



**SECOND GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT**  
**16-17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**UGANDA'S**  
**COMMITMENTS TO DISABILITY SUMMIT.**  
***FEBRUARY 2022***

*Hosted by The Government of Norway  
in partnership with  
Ghana and the Global Disability Alliance.*



## NATIONAL ANTHEM OF UGANDA

Oh Uganda, Land of Beauty!

1

Oh Uganda! May God uphold thee,  
We lay our future in thy hand.  
United, free,  
for liberty Together we'll always stand.

2

Oh Uganda! The land of freedom  
our love and labour we give,  
And with neighbours all  
At our country's call  
In peace and friendship we'll live.

3

Oh Uganda! The land that feeds us  
By sun and fertile soil grown.  
For our own dear land,  
We'll always stand:  
The Pearl of Africa's Crown.



## EAC ANTHEM

1

Ee Mungu twaomba ulilinde  
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki  
Tuwezeshe kuishikwa amani  
Tutimiz enamalengo yetu.

Chorus:

Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde  
Tuwajibike tuimarike  
Umoja wetu ninguzo yetu  
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

2

Uzalendo pia mshikamano  
Viwemsingiwa Umojawetu  
Natulinde Uhuru na Amani  
Mila zetu nadesturi zetu.

3

Viwandani nahatama shambani  
Tufanyekazi sote kwamakini  
Tujitoekwahalinamali  
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.



**PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE LAUNCH & PRESENTATION OF  
UGANDA'S COMMITMENTS TO THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT  
ON 17<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2022, AT ONOMO HOTEL, NEXT TO  
NAKASERO HOSPITAL.**

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY CENTRE
14 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022	Youth disability summit session CSOs Disability summit session	
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022	Day 1 of the main Global Disability Summit	
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022	Day 2 of the Global Disability Summit, where Uganda is expected to Present	
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022	Following of the digital Summit proceedings in Norway, continues by in country stakeholders	Onomo Hotel Mgt
3.15pm	Arrival of VIPs (MPs & Ministers) to follow other Country's presentations	MC
3.20pm	Arrival of H.E the Ambassador	MC
3.30pm	Arrival of the Chief Guest	PS
3.25pm	Welcome remarks	Permanent Secretary
3.40pm	Presentation on Inclusive Health Commitments	Minister of Health



3.50pm	Presentation on Inclusive Education Commitments	Minister of Education
4.00pm	Presentation on Inclusive Employment Commitments	Minister of Public Service
4.10pm	Presentation on PWD Capacity Building Commitments	Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development
4.20pm	Remarks by H.E the Ambassador	Ambassador of Norway in Uganda
4.30pm	Remarks by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development (Lead Sector)	Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development
4.40pm	Speech by the Chief Guest and Launch of the Second Disability Summit Commitments for Uganda	Chief Guest
5.30pm	Presentation of Uganda's Official statement to the Global Disability Summit delegates in Norway	Chief Guest
6.00 pm	Departure	



# **H.E. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**





**HON. ROBINAH NABBANJA**  
PRIME MINISTER OF UGANDA

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 the Government of Uganda joined the International Disability community to participate in the first Global Disability Summit (GDS) which was hosted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain alongside with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Government of Kenya. Like other Global champions of disability rights, Uganda embraced this periodic accountability event and made commitments to achieve disability inclusive development.

Accordingly, Uganda has been reporting annually on the 22 commitments within the last four (4) years made in 2018 namely: Tackling stigma & discrimination, Economic empowerment, Inclusion in education and Harnessing technology and Innovation.

Overall substantial progress has been registered in the implementation of the 2018 commitments with an internal country rating of 70%. The main hindrances (as quoted by the Civil Society peer review and rapid assessment exercise lead by NUDIPU) arose from systemic challenges around enforcement of policies, completion of policies under development and coordination gaps, most of these were impacted negatively by COVID19 pandemic.

With the opportunity of the Second Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2022 hosted by the Government of Norway co-chaired by the Government of Ghana, Uganda is renewing its commitment not only to conclude on the 2018 targets, but also to expand its commitments in line with the core thematic areas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit

To this end, Government of Uganda will deliver a statement in form of commitments to disability inclusive development during the 2022 summit. As a country, Uganda has committed against all the five (5) core Summit thematic areas, replicated below.

