MAKING ELECTIONS IN UGANDA DISABILITY INCLUSIVE

**ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

**2018/19 – 2022/23**

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**National Council for** Dis**ability**

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MAKING ELECTIONS IN UGANDA DISABILITY INCLUSIVE: ADVOCACY STRATEGY

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**Developed by**

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**Acronyms**

ADD Action on Disability and Development

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CSOs Civil Society Organisations

CSOs Civil Society Organisations

CSR Corporate Social Responsibility

DFID Department for International Development/ UKAID

DGF Democratic Governance Facility

DPOs Disabled Persons Organisations

EC Electoral Commission

EoC Equal Opportunities Commission

EU European Union

GOU Government of Uganda

HRBA Human Rights Based Approach

ICT Information, Communication Technology

IECs Information, Education and Communication

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MDA Ministry, Department and Agencies

MFPED Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

MGLSD Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

MoJCA Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

NCD National Council for Disability

NGOs Non-Government organisations

NIRA National Identification and Registration Authority

NUDIPU National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda

OPDs Organisations of Persons with disabilities

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

TV Television

UHRC Uganda Human Rights Commission

UN United Nations

UNCRPD United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

USAID United States Agency fir International Development

**Foreword**

**Acknowledgement**

**Executive Summary**

The document details a sustainable strategy for making elections disability inclusive in Uganda. The Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey (2017) domesticating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) defines persons with disabilities as, 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. This definition is equally accepted by the National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006), the Disability Act (2006) and, the National Council for Disability Act (2003).

The National Housing and Population Census Final-Report (2016), indicates that, 12.4% of persons aged 2 years and above have some form of disability. The disability community represents an important and potentially influential voting block however, they seldom participate in electoral processes due to legal, policy and system-related challenges. These challenges include: lack of access to information and physical environment, unclear definition of persons with disabilities’ participation mandate and domain, poverty that drives politico-financial exclusion and, communally reinforced stigma and discrimination among others. Uganda has a rich policy and legislative framework for disability inclusion and this was further enriched by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda mandates the state to base on democratic principles to empower and encourage the active participation of all citizens at all levels in their own governance[[1]](#footnote-1) and further provides for participation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in all spheres under article 32, 35 and 36.

The Disability fraternity in Uganda acknowledge that the definitions, descriptions and application of the wordings that form the body disability have undergone a metamorphosis to be reflective of an inclusive society which are: our national aspirations as enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the National Development Plan and, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among others that promote the, ‘Leave No One Behind’ spirit. However, this change, might not be reflected in our national policies and laws which might require an overhaul and/or amendment.

To make the disability vote count, persons with disabilities need to be actively involved in the election processes by: being allowed to vote independently, be voted and, hold their voted leaders accountable through platforms provided for by, culture, law, policies and guidelines/ regulations.

In 2016, the National Council for Disability (NCD) in partnership with Sightsavers conducted a study to generate information on the Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Electoral processes in Uganda. The study was conducted in four regions of Uganda in the Districts of Koboko, Kampala, Bundibugyo, Tororo and Moroto.

From the research findings, the following key challenges were established to affect persons with disabilities from full participating in elections in Uganda: non-inclusive laws, policies, guidelines and limited compliance; voter registration and display of voter registers; inadequate voter education; limited financing and none inclusive Voting process (actual voting).

The Inclusive elections advocacy strategy for Uganda is aimed at creating an enabling environment for effective participation of persons with disabilities in Electoral processes in Uganda by 2023. In order to achieve our goal, NCD deemed it necessary to involve key actors namely; Parliament of Uganda, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Justice and constitutional affairs (First Parliamentary Counsel) Political Parties, the Independent Electoral Commission, National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), Equal Opportunities Commission (EoC), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Organisations of Persons with disabilities (OPDs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Government organisations (NGOs) and development partners to come up with an action strategy for achieving this noble pillar of governance. The strategy aims at, creating an environment for Persons with Disabilities to participate in electoral processes in Uganda. This is to be achieved through 2 major outcomes of: enhanced inclusion for full and effective participation of persons with disabilities and; sustained budget allocation to the National Council for Disability to perform its mandate in election processes in Uganda The strategy is expected to encompass the next election season with ample timing allocated for evaluation of the intervention. This is expected to cost 1,988,020,000 shillings only over the next five years

The strategy will be used to implement Inclusive election processes; hence fulfilling political objectives 1 and 2 of the constitution of Republic of Uganda (1995), article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and, Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

## 1.1 Background

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 mandates the Council to among others:

1. 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;
2. Carry out or commission surveys and investigations in matters or incidents relating to violation of rights of Persons with Disabilities, on-compliance with programs, policies or laws relating to disabilities; and take appropriate action in relation there to or refer the matter to the relevant authority.
3. 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.

NCD has a mandate to coordinate and report on disability inclusion, with a recent popularisation of the CRPD after Uganda ratified it and further compiled the initial state report on the implementation of the CRPD.

Uganda’s ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its Optional Protocol in September 2008 without reservation, was a consolidation of the legal framework for promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Persons with Disabilities. Article 12 of the UNCRPD provides for equal recognition of Persons with Disabilities before the law and Article 29(a) emphasizes that Persons with Disabilities should effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely-chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for them to vote and be elected.

