

Quote for change
“Ensuring the membership of Groups of Persons with Disabilities (DPGs) at the grassroots levels within the Coalition is a good learning from the project. The DPGs have been effective at influencing for change”
Common Wealth Foundation observation during project’s monitoring visit



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Executive Summary

The three year project will strengthen the capacity of Kenyan civil society to advocate for the rights of children and young people with disabilities through bringing together a diverse coalition of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), child and youth focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and influential policy makers. The coalition will share best practices and design, coordinate and implement a child and youth centred campaign to raise public awareness on the rights of children with disabilities and hold government to account on their obligations. Key results from this project's implementation include:

- 1. DPO leaders trained in Lobbying County Governments for Child and Disability Rights
- 2. Children and Youth CSOs trained in Strengthening County Governments Engagements on Child and Disability Rights.
- 3. Coalition members hold bi-annual meetings and working group meetings

Coalition members are trained on Team and Coalition Building, Effective Characteristics of a Coalition and Social Inclusion to enhance on their capacity towards national advocacy and SDG implementation strategies

- 1. Government officials trained in Strengthening County Governments Engagements on Child and Disability Rights.
- 2. Government officials receive evidence reports and recommendation papers from Coalition members
- 3. Government officials engage with coalition members through civil society engagement mechanisms
- 4. Government officials witness successful disability inclusive interventions
- 5. Design and implementation of a coalition disability rights campaign by coalition members and children & youth stakeholders.
- 6. Campaign toolkit, radio broadcasts and materials produced and broadcast for public campaign on rights of Children with Disabilities.

These results, along with other additional successes and lessons learnt through project implementation, are explored in greater detail throughout this impact report.

Country Context

Kenya is an East African country that lies astride the Equator covering a total area of 582,650 km² of which 560,250 km² constitutes dry land while water takes the rest of about 13,400 km². Approximately 80 per cent of the land area is arid or semi-arid, and only 20 per cent is arable. It has also made substantial development progress, including in MDG implementation and especially in universal primary education, maternal health, reducing child mortality and combating HIV/AIDs.

The total population of Kenya is estimated at 46,000,000 people (2018 estimates), 75 per cent – 80 per cent of whom live in the rural areas. The population distribution varies from 230 persons per km² in high potential areas to three persons per km² in arid areas. Only about 20 per cent consists of high to medium potential agricultural land, and supports 80 per cent of the population. The remaining 20 per cent of the population lives in the 80 per cent of the land, which is arid and semi-arid.

The country's population is characterized by high infant mortality rates (54.7 deaths/1000 live births), low and declining life expectancy (between 47 and 55 years), and total fertility rate (4.56), all 2009 estimates. Kenya is also faced with a high dependency burden, with over 42 per cent of the population below 15 years.

Kenya's performance remains dismal in the eradication of poverty due to high income disparity, which hampers growth and anti-poverty efforts. The private sector's ability to identify and exploit new niches and geographical advantages has contributed to the economic growth. Despite its economic growth, the country is still vulnerable to internal and external shocks, such as post-election violence, political and economic instability, and natural disasters, sharp rises in food and fuel prices, and global financial crises.

The Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's long– term development blueprint that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country. The Kenya Vision 2030 is implemented in five-year successive medium term plans (MTPs), The Vision is based on three 'pillars': economic, social and political. These pillars are financed also through external assistance that is mostly aligned with the Vision.

There is no recent data on the situation of people with disabilities in Kenya. Some numbers are available, although these do not give an accurate picture of the number of disabled people living in the country. Applying the WHO recommended 10 per cent to today's Kenyan population of approximately 46 million would indicate that there may be some 4.6 million persons with disabilities.

The socio-economic situation of persons with disabilities in Kenya, the widespread economic hardship being experienced in the country does not augur well for persons with disabilities. Most persons with disabilities depend on their families for social, financial, material and psychological support. Therefore, under the current situation persons with disabilities are more likely to have less access to resources than other members of the family.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that any treaty or convention ratified by Kenya shall form part of the law of Kenya and that general rules of international law shall form part of the law of Kenya under the Constitution therefore once ratified International

PROJECT IMPACT REPORT

YEAR TWO

“Strengthening Kenyan CSOs Capacity to Realize the Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities”



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Instruments can be directly applied by the courts, tribunals or administrative authorities in the absence of domestic legislation on the same. International human rights instruments International instruments that have been ratified in Kenya include: The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and The Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The principles set on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic and social rights for Persons with Disabilities in the Constitution of Kenya fully recognize the existing standards as enshrined by the CRPD. This shift, however, is not yet fully reflected in the Kenyan national development programmes where equal opportunities on employment, education and deliberate Disability Mainstreaming budget allocation for children, women and men with disabilities largely remain an aspiration. It is within this context that the 'Strengthening Kenyan CSOs Capacity to Realize the Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities' project sought to find meaningful, sustainable yet innovative solutions.



