two years hence affecting planning for early interventions needs⁴.

The government of Uganda has endeavored to respond to the concluding observations On CRPD by conducting a Uganda functional Difficulty survey in 2017 to avail data on Disability for proper planning, implementation and reporting.

Children and young persons with disabilities

In Uganda, the population of children with disabilities is estimated at a prevalence of about 13%, i.e. approximately 2.5 million children live with some form of disability in Uganda (UNICEF, 2014). The National Population and Housing census data shows that, 605,380 (304,270 males and, 301,110 females) were persons with disabilities aged between 6-12 years and rightly contributing to the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in primary education.

While, the proportion of children with disabilities in pre-primary, primary and secondary school is very low: about 9 per cent of who attend school, only 6 % of them complete primary school and transition to post primary education.

² Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2018). Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey 2017. Kampala, Uganda.

³ Government of Uganda (2016): National Population and Housing Census Report 2014, Kampala, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (<http://www.ubos.org>)

⁴ McDaid, D., Oliver, A. and Merkur, S. (2014) What do we know about the strengths and weakness of different policy mechanisms to influence health behaviour in the population? World Health Organisation-Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen.



Children with Disabilities are not adequately attending school due to inadequate financial resources provided to responsible institutions at national and local level, insufficiently trained staff in health centers, hospitals and schools to work with Children with disabilities, lack of educational facilities for Children with disabilities (especially at early childhood and secondary level), low quality of health and (re)habilitation services dedicated to children with disabilities, inaccessibility of the physical environment (e.g. disability-unfriendly classrooms and latrines) and of communication and information means (e.g. Lack sign language and Braille) as well as a shortage and unaffordability of assistive and mobility devices (UNICEF, 2016:p9).

Women with disabilities

Uganda Population and Housing Census 2014 showed that disability was more prevalent amongst women (15 per cent) than men (10 per cent); higher in rural areas (15 per cent) than in urban areas (12 per cent). Women with disabilities experience the combined disadvantages associated with gender, and disability – such as sexual and gender-based violence, limited access to education opportunities, limited productive economic opportunities, lower incomes and poverty (NPA, 2018).

Global data show that the employment rate for women with disabilities is considerably lower than for women without disabilities (20% versus 30%), and there is a similar gap in the rate for men (53% versus 65%) (Global Disability Summit Report, 2018). Women and girls with disabilities face double discrimination and are at higher risk of abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation (SDSP, 2015/16 -2019/20).

Girls and young women with disabilities have limited knowledge about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and limited access to services. Girls and young women with disabilities are not seen as needing information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights or capable of making their own decisions about their sexual and reproductive live (UNFPA, 2018).



Older persons with Disabilities

Older persons are defined by the United Nations as those aged 60 years and above. Disability in Uganda is proportionally more prevalent in the older population. Older people are more prone to **detrimental health conditions** such as hearing loss, disabilities, diabetes, depression and other health challenges. (<http://theconversation.com/why-older-people-in-uganda-struggle-to-access-health-care-85127>).



In all societies, the prevalence of disability increases as people get aged, 60 years and above, 29 per cent experience a severe disability, a significant proportion. But, even among those aged between 30 and 50 years, 8 per cent report being severely disabled (Development Pathways, 2018). In Uganda, older persons with disabilities (65 years and above) constitute 2.1% of the population (NPA, 2018: unpublished information)

Among all older persons, the prevalence of disability is highest among women, majority are 80 years and above, rural residents, those living alone, and those widowed. In addition, disability is highest among those who depended on remittances, learnt technical skill, and did not own a bicycle, and reported illness and a Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, stroke, arthritis, and heart disease (Wandare, 2014).

Disability and ethnic minorities

Evidence from UN agencies shows that ethnic minority groups are scattered across Uganda, but are specifically found as follows: in the north – Alur, Ik (Teuso), Kakwa, Karamojong cluster, Lugbara, Luluba, Ma'di, Nubian; in the east – Bagungu, Bakenyi, Bavuma, Ik (Teuso), Soo; and in the west – Abayanda (Batwa), Ba'amba, Bakonzo. Since more than three-quarters of Uganda's population live in rural areas, most of Uganda's minorities lead a rural existence; however, even within this rural context, minorities are often the most disadvantaged.

Ethnic minority, women and Persons with Disabilities tend to suffer double discrimination; marginalized and limited access to property rights or, if they do, they rarely inherit. Many are never included in roles of political leadership, both in ethnic minorities' socio-political structures and in structures composed by the state.

However, there is limited research on persons among ethnic minority groups in Uganda. Persons with Disabilities from ethnic minority communities suffer double discrimination and excluded from decision making, hence their interests are limitedly accorded priority even in the national policies and programmes. Ethnic minority groups do not consider women and Persons with Disabilities in resource ownership and always expect only men to voice their concerns. This is aggravated by low levels of literacy and education among Persons with Disabilities.



Disability and refugees

There is scanty information on refugees with disabilities in Uganda. The UNHCR Report (2016) estimates that: 3.5 million refugees and internally displaced people are living with a disability world-wide and; 40–70% of refugee populations in conflict settings experience depression and post-traumatic stress disorder which if not provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) may result into disabilities. Similarly, the World Health Organisation (2014) estimates that armed conflict will be the eighth most common cause of disability world-wide by 2020.

The common practice in refugee response agencies is blanketing persons with disabilities as Persons with Special Needs (PSNs). Persons with Special Needs are defined by UNHCR to include: girls and boys at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, persons with serious health conditions, persons with special legal or physical protection needs, single women, women-headed households, older persons and persons with disabilities, and persons with a diverse sexual orientation or gender identity. Blanketing disability makes it hard for programming for specific needs that lead to inclusion.

Uganda faces obstacles to adequately supporting persons with disabilities in emergencies and addressing the many barriers to participation that they continue to face. This challenge is magnified for refugees, whom we found to be generally poorer and more socially isolated than their local counterparts. Those in the refugee settlements were also geographically remote from many important services, such as inclusive education and rehabilitation centres. The physical layout of refugee settlements and even urban areas presents an obstacle to many refugees with disabilities, affecting their mobility. A lack of suitable transport and assistive devices exacerbates this. Such obstacles have an impact on many areas of life, including access to employment, education, health care, protection, food, water and social participation (Crock & Smith-Khan, 2013).

It is important to programme for disability exclusively in disaster and refugee settings (camps and settlements) because:

- ▶ persons with disabilities are often invisible and excluded from accessing emergency support and essential services such as food distribution medical care, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities;
- ▶ information on disaster preparedness is often not in accessible formats so persons with disabilities are less aware and prepared for a disaster;
- ▶ Environmental, social and attitudinal barriers result in requirements of the 15% of the world's population with a disability

not being met within disaster management responses. It is therefore crucial that disability inclusion in all phases of disaster management occurs so as to ensure the full and equal fulfillment of human rights of Persons with disabilities;

- ▶ Disability inclusion in emergency management reduces morbidity and mortality. The rate of disability increases during an emergency due to direct trauma, illness from poor living conditions, the breakdown of health services and lack of rehabilitation and an increase in psychological stress and;



The CRPD requires that disaster preparedness and response are inclusive of, and accessible to people with a disability. In particular, Article 11 and 32 highlight the importance of disability inclusive disaster management through international cooperation. It should be noted that Uganda and its development partners are including Disability in their programmes most especially through setting strategies for including disability and provision of affirmative Action to refugees with Disabilities.

Disability Inclusive Development

Globally, the year 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of CRPD which continues to play a critical role in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their perspectives in the global agenda.

Government is mandated to promote and protect the rights of Persons with disabilities and the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) stipulates the need to empower and provide equal opportunities to all including Persons with disabilities (Article 32). Government has focused on provision of health services, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), vocational training, universal primary and secondary education and holistic representation as some of the key measures to empower Persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities have the same rights as all other people as indicated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and as such, they should therefore benefit from all development programmes and activities on an equal basis. However, Persons with disabilities and the programming thereof are hardly prioritised in society. They receive less education, skills training and medical attention, which reduces their employment opportunities and may result in secondary disabilities and sometimes early death. Consequently, this discrimination and neglect increases their vulnerability to perpetual poverty, erodes their self-esteem and ability to articulate their needs⁵.

Chambers (1983) outlines what he calls the 'deprivation trap' in which five 'clusters of disadvantages' interact with each other to trap people in a situation of disadvantage. One of the five clusters is poverty and it is used in the narrow sense of lack of assets. The others are powerlessness, physical weakness, isolation and vulnerability, which are the wider dimensions of poverty. The deprivation trap is a reality in the situation of Persons with disabilities. With poverty, Persons with disabilities are deprived of normal social, physical and cognitive development; the lack of rehabilitation, assistive devices and the necessary environmental modifications lead to exclusion in education, health, and employment intensify poverty, worsen vulnerability (WHO 2011, Scaebønes, 2015) and; exclusion and marginalisation reduces the opportunities for Persons with disabilities to productively contribute to the household and community development, which increase the risk of falling into poverty (Elwan, 1999). In Uganda, 90% of persons with Disabilities are below the poverty line compare to 57% in the general population (World Bank factsheet, 2016).

⁵ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> (retrieved on 5th March 2019)



The vital needs of the persons with disabilities are; rehabilitation, provision of assistive devices, skills training (to maximize use of remnant abilities) and elimination of barriers among which are attitudes (both from them and the people they interact with), architectural challenges (steps, narrow entrances and lack of squatting rails/frames) communication (lack of Braille, sign language and communication charts) among others.

Inclusion of Persons with disabilities can only be attained with empowerment and elimination of such barriers (WHO, 2016).

To eliminate the barriers above, Inclusion of disability issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important effort for the international community, Governments, UN agencies and civil society. Therefore, disability and persons with disabilities are referred to 11 times in Agenda 2030. The CRPD should be translated into concrete actions and measures for accessible social development policies and practices. The Convention also helps to advance the rights of marginalised persons with disabilities. Envision 2030, a campaign launched in March 2016, aims to engage all stakeholders in considering how the 17 SDGs can be achieved for persons with disabilities by 2030. It promotes the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of Agenda 2030 throughout its 15-year lifespan.

Disability is referenced in multiple parts of the SDGs, specifically in the parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and the monitoring of the SDGs. Although, the word “disability” is not cited directly in all goals, the goals are indeed relevant to ensure the inclusion and development of persons with disabilities.

Today, sustainable development is considered to be growth which is both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today’s population and to continue meeting the needs of future generations (World Bank,2013). The thinking greatly influenced the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some of the emerging issues in disability in Uganda during the reporting period relate to:

- ▶ Non -inclusion of certain persons such as: persons living with vitiligo, persons with mental and psychosocial conditions and nodding syndrome among others.
- ▶ The emergence and ongoing scientific research on nodding disease/ syndrome has not included the social sector players and hence the failure to document the social and economic aspects of the situation leaves a lot to be desired in addressing the needs of persons suffering from nodding disease.
- ▶ Inclusion of persons with multiple dis-

abilities (Deaf-blind, cerebral palsy) in education, health and rehabilitation is an issue that require argent attention if Uganda is to achieve the 2030 development agenda.

- ▶ Inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes is still minimal; this has affected effective participation and representation of persons with disabilities in political space. For instance the challenges related to formation of electoral collages for persons with disabilities limits the number of persons with disabilities that elect their representatives.



Disability is a changing phenomenon that needs to be looked at with the current development trends. In all these processes, government of Uganda and her partners are taking a centre stage in ensuring that there is inclusion of persons with disabilities in development and in all programmes.

1.6. Disability and funding

The disability specific funding in Uganda is mainly in Health, Education and social development sectors and other sectors have limitedly planned for disability inclusion in their plans. This led to the formulation of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 to mainstream gender and equity in all ministries, departments and agencies.

The adoption of UNCRPD and the SDGS by the UN member states has encouraged several donor agencies to contribute funding towards Disability inclusion to Uganda government, these include; the DFID/UKAID granting, the Comic Relief and Big Lottery Fund – East Africa Disability Fund (EADF), Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA), UN agencies mainly UNICEF, World Health Organization, UN WOMEN and UN Human Rights among others have made hefty investments in disability programmes. There are some donors who are specifically funding disability that include; Abilis Foundation, Disability Rights Fund, Sightsavers; Sev-Source, NAD, DHF among others.

1.7. Disability planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Uganda has a number of institutions and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating her performance in regard to disability. The establishment, mandate and work of the NCD, EoC, UHRC, Inspectorate of Government and the department of Disability and Elderly affairs in the MGLSD are rich avenues for Coordinating, monitoring and reporting on disability issues. These institutions are mandated to generate annual reports and share with relevant authorities including parliament, Ministries, Departments and Agencies; and the general public among others for further Action.

Similarly, the UBOS has undertaken a number of studies in relation to disability and the situation thereof. The UBOS studies provide a planning benchmark for all actors to monitor and evaluate disability programmes.

However, Uganda has limited analysis of desegregated data on disability for monitoring and evaluating of disability inclusive interventions. The Uganda Demographic and Health Surveys (UDHS) has been used as an avenue through which data on disability can be improved especially with the recent inclusion of the Washington Group's Short Set of six questions on disability (Madans, Loeb & Altman 2011; Uganda Bureau of Statistics and ICF International 2012:7). The inclusion of disability question in the 2011 UDHS provided opportunities for improved good data collection and more regular reporting which makes benchmarking disability progress possible. In 2014, UBOS conducted a population census which incorporated disability specific questions that were derived from the Washington group set of questions to determine the population of Persons with Disabilities for Effective planning. This further led to the Uganda Functional Difficulties survey of 2017 to bridge the gaps identified during the 2014 population census.



1.8. Policy and legislative framework

Uganda has a rich policy and legislative framework for disability and inclusion thereof. This has undergone transition over the years to be responsive to the development trends of the time. The policy and legislative framework on disability in Uganda predates the colonial times where services for persons with disabilities were institutionalized in order to provide for specific needs as deemed relevant at the time.

Uganda's current disability policy and legislative framework takes cognizance of ratified conventions, regional treaties, laws, policies, regulations, guidelines and executive directives (presidential manifestos) which are all under the guidance of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) as well as the National Policy on Disability (2006).

The sections herein below make an analysis of some of the disability policy and legislative framework as applied in Uganda.

1.8.1. National laws and policies in Uganda

Uganda has enacted a number of laws and policies that are supporting disability inclusion in development agenda as follows;

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995): This is the supreme national instrument providing for the rights of persons with disabilities in Uganda. The following are some of the sections/articles of the Constitution, which make the case for promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- ▶ **Objective vi:** The State shall ensure gender balance and fair representation of marginalised groups on all constitutional and other bodies;
- ▶ **Objective xvi:** The State and society shall recognise the rights of persons with disabilities to respect and human dignity;
- ▶ **Objective xxiv:** The state shall promote the development of sign language for the deaf;
- ▶ **Article 21(1):** All persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic and social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law;
- ▶ **Article 21(2): A person shall not be discriminated** against on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion or social economic standing, political opinion or disability;
- ▶ **Article 32(1):** The state shall take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalised on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reasons created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of addressing imbalances which exist against them.
- ▶ **Article 35 (1):** Persons with disabilities have a right to respect and human dignity and the state and society shall take appropriate measures to ensure they realize their full mental and physical potential;
- ▶ **Article 35(2)** Parliament shall enact laws appropriate for the protection of Persons with Disabilities.



Uganda in line with its 1995 Constitutional obligation of respecting dignity and rights of Persons with disabilities enacted several disability friendly laws⁶. However, these laws have not been fully translated into practical outcomes towards persons with disabilities. This has been partly due to inadequate disability specific statistics and regulations to make them operational. Such laws geared towards promotion and protection of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in Uganda include National Council on Disability Act 2003 as amended; the Disability Act of 2006; the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2006 and Local Government Act 1997 among others. In addition, the Children's Statute 1996 as amended also provide for rights of persons with disabilities in Uganda. Other laws and policies that provide for disability reporting, rights and inclusion include among others:

Table 1: Laws and their relation to disability in Uganda

No	Law	Relation to disability
1	The Building Control Act, 2013;	<p>Sections: 2,4(e), 4(h), 9(b), 28(2, j), 28(4, c), 29(c) and, 40(b)</p> <p>The Act defines "accessibility standards" as a practical guide to create a barrier-free physical environment in Uganda for all persons including persons with disabilities;</p> <p>Provides for a representation of persons with disabilities on the board as nominated by NCD and one of the functions of the board is to: to ensure that the design and construction of buildings and utilities to which the public is to have access cater for persons with disabilities.</p>
2	The Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) Act, No. 12, 2008;	<p>Sections: 4(h) and 16(e)</p> <p>One of the BTJET principles is to increase equitable access to disadvantaged groups such as women and people with disabilities and; there is a representative for persons with disabilities on the Directorate of Industrial Training council.</p>
3	The children's act and statute 1996 (amendment 2016);	<p>Section 2: Amendment of section 1 of the principal Act</p> <p>Defines 'children with special needs' to mean children who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (the definition of disability in the Persons with Disabilities Act – 2006)</p>

⁶ Objective IV and XXIV; articles 21 (2), 30, 32(1), 35(1), 59(4) and, 78(1)



4	The copyright and other neighboring rights Act, 2006;	<p>Sections: 2, 9(i) and 15(k)</p> <p>The Act defines 'Braille' as means writing of the blind consisting of raised dots which are read by touching;</p> <p>Allows the owner of a protected work in relation to that work, the exclusive right to do or authorize other persons to among others to reproduce transcription into braille which is accessible to blind persons and;</p> <p>Provides for fair use of copyright and exempts copyright on: any work is transcribed into braille or sign language for educational purpose of persons with disabilities.</p>
5	The land Act, 1998;	<p>Sections: 1, 5(1), 27 and, 37(2).</p> <p>Reiterates the rights of women, children and persons with a disability regarding customary land; safeguards the interests and rights in the land which is the subject of the application of women, absent persons, minors and persons with or under a disability.</p>
7	The local government Act 1997 (amendments 2001 and 2013);	<p>Sections: 10(d), 23(1[d], 2[c], 3[c], 4[c], 5[c]), 47(2[j]), 118(2), 129(1&3).</p> <p>Provides for the election of representatives of persons with disabilities in local government councils and urban councils and, the processes thereof.</p>
8	The Parliamentary elections Act 1996; as amended	<p>Sections: 37, 7(3) and, 8(2[d])</p> <p>Provides for the election of representatives of persons with disabilities in the national parliament and, the processes thereof.</p>
9	The penal code Act, 2007;	<p>Sections: 129(4[d],7)</p> <p>Prohibits and increases penalty for rape and/or defilement of persons with disabilities</p>



10	The Public Finance Management Act, 2015;	<p>Sections: 9(6[b]), 13(11[e,g])</p> <p>The Public Finance Management Act, 2015; articulates provisions that relate to the implementation of Gender and Equity Certificate and these are; i. Section 9 (6)(a) and (b) states that, the Minister shall, in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission, issue a certificate; certifying that the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) is gender and equity responsive; and specifying measures taken to equalize opportunities for women, men, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. ii. Section 13 (11) (e) (i) and (ii), states that a certificate shall be issued by the Minister responsible for Finance in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission certifying that the budget is gender and equity responsive; and specifying the measures taken to equalize opportunities for men, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups iii. Section 13 (15) (g) (i) & (ii) states that a certificate shall be issued by the Minister responsible for Finance in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission; (i) certifying that the policy statement is gender and equity responsive; and (ii) specifying measures taken to equalize opportunities for men, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.</p>
11	The Traffic and road safety Act, 1998 (with amendments 2013);	<p>Sections: 41(3) and, 131 (o)</p> <p>Provides for equal opportunities in acquiring driving permits and; makes provision for ensuring adequate safety for cyclists, pedestrians and persons with inability and disability on the road and, in particular, the provision of rack or rump for storage of support equipment used by persons with a disability.</p>
12	The Uganda Communications Act, 2013;	<p>Sections: 5(l) and, 9(3)</p> <p>One of the functions of the commission is to,</p> <p><i>promote research into the development and use of new communications techniques and technologies, including those which promote accessibility of persons with disability and other members of society to communications services</i></p>
13	The Uganda National Institute of Special Education (UNISE) Act 1998;	Provides for training of teachers and other workers in Special Needs Education and rehabilitation



14	The universities and other tertiary institutions Act, 2001	Sections: 7(1[i]), 24(1[b]), 28(3), 38(r) Makes consideration for affirmative action (including disability) in admission and, provides for membership on the public university councils to comprise representatives of persons with disabilities.
15	Employment Act, 2006	section 34 of the Employment Act 2006 requires all employers protect the special categories of employees. Employees that fall under these special categories include ethnic minorities, children, women and Persons with Disabilities.