The constitution of republic of Uganda, 1995 provides for participation of Persons with disabilities in electoral processes, as one of the special interest groups in Uganda through the enactment of the 1996 parliamentary elections statute. Persons with disabilities have been electing their representatives through electoral colleges (Konrad, 2014).The Electoral Commission Act, 2005, Parliamentary Elections Act Regulations (2005) and the National Council for Disability Act (2003) mandates Electoral Commission to conduct elections of persons with disability using Electoral College structures because it was easier and cost effective.

At first, the elections of five members of Parliament representing persons with disabilities and the two representatives at sub-county, division, municipal and District levels were conducted using structures of the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) right from the village, parish, sub-county up to District level that constituted the electoral college. However, being an NGO, the 1997 local government Act mandated Electoral Commission to use the NUDIPU structures to elect representatives of persons with disabilities in elective positions because there was no government structure in place to play that role.

In 2013, Government in consultations with various organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), reviewed the National Council for Disability Act 2003, which placed the responsibility of forming electoral colleges under the jurisdiction of the Electoral Commission, assisted by the National Council for Disability[[2]](#footnote-2).

## 1.2 Good practices realized in electoral processes

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

* 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;
* 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;
* There has been an observation of physical accessibility in recent (2017) by-elections in Jinja where the poling stations were located on flat and accessible areas;
* 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

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.

## 1.3 Challenges affecting Persons with Disabilities in Electoral Processes

Although government provides legal instruments to support inclusive elections in the country, there are still challenges that affect persons with disabilities from fully participating in elections these include;

## 1.3.1 Non-inclusive, and limited compliance laws, policies and guidelines

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) article 80 and the Local Governments Act (1997 section 116 sub-section 2 (a), still uses derogatory language by identifying persons with psychosocial disabilities as being of “unsound mind” and “lunacy”.

The National Policy on Disability, 2006, the Building and Housing Control Act, 2013, Access to information Act, 2005 and, the Communications Act, 2013 provides for accessibility, however the research established that voter education, poling centres, voter and education materials are inaccessible.

NCD Act, 2013 as amended excluded Persons with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities among the disability categories gazzeted in Uganda hence limiting participation of such categories on the Electoral College.

Through the research, it was established that an election of members of parliament representing Persons with disabilities is conducted at national level in a central place determined by Electoral commission. The national coverage in the long run has had a negative impact on participation of Persons with Disabilities in elective politics, with an example of parliamentary elections where the candidate campaigns in the whole country, its costly and requires time yet the Electoral laws provides only 12 days for campaigns of parliamentary representatives.

## 1.3.2 Voter registration and Display of voter registers

The Constitution of Uganda (1995) Article 59 (2, 3 and 4 respectively) stipulates that it is the duty of every citizen of Uganda of eighteen years of age or above to register as a voter for public elections and referenda; that the State shall take all necessary steps to ensure that all citizens qualified to vote register and exercise their right to vote; provides that parliament shall make laws to provide for the facilitation of citizens with disabilities to register and vote.

Article 61 (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda states that,

*“compiling, maintaining, revising and updating the voter register is a responsibility of the Electoral Commission.”*

This was re-echoed in section 19 of the Electoral Commission Act (2002). However, for the 2016 general elections, such function was delegated to National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) without building the capacity of NIRA to support their function. The research findings on inclusive elections in Uganda, 2017 established that the registration form used in this exercise highlighted only 3 disability categories namely blind, hearing and physical disability leaving other disabilities to be captured in a provision of “other, however the officials who supported registration lacked capacity to sufficiently utilize the form to capture other disabilities that were not mentioned. More to note, the voters / national identity card does not indicate where the owner has a disability or not.

The study further established other challenges related to voter registration that included;

1. Disability unfriendly mode of communication to register
2. Inaccessible physical environment
3. Inaccessible display notice boards
4. Lack of guides and Sign language interpreters to assist Persons with disabilities at registration centres
5. Long distance to the registration venues
6. Limited use of modern technology to ease registration.

## 1.2.3 Inadequate voter education

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (Article61 (g)), mandates the Electoral Commission to formulate and implement civic education programmes relating to elections.

The Electoral Commission Act (2002), Section 12 (g) provides for promoting and regulating, through appropriate means, civic education of the citizens of Uganda on the purpose and voting procedures of any elections. This Section also highlights the use of Sign Language however, there are deficiencies in addressing the communication needs. Article 2 of the CRPD defines communication for persons with disabilities to include: languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology.

The study on the participation of persons with disabilities in the Electoral Processes in Uganda so observed the following;

1. The Electoral Commission and other stakeholders accredited to provide voter education did not provide information in accessible formats;
2. Inadequate time allocated for voter education for persons with disabilities;
3. Voter education was concentrated in urban centres and;
4. Electoral Commission voters’ education guidelines not disability friendly.

## 1.2.4 There was a lack of funding for voter education

The National Council for Disability Act, (2003) Section 6(i) is mandated to assist the Electoral Commission in conducting elections of Persons with Disabilities. However, NCD lacks the budget to fulfill this mandate.