Project Approach

As a three year project commencing in October 2018 to September 2021, funded by Commonwealth Foundation, the project will directly address the lack of capacity within Kenyan civil society to effectively advocate the rights of children and young people with disabilities.

Whilst Kenya has an active and diverse civil society with significant potential to influence change, there is a lack of capacity, consensus and coordination in advocating for the rights of children and young people with disabilities. As a leading and active member of the disability movement in Kenya, Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) identified a lack of specific knowledge on children and young people within many DPOs. ANDY also identified poor participation of persons with disabilities in the National Youth Policy in 2007 and the new Education Curriculum in 2016, and identified a lack of disability expertise within child-focused CSOs and policy makers as a fundamental gap.

The project addresses the lack of capacity, consensus and coordination in advocating for the rights of children and young people with disabilities, by bringing together three groups (20 Disabled Person Organization, 20 child focused Civil Society Organizations and policy makers) to form a coalition campaign. During biannual trainings, DPO leaders come together to hear expert speakers on child rights, child participation and to hear directly from children and young people with disabilities selected from ANDY's existing projects. Child-focused CSOs and policy makers are also brought together for bi-annual trainings in disability rights led by leading disability activists. The three groups are brought together during Campaign Coalition bi-annual meetings where members design a public and government facing campaign to raise public awareness on the rights of Children with Disabilities. The project, was designed in partnership by AbleChildAfrica and Action Network for the Disabled (herein ANDY).

Project outcomes, summarized and evaluated within this report, therefore focused on:

- i. A cohesive and well informed coalition of DPOs and child-focused CSOs with a strong collective voice work together to advocate to government for the rights of Children with Disabilities.
- ii. Engaged and well informed policy makers uphold and improve the rights of children with disabilities through SDG and CRPD implementation.
- iii. An enabling public who proactively take collective action to demand and sustain the rights of children with disabilities for this target group.

Evaluation Methodology

Impact evaluation was considered throughout the project's design, with a standardized set of data collection tools and methodologies developed and refined over the course of the project. AbleChildAfrica and Action Network for the disabled (ANDY) worked in partnership to design the monitoring framework, disability inclusive and child friendly approaches to participatory evaluation.

Focusing on beneficiary-led feedback mechanisms, this impact report's findings have been formulated from ongoing project data (attendance and attainment records etc.) and the implementation of participatory tools, including focus groups, conversational interviews, case studies and most significant change stories with project stakeholders. A large subset of qualitative data was therefore gathered during the project's evaluation event at the end of the project's second year (September 2019) to facilitate comparisons with baseline data.

Data collection was led by Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) Project Coordinator, with a specific focus on ensuring valid and reliable data. Post completion, raw data was exported into pre-designed data summary tables or reports, which had been designed by AbleChildAfrica and ANDY, and allowed analysis of the data collected within the monitoring framework.



A Senior Government Officer addressing Coalition members on status of disability inclusive employment in Kenya



Coalition members trained on relationship between UNCRPD and SDGs towards Social Inclusion

Outcome 1: A cohesive and well informed coalition of DPOs and child-focused CSOs with a strong collective voice work together to advocate to government for the rights of Children with Disabilities.

The formation of a Disability Advocacy Coalition constituting of 25 Disabled Persons Organizations and 17 child – focused Civil Society Organization to effectively advocate the rights of children and young people with disabilities was seen as a critical project outcome. The DPO leaders were trained in Lobbying County Governments for Child and Disability Rights.