Just as the legislations, there are quite a number of policies and related policy guidelines that support interventions for persons with disabilities in Uganda. These among others include: the OVC Policy – 2015, the National Policy on Disability in Uganda – 2006, the Disability guidelines 2012 and the Alternative care framework, The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, 2016. The additional policies that directly and/or indirectly address the disability cause include the following although the list is not exhaustive:

Table 2: Policies and their relation to disability in Uganda

No	Policy	Relation to disability
1	The National Integrated Early Childhood Development (NIECD) Policy (2016)	Sections: 2.2.3, 5.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.5, 7.1.7, 7.1.29, 7.1.30, Makes analysis on children with disabilities; in her principles recommends context specific (including disability) interventions; recognises the role of NCD as an advocate and resource mobiliser for the NIECD policy and harnesses the roles of other actors in disability detection, prevention and management among others.
2	A Guide for Interpreting and Applying National Quality Standards for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda 2007	The document defines vulnerability and children with disabilities as vulnerable children
3	National Action Plan for Children with Disabilities in Uganda 2015/16 – 2019/20	The document provides for costed actions to improve the situation of children with disabilities in Uganda



4	National Development Plan II	The plan recognises disability and makes recommendations in the social development, education and health sector for improving the situation of persons with disabilities, education and training and, prevention and management of disabilities respectively.
5	National Employment policy, 2011	Defines and provides for persons with disabilities and, promotes equal opportunities in employment for persons with disabilities,
6	National Functional Adult Literacy policy, 2015	The policy among other promotes adult learning for persons with disabilities
7	National Health policy 2010/2020	Recognises the barriers to access to health services for persons with disabilities and makes recommendations to address such barriers
8	National Social Protection Policy Framework for Uganda – 2014	Recognises the reciprocal nature of disability in poverty perpetuation and recommends social care for persons with disabilities
9	National Social Protection policy, 2015	Recognises the reciprocal nature of disability in poverty perpetuation and recommends social care for persons with disabilities



10	NRM-O Presidential 2016	<p>The NRM presidential manifesto 2016 is the national guiding political policy. It recognises that disability undermines productive capacity of an individual, limits their ability to access services and is associated with additional costs such as increased need for private transport, medical care, assistive devices, rehabilitation services, personal care and support.</p> <p>The manifesto proposes to: progressively revamp four regional institutions for persons with disabilities – Salama Primary School, Mbale SS, Wakiso SS and Lalo Primary School and also introduce marketable courses for them; continue promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through mobilising resources for the special grant for persons with disabilities and community-based activities for their empowerment to participate in development on equal basis with others; operationalize the National Inclusive Education Policy to improve accessibility, retention and completion rates of children with disabilities in education; progressively provide for persons with disabilities components and slots in all programmes; continue advocacy and awareness to promote employment of persons with disabilities, in line with the legal and regulatory frameworks; enhance implementation of the law on access to buildings for persons with disabilities and; train health workers in special needs courses to enhance their capacity to serve persons with disabilities.</p>
11	The Alternative Care Framework, Uganda	Provides for care nature and alternatives to institutionalized care for all children
12	The National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, 2015	Recognises the relationship between early marriage and teenage pregnancy and disability. Recommends interventions to abate aggravated defilement – including defilement of children with disabilities
13	The Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) Policy 2004	The policy among others targets children with disabilities
14	Uganda – Guidelines on Disability 2012	The guidelines support a framework-based intervention approach for disability in Uganda



15	WHO - International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health 2001	Provides for the definition, description and analysis of disabilities and a basis for national disability coding
16	National Disability Inclusive Planning Guidelines, 2017	The guidelines provide for principles and approaches for planning for disability in an inclusive manner
14	The universal primary education policy, 1997;	Provides for education of children with emphasis on children with disabilities
	Vision 2040: Five-Year National Development Plan. There will be six NDPs, to cover the 30-year duration of Vision 2040. Human Rights Based approach and Support for vulnerable groups.	The NDP II commits to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. • Design implement and follow up the integration of human rights and disability responsive policies (in the health sector). • To build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive, and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. • Most targets are phrased as "for all", which could by inference mean, targets will reach persons with disabilities as well. However, in the absence of quotas, there is a risk of exclusion
	The 2015 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Policy	The policy aims to (i) provide an enabling environment through a policy, legal, and institutional coordination framework; (ii) promote research, product/process development, innovation, value addition, and appropriate technologies including ICT; (iii) promote product and service standards for quality assurance; (iv) support access to markets and business information services; (v) increase access to credit and financial services; (vi) enhance capacity building entrepreneurship, vocational, business, and industrial development skills, and (vii) enhance gender equity, inclusiveness, and environmentally friendly businesses for sustainable development.

The newly developed legal and policy frameworks indicated in the table above responds to the concluding observation given to Uganda by the UN committee of experts by use of a systematic approach to include children, women and girls with Disabilities in Development.



1.8.2. Regional legal and policy framework;

Protocol to the African charter on Human and Peoples rights on the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa, 2018

The purpose of this Protocol is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human and people's rights by all persons with disabilities, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity.

Article 4 General Obligations: States Parties shall take appropriate and effective measures, including policy, legislative, administrative, institutional and budgetary steps, to ensure, respect, promote, protect and fulfill the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, without discrimination on the basis of disability

Article 18 (4) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 27 June 1981 provides that persons with disabilities shall have the right to special measures of protection in keeping with their physical or moral needs.

The African Charter on Human and People's Rights, 2012:

The East African policy on Persons with disabilities, 2012; the policy will promote a framework for ; enhancing the recognition of the roles, contributions and potentials of PWDs in the development process; Strengthening/developing the informal and formal community based support systems and actions for PWDs; Recognizing that disability is not inability and providing special safety nets for PWDs ; Ensuring and improving access to rehabilitation, education, training and community sports; Guiding, coordinating and harmonizing interventions for PWD's by stakeholders; Promoting and protecting disability rights as human rights; Promoting research on issues of PWD's; Promoting the self-representation of people with disabilities in all public decision - making structures.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 2002:

The African charter stipulates that; State Parties to the present Charter shall ensure, subject to available resources, to a disabled child and to those responsible for his care, assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and in particular shall ensure that the disabled child has effective access to training, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child achieving

the fullest possible social integration, individual development and his/her cultural and moral development. The State Parties to the present Charter shall use their available resources with a view to achieving progressively the full convenience of the mentally and physically disabled person to movement and access to public highway buildings and other places to which the disabled may legitimately want to have access to.



The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol 1998)

The protocol emphasizes protection of rights on all vulnerable persons including persons with disabilities. For persons with disabilities to benefit from the laws and policies highlighted above, there is need for disaggregated statistical inferences to refer on for better planning and budgeting that is inclusive of all Ugandans.

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007)

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007), Article 31 (1) explicitly calls upon state parties to promote the participation of social groups with special needs including persons with disabilities in the governance process.

The East African Community Policy on Disability (2012)

The policy framework is to protect the rights of persons with Disabilities and under section 6.6 (vii) of the policy calls upon state parties to ensure that persons with disabilities effectively and fully participate in political and public life.

1.8.3. International policy and legal framework

Uganda's development trajectory is not devoid of the global policy and development agenda and therefore, the local policy and legislative framework is guided by the international conventions that she has ratifies in relation to disability. There are a number of conventions and treaties that entitle Persons with disabilities to fundamental Human Rights and freedoms. The following treaties have provisions of particular importance in the context of disability in Uganda.

Uganda ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its optional protocol on 28 September 2008. The state party (Uganda) is required to implement, monitor and report on the progress of implementation of the CRPD. Uganda submitted its first initial stated report in 2013, the report was reviewed by the UN committee of experts in 2016 and the committee made concluding observations and recommendations. Some of the concluding observations and recommendations are:

“60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including refugees.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data about persons with disabilities and the barriers they face;

(b) Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.”



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948

Article one of the declaration provides that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights are endowed with all reasons and conscience act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Article two of the declaration further noted that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion or other opinion, nationality or social origin, property, birth or other status. This provides an important basis to protect rights of persons with disabilities.

International Covenant on Economic, social and cultural Rights, 1966

The covenant provides general obligation on states to ensure enjoyment of the rights under the covenant without discrimination. Article 2 of the covenant provides that economic, social and cultural rights are enjoyed by all persons without discrimination of any kind including Disability.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1990

There are two articles, in particular mentioning children with disabilities visible and place explicit obligations on States to introduce measures to promote inclusion and freedom from discrimination. These include;

Article 2 states that no child should encounter discrimination on the grounds of 'race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status' (author's highlight). The CRC was the first human rights treaty to include disability as a ground for protection from discrimination. It therefore broke new ground, establishing the right to protection, and

imposing obligations on States to take all necessary measures to ensure that protection for all children with disabilities.

Article 23 is a provision dedicated to children with disabilities and emphasises their right to a 'full and decent life in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community'. It imposes obligations on States to provide special care and assistance to enable the child to achieve the 'fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her spiritual or cultural development'.

The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against women, 1979

CEDAW defines discrimination as 'any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field'. The emphasis of the Convention is three-fold: civil rights and the legal status of women and girls; sexual and reproductive rights; and the impact of cultural factors on gender dynamics and relations.



Article 15 of the convention obliges state parties to ensure equality in respect of legal capacity and therefore necessitates that States remove any differentiation in legislation, policy or treatment between boys and girls, including those with disabilities, in respect of capacity.

The Government of Uganda also works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a global development framework for countries in order to eradicate the worst forms of suffering. The slogan of the SDGs of 'Leaving no one behind' directly borrowed from the global disability slogan of "Nothing for us without us" and this thrives to foster development regardless of the demographic cohorts. SDGs specifically 1, 2,4,8,11,16 and 17 have targets and indicators that directly respond to the disability cause.

Uganda's development framework is gradually being aligned to the SDG framework, which is already shaping policies that are under revision or design; and will inform the third and subsequent National Development Plans. Disability is inherent in the SDG and is referenced in various parts of the agenda- specifically related to education, growth and employment, gender equality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. The mandate of NCD is therefore is to ensure national, regional and international legal frameworks are adhered too as provided for in section 6(1) of the NCD Act, 2003.

The next section of this report is providing progress on the performance of the Council in the period under review.



CHAPTER TWO

PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY IN THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents both the financial and activity performance of the Council during the Financial Years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. The financial performance shows the Council's budgetary allocations and expenditures from Government of Uganda and off budget funding from development partners. The key achievements in light of the Council's performance to ensure disability inclusion in Uganda are presented below;

2.2 Programme performance

The NCD registered tremendous achievement in regard to her mandate in the reporting period. These included:

Awareness creation on inclusion of persons with disabilities in the electoral process; This was done through voter education to persons with disabilities during the electioneering period of 2015/16 and influencing the organizations involved in democracy and governance to include disability in their programmes. The voter education was mainly related to inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes, education on formation of electoral colleges and, the right for persons with disabilities to vote as enshrined in the enabling laws.

Improved disability reporting as well as policy engagement at national, regional and international levels; In accordance with her mandate, NCD participated in the development of the responses to a number of concerns relating to disability raised by the UN committee of Experts in Geneva on the Initial state report on the Implementation of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Uganda. The responses supported the preparation and presentation of the concluding observations

in April 2016.

At regional level, NCD made input to the development of the East African Community (EAC) persons with disabilities' Action Plan for Implementing EAC Policy on persons with disabilities, 2012 and the East African community person with Disability Bill 2015. Made input to the; parliamentary Elections Amendment bill 2015, Persons with Disabilities Bill (2014), National council for Disability amendment Act 2015 as well as the NCD Act regulations 2015, National youth council amendment Act, 2015, the National Women's Council Amendment Act, 2015 among others. These amendments aimed at supporting the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes.

Improved capacity and skills in resource mobilization; External resource persons were engaged to work with council in resource mobilisation activities. This also included developing a resource mobilization strategy for the council. In this regard, 12 funding proposals were developed and



shared with potential donors. Consequently, the council secured financial resources from Sightsavers, Plan International, ADD international-Uganda and, UN Human Rights for:

Undertaking a research on participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes and the strategy for inclusive elections;

Development of NCD Act regulations, 2015; Development of the 5-year strategic plan (2015/16-2019/20) and; Capacity building on effective implementation of NCD roles, human rights based approach to development as well as monitoring and evaluation of CRPD and the SDGs among others. The capacity building for the lower structures was conducted in 15 districts of Acholi and Lango sub-regions, seven Districts in Karamoja sub-region, three Districts in the central Region; nine Districts in East, West and Northern Uganda.

Improved monitoring of disability inclusion;

Local government departments, Community Based Organisations and Corporate companies were assessed in the reporting period. For instance, Kabaale, Sheema and Mbarara districts were monitored. During the monitoring, schools, health facilities and District Administration structures among others were assessed to establish level of inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in aspects of accessibility, availability of scholastic materials, and availability of special needs teachers among others. Also, Mbarara district officials were met to establish reasons for delayed appointment of a new DCD Leadership despite the expiry of the term of office for the previous one.

Monitoring compliance of MDAs and CSOs; In fulfillment of her mandate to monitor performance of all actors in regard to persons with disabilities, the council held monitoring and learning meetings with 12 ministries, agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) that included: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Informa-

tion and Communication Technology and National Guidance (MICT), Ministry of Works and Transport, National Planning Authority (NPA), Equal Opportunities Commission (EoC), National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), Open Society Initiative of East Africa (OSIEA), Cheshire Services Uganda (CSU), UN-Women and, Sightsavers. The Council majorly visited the institutions to monitor disability inclusion in service delivery and compliance in the implementation of the existing legal framework.

Advocacy for Special grants;

NCD conducted a performance assessment of the Special grant in the Districts of Wakiso, Mpigi, Mukono, Kampala, Kayunga, Kiruhura, Doko-lo and Iganga. Through the assessment, it was established that the grant has improved livelihoods of Persons with Disabilities. However, gaps were identified in the funding and administration of the grant. The major challenges were among others; Stagnation of the grant; since the grant was established in 2009/10 with 48 districts at a tune of 3 billion the grant has not increased to date despite the increase in number of Districts.

The grant has been mismanaged by the implementers and the beneficiaries as well thus failure to meet its set objectives.

There is limited knowledge on the existence of the grant and inadequate entrepreneurial skills of persons with Disabilities to access and adequately utilize the grant. More to note, the meager of the special grant to the social development fund has affected its implementation and this has limited Persons with Disabilities from accessing the grant in some Districts.

In order to improve the special grant performance, the Council made a number of recommendations as below:

The Ministry of Finance to increase the special grant for persons with Disabilities and the grant should be separated from the social development fund.



The ministry of Gender, labour and social development re-instates the national steering committee for planning and monitoring the implementation of the special grant as well as revising the guidelines for implementation of the special grant in consultation with stakeholders.

Ministry of finance should allocate specific funds to National Council for Disability to create awareness and build capacity of Persons with Disabilities in entrepreneurship skills for effective implementation of the special grant (The detailed report can be accessed on NCD website: www.ncd.go.ug).

Improved the knowledge base and information on disability for evidence-based advocacy; The council conducted a number of studies during the period under review; these studies included:

Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Electoral processes in Uganda, 2017 and its Inclusive Elections Strategy 2018-2023, Performance of Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities in Improving livelihoods of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda, 2018 and Status of Institutional Rehabilitation in Uganda, 2019. The studies established limited inclusion and limited service provisions to persons with Disabilities, in this note; the Council recommends strategic inclusion of persons with disabilities in all government and non-government actors' plans and programmes for effective service delivery to all. Evidence from studies has been used by NCD and other development partners to influence and support development of guidelines, laws and policies for disability inclusion.

Increased council's visibility and Disability rights awareness; In order to increase the council's visibility and increase her response in regard to her mandate, the council produced and generated a number of IEC materials. These included: calendars, car stickers, t-shirts for staff and council members on international day celebrations; flyers; banners; posters and disability-year planners.

Furthermore, the council held a number of Print and electronic media engagements including the use of social media platforms. The campaigns were geared towards disability inclusion irrespective of gender, age and ethnicity. The campaign increased participation of Persons with disabilities in government programmes like Operation wealth creation, Youth livelihoods, women entrepreneurship fund, special grant for persons with disabilities among others. The increase in awareness of disability rights was also through participation in national and international days such as, the International White Cane Day, International Day of persons with disabilities; International Human Rights Day; Independence Day and; International women's day celebrations among others.

Built partnerships for disability inclusion and development:

The council established research and training relations with 4 institutions of; Makerere University School of computing and Information technology- Makerere University. The partnership is geared towards research and innovation on Disability inclusion at the school of Computing and information technology of Makerere University.

Similarly, the council contributed financially and technically in the processes that led to the production of the first Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey (UFDS) report, 2018. The report highlights key disability statistics, access and utilisation of services by persons with disabilities.

The Council established a partnership with UNICEF to implement a project on early interventions services for children with disabilities in Mubende and Kasanda Districts. The purpose of project is to reduce child disability in the project target Districts.



