



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DISABILITY STATUS

R E P O R T

2019/2020 - 2021/2022

DISABILITY STATUS REPORT 2019/2020 - 2021/2022

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Wasswa Yonah
Chairperson
National Council For Persons With Disabilities.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADT	Accessible Digital Technology
BBS	Buganda Broadcasting Services
CDOs	Community Development Officers
CEHURD	Center for Health, Human Rights and Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DGS	Disability Global Summit
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
ICT	Information and Communication technology
IEC	Information Education Communication
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers of Uganda
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FY	Financial Year
HIV	Human Immune Virus
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
KIIs	Key informant interviews
LAPD	Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MOH	Ministry of Health
NBS TV	Nile Basin Services Television
NCPD	National Council for Persons with Disabilities
NETPIL	Network of Public Interest Lawyers
NITAU	The National Information Technology Authority Uganda
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTV	Nation Television
NUDIPU	National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
NUWODU	National Union of Women with Disabilities in Uganda
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
OWC	Operations Wealth Creation
PDM	Parish Development Model
SAGE	Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment
SARS-Cov-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UBC TV	Uganda Broadcasting Corporation Television
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNAB	Uganda Association of the Blind
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund
UWEP	Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship Program
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
YLP	Youth Livelihoods Program

1. Introduction

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 mandates the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) to monitor and report on the implementation of disability policies and programs in the country. In 2019, the NCPD issued its inaugural disability status report, highlighting key achievements, challenges, lessons, and recommendations. One of the recommendations adopted from the Disability Status Report, 2019, was to issue subsequent annual reports focusing on selected themes. Accordingly, four thematic areas were identified for reporting from FY 2019/2020 to 2021/2022, which include the inclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 interventions, access to justice, access to financial services, and access to information and communication technology (ICT).

Understanding disability inclusion in the selected themes generates actionable strategies that will inform future planning, policy reforms, programming, and service delivery. The report further facilitates self-reflection by Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Local Governments (LGs), and other duty bearers on how to address emerging issues and key gaps.

2. Methodology

The Disability Status Report was prepared through wide consultations with stakeholders at the national, regional, and district levels. At the national level, the consultations involved focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and a survey with representatives of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and United Nations Agencies. Regional consultations involved District Local Government Officials, representatives of the District Councils for Persons with Disabilities, the police, court officials, school administrators, and Election Commission officials.

A total of 163 stakeholders (92 male, 71 female) across the four regions and the Karamoja sub-region participated in the consultations.

3. Key Findings

3.1. Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in COVID-19 Interventions

Persons with Disabilities were among the priority target groups who benefited from mainstream COVID-19 interventions that include; emergency relief food distributed to the most vulnerable groups in Kampala and Wakiso Districts and the emergency funds

disbursed to vulnerable groups nation wide. It was not possible to establish the actual number of persons with disabilities who benefitted from, or accessed the various COVID-19 interventions such as COVID-19 treatment, vaccinations and emergency relief.

During the two lockdowns, minimal attempts were made to enable persons with disabilities to access public health messages about COVID-19 and security briefings. However, the Uganda Police provided sign language interpretation services during all its press briefings to enable persons with hearing impairments to access important public information about the virus. Unfortunately, electronic and print health education messages on the spread and prevention of COVID-19 that were designed for the public were issued in formats that were inaccessible to the majority of persons with visual impairments and other print disabilities.

One of Uganda's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic was to institute a task force at the national and district levels. Persons with Disabilities were represented in the national task force, but only a few districts incorporated representatives of Persons with Disabilities in their COVID-19 District Task Forces. The late inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the task forces largely explains the non-responsiveness of the initial standard operating procedures (SOPs) to the unique needs of persons with different disabilities. The mandatory wearing of face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic had the negative unintended consequence of interfering with deaf people's use of lip reading and interpretation of emotions from facial expressions since face masks cover the mouth.

To slow down the spread of COVID-19, the government declared total lockdowns twice, during which movement and public gatherings were prohibited. The strict COVID-19 lockdown measures caused a spike in mental health breakdowns, leading to an increase in the number of admissions in mental health facilities countrywide. In Butabika National Referral Mental Health Hospital alone, the number of admissions rose from 550 before the lockdown to over 1000. Moreover, the mental health units in all 13 Regional Referral Hospitals were turned into COVID-19 isolation and treatment centers during the two lockdowns, thus limiting access to essential mental health services.

In the education sector, measures were taken to ensure that learning could continue from home during school closures, such as radio and television lessons. However, these measures were not accessible to learners with sensory impairments. Learners with disabilities were initially left out in the distribution of home learning materials, but the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) distributed accessible home learning materials to them long after materials were distributed to learners without disabilities.

Persons with Disabilities faced significant mobility challenges due to the strict issuance of movement permits. As a result, some persons with invisible disabilities, such as deaf people,

were either denied movement permits or mistakenly beaten up by security personnel who thought they were ordinary people moving without permits. In some of the hard-to-reach areas like Kalangala district, persons with disabilities experienced even greater mobility and transportation challenges due to the substantially reduced movement schedules of boats during the lockdowns.

3.2. Access to Financial Services

It's great to hear that Uganda has established a robust framework for financial inclusion of vulnerable groups, including Persons with Disabilities. The legal and policy frameworks in place, such as the Public Finance Management Act, National Financial Strategy, Private Sector Development Strategy, and National Social Protection Policy, provide a solid foundation for ensuring that disability inclusion is integrated into budgeting and planning processes.

It's also encouraging to hear about the affirmative action measures put in place to ensure that Persons with Disabilities have better access to social security benefits, especially in formal employment within the private sector. The NSSF Amendment Act, 2022 allows beneficiaries with disabilities aged 40 and above to access a higher percentage of their accrued benefits earlier than beneficiaries without disabilities, which is an important step towards addressing the financial barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities.

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is another positive development that explicitly includes disability as one of the crosscutting elements in three of its pillars. The allocation of 10% of PDM remittance to parishes for Persons with Disabilities is a great way to ensure that they are not left behind in the development process.

It's also encouraging to hear about the increased access to special grants for Persons with Disabilities, with the number of funded enterprises and beneficiaries increasing significantly over the past few years. The fact that more female beneficiaries than male Persons with Disabilities have benefitted from the special grant countrywide is a great achievement in promoting gender equity and inclusion. Funding for the national special grant has been steadily increasing from an initial funding of 2.4 billion UGX in FY 2019/2020, to 5 billion UGX in FY 2020/2021, 9.6 billion UGX in FY 2021/2022 and 16.6 billion UGX in FY 2022/2023. The annual increases in the special grant's funding reflect a strong commitment on the part of the Government to reduce household poverty among Persons with Disabilities.

The key barriers hindering access to financial services for Persons with Disabilities are negative attitudes by financial institutions about their loan payment capacity. Other challenges include their lack of knowledge about the different financial services and how to access them, allegations of corruption surrounding the district special grants, delays in the release of funds for the special grants, inaccessible banking facilities and lack of sign language interpreters in financial institutions.

3.3. Access to Justice

It is encouraging to hear about the appointment of Willy Atono as a Magistrate Grade, which represents a significant step towards promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda. However, there is still a long way to go in terms of ensuring accessibility and inclusion in the justice system. The collaboration between UHRC, NUDIPU, NETPIL, and the East African Centre of Disability Law and Policy on the judicature rules is a positive step towards addressing the issue of procedural accommodations in the courts.

It is also good to know that there are organizations in Uganda providing free legal aid services for vulnerable individuals, including Persons with Disabilities. However, it is concerning to hear that access to justice and law and order services remains difficult for many Persons with Disabilities. The low number of court cases reported by Persons with Disabilities is alarming, given the high prevalence of disability-based discrimination.

The issue of sexual exploitation of Women with Disabilities is particularly distressing, as it can lead to them becoming single mothers and struggling to care for fatherless children. It is important for the justice system to address these cases and hold perpetrators accountable. The lack of accessibility and procedural accommodations in the courts further compounds these issues by denying Persons with Disabilities their right to a fair hearing.

Overall, there is still much work to be done to ensure that the justice system in Uganda is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of disability status. It is crucial that the government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders work together to address these challenges and promote the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3.4. Access and Utilization of ICT Services

Pursuant to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020, the UCC directed all television stations to provide sign language interpretation in at least one newscast a day, and all programs of national importance (e.g. a presidential address, Independence Day celebrations, and state of the nation address). Positively, some television stations are complying with this directive, namely Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC), Nation Television (NTV), Nile Broadcasting Services (NBS) TV, Bukedde TV, and Buganda Broadcasting Services (BBS).

Uganda ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print-disabled on April 23, 2018. The Treaty came into force with respect to Uganda on July 23, 2018. Uganda is in the process of domesticating the Marrakesh Treaty provisions into its relevant laws, including the ongoing amendment of the Copyright and Other Neighbouring Rights Act, 2006. In 2022, the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa supported the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) to conduct a regional sensitization workshop for stakeholders on the Marrakesh Treaty.

To enable access to mobility and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities, the Uganda government allows tax exemption on all assistive devices for persons with disabilities. For example, all assistive devices procured for schools are tax-exempt. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has instituted a multi-sectoral working committee to develop a comprehensive list of essential assistive technologies, including mobility devices, for the purpose of easing processing tax exemptions.

The MOES, in partnership with UNICEF, piloted two assistive technology projects with the view of scaling up nationally. The project schools from 16 districts received various assistive devices with their accessories, such as Victor readers, Classmate laptops, memory cards, Plectalk, and LCD projectors, among others. In another project funded by UNICEF, they adapted mathematics print textbooks into large prints for children with low vision, audio books for children who are blind, and videos with sign language for children with hearing impairment. Teachers from 20 primary schools were trained on how to use assistive technology in inclusive settings.

Government website compliance with the existing website accessibility standards is generally low. Although the National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U) has developed guidelines for the development and management of government websites, many MDA websites do not meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). This means that persons with disabilities struggle to access public information from government websites.

4. Key Messages

The mandatory lockdowns imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were a strong litmus test for disability inclusion and the SDGs' mantra of "Leave No One Behind". Persons with Disabilities faced a double disadvantage as they were left behind in the initial responses to the pandemic, such as the formation of task forces at the national and district levels, the distribution of instructional materials for home learning, the issuance of movement permits during the two lockdowns, and radio/television lessons.

The lack of disability-inclusive and disability-disaggregated data emerged as a glaring gap that affects interventions both during and after COVID-19 school interventions. For example, to date, it is not known how many Persons with Disabilities were infected with COVID-19 and received COVID-19 services like treatment, vaccinations, the emergency relief fund, and relief food. Even where data exist, often times, the data is not available on the websites of MDAs, local governments, and other organizations.

Access to justice remains elusive for many Persons with Disabilities in rural locations, especially women and children with disabilities who experience perpetual sexual abuses without their offenders facing justice. Many Persons with Disabilities experience discrimination, yet only a few of them seek legal redress. The lack of procedural accommodations in court, the

inaccessibility of court physical premises, inability to afford legal fees, and solicitation of bribes emerged as the key barriers to access to justice by Persons with Disabilities.