- Capacity-strengthening of organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the Global South
- Inclusive Education
- Inclusive Health





- Inclusive Employment and Livelihoods
- Inclusion in situations of crises and conflict, including a focus on climate change

### **1.1 Purpose of Uganda’s prioritization of the of the Second Global Disability Summit**

Uganda is prioritizing participation in the Second Global Disability Summit (GDS) to facilitate Uganda’s reflection, and renewal of political commitments – within a global framework; that will invigorate positive change among Persons with Disabilities.

The commitments were developed in consultation with the disability fraternity including representatives of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and other disability experts.

The proposed commitments per theme are meant to inform, inspire and incentivize the disability fraternity to re-commit and accelerate action for meaningful inclusion and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### **1.2 Objectives of the 2022 Summit**

**Uganda will adopt the Global Objectives, namely:**

- To promote actions to increase inclusiveness and equality in line with the principle of ‘Leave No One Behind’ and the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities through tackling inequalities, and
- To foster inclusive development, and humanitarian action, guided by a human-rights approach.

## **2.0 DISABILITY SUMMIT COMMITMENTS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.**

### **2.1 The 2022 Uganda's commitments.**

These commitments are based on the five core themes of the summit and are informed by the situational analysis and performance against the previous (2018) Disability Summit commitments as explained in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this document.

#### **UNDER THEME 1: Capacity enhancement of Persons with Disabilities and their Organizations.**

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and other partners will undertake the following actions:

- i. Strengthen the policy and legal framework to facilitate capacity building for Persons with Disabilities through the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Priority is to print extra 1,000 copies of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020, fast-track the adoption, printing and dissemination of 10,000 copies of the revised policy and 2020 Act Regulations, disseminate International Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), and advocate for accelerated adoption of the East African Policy on Persons with Disabilities, by end of 2023. Priority will be to mobilise funds to have documents in accessible formats and have all Organisations of Persons with Disabilities capacitated in these frameworks.
- ii. Mobilise partnerships for research to inform evidence based investments in Persons with Disabilities and facilitate the registration of Community Based Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in all districts of Uganda; through subsidies or and waivers of registration fees, by 2023.
- iii. Map out disability stakeholders and strengthen coordination mechanisms among Organisations of and for Persons with Disabilities to lessen duplication and focus on evidence based capacity building of their needs. Priority will be on Quarterly coordination meetings to evaluate partner's performance on the capacity building of Persons with Disabilities and monitoring their compliance with the policy framework; by 2023.
- iv. Conduct capacity needs assessments and develop/revise tools/



handbooks on: disability inclusive capacity building guide for leaders of Persons with Disabilities, sexual reproductive skills development & rights protection for women and girls, by end of 2023.

- v. Capacitate at least 150 Persons with Disabilities annually, through a one year fully sponsored vocational skills course at 5 regional centres and restructure Community based rehabilitation (CBR) approach, to the Community based inclusive development (CBID) approach, by 2024.

## **UNDER THEME 2: Inclusive Education**

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports and other partners will undertake the following actions:

- i. Finalize, disseminate and implement pending disability inclusive policies and studies in consultation with organisations of Persons with Disabilities (National Inclusive Education Policy, unit cost study on learner's with special needs, Education Management Information Systems (MIS) review, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) inclusive guide, promotion of adaptive technologies for learners with disabilities and the roll out of functional assessment tool across all schools,) by the end of 2023.
- ii. Renovate and revive additional three (3) regional Educational Assessment Resource centres (EARS) by 2024.
- iii. Conduct Teacher capacity building sessions in special needs education including specialized pedagogy, distribute specialised teachers equitably across all Local Governments and supply more specialized materials and devices to learners with disabilities, based on a needs assessment, by 2024
- iv. Amend the criteria for assessing Students with disabilities under the quota system, in line with the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020, by 2023.
- v. Proportionally increase the number of students with Disabilities accessing Government sponsorship in higher learning institutions in a pro-rata manner. Priority will be to proportionally increase from the 64 target set many years ago, to 320 students with disabilities to match the proportional increase in the number of Government sponsored students in over 20 Government Universities and other higher institutions of learning. Ministry of Education & sports will also advocate and lobby for scholarships in private Universities, and sports programmes for students with disabilities, by 2023.