## 1.2.5 Non- Inclusive Voting Process (actual voting)

The participation of Persons with Disabilities in Electoral Processes provides a critical opportunity to exercise their democratic rights, choose their representatives and contribute to the decision-making process in the country (International Disability Alliance, 2011).

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;

1. Have limited awareness of disability needs, use unskilled guides and Sign language interpreters to assist Persons centres with Disabilities in voting;
2. Distant polling stations which require transport costs;
3. Limited use of modern technology to ease independent voting;
4. Inadequate mobilisation of Persons with Disabilities to participate in actual voting and;
5. Lack of appropriate shelters at the polling centres to shield persons with disabilities especially persons with albinism who are adversely affected by harsh weather.

These among others act as barriers to effective participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes in Uganda.

## 1.3 SWOT Analysis

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
| --- | --- |
| * Government of Uganda ratifying international human rights treaties * The presence of NCD and its lower councils and the local government structures * Existence of the multiparty political system * Government providing enabling environment to promote disability * Representation of persons with disabilities in political leadership positions at all levels | * Inadequate funds to advocate and raise awareness * Negative attitudes by other CSOs implementing democracy work * Conflicting interest with in Disability movement * Limited awareness on rights for persons with Disabilities |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| * Existence of speaker’s office being open to the public. * Strong disability movement * Increased prioritisation of Disability by development partners. * Strong media coverage in Uganda * Good working relationships between DPOs and other development partners and government to support disability inclusive elections * Willingness of Persons with Disabilities to participate in the electoral process | * Low interest and limited capacity or awareness to implement an inclusive disability agenda by some CSOs * Bureaucratic procedures of government in amending legal instruments * Low political commitment |

# SECTION TWO: STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

## 2.1 Purpose

This strategy seeks to guide all stakeholders to create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to fully participate in electoral processes in Uganda

## 2.2 Guiding principles

**Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA):** The strategy uses a HRBA approach and the principles thereof in its implementation.

**Mandate and responsiveness:** All stakeholders execute mandate with adequate resources, skill and guidance. The strategy is equally responsive to the election needs of persons with disabilities regardless of their impairments

**Non-discrimination:** Implementation of the strategy will take deliberate effort to ensure that all impairment strands are covered in the electoral process

**Partnership building and collaboration:** The strategy will heavily rely on like partners for effective and sustained implementation. Partnerships shall be established at all governance and electoral levels

**Dignity and information:** Persons with disabilities shall be treated with respect and provided with all information in accessible formats to support information utilisation.

## 2.3 Goal

To create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to fully participate in electoral processes in Uganda

## 2.4 Objectives

**Objective 1**: To increase and improve effective participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes in Uganda

**Objective 2**: To source and effectively utilise resources for the participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes in Uganda.

## 2.5 Strategies and actions

**Objective 1**: To increase and improve effective participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes in Uganda

The objective will be achieved through a concerted advocacy in change in legal wording that discriminates persons with disabilities from participating in electoral processes, address the mobilisation and communication needs of all persons with communication disabilities and, mandatorily advise the electoral commission, parliament and, other stakeholders on the enablers of participation of persons with disabilities in electoral process. The process will begin with a formal petition submitted to parliament in accordance with Schedule E of the Parliament of Uganda – Rules of Procedure and, proceed with electoral support by the NCD and disability-CSO observers among others.

The expected result of the objective will be Enhanced inclusiveness of electoral process to cater for effective participation of persons with disabilities and; below is a set of expected sub results and, activities relating to the objective.

**Table 1: Objective 1 strategic actions and expected results**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action 1: petition and networking** | | |
| **No** | **Action** | **Expected results** |
| 1.1 | Petition parliament on change of legal wording and especially amend the disability coding to be inclusive of persons with disabilities | Electoral laws and policies are non-discriminative of certain impairment strands |
| 1.2 | Work with the electoral commission to design disability guidelines for electoral processes – Disability inclusive IECs | Increased awareness of the general public on inclusion of person with disabilities in elections |
| 1.3 | Lobby all political parties to provide inclusive electoral information that is accessible for persons with disabilities |
| 1.4 | Establish a group communication tool on social media platforms - Wordpress supported application for Real Time Communication |
| 1.5 | Hold dialogue meetings with members of parliament with relevant parliamentary committees to influence electoral law amendments | MDAs and CSOs charged with electoral processes able to include persons with disabilities |
| **Action 2: Mobilise and provide information on elections and the rights thereof** | | |
| 2.1 | Hold press conferences or issue a press release on inclusive elections | MDAs and CSOs charged with electoral processes able to include persons with disabilities |
| 2.2 | Conduct a debriefing workshop on inclusive elections with stakeholders | Increased media coverage of electoral processes inclusive of persons with disabilities |
| 2.3 | Provide information about the elections in accessible formats such as braille, audio, sign language or easy-to-read formats | Electoral laws and materials are inclusive of accessibility and communication need of person with disabilities |
| **Action 3: Capacity development and shared learning** | | |
| 3.1 | Provide technical support to EC to design inclusive IEC materials and messages for media engagements | Electoral laws and materials are inclusive of accessibility and communication need of person with disabilities |
| 3.2 | Hold capacity building trainings for all organisations charged with democracy related engagements. | Organisations charged with democracy related engagements are aware of disability and accessibility needs |
| 3.3 | Train OPD leaders on disability coding and ensuring inclusion | Persons with disabilities are able to support the management of elections |
| **Action 4: Support for elections** | | |
| 4.1 | Conduct civic and/or electoral education campaigns specifically for persons with disabilities | Increased participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes |
| 4.2 | recruit disability inclusion observation assistants and pay them |
| 4.3 | Lobby EC to actively utilize persons with disabilities and their organisations in electoral processes |
| 4.4 | Strengthen OPDs and CSOs to support in electoral observations at all levels. This is through training, workshops and field engagements |
| 4.5 | Build capacity of all electoral observers to include disability |  |

**Objective 2**: To source and effectively utilise resources for the participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes in Uganda.