The remarkable increase in funding resulted in improved access and utilization of the special grant by Persons with Disabilities, especially since the introduction of the National Special Grant in FY 2019/2020. The number of funded enterprises and the Persons with Disabilities benefitting from the national special grant has more than doubled between FY 2019/2020 and FY 2022/2023.

The administration of the District Special Grant requires urgent attention to address the numerous complaints from all the regions reached during data collection about the limited grant amounts remitted to districts and enterprises, delayed remittances of the funds to districts, mismanagement of the funds, and lack of operational funds to prepare and train beneficiaries, as well as monitor the utilization of funds. In some cases, the Special Grant committee executives connive to misuse the funds awarded to their groups, leaving out the rest of the members.

Investment in assistive technology for Persons with Disabilities remains very low, with few development actors despite ICT being pivotal to the daily functioning and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities at home, school, workplace, and community. There is a need to prioritize and document the assistive technology needs of Persons with Disabilities in the country to inform future interventions.

5. Recommendations

A significant policy-practice gap threatens to undermine the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in service delivery. Implementation of existing laws, policies, and regulatory standards is a significant missing link affecting service delivery for Persons with Disabilities across the four thematic areas. The following recommendations are made to guide stakeholders:

- ◆ The glaring gap in collecting, mainstreaming, disaggregating, managing, and storing disability data requires urgent action. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), MOH, MGLSD, MOES, Ministry of Local Government (MOLG), Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the NCPD should establish a database of Persons with Disabilities to enable authorities to easily identify and reach out to them during public health and humanitarian emergencies. Such data should be disaggregated by type of disability, location, gender, age, and should regularly be updated to guide interventions.
- ◆ Leaving out Persons with Disabilities from the national task forces resulted in the initial overlooking of their peculiar needs from the earliest COVID-19 interventions. The MOH in the future should involve Persons with Disabilities in decision-making levels during public health

emergencies from the outset. This means that representatives of Persons with Disabilities are included in task forces or similar bodies to ensure that the unique needs of Persons with Disabilities are considered from the beginning in all responses at all levels.

- ◆ The physical inaccessibility of court premises, health facilities, police stations, and magistrate offices pose mobility difficulties in accessing the services they offer. The Courts, police, prisons, financial institutions, and health facilities should make their physical premises accessible as a matter of urgency, as well as provide information about their products and services in accessible formats for Persons with Disabilities.

- ◆ To address the urgent need for procedural accommodations, the judiciary should consider and adopt the guidelines on how to adapt judicature rules to accommodate the needs of Persons with Disabilities in courts that were proposed by the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and OPDs.

- ◆ The NCPD and line ministries should conduct awareness campaigns for all key stakeholders on disability rights, disability-inclusive programming, and their obligations within the existing policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks. Importantly, the relevant authorities should train Persons with Disabilities on savings, investment, financial services, opportunities, and their right to access to justice.

- ◆ Whereas funding for the National Special Grants has been increasing annually, and its grant amounts much higher (UGX 5 million per enterprise), the District Special Grant is grossly underfunded with grant amounts ranging from as low as below UGX 500,000 for larger group sizes. The MGLSD should urgently review its management of District Special Grant to harmonize the two grants to ensure accountability and equitable access by all Persons with Disabilities.

- ◆ Owing to the indispensability of ICTs to the daily functioning and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all domains of life, and considering the low access and utilization of ICTs by Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of ICT and its relevant line ministries, departments, and agencies need to conduct a national assistive technology needs assessment to establish an assistive technology center to coordinate assistive technology service delivery, training, and monitoring.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The prevalence rate of disability in Uganda has been increasing over the years. In 1991, when disability was first introduced in the population and housing census, the prevalence rate was 1%. However, according to more recent data, the prevalence rate has increased to 14% among persons aged 5 and older and 12.4% among persons aged 2 and above. Disability prevalence is higher among females (15%) than males (12%) of ages 5 and older, and it also increases with age.

According to the population and housing census report from 2014, the most common type of disability is difficulty in seeing, with a prevalence rate of 7.2%. This is followed by difficulty in remembering, with a prevalence rate of 5.9%. Difficulty in hearing is the least common type of disability, with a prevalence rate of 3.6%.

Uganda is recognized as one of the 41 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa that directly guarantees equal protection for persons with disabilities in the Constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, recognizes disability as a socio-economic and political issue by explicitly mentioning disability whenever other social groups are referenced and designating a specific article on disability (Article 35). Discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited in the Constitution, as well as other laws such as the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020, the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016, the Employment Act, 2006, the Building Control Act, 2013, and the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007. Pursuant to the CRPD, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 introduced the concept of reasonable accommodation in Uganda's legal regime. This means that the government must ensure that persons with disabilities' needs for accessibility require modifications to function effectively in daily living activities in schools, workplaces, and the community.

There is a well-established institutional structure and system for planning, implementing, and monitoring disability rights in Uganda, operating at both national and local government levels. This structure includes the Minister of State for Disability Affairs, the Department for Disability & Elderly Affairs under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), and line ministries such as the Health and Education departments, as well as focal point persons in districts, municipalities, and cities. The Councils for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) also exist at the national and local government levels to address disability rights issues. Additionally, Persons with Disabilities are represented in elected positions, ranging from Parliament to Local Councils I to V.

At the programmatic level, Uganda has increased funding of the National Special Grant, which has been rolled out to the entire country. In addition, 10% of the PDM remittances to

parishes are allocated to Persons with Disabilities. Other positive programmatic milestones include the rolling out of the CBR program countrywide, an increased number of SAGE beneficiaries with disabilities, the introduction of Uganda Sign Language as an elective subject in lower secondary, the inclusion of sign language in at least one news bulletin and events of national importance on all televisions in Uganda. It's important to note that the President of Uganda hosted the 2021 International Day of Persons with Disabilities in State House-Entebbe, giving disability visibility and recognition at the national level.

In spite of the strong legal protections and a comprehensive institutional framework, there remain many bottlenecks to the realization of the rights of Persons with Disabilities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). For example, many Persons with Disabilities are unable to seek legal redress for injustices as a result of discrimination due to high litigation costs and/or ignorance of the law¹. A national level study by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) revealed that discrimination is generally high among Persons with Disabilities but more common among adults (41%) than Children with Disabilities ages 5-17 (28%)².

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 mandates the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) to monitor and report on the implementation of disability policies and programs in the country. In 2019, the NCPD issued its first report on the disability status, highlighting key achievements, challenges, lessons, and recommendations for improvement. One of the recommendations adopted from the disability status report 2019 was for subsequent annual disability status reports to focus on selected themes.

Therefore, the present report focuses on four thematic areas: access to COVID-19 interventions, access to justice, access to financial services, and access to information and communication technology (ICT). The choices of these themes were timely and deliberate. At the end of 2019, the world witnessed the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which induced two lockdowns and the longest school closure in the world. Whereas COVID-19 affected people in many ways, Persons with Disabilities were doubly disadvantaged. It was therefore imperative for the present disability status report to illuminate the COVID-19 experiences of Persons with Disabilities and the extent to which they were included in the various intervention programs.

The choice of ICT as a theme in the present report was based on the indispensability of ICT to the daily functioning and full inclusion of Persons with Disabilities at home, school, community, and the workplace. The report sheds further light on the barriers that Persons with Disabilities face in accessing key services such as justice and financial services, such as inaccessibility of physical premises, lack of procedural accommodations, and human rights abuses. Understanding disability inclusion in these selected domains will help generate actionable strategies that will inform future planning, programming, and delivery of services to Persons with Disabilities. The report facilitates deliberate self-reflection by the concerned duty bearers based on the emerging lessons identified.

¹ Nyombi, C., & Kibandama, A. (2014). Access to employment for persons with disabilities in Uganda. *Labor Law Journal*, 65(4), 248-258.

² UBOS (2018). Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey 2017.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1. General Approach

The Disability Status Report 2022 was prepared through extensive consultations with stakeholders at the national, regional, and district levels. At the national level, the consultations involved representatives from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and United Nations Agencies. Regional consultations involved District Local Government Officials, representatives of the District Councils for Persons with Disabilities, the police, court officials, school administrators, and election commission officials. Persons with Disabilities as rights holders were among the primary targets of the national and regional consultations.

2.2. Methods

2.2.1 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted with selected district officials to elicit their perspectives on the four themes covered in this report. The District Health Officers (DHOs) and Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) provided information about COVID-19 intervention while the District Education Officers (DEOs) were consulted in relation to disability inclusion in home learning. Other district officials interviewed were the District Production Officers, Electoral Commission Officials, Court Officials, the police, hospital administrators of Regional Referral Hospitals, Community Development Officers (CDOs), school administrators, and District Information Officers.

2.2.2 Focus Group Discussions

Two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted at the national level with OPDs. Regional level stakeholder FGDs were held in Moroto City for the Karamoja sub-region, Lira City for the northern sub-region, Mbale City for the eastern region and in Mbarara City for the western region. Consultations for the central region took place in Rubaga Division, Kalangala district, Luwero district and Mubende district. Participants for the regional stakeholder consultations were drawn from five districts per region, five officials per district, and five representatives of the District Councils for Persons with Disabilities (DCPD). A total of 163 stakeholders (92 male, 71 female) across the four regions and the Karamoja sub-region participated in the consultations. (see Table I).

Table I: Focus Group Participants at National and Regional Consultations

Region	Male	Female	Total
Western	24	13	27
Central	16	15	31
Northern	13	15	28
Karamoja	13	09	22
Eastern	16	13	29
OPDs	10	06	16
Total	92	71	163

2.2.3 Survey

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In addition to the consultations, a cross-sectional survey was administered to national and district level organizations to elicit stakeholders' opinions on the four themes. Survey respondents (N=96) comprised representatives from OPDs (n=16), MDAs (n=10), local government (n=30), national NGOs/civil society (n=4), international NGOs (n=14), and CBOs (n=7). The majority (55.8%, n=57) of the survey respondents were male, while 41.1% (n=39) were female. More than half (56.8%, n=54) of the respondents identified as persons with disabilities. Among those who identified as persons with disabilities, most (n=34) had a physical disability, followed by visual impairment (n=7), albinism (n=4), hearing impairment (n=3), deaf and blind disability (n=2), and multiple disabilities (n=2). Survey respondents ranged in age from 22 to 74 years, with an average age of 43 years.

2.2.4 Site Observation

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The site observations aimed to ascertain the physical accessibility status of facilities to which the public is allowed access, such as regional referral hospitals, schools, police stations, magistrate courts, and health centers. The research team visited selected facilities in the host districts for every region, took pictures to illustrate the physical accessibility state of the facilities, and held discussions with the administrators of the facilities on emerging issues. Representatives of the institutions that were visited accompanied the research team to guide them on the facilities to observe and to answer any clarifying questions from the team.



3:0 INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

3.1. Introduction

Following the initial preventive measures, Uganda recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 21 March 2020. The patient was a 36-year-old Ugandan male who had traveled from Dubai and was immediately isolated and treated. The government intensified its efforts to contain the spread of the virus, and on 30 March 2020, a nationwide lockdown was announced to last for 14 days. The lockdown was later extended for an additional 21 days, and subsequently, other measures were implemented, including a mandatory mask-wearing policy, suspension of public transport, and closure of non-essential businesses.