### **UNDER THEME 3: Inclusive Health**

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Health and other partners will undertake the following actions:

- i. Finalize and implement pending disability related policy framework (draft mental health policy, Regulations to the Mental Health Act, 2019, etc.) in consultation with the organisations of Persons with Disabilities, by end of 2023.
- ii. Equip 40% of the orthopaedic workshops across the country to facilitate quality production and revise the essential medicines/drugs/supplies list for lower health facilities to increase rare drugs, medicines and assistive devices/technology for all categories of Persons with Disabilities, especially mental health, Epilepsy, albinism, etc., by 2024.
- iii. Review in service training package for health workers in the management of health conditions of Persons with Disabilities, including HIV/AIDs and other conditions. Priority is to maximise support for persons with severe disabilities, cater for sign language and other adjustments for better treatment outcomes, by 2024.
- iv. Review the disability data collection and analysis tools, using the revised WHO tools and to disaggregate data in the Health Management Information systems on causes of all categories of early disability, by 2023.
- v. Develop a compendium of all health disability studies and disseminate them quarterly through the disability councils at district level and other disability structures, by the end of 2023.

### **UNDER THEME 4: Inclusive Employment and Livelihood**

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Public services and other partners will undertake the following actions:

- i. Develop a disability management information system to track access to the special grant and other partner's livelihood interventions to Persons with Disabilities, by 2023.
- ii. Conduct a study on employment status of Persons with Disabilities to inform modalities for a Quota system and job placements of Persons with Disabilities in line with the law, by 2024.



- iii. Advocate for increase in Government and partner contributions, in resourcing the National Special Grant for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities by 30%, by 2024.
- iv. Assess and re-equip 50% of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Disabilities.
- v. Conduct capacity assessment to inform guidelines on models for appropriate economic empowerment to Persons with Disabilities in consultation with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. Priority will be on types of livestock support, Voluntary Savings and Loans associations (VSLAs), categorisation of appropriate trades, etc., based on geographical regions, nature of disability, age and level of education.
- vi. Ministry of Public service will support development of a recruitment and costed policy in the public service sector that will provide for affirmative action and reasonable accommodation of Persons with Disabilities, by 2024.
- vii. Ministry of Public service will purposively provide guidance to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to include sign language and other reasonable accommodation packages, for meaningful inclusion of Persons with different categories of Disabilities. This will include recruitment of Sign language interpreters in at least five sectors of Health, Education, Social development, Service Commissions, and justice, law and order sector, by 2023.

### **UNDER THEME 5: Inclusion in situations of crises & conflict, including a focus on climate change**

The Government of Uganda through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and other partners will undertake the following actions: -

- i. Conduct a needs assessment of Persons with Disabilities within internally displaced communities, refugee settlements and host communities within Uganda and provide for reasonable accommodation for Persons with Disabilities in guidelines for humanitarian responses, by 2023.
- ii. Develop a Disability inclusive disaster reduction policy to domesticate the Sendai Framework by 2024. Principles in the disability inclusive disaster risk management will be adopted and provision made for representation of Persons with Disabilities on different committees (including disaster, refugees and climate change structures), to foster disability inclusion.



- iii. Integrate disability-specific performance indicators in the annual performance framework for Local Governments by the end of 2024. This will facilitate meaningful inclusion of disability issues in the LG planning and implementation processes.
- iv. Provide for disability inclusiveness during the review of the climate change adaptation policies or and guidelines by 2024.

*Note: National Council for Persons with Disabilities will share annual monitoring reports on the status of implementation and prioritisation of these commitments by Government and Non-Governmental entities (Partners).*

## 3.0 COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Government of Uganda legal framework (Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020) define Disability as a permanent and substantial functional limitation of daily life activities caused by physical, mental, sensory impairments and environmental barriers resulting from limited participation.