The objective will be achieved through asking the parliament to appropriate adequate resources to the National Council for Disability in order to support independent mobilisation and voter with disabilities’ education in accessible and acceptable formats.

The expected result of the objective will be 50% budget allocation increase to NCD by parliament to perform its mandate in election processes in Uganda and; below is a set of expected sub results and, activities relating to the objective.

**Table 2: Objective 2 strategic actions and expected results**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action 1: Lobby for increased funding for NCD** | | |
| **No** | **Action** | **Expected results** |
| 1.1 | Develop NCD budget inclusive of electoral related activities | Increased budget allocation to NCD and effective utilisation for the participation of persons with disabilities |
| 1.2 | Lobby Members of parliament to support NCD budget increment |
| 1.3 | Engage the Social sector and budget committees in parliament on NCD budget increase |
| 1.4 | Hold meetings with Minister for Gender, and Finance and Economic planning, permanent secretaries and MPs representing persons with disabilities to discuss NCD budget. |

# SECTION THREE: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

## 3.1 Preamble

Overall implementation of the advocacy will involve multiple stakeholders involving government, development partners and civil society organizations. The strategy is a broad and comprehensive national framework designed to address the various election inclusion issues in Uganda.

The NCD is the overall coordinator for implementation of strategy activities. A coordination unit under the department of Research, Information and Documentation will be instituted and supported to spear head the implementation and monitoring of the strategy. The coordination unit will be headed by the Programme Officer with wide experience on electoral management for persons with disabilities and governance. The unit should be financed within the MGLSD and NCD financial framework and provided for in the medium and long-term government financial budgetary framework.

## 3.2 Stakeholders

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key actor** | **Influence they will have on advocacy objectives** |
| **Cabinet Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development** | **High**  Plays a role of presenting bills, policies and budgets before cabinet and president for approval to present on the floor of parliament.  The minister can lobby for budget allocation to NCD before the ministry of finance. |
| **Parliament of Uganda** | **High**  It has the highest power to pass laws and budgets that will be used to facilitate inclusive elections in Uganda.  Having representatives of Persons with Disabilities in parliament will be used to lobby others to support inclusive elections in the country  Parliamentary committees on human rights, gender, legal affairs and budgeting and planning will be driving force to ensure inclusive elections. |
| **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development** | **Medium**  NCD use the ministry’s accounting systems to receive funding from government.  Provides technical backstopping to NCD in designing policies, laws and regulations. |
| **Electoral Commission** | **High**  Make the Persons with Disabilities aware of the electoral processes.  Voter education materials prepared early and shared with the accredited institutions on time.  Voter materials made in ICT compliant formats and shared.  Bench mark with at least 2countries exhibiting best practices to observe and study their voting processes involving Persons with disabilities.  EC to develop, adopt and operationalize the inclusive electoral guidelines.  EC to accredit CSOs/DPOs to conduct early and regular voter education.  Disseminate widely electoral disability college laws and guidelines by the electoral commission targeting; district registrars, returning officers.  Provide voter education in accessible formats (sign language, large print, braille, easy to read.  Use of digital voting systems.  Employ Person with Disabilities in various positions at EC. |
| **Political Parties** | **Low**  Raise awareness on the developed voter register among Persons with Disabilities.   * Popularize the developed voter registers at all levels of EC staff.   Engage with NIRA and EC to develop a comprehensive voter register for Persons with Disabilities |
| **NIRA** | **Low**  NIRA to train their staff in disability and data capture.  Improve the registration form to capture all disability categories. |
| **EOC** | **High**  Conduct gender and equity audits of all MDAs  Regular community engagements to include all vulnerable persons  Conduct investigations on human rights abuses  Regulation of budgeting in all government MDAs |
| **UHRC** | **Medium**  Conduct inclusive civic education at all levels  Regular monitoring of the implementation of CRPD and other Legal frameworks  Investigate human rights abuses |
| **NCD** | **High**  Asist electoral commission to conduct free and fair elections of persons with disabilities  Conduct electoral observations  Conduct voter education to persons with disabilities  Mobilise persons with disabilities to participate in general elections and elections of persons with disabilities |
| **DPOs/ CSOs/NGOs** | * **High** * Continuous lobbying for electoral reforms to enable effective participation of persons with disabilities. * Raise awareness and encourage Person with Disabilities to participate in electoral process * Constant monitoring to ensure compliance to electoral laws by government.   Partnering with EC and other stakeholders to ensure free and fair inclusive elections. |
| **Electoral Commission** | **High**  Make the Persons with Disabilities aware of the electoral processes.  Voter education materials prepared early and shared with the accredited institutions on time.  Voter materials made in ICT compliant formats and shared.  Bench mark with at least 2countries exhibiting best practices to observe and study their voting processes involving Persons with disabilities.  EC to develop, adopt and operationalize the inclusive electoral guidelines.  EC to accredit CSOs/DPOs to conduct early and regular voter education.  Disseminate widely electoral disability college laws and guidelines by the electoral commission targeting; district registrars, returning officers.  Provide voter education in accessible formats (sign language, large print, braille, easy to read.  Use of digital voting systems.  Employ persons with disabilities in various positions at EC. |
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| **NCD** | **High**  Asist electoral commission to conduct free and fair elections of persons with disabilities  Conduct electoral observations  Conduct voter education to persons with disabilities  Mobilise persons with disabilities to participate in general elections and elections of persons with disabilities |
| **DPOs/ CSOs/NGOs** | * **High** * Continuous lobbying for electoral reforms to enable effective participation of Persons with Disabilities. * Raise awareness and encourage Person with Disabilities to participate in electoral process * Constant monitoring to ensure compliance to electoral laws by government.   Partnering with EC and other stakeholders to ensure free and fair inclusive elections. |
| **Development partners**  **(Sight savers, ADD, DGF, USAID, GIZ,E.U, DFID OHCHR among others) and Media** | * **High** * Technical and financial support to review the existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks and develop a position paper; and share with target groups to lobby for law reform. * Media to disseminate findings from the survey and key issues in the position papers on inclusive elections. * Undertake awareness raising for Persons with Disabilities to participate in electoral processes. * Assess and analyze BFPs of MoJCA and EC from a disability perspective. * Build capacity of media persons to report on disability and electoral processes. * Commission more studies related to inclusive elections in Uganda. * Develop an awareness-raising campaign for both persons with disabilities and the general public on the right to vote and participation in electoral processes. * Develop a media campaign to guide regular and periodic media engagements on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes. * Lobby government, EC and local governments to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities to participate in electoral processes |
| **Grassroots Persons with disabilities** | **Low**   * Mobilize fellow Persons with disabilities to actively participate in electoral process. * Always available to actively and willingly support political participation.   Persons with disabilities fully embrace participation in mainstream elective positions. |
| **General public** | **Low**  Mobilise persons with disabilities to participate in elections  Offer auxiliary support to persons with disabilities in electoral processes  Share information related to elections |