Despite the measures taken, Uganda continued to record new cases, and by 31 December 2021, the country had recorded a total of 135,818 confirmed cases and 3,309 deaths. The government has continued to implement various measures to control the spread of the virus, including vaccination campaigns, promotion of hand hygiene and social distancing, and enforcement of COVID-19 prevention guidelines. The Disability Status Report 2022 provides a detailed analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities in Uganda.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Uganda, with the country instituting various measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Despite these efforts, Uganda eventually confirmed its first case of SARS-CoV-2 in March 2020, which led to a complete lockdown to control the spread of the virus. The country experienced a second wave of infections in 2021, which resulted in another lockdown with similar restrictions. The lockdowns had unintended consequences, including an increase in domestic violence, mobility challenges due to the closure of transportation means, escalation in sexual gender-based violence, and loss of jobs and income. Additionally, some of the Standard Operating Procedures negatively affected Persons with Disabilities, such as the wearing of facemasks being a communication barrier for persons who are deaf. As of 4 February 2022, Uganda had recorded 161,772 confirmed cases and 3,528 deaths from COVID-19, with 12,599,741 vaccine doses administered to all Ugandans, including those with disabilities.

3.2. How Persons with Disabilities were Included in COVID-19 Interventions

Persons with Disabilities were among the priority target groups who benefited from the emergency food distribution in Kampala and Wakiso Districts. Although the report could not ascertain the exact number of beneficiaries with disabilities, many focus group participants

who were consulted testified that they received the food supplies: “they gave us some relief during lockdown like food through the disability structure”. (FGD participant, Rubaga Division, Kampala)

The Uganda police engaged the services of a Uganda sign language interpreter during most press briefings, security briefs and other national addresses during the lockdown. This positive gesture enabled persons with hearing impairment to access important public information about the corona virus.

Although it was done rather late, Persons with Disabilities were represented in the National COVID-19 Task Force. Likewise, some Districts incorporated representatives of Persons with Disabilities in their COVID-19 District Task Forces. The presence of Persons with Disabilities in the task force was important to ensure disability responsive measures are realized at all district level interventions.

In relation to education, the National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC), with the support of education partners like UNICEF, designed and distributed home-learning materials in accessible formats to ensure continuity of learning by learners with sensory disabilities during the school closures. With the generous support from the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, and Norway, UNICEF UK and the Global Partnership for Education, UNICEF Uganda provided 800,000 dollars to print and distribute home-learning materials that were intended to ensure continuity of learning through the Internet, TV, radio, mobile phones, and the use of paper copies of these self-learning materials for the most marginalized learners who did not have access to technology-based learning at home.³In addition, the MOES procured 200 Perkins Brailers and distributed to learners with visual impairments in secondary and primary schools across the country.

The outbreak of the coronavirus also attracted research attention and funding support. A number of organizations, including NCPD, commissioned research on disability-specific topics. The studies conducted in relation to disability and COVID-19 in Uganda focused, among other topics, on the experiences of Persons with Disabilities, the effect of COVID-19, COVID-19's impact on children and families, and the inclusiveness of COVID-19 response in northern Uganda. In 2020, the NCPD conducted a rapid assessment on the effect of COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities.

In response to economic shocks and loss of income due to the COVID-19-induced lockdowns, Persons with Disabilities were among the vulnerable groups who benefited from the COVID-19 relief fund disbursed by the Office of the Prime Minister. However, it was not possible to determine the actual number of Persons with Disabilities who benefited from this fund.

³ UNICEF (2020). UNICEF and partners hand-over home learning materials to support children during COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/uganda/press-releases/unicef-and-partners-hand-over-home-learning-materials-support-children-during-covid>

The Council noted that mental health services were one of the worst-hit services in the sub-sectors as mental health units at regional referral hospitals were turned into treatment and isolation centers for COVID-19 patients. Nevertheless, some organizations were able to distribute drugs for persons with mental health conditions who were unable to access drug refills due to movement restrictions.

Although the first SOPs were not disability responsive, later, the SOPs were realigned to respond to the unique needs of some Persons with Disabilities. For example, an exception was made for persons with visual impairment to travel with their sighted guides.

3.2. Experiences and Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities

Deprivation of Basic Needs

The enforcement of strict lockdown measures led to the loss of livelihoods and income for many people, including Persons with Disabilities, with little or no financial assistance provided. As a result, many of them experienced difficulties in paying for basic necessities such as food, rent, and medical bills. This situation was worsened by the fact that many service providers, including healthcare workers, did not always take into consideration the additional needs of Persons with Disabilities..

Low Representation in COVID-19 Task Forces

Persons with Disabilities were not initially included in the lockdown measures and the first wave of interventions. It wasn't until a later time that they were included in the National COVID-19 task force and some district task forces. The delayed representation of Persons with Disabilities in COVID-19 task forces resulted in a lack of disability-targeted interventions to address the unique needs of Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The consultations conducted revealed limited consideration of disability-specific needs in the COVID-19 SOPs and mainstream interventions, such as vaccinations, issuance of movement permits, design of public health information/messages, and in the teaching/learning programs delivered via televisions, radios, print media, and other online platforms.

Predisposition to Health Risks

The compulsory confinement in homes during the two lockdowns increased the risk of early pregnancy, deteriorating health status of Persons with Disabilities who are HIV positive, and the failure to implement family planning guidelines during the lockdowns. Certain healthcare services, such as reproductive healthcare services, HIV care, and mental health services, were given low priority since resources were focused on the prevention and slowing down of the spread of COVID-19. One participant noted, "That time was hard because we had HIV victims who suffered due to the lockdown, which made medical access for them very hard. Some members were left out during the distribution of food relief, and the mode of

registering people did not consider people with disabilities. In the second lockdown, we wrote a list of Persons with Disabilities with the help of the RCC who directed the town clerk to consider us, but some still missed out because of data entry mismatch like wrong National Identification Numbers." (Resp 2: FGD Rubaga)

Spike in Mental Health Conditions

The COVID-19 lockdown measures led to a spike in mental health breakdowns, as evidenced by the rise in the number of admissions in mental health facilities countrywide. For instance, at Butabika National Referral Mental Health Hospital, the number of admissions increased from 550 before the lockdown to over 1,000. The spike in mental health hospital admissions was due to the emotional and financial distress caused by the pandemic, as well as restrictions on movement that limited access to drugs, counseling, and psychosocial support services for many persons with mental health conditions.

For example, an online survey of 366 undergraduate students found that 188 (51.4%) reported needing emotional support, but only 67 (18.3%) sought care from a mental health professional. Of those who had access, only 10 (7%) accessed a counselor, and 13 (9%) accessed a mental health unit. Globally, it is estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a 25% rise in the prevalence of anxiety and depression, with young people and women being the worst affected.

In Uganda, mental health cases rose by 15% during the coronavirus pandemic, up from 467,667 outpatient visits in 2019 to 550,373 outpatient mental health visits in 2021.

Closure of Regional Mental Health Units

All 13 regional referral hospitals in Uganda have mental health units, but during the two COVID-19 lockdowns, these units were repurposed as isolation and treatment centers for COVID-19 patients. As a result, mental health patients were prematurely discharged, and some were unnecessarily referred to Butabika, the national mental health referral hospital. Some regional referral hospitals even suspended all outpatient clinics to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The closure of mental health units and suspension of clinics meant that mental health service users had limited access to drug refills, as well as counseling and psychosocial support, due to long distances and movement restrictions. This situation could have contributed to relapses and the rise in mental health conditions during the pandemic.

Loss of Jobs and Income

Persons with disabilities also experienced job loss and financial difficulties due to business closures, restrictions on mobility that made it difficult to access workplaces, and downsizing by companies in response to the economic impact of COVID-19. One participant shared their experience: "I was a computer trainer at a school, and with school closure, I lost my

source of income and even missed out on some relief” (FGD participant Mbale). Market vendors with disabilities were forced to shut down their businesses due to unhygienic market conditions, even when other vendors were allowed to continue operating without commuting to the market.

Separation from family

Families were separated during the lockdown for two main reasons. Firstly, some families were outside their home districts when the lockdown was imposed, and inter-district movement was prohibited, making it difficult for them to return home. Secondly, some family members were isolated after testing positive for COVID-19, leaving their children or other family members with disabilities without a caretaker. Unfortunately, other community members were reluctant to help in such situations, fearing that they too would contract COVID-19. This worsened the situation for persons with disabilities during the pandemic. As one participant reported, “During the lockdown, some parents who contracted COVID-19 were taken to isolation centers, leaving their children or a child with a disability alone for a week or more. People feared to help them due to the fear of contracting COVID-19.

The lockdown measures affected small businesses, and some families faced financial difficulties, leading to a lack of access to basic needs like food and healthcare. A respondent mentioned that their son was affected by COVID-19 while in school, but they didn't have money to travel and help him. They had to rely on God's mercy for his recovery. Another participant reported that they had started small businesses, but they had to use up their savings for basic needs during the lockdown, and they felt disappointed that the government did not come to their rescue.

Misinformation about COVID-19

Misinformation and myths about COVID-19 treatment and vaccination were widespread in Uganda during the pandemic. Many people believed that COVID-19 vaccines had adverse side effects, especially for certain groups like the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Additionally, unfounded myths about the origins and causes of COVID-19 were also prevalent, which may have contributed to the slow uptake of vaccination in some communities.

Moreover, any health condition or illness that was acquired after a COVID-19 vaccination was easily attributed to COVID-19 vaccine side effects, further fueling vaccine hesitancy. This led to many people avoiding vaccination, which in turn increased the risk of transmission and delayed the control of the pandemic. Indeed, some Persons with Disabilities narrated that COVID-19 vaccination was a “hidden move by world powers to wipe out Persons with Disabilities” while others feared negative fertility effects from taking COVID-19 treatments and/or vaccines. A number of participants aired their concerns as follows;

I was affected by COVID-19 vaccination in a way that my hand got a problem immediately after vaccination. I use my hand for moving because I don't have a wheelchair and that made it very difficult for me. I started walking again when my hand got well. (Resp 5: FGD Kalangala)

I have a neighbor who went for the vaccine and when she got back home, she started bleeding until she died. I got scared and I haven't gone for the vaccine. (Resp 5 and 6: FGD Mbale)

In spite of the proliferation of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccination and treatment, some persons with disabilities changed their minds after getting correct information from official sources and were able to access such services. This was noted by participants in this consultation as follows;

The community had a wrong perception about COVID-19 because my friends told me maybe the Government is using the vaccine to get rid of People with Disabilities, but the van came and made clear communications about COVID-19 and I changed my mind set about the vaccines and rumors of vaccine complications when you have other diseases. (Resp 3: FGD Moroto)

Someone came to me and told me that as a disabled person I would die if I went for the vaccine but after hearing about the awareness through the radio, I decided to go for the vaccine, but the last dose affected me badly. (Resp 2: FGD Luwero)

Limited Access to Home Learning During School Closures

This disability status report comes at an unprecedented time when the world is recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in more than 1.5 billion learners being out of educational institutions globally and affected more than ten million learners in Uganda due to nationwide school closures (UNESCO, 2020). Uganda is reported to have had the longest school closure in the world, and this caused major disruptions in the school calendars, mode of instruction, interclass and inter-cycle progression, for which education stakeholders were unprepared.