In the reporting period, Council has established more partnerships with key stakeholders for purposes of including disability in government programmes among those include; the Equal opportunities Commission (EoC); Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC); NUDIPU.

Currently, NCD is equally working with partners on the persons with disabilities bill (2018); working with the electoral commission on the election roadmap; undertaking collaborative researches with universities and other institutions; Dissemination of the inclusive elections' strategy; working on electoral reforms and; working with other stakeholders on the national inclusive education policy.

Council played coordination role in the formation of a National SACCO for persons with Disabilities in Uganda; The council held

four regional and one national consultative meeting on the formation of National Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) for Persons with Disabilities targeting 40 Districts across the country. The SACCO is aimed at harnessing the various sources of credit for enterprises of persons with disabilities. A strategy on formation of Person with Disabilities SACCO has been developed. An interim board of a National SACCO has been established with representatives of 13 members of whom eleven are representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and one member from Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development. The organisations of persons with Disabilities who form the interim board include; NUDIPU, NUWODU, UNAD, UNAB, UNAPD, USDC, MHU, UAA, UPPID. The SACCO registration with registrar of trade and cooperatives has been concluded and certificate of registration issued.

2.3 NCD Performance challenges in the period under review

As a result of limited financing and other concerns that arose in the period, a number of challenges were realised that circumvented NCD's capacity to deliver on her mandate adequately and these included the following:

There is inadequate staffing of Council of the 13 staff in the approved structure, eight positions are filling leaving out five technical staff that include Legal and Human Rights, Monitoring and Evaluation officer, Accountant, Accounts Assistant and Security Officer. The absence of a desk responsible for human rights and legal support limits the investigational of the Council on human rights abuses as well drafting certain legal documents for both operations and strategic inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The absence of the Disability Management Information System (DMIS) in Uganda curtailed effective planning, advocacy and management of disability concerns in all sectors;

There is inadequate funding of NCD to effectively perform its mandate such as failure

to adequately monitor the special grant and other poverty reduction programmes implemented by government and her partners. Limited ability to conduct voter education for Persons with disabilities and monitoring of the general election;

There is limited capacity and Knowledge of District Council for Disability (DCD) members to effectively implement their mandate.

The lower councils have limited knowledge and awareness on the existing disability inclusive National and International legal regime by some National and Local Government leaders, as well as leaders of Persons with disabilities. This affects effective service delivery for Persons with disabilities in the country.



High cost of rent incurred by Council which affects the implementation of planned activities. The council spends 40,800,000/= on annual basis on rent.

Limited opportunities to attract funding as a government institution from development partners, this inhibits effective implementation of the functions of the mandate.

The delay to amendment of the NCD Act affected the effective functioning of the Council. For example, the Council getting its funds directly from the treasury, limited powers of Council to exercise its authority on non-compliant entities.

2.4 Financial performance of the council

In the period under review, there has been progressive increment of NCD funding from Government of Uganda and other Development partners. However, the Council has never released its proposed budget for the financial years at approximately Five billion (5,000,000,000/=). The annual budget allocation provided by Government to NCD in FY 2015/16-2016/17 was eight hundred and thirty-six million (836,000,000/=) for the period under review. The actual release was Three hundred thirty-eight million shillings only (338,000,000.0/=), the funds released only represented 40.4% of the total allocation which presented dismal financial situation.

In the FY 2017/18-2018/19, the budget allocation for the Council increased to one billion two hundred and thirty-six million (1,236,000,000/=) a budget increment of 32% realised. However, the actual budget releases were as indicated in the table below;

Table 3: NCD Budget Distribution in the reporting period (in Uganda shillings)

Category	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total funds
Actual requirement	5,059,986,200	4,804,523,010	5,044,749,160	14,909,258,370
Government allocation	836,000,000	836,000,000	1,236,000,000	2,908,000,000
Actual release	338,000,000	309,000,000	958,000,000	1,605,000,000
Performance (%)	40.4	37.0	77.5	55.2

Given the Councils mandate and the limited funding as indicated in the table above, the performance of the council was negatively affected.



CHAPTER THREE:

SECTORAL PERFORMANCE IN DISABILITY INCLUSION

3.1 Introduction

Section 6(1) b of the NCD Act (2003) as well as the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 mandates Council and other government agencies to monitor and report on implementation and compliance on Disability Inclusion by Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as no-government Actors. In this respect, this chapter analyses sectoral performance in disability inclusion. This analyses how the various sectors particularly those which are disability- and equity leaning have responded to the provisions and recommendations of the National Development Plan II, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the CRPD concluding observation on Uganda's initial state report on the Implementation of the CRPD.

The Government of Uganda operates with in eighteen sectors to provide services to its Citizens. The sectors include: account-

ability; agriculture; education; energy and mineral development; health; Information Communication Technology (ICT); Justice, law and order sector (JLOS); lands, housing and urban development; legislature; public administration; public sector management; science, technology and innovations; security; social development; tourism; trade and industry; water and environment and; works and transport. In the sectoral analysis, the report focused on 11 sectors this is because the CRPD concluding observations and recommendations assigned specific actions. Secondary, the Council accessed information from the eleven sectors, these include; Health, Education, accountability social development, JLOS, security, public administration, CT, energy and mineral development, agriculture, legislature, Lands, Housing and urban development, details of the related information on the sectors are below;

3.2 Health sector

The ministry of health has the overall mandate of ensuring that Uganda's population is healthy and well. In the administration of health services as provided for in the National Health Policy 2010-2020, various health levels provide different health services to persons with disabilities. These range from National, regional; District referral hospitals and Health Sub Districts (HSD). All health facilities (including those that are Private for Profit – PFP) offer immunization services as a first-line approach to disability prevention. Much as most of them offer general healthcare services, some are supported by development partners and civil

society organizations to provide specific services to Persons with disabilities. The institutional arrangement of MOUH, in prevention and Management of Disability is through the establishment of the Disability and Management section within the ministry of Health. The section is responsible for prevention and effective management of disabilities through training, qualification of assistive devices and, community education on disability prevention and management among others. These are indications of a commitment by government to have access to health services for persons with disabilities. Despite the positive trends, the

Mandated to provide regimental treatment for epilepsy and other forms of fits among others



National Health Policy identified several gaps among others shortage of raw materials for assistive devices to make them affordable to persons with disabilities and limited physical accessibility of health facilities. Relatedly, there is minimal work in regard to early identification and assessment of disabilities and habilitation. The National and some regional referral hospitals have disability prevention and management centres such as: ophthalmic services (eye health), Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), orthopedic and mental health sections. However, majority are non-functional due to human resource, equipment and maintenance gaps.

One of the strategies for the Government of Uganda in prevention and management of disability are through the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program. The CBR strategy on health component focuses on health promotion, prevention of diseases and disabilities, medical care, rehabilitation and provision of assistive devices. The Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package (UNMHCP) provides for habilitation and rehabilitation services as well as regimental treatment among others. In order to strengthen the institutional arrangement in the Ministry of Health, the Disability prevention and management section was established to among others prevent

and effectively manage disabilities through training, qualification of assistive devices and, community education on disability prevention and management. These are indications of a commitment by government to have access to health services for persons with disabilities.

It should be noted that congenital and neo-natal disability prevention and management start prior conception and is supposed to be maintained up-to 60 months (MoH, 2016). The provision of Antenatal Care (ANC); Intermittent Preventive Treatments (IPTs); uptake of disability preventative supplements such as folic acid; skilled delivery (with management of complications at birth) examination and referral at birth and immunization among others are pivotal in disability prevention and early management.

In the reporting period, the Health sector planned to: engage in public private partnership (PPP) so that the private sector can continue to be improved for better service delivery; include disability in the local government health work-plans; ENT equipment and wheelchairs donated to Disability section cleared and; All Disability staff knowledgeable in sign language. As a result, the following achievements were realized as indicated below;

Achievements of the health sector in disability inclusion

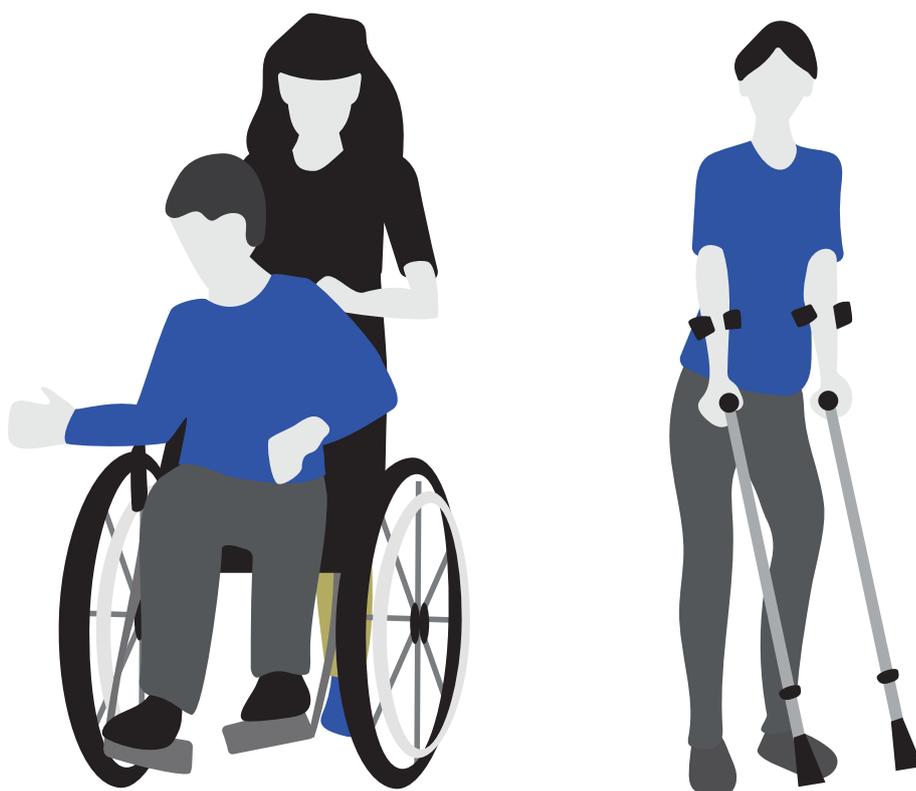
In the period under review, the health sector realized the following achievements;

- I. Capacity building of Health personnel for Disability Inclusion: This was executed through support supervision in 30 districts where regional referral and District hospitals were visited to ensure they adhered to national disability prevention and management guidelines. One week training conducted by an expert from South Africa given to physiotherapists at Mulago Hospital in Manual therapy. The Ministry held continuous medical education for physiotherapists, occupational therapists and orthopedic technicians in wheelchair assessment fitting and maintenance
- II. Development and Dissemination of the National wheelchair Standards and Guidelines: and; undertook support supervision of the wheelchair services and dissemination of wheelchair guidelines to the districts of Hoima, Mukono, Sembabule, Mityana, Nakaseke, Kiryandongo and Kayunga. This ensured that wheel-



chairs supplied are not detrimental to the lives of the users and work towards improving local production and reducing the dependency on imported wheelchairs.

- III. Distribution of Wheel Chairs and Other Assistive Devices to Persons with Disabilities: the ministry received and distributed 300 wheelchairs to the regional referral workshops; carried out assessment and fitting of wheelchairs to the identified beneficiaries in Kanungu, Sheema and Tororo districts
- IV. The Ministry allocated UGX 53.403 billion to Butabika hospital for the FYs2014/15 - 2017/2018 to support renovations and services delivery to persons with mental health challenges (NUDIPU, 2018). The hospital conducted awareness raising on mental health in regional referral hospitals mental health units of Moroto, Jinja, Mbarara, Mubende, Lira, Hoima, Masaka, 2 Soroti, Mbale, 2 Gulu and 2 Kabale. Outreach programmes were also conducted in areas of Nkokonjeru, Nansana, Kitetika, Kawempe Katalemwa and Kitebi-Wakiso to raise awareness on mental health issues in the FY 2017/18.
- V. Renovation of Health facilities to support Accident Victims: In a bid to improve the prevention and management of disabilities, MoH renovated regional referral and other hospitals to be receptive and responsive to accident victims (emergency and ambulatory services). The particular hospitals that were renovated and equipped included: Arua, Iganga, Jinja RRH, Kayunga, Kiryandongo, Mbale RRH, Mbarara RRH, Mubende RRH, Mulago NRH, Ruharo and Yumbe Hospitals among others.



Text box 4: Mulago hospital's renovated spinal ward opens**By FRANKLIN DRAKU**

Kampala. Patients with spinal injuries will no longer be referred abroad as Mulago National Referral Hospital is now fully equipped to treat such cases, officials have said. Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan last weekend handed over the refurbished spinal ward to the hospital after three months of renovation.

Prof Isaac Kajja, the head of the Orthopedic Department, said the unit is now fully equipped to handle all spinal treatment within the country.

"Fortunately, we are no longer sending patients for spine injury, spine degenerative problems and spine neoplasia outside Uganda and we are now able to do all these things and this is saving the country a lot of foreign exchange. What Rotary has done has actually contributed to saving the

foreign exchange that is really meagre for our country. We are now going to increase on our numbers because we now have a better working environment," he said.

"Whenever there is an accident you would expect that one or two of the survivors have spinal injury and they will need the treatment."

He said the renovations by Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan have saved the hospital a lot of resources and that the management will work hard to improve other facilities at the hospital. He appealed to more funding for the trauma theatre, which he said needs urgent attention. Daily Monitor Newspaper of 6th December 2018

- VI. Development of Specialised Clinics at National and Regional Referral Hospitals: The Ministry supported the development of ENT, eye services, orthopedic and occupational therapy units for prevention and management of Disability in Uganda. The Ugandan Ministry of Health has approved the Ponseti method as the preferred treatment for clubfoot in all its hospitals; 36% of the country's public hospitals have built the capacity to do the Ponseti procedure and are using the method; 798 health-care professionals received training to identify and treat clubfoot and 872 children with clubfoot received treatment (NUDIPU,2018).
- VII. Awareness creation on Disability in National and International foras: In 2015/16, MoH participated in the Africa Forum on visual impairment in Kampala; the forum aims at creating awareness on prevention and management of blindness in Africa. The Ministry has been participating in National and International days for persons with Disabilities to create awareness and support in outreaches.
- VIII. Disability Inclusion in Health management System: In FY 2018/19, the Health Management Information System was revised to include indicators that are related to disability. This will ensure that adequate planning data on disability prevention, reduction of severity and management is available.
- IX. The ministry procurement of Adjustable beds and procured orthopedic appliances that were distributed in different hospitals around the country at a cost of 0.098bn in the FY 2017/18. In the same financial year, Mulago Referral hospital, the ministry procured materials for corrective surgery to prevent disability at a cost of UGX. 1.500/=
- X. Inclusion of clubfoot surgery in paramedical classes; The ministry introduced teaching modules on clubfoot and the Ponseti method are being used in two medical and three paramedical schools and 1152 students in various health disciplines received training in the Ponseti method (NUDIPU,2018).

Gaps identified in the Health Sector

Despite the achievements made, the following gaps are identified in the period under review;

- I. Physical inaccessibility to health facilities – particularly the traditional health facilities that were constructed before 2010. Most of these do not offer general wheel chairs and walkers for all patients and the beds -especially in the labour wards are not adjustable to meet the needs of women with disabilities seeking such services. Much as the MOH has bought some adjustable beds, they are inadequate.
- II. During the period under review, the persons with disabilities budget under the disability and rehabilitation division has declined systematically. The budget declined from UGX 144 million in 2014/15, to UGX 100 million in FYs 2015/16 and 2016/17 and finally declining to UGX 68 million in 2017/18. This reducing budget for the disability department limits in achieving most of the planned targets. (NUDIPU, 2018).
- III. Women with Disabilities still raise concerns of ill treatment while seeking the Antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal services coupled with lack of sign language interpreters in all health facilities. This has reduced the number of women with disabilities seeking reproductive health care hence resorting to use of alternative medicine such as traditional birth attendants. Thus, high-risk pregnancy and birth-related complications.
- IV. Inadequate supply of essential drugs for Persons with Disabilities; Where-as essential drugs for mental health, epilepsy and psycho-social support (MHPSS) is supposed to be provided at Health Sub District (HSD) and above, there are still reports of harassment of patients on regimental treatment. There is a major concern of drug stock-outs especially of regimental treatment.
- V. Limited skilled health workers to manage different categories of Disability in health facilities, indicate number of specialists in those areas. Whereas the Health strategic plan and policy provides for levels where specialists working on disabling conditions are to be deployed, they are limited and at most times under paid leading to abscond from duty by some of the specialists.
- VI. Inadequacies in Accident Management for Disability prevention: There is limited response and handling of accident victims which has led to increase of Disability in the country. There is lack of ambulatory services, diagnostic services and specialised medical personnel to prevent severity of impairments.
- VII. Limited inclusion of Disability in Health promotion campaigns and services; According to the EoC Annual report, 2016/17 it was established that national programmes and services rarely include information that is accessible to persons with disabilities such as sign language and braille. The EOC audit found out that only 7.1% of health facilities had staff trained in use of sign language.



Recommendations to the health sector

In order to minimize the identified gaps, the following recommendations are made:

- i. The MOH should revise and implement the Mental Health policy in accordance with the prescriptions of the CRPD recommendations. Criminalize harassment and discrimination.
- ii. The National Medical Stores (NMS) should regularly supply the essential drugs to minimise drug stakeouts.
- iii. The Ministries of Health and Public service should recruit, deploy and adequately remunerate mental health specialists at all levels.
- iv. Ministry of health should improve on physical and communication accessibility to health services to persons with Disabilities.
- v. The ministry should provide stand by assistive devices at all health facilities for instance white canes, walker and wheel chair; adjustable hospital beds and first aid services for disability prevention among others.
- vi. The ministry of Health should strengthen Public private partnerships for presentation and management of Disability for instance building partnerships with institutions that offer disability specialist services and ICTs in medicine/ treatment among others.
- vii. Train health personnel in managing and understanding disability issues including capturing of disability-related indicators/ parameters in the HMIS and DMIS and popularizing the disability prevention and management strategy.
- viii. Include Disability prevention and management as one of the funded priorities of the Health sector.
- ix. Include disability prevention and management into the Health training curriculum in all health training institutions.

3.3 Education Sector

The government of Uganda prioritises education as a vehicle to economic growth and development.

In relation to Disability inclusion, the government promotes a twin track approach through inclusive and special needs education. These approaches include: home-based care programmes, special schools where children with severe and often multiple impairments receive specialised support in methodology, instructional materials and assistive devices. Another approach used include Units/ Annexes where children are integrated within regular schools but targeting learners with particular disabilities, inclusive schools where children with special

needs - including but not limited to children with disabilities - study with other children.

The development of Universal primary and secondary education policies which has prioritised children with disabilities as key beneficiaries has led to improvement in enrolment of children with Disabilities in schools. However, 9 % of children with Disabilities attend primary school in Uganda and of those only 6% continue to secondary school even after government introduced Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE)



(Nakaibale E, 2019).