## 3.3 Key partners and their work:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Partners** | **Work on outcomes so far** |
| Cabinet Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development | * Supportive Minister and Permanent Secretary are available to support the cause. |
| Parliament of Uganda | * Human Rights, Gender, Election and budgetary committees are in place |
| Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development | * Permanent secretary will provide over all policy guidance and the accounting of the ministry and key on budget allocations. * We have the Director for Social protection and Commissioner for Disability who are technically guiding NCD |
| Ministry of Justice and constitutional affairs (First parliamentary council) | * Available to guide NCD in legal matters |
| Electoral Commission | * A functional disability desk is in the EC |
| Political Parties | * NRM has mainstreamed disability among other parties |
| NIRA | * An updated bio-metrics data is available |
| MDAs | * Disability focal point persons exist in some government agencies and ministries |
| DPOs/ CSOs/NGOs | * Existence of strong DPO at National level and democratic advocacy groups |
| Development partners  (Sight savers, ADD, DGF, USAID, GIZ, DFID OHCHR) | * Programs on democratic governance do exist |
| Media | * Disability media coccus in place |
| Grassroots Persons with Disabilities and entire community | * Persons with disabilities are mobilized at village level * Community members sensitized on inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes. |

# SECTION FOUR: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

**4.1** **Introduction**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E) framework of the advocacy strategy describes the approaches to be used to measure implementation and changes due to the strategy. In this, data collection, analysis, presentation and utilisation for informed programming will be pivotal in the strategy.

The M&E framework therefore takes cognizance of:

* M&E resources (financial and human);
* Theory of change;
* Evaluation questions;
* Evaluation design and approach;
* Evaluation governance;
* M&E schedule;
* Data collection;
* Ethical standards and;
* The logical framework

**4.2 Purpose of the M&E Framework**

The over-all aim of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework is to measure and assess performance in order to effectively manage the outcomes and outputs of the strategy. Specifically, the key objectives of this M&E framework are to:

* Measure changes in selected indicators of effectiveness and outcomes to be achieved;
* Provide an informed basis for policy discussions at national levels by informing government and her partners;
* Provide quantitative and qualitative information on current practices and knowledge to routinely ‘fine-tune’ implementation strategies;
* Ensure the timely provision and use of objectively verifiable information in the ongoing adjustment of disability interventions;
* Enhance new learning and development- lessons from experiences will provide information on what does and does not work and thus serve as a basis to adjust the approaches or redesign if necessary;
* Ensure informed decision-making – quantitative and qualitative data will have to be established at baseline and updated periodically for policy influence (development and implementation) and;
* Support substantive accountability – responsibility for ensuring value for money, cost efficiency and transparency in the implementation