A number of children with disabilities missed out on the online learning arrangements during the lockdown because their parents or caregivers could not afford smartphones and internet data. Some of the parents had lost their jobs or their income was reduced because of the pandemic. The government's efforts to provide radio lessons were also hampered by poor radio reception in some areas, and the fact that not all children with disabilities can effectively learn through radio." (FGD participant, Kalangala)

They introduced a system of learning through smartphones but some of us did not have money to buy our children smartphones for learning. Our children in S.4 totally missed out on the lessons. The schools introduced this without regarding the fact that some parents could not actually afford smartphones. The TV learning had an inefficiency in that students could not interact with their teachers and try to ask what they did not understand. They could just listen with totally no input in the lesson. (Resp 2: FGD Kalangala)

Moreover, schools imposed learning arrangements on the basis of affordability and willingness, without clear considerations for the children whose parents could not afford the devices and/or internet data.

There was a barrier due to financial issues because in order to access online learning you need to have data, smart gadgets which made it hard for some people to access online learning materials. (Resp 2: FGD Mbarara)
The learning materials did not reach every area which led to delayed studies by some people. The use of radios left out those with hearing impairments. (Resp 1: FGD Moroto)

The findings from the regional consultations are corroborated by those from another study, which also found that the home learning materials provided during the pandemic were largely inaccessible to learners with disabilities. The materials were ineffective in addressing the learning needs of students with disabilities such as those with hearing impairments and blindness, as well as those with physical disabilities who were unable to access designated lesson-viewing centers. One respondent reported, 'They introduced a system of learning through smartphones but some of us did not have the money to buy our children smartphones for learning. Our children in S.4 totally missed out on the lessons. The schools introduced this without regard to the fact that some parents could not actually afford smartphones. The TV learning had inefficiency in that students could not interact with their teachers and try to ask what they did not understand. They could just listen with totally no input in the lesson' (Resp 2, Kalangala District).

It was evident that the learning of students with disabilities was generally inhibited by a constellation of factors such as unreliable electricity and internet network signals, lack of education support services, scarcity of resources to purchase internet data, or tools such as radios, televisions, computers and smartphones, limited parental capacity to support home learning, and gendered constraints such as teenage pregnancies and discrimination ⁴.

⁴ Rosemary Nakijoba, Racheal Ddungu Mugabi, Awobamise O. Ayodeji, Zaaly'embikke I.M. Majanja (2022). "We are as valuable as non-disabled students" Learning experiences of female learners with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda.

3.4. Recommendations to Improve Disability Inclusion in Public Health Emergency Interventions

In view of the major disruptions in the mode of social services delivery imposed by the COVID-19 lockdown measures and the ramifications they had on Persons with Disabilities, the following actionable recommendations are proposed:

- ◆ The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UBOS, MOH, MGLSD, MOES, Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) and Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the NCPD to establish a database of Persons with Disabilities to enable authorities to easily identify and reach out to Persons with Disabilities during public health pandemics and humanitarian emergencies. Such data should be disaggregated by type of disability, location, gender, age, and updated regularly.
- ◆ The Government in consultation with OPDs and the civil society to sensitize and support Persons with Disabilities to adopt the culture of saving and investing to enable them mitigate economic shocks, livelihood losses and material hardships that result from public health emergencies and pandemics.
- ◆ The MOH should in future involve Persons with Disabilities in decision-making engagements during public health emergencies and pandemics, from the outset. This means that Persons with Disabilities must be represented in task forces or similar entities instituted to manage public health responses as a way to ensure that their unique needs are considered in all responses at all levels.
- ◆ Pursuant to the laws governing access to information and provision of the same in accessible formats, the MOH should design and disseminate all public health awareness messages in accessible formats considering the various categories of Persons with Disabilities so that all categories can access the same messages intended for the public in an accurate and timely manner.
- ◆ The MOH should recruit sign language interpreters in all health facilities to enable persons who are deaf to access healthcare services at all levels. In addition, sign language interpreters, real time captioning should be utilized during national addresses and press briefings to ensure that Persons with Disabilities do not miss the information designed and intended for the general public.
- ◆ NCPD to coordinate the training of security personnel (e.g. the police, the army, prisons and local defence units) to be trained on how to accommodate the unique needs of different disability categories during challenging times like lockdown to avoid inadvertently subjecting them to undue mistreatment.

4.0 INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

4.1. Introduction

Financial inclusion is an important policy priority reflected in several legislative instruments in Uganda such as the National Financial Strategy 2017-2022 and the Parish Development Model (PDM) (pillar 3). The UNCRPD underscores the important role that economic empowerment plays in integrating Persons with Disabilities into society. Article 28 guarantees Persons with Disabilities the right to social protection without discrimination on the basis of disability. As a State party to the UNCRPD, Uganda is required to promote opportunities for formal employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives, and starting one's own business, as well as inclusive social protection (Article 27, 1(f)).

Research evidence has shown that excluding persons with disabilities from work has negative impacts on both the individual with a disability and society as a whole. For instance, a study of eight African countries estimated that excluding persons with disabilities from employment resulted in economic losses of 3.1% to 7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Malawi and South Africa, respectively. The World Bank also estimates that the economic exclusion of persons with disabilities results in a foregone GDP of between 5% and 7%.

Like other individuals, persons with disabilities have similar needs for financial services such as banking, loans, credit, mortgages, mobile money, debit/credit cards, and investment funds. However, a significant barrier to accessing these services is that many persons with disabilities are involved in informal sector work or businesses, which tends to limit their access to comprehensive financial services.

National statistics based on the national poverty line, show that the poverty rate for households with a Person with Disability is at 31%, compared to 28% for household without a Person with a Disability. About half of Ugandans in households with a Person with Disability live in extreme poverty while over three-quarters are living in poverty.⁵

Therefore, removing barriers to financial inclusion can enable many Persons with Disabilities to become economically self-sufficient, earn a decent and disconnect the vicious cycle of dependency and intergenerational poverty ⁶ in which many of them are trapped.

⁵ Republic of Uganda (2020). Situation Analysis of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda.

⁶ Lwanga-Ntale, C., & McClean, K. (2003, April). The face of chronic poverty in Uganda as seen by the poor themselves. In Conference paper on Chronic and Development Policy, University of Manchester, 7 to 9 April 2003.

4.2. Key Policy Milestones

Persons with Disabilities who are employed in the formal sector, including some semi-autonomous entities such as public universities, can access social security, pension, and/or social protection services through the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), works SACCOs, among others. Those in formal employment in the public sector are automatically entitled to gratuity and pension upon mandatory retirement. The National Social Security Fund law was recently amended to allow mid-term access to social security benefits. The NSSF Amendment Act, 2022 allows beneficiaries with disabilities aged 40 and above who have contributed for ten years and above to access 50% of their accrued benefits as opposed to 20% for persons without disabilities aged 45 and have saved for ten years and above (Section 20(A)(2)).

The Parish Development Model is an inclusive development initiative right from its design, execution and monitoring. One of its overarching purposes is the eradication of poverty and vulnerability, and the total transformation of the subsistence households into the money economy. The PDM is disability inclusive in many ways:

- Financial Inclusion is the fourth pillar of the PDM. It requires local economic development in Uganda to be inclusive and take a value chain approach ensuring that all value chain actors, including Persons with Disabilities, can access appropriate services to support their needs. Under this pillar, the PDM supports a wide range of financial solutions including but not limited to savings and credit, insurance, transfers, etc to subsistence households in order to enhance incomes, smoothen consumption, build assets and reduce vulnerability to shocks.
- Equity is the fifth pillar of the PDM. Through equity, the PDM envisage a balanced growth across different regions, disability and gender. This is to be achieved through targeted services to parts of the country that are lagging behind in development and to support vulnerable or marginalized groups, such as Persons with Disabilities and those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.
- To achieve realistic planning, implementation, and resource utilization, mindset change is one of the core pillars of the PDM program. Along with gender and environment, disability is one of the cross-cutting themes of the PDM's mindset change pillar. Persons with Disabilities are among the target beneficiaries of mainstream livelihood and social protection schemes, such as the Youth Livelihoods Program (YLP), Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), and EMYOGA, among others.

Figure 2: National Financial Inclusion Policies in Uganda



4.3. Access to the Special Grant

The Special Grant for Persons with disabilities was introduced in the FY 2009/10, purposely to provide Persons with Disabilities, their family members and caregivers with start-up capital to start income generating projects. Originally, the grant was accessed only by a few district but it is now nationally rolled out to all districts.

In FY 2019/2020, Uganda reformed the special grant and introduced the National Special Grant. The National Special Grant provides groups of persons with disabilities with a start-up fund of UGX 5 million for income-generating activities. The eligible beneficiaries for the National Special Grant were expanded to include persons with disabilities aged 15 and older who are organized in small groups (5-15 members) within the same location, caregivers of children with disabilities, caregivers of parents of children with multiple or severe disabilities, registered homes taking care of Persons with Disabilities, and learners in vocational rehabilitation centers.⁷

During the second Global Disability Summit, Uganda made a commitment to increase the Government and partner's contributions towards the National Special Grant by 30% by 2024. Positively, the Government has already demonstrated progress to this commitment by increasing funding for the National Special Grant by UGX 7 billion in the FY 2022/2023. The National Special Grant has been increasing its funding from an initial amount of 2.4 billion UGX in FY 2019/2020 to 5 billion UGX in FY 2020/2021, 9.6 billion UGX in FY 2021/2022, and 16.6 billion UGX in FY 2022/2023.

The increase in the special grant funding has significantly increased the number of funded enterprises and the number of Persons with Disabilities benefitting from the special grant. Since the introduction of the National Special Grant, the number of funded enterprises for groups of Persons with Disabilities increased from 168 enterprises in FY 2019/20 to 816 in FY 2020/21 and 1,612 enterprises in FY 2021/2022. Likewise, the number of Persons with Disabilities

⁷ Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (2022). Revised Guidelines for the National Special grant for Persons with Disabilities.

who have so far benefitted from the funded enterprises increased tremendously from 1,445 in FY 2019/20, to 7,780 in FY 2020/21 and 13,615 in FY 2021/22. Given the nearly double increase in funding in the FY 2022/2023, the number of beneficiary groups and Persons with Disabilities is projected to double. Slightly more female (52%) than male (48%) Persons with Disabilities accessed the grant.