The Persons with Disabilities Act categorize disability by the following:

- i. Physical disability (caused by congenital diseases, accidents, trauma, violence, etc.)
- ii. Hearing disability including complete deafness and hard of hearing disability
- iii. Visual disability including complete blindness and low vision disability
- iv. Deafblind disability
- v. Mental disability including psychiatric disability and learning disability
- vi. Little Persons
- vii. Albinism
- viii. Multiple disabilities

### 3.1 Brief situational analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda

Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicated that Disability prevalence stands at 14% (15% Female & 12% Male). Studies have indicated that Persons with Disabilities in Uganda often face significant levels of discrimination and stigma. As a result, they are invisible in society and are prevented from participating in their families and communities. This arises out of fear and ignorance of the rights of Persons with Disabilities by the service providers and duty bearers. The Persons with Disabilities are still below the average in some of the service delivery mechanisms, as demonstrated below.



*UBOS analysis of access to services between Persons without Disabilities and Persons with Disabilities using 2014 census data for selected areas.*

SN	Level of Access to Services	People without Disabilities	People with Disabilities
1.	Percentage of those that have never been to school	31%	13%
2.	Dependence on subsistence farming	80%	Less than 62%
3.	Ownership of ICT devices like TV	8%	17%
4.	Access to the internet	5%	9%
5.	Use of electricity as a source of lighting	13%	25%
6.	Use of piped water as the main source of drinking water	13%	24%

### **3.2 Legal and policy framework.**

#### **1.1.1 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.**

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, provides for protection and promotion of the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Objective XVI provides for the recognition of the dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Article 32 talks about affirmative action in favour of marginalized groups and states that “notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the State shall take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.”

Article 35 states that “Persons with Disabilities have a right to respect and human dignity, and the state and society shall take appropriate measures





to ensure that they realize their full mental and physical potential”. Further, the Constitution provides for enactment of laws and policies to address their concerns.

### **3.1.2 Persons with Disabilities Act (2020)**

The Act provides for the respect and promotion of the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of Persons with Disabilities, including non-discrimination in the provision of health services, non-discrimination in the provision of education services, non-discrimination in employment and access to justice, information and training, among others

#### **1.1.3 National Policy on Disability (2006)**

The Ministry developed the National Policy on Disability in 2006 with the aim of providing a guiding framework for stakeholders on disability. The Policy is now under review to align it to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other National and International Instruments that came in force after 2006.

#### **3.1.4 Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities**

At the international level, Uganda ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008. The Ministry has also been advocating for speedy approval and adoption of the East African community policy on Persons with Disabilities.

#### **3.1.5 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The country is on track with implementation, monitoring, and reporting on these Goals through NDP111 and other instruments with a pledge to leave no one behind.

## 4.0 IMPELEMENTATION STATUS OF THE 2018 COMMITMENTS.

Disability summit theme of 2018	Commitments per theme	Progress	Way forward
1. Tackling stigma & discrimination	<p>Enact the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2018 and the Mental Health Bill, 2014 by 2020</p> <p>Review the National Policy on Disability 2006, and develop a costed National Plan of Action by 2020 and fund its implementation.</p>	<p>Both the bills were approved and they are now Acts</p> <p>The process of reviewing the policy together with the costed Action Plan started and it's almost complete. currently it's at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for issuance of a Certificate of Financial Implication</p>	<p>Finalize, disseminate and implement the regulations to the two Acts</p> <p>Finalize, disseminate the revised National Policy on Disability by 2023</p>
	Develop and implement a national roll-out plan for the Community Based rehabilitation (CBR) program by 2020	The program was rolled out to the entire country but with minimal funding	<p>Restructure CBR to an inclusive approach.</p> <p>Appoint focal persons for the CBR Program in the entire country by 2024</p>

	<p>Fully integrate the Washington Group Questions in the national statistical system, produce and disseminate National Survey Reports with disability disaggregated data</p>	<p>The Washington group questions were adopted e.g during the difficulties survey of 2017 and also during the study on the situational analysis of Persons with Disabilities of 2019</p>	<p>The government will ensure using the questions to help capture detailed information on Persons with Disabilities</p>
	<p>Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development; the National Council for Disability, Equal Opportunities Commission and the Human Rights Commission to effectively coordinate and monitor disability inclusion in policy and programming across sectors</p>	<p>The process has been on going at the different level</p>	<p>To build capacity of the councils of Persons with Disabilities at local government levels</p>
	<p>Strengthen integration of disability in systems of assessing, registering, delivering and monitoring of refugee response</p>	<p>The process has been very slow due to co-ordination gaps among humanitarian actors</p>	<p>Government will work with development partners to fast track the activity</p>