However, the enrolment is also manifested in the gender disparities where more boys enroll than girls (as presented in chart 1 herein below). Further still, the nature of disability influences the enrolment of children with disabilities in schools. Children with visual impairments have a high enrolment rate, followed by children with physical disabilities and hearing impairments. Children with mental and cognitive disabilities are less likely to enroll in school (MoES 2011). Despite improvement in enrolment, the completion rates are still low and only 9% of learners with disabilities are able to complete primary education and 6% complete secondary education (ACPF, 2011; UNICEF, 2014; MoES, 2013; MGLSD 2016 and; Plan International 2017). This is caused by a plethora of descriptions and responses towards Persons with disabilities, which are deeply rooted in the cultures and, resultantly, leads to chronic and absolute poverty and, the vulnerabilities thereof

In the administration of education services of learners with disabilities are catered for right from ministry to school level. At the Ministry of Education and Sports, a department for Special needs education and Guidance was established. The department was established to ensure; Disability inclusive planning and budgeting; development of policies and laws that are in tandem with the constitution and other national and international laws.

Similarly, SNE is catered for and adequately programmed and managed right from curriculum development at the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC); the Directorate of Educational Standards (DES) and; Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEBC). These agencies are responsible for curriculum development and implementation, monitoring and assessment respectively. Consequently, the education sector has made a number of achievements as indicated in the subsequent section;

Achievements of the education sector in disability inclusion

The following were the achievements of the education sector in the period under review;

- I. Promotion of inclusive education through its Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE). The UPE and USE provide strategies for inclusion of learners with disabilities in schools.
- II. Inclusion of special learning needs in curriculum development process; NCDC established a desk for SNE which continually influence curriculum design for learners with disabilities. In the reporting period, the desk engaged in the review of the lower secondary school curriculum and assessment and identification of learning areas that would benefit learners with special educational needs.

¹² African Child Policy Forum (2011) *Hidden realities: report on Children with Disabilities (CWDs) in Africa*

¹³ Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2012) *National Disability Guidelines. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda – Kampala*

¹⁴ Chambers, R. (1983), *Rural Development: Putting the last first*, Routledge, London

¹⁵ *Inclusive education means that all children in a school, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area, become part of the school community. This occurs when children with, or without disabilities participate and learn together in the same classes.*

- III. Inclusion of Disability in the Monitoring of Education Standards; The Directorate of Education Standards (DES) included parameters for identifying learners with special educational needs (SEN) - (including those with disabilities) in the Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- IV. Inclusion of Disability in Education assessment; The Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) established a special needs education section responsible for managing special needs issues related to assessment of learners with Disabilities at primary and secondary levels. Relatedly, UNEB allocated 30 minutes of extra time during examinations for every learner with Special Needs. In so doing, these have increased equity – a key component of inclusion in the promotion and administration of educational services to persons with disabilities.
- V. Affirmative action in Admission of learners with Disabilities in Higher institutions of Learning; The Universities and other Tertiary institutions Action, 2001 amended, provides 64 slots reserve admission of learners with Disabilities to institutions of higher learning on annual basis. In the period under review, a total of 192 students with disabilities were enrolled in public universities and tertiary institutions excluding those admitted on private sponsorship. The sponsorship provided for in the Act includes but not limited to; tuition and other academic fees, living allowances and, recently an addition of assistive devices.
- VI. Representation of persons with disabilities on university councils and other education Institutions; Persons with disabilities are represented on university councils; the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and the Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB). The purpose of the representatives on the various institutions is to influence disability policies and plans of the institutions. For instance; Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) from 2017 started prioritising students with disabilities in their loaning system. HESFB offers loans to students pursuing degree and diploma programmes. The loan covers the functional fees; tuition fees; research fees and assistive devices for students with disabilities.
- VII. Construction of Accessible Classrooms; in the reporting period, 233 inclusive classrooms were constructed in 34 schools. In addition four classrooms, two teachers' houses and one dormitory were constructed at Mbale School for the Deaf .
- VIII. Allocation of subvention grants to schools; in the period under review the MOES disbursed subvention grants to 104 special units. The subvention grant/transfers to schools are based on enrolment at a fee of Ugx 15,000/= per child per term. But given that there are 113 special needs schools in the country, each school would receive an annual grant of Ugx.4.7 million per year. In the FY 2017/18, the ministry provided subvention grants for SNE learners in 100 schools, completed construction of seven classrooms and four-unit instructors house in the country.
- IX. Training of SNE Teachers; in the period under review, 65 staff at Mbale and Wakiso secondary schools for the Deaf was trained in Uganda Sign language (USL). Through SNE Improvement and Development Project implement-



- ed by Department of Special Needs Education, teachers were trained in the use of sign language and functional. This was to enhance teacher's knowledge and skills to support and teach children with special needs in schools. 317 (F=118, M=199) Tutors and CCTs from five core PTC (Bushenyi CPTC, Bulera CPTC, Nakaseke CPTC, Gulu CPTC and Nyondo CPTC) have been trained on identification of learners with special needs with the aim of equipping them with knowledge and skills for transition to Students' Teachers to be able to identify and support learners with Special Needs in schools. With support from Sight Savers, 108 tutors from the entire primary teacher's college were trained on special needs and inclusive education. Cascading of the training was done in all colleges for all Tutors in Uganda.
- X. Awareness creation on disability inclusion; Kyambogo University particularly offered support to students and staff with disabilities through awareness workshops. A committee for students with disabilities was also commissioned to offer awareness and support.
- XI. Provision of support services to learners with disabilities in higher institutions of learning; Students with disability cases are assessed and recommended for support by institutions of higher learning. For the case of Kyambogo 16 USL interpreters and 27 Guides were appointed and paid towards helping the students with disabilities.
- XII. Procurement of Scholastic materials for learners with Disabilities; The Ministry of Education and Sports through the department of Special Needs procured 350 cartons of braille paper, 250 sign language dictionaries, five braille Embossers & computers, 28 Perkins braille machines. The scholastic materials were distributed to Igan-ga secondary school among other schools.
- XIII. Provision of Assistive Devices to learners with Disabilities; The Ministry provided hearing aids to over 2000 learners with hearing impairment. The ministry of education and sports in collaboration with Starkey Hearing Foundation in the period under review launched a two years programme for fitting hearing aids to 1,000 pupils from different schools in Uganda. The hearing Aid Programme is estimated at \$1 million, this foundation is going to help in providing hearing aids free of charge to the Children (The Monitor Publications, 2019).
- XIV. Introduction of adaptable ICT in schools to support learners with Disabilities in Schools; With support from UNICEF a pilot project on adapted technology for digitalization of curriculum materials is being implemented in 20 inclusive primary schools. The ministry with support from UNICEF procured adapted materials and distributed in the 20 schools. The pilot is in 20 schools namely: Nakatunya PS-Soroti, Waluwere Ps-Bugiri, kabalega Ps-Masindi, St Ludovicos Kisana-Hoima, St Bernadit-

¹⁶ Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) is established by an Act of Parliament, in 2014 as a body corporate - semi-autonomous body mandated to provide loans and scholarships to students intending to pursue higher education. The Board was inaugurated on 22nd April 2014 and started operations in May 2014.

¹⁷Equal Opportunities Commission (2018) Summary report on compliance of the national budget framework paper and sector budget framework papers with gender and equity requirements FY 2019/2020. Equal Opportunities Commission, Kampala

- tas PS-Hoima, Bishop West-Mukono, St Theresa Bujuni-Kibale, Kiwolera Army-Kamuli, Kasambya Ps-Mubende, Bishop Rwakaikara Ps-Kagadi, Spire Road Ps-Jinja, Bumbo Ps-Namisindwa, Misavu Demo-Bukomansimbi, Angal Girls-Nebbi, Eruba Ps-Arua, Hassan Tourabi Ps-Wakiso, Gulu Prison Ps-Gulu, Gulu Ps-Gulu and Bishop Willis Demo-Iganga. The materials included Victor reader, classroom laptop and projectors, and computer among others. Forty (40) teachers were trained in use of the technology.
- XV. Monitoring and support supervision to schools; The SNE department has monitored and provided support supervision in 35 schools out of 70 schools planned in the period under review. Monitoring and support supervision is done to promote quality performance and ensure learners with special needs stay in school and complete the level of education.
- XVI. Disability inclusion in Sports; the government supported the participation of persons with disabilities in the World Paralympics competition that was held in London in 2017. In this case, David Emong emerged as a gold medal winner. This provides latent mind-set and attitude change towards the inherent potentials of persons with disabilities.
- XVII. Similarly, Uganda has a National Paralympic Committee which ensures that persons with disabilities fully participate in games and sports to develop their sporting and gaming potentials. In the reporting period, the Uganda Paralympic Committee (UPC) worked with the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) to promote goal ball and additionally trained coaches and national teams; development of wheelchair basketball – district, regional and national teams and their full recognition as indicated in the figure below ;

¹⁸ <https://www.paralympic.org/uganda>



Figure 1: Persons with Disabilities Participating in Sports

Source and photo credits: <https://www.paralympic.org/news/idsdp2015-wheelchair-basketball-emerges-uganda>

The gaps in the education sector to include persons with disabilities

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Sports has made tremendous achievements in the reporting period, there are glaring gaps which included; limited capacity to plan for and manage inclusion; limited number of SNE teachers, non-inclusion of SNE in the teacher training curriculum, limited supply of scholastic materials, limited funding, and poor motivation and remuneration among others.

ii. Limited data on learners with disability for appropriate planning;

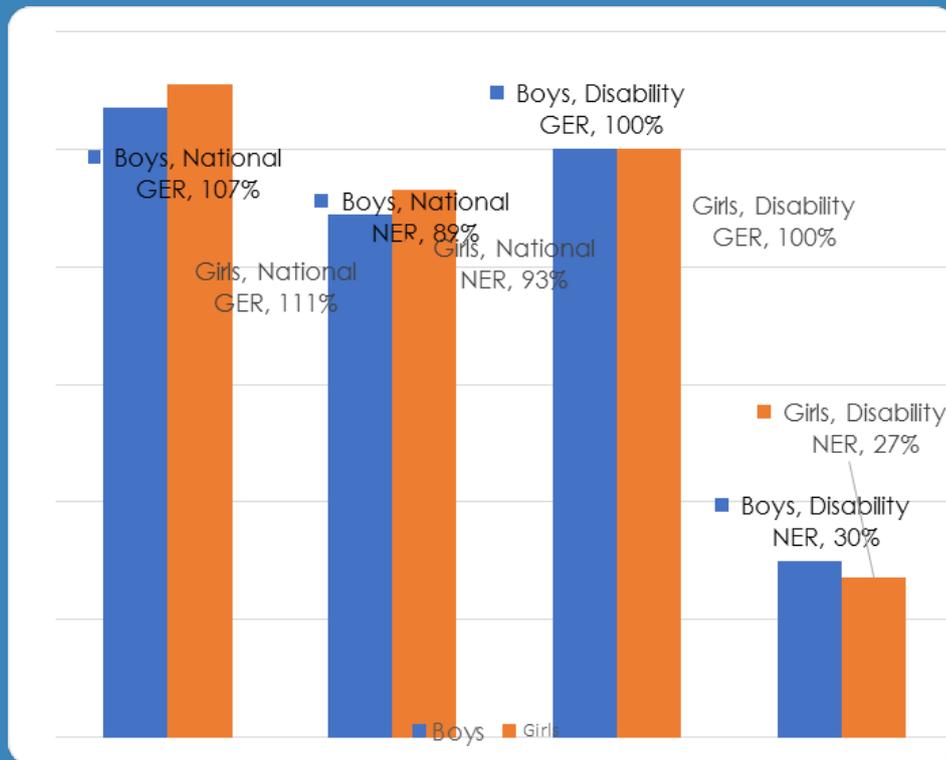
The current management information system of the ministry capture data mostly on physical, visual and hearing impairments leaving out other categories of Disabilities recognized in the NCD Act Amendment, 2013. For instance, data on learners with intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities or psychosocial disabilities is not often captured and this affects planning for their needs. In addition, disability data is mostly at the national level, the lack of which, especially at the district and local levels, compounds the difficulties in planning and targeting of services for those with disability (MFPED, 2018).

ii. Disparities in enrolment and retention of Learners with Disabilities in Schools;

The National Popula-

tion and Housing census data shows that, 605,380 (304,270 males and, 301,110 females) were persons with disabilities aged between 6-12 years and rightly contributing to the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in primary education. However, the 2017 education sector data indicated that 172,846 (91,001 males and, 81,845 females) were enrolled in primary schools leading to a Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) of 28.6% (29.9% males and, 27.2% females) hence leaving out an entire 71.4% of potential learners with disabilities who would have been enrolled in primary schools. It should be noted that there is a population estimate of 7,585,100 for the 6-12-year-old (3,844,100 male; 3,741,000 female), it translates into a GER of 109% (107% male and 111% female) and NER of 91% (89% male and 93% female). (Education Abstract, 2016).

Graph 1: Enrolment rate of Children with Disabilities based on sex



Source: Education Abstract, 2016 Ministry of Education and Sports.

- I. **Limited enrollment;** Of the 370,380 (182,870 males and, 187,510 females) persons with disabilities aged 13-18 years who were supposed to enroll in secondary schools, only 8,945 (4,440 males and, 4,505 females) persons with disabilities aged 13-18 years enrolled in secondary schools hence a NER of persons with disabilities in secondary schools at 2.4% (2.43% males and, 2.4 females).
- II. More to note, socio-cultural factors that specifically undermine girl child and special needs children enrolment; these include child marriages, early marriage, child labour and female genital mutilation, among others. In addition, lack of meals/feeding at schools has affected the attendance of pupils/students, and hence limited inclusion of learners. There has been a general disconnect between the Ministry of Education and the families of pupils on the point of feeding children at school.

¹⁹ Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (2018) Provision of Inclusive Education in Uganda: What are the challenges? Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU), BMAU BRIEFING PAPER (13/18). Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Kampala.

²⁰ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): for Primary: refers to the proportion of pupils attending primary schools (P1-P7) to the number of children aged 6-12 in the entire population.

²¹ Net Enrolment Ratio (NER): is the ratio of primary school children aged 6-12 years to the number of children of the same age range in the population.



- III. Inadequate Capitation grant for Learners with Disabilities in UPE and USE programme: The capitation per student under the USE programme has stagnated at Ugx 47,000 per student per year over the last ten years, and the Development and Improvement of Special Needs Education Project's budget stagnated at Ugx 2.06 billion for FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18. The special needs education recurrent programme's budget reduced from Ugx 1.49 billion in FY 2016/17, to Ugx 1.43 billion in FY 2017/18.
- IV. Inadequate funding for Special Needs Education; The Special Needs Education Programme, which is one of the major interventions in education to ensure access for persons with disabilities, has experienced persistent funding inadequacies over the years. In financial year 2017/18, the education sector budget allocated to SNE 3.49 billion UGX which amounts to 0.1% of the entire education sector budget.
- V. Weak policy framework which has limited access, particularly for disadvantaged children: For pre-primary education, the current policy delegates the responsibility of provision of pre-primary education to the private sector which aims at making profit and there is no regulatory framework for the charges. Urban and richer community members are more able to access pre-school services as compared to the rural poor. Lack of inclusive education policy has affected the effective implementation of inclusive education in Uganda.
- VI. Limited funding for Disability sports: The ministry has no clear budget to promote sports and recreation services for persons with disabilities in the country.
- VII. Inadequate special needs teachers in Uganda; the education has limited number of specialised teachers who are sufficiently able to assist learners in an inclusive school environment. This is attributed to limited in-service training and supervision on how to develop a child-friendly class that can accommodate the diversity among learners. Since FY 2012/13, the budget for in-service training for all the Primary Teachers' Colleges (PTCs) was scrapped, and with the inadequate funds to PTCs, sometimes the training is not carried out. For example, there are only 2 specialised teachers in braille mathematics in the entire country and of which mathematics is a mandatory pass subject.
- VIII. Inadequate scholastic materials for Learners with Disabilities in Schools; the materials and equipment procured meets less than 10% of the needs. For example, 80 cartons of braille can serve up-to 18 schools in a financial year adequately and, the braille machines are not repaired periodically to ensure their longevity.
- IX. The summative examination system that disadvantages many learners with disabilities; since they are not assessed equitably on knowledge and skills acquired; the current 'Undocumented' promotion of an examination-based curriculum where the national curriculum is substituted with the in-



struction in expected examinable areas.

- X. Inaccessible school environment; It should be noted that school policies and learning environment may lead to low enrolment and completion rates as indicated above(sub section 3.3.2 (III) among persons with disabilities due to disadvantaging systems that leads them to miss out on core learning skills provided in the vari-

ous learning areas as prescribed in the national curriculum and; classroom sitting arrangements and toileting facilities are still appalling and require strict guidelines from the ministry.

- XI. MOH to incorporate skin cancer into the Cancer policy to cater for requirements for persons with Albinism who often suffer from skin cancers.

Recommendations to the education sector

The identified gaps in the education sector can be addressed through the following recommendations;

The MoES should expedite the development of the National Inclusive Education policy as well as allocate the required resources for the implementation of the policy.

The ministry of education should revitalize the early assessment and resource services program (EARS) that was initiated and funded by Danida.

The MoES should work with MGLSD to implement the National Early Integrated childhood policy and disseminate the policy to other stakeholders.

The MoES should review the existing National Teacher Training Policy to incorporate disability aspects and guide entry into the teaching profession, recruitment, training, continuous professional development and teacher code of conduct.

The ministry should develop a support system which can provide continuous and competent guidance to teachers, learners and parents in order to ensure that quality and inclusive education takes place.

The MoES should train Primary, Secondary School teachers and Vocational Institutes Instructors in special needs and inclusive skills for the management of learners with special needs.

Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development increase funding to the department of special needs education to improve on monitoring and support supervision to schools which enroll learners with disabilities.

The MoES improve on school environment such as construction of accessible classrooms, sanitation facilities, libraries, laboratories and compound walk ways and sports facilities to include learners with disabilities.



The MoES should provide learners with Disabilities with assistive devices that include; Hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, white canes, glasses, magnifying glasses, adoptable technologies among others.

The MoES should intensify a nationwide awareness creation campaign on the role of parents in educating their children - which include the responsibility of parents to feed their children as the policy demands in the Education Act 2008.

Parliament should review legal and policy framework in relation to education and sports at national level providing for inclusion of learners with disabilities needs in Government planning and budgeting for the education sector.

The MoES should review its EMIS to capture all categories of learners with disabilities in accordance with the NCD Act amendment 2013.

The ministry should always provide security to learners with albinism in schools whose lives are at risk abduction, stigma and negative cultural beliefs.

The MoES should create awareness on the affirmative action for learners with disabilities provided in the Universities and other higher institutions Act, 2001 to encourage more learners with Disabilities to benefit from the provision.