4.4. Access to Financial Services by Youth with Disabilities

Overall, the limited available studies on access to financial services for Youth with Disabilities indicate that while some seek financial services, only a few are able to access them, and those who do are generally satisfied with the services. A majority of surveyed youth have never used any financial services offered by a bank. However, under the Economic Empowerment of Youth with Disabilities Program implemented by Sightsavers Uganda, 63% of Youth with Disabilities attempted to access different financial services. Over 90% of them were able to access financial services, but a smaller percentage were satisfied with the services they received.⁸

An evaluation of the Goal Youth with Disabilities targeted project, which covered 15,000 youths with disabilities across sixteen districts, revealed that access to formal financial services is evidently low among youths with disabilities. The range of financial services that youths with disabilities accessed were savings products (21%), loan products (12.5%), payment and transfers (4.9%), investment products (1.0%), business mentorship (0.4%), and insurance products (0.6%). In terms of owning accounts, a significantly low proportion of youths with disabilities held accounts in formal institutions like banks (9.9%), SACCOs (3.3%), and microfinance institutions (1.6%), while the majority (41.4%) owned accounts in informal savings and loan groups, commonly known as VSLAs.⁹ This is possibly because saving and loan requirements in informal financial arrangements such as SACCOs and VSLAs are relatively more favorable and friendlier than banks.

The utilization of digital banking services remains extremely low among the Youth with Disabilities. A market diagnostic survey conducted by GOAL Uganda revealed that while a few of the Youth with Disabilities use mobile money (43.2%), very few of them use internet banking (1.7%), SMS banking (1.4%), and agency banking (3.8%), suggesting that the Youth with Disabilities lack the knowledge about, or face accessibility challenges with using digital banking services. Similarly, very few Youths with Disabilities hold/own bank accounts.

4.5. Barriers to Accessing Financial Services

The barriers to financial inclusion of Persons with Disabilities can be categorized into accessible physical infrastructure, negative attitudes, limited knowledge and awareness of financial services, unfriendly savings and loan requirements, high interest rates, and inaccessible

⁸ Sightsavers Uganda (2021). The Economic Empowerment of Youth with Disabilities in Uganda and Improving Livelihoods for Youth with Disabilities in Uganda February 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Uganda-YWD-Joint-ETE-Report.pdf>
⁹ GOAL Uganda (2022). Young Africa Works Program: Markets for Youth Program in Uganda.

financial information. During FGDs, participants from all four regions revealed that financial institutions tend to doubt the loan repayment capacity of Persons with Disabilities and deny them credit and loan services. The long procedures involved in processing credit, loans, and other financial services were also cited as a barrier. Some Persons with Disabilities are concerned about the lengthy and inflexible procedures involving paperwork and queuing for services without priority considerations. Delays in releasing funds stood out as a major concern for remittances and awarding of the District Special Grant. Not only are the funds remitted late to districts, but it also takes a long time to disburse the funds to the awarded enterprises.

Financial literacy is key to accessing the available range of financial services. On the one hand, many Persons with Disabilities have limited knowledge and awareness of different financial services, especially investment services, insurance products, and digital banking services. On the other hand, financial service providers also have limited knowledge and appreciation of the peculiar financial literacy needs of Persons with Disabilities.

4.6. Recommendations to Improve Access to Financial Services

There is a need to raise awareness among Persons with Disabilities about the available types of financial services, how and where to access them. Likewise, there is a need to train and sensitize financial service providers on how to accommodate the unique needs of customers with disabilities. For instance, NCPD and line ministries should train Persons with Disabilities on savings, investment, financial services, and opportunities available to Persons with Disabilities.

Many Persons with Disabilities face difficulties in accessing credit and loans due to unfriendly saving and loan requirements, such as high interest rates, which affect their ability to borrow on an equal basis with others. The government should regulate interest rates to encourage more Persons with Disabilities to seek loan services. Additionally, many Persons with Disabilities lack knowledge of how to save and invest, and therefore the government should provide financial literacy training to them.

Financial institutions should also take measures to improve accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, such as giving them priority consideration to navigate long queues and modifying their physical premises to improve accessibility. They should also recruit sign language interpreters and provide information about all financial services and products in accessible formats.

5.0 ACCESS TO JUSTICE

5.1. Introduction

The right to justice is instrumental in the protection and enjoyment of other rights, just as the enjoyment of other rights is essential to the protection and enjoyment of the right to justice. For example, a person who experiences discrimination in the education system can seek legal remedy and demand protection through the court system. At the same time, a person who is highly educated and decently employed is more likely to know their rights and be able to afford the cost of accessing justice than another person who was denied an education and work.

The right to justice for Persons with disabilities is guaranteed under article 13 of the UNCRPD. The UNCRPD reaffirms the rights of Persons with Disabilities on:

- effective access to justice on an equal basis with others
- effective access to justice at all phases of the administration of justice, including at preliminary stages such as initial investigations.
- be both direct and indirect participants, including being witnesses; and
- to receive procedural and age-appropriate accommodation to ensure their access to justice.

As a State party to the UNCRPD, Uganda is under international obligation to ensure equal access to justice for all Persons with Disabilities by providing necessary substantive, procedural, age, and gender appropriate accommodations and support. In addition, the CRPD provides for the promotion of appropriate training for all personnel working in the field of administration of justice, such as police and prison staff. This chapter highlights the key legal milestones Uganda has achieved with respect to access to justice and the progress made in practice. The country still experiences human rights violations against Persons with Disabilities, as highlighted during consultations. These challenges impede access to justice for Persons with Disabilities, and participants proposed actionable strategies to address them.

5.2. International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities

As a response to the challenges affecting access to justice for Persons with Disabilities, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Disability

and Accessibility jointly developed the International Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities. These guidelines serve as a useful guide for the judiciary and law enforcement sectors to enforce national laws and policies in relation to disability. The figure below provides a snapshot of the ten key principles on access to justice that act as a guide and framework for domestic operationalization of the right to access to justice as espoused in the UNCRPD.

Principle 1: All persons with disabilities have legal capacity and, therefore, no one shall be denied access to justice on the basis of disability.

Principle 2: Facilities and services must be universally accessible to ensure equal access to justice without discrimination of persons with disabilities.

Principle 3: Persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, have the right to appropriate procedural accommodations.

Principle 4: Persons with disabilities have the right to access legal notices and information in a timely and accessible manner on an equal basis with others.

Principle 5: Persons with disabilities are entitled to all substantive and procedural safeguards recognized in international law on an equal basis with others, and States must provide the necessary accommodations to guarantee due process.

Principle 6: Persons with disabilities have the right to free or affordable legal assistance.

Principle 7: Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in the administration of justice on an equal basis with others.

Principle 8: Persons with disabilities have the rights to report complaints and initiate legal proceedings concerning human rights violations and crimes, have their complaints investigated and be afforded effective remedies.

Principle 9: Effective and robust monitoring mechanisms play a critical role in supporting access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Principle 10: All those working in the justice system must be provided with awareness raising and training programs addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular in the context of access to justice.

Source: UN (2020). *International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities*¹⁰

5.3. Legislative Milestones

Uganda has put in place a supportive legal framework and formal grievances resolution mechanisms to ensure access to justice for Persons with Disabilities. The Constitution guarantees that everyone should, on an equal basis with others, enjoy the rights to equality before the law, to achieve equal protection under the law, to a fair resolution of disputes, meaningful participation and be heard. Thus, all persons are equal before and under the law without any distinction. Persons with Disabilities, like all other persons, are entitled to

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2020/10/Access-to-Justice-EN.pdf>

the same remedies in the mainstream laws in addition to specific remedies prescribed in disability-specific laws.

It is a legal requirement for practicing lawyers to provide pro-bono¹¹ legal services to persons who are vulnerable and cannot afford legal fees at least once a year. The Advocates Act, 1970, states “every advocate shall provide pro bono services when required by the Law Council or pay a fee prescribed by the Law Council in lieu of such services. Where an advocate does not comply, the Law Council shall refuse to issue or renew a practicing certificate for that advocate (Article 15A).

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 makes the most comprehensive provisions on the rights of Persons with Disabilities including access to justice. In relation to access to justice, the Act provides;

- Prohibits discrimination based on disability in five domains: health, education, employment, transport and commercial services. It clearly stipulates what constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability and prescribes strong remedies against any person convicted of discriminating another person on the basis of disability.
- Requires the government to: (a) promote the development, training, and use of sign language, tactile, and sign language interpreters in all public institutions and at all government functions; (b) promote the use of information assistive devices and technology; (c) provide public information such as government documents and publications in braille; and (d) train judicial and law enforcement officers in matters concerning Persons with Disabilities.
- Recognizes voice, touch, or other methods as acceptable ways for a complainant who is blind or has low vision to identify a suspect or an accused person.

Recognizes Persons with Disabilities as sufficient surety in court. The Act amended Section 49(1) of the Trial on Indictment Act, 1971, by clarifying that a Person with Disability shall not be taken as an insufficient surety on the basis of disability. This means that disability is no longer a ground for denying one to stand as surety for another person in court. Until recently, certain terminologies with derogatory meanings against Persons with Disabilities existed in Uganda's penal code. Following a successful petition by the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), the Constitutional Court of Uganda outlawed the use of derogatory terms such as idiots and imbeciles in reference to persons with mental disabilities in the Penal Code Act Cap 20. In the same vein, the minister's powers to order detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities on the basis of insanity was quashed. Section 86(2) of the Trial on Indictment Act, 1971 was modified by specifying the purpose for which such a detention can be made on the basis of a determination by a qualified psychiatrist or medical officer. The Court ordered the State to review and amend the Trial on Indictment Act, 1971 to provide clear guidelines on how persons with psychosocial disabilities amounting to insanity should be handled through the criminal justice system, in compliance with the Constitution.

¹¹ The Advocates Act, 1970 defines pro bono services as professional services of an advocate given for the public good to indigent persons without charge.

5.4. Positive Developments

In a recent recruitment of judiciary personnel, the Judiciary Service Commission appointed Willy Atono as a Magistrate Grade One, making him the first magistrate with visual impairment in Uganda¹². This development, based on merit, has the potential to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes that have confined Persons with Disabilities to entry-level job positions. It also serves as a testament to the fact that when job seekers with disabilities are provided with timely and appropriate reasonable accommodations, they can successfully navigate the employment process.

The Government of Uganda has established functional justice centers staffed with lawyers that offer free legal aid to all vulnerable groups, including Persons with Disabilities. These justice centers are located in Masaka, Rwenzori, Fort Portal, Bundibugyo, Mubende, Hoima, Lira, Mbale, Jinja, Mukono, Kampala, and Arua. According to recent consultations, 294 Persons with Disabilities (147 males and 147 females) have received free legal aid from these Justice Centers across the country.

In terms of legal aid services, the Advocates Act mandates lawyers to provide pro bono legal services at least once a year. In addition, free legal aid services are provided by several organizations such as the Justice Law and Order Sector (Governance and Security), Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities (LAPD), the Justice System, Centre for Human Rights Development, Federation of Uganda Lawyers (FIDA), pro bono legal services, the Uganda Law Society, among others. However, some Persons with Disabilities may not easily access the available free legal aid services because they are unaware of their availability and/or where to find them.