<p>2. Economic empowerment</p>	<p>Engage all sectoral Ministries, Departments and Agencies to allocate quotas for Persons with Disabilities across major national poverty reduction/wealth promotion programs.</p>	<p>Engagements have been made and to date under the parish development model, 10% of the funding has been safeguarded for persons with disabilities and this also applies to the “mwoga development program” .</p> <p>In the same way, under the revised NSSF Act, Persons with Disabilities will be accessing 50% of their saving at the age of 40 years</p>	<p>Finalize the regulations to persons with disabilities Act 2020, so as to facilitate the advocacy for allocations of quarters to persons with disabilities in the different poverty reduction programs , but also to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities</p>
	<p>Review, strengthen the delivery mechanism and increase funding to the Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<p>The mechanisms to the Special Grant were strengthened and funding was increased (the National Special Grant was put in place to support the District Special Grant and funding was increased from 3billion to 9.6 billion currently)</p>	<p>To increase the special grant funding to 16 billion so as to reach the entire persons with disabilities whose demand for grant is very big</p>

	Facilitate formation and operationalization of a National Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) for Persons with Disabilities	The persons with disabilities SACCO was established and currently has membership of 205.	To mobilize the Persons with Disabilities through their organizations to join the SACCO and start saving and borrowing from it
	Engage with Parliament and Cabinet on expansion of the Social Assistance Empowerment Programme to integrate a regular transfer for Persons with severe Disabilities across age groups	The Social Assistance Grant was rolled out to the entire country and currently, all Ugandans who are 80 years and meet the requirement are accessing the grant, majority of whom are Older Persons with Disabilities	To mobilize all older persons to register with the national identification authority to enable them access the grant
	Consistently produce and submit to Parliament and Cabinet an annual status report on the employment of Persons with Disabilities for consideration and action.	This has noted yet been undertaken due to delayed consensus on minimum wage	Finalize the regulations to the Persons with Disabilities act 2020, so as to guide the reporting on the status of employment of Persons with Disabilities to parliament
3. Inclusion in education	Finalize the development of the ‘National Inclusive Education Policy’, a costed action plan and fund its implementation by 2020.	Ministry has already approved the policy, in the process of presenting to cabinet for ratification.	Fast track final cabinet approval, and roll out implementation.

	<p>Commission and conduct a National Study to establish the unit cost of educating a child with special needs in an inclusive school setting at pre-primary, primary, secondary school and university level to inform planning and decision making.</p>	<p>Funds were allocated in the financial year 2020/2021 to undertake this study. A consultant has been hired to undertake the study and its completion is expected to be June 2022</p>	<p>To accomplish the approval in June 2022 and will be used in preparation of the budget for the financial year 2023/2024 so that increase in subvention allocations can be extended to inclusive schools as the findings in the study</p>
	<p>Upgrade Special Needs/Inclusive education from being a module under Professional Education Studies (PES) to an independent examinable subject in the teacher training curriculum</p>	<p>Under the upcoming Uganda National Institute for Education a program for special needs and inclusive education has been developed as a stand-alone module to be undertaken by all level of education from pre-primary to university level.</p>	<p>To roll out the program to all the teacher training institutions</p>

	Roll out the functional assessment tool for Learners with Disabilities and progressively revive the Education Assessment Resource Services (EARs) programme.	The roll out of the functional assessment tool has been done with support of our partners who have trained teachers on using the tool. The revival of EARS centers has started and so far one center has been revived in Kampala City Authority.	This will progressively be rolled out to the different regions of the country
	Review the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to include comprehensive indicators to track and generate data on all categories of disability at primary and secondary school level	The department of special needs participated in the review of the EMIS tool and parameters for capturing data on special needs according to disability category were included.	Through the EMIS, data of students in the Technical, Vocational Educational Training (TVET) will be captured to establish students in tertiary institutions according to disability
4. Harnessing technology and Innovation.	Finalize the National ICT policy for Persons with Disabilities including a costed action plan and fund its implementation by 2020	The process is on and the policy is at the top management level of the ministry	To expedite the process of developing the policy and the costed action plan