**4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level | What would demonstrate success at this level | How would you verify your achievement of this level? As far as possible, have indicators and targets in here, even if they’re qualitative. This will make it clear how we track success | By when? |
| Developing an inclusive election advocacy strategy for Uganda | Final inclusive advocacy strategy completed | Production, distribution of 300 copies and share soft copy on line of the inclusive advocacy strategy to all stakeholders  Dissemination workshops held for 100 participants in four regions  10 media campaigns organised | Jan- June 2019 |
| 1. Output level: Captured perspectives of Persons with Disabilities in mainstream elections | Civic and/or voter education campaigns with persons with disabilities held | Production of bi-annual monitoring reports, sensitisation meeting reports, social media polls and discussions | Bi-annual |
| Accredited institutions and E.C provide voter education materials in accessible formats such as braille, audio, sign language or easy-to-read | Materials available in accessible formats | December 2020 |
| political parties provided electoral information in accessible formats | Information related to political parties available in accessible formats to the public | 2019-2020 |
| Employ more Persons with disabilities at E.C | E.C human resource reports | 2019-2020 |
| DPO and national CSO observers identified to participate in electoral monitoring | Reports, minutes of the partnership meetings, stakeholder mapping lists  Active social media groups/pages | 2019 |
| Quarterly Press conferences and press releases on inclusive elections held | Reports, minutes, photos, documentaries, scripts | 2019-2023 |
| Bi-annual debriefing workshops held with E.C, political parties, parliament, government agencies, and other stakeholders | Reports, minutes, photos, attendance lists, scripts | 2019-2023 |
| Develop quarterly IEC materials and spot messages for TV and radio stations developed and shared | TV and radio station reports, payment receipts, listenership surveys, observations | 2019-2023 |
| A functional group communication tool established on WhatsApp, Facebook and twitter | Social media survey, reports | 2019-2023 |
| Petition on electoral legal amendments submitted to the speaker of parliament | Petition, attendance list, report and minutes | Jan –June 2019 |
| Quarterly Dialogue meetings with members of parliament on selected committees to influence electoral law amendments held | Reports, minutes, attendance lists, photos, media reports, social media posts | 2019-2020 |
| Building capacity of staff for 15 organisations dealing in democracy related work held. | Reports, minutes, attendance lists, photos, media reports, social media posts, training manuals | 2019-2021 |
| 2. Output level: Increased funding to NCD on election related activities. | NCD annual budget projections submitted to Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. | Budget reports, minutes, attendance lists | 2019-2020 |
| Quarterly meetings with Social sector committee and budget committee of parliament held | Budget reports, minutes, attendance lists | 2019-2020 |
| Quarterly meetings with Minister for Gender, and Finance and Economic planning, Permanent secretaries and MPs representing Persons with disabilities to discuss the NCD budget held | Budget reports, minutes, attendance lists, advocacy progress reports | 2019-2020 |
| 3. Outcome level: Enhanced participation of Persons with Disabilities in electoral processes by 2023. | Persons with disabilities involved in stakeholder engagements  Amended electoral policies to include disability  Invitations to meetings with key stakeholders  Mentions of suggested policy changes in speeches  Ministerial meetings on suggested policy changes  Parliamentary mentions of suggested policy changes  Increased media activity on suggested policy issues | Evaluation reports, Advocacy progress report, media reports, legal and policy audits, electoral observers report, media polls | Every Year. |
| 4. Outcome level:  Enhanced budget allocation by parliament to NCD to perform its mandate in electoral processes in Uganda by 2023. | Annual Budget line to NCD to facilitate elections related activities | Budget releases on annual basis to NCD, NCD quarterly reports, NCD annual financial reports,  Advocacy progress report | 2019-2023 |
| 5. Objective level:  To create an enabling environment for the persons with disabilities in Electoral processes in Uganda by 2023 | Increased number of persons with disabilities registered to participate in electoral processes without limited obstacles | Observer reports, increased number of persons with disabilities in elective positions, E.C reports, media reports, Post-election survey/ evaluations | 2023 |

# SECTION FIVE: FINANCING THE ADVOCACY STRATEGY

**5.1 Background to the financial framework**

The strategy wholly responds to the aspirations and prescriptions of the Social Development Sector Plan (SDSP1) 2015/16 – 2019/20 and the NDP II – 2015/16 – 2019/20 that prioritise: social protection services to vulnerable and marginalised persons and, a national response to special interest groups among others. The Budget has been developed in consultation with partners, recurrent national budgets and, projections based on proposed interventions.

**5.2 Sources of Funding and cost of Interventions**

Financing of the implementation of the strategy is expected from the GOU national budget allocations, local revenues from districts and development partners.

Implementation of the strategy is estimated to cost **UGX 1,988,020,000.0(One billion, nine hundred eighty-eight million and twenty thousand shillings only)** over a period of five years. 35% of the budget shall be funded by Government of Uganda under disability-related budget-lines to MDAs, 5% will be funded by the local governments through local revenue; 10% of the budget will be funded by the private sector through her various initiatives – including but not limited to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and; 50% will be funded by the development partners. This is summarised in the table below.