The Uganda Law Reform Commission, in partnership with the MGLSD, Uganda National Association of the Blind (UNAB), and NUDIPU, transcribed the Constitution into braille and made brailled copies available in public libraries. Additionally, the UHRC transcribed and disseminated a braille version of Chapter Four of the Constitution. Furthermore, the UHRC produces a braille version of all annual reports on the state of human rights in the country. To improve access to judicial services during the COVID-19 lockdown, UNICEF supported the Government of Uganda by providing audio-visual link technology to the High Courts of Mbale, Fort Portal, Arua, Mbarara, Gulu, Family Division, Kampala, and Jinja.¹³

5.5. Training on Access to Justice

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 mandates the government to provide training to judicial and law enforcement officers on matters concerning persons with disabilities, including sign language, tactile communication, and the use of alternative format documents. In line with

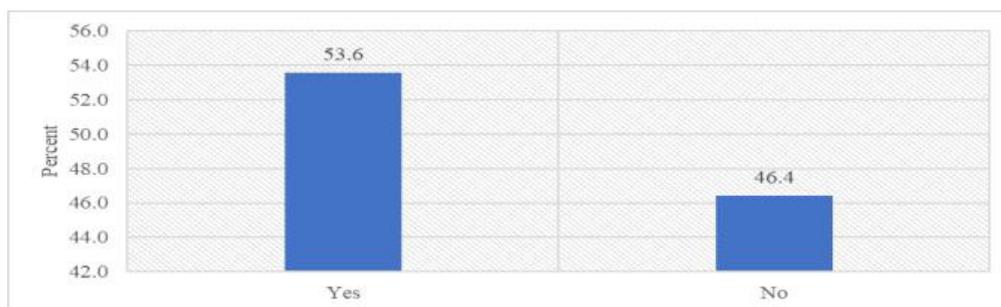
¹² Monitor News Paper. (November 3, 2022). Meet the New Visually Impaired Magistrate. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/meet-the-new-visually-impaired-magistrate-3629122>

¹³ UNICEF: UNICEF and partners train 279 police officers and medical workers. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/unicef-and-partners-train-279-police-officers-and-medical-workers>

this requirement, the UHRC has developed human rights advisories on health, education, elections, and prisons to guide the government on various human rights issues. In 2020, the UHRC developed 2,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities under the theme “What You Need to Know About the Rights of Older Persons and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” These IEC materials were designed to increase people’s awareness of disability rights.

A recent disability status survey revealed that slightly over half (53.56%) of the respondents with disabilities have attended different training sessions on access to justice for Persons with Disabilities (see figure 11). The organizations that provided training on access to justice for Persons with Disabilities included International Disability Alliance (IDA), JLOs, Justice Centre Uganda, NUDIPU, LAPD, and Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF). The categories of people targeted by the training included the police, prison officials, judiciary and court staff, organizations of Persons with Disabilities, prosecutors, judges, lawmakers, and OPDs.

Figure 2: Have you ever participated in or attended a training on access to justice for persons with disabilities? n =28



Source: Disability status survey, March-April, 2022

5.6. Procedural Accommodation

In the context of International guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, procedural accommodation refers to all necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments in the context of access to justice, where needed in a particular case, to ensure the participation of Persons with Disabilities on an equal basis with others¹⁴. It is different from reasonable accommodations in that procedural accommodations are not limited by the concept of “disproportionate or undue burden”. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 recognizes voice, touch or other methods as acceptable ways for a complainant who is blind or has low vision to identify a suspect or an accused person.

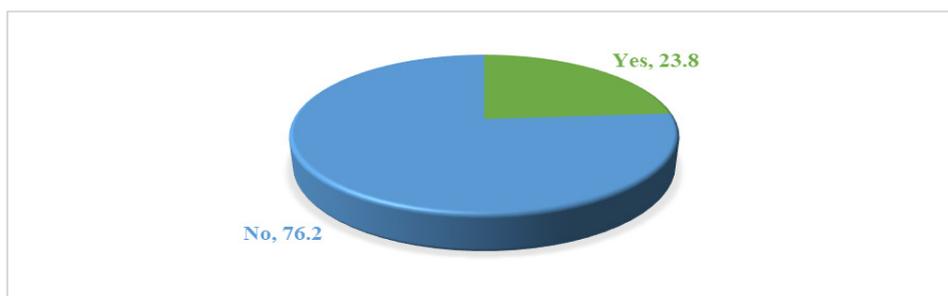
In the bid to ensure procedural accommodation in the courts, between 2016 and 2019, UHRC worked with NUDIPU, Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL) and the East African

¹⁴ UN (2020). International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2020/10/Access-to-Justice-EN.pdf>

Centre of Disability Law and developed the judicature rules to guide court and judiciary officials on the handling of Persons with Disabilities in the justice system. The judicature rules, which were submitted to the Chief Justice for adoption, are intended to serve as a guide for the courts and judiciary personnel on how to provide procedural accommodation for Persons with Disabilities when operationalized.

In addition to most of the courts being inaccessible, many of them do not provide procedural accommodation. The majority (76%) of the respondents with disabilities surveyed indicated that the courts do not provide procedural accommodations to enable Persons with Disabilities to access justice (see figure 13). In addition to being physically inaccessible, many courts lack appropriate accommodations, such as the designation of specific rooms for Persons with Disabilities, priority services, and hiring and allowances for sign language interpreters to support individuals with hearing impairments (deafness and hard of hearing) during court sessions. Respondents also mentioned the need for priority to testify..

Figure 3: Do the courts provide procedural accommodations to enable persons with disabilities to access justice?, n =21



Source: Disability status survey, March-April, 2022

5.7. Access to Free Legal Aid Services

Many Persons with Disabilities are aware of free legal service providers. The CRPD survey found that 26 out of 31 respondents (83.9%) are aware of organizations that provide free legal aid services to promote access to justice for Persons with Disabilities (see figure). Participants mentioned various organizations providing free legal aid in different parts of the country, including, but not limited to: Justice Centre Uganda, The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Centre for Human Rights Development, Legal Aid Uganda, Human Rights Commission Uganda, Law and Justice Centre, Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities, Lira District Disabled Women's Association, Uganda Law Society, Action Aid, and the International Justice Mission. However, it is not known whether and to what extent the existence of organizations providing free legal aid has translated into effective delivery of free legal aid to Persons with Disabilities of different types, regions, ages, and genders. Limited data is available on the number of Persons with Disabilities accessing free legal aid services disaggregated by these categories.

Figure 4: Are you aware of any organization that provides free legal aid services to promote access to justice by persons with disabilities?

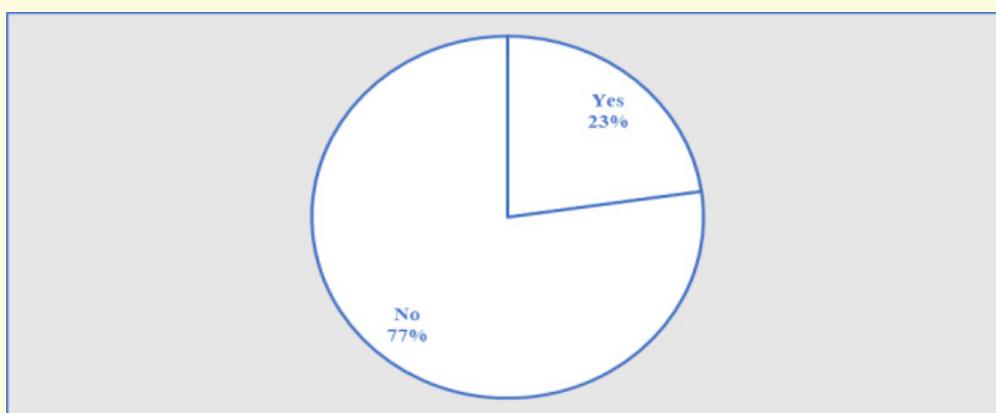


Source: Disability status survey, April/May, 2022, n=31

5.7. Provision of Information in Accessible Formats by Courts

Although the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has been translated into braille and brailled copies have been made available to public libraries, the CRPD status survey revealed that only 5 out of the 22 respondents who answered the question confirmed that courts provide information in accessible formats such as braille to enable Persons with Disabilities to access justice. This means that many courts have neither hired nor engaged the services of sign language interpreters or braille transcribers, nor have they purchased assistive technologies that can convert traditional format documents into accessible digital formats.

Figure 5: Would you say that courts provide information in accessible formats such as braille persons with disabilities to enable them access justice?

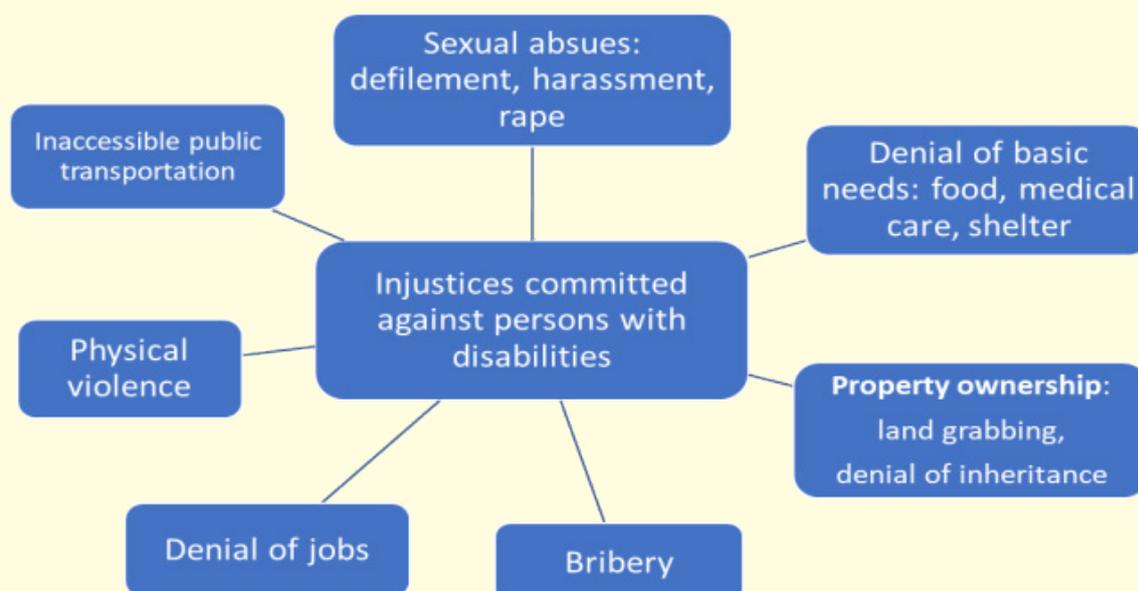


Source: Disability Status Survey April/May, 2022, n=22

5.8. Experiences of Injustice by Persons with Disabilities

Generally, access to justice, law and order services in the local council courts, police, prison, and mainstream judicial systems remain difficult for Persons with Disabilities. It usually takes the involvement of third parties like local leaders, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), Persons with Disabilities Council members, and human rights advocacy groups for cases of human rights reported by Persons with Disabilities to be handled and to reach their logical conclusions.

Persons with Disabilities experience several injustices including but not limited to denial of job opportunities, land grabbing, inaccessible public transportation, and denial of basic needs like food, shelter and medical care. During the regional consultations, it emerged that some Persons with Disabilities were denied the right of property inheritance. The figure below summarizes the types of injustices that Persons with Disabilities encounter countrywide.