	<p>Mo ICT to appoint a Senior Officer as a focal person on disability under the Directorate of Information Technology and information management system to steer implementation of the National ICT policy for Persons with Disabilities as well as mainstreaming disability across the sector.</p>	<p>The appointment was done</p>	<p>no track</p>
	<p>Put in place measures to ensure that ICT goods and services procured using public funds have provision for use and access to every member of the public including Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<p>ICT Procurement regulations are being reviewed for Inclusivity.</p>	<p>MoICT will forward the procurement regulations the ministry of gender, labor and social development for their input</p>



## 5.0 CURRENT SITUATION OF THE 2022 GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT THEMES.

### A) Current situation on capacity strengthening for Persons with Disabilities and their organizations.

- There is an enabling Legal and policy framework to facilitate capacity building of Persons with Disabilities by stakeholders.

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda recognizes the right of Persons with Disabilities to respect and human dignity. It provides for affirmative action in different aspects including meaningful inclusion in the development agenda. Some of the major laws in existence to promote and protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities include The Persons with Disabilities Act 2020; the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007; Local Government Act, 2007; the National Policy on Disability in Uganda 2006 under review, the National Social Protection Policy 2015, among others.

- **Government Empowerment Programs targeting Persons with Disabilities**

The Government of Uganda has designed and implemented National programs specifically targeting capacity building and empowerment for Persons with Disabilities. These programs include;

#### i. **The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme.**

This is the flagship program by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development driving social norm change and broadly addressing capacity gaps of Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers as well as their Organizations across the country to ensure raising the capacity of Persons with Disabilities through the provision of training and skills development, medical assessment and referral as well as social inclusion. The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model has not received attention in terms of funding by Government and development partners hence complicating the community based capacity building initiatives that used to be impactful. Efforts are being made to reach out to partners for transitional Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) to replicate and harness previous capacity building best practices.



## **ii. The Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities**

The Government of Uganda put in place an affirmative action grant known as the Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities to address the capacity needs of Persons with Disabilities and to enable them acquire basic skills to participate in other Government wealth creation programmes.

This grant is also meant to create employment for improved livelihoods of Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers. Due to the transformative results of the special grant, the Ministry is overwhelmed by applications for funds by the groups of Persons with Disabilities amidst inadequate funds to fund all the applications.

Other challenges rotate around group registration/bank account opening costs and inaccessibility to assistive devices/technology, that limit full participation of all the group members. The grant targets between 5 to 15 Persons with Disabilities in the same locality with common interests and under a group or community based organisation or centre.

## **iii. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Disabilities**

Uganda has been operating Vocation Rehabilitation Centres for over 30 years. These centres target young Persons with Disabilities to acquire employable skills. To date, there are five operational centres located in the Northern, Western, Eastern, and Central regions training approximately 30 youth with disabilities annually, in different skills.

However, these Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are faced with a number of challenges including dilapidated buildings and obsolete teaching and learning equipment that require re-tooling. These will be prioritised in collaboration with partners to facilitate empowerment of youth with disabilities.

## **iv. Research, advocacy, Coordination and compliance monitoring.**

The Ministry of Gender, labour and Social Development needs to invest more in partnerships for research and evidence generation for proper coordination and priority setting for key stakeholders in the disability arena.

There is disjointed implementation of disability programmes with lots of duplications by different players who are not guided by policy framework. The enforcement of the 2020 Persons with Disabilities Act Regulations require substantial investments and commitment from all disability stakeholders for



impactful results in the lives of Persons with Disabilities.

Relatedly, there is need to advocate for more resources and partnerships for improved scope of capacity building in terms of: empowerment of lower Councils of Persons with Disabilities, complementary grants to the National special grant, complementary to the vocational rehabilitation services, monitoring compliance of partners with disability policies, among others.

## **B) Current situation on inclusive education**

The Government of Uganda has adopted different approaches to promoting inclusive education in the country. There are schools that are accommodating other learners and those without disabilities with specialized units to cater to the needs of learners with disabilities. There are also special schools exclusively for Learners with Disabilities. However, such schools are limited and not representative of the entire country.

The Ministry of Education and Sports recognizes the benefits of inclusive schools through its programs and interventions that have resulted into;

- i. Supporting the development of modules for teaching in response to individual differences/ abilities to benefit all learners;
- ii. Changing attitudes towards diversity and forming the basis for a just and non-discriminatory society and
- iii. Regulating learning costs/school fees, establishing and maintaining schools inclusive to all learners The Ministry, therefore, plans to gradually increase inclusive schools without not necessarily phasing out a special school's approach for particular categories of learners with disabilities.