Coalition members marking International Day for Persons with Disabilities Dec. 3, 2018

During the Disability Inclusive Employment visits the key findings were:

- 1. The findings on Intersection of Gender and Disability Status Shapes Labour Market Inequality Social inclusion; showed that people with different types of disabilities, including those not specific to salaried or waged employment, experienced large disparities in employment and earnings and these outcomes also varied for men and women. The multiplicative effects of gender and disability on labour market outcomes led to a hierarchy of disadvantage where women with cognitive or multiple disabilities experienced the lowest employment rates and earnings levels. However, within groups, disability presented the strongest negative effects for men, which created a smaller gender wage gap among people with disabilities.
- 2. The findings on Economic Disadvantage in the Relationship between Disability and Subjective Well-Being of Children with Disabilities; depicted social exclusion as a result of economic disadvantage stands in the way of children's well-being. All children, like adults, have a right to an acceptable standard of living, access to social services and to a life free from bias and stigma. Economic disadvantage creates and compounds inequity – funneling care, resources and services away from the children with greatest need and creating emotional and psychological barriers to children's development and well-being. Poverty and discrimination are obstacles to better child outcomes. Poor and marginalized children with disabilities are more malnourished, less healthy, have fewer opportunities to learn and are at greater risk of exploitation.

The Inclusive Education visits determined if the students or pupils with disabilities in their schools are receiving appropriate educational programming and if the staffs have the resources and professional development assets needed to work effectively in promotion of Inclusive Education. During the Inclusive Education visits the key findings were:

- 1. Inadequate Educational Facilities; lack of adequate resources to meet the educational needs of learners with disabilities in the regular schools cause most of the parents to have doubt as to whether the needs of their children are adequately met in the schools. Thus, most parents prefer to take their children to the special schools as compared to the inclusive schools. This affects negatively the success of inclusive education.
- 2. Poor Teacher Training; Most of the teachers do not have adequate training on handling both learners with and without disabilities in one class. This affects the understanding of some of the learners of which it is reflected in their performance. Continued poor performance among the learners with disabilities due to the poor teaching skills and abilities of the teachers triggers their poor enrolment in the regular schools.

The training objectives were:

- 1. To improve capacity on different skills and strategies to conduct a people centred advocacy
- 2. To gain skills in enriching their knowledge to carry out successful Lobbying and Negotiation with policy makers, influences, decision makers and law makers
- 3. To understand Advocacy Strategies; Lobbying and Negotiation, and Legal Frameworks governing Disability Rights.

The Civil Society Organizations were trained in Strengthening County Governments Engagements on Child and Disability Rights. The training objectives were:

- 1. Understanding Devolution and structure of county Governments and role of CSOs in County Integrated and Development Plans (CIDPs)
- 2. Understanding Government Budgetary circle
- 3. Enhancing meaningful Public Participation

Findings utilizing project developed data collection tools, attendance registers and collated into overall records were as below:

	Year 2 Target		Year 2 Results	
Measurement	DPOs	CSOs	DPOs	CSOs
Number of DPO and child-focused CSO coalition members who pledge their commitment to continue working together as a coalition to advocate to the government for the rights of Children with Disabilities.	20	15	22	16
	M	F	M	F
Number and % of DPO leaders who score 80% or more in KAP surveys showing an increased knowledge and understanding of the rights of Children with Disabilities and child participation.	70% 7	70% 7	68% 5	62% 4
Number and % of child-focused CSO leaders who score 80% or more in KAP surveys showing an increased knowledge and understanding of child disability rights and mobilization	70% 6	70% 6	61% 4	58% 3
Number and % of child-focused CSO leaders who demonstrate increased knowledge and understanding of advocacy approaches for government engagement	80% 6	80% 6	74% 4	69% 4
Number and % of DPO leaders that attend training	100% 11	100% 11	109% 12	154% 17
Number and % of DPO leaders that attend training	100% 7	100% 8	114% 8	138% 11
Number and % of coalition members that regularly attend meetings (regularly = 80% of meetings)	25	70	29	116
Number and % of coalition members that attend training on national advocacy and SDG implementation strategies	70 12	70 13	92 11	131 17
	Year 2 Target		Year 2 Results	
Number of coalition bi-annual meetings that take place	2		2	
Number and type of instances that DPO and child-focused CSO coalition members actively engage with government officials to advocate for the rights of Children with Disabilities	6		6	

Outcome 2: Engaged and well informed policy makers uphold and improve the rights of children with disabilities through Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities implementation.