A woman with a disability particularly suffers from sexual exploitation, sometimes resulting in unexpected pregnancies by men who deny responsibility but are never brought to book even when identified by their victims. This has led to a growing phenomenon of single mothers with disabilities heading households and taking care of children born with run-away fathers. A woman with a disability in the western region noted, 'Most of our fellows with children are not in families, men come and impregnate them and disappear, and they are left as single parents.' (Resp 2 and 3: FGD Mbarara)

5.9. Reporting of Human Rights Abuses/Violations

From the regional consultations, it emerged that many Persons with Disabilities endeavor to report cases of human rights violations to the relevant authorities. In most cases, the cases are attended to after a very long struggle or completely ignored. Complaints of delays and solicitation of bribes discourage some Persons with Disabilities from reporting cases. Some Persons with Disabilities reported losing trust in the justice system and felt that it works only for the people who can afford to bribe.

The participants in the consultations noted as follows;

Some of them have the conception that they wouldn't get help even if they reported and the responses to these reported cases are always negative thereby affecting their ability and willingness to report. (Resp 2: FGD Mbale)

We have a case of a boy who was slapped at school and he lost his sight. When he reported the case to police, he was tossed around by the police until he gave up. He has never received justice to date. (Resp 3: FGD Mbarara)

It was established that women with disabilities encounter discriminatory handling by health professionals in a way that portrays negative attitudes and stereotypes about sexuality and women with disabilities, as reflected in the quote below:

... in our health center III, a nurse abused a lady who had gone for delivery, she refused to give her the services needed, and she gave birth on the bench. She was abused so seriously that she should leave men alone, the case was even taken to the police, but I see that lady still working at the health center. (Resp 2: FGD Lira)

5.10. Children, Girls and Women with Disabilities

There are adequate institutional structures to ensure access to justice for all children including Children with Disabilities. All Districts have Probation Officers, the Child and Family Protection Units, and a Community Development Officer in charge of disability whose duties include ensuring that the rights of children, girls and women with Disabilities are respected.

In most communities however, there was little to no intervention targeting children, girls and women with disabilities. Consequently, children, girls and women with disabilities often face human rights abuses like sexual harassment, defilement, denial of basic needs like food and medical care, education and denial of rights to own property. In Oyam district, it was reported that some caretakers of Children with Disabilities lock them up and isolate them, thereby denying them a chance to move out of the house. The participants in FGDs noted as follows;

Most of the parents of children with disabilities hide them in the house, they are locked and isolated without contacting the outside world, denied food, clothing and other basic needs. (Resp 1, FGD Lira)

In Kasese we have a case of a girl who was raped and the suspect was a police officer but he denied it. When I pushed the case to court of law they ordered for DNA testing until the DNA proved that the officer was the father of the child. (Respondent 3, FGD Mbarara)

Overall, children, girls and women with disabilities remain highly vulnerable to human rights abuses for which they hardly get justice. Participants particularly complained of the unprofessional handling by the police and demanded for action to be taken to stop their misconduct as noted by participants with disabilities in the FGDs noted;

One time a person with mental illness had an issue with another and they took the issue to the police. Instead of the police using the right name to call this person, he was instead like “you insane person”. We felt so bad about this. (Respondent 1, FGD, Kalagala)

Government should teach the police how to handle these people like humans. The law should be tough on how the police and army are to be handled when they abuse the rights of persons with disabilities. (Resp 4: FGD

Kalangala)

5.11. Barriers to Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities

Despite the legal protections provided under international human rights law that Uganda has ratified and mainstream as well as disability specific domestic legal instruments enacted to protect disability rights, Persons with Disabilities continue to face a myriad of obstacles in trying to access justice. Generally, the barriers range from the inaccessibility of the physical infrastructure, inaccessible information, to other forms of discrimination to lack of knowledge of the unique needs of Persons with Disabilities, and negative attitudes of judiciary personnel toward Persons with Disabilities. Some barriers are located within the Persons with Disabilities as explained herein.

A key barrier hindering access to justice for Persons with Disabilities (deaf persons in particular) is communication barriers arising from lack of sign language interpreters at the police stations, courts, prisons or other judiciary jurisdictions. The non-engagement of sign language interpretation services by courts, prisons and police implies that persons with hearing impairment cannot get a fair hearing. On the other hand, persons with visual

disabilities cannot get a fair hearing in court without being provided with information in accessible formats.

Communication gap that is to say in case there is a case that involves someone who has hearing impairments and there is no sign language interpreter to help out that case ends without fair justice. (Resp 1 and 2: FGD Lira)

Corruption throughout the justice system is a big impediment in accessing justice by Persons with Disabilities. This is coupled with bureaucracy and bribery that are rampant at all levels ranging from the local councils, police, and the judicial courts. A participant emphasized that;

The long procedures involved in delivery of justice, charges imposed on the people like twenty thousand shillings for form 3 filled by the doctor limits many from accessing justice. Also, police ask for money for fuel in order to carry out investigations and/or make arrests. There is a general lack of care. (Resp 4: FGD Moroto)

Ignorance of the law and where to get (free) legal aid in the face of human rights violations prevents many Persons with Disabilities from accessing justice. As explained by one of the FGD participants, many Persons with Disabilities who do not know the law fail to seek legal redress when their rights are violated.

The rights of persons with disabilities are always violated but you find they don't actually know where to go to seek help. Secondly, most times they are ignored when they try to access justice and in cases where such things happen, some of them become shy and fear to face those justice officials. (Resp 1: FGD Luwero)

A major barrier to accessing justice for Persons with Disabilities is economic insufficiency. Poverty reports indicate that more Persons with Disabilities suffer from multi-dimensional poverty than the general population. Due to low levels of education and high unemployment, Persons with Disabilities are often the poorest of the poor and experience intergenerational poverty. Poverty impedes Persons with Disabilities' ability to afford the cost of litigation, forcing them to suffer discrimination without seeking justice.

5.3. Recommendations to Improve Access to Justice

Communication barriers: To overcome communication barriers, justice and law enforcement agencies should recruit or engage the services of support personnel such as sign language interpreters, personal assistants, readers, note takers, and captioners. In addition, the judiciary must comply with the reasonable accommodation requirement and always provide information services in alternative texts or accessible formats for all categories of persons with disabilities

Attitudinal barriers: Judiciary personnel may exhibit hostile attitudes towards persons with disabilities due to ignorance of their unique needs. Therefore, it is paramount to train and sensitize all personnel in the justice system on the unique needs of persons with disabilities and how to accommodate them.

Ignorance of the law on the side of persons with disabilities can also be addressed by training them to know their rights under the existing domestic and international laws and the mechanisms to seek protection whenever their rights are infringed. Additionally, the broader community needs to be sensitized on disability rights to change prevailing dominant misconceptions about disability in many communities.

Appoint focal point persons: To strengthen and promote disability rights in the justice system, it's important to appoint focal point persons for disability rights in the courts, police stations, and prisons. Alternatively, a disability unit/desk can be established within the justice sub-sectors (policy, courts, and prisons). These measures will ensure that the specific needs and rights of persons with disabilities are recognized and addressed within the justice system.

Economic barriers: Reducing poverty among persons with disabilities is a long-term strategy that can help them afford the cost of justice. This can be achieved by a combination of interventions such as increasing access to all levels of education, surmounting workplace barriers, and strengthening access to special grants, as well as mainstream livelihood interventions.

Additionally, organizations providing free legal aid services need to deliberately target and seek out clients with disabilities. This will ensure that persons with disabilities have access to justice and legal aid services that are tailored to their specific needs.

6.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

“For most people, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible.” (National Council on Disability, 1993)¹⁵

6.1. Introduction

The centrality of technology to the lives of persons with disabilities is embodied in the saying that “technology makes work possible for persons with disabilities.” Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can significantly improve the lives of persons with disabilities by enhancing their social, cultural, political, and economic inclusion in communities. By enlarging the scope of activities they can do, ICT can help persons with disabilities to overcome barriers and participate more fully in society.¹⁶

6.2. Policy Milestones

On April 23, 2018, the Republic of Uganda ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. The Treaty came into force with respect to Uganda on July 23, 2018.

Uganda is currently in the process of domesticating the Marrakesh Treaty provisions into its relevant laws, including the ongoing amendment of the Copyright and Other Neighboring Rights Act of 2006. By ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty, Uganda not only commits to ensuring access to published works for persons with disabilities, but also gains access to published works from Treaty countries without copyright restrictions.

Uganda is also making progress in ensuring website accessibility. The National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U) has developed guidelines for the development and management of government websites (NITA-U, 2014). The guidelines urge ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) to follow the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)¹⁷ when developing their websites to ensure equitable access for persons with disabilities.

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 makes several provisions that relate to access to information and communication technology for Persons with Disabilities. The Act provides that:

¹⁵ National Council on Disability. (1993). Study on the financing of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. A report to the President and the Congress of the United States. Retrieved from: <https://ncd.gov/publications/1993/mar41993>

¹⁶ UNESCO

¹⁷ NITA Uganda. Guidelines for the Development of Government Websites. Retrieved from: <https://ict.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/GOU-Website-Standards-2014-06-11-Ver-final.pdf>

In Uganda, the Constitution and the Persons with Disabilities Act require television stations to provide sign language insets in all newscasts, or ensure that they are provided (Section 12(4)). To implement these constitutional and legal requirements on access to information for deaf people, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has developed comprehensive guidelines on enabling television access for persons with disabilities.¹⁸

The Government of Uganda has several legal obligations to promote and protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities. One of these obligations is to promote the use of assistive devices and technology and the provision of public information in braille and other accessible formats. The Act also requires the Minister for Communications to make regulations defining the standards for access to information by Persons with Disabilities.

Additionally, the government is required to provide Persons with albinism with skin protective creams and assistive devices at no cost or subsidized prices. The Act also mandates every employer to provide reasonable accommodation for Persons with Disabilities during the job application process and in the performance of their job or task, including the provision of assistive technology needed for their work.

Moreover, the Act prohibits an owner or a person in charge of any means of public transportation that charges a fare from requiring a passenger with a disability who uses assistive devices to pay an extra charge for the carriage of those devices. These legal provisions are aimed at promoting the inclusion and full participation of Persons with Disabilities in various aspects of life in Uganda.(2).The State is mandated to promote the use of information assistive devices and technology in order to facilitate the access to justice for Persons with Disabilities, as stipulated in Section 15 of the Persons with Disabilities Act of Uganda

6.3. Programmatic Achievements

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports, UNICEF implemented a pilot project on assistive technologies in education covering 16 districts selected from the four regions of Uganda (central, eastern, northern, and western). The project provided schools with assistive devices and other adaptive technologies such as Victor Readers, Classmate laptops, memory cards, Plectalks, and LCD projectors, among others. Additionally, UNICEF piloted an Accessible Digital Textbook (ADT) project in which mathematics print textbooks are adapted into large prints for learners with low vision, audio books for children who are blind, and videos with sign language for children with hearing impairment. Teachers and learners with disabilities from 20 primary schools were trained on the effective use of the ADT resources in inclusive settings. Subject to lessons learned and finances, the Ministry of Education and Sports expects to scale up the ADT project to more schools countrywide.