Uganda is overall on track towards achieving education for all, with a net enrolment rate (NER) of 93% for boys, 96% for girls (MoES, 2016/17)<sup>1</sup>. However, enrolment and completion rate of primary and secondary schools by Children with Disabilities remains significantly low. Only about 9% of Children with Disabilities - of school-going age attend. 0.81% (820) students with special needs out of a total of 101,186 students sat for the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) examinations. <sup>1</sup>

Inclusion in education is the only 2018 summit theme which is being directly

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1 UNEB, 2017.



replicated in the 2022 Global disability summit themes. Uganda had made a total of six commitments under this theme and has progressed as follows:

- i. The Government committed to finalizing the development of the National Inclusive Education Policy and its costed action plan for its implementation by 2020. Ministry has approved the policy, in the process of being presented to cabinet for ratification.
- ii. In the same regard, the ministry commissioned a study to establish the unit cost of educating a child with special needs in an inclusive school setting at pre-primary, primary, secondary school, and university levels. The study is aimed at informing planning and decision-making. The funds were allocated and the exercise commenced in the Financial Year 2020/2021. The report is expected to be ready by April 2022.
- iii. The process of upgrading the special needs training to become a standalone module started. In some universities like Kampala International University and Uganda Martyrs' University, a course on special needs was introduced and is taken as a standalone module. Relatedly, under the upcoming Uganda National Institute for Education, a program for special needs and inclusive education has been developed as a stand-alone module to be undertaken by all levels of education from pre-primary to university level. Whoever is trained to become a teacher will study that module.
- iv. The rollout of the functional assessment tool has been done with the support of development partners who have trained teachers using the tool. The revival of EARS centres has started and so far, one Centre has been revived in Kampala City Authority at Nakivubo Blue primary school. In this Centre, assessment of childhood disability under the management of specialists using a specialized tool, after assessment, the children that require rehabilitation receive physiotherapy, counselling, and referral for further attention or appropriate learning centres.
- v. The Department of Special Needs participated in the review of the EMIS tool and parameters for capturing data on special needs were developed taking into consideration of disability category.

The Ministry continue to mobilise different stake holders to realise meaningful inclusion and better education outcomes of Children with



Disabilities. The Ministry will work with other stakeholders to hold periodic symposia on inclusive education to raise awareness on the urgency to support special needs education in an inclusive approach.

### **C) Current Situation on Inclusive Health**

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the entire health system, and with regard to disability, it is responsible for disability prevention, habilitation, rehabilitation and general management of disabilities.

Disability inclusion in the health sector is a precondition for the achievement of universal coverage, and a commitment to develop specific targets and indicators to monitor progress against universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals from a disability perspective

The Ministry has achieved a lot in terms of prevention through immunization and vaccination campaigns to prevent some categories of disabilities. Some surgeries have been conducted in National and Regional Referral Hospitals to correct some impairments and other major habilitation and rehabilitation services at different levels.

The Ministry of Health and other actors have embarked on the prevention of child Disabilities through the Interventions for Early Childhood Disabilities project.

The ministry has also tried to review the health information management system to cater for Disability disaggregated data, but this is not yet functional as many categories of early disability are not captured or reported on by the Ministry. The limited efforts being done are driven by donors and this trend need to change and the Ministry funds these disability inclusive requirements.

It is unclear whether Persons with Disabilities enjoy the same level of access to healthcare for all as their peers without disabilities, but monitoring reports by the Council and testimonies of deaf communities, those with mental disabilities, the albino community, survivors of accidents with permanent impairments, among others, report that very little is being done to improve their health. This is attributed to lack of trained staff such as in sign language, habilitation and rehabilitation, and or limited supplies, non-functional workshops for assistive technology/devices, limited capacity for major corrective surgeries, limited research on early disability, among others.

The Ministry does not have a specific department for disability and



rehabilitation yet it's a highly critical and sensitive area that shouldn't be submerged into several divisions under the department of community health. There is no specific policy on inclusive health, and most of these services are indirectly provided through the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation section.