Most reports confirm that there's been long years of legislation and very little action on the part of the government when it comes to helping persons with disabilities in Kenya to get equal breaks. Ensuring a disability perspective in all aspects of policy and socio - economic legislations, effective implementation and enforcement of existing disability laws and policies and providing for equal employment opportunities and training are among the factors that contribute to the reduction of poverty and to the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities in Kenya.

Throughout the year the Coalition members engaged with County Governments Senior officials in the Ministries of: Labour and Social Protection, Education and Devolution apart from various County Assemblies; to ensure the rights of children with disabilities are improved through provision of strategic advice so that people with disability are able to fully enjoy their rights as citizens. National Review Meetings on SDGs and CRPD were not held in Kenya; however, Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) and Kenya Association for the Intellectual Handicap (KAIH) participated in SDGs Kenya forum to input into the Kenya SDGs status report 2019 which was shared at the Kenyan government official side event during High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019.The participation of Coalition members focused on disability; ensured SDG and CRPD data is included in the report. Government officials, from Early Assessment and Research Centre (EARC) and the Ministry of East Africa; Labour and Social Protection were engaged during quarterly visits on Inclusive Education and Disability Inclusive Employment; to Coalition members' projects.

- 3. Poor inclusive education policy implementation; There is no adequate support for inclusive education from the concerned stakeholders. Most of the parents of learners with disabilities are cautious about placing their children in an inclusion program because of fears that the children will be ridiculed by other children, or be unable to develop regular life skills in an academic classroom. This is mainly attributed to poor implementation of the inclusive education policy framework; one case in point is the endlessly controversial national exam, which fails to capture learners' diverse backgrounds and needs.

The project developed data collection tools, attendance registers and collated into overall records were as below:

Measurement	Year 2 Target		Year 2 Results	
	M	F	M	F
Number and type of instances where members of the public reached through the campaign collectively advocate for the rights of children with disabilities.	20		14	
Number and type of instances where members of the public reached through the campaign collectively advocate for the rights of children with disabilities.	4100	4000	52710	53140
Extent to which members of the public demonstrate increased understanding of and a positive attitude towards the rights of children through engagement with the coalition campaign	50%	50%	50%	64%
	DPOs	CSOs	DPOs	CSOs
Number and % of the coalition that become members of the Campaign Committee	40% 2	60% 3	40% 2	60% 3
Completion of a coalition disability rights campaign strategy with a detailed timeline and description of roles and responsibilities	Applicable revisions made to the strategy that is being used		The strategy is complete with additions on issues on Health for Children and young people with disabilities.	
Extent to which the disability rights campaign strategy is implemented according to the planned timeline	70%		N/A Yr. 2 – the strategy has no budget for implementation	
Number of male and female Children with Disabilities who are consulted on the design of the coalition disability rights campaign.	N/A Yr. 2		N/A Yr. 2	
Completion of a campaign toolkit, campaign materials and radio programme content	N/A Yr. 2		N/A Yr. 2	
Number of male and female Children with Disabilities who are included when deciding the content of all campaign materials.	N/A Yr. 2		N/A Yr. 2	

Wider Project Impact and Outcomes

The most significant wider outcome of the project was a petition on inclusive employment presented and led primarily by 2 Coalition DPO members in Machakos County. Following the petition and engagements in County Integrated Development Plans (ICDPs); a bill focusing on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities was developed. The bill was passed in the Machakos County Assembly in June 2019 and now is a law in Machakos. Consequently, the ICDP Committee has ensured that funding is allocated to improve accessibility in schools, health facilities and workplaces to facilitate reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. The Coalition members viz; Niusline Media, Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) and Lydia Kanini Disability Foundation supported the formation and launch of Kwale County Disability Network.

Summary and Recommendations

In a nutshell, most targets and expected outcomes for this project year have been met, with several outcomes surpassing targets. A core factor in this success can be attributed to the engagement levels of all project stakeholders, including Disabled Persons Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Children with Disabilities and Government Officials.

Recommendations to carry forward from the project as significantly impactful interventions include:

- 1. Disability rights trainings should be used as an interventionist measure, to make DPOs, CSOs and Government Officials perform at the required level. Hence, on review to build the intended capacity a training expert should determine what an individual organisation needs in order to perform at optimum level.
- 2. If a training intervention must be effective and rewarding, then the knowledge and skills acquired from the learning must be fully transferred to the work situation. Otherwise, it would seem as if intervention never took place.