3.4 Social Development sector

The Social Development sector is responsible for; community mobilisation and empowerment (approved under the public investment plan) through culture and family affairs; community development and literacy; gender and women empowerment; labour and employment services, social protection for vulnerable groups. Therefore, the Sector plays a fundamental role in creating demand for social services and laying a foundation for other sectors to improve their outcomes.

The role of the social development sector is to improve standards of living, equity, and social cohesion. It focuses on empowerment of communities to harness their potential through skills development, increased labor productivity, and cultural growth. The sectors empowerment efforts target women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons (CSBAG, 2017).

In terms of the status of implementation of projects underscored in the NDP II, the sector is currently implementing the following programmes; the Promotion of "Green" Jobs and Fair Labour market in Uganda (PROGRES), the program purpose is to increase employment opportunities for the youth, the Ugan-

da Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) is to increase income for women; Community mobilization program that is used to raising awareness on existing Government programmes and mobilizing community to participate; Functional Adult Literacy program is used to equip the communities with numeracy and literacy skills; Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) to increase incomes and for creation of job opportunities for the youth; Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities is for increasing income and job opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) is for increasing incomes and social protection for older persons in Uganda.

²² Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) (2017) CSO POSITION PAPER ON THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR FY2017/18: The paper is based on the analysis of the FY 2017/18 Ministerial Policy Statement for the Social Development sector FY2017/18. CSBAG, Kampala



All these initiatives have led to the following achievements with in the reporting period;

Achievements of the social development sector in disability inclusion

The social development sector has registered progress in the following areas;

The sector provides regulatory framework for Disability inclusion in Uganda. This has been directly or indirectly. The direct regulatory frameworks developed by the sector are; Persons with Disabilities Act, 2006, National Council for Disability Act, 2003, Children's (amendment) Act, 2016, National Integrated Childhood Policy, Older persons Act, 2013, National Council for Disability Regulations, 2016 and Regulations on children' Act 2017.

The Sector has empowered Persons with Disabilities through the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program implemented in 26 Districts across the country with a budget of 400 million in the financial year 2018/19; this is used to restore lost abilities through skills training and provision of assistive devices.

The sector has increased incomes for Persons with Disabilities through the provision of Special Grant for Persons with disabilities, a total of 800 Persons with Disabilities registered groups supported (On average, each group consists of 10-15 members) have been supported in the period under review and the program is implemented in all Districts of Uganda.

Provision of vocational skills training to Youth with Disabilities; In the reporting period, MGLSD trained over 600 Youth with Disabilities in the Vocational Rehabilitation centres of Lweza, Kireka - in Wakiso district, Ruti in Mbarara District and Mpumudde in Jinja District.

Disability inclusion in women empowerment program; the Uganda Women Entrepreneur-

ship Programme (UWEP) has safeguards for women with disabilities and every beneficiary group must have a woman with disability. Funds of Ugx 50 billion started being rolled out in 2016/2017, and this will continue for the next five years in line with NDP II. The funds are being accessed through the women groups of 10 to 15 members, with focus on unemployed women and vulnerable groups such as single young mothers, widows, Persons with disability, women living with HIV/AIDS, and slum dwellers. As of October 2018, the program reached 85336 targeted beneficiaries and of those 7.5% were women with Disabilities (Progress Report; UWEP program, 2018).

Disability inclusion in Youth Livelihood Program; In the FY 2018/19 a total of 6770 (2.8%) Youth with Disabilities have benefited from the program. This is a commendable contribution towards empowerment of youth with Disabilities.

The sector developed a National Action Plan for Children with Disabilities (NAP-CWDs) with support from UNICEF. The NAP is to guide stakeholders with interventions for interventions for promoting rights and services for children with disabilities in Uganda. It equally guides both state and non-state actors on restructuring services and in developing a comprehensive package for rehabilitation and empowerment of children and young persons with disabilities based on individual needs, existing resources and facilities.

Despite the achievements made by the social development sector, the following gaps were identified;



Challenges of the social development sector in disability inclusion

The following have been realized as gaps in including persons with disabilities in the social development sector:

Inadequate funding for Disability inclusion in the social Development sector; in the period under review, ministry of finance has allocated limited funds to support skills training for youth with disabilities in vocational training centers. This has led to inadequate supply of training materials, poor feeding and poor state of infrastructure, inadequate staff and limited enrollment of youth with disabilities. This applies to the Community based rehabilitation program which is implemented in only 26 Districts in Uganda. More to note, the special grant for persons with Disabilities has stagnated to 3 billion since inception of the grant 2009/10 with

48 District beneficiaries yet to date the Districts have increased to over 100 Districts.

There is lack of Disability inclusion strategies in two Directorates of; Gender and community development as well as labor and employment services. This inhibits implementation of disability inclusive programmes, plans and budgets in the two directorates. It also affects capturing of information on persons with disabilities benefiting in programmes with in the two directorates.

Land grabbing in the Rehabilitation centres; the land housing rehabilitation centres is been infiltrated with grabbers for selfish and personal reasons and use. This is partly because the land has been under-utilised overtime.

Recommendations for Disability inclusion in the social development sector

The following recommendations are proposed for addressing gaps as follows;

- i. Parliament should enact appropriate laws for domesticating the CRPD.
- ii. Ministry of finance should increase funding to the social development sector especially for Disability inclusion for instance special grant for persons with disabilities and skills training in vocational rehabilitation centers and CBR among others.
- iii. The Ministry of gender labour and social development should review the National policy for Persons with Disabilities since the previous one expired in 2016.
- iv. The Ministry of gender labour and social

development should develop a Disability inclusive strategy for all the directorates.

- v. The MGLSD should conduct a comprehensive survey on the performance of the special grant. This will guide the improvement in the implementation of the grant.
- vi. The ministry should review the training curriculum to match the current job market.
- vii. The MGLSD should survey and secure land titles for all rehabilitation centres to protect them from land grabbing.
- viii. The Ministry of finance should revise the strategy for implementation of the special grant for persons with disabilities. This is to address the challenges arising from merger of the grant in the social development fund.



3.5 Agriculture sector

Agriculture is critical for sustainable development and poverty reduction, yet agricultural growth can be a powerful means for inclusive growth. The 2008 World Development Report found that growth originating in the agricultural sector is two to four times as effective as growth originating in the nonagricultural sector in increasing incomes of the bottom third of the income distribution. Agricultural growth has been the main instrument of rural poverty reduction in the most developing countries, and not surprising, it has also had a much more direct impact on hunger than general economic growth.

According to UBOS, 80% of the population in Uganda is engaged in agriculture. However, there is no data on persons with disabilities engaged in agriculture. The key concerns that the disability fraternity has in relation to agriculture are; participation in and along the agricultural value chains, assistive technology for agricultural production, nutrition; land tenure, agricultural production, extension services among others.

The initiatives of the government of Uganda in promoting agriculture, through programmes such as operation wealth creation and others, have recognized persons with disabilities as one of the target beneficiaries. This has led to a number of achievements enumerated below;

Achievements of the Agriculture sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The following achievements have been made;

- I. Persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups are identified, mobilized into farmers / farmer groups and supported as special interest groups. For instance; Operation Wealth Creation coordinators gave specific priorities to these groups of vulnerable persons, an act that has enhanced economic and social empowerment among these groups. Persons with Disabilities have benefited through agricultural inputs such as seedlings, pesticides, microfinance services, poultry and cows, among others. Uganda Human Rights Commission Annual report, 2017 indicated that among persons interviewed, 22% of the beneficiaries of OWC were persons with Disabilities.
- II. The civil societies have also engaged persons with disabilities in technology for agriculture production in the value chain. For instance, Send A Cow – Uganda trained farmers with disabilities in modern farming technologies and provided skills to tap into government programmes like OWC among others.

²³ Inclusive growth is defined as economic growth

²⁴ See World Bank, *World Development Report 2008*

²⁵ H. Binswanger-Mkhize, A. McCalla, and P. Patel, "Structural Transformation and African Agriculture," *Africa Emerging Market Forum, Cape Town, South Africa, September 13–15, 2009*



Gaps in the Agriculture sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The gaps identified in the agricultural sector included:

- i. Food insecurity leads to secondary disabilities through malnutrition that lead to stunted growth in children with disabilities mostly leading to severity of certain impairments yet little research has been done and disseminated on the matter.
- ii. Limited engagement of the agriculture sector with persons with disabilities; organizations and institutions like OWC secretariat and MOAAIF among others have not adequately consulted persons with Disabilities on their needs and potentials in relation to agriculture.
- iii. NAADs and OWC do not have targets and indicators for persons with disabilities and yet it is the main source of livelihoods since agriculture is the main source of livelihood for most persons with disabilities in rural areas.
- iv. There is limited information on existing agriculture-assistive technologies for farmers with disabilities in Uganda. The promotion of agro-technology that supports agriculture value chains is imperative in ensuring livelihoods for persons with disabilities.
- v. There is inadequate data and/or information on persons with disabilities engaged in agriculture. Disaggregated data by impairment, age, gender, preferred crops, animals, poultry and, agro-trades need to be well documented in order to support effective planning for their needs.

Recommendations for the Agriculture sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The following recommendations are proposed for minimizing the gaps identified:

- i. Social research on the linkage between nutrition and disability needs to be undertaken in order to inform policy and practices;
- ii. NAADs and OWC need to have set targets and indicators that include persons with disabilities in their programmes;
- iii. The ministry of agriculture should develop a policy on inclusion of persons with disabilities in their programmes, plans and budgets.
- vi. The ministry of finance, planning and economic development should allocate funds to the ministry of agriculture, fisheries and animal industry to invest in research and innovation for agricultural assistive technologies for persons with disabilities such as processing plants, farm tools, transportation equipment among others.
- vii. The ministry of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries should collect comprehensive data on persons with disabilities engaged in agriculture disaggregated by disability category, age and gender for effective planning in consultations with national council for disability and organization of persons with disabilities.

3.6 Information Communication Technology (ICT) and National Guidance sector

The Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance has a mandate of providing strategic and technical leadership, overall coordination, support and advocacy on all matters of policy, laws, regulations and strategy for the ICT sector. It also ensures sustainable, efficient and effective development; harnessing and utilisation of ICT in all spheres of life to enable the country achieve its national development goals.

The Governance and Institutional Framework of ICT sector in the country can be viewed from four main perspectives; oversight function; policy formulation and coordination; policy implementation and; regulation. The ICT and National Guidance sector is supported by different Government and other Institutions with designated mandates as follows:

- I. Ministry of ICT & National Guidance – being responsible for ICT legal and regulatory environment; Secure ICT access and usage for all; increased employment and growth opportunities and increased awareness and citizen participation in government programmes;
- II. Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) – being responsible for regulatory environment of the communications sector including broadcasting; efficient and effective management of scarce communications resources; fostering efficient/healthy competition; consumer protection; research and development of human resource in sector;
- III. National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) – being responsible for a rationalized and integrated national IT infrastructure; e-government services in MDAs; regulation of IT environment in public and private sector; capacity building and awareness creation; information security and development of information technology enabled services/business process outsourcing (ITES/BPO) industry;
- IV. Uganda Post Limited (UPL) – being responsible for offering a wide range of postal, communications and logistical services; financial services (Money orders); passenger transport and parcel delivery services;
- V. Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) – being responsible to train and conduct courses, seminars and workshops, and create public awareness of the communications sector;
- VI. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) – being the national broadcaster providing radio and television broadcasting services and programmes;
- VII. The Uganda Media Centre (UMC) – being responsible to provide professional media and communication services to government departments; foster a communication environment between government and the media and to integrate the international marketing of Uganda into the broader communication strategy of government;
- VIII. The Media Council – being responsible for regulation and promotion of ethical standards and discipline of journalists; arbitrate disputes between the public and the media; censor films, videotapes plays and other re-



- lated apparatuses;
- IX. The Vision Group – a multimedia business housing newspapers, magazines, internet publishing, televisions, radios, commercial printing, advertising and distribution services;
 - X. The ICT and National Guidance Sector Working Group – with a role to harmonize, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and report on the sector vision and goals, policy frameworks, plans, and performance of all sector MDAs. Comprises of membership from Sector MDAs, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Local Governments private sector, institutions associated with the sector, and representatives of development partners. It is headed by the Sector lead – Ministry of ICT & National Guidance

The ICT and National Guidance sector has of recent responded to the inclusion cause. ICTs are at the helm of inclusion and the work of the sector leaders cannot go un-accounted for leading to the following achievements.

Achievements of the ICT sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The following achievements for including persons with disabilities in the ICT sector were highlighted:

- I. Promoted value added services, access to information and service needs to all sectors of society especially the under-served sections of society (rural or low-income communities and persons with disabilities).
- II. The development of the ICT and Disability strategy; the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT & NG) undertook to develop the ICT for Disabilities policy to guide the development and supply of accessible ICTs in Uganda. Without such a policy, ICT based interventions for PWD would be limited to ad-hoc, market-led and small-scale private initiatives.
- III. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has a commissioner representing persons with disabilities to influence disability concerns within the programmes and plans of the commission.
- IV. During the period under review, in 2018; Uganda Communications Commission instructed all televisions to relay programmes in Sign Language (USL) for Deaf persons.
- V. The National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) has been developing online monitoring systems for disability inclusion through training of MDAs in accessible web development with support from UNESCO.

Though the sector has exhibited the above achievements, there are still gaps that need to be closed for disability inclusion to take place, these are as follows;



Gaps in the ICT and National Guidance sector in ensuring disability inclusion

- i. The loose enforcement on the television houses to telecast key programmes in Sign Language.
- ii. The introduction of Over the Top Tax (OTT) on social media has immensely hampered communication among deaf persons as the cost goes high for them amidst the high poverty levels among persons with disabilities. It should be noted that ICTs enhance communication, livelihoods and welfare and any additional costs would have a heavy toll on persons with disabilities;
- iii. Uganda Post Limited (UPL) has buses that among others transport persons. However, as a model sector (also responsible for national guidance), there is need to have accessible buses.
- iv. The vision group prints exceptionally small fonts that may not favour persons with visual impairments (low vision) and do not print their information in other accessible formats such as Braille, large print audio among others.

Recommendations for the ICT and National Guidance sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The following recommendations are proposed for minimizing the gaps identified in the inclusion for persons with disabilities in the ICT and national guidance sector;

- i. The Uganda communications commission should enforce the regulation on telecasting key programmes in Sign language not only the news.
- ii. The Uganda revenue authority should have affirmative action and exempt deaf persons who are using smart phones for communication from payment of OTT.
- iii. UPL should procure model accessible busses for passengers to accommodate persons with disabilities
- iv. The ministry of ICT Should Popularise the ICT and Disability strategy for effective implementation
- v. Vision group should develop accessible formats of their newspapers and magazines for the use of blind/ visual impaired persons and print disabilities in consultation with National Council for Disabilities and organizations of persons with visual impairment, accessible formats can include Braille, large print, and audio among others.
- vi. The ministry of ICT should finalise the development of the ICT policy on persons with disabilities.



3.7 Energy and mineral development sector

The Energy and mineral development sector is mandated:

“To establish, promote the development, strategically manage and safeguard the rational and sustainable exploitation and utilisation of energy and mineral resources for social and economic development.”

The sector establishes implements and/or regulates energy sources and minerals. It is responsible for electricity, electrification and, the agencies thereof; extraction of minerals including oil, other extractives, and solar-supported energy thereof.

The key indicators for tracking performance in the sector include: rate of electrification, energy balance, mineral production, imports and exports, petroleum supplies and distribution. The nearest the sector comes close to disability is in rural electrification project where the programme has been designed to ensure equitable access to on and off grid electricity amongst all groups in society highly prioritising the marginalised groups in all rural areas of Uganda – including persons with disabilities.

Achievements of the energy and mineral development sector in disability inclusion

The key sector achievements in as far as disability inclusion is concerned has mainly been in the area of:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| i. | The prioritization of persons with disabilities particularly in the rural electrification programme and immensely lowering the cost per unit of electricity. | particularly UMEME employees a person with physical disability and has also contributed to the purchase of her motorized scooter to easy mobility. She is employed as a safety, environment and health administrator. (http://wecanwork.ug/ambassador-umeme/). |
| ii. | The employment of persons with disabilities in the energy sub sector | |

Gaps of the energy and mineral development sector in ensuring disability inclusion

The gaps identified include:

- I. There is almost no occupational safety and health measure for artisanal miners.
- II. Little engagement of persons with disabilities in small scale mining ventures
- III. The sector lacks a policy and strategy for disability inclusion.

Recommendations for the energy and mineral development sector

The following recommendations are proposed for including persons with disabilities in the sector:

- I. The ministry of energy and mineral development should put in place occupational and safety guidelines for artisanal and small-scale miners to reduce incidences of disability occurrence.
- II. The ministry of energy and minerals should employ more persons with disabilities in the sector.
- III. The ministry of energy and minerals development should engage in research and technology development for low-cost energy sources that can be used by persons with disabilities.
- IV. The ministry of energy and mineral development should develop a policy on inclusion of persons with disabilities in their programmes plans and budgets.

3.8 Justice, Law Order sector (JLOS)

The Justice, Law Order Sector (JLOS) is a combination of ministries and institutions charged with the administration of justice in Uganda. The sector institutions include: Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC); Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory (DGAL); Judicial Service Commission (JSC); Law Development Centre (LDC); Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA); Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA); National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA); Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP); Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT); The Judiciary; Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC); Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC); Uganda Law Society (ULS); Uganda Police Force (UPF); Uganda Prisons Services (UPS) and; Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

Access to justice is paramount to persons with disabilities and it is also prescribed in the CBR matrix as a social aspect for inclusion and social cohesion.

In a bid to promote disability by the JLOS sector, some institutions in the sector have desks / units responsible for vulnerable groups for instance the Uganda human rights commission, the Uganda Police among others. As a result these were the achievements;

Achievements of the JLOS in Disability inclusion

- I. The UHRC have incorporated disability in their annual reports particularly under the section of emerging issues, in addition the commission started producing brailled copies of the annual reports with effect from 2016 to date.
- II. URSB promoted the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind and/or with visual impairments. The arrangements between URSB and First Parliamentary Council under Ministry of Justice are ongoing to draft a bill to domesticate the treaty.



- III. The Sector made input in persons with bill and Mental health bill which have been passed into law. The Mental Health Act was assented to by the president in March 2019.
- IV. The sector amended the panel code Act and the rape of persons with disability is considered an aggravated case leading to life imprisonment.
- V. The construction of accessible new court buildings upcountry has improved access to justice by persons with Disabilities.
- VI. The sectors has provided reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in court proceedings for instance provision of sign language interpreters and adjusting venues for court hearings for physical access.
- VII. The sector has nullified wrong practices towards persons with Disability for instance the case of Herbert Kaddu who allegedly attacked the Anglican Bishop Kityo Luwalira.
- VIII. Eradication of bucket system in prisons, in the FY 2017/18 a total of 225 out of 254 prisons in Uganda phased out the bucket system in prisons. This has slightly improved on sanitation and hygiene of persons with Disabilities in detention.