**Table 5: Expect sources for the strategy funding**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Expected funder for the strategy** | **Total** |
| 1 | GoU - MFPED: *Disability related budget to MDAs* | 695,807,000 |
| 2 | District Local Governments - *Local revenue* | 99,401,000 |
| 3 | Private Sector actors | 198,802,000 |
| 4 | Development Partners | 994,010,000 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **1,988,020,000** |

# 5.3 Transparency and Accountability

The coordination unit led by the research officer at NCD will prepare and institute wide accountability systems and mechanisms in the strategy. The unit along with the implementation secretariat will assess on a regular basis the progress on the deliverables of the strategy. It will further monitor and track how effectively interventions and activities are being implemented.

# 5.4 Itemised Budget

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Action and Item** | **Units** | **Qtty** | **Unit cost** | **Amount** |
|  | ***Action 1: petition and networking*** |  |  |  | ***68,500,000*** |
| 1 | Legal fees for petition drafting | Item | 1 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| 2 | Venue for meeting to review petition | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 3 | Transport refund for petitioners | Persons | 40 | 100,000 | 4,000,000 |
| 4 | Meals for petitioners | Persons | 40 | 60,000 | 2,400,000 |
| 5 | Fuel to transport and deliver petitioners | Litres | 50 | 5,000 | 250,000 |
| 6 | Fuel for administration | Litres | 150 | 5,000 | 750,000 |
| 7 | Stationery | Persons | 40 | 10,000 | 400,000 |
| 8 | Mobilisation of petitioners (airtime) | Item | 3 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| 9 | Miscellaneous costs relating to petitioning | Item | 1 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| 10 | Fuel to meetings with Electoral commission | Litres | 100 | 5,000 | 500,000 |
| 11 | Consultancy for Disability guidelines in elections | Item | 1 | 25,000,000 | 25,000,000 |
| 12 | Venue for meeting with EC | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 13 | Meals while meeting EC | Item | 20 | 60,000 | 1,200,000 |
| 14 | Stationery | Item | 20 | 10,000 | 200,000 |
| 15 | Consultancy fees for internet and WordPress designing and training for NCD staffs | Item | 1 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| 16 | Venue for meeting MPs | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 17 | Transport refund for petitioners meeting MPs | Persons | 40 | 100,000 | 4,000,000 |
| 18 | Meals for petitioners meeting MPs | Persons | 40 | 60,000 | 2,400,000 |
| 19 | Fuel to transport and deliver petitioners meeting MPs | Litres | 50 | 5,000 | 250,000 |
| 20 | Fuel for administration of meeting with MPs | Litres | 150 | 5,000 | 750,000 |
| 21 | Stationery for meeting MPs | Persons | 40 | 10,000 | 400,000 |
| 22 | Mobilisation of petitioners (airtime) for meeting MPs | Item | 3 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| 23 | Miscellaneous costs relating to petitioning for meeting MPs | Item | 1 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
|  | ***Action 2: Mobilise and provide information on elections and the rights thereof*** | | | | ***466,000,000*** |
| 24 | Venue for press conference | Day | 1 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| 25 | Newspaper supplement | Page | 1 | 9,000,000 | 9,000,000 |
| 26 | Radio airtime | Hour | 1 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 27 | Transport refund for media | Persons | 60 | 100,000 | 6,000,000 |
| 28 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Venue | Day | 1 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| 29 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Meals | Persons | 60 | 60,000 | 3,600,000 |
| 30 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Transport refund | Persons | 40 | 50,000 | 2,000,000 |
| 31 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Stationery | Persons | 60 | 10,000 | 600,000 |
| 32 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Copies of strategy | Item | 200 | 15,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 33 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Airtime | Item | 1 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| 34 | Strategy dissemination workshop: Miscellaneous | Item | 1 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 35 | Strategy dissemination workshop: per diem | Persons | 20 | 140,000 | 2,800,000 |
| 36 | Debriefing workshop: Venue | Day | 1 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| 37 | Debriefing workshop: Meals | Persons | 60 | 60,000 | 3,600,000 |
| 38 | Debriefing workshop: Transport refund | Persons | 40 | 50,000 | 2,000,000 |
| 39 | Debriefing workshop: Stationery | Persons | 60 | 10,000 | 600,000 |
| 40 | Debriefing workshop: Copies of strategy | Item | 200 | 15,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 41 | Debriefing workshop: Airtime | Item | 1 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| 42 | Debriefing workshop: Miscellaneous | Item | 1 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 43 | Debriefing workshop: per diem | Persons | 20 | 140,000 | 2,800,000 |
| 44 | Embosser | Item | 1 | 10,000,000 | 10,000,000 |
| 45 | Caravan vehicle | Item | 1 | 100,000,000 | 100,000,000 |
| 46 | Video and audio recording devices | Item | 1 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| 47 | Braille paper | Cartons | 1,000 | 200,000 | 200,000,000 |
| 48 | Braille technician (Payment) | Month | 60 | 1,000,000 | 60,000,000 |
| 49 | Fuel for caravan van | Month | 20 | 600,000 | 12,000,000 |
| 50 | Insurance and repairs of caravan | Month | 20 | 1,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
|  | ***Action 3: Capacity development and shared learning*** | |  |  | ***65,800,000*** |
| 51 | Fuel for technical support | Litres | 2,000 | 5,000 | 10,000,000 |
| 52 | Miscellaneous costs to provide technical support | Item | 1 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| 53 | Capacity building workshop: Venue | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 54 | Capacity building workshop: Meals | Persons | 180 | 60,000 | 10,800,000 |
| 55 | Capacity building workshop: Transport refund | Persons | 120 | 50,000 | 6,000,000 |
| 56 | Capacity building workshop: Stationery | Persons | 180 | 10,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 57 | Capacity building workshop: Copies of strategy | Item | 200 | 15,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 58 | Capacity building workshop: Airtime | Item | 3 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| 59 | Capacity building workshop: Miscellaneous | Item | 3 | 1,000,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 60 | Capacity building workshop: per diem | Persons | 60 | 140,000 | 8,400,000 |
| 61 | Train OPDs: Venue | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 62 | Train OPDs: Meals | Persons | 60 | 60,000 | 3,600,000 |
| 63 | Train OPDs: Transport refund | Persons | 40 | 50,000 | 2,000,000 |
| 64 | Train OPDs: Stationery | Persons | 60 | 10,000 | 600,000 |
| 65 | Train OPDs: Airtime | Item | 3 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| 66 | Train OPDs: Miscellaneous | Item | 3 | 1,000,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 67 | Train OPDs: Per diem | Persons | 60 | 140,000 | 8,400,000 |
|  | ***Action 4: Support for elections*** |  |  |  | ***1,118,920,000*** |
| 68 | Disability observation assistants (2 per district): Allowance for 5 months | Months | 1,480 | 500,000 | 740,000,000 |
| 69 | Disability observation assistants (2 per district): Airtime | Months | 2,960 | 30,000 | 88,800,000 |
| 70 | Disability observation assistants (2 per district): Recruitment costs | Item | 1 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 71 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Venue | Day | 3 | 600,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 72 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Meals | Persons | 300 | 60,000 | 18,000,000 |
| 73 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Transport refund | Persons | 300 | 300,000 | 90,000,000 |
| 74 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Stationery | Persons | 300 | 10,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 75 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Airtime | Item | 3 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| 76 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Miscellaneous | Item | 3 | 5,000,000 | 15,000,000 |
| 77 | Capacity Building of EC observers: Per diem | Persons | 300 | 540,000 | 162,000,000 |
|  | ***Action 5: Lobby for increased funding for NCD*** |  |  |  | ***24,000,000*** |
| 78 | Develop budget: Venue | Day | 1 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| 79 | Develop budget: Meals | Persons | 50 | 60,000 | 3,000,000 |
| 80 | Develop budget: Transport refund | Persons | 40 | 300,000 | 12,000,000 |
| 81 | Develop budget: Stationery | Persons | 50 | 10,000 | 500,000 |
| 82 | Develop budget: Airtime | Item | 1 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| 83 | Develop budget: Miscellaneous | Item | 1 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| 84 | Develop budget: Per diem | Persons | 20 | 140,000 | 2,800,000 |
|  | ***Administration costs*** |  |  |  | ***244,800,000*** |
| 85 | Vehicle running costs | Month | 48 | 1,000,000 | 48,000,000 |
| 86 | Driver salaries | Month | 48 | 1,500,000 | 72,000,000 |
| 87 | Office utilities | Month | 48 | 1,000,000 | 48,000,000 |
| 88 | Internet and telephone costs | Month | 48 | 500,000 | 24,000,000 |
| 89 | Sundries | Month | 48 | 300,000 | 14,400,000 |
| 90 | Miscellaneous costs | Month | 48 | 800,000 | 38,400,000 |
|  | ***Total costs*** |  |  |  | ***1,988,020,000*** |