#### **D) Current situation on Inclusive Employment and Livelihoods**

Evidence suggests that Persons with Disabilities are often among the poorest in their community and are less likely than others to be able to move out of poverty. Similarly, people living in poverty are also at greater risk of experiencing disability due to a higher risk of malnutrition, disease, lack of access to health care, water supplies, and sanitation, and worse living conditions.

From the concluding observations and recommendations from the Committee of Experts on the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2016, it was observed that there are few opportunities open for employment of Persons with Disabilities in particular youths and women with disabilities.

It was also established that usually there is the dismissal of persons who acquire impairment in the course of their employment and there are no provisions to ensure persons with disabilities have equal pay for work of equal value.

General progress so far:

- i. There are several policies and legal instruments focused on protecting and promoting employees as well as economic rights and opportunities for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities. The Persons with Disabilities Act 2020, calls for no discrimination in employment, while the Employment Act 2006, for instance, calls for the Minister to make regulations governing the employment of Persons with Disabilities based on recommendations of the labour advisory board. The National Council of Persons with Disabilities has been empowered to second a person on the Labour board.
- ii. Government of Uganda has designed programmes such as the National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities, aimed at providing Persons with Disabilities with an affirmative action for basic income-generating activities.



- iii. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres in the different regions are in place to offer employable skills to Persons with Disabilities.
- iv. Some mainstream programs such as the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) are significantly benefiting Older Persons with Disabilities.
- v. Under the National Social Security Fund Act 2020, all Persons with Disabilities who are 40 years and above and have saved for more than 10 years shall be accessing 50% of their savings for economic empowerment and livelihood improvement. The other savers will access only if the aged 45 years and above and will access only 20% of their savings.

There are several challenges related to inadequate funding of the special grant compared to the need, limited research on appropriate categories of trades that Persons Disabilities should engage in, limited research on employment status of Persons with Disabilities, limited enforcement of accessibility provisions hence constraining inclusion and participation in employment and livelihood opportunities. Therefore, it's estimated that more than 60% of employable Persons with Disabilities remain either unemployed or under employed due to discrimination and limited enforcement of affirmative action measures.

### **E) Current situation on Inclusion in situations of crises and conflict, including a focus on climate change**

In Uganda today, internal conflicts are no longer common but mainly what happens are the natural disasters that occur in some parts of the country, leading to situations of crises, displacement, and loss of property, including death.

However, Uganda hosts the largest population of refugees in Africa. Most of them are from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, DRC, and Ethiopia. It is among the top refugee-hosting countries on the continent<sup>2</sup>. This is attributed to its open-door policy for refugees and asylum seekers over the last eight decades. Since the 1940s, refugees and asylum seekers from Poland, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea have been hosted in the country at different points in time.

2 Momodu S (2019) UNHCR: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/uganda-stands-out-refugees-hospitality>



The country hosts approximately 1.1 million refugees making it Africa's largest refugee-hosting country and one of the five largest refugee-hosting countries in the world. Some of these are Persons with Disabilities

On the other hand, problems of climate change are real and the effects of global warming are already evident. Cognizant of the effects of climate change and its negative impacts on all Ugandans including those with disabilities, the government is committed to developing climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

There are a number of laws and policies to guide the interventions towards persons in risky situations and climate change, including persons with disabilities. However, the level of inclusion and specificity needs improvement.

In terms of inclusion for Persons with Disabilities, there is no deliberate affirmative action in terms of composition and membership on different committees (refugee, disaster, climate change). The disaster response tools and evaluation parameters are disability insensitive hence leaving the disability fraternity to chance in terms of targeting and addressing the special needs of Persons with Disabilities during refugee, disaster and climate change interventions.

## **6.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE SUMMIT COMMITMENTS.**

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities mandated by law to monitor Government and other partner's interventions on disability, will develop a monitoring plan and issue annual status reports on the implementation and prioritisation of the summit commitments by both state and non-state actors.

The Council will engage development partners to support dissemination and monitoring of these commitments at national and regional levels to inform action planning by different stakeholders.

The annual evaluation process will assume that all state and non-state actors in the disability arena are obliged to contribute towards the realisation of the country Summit commitments (priorities). Therefore, all stakeholders will be expected to report on their contributions to the different themes/commitments, for inclusion in the integrated annual evaluation report.