Though sector has registered achievements in disability inclusion, there gaps that still exist as listed below:

Gaps of the JLOS in disability inclusion

- I. Limited provision of reasonable accommodation in court proceedings; Persons with Disabilities are facing challenges in accessing high court and other court houses; inaccessible communication by use of sign language and tack-tile communication services.
- II. Limited coordination of the JLOS sector has hindered access to justice for persons with Disabilities.
- III. Limited consultations with National Council for Disability and other disability organisations have limited access to justice for persons with Disabilities.
- IV. There limited awareness on disability issues among police and other JLOS institutions.
- V. There is total lack of Disability specific policy in the JLOS sector for disability inclusion.
- VI. There is limited financing to address reasonable accommodation interventions.
- VII. Inadequate data on persons with Disabilities affects effective planning for Disability inclusion in the JLOS sector.
- VIII. Delayed amendments of some laws including the constitution of republic of Uganda affects inclusion of persons with Disabilities in the Sector.



Recommendations for the JLOS in disability inclusion

The following recommendations are proposed for including persons with disabilities in the JLOS sector:

- I. Increase coordination among police, court and probation to enhance fast and quick access to justice for persons with communication disabilities;
- II. Ministry of Justice in consultations with National Council for Disability should organised trainings of all JLOS actors in basic skills on managing disability inclusion.
- III. Ministries of finance provide funds to JLOS sector for Disability inclusion in their programmes.
- IV. Ministry of Justice and Law reform commission should review all relevant laws to address concerns of persons with Disabilities; the laws to amend include Evidence Act, 1958 to allow witnesses with disabilities, Constitution of Republic of Uganda, 1995 among others.
- V. The JLOS sector in consultation with National Council for Disability and other Disability Actors should develop a policy for Disability inclusion.
- VI. The JLOS sector improves on consultation with National council for Disability and other Disability actors for purposes of Disability inclusion.
- VII. The JLOS sector reviews their Data management information system to capture and report on Disability.

3.9 Lands, Housing and Urban Development sector

The sector is mandated to formulate policies, strategies and programmes in the lands, housing and urban development sectors; Mobilization of financial and technical assistance for the development of lands, housing and urban development sub sectors.

Uganda's Constitution of 1995 article 237 and Land Act of 1998(amended) section 3 recognizes four land-holding and tenure systems; freehold, mailo, leasehold, and customary – each with its own rules and each bestowing different rights and responsibilities concerning individuals.

The Land Act established that more than 80% of land in Uganda is held under undocumented customary tenure systems, the situation for the vast majority of Ugandan men and women. The Land Act defines customary tenure as “a system of

land tenure regulated by customary rules which are limited in their operation to a particular description or class of persons.” It defines mailo tenure as a customary form of freehold tenure, where “holding of registered land in perpetuity and having roots in the allotment of land pursuant to the 1900 Uganda Agreement and subject to statutory qualifications.”

The sector is not only responsible for land tenure and use management but also the nature of housing (including their accessibility) and urban development. There is a relationship between SDG 11 – on accessible cities and article 9 (accessibility) of the CRPD. The CRPD concluding observations on Uganda therefore prescribe that the state party adopts action plan to ensure accessibility to the physical envi-



ronment, to transportation, to information and communications, technologies and systems, with allocation of resources and time bound framework. This has not been implemented yet.

Where-as there are no specific provisions for persons with disabilities in land tenure and use, the building control act regulations (2018) were passed and support accessibility to buildings for persons with disabilities.

Achievements of the Lands, Housing and Urban Development sector in Disability Inclusion

- I. The passing of the regulation for the Building control Act has led to more buildings constructed with provisions for accessibility for persons with Disabilities.
- II. Enforcement of the Building control Act for disability inclusion

Gaps affecting Disability inclusion

- I. Limited enforcement of Building control Act and its regulations
- II. Limited awareness raising on the legal instruments on disability inclusion
- III. Limited financing
- IV. The laws are not in accessible formats for easy access to persons with disabilities

Recommendations to the sector

- I. Popularise and enforce the Building control Act, regulations and Disability accessibility standards to improve physical accessibility in Uganda.
- II. Regular information sharing
- III. Coordination with NCD and other Disability organisations
- IV. Enforcement of the legal provisions under the sector for disability inclusion.

III.10 Legislature sector

The legislator sector is responsible for under chapter six of the 1995 Uganda Constitution. The core functions of the legislature are; to make laws on any matter for the peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda and; protect the Constitution and promote the democratic governance of Uganda. Other roles are; to provide oversight and ap-

propriation of resources accordingly.

Persons with disabilities are represented at all political levels in Uganda which is a great achievement and, the process through which one becomes a member of parliament representing persons with disabilities is through the disability electoral college.

Achievements of the Legislature sector

- I. Parliament has enacted legal reforms with in the period under review that are specifically relating to persons with disabilities these include; the mental health Act, 2018, Person with Disabilities Act, 2019 that awaits presidential assent among others.
- II. The Parliamentary Committee on Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance – oversees the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance and covers policy matters under the Ministry.
- III. The parliament has passed funds that support functioning of all government sectors including those that deal directly with persons with disabilities like NCD.
- IV. Establishment of institutions that protect and promote rights of persons with disabilities like EOC, UHRC and NCD among others.
- V. Provision of reasonable accommodation of parliamentarians with Disabilities for instance provision of personal assistants, ICT needed for the blind and trainings, sign language interpreters among others.
- VI. The parliament of Uganda in the period under review supported persons with albinism with UGX. 35 million to establish/construct an Albinism centre in Uganda.

Gaps affecting Disability inclusion

- I. Delay in amendment of laws with derogatory terms
- II. Limited monitoring of the implementation and performance of public finance management Act and other Disability inclusive laws.
- III. Inadequate budget allocation for disability inclusion in all sectors has affected service delivery to persons with Disabilities.

Recommendations to include Disability

- I. Parliament should increase budget allocations for disability inclusion in all sectors.
- II. Parliament should amend/ enact new laws to address disability inclusion.
- III. Parliament in consultation with NCD and other disability actors design specific strategies for enforcing disability inclusion in the Gender and Equity certification to MDAs.
- IV. Parliament organizes trainings in consultation with NCD and other Disability actors to all members of parliament and staff.



III.11 Public administration sector

The Public Administration Sector (PAS) consists of the following; Office of the President (excluding ISO), State House, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Electoral Commission and Missions Abroad.

The sector is mandated to uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, providing leadership in the initiation, formulation, and coordination and monitor-

ing of public policies and programmes; promoting and managing International Relations and Commercial diplomacy; as well as mobilizing the populace to effectively participate in the democratic and development processes. This section will spell out institutions that have reported on Disability inclusion in the period under review;

3.11.1 The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is established under Article 60 and mandated under Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 (as amended) to organise, conduct and supervise regular, free and fair elections and referenda, among other functions. The commission has been organizing elections of persons with disabilities and registered successes as indicated below;

Achievements in Disability inclusion

There have been a number of strides taken by the government of Uganda to make elections inclusive of persons with disabilities. These among others include:

- I. The enabling legislative framework which provides for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life; representation of persons with disabilities in elective politics at all levels and; provides for non-discrimination. The laws and policies however have not been cognizant of the changing global trends in regard to disability inclusion;
- II. A Desk responsible for special interest groups (including persons with disabilities) at the Independent Electoral Commission which provides accessible spaces for voicing, organising and conducting elections of and for persons with disabilities;
- III. There has been an observation of physical accessibility in recent (2017) by-elections in Jinja where the polling stations were located on flat and accessible areas;
- IV. The National Council for Disability has been consulted on matters relating to elections. NCD has been consulted to support accessible voter registers display in Kampala, advise on the observation of the rights of persons with disabilities at polling stations and, scrutinizing of candidates in the electoral colleges in accordance with the disability codes among others
- V. These good practices are however curtailed by changes in the practice of inclusion as well as budgetary constraints. It should be noted that inclusion comes with an extra cost although it is the right of persons with disabilities to participate in the elections regardless of the cost of their inclusion.



Gaps affecting Persons with Disabilities in Electoral Processes

In 2017, NCD undertook research on inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes. The findings show that there are still challenges that affect persons with disabilities from fully participating in elections these include;

Deriving from the study, it was observed that Persons with Disabilities are constrained from exercising their right to vote and to be voted because Election Officials;

- I. There is limited awareness of disability needs, use unskilled guides and Sign language interpreters to assist Persons with Disabilities in voting processes.
- II. Distant polling stations that incur transport costs to voters with disabilities.
- III. Limited use of modern technology to ease independent voting.
- IV. Inadequate mobilisation of persons with disabilities to participate in voting;
- V. Lack of appropriate shelters at the polling centres to especially persons with albinism who are adversely affected by harsh weather.
- VI. The Electoral Commission and other stakeholders accredited to provide voter education did not provide information in accessible formats;
- VII. Inadequate time allocated for voter education for persons with disabilities;
- VIII. Voter education was concentrated in urban centres and;
- IX. Electoral Commission voters' education guidelines not disability friendly.

Recommendation for disability inclusion in electoral processes

The following recommendations should be considered for inclusive elections in Uganda:

- I. The commission takes legislative steps to domesticate and implement the UNCRPD to enable Persons with disabilities to vote without discrimination through provision of brailled ballot papers to blind voters an option to vote independently and by secret ballot, and polling stations should be accessible to wheelchair-using voters.
- II. The commission invests resources to facilitate publicity, movement and welfare of persons with disabilities during formation of electoral collages.
- III. The commission in collaboration with NCD initiate a process of amending relevant provisions in the electoral laws to consider representation of all disability categories listed in the NCD Act, 2013 at all levels.
- IV. Respect the principle of consultation in all decisions that affect the election of persons with Disabilities.
- V. Adopt technology voting systems



- like Electronic voting machines to reduce human error, in accessibility and voter manipulations.
- VI. The Electoral commission work closely with NIIRA to improve registration form to clearly cover all categories of persons with disabilities and ensure all appear on the national voter register.
- VII. Electoral commission work closely with NCD to coordinate disability related information effectively.
- VIII. Provide voter education materials in accessible formats and ensure a directive is given to all accredited organizations offering voter education to cater for information needs of persons with Disabilities.
- IX. Support regional voting of persons with disabilities in parliament to reduce the burden during voter campaigns.

3.11.2 Ministry of foreign affairs

The mandate of the ministry is to promote and protect Uganda's interests abroad and undertake programmes that underpin the implementation and management of Uganda's Foreign Policy.

Achievements made in disability inclusion

The following are some of the key achievements registered in the previous four financial years in regard to disability inclusion;

- I. The ministry is leading the ratification and reporting on international legal instruments on behalf of Uganda Government, the instruments include CEDAW, CRPD, CRC among other laws and in all the reporting done, they are sections specifically on Disability.
- II. As the President of UN General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs led the preparation of sustainable development goals and post 2015 development agenda. The process ensured that no one is left behind and 11 of the goals have specific indicators on Disability.
- III. Through engaging the diaspora, a fund was established by the Diaspora in USA to fund the construction of fistula hospital in Soroti which will provide treatment to the affected women in the east and neighboring regions of Uganda. These services are intended to prevent disability among women.

Gaps for Disability Inclusion

- I. Limited reporting and delayed submission of state reports, this has negative impact on the image of the country at international level.
- II. There is limited coordination of the ministry with NCD to effectively implement and domesticate the CRPD.
- III. Lack of specific policy on disability in the ministry has limited disability inclusion.
- IV. Lack of awareness on the needs of persons with disability in the ministry has gravely impacted disability inclusion negatively.

Recommendations for Disability Inclusion

- I. Consult with NCD on disability inclusion for effective coordination
- II. Regularly raise awareness on the reporting mechanism on international legal instruments.
- III. Develop a disability specific internal policy and strategy to improve disability inclusion in the sector.

III.12 Accountability sector

The Accountability Sector is one of the sectors that provide an enabling environment for the efficient performance of the primary sectors of the economy. The accountability sector was constituted to spearhead promotion, supervision and implementation of accountability systems in a coordinated manner. As per the NDP II, the accountability sector is composed of two sub sectors of (i) audit and (ii) eco-

nomics and financial management services.

The period under review, the following institutions have reported on disability inclusion that includes: Uganda Bureau of Statistics; National Planning Authority; Uganda Revenue Authority; Ministry of Public Service; Ministry of Local Government; Kampala Capital City Authority.

3.12.1 The National Planning Authority

The mandate of National Planning authority came into force by an Act of parliament in 2002. In line with Part III, section 7(h) of the Act, the authority is mandated to “ensure that all national plans are gender and disability sensitive”.

application of guidelines. Key among the challenges are: the complexity of understanding disability - due to multiple types and causes, limited awareness on the nature of effective interventions among others.

The National Planning Authority (NPA) in 2017 developed the National Disability Inclusive Planning Guidelines to provide direction for planning, budgeting and monitoring of harmonised disability interventions in Uganda for Persons with Disabilities. While the second National Development Plan (NDP II) prioritized disability among the crosscutting issues, implementation has still experienced many challenges, which require redress by ap-

Given the challenges mentioned, Persons with Disabilities are likely to face more risks and vulnerabilities along their life cycle, as well as face shocks that will affect their well-being. The Government of Uganda now fully recognises disability as a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all sectors. Therefore, all sectors at national and local Government levels must address disability in their development plans.



Achievements of the sector

- I. The Planning authority recognizes disability as a cross cutting issues.
- II. The guidelines were prepared to facilitate inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue in Sector and Local Government plans. The guidelines respond to the need for comprehensive multi-sectoral guidance for those involved in planning at various levels. The guidelines were designed to cater for the following; To provide a systematic approach on what to consider during planning for disability mainstreaming; To provide suggestions on the nature of disability interventions that could be included in plans and budgets; To clarify monitoring and evaluation arrangements, and possible indicators for tracking disability inclusion.
- III. Monitoring performance of MDAs on inclusion of Disability using the guidelines.

Gaps affecting Disability Inclusion

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Limited financial commitment to disability and development, and low quality of disability mainstreaming in the work of NPA. II. Insufficient use of disability data for planning - Limited efforts to analyse the 2014 census data by respective MDAs & LGs. Most MDAs hardly disaggregate M&E data by disability. III. Limited attention to disability main- | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> streaming by MDAs: Despite the requirement by the PFM Act (2015), for MDAs to demonstrate equity, gaps in disability mainstreaming persist. IV. Financial and human resources are not adequately aligned to meet the disability challenge. V. Limited consultations with NCD and other disability specific actors. |
|--|--|

Recommendations to address the gaps

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Improved monitoring of MDAs to ensure disability is included in their plans, budgets and effectively implemented. II. Consult with NCD on disability inclusion for effective coordination III. Conduct Disability specific surveys to improve planning | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> IV. Promote the implementation of the Disability inclusion planning guidelines by all MDAs and Local Governments. V. Use the CRPD as the primary benchmark for planning, and tool kit for interpreting and realizing the SDGs for persons with disabilities. |
|---|---|



III.0.2 Uganda Bureau of Statistics UBOS

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) was formed through, Uganda Bureau of Statistics Act No. 12, 1998. It is the principal data collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating agency responsible for coordinating and supervising the National Statistical System. The Bureau is, therefore, coordinating "the development and maintenance of a National Statistical System which will ensure collection, analysis and dissemination of integrated, reliable and timely statistical information.

Achievements in Disability Inclusion

- I. Representation of NCD in the Data working group: NPA together with UBOS have formed a working group to implement SDG goal one to eliminate poverty, this working group caters for disability and NCD is a member to the group. This will support in documenting and planning for improved livelihoods of persons with Disabilities in Uganda.
- II. Inclusion of Disability in all survey conducted to capture disability data.
- III. Conduct of UFDS, 2017 this improved on data specific on disability for effective planning.
- IV. Improved consultations with Disability related institutions to capture effective data on disability.

Gaps to inclusion of Disability in Accountability Sector

Although a number of efforts have been undertaken to ensure disability inclusion in policies and programmes, the interventions by MDAs and Local Governments have not been comprehensive. The following key shortcomings are identified;

- I. **There is insufficient disability data for effective planning;** MDAs and Local Governments decry the shortage of disability data to provide the evidence needed for planning. The general absence of data and statistics on disability is considered responsible for its reduced significance in programming and resource allocation. There has been limited effort by MDAs and Local Governments to further analyses the 2014 national census data into formats that are usable by respective MDAs. In addition, most MDAs hardly disaggregate their routine monitoring data by disability.
- II. **Limited attention to disability mainstreaming by MDAs;** despite the requirement by the Public Finance Management Act (2015), for MDAs to demonstrate effective inclusion of gender and equity, gaps in disability mainstreaming persist. According to the EOC, assessment of MDAs for compliance to gender and equity is weighted in such a manner that gender accounts for 40% of the total score, and disability of all categories, geography (ethnic minorities and hard to reach/live locations), and age (children, youth and older persons) account for 20% each. However, sectors mostly score relatively higher in gender mainstreaming and less on the other parameters. The EOC therefore proposed to adjust the scoring procedure to ensure that all parameters are effectively considered in the final score of the MDAs. MDAs currently have inadequate expertise to effectively include disability in their plans and budgets.



- III. **Multi-sectoral coordination for disability and development is weak**; Inter-MDA coordination of the response to disability is fragmented and leads to duplication of roles.
- IV. Limited awareness of the members of NPA and staff on Disability inclusion.
- V. Inadequate dissemination of Disability guidelines.
- VI. Inadequate funding to the authority for effective disability inclusion.

Recommendations

- I. Continues consultations and coordination with NCD to improve disability data capture
- II. Build capacity to capture disability specific information
- III. Regular conduct of Disability specific surveys
- IV. Inclusion of Disability specific questions in any survey conducted by UBOS
- V. Regular updates on desegregated data on disability.

III.0.3 Uganda Revenue Authority

Uganda revenue Authority (URA) is responsible for assessing, collecting and accounting for central government tax revenues (including non-tax revenues) and to provide advice to government on matters of policy relating to all revenue sources.

The inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in regard to revues have been promoted in other laws such as, section 7 (2) of the persons with disabilities Act (2006) exempts taxes, duties, surcharges or levies on purchase, importation, transfer or gift of health materials or equipment relating to disabilities; section 13 (c) of the persons with disabilities Act (2006) allows employers to claim tax exemption on any costs incurred as a result of the modifications carried out under paragraph(b) in regard to employment and; section 17 allows private employers who employ ten or more persons with disabilities either as regular employees, apprentice or learner on full time basis to be entitled to tax deduction of fifteen percent of all pay able tax upon proof to the Uganda Revenue Authority. This has been reviewed to 2% tax deduction for any employer whose workforce comprises of at least 5% of persons with disabilities. Therefore, URA has a role to play in ensuring that these legal provisions are enforced;

Text box 5: Guidelines on tax reduction for employers of persons with disabilities

Type of Incentive: Tax deduction for employers of Persons with Disabilities

Who Qualifies: Private employers that employ persons with disabilities.