**Annex 1:** Power-mapping matrix

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Importance of issue to actor** | **Influence** | **Priority Audience** | **Secondary Audience** | **Secondary Audience** |
| Relevant laws, policies and regulations related to elections reviewed by Parliament relevant actors (guidelines, NCD Act 2013, Amended Local government Act 2013, Parliamentary elections Act 2010 and the Constitution of Republic of Uganda 1995) | **High** | Parliament | Cabinet Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development | Persons with Disabilities |
| **medium** | Ministry of Justice and constitutional affairs (First parliamentary council) | Electoral Commission | political parties |
| **Low** |  | Media, DPOs, CSOs and Development partners | Persons with Disabilities |
| Increased number of Persons with Disabilities on the voters’ register of Electoral Commission and NIRA by 2023 | **High** | E.C | Ministry of Internal Affairs |  |
| **medium** | Media | NIRA |  |
| **Low** |  | Members of Parliament representing Persons with disabilities | Community |
| Key stakeholders involved in elections processes informed by NCD on disability awareness related to elections. | **High** | NCD | MGLSD |  |
| **medium** | Media, DPOs, CSOs and Development partners |  |  |
| **Low** |  | political parties |  |
| Increased participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral processes by 2023 | **High** | DPOs |  |  |
| **Medium** | Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development | Electoral Commission | political parties |
| **Low** | NCD |  |  |

1. Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, Political objectives – democratic principles [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. a government body in charge of monitoring and coordination of disability related activities. (National Council for Disability Amendment Act, 2013, section 31A). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)