Conditions for granting Exemption: 2% of income tax payable is allowed as a deduction for income tax purposes if 5% of their employees on full time basis are persons with disabilities.

Source: Uganda Revenue Authority

Achievements on Disability Inclusion

- I. Persons with Physical disabilities are exempted from paying taxes whenever they import motor vehicles
- II. Ensure tax exemptions on all sun screening lotions and other related items for persons with albinism.
- III. Person with disabilities receive exemptions on importation of assistive devices like wheel chairs, crutches among others.

Gaps affecting Disability inclusion

- I. There is limited knowledge of URA offices on disability items that require exemptions.
- II. Inadequate consultations with NCD and other disability actors to advise URA on disability related matters.
- III. Limited awareness and interpretation of existing tax exemption laws related to Disability.

Recommendation for disability inclusion

- I. URA to organization trainings in consultation with NCD and other Disability actors to provide information on laws and policies related to disability.
- II. Continuous awareness on the existing laws to the public
- III. URA should regularly consult NCD on matters related to tax exemption and Disability in general.

III.0.4 Ministry of public service

The ministry of public service is to develop, manage and supervise implementation of human resource policies, management systems, procedures and structures of public service.

Achievements on Disability Inclusion

In regards to disability inclusion, the ministry has achieved the following:

- I. The Ministry has approved plans to remodel the existing office buildings so that they are accessible to all persons
- II. The ministry approved guideline on the cost waivers (on the part of persons with disabilities) that needs auxiliary services such as aids and interpreters.
- III. The Civil Service College Uganda has institutionalized provision of aides to trainees with disability.
- IV. The Ministry reviewed the recruitment policy to exonerate persons with disabilities from aptitude tests and subject them to only oral interviews.



Gaps affecting disability inclusion

- I. The ministry has no disability desk for disability affairs; this affects implementation of disability inclusive programmes.
- II. The ministry lack specific disability policy to guide inclusion at work place and in the plans and programmes.
- III. The ministry officers are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

Recommendations for Disability inclusion

- I. The ministry continues implementing the Employment Act 2006 (NO.6) which prohibits discrimination of persons in employment based on disability
- II. Review the Standing Orders to provide for: consideration of persons with disabilities during allocation of government houses and; make it mandatory for government institutions to provide assistive devices to employees with disability to enable them perform their duties.
- III. Develop a specific policy and its strategy for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ministries work.
- IV. Provide reasonable accommodation to cater for accessibility of persons with disabilities to the physical environment of the ministry.

III.13 Security sector

The mandate of Security Sector is to ensure a secure and sustainable environment that enables national development by containing any potential security threats. The security sector includes: the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Police Force (UPF), Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI), Internal Security Organisation (ISO) and External Security organisation (ESO) among others.

In relation to Disability inclusion, UPDF Act (2005) section 78 provides for disabled soldiers to access their pensions. In the vain, UPDF established the Chieftaincy of Mubende Rehabilitation Centre (CMRC) in 1986 to support the treatment and rehabilitation of disabled soldiers. The rehabilitation centre provides the following services as indicated in the text box below;



Text box 6: Services offered at CMRC**Physical and Psycho-social Rehabilitation.**

This is the subjecting of the disabled soldiers to various rehabilitation processes according to disability:

a. For Disability of Limbs.

Physiotherapy and provision of orthopaedic devices (prosthetics, orthotics, corsets, and orthopaedic boots) and assistive devices for movement like crutches, wheel chairs etc.

b. AMA Project.

Orthopaedic workshop project run by a South African company Africa Medical Alliance (AMA). The building complex and installation of all equipment are all completed. Only raw materials are awaited.

c. For Impairment of Vision and Hearing.

- (1) Training in practical life skills like Braille and Sign Language at Kyambogo University School of Special Needs under Exercise Giving Hope.
- (2) Provision of assistive devices like spectacles and white cane sticks for the totally blind and hearing aids for the deaf.

d. Counselling.

An integral part of the rehabilitation process helping the disabled psychologically from hopelessness to being and feeling useful in society with hope. The Social Workers are effectively playing this role.

e. Medical Assessment.

There is regular medical assessment of every individual disabled soldier to determine: degree of disability and extent of rehabilitation.

f. Special Needs Sports.

Sit ball, sitting volleyball, Goal ball for the blind, Wheelchair basketball, Construction of Special Needs Sports court is underway.

g. Projects for Welfare and Demonstration.

There are projects for enhancement of welfare and practicing technical skills. They include; Dairy Farm, Carpentry and Metal Workshops, Mubende Officers Welfare Organization (MOWO) - Mess, Forestation and Fish Farming. The maize mill has been hired out for Shs 18m/= per year.

h. Group and Individual Projects.

These are for income generation and domestic consumption respectively. They include candle making, baking, mushroom growing, making charcoal briquets, food production and, kitchen gardening among others

SOURCE: Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs website (<http://portal.defence.go.ug>)



Gaps affecting Disability inclusion in the sector

- I. The UPDF Act, 2005 section 52 (d) hinders persons with disabilities from joining forces under the guise that they do not pass the eligibility criterion set there in since they are not medically fit.
- II. According to the UHRC report, 2019 identifies security organs in Uganda to have ranked high in torturing people thus contributing to the prevalence of disability in Uganda.
- III. Persons who are disabled while on duty have been laid off without appropriate compensation and treatment.

Achievements of the security sector in Disability Inclusion

- I. The sector has supported welfare of service men that get disability on duty for instance the formation of COWADISA in Mubende to support income generation of disabled soldiers and the establishment and facilitation of the Mubende rehabilitation centre to cater for health and livelihoods of those soldiers as indicated in the text box above.
- II. Establishment of Mubende rehabilitation centre has helped to provide assistive devices to disabled soldiers and the community around the barracks.

Recommendations to include Disability in security sector

- I. The UPDF Act, 2015 should be amended to allow persons with disabilities to join the security organs.
- II. Persons who get disability while in forces should be kept in services and remunerated accordingly.
- III. Build capacity of disabled soldiers to be in position to live a decent life
- IV. The security organs should eradicate use of excessive force in executing their duties.



III.14 Disability and civil society

Civil society organisations include: Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Organisations of persons with Disabilities (OPDs), Faith Based Organizations and, international agencies and NGOs. These have been supplementing the efforts of Government in promoting and protecting disability rights as well as provision of services in Uganda. In the period under re-

view, few organizations working with persons with Disabilities will be reported on as examples which are as follows;

The contributions have been in areas of health and rehabilitation, education and rights advocacy, governance and democracy, Economic empowerment among others. Some of the organisations that have contributed to Disability inclusion are as follows;

National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda

NUDIPU is generally promoting rights of persons with disabilities and livelihoods of persons with disabilities, for instance the organization is implementing a program for economic empowerment of persons with Disabilities through village savings Associations called iSAVE have shaped rural livelihoods through a community based and self-help approach for rural credit and financial services. National Union of

Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU with support from the Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) are mobilizing Savings Groups through the Disability Community/Organizations. This programme has mobilized groups of men and women with disabilities, as well as caretakers and community members in rural villages in 13 districts in Uganda, and has created sustainable groups and strong savers.

Sightsavers-Uganda

Sightsavers, livelihood project in Bunyoro sub-region called connecting the Dots, saw more than 300 young people with Disabilities in Uganda complete vocational training between 2012 and 2016. The project got extra funds that saw more than 450 new learners with Disabilities gain skills in a variety of vocations, from retail, knitting and leatherwork to mechanics, IT and catering.

Over the last four years, Sightsavers have been working with the Ministry of Health and other partners in 33 districts of Uganda to eradicate trachoma that cause preventable blindness. Since 2014, the Trachoma Initiative has operated on over 24,000 people with advance trachoma known as Trachomatous Trichiasis (TT) and helped 2,700 people manage their condition.

Sight savers have been supporting blind children to attend school through provi-

sion of scholastic materials. The organization has been supporting special classes to learn from their resource rooms this is done through stocking the resource rooms with desks and lockers, braille machines, braille papers and text books as well a stalking computers specifically known as computers with dolphin.

with Sight savers Uganda in partnership with Ministry of Education and Sports (departments of Teacher Instructor, Education, and Training as well as Special Needs and Inclusive Education), National Union of Disabled People of Uganda (NUDIPU) and Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC) are running a project to train tutors from all government and private Primary Teacher Colleges to develop skills to implement the special needs education component in the PTC curriculum. The project is intentioned to pass out teachers



with an inclusive orientation to support all children in their classes; Advocate for an inclusive policy in Uganda with provisions

that takes into consideration the needs of children with disabilities.

Cheshire Services Uganda

Cheshire services Uganda implements a number of projects in Uganda that are focused on empowerment of youth and young children with disabilities through Education and livelihoods. Cheshire service Uganda implemented a livelihood project in Adjumani and Moyo Districts in West Nile Region. The livelihood project, equipped 424 women and 492 men with disabilities in the two Districts with vocational and business skills of which 88.5% of women and 86.9% of men with disabilities trained reported that they acquired the necessary skills to start working by end of 2017.

Under its education program, the Girls' Education Project, which focuses solely on girls in primary school have worked with over 100 schools and support 2,024 girls with disabilities in Kampala City. The organization has also reached children with Disabilities in hard to reach places like; Amolatar, where 500 boys and girls have been reached with education services and 800 adolescents also reached in Moyo District.

Sense International

Sense international is dealing with deaf blindness in Uganda and it is working towards strengthen implementation of quality services for people with deaf blindness/MSI to enable them to flourish; Build an evidence base grounded in and informing policy and practice in regards to deaf blindness/MSI; Contribute to strengthening the voice of people with deaf blindness/MSI and their families to represent themselves, to enjoy their rights and to participate fully in society and advocate for human rights of people with deaf blindness/MSI.

In the reporting period, sense international established supported the ICT and Education sector with an E-learning platform at kyambogo University for teachers training and professional development in line with inclusion of children with deafblindness in education. And enrolled 30 teachers in the online certificate training programme at kyambogo University for certificate course in deafblindness.

The organisation also supported the social development sector by supporting pro-

vision of reasonable accommodation to 15 children with deafblindness in 10 mainstream schools in Uganda; Supported 176 children with deafblindness through home based education and training, a first step towards inclusion; Trained 76 (Male 47: Female:29) instructors of mainstream vocational institutes on inclusion of people with deafblindness in vocational institutes and communication skills; Developed inclusive Community Based Vocational Curriculum for inclusion of youth with deafblindness in mainstream school in collaboration with National Curriculum Development Centre; Worked with NCDC to develop vocational resource handbooks for instructors for use in mainstream vocational Training Centres and other community VTCs. Trained 20 youth with deafblindness in different vocational skills (tailoring, carpentry, bakery among others); Working with parents of children with deafblindness to establish 4 inclusive community vocational training centres for youth with deafblindness; Facilitated assessment and issuance of assistive devices to 22 (Male: 14/ Female: 8) youth with deafblindness;



Strengthened capacity of two local organizations (Uganda Parents of Children with Deaf Blindness and the National Association of Deaf Blind persons in Uganda) on disability inclusion and rights based programming and is conducting a research

on economic effect of caring for a child with deafblindness as part of engaging in constructive advocacy with government. (See case study on learners with deafblindness in annex)

Sense international together with MOH screened 39,000 children in Wakiso district for multi-sensory impairment and supported 79 children with multi-sensory impairment to access rehabilitation services; also established 4 Early intervention therapy centres in Wakiso District for rehabilitation of children with deafblindness in preparation for inclusion into mainstream schools. Sense is currently undertaking a study on the policy roadmap for inclusion of people with deafblindness in mainstream schools.

Challenges affecting implementation of Disability related work

- I. There is a general skill gaps among mainstream teachers in majority of Uganda primary schools in relation to inclusion of learners with deafblindness and other disabilities.
- II. The learners with Deafblindness who are enrolled in mainstream institutions require the support of teaching assistant /communicator guide which role isn't within the government structures therefore very costly for the parents.
- III. Majority of government intuitions aren't accessible in terms of infrastructure making it difficult for learners with Deafblindness to manoeuvre.
- IV. The curriculum isn't adapted to meet the unique learning needs of learners with Deafblindness
- V. Low capacity levels of teacher's /service providers (limited or no knowledge on Deafblindness)
- VI. Limited number of teachers in most mainstreamed schools makes it difficult to provide home based education to learners with Deafblindness from within the community.
- VII. Inadequate or No statistics on Deafblindness making it difficult to plan.



ADD International-Uganda

ADD International started working in Uganda in 1995, with the aim of ending exclusion, poverty and discrimination faced by people with disabilities. Its major work is organising persons with disabilities to work with each other, support them to form their own activist and campaigning groups to end exclusions.

ADD international has supported several organisations of persons with disabilities with lobbying and advocacy training so they could campaign for inclusion in development programmes in several Districts of Buikwe, Kayunga, Bunyangabu, Kasese, Kayunga and Mukono among others. In the very Districts ADD trained District Council for Disability and local government councils on their roles and ways to demand for accountability to Local governments.

Achievements on Disability Inclusion

- I. ADD has built capacity of persons with disabilities and their leaders to demand for accountability and inclusion in government empowerment programs.
- II. The Organisation has worked with other Disabled organisations to lobby for legal reforms like mental health Act, 2018 and Persons with Disabilities Act, 2019.
- III. Contributed to the implementation of CRPD and reporting.

Challenges affecting Disability Inclusion

- I. Inadequate or No statistics on persons with disabilities in Uganda thus affecting planning.
- II. Limited funds to cover reach a sizeable number of persons with disabilities in Uganda.
- III. Limited publicity of the organisational existence in the country .

Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)

USDC is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) committed to recognizing and equalizing the rights for children with disabilities. USDC's main aim is to help children with disabilities and their parents to access the resources and opportunities to enable them achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.

The organisation vision is to a society in which CWD can grow and develop to their full potential and its mission is to promote equal rights and equitable opportunities for CWDs through; advocacy, capacity building and rehabilitation.

Achievements made in disability inclusion.

- I. USDC has been facilitating efforts through various mechanisms to enable CWDs access health services that are both rehabilitative and developmental in nature. These services in the form of outreach clinics, surgical camps, assistive devices, home visits, home based care and nutrition, gender and HIV/AIDS education, facilitating establishment of initiatives for production of simple assistive devices.
- II. USDC in partnership with Sight savers has been able to train tutors from 54 PTC in the country on Inclusive Education. This will enable all primary teachers to come out with full component of Inclusive Education.



- III. USDC has been very instrumental during the process of developing National inclusive Policy which is on its final stages.
- IV. USDC in partnership with Kyambogo University has been able develop child – to – child manual. This book intends to help teacher to implement inclusive education in their Schools using child to child approach.
- V. Employment of persons with disabilities, USDC employs 6 out of 14 employees with disability and only should draft a good policy next), an elaborate one is required

Challenges affecting USDC work in championing disability Inclusion

- I. The Rights of children with disability are still undermined by many factors that require continued response and action. While Uganda as a country has signed the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and the Children's Rights Convention (CRC), the process of application and implementation of these conventions and related legal frameworks and policies in place is still wanting. There are many other issues of strategic significance , such as mainstreaming disability through existing structures and sectors through national to community level, social protection for severely disabled children , strengthening advocacy capacity and coordination particularly at the level of community structures and having effective mechanism for identifying key issues requiring advocacy attention and tracking the effectiveness of advocacy efforts on the various targets, which characterise the situation USDC intends to respond to in this period 2019-20123.
- II. The wellbeing of CWDs is greatly undermined by several factors, key of which is not being able to access and afford health services, which are often specialized.
- III. CWDs are challenged in accessing education in many ways; the type of education available is not inclusive to meet with their unique needs! Schools lack the necessary infrastructure to provide a conducive environment for their schooling. There is stigma from families and within schools against CWDs due to lack of awareness. Teachers, planners and related support mechanisms within education sector and schools lack capacity to understand and respond to the unique circumstances of CWDs. Yet still CWDs come from poor backgrounds that cannot afford meeting the related costs to education, even within the provisions of free primary education for all.

Recommendations for Disability inclusion

- I. The would be support mechanism for CWDs right from their families to schools, within communities, and government structures at different levels, have inadequate understanding of disability! Stigma, limited awareness, technical knowledge and skills as well as inadequate leadership capacity undermine their effectiveness as support mechanisms.

It should be noted that there are more organisations working with and for persons with Disabilities who may not have been documented in this stutus report. However the Council appreciates and recognizes their contributions towards Disability inclusion in the Development agenda.



3.15 Disability and the private sector

In a mixed economy, the private sector becomes imperative in determining the market demand and supply systems. For example, the private sector is the major employer of all persons – those with disabilities inclusive and hence their role cannot be under-estimated. The engagement of the private sector in social service provision, determining and solely managing the transport and works sector as well as their engagement in health services provision – including specialist health services means that their contribution to the welfare of persons with disabilities cannot go unmentioned.

Achievements for disability inclusion

- I. Donating to schools like scholastic material for example Standard Chartered Bank.
- II. Constructed accessible building
- III. Supported school fees for children with Disabilities
- IV. Surgical camp- lions and lottery
- V. Employment of persons with disabilities for instance DFCU bank, Restless Development, Send a cow among others.
- VI. Packing space for disability, rifts, toilet facilities for persons with Disabilities for instance in hotels, hospitals and shopping malls.

Gaps hindering Disability inclusion

- I. Limited knowledge of Inclusion by private sector
- II. Limited consultation
- III. Limited coordination
- IV. Limited enforcement of regulatory framework by government to ease access of services provided by private sector to person with Disabilities.

Recommendations for Disability inclusion

- I. Regular consultations with NCD
- II. Private sector should strengthen their coordination mechanism in regard to disability inclusion
- III. All the coordinating mechanisms for private sector work with NCD to promote disability inclusion in the private sector.



CHAPTER FOUR:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations on the achievements and gaps in relation to disability inclusion in the implementation of national laws, policies and programmes; as well as implementation of the concluding observations of the CRPD developed by the UN Committee of Experts on the Initial State report of Uganda. The recommendations herein are based on general observations in the reporting period.

4.2 Conclusions

According to the information collected on the performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other development partners during the period under review, it is concluded that:

1. There are still gaps in the analysis of disability statistics in Uganda which makes programming difficult. The use of national disability statistics but disaggregated by district and impairment strands can go a long way in ensuring that targeted programming is done.
2. The sectoral plans and Budget Framework papers (BFPs) still have inadequacies in ensuring that disability indicators are included in their management information systems in order to guide in monitoring and reporting on disability inclusion by MDAs.
3. There are high levels of unemployment among persons with disabilities in Uganda. According to the study conducted by Light for the world, 2018; only 9,122 (1.3%) of the employees in the formal employment are persons with disabilities. The study further noted that 46% of persons with Disabilities experience job discrimination.
4. Uganda has a rich policy and legislative framework for disability inclusion and, there is evidence of government commitment towards disability inclusion in a number of sectors. This however is not backed by resources, research and limited reference is made to the CRPD in her current policy and legislation development. This calls for amendments in the governing laws and policies to align with the provisions of the CRPD;
5. Increase in the marginalization of vulnerable persons – mainly Persons with Disabilities, Orphans and older persons, and yet there was a deliberate effort to protect the marginalisation of such categories of people by enacting supportive laws to promote their inclusion in development;
6. Limited knowledge of the different sectors on the specific roles and responsibilities assigned in the concluding observations and recommendations of the CRPD to the different sectors. Hence, the need to disseminate the CRPD and the concluding observations and recommendations widely.



7. Limited compliance: There is general limited compliance in implementation of all government policies and legal instruments, for instance to provide accessible services to persons with disabilities. Physical accessibilities have remained a challenge given the physical accessibility guidelines and standards. EOC carried out an accessibility audit with targeted institutions that included; KCCA main building, Mulago General Referral Hospital based in Kiruddu Makindye Division, Centenary Bank Ltd (Main Branch) located at Mapeera House, the High Court of the Republic of Uganda, Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Roads & crossings, markets, shopping malls, schools and places of worship.

The findings from the sampled institutions showed that none of the institutions scored high on physical accessibility ratings, thus were not fully accessible by persons with disabilities, older persons, children and expectant mothers. In this regard, appropriate recommendations were made to the institutions concerning the areas of weakness so as to ensure equal access, benefit and participation for all persons for inclusive growth and development.

4.3 Recommendations

In order to minimise the gaps in disability inclusion in general, the following recommendations are made:

1. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in consultation with the National Council for Disability and other disability actors needs to annually analyse and communicate disability statistics in the annual statistical abstracts for effective disability inclusive programming;
2. The Ministry of Health, Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and Medical Research Centre (MRC) need to consult NCD in the on-going scientific research on nodding disease/ syndrome for documentation of the social and economic aspects of the situation. This will go a long way to understand and address the social nature and needs of persons living with nodding disease/ syndrome;
3. The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development and Parliament of Uganda to increase the budget allocation for NCD in order to effectively perform her functions stipulated in the NCD Act 2003 and to monitor and report on other national laws, policies and programmes as well as the international legal framework that Uganda is a party to.
4. The Parliament of Uganda to amend the Constitution and other laws that still infringe the rights of persons with disabilities. For instance, referring to persons with disabilities with derogatory terms such as lunatic, unsound mind, imbecile among others.
5. The offices of the President expedite the process of ascending to the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2018 so that the CRPD is domesticated.
6. Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development to revitalize the National Disability steering committee, comprising of MDAs and other institutions to periodically meet and discuss disability-related concerns and matters as they arise
7. The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to set up a disability fund for mitigating the high costs associated with disability.



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Annex 1: Disability statistics: prevalence by difficulty strand and district

No	Region/Districts	Difficulty strand				Total number of persons with disabilities	Total Population	Prev. (%)
		Seeing	Hearing	Remembering	Walking			
Central Districts		481,582	209,728	349,059	340,038	1,380,407	9,529,227	14.5
1	Buikwe	24,071	11,655	19,421	21,233	76,380	422,771	18.1
2	Bukomansimbi	9,828	4,738	6,793	7,326	28,685	151,413	18.9
3	Butambala	3,406	1,703	1,927	2,397	9,433	100,840	9.4
4	Buvuma	6,858	3,401	10,449	5,550	26,258	89,890	29.2
5	Gomba	10,219	5,335	8,092	8,284	31,930	159,922	20.0
6	Kalangala	3,520	1,464	3,265	2,571	10,820	54,293	19.9
7	Kalungu	12,546	5,786	9,719	10,480	38,531	183,232	21.0
8	Kampala	59,067	15,191	21,567	26,207	122,032	1,507,080	8.1
9	Kayunga	21,633	10,853	16,223	16,935	65,644	368,062	17.8
10	Kiboga	10,545	5,224	9,705	8,975	34,449	148,218	23.2
11	Kyankwanzi	13,524	6,842	13,807	10,132	44,305	214,693	20.6
12	Luwero	26,428	11,559	20,944	19,219	78,150	456,958	17.1
13	Lwengo	15,688	8,234	14,927	13,044	51,893	274,953	18.9
14	Lyantonde	5,628	2,776	4,321	3,656	16,381	93,753	17.5
15	Masaka	14,226	6,184	10,713	11,726	42,849	297,004	14.4
16	Mityana	21,479	9,482	16,489	17,175	64,625	328,964	19.6
17	Mpigi	13,648	6,079	8,009	9,702	37,438	250,548	14.9
18	Mubende	39,628	20,871	38,068	31,240	129,807	684,337	19.0
19	Mukono	32,500	13,567	25,092	23,724	94,883	596,804	15.9
20	Nakaseke	10,351	4,764	7,088	7,263	29,466	197,369	14.9
21	Nakasongola	13,554	6,278	12,879	10,499	43,210	181,799	23.8
22	Rakai	23,986	13,354	18,951	17,687	73,978	516,309	14.3
23	Ssembabule	14,871	8,134	13,927	11,218	48,150	252,597	19.1
24	Wakiso	74,378	26,254	36,683	43,795	181,110	1,997,418	9.1
Eastern Districts		595,257	308,245	556,074	441,770	1,901,346	9,022,422	21.1
25	Amuria	20,815	11,109	27,724	16,394	76,042	270,928	28.1
26	Budaka	10,102	6,086	10,878	7,474	34,540	207,597	16.6
27	Bududa	13,909	8,341	13,969	10,680	46,899	210,173	22.3
28	Bugiri	25,388	13,977	22,599	18,574	80,538	382,913	21.0
29	Bukedea	10,069	4,983	8,835	7,089	30,976	203,600	15.2
30	Bukwo	4,190	2,542	3,220	4,067	14,019	89,356	15.7
31	Bulambuli	14,767	8,808	17,397	12,389	53,361	174,508	30.6
32	Busia	17,402	8,897	12,388	11,853	50,540	323,662	15.6
33	Butaleja	16,280	10,414	23,311	12,412	62,417	224,153	27.8
34	Buyende	23,482	11,756	23,514	16,820	75,572	323,067	23.4
35	Iganga	32,867	16,394	27,992	28,097	105,350	504,197	20.9
36	Jinja	27,320	11,872	22,327	20,600	82,119	471,242	17.4
37	Kaberemaido	17,815	9,782	17,865	11,457	56,919	215,026	26.5
38	Kaliro	16,349	8,407	14,322	11,506	50,584	236,199	21.4
39	Kamuli	31,884	16,664	24,470	24,914	97,932	486,319	20.1
40	Kapchorwa	7,175	4,131	8,981	7,137	27,424	105,186	26.1
41	Katakwi	13,162	8,011	16,010	10,874	48,057	166,231	28.9



42	Kibuku	10,398	6,464	11,797	7,433	36,092	202,033	17.9
43	Kumi	13,839	6,204	11,323	10,545	41,911	239,268	17.5
44	Kween	3,916	1,901	1,734	3,380	10,931	93,667	11.7
45	Luuka	14,192	6,492	8,928	8,928	38,540	238,020	16.2
46	Manafwa	31,794	18,442	46,589	26,820	123,645	353,825	34.9
47	Mayuge	22,722	9,578	12,429	12,739	57,468	473,239	12.1
48	Mbale	27,428	10,554	11,915	16,162	66,059	488,960	13.5
49	Namayingo	14,955	7,776	15,351	10,682	48,764	215,442	22.6
50	Namutumba	16,330	9,135	14,705	12,139	52,309	252,562	20.7
51	Ngora	10,353	4,294	7,714	6,885	29,246	141,919	20.6
52	Pallisa	24,123	12,708	23,066	17,261	77,158	386,890	19.9
53	Serere	19,464	9,028	18,286	14,048	60,826	285,903	21.3
54	Sironko	26,561	13,094	26,993	24,881	91,529	242,422	37.8
55	Soroti	20,072	9,441	17,172	13,413	60,098	296,833	20.2
56	Tororo	36,134	20,960	32,270	24,117	113,481	517,082	21.9
Northern Districts		491,721	292,791	383,345	328,146	1,496,003	7,188,139	20.8
57	Abim	7,395	6,069	7,543	6,357	27,364	107,966	25.3
58	Adjumani	9,663	6,171	7,780	7,448	31,062	225,251	13.8
59	Agago	15,049	11,163	13,872	10,997	51,081	227,792	22.4
60	Alebtong	17,861	11,369	17,088	11,882	58,200	227,541	25.6
61	Amolatar	16,302	8,578	11,649	9,063	45,592	147,166	31.0
62	Amudat	3,093	2,861	1,415	2,291	9,660	105,767	9.1
63	Amuru	10,865	7,123	11,430	8,182	37,600	186,696	20.1
64	Apac	39,642	23,725	36,150	21,248	120,765	368,626	32.8
65	Arua	47,539	23,290	28,226	28,970	128,025	782,077	16.4
66	Dokolo	17,421	8,991	13,811	8,974	49,197	183,093	26.9
67	Gulu	26,621	15,114	19,330	17,218	78,283	436,345	17.9
68	Kaabong	9,376	6,824	6,688	8,303	31,191	167,879	18.6
69	Kitgum	14,451	9,001	11,994	10,160	45,606	204,048	22.4
70	Koboko	10,687	5,874	7,736	8,422	32,719	206,495	15.8
71	Kole	20,915	12,950	16,068	12,560	62,493	239,327	26.1
72	Kotido	5,893	5,187	4,049	5,117	20,246	181,050	11.2
73	Lamwo	10,275	6,786	11,481	8,541	37,083	134,379	27.6
74	Lira	33,888	17,615	25,600	18,955	96,058	408,043	23.5
75	Maracha	13,885	7,020	9,325	9,220	39,450	186,134	21.2
76	Moroto	3,684	2,459	2,315	2,898	11,356	103,432	11.0
77	Moyo	7,247	4,680	4,688	5,101	21,716	139,012	15.6
78	Nakapiripirit	5,697	4,706	3,797	4,617	18,817	156,690	12.0
79	Napak	6,031	4,229	2,776	4,668	17,704	142,224	12.4
80	Nebbi	31,629	16,434	22,598	22,756	93,417	396,794	23.5
81	Nwoya	11,807	7,754	13,843	8,342	41,746	133,506	31.3
82	Otuke	10,135	7,116	11,335	7,282	35,868	104,254	34.4
83	Oyam	31,511	19,147	24,245	18,094	92,997	383,644	24.2
84	Pader	15,046	9,680	14,743	11,006	50,475	178,004	28.4
85	Yumbe	15,887	11,090	8,885	13,189	49,051	484,822	10.1
86	Zombo	22,226	9,785	12,885	16,285	61,181	240,082	25.5
Western Districts		560,719	272,885	488,433	367,005	1,689,042	8,876,862	19.0
87	Buhweju	6,292	3,379	6,878	4,235	20,784	120,720	17.2



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88	Buliisa	11,987	5,249	8,255	7,496	32,987	113,161	29.2
89	Bundibugyo	15,737	6,568	21,103	12,234	55,642	224,387	24.8
90	Bushenyi	14,450	6,050	11,362	8,677	40,539	234,440	17.3
91	Hoima	35,088	17,021	29,303	20,685	102,097	572,986	17.8
92	Ibanda	16,003	7,535	13,582	9,222	46,342	249,625	18.6
93	Isingiro	31,525	15,814	25,922	18,011	91,272	486,360	18.8
94	Kabale	42,224	22,601	40,547	36,197	141,569	528,231	26.8
95	Kabarole	31,139	14,422	27,555	20,783	93,899	469,236	20.0
96	Kamwenge	26,236	13,439	21,037	14,978	75,690	414,454	18.3
97	Kanungu	18,607	8,324	13,383	11,535	51,849	252,144	20.6
98	Kasese	32,946	15,128	29,409	19,910	97,393	694,992	14.0
99	Kibaale	41,534	21,567	41,049	26,695	130,845	785,088	16.7
100	Kiruhura	23,129	11,737	24,390	18,496	77,752	328,077	23.7
101	Kiryandongo	17,494	8,826	10,864	9,972	47,156	266,197	17.7
102	Kisoro	18,923	10,476	16,964	13,951	60,314	281,705	21.4
103	Kyegegwa	17,042	9,373	16,074	10,954	53,443	281,637	19.0
104	Kyenjojo	24,123	14,316	23,708	18,289	80,436	422,204	19.1
105	Masindi	20,333	8,645	14,724	11,996	55,698	291,113	19.1
106	Mbarara	23,838	10,483	17,126	14,116	65,563	472,629	13.9
107	Mitooma	15,382	6,708	13,517	9,593	45,200	183,444	24.6
108	Ntoroko	3,736	1,766	3,630	2,985	12,117	69,005	17.6
109	Ntungamo	28,315	13,821	22,252	17,124	81,512	483,841	16.8
110	Rubirizi	9,638	4,485	8,824	6,710	29,657	129,149	23.0
111	Rukungiri	22,343	9,611	16,675	14,518	63,147	314,694	20.1
112	Sheema	12,655	5,541	10,300	7,643	36,139	207,343	17.4
Total		2,129,279	1,083,649	1,776,911	1,476,959	6,466,798	34,616,650	18.7



Annex 3: Case study of Education of a child with deafblindness

Case study

Please provide a case study for your performance. A case study is a documented situation on a particular instance of something used or analysed in order to illustrate a situation. In this case, it might be a good, challenging or even a neutral situation that happened to your institution, group of persons with disabilities or individual which created change. In writing this case study, please use the Context, Action and Results (CAR) approach. The Context is the situation where the case was before, the action is what was done and the result is what happened thereafter.



There is a story that not everyone has heard –the story of the unforgettable work of the teaching assistance, just a few distances out of Ntinda in Kisasi Primary school. The school is special in every sense because it's one of the few schools that has defied the odds and proved that inclusion in mainstream setting is possible not by classic design of their uniforms or the overwhelming enrolment in class but by unique approach to inclusion using teaching assistants and reasonable accommodation.

At about 12:30 pm. We are welcomed into the classroom by two teachers of Middle Class at Kisaasi Primary School, Nursery section. The pupils in class are all neatly dressed in green cotton dress-uniforms for girls and green short-sleeved shirts/khaki pair of shorts for boys. The

pupils' aged (4-6 years) have desks arranged facing one another.

At first glance, the talking walls in the classroom (lined with art, letters and words in large print) with bags hanging towards the bottom on one wall welcomes you. On entry into the class, the teacher asks all pupils to stand and welcome the visitors and in unison, they all stand up and what follows is, "You are welcome visitors". At that moment, it is impossible to realize that one of the learners standing up is almost having total Deafblindness. It is after the teacher instructs the pupils to sit down and concentrate on the chalk board that you can discover one of the child has some uniqueness. This is what our story about inclusion looks like.

At the back of the class, Zahara Nakaweesa (13 years) is seated side-by side on a unique two-seater table with a female teaching assistant Sandra Tafumba. Zahara uses total communication when communicating with Sandra. Zahara. She like many other children in Uganda was born totally deaf, with deteriorating eye sight and cardiac problems, she uses sign language, and tactile sign language to communicate to her teaching assistant.

Her teaching assistant supports her to perform the same activities given for other learners,

at the time of our visit, pupils were given "to draw and Write," the teacher then makes a drawing accompanied with the word box. At the back of the class, Sandra uses the same information in large print on papers that were pre-designed.

To this point the teacher explains how on earth two teachers can sit in the same class to plan and teach in two different modes different from the know team teaching in class and this was her verbatim

"I and the teaching assistant sit down at the end of the day and design work that is going to be done the following day.

This requires some high level of patience, Innovation, communication, understanding, caring and constant anticipation of the needs of the learner even before they arise.

Zahara loves to study, despite the fact that she struggles to see, she uses her fingers to communicate, asks where she has not understood, and answers questions in class".

At 1:00pm, the Lunch bell rings. Zahara having been oriented to the school routine closes her book and joins the peers to jump in excitement for lunch break.

She then picks her orange container from her locker and follows the rest of the pupils to the kitchen to get her lunch. She lines up like the rest of the pupils, receives her food and walks to class to start eating.

After lunch and end of school for the nursery section, Zahara and Sandra (TA) stay behind for remedial classes for an hour, to complete classwork and do homework which she may not be able to do at home because she can barely see anything after 6pm. Because of her deteriorating sight, Zahara does class work at a slower rate than then rest of the pupils.

The mother comes for her at 3:00pm and they walk home a distance of 1km, that is exhausting to Zahara.

To this day, Kisaasi Primary School remains one of the few model schools of inclusive education with an infrastructural setup designed to accommodate learners with disabilities. It has hand rails, ramps, special toilets adapted to accommodate and positive teacher's attitude. The story of Kisaasi Primary school beats most stories on inclusive education in Uganda. Sense International Uganda (SIU) has worked within that model to enrich the schools' inclu-

The teaching assistant helps her complete any class work that was not completed during the class time. Much as the teaching assistant supports and guides Zahara in her work, she does not do the classwork for her. Her support is specifically in interpretation, using tactile and sign language mainly to clarification on letters that look alike like; b and d, s and z, i and l, o and a, among others.

sive education model by attaching a teaching assistant to the learner, providing specialized reading and writing materials and remedial, which should now be replicated to other learners with complex disabilities not only in the school, but also in other parts of the country. I challenge you who haven't been to Kisaasi primary school to visit and learn from our work.

Compiled by
Alice Nabbanja
SIU Programme Officer.





Figure 2: Inclusive Education: Zahara's teaching assistant shows her the different letters using tactile communication

Annex 4: Case Story- Attitude change of parents of children with Disabilities

Otim Leo is one of the children with disabilities in Ngetta Girls primary school (P.2). Leo is totally blind. Leo's mother is Adur Christine and his father is Olwi Anthony. Leo on his first time at school he could cry a lot and he didn't like school at all because he was used to staying with the mother all the time. Before Leo was brought to school, he could urinate on himself but now there is a great change whereby he puts up his hands when in class to communicate to his friends that he wants to go out for short calls. Even the teachers know that when Leo puts up his hands it shows that he wants to go to toilet. The child is now able to walk by himself something that he couldn't do before joining school and he is able to respond to

touch as some of the achievements so far attained by Leo after joining school. He was also provided with white cane by the project. The parents are very happy because before they couldn't believe that their child could perform what he does. The parents are appreciative to the teachers for their efforts.

Although Leo is unable to handle a pen by himself, he has attained tremendous functional achievements in school and his social skill has improved. Leo social relationship with children at home has also changed a lot being confessed by his mother. The parent's attitudes changed and they are now members of the school PSG.





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