¹⁸ UCC, (2022). Draft guidelines for enabling television access for persons with disabilities in Uganda. Retrieved from: <https://www.ucc.co.ug/draft-guidelines-for-enabling-television-access-for-persons-with-disabilities-in-uganda/>

Following the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, Uganda is taking measures to domesticate and operationalize the treaty. In December 2021, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regional office for Eastern Africa, under the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) multi-country project in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, conducted a national sensitization workshop for teachers aimed at promoting the right to access to information for Persons with Disabilities within the inclusive education framework. Over 200 stakeholders from the four regions were sensitized.

In addition to the national sensitization workshop for teachers, the UNESCO regional office for Eastern Africa also supported the sensitization of key regional and national stakeholders on the Marrakesh Treaty in partnership with UNICEF, MOES, and the NCPD.

Furthermore, during the second Global Disability Summit in 2022, the Government of Uganda committed to equipping 40% of orthopedic workshops across the country to facilitate the quality production of mobility and other assistive technology devices for all categories of Persons with Disabilities by 2024 under the health sector..

To enable access to mobility and other assistive devices for Persons with Disabilities, Uganda allows tax exemption on all assistive devices. For example, all assistive devices procured for schools are tax exempted. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has instituted a multi-sectoral working committee to develop a comprehensive list of essential assistive technologies and devices, including mobility devices.

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has directed all television stations to provide sign language interpretation during at least one newscast a day, and for all programs of national importance, such as a presidential address or an event of national importance. Some of the television stations that are complying with this directive include Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC), Nation Television (NTV), Nile Broadcasting Services (NBS) TV, Bukedde TV, and Buganda Broadcasting Services (BBS). Additionally, UCC has been supplying assistive technology devices to Persons with Disabilities through OPDs, and training Persons with Disabilities on the use of the devices. The Government of Uganda has ensured Persons with Disabilities are represented in the UCC Board as a statutory requirement in the UCC Act, 2013.

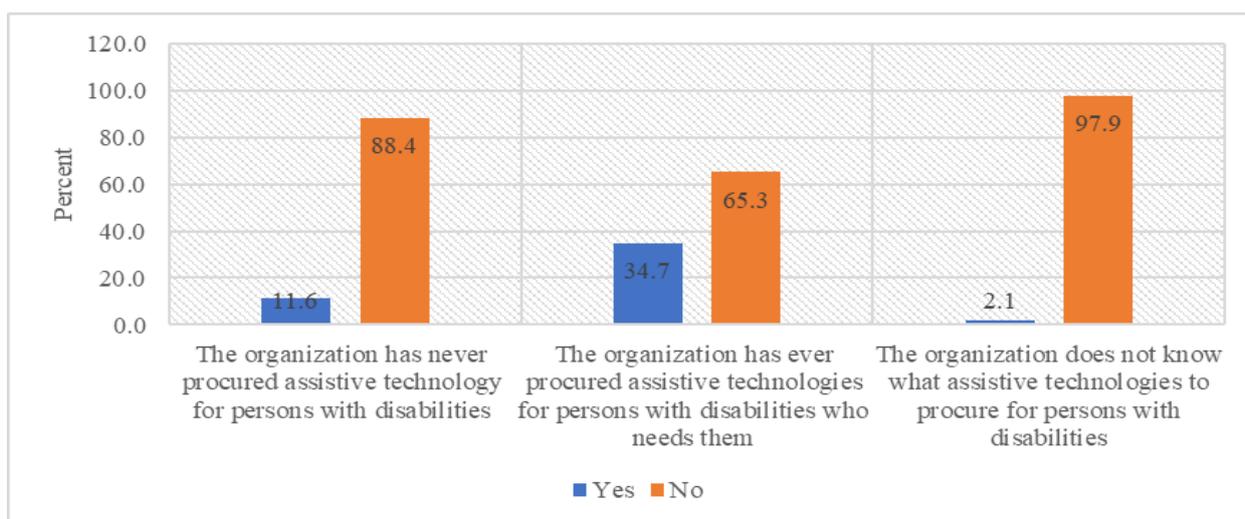
6.4. Outstanding Challenges

Although technology has made work possible for Persons with Disabilities, access to many technology products and services remains significantly low in Uganda. A national study conducted by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) on the access and usage of ICTs by Persons with Disabilities revealed lower access to ICTs by Persons with Disabilities than their counterparts without disabilities. Except for radio (70.1%) and mobile phones (69.4%), access and utilization of laptops (3.9%), desktop computers (1%), Internet access (15%), and possession of a bank account (14%) were substantially low among Persons with Disabilities.

The low access to technology by Persons with Disabilities can be attributed to a lack of investment in, and procurement of assistive technology products and services that are accessible to Persons with Disabilities. Only 34.7% of the respondents surveyed for the disability status survey affirmed that their organizations had ever procured assistive devices for Persons with Disabilities. 97.9% of the respondents reported that their organizations did not know what assistive devices to procure for Persons with Disabilities.

On the other hand, government websites remain largely inaccessible despite the existing legal requirement and accessibility guidelines. A recent study of 63 government websites revealed that no e-government websites satisfied the minimum website accessibility standard (level AA) or intermediate accessibility conformance level. This means that even the government websites are not complying with the existing accessibility guidelines developed by NITA-U

Figure 7: Has your organization ever procured assistive technologies for the persons with disabilities who need them? n =95



Source: CRPD status survey, March-April, 2022

During the regional consultations, the major challenges preventing Persons with Disabilities from accessing ICT and assistive technology products and services reported included, among others, the high cost of technology devices, lack of electricity in some areas, frequent electricity outages, especially in remote rural locations, and high cost of cellular internet data. A low level of education and digital literacy prevents many persons with disabilities from using advanced technology devices, even when they get access to them.

6.5. Recommendations to Improve ICT

Training on use and repair of ICT products: Many Persons with Disabilities lack the knowledge and digital literacy to use advanced technology products even when they own them. It is also important to train technicians on the repair of assistive devices to ensure that devices remain in good working condition and can be easily maintained.

Investing in Local production of assistive technology: The use of technology products will continue to be unavailable and unaffordable as long as they are imported. The government can reduce costs and increase the availability of assistive technology products by investing in and supporting the local production of low-cost assistive technology devices.

Enforcing ICT laws, policies and regulatory standards: The ICT ministry and all relevant MDAs should strengthen the enforcement of the existing tax exemptions on disability-specific software and assistive devices to make them affordable and accessible to Persons with Disabilities. In addition, all employers and educational institutions should make the procurement and acquisition of assistive technology products and services part of the reasonable accommodation requirement provided under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020.

NITA-U should assess the accessibility of all government websites with a view of ensuring that they are accessible, and guiding defaulting MDAs on how to comply.

National center for Assistive technology: The Ministry of ICT should consider establishing an assistive technology center/unit within the Ministry or a relevant entity to coordinate the production, acquisition, appropriateness, supply, and monitoring of assistive technology for persons with disabilities in the country. Such a center can also serve as a one-stop source of information and advisory services for persons with disabilities on where to find appropriate and affordable technology devices..

Support ICT Research and Innovations: There is a need to invest in and build the capacity of academic institutions and research centers to conduct disability-specific research tailored to Uganda's context. This will foster innovation and the production of low-cost assistive technology. Moreover, research on the assistive technology needs of persons with various disabilities should be conducted to guide the government and development partners who wish to invest in ICT for persons with disabilities.

Reduce the cost of internet data: Internet access is essential for using most technology products and services, but the high cost of cellular data poses a significant barrier for many Persons with Disabilities, who often face high poverty levels. To address this issue, the Government and telecom companies should explore ways to reduce the cost of cellular data and make it more affordable for Persons with Disabilities, especially those living in poverty. This could include measures such as subsidies, discounts, or other targeted programs to increase access to affordable internet services.

7.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

7.1. Introduction

This section highlights the performance of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) for the period 2020 to 2021. The report outlines the progress on the implementation of planned activities funded by a subvention from the Government of Uganda and other development partners, as well as achievements and challenges faced during implementation.

The fiscal years under review were characterized by tough economic times due to the lockdown measures implemented to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to reduced business activity and revenue. This had an impact on the subvention grant amount received by NCPD, as its funding remained the same despite some budget increments in other sectors.

Additionally, the costs of goods and services increased, which directly affected the budget. Moreover, the period under review coincided with the elections held at all levels of leadership, which also affected the budget allocation to the Council.

The fiscal year under review was characterized by the processes towards the merger of government agencies, including the councils under the MGLSD where the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) falls. This partly affected the appointment of the fifth council and delayed the implementation of planned activities.

The period under review witnessed the inauguration and induction of the members of the fifth National Council for Persons with Disabilities. The appointment of the fifth council closed the leadership gap. Internally, the council was able to constitute a number of committees to execute the functions of the institution. Please find enclosed the list of council members and staff.

7.2. Budget Performance

NCPD received UGX 1,622,000,000 (one billion, six hundred and twenty-two million Uganda shillings) from the Government of Uganda to implement planned activities. Additionally, they received off-budget support from development partners, estimated at a cost of UGX

600,000,000 (six hundred million Uganda shillings).The partners that contributed support to the Council were:

UN Human Rights office in Kampala; Sight Savers International Kampala office; ADD international Uganda program; Sense International Uganda program; Light for the World ,Water Aid Uganda, GIZ,UNICEF among others.

The total amount spent was Shs. 1,608,000,000/= (one billion six hundred and eight million UGX) and the variance was Shs. 14,000,000 (Fourteen Million UGX).

7.3. Planned Activities

In the period under review, the Council executed several activities, including:

- Development of the Disability Status Report 2021.
- Development of the combined second, third and fourth CRPD periodic report of Uganda.
- Establishment and inauguration of the Fifth National Council for Persons With Disabilities.
- Mobilization of persons with disabilities to participate in the electoral process.
- Rapid assessment on the effect of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities.
- Building the capacity of members of the district/city Councils for Persons with Disabilities in fifteen districts in Eastern, Western, Central and Northern regions.
- Development of a five-year strategic plan for the Council.
- Holding Council and Committee meetings to discuss strategic and policy issues affecting persons with disabilities.
- Development of proposals for disability inclusion in policies, laws and programs.
- Conducting advocacy and lobbying for disability inclusion in programs of Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as the private sector and NGOs.
- Conducting the mapping exercise on the properties managed by NCPD.
- Renovation of the office premises of the Council at Kireka Rehabilitation Centre.
- Compiling and managing human rights violations against persons with disabilities.

7.4. Achievements

- The achievements made were as follows:
- The Council acquired and renovated an office space at Kireka Rehabilitation Centre.
- The Fifth National Council for Persons with Disabilities was established and inaugurated, consisting of 25 members representing various sectors.
- A mapping exercise for the properties managed by the Council was conducted in five districts.
- 150 human rights violations against persons with disabilities were received and managed through referrals, counseling, and mediation.
- The combined second, third, and fourth periodic report of Uganda on the implementation of the CRPD was compiled on behalf of the government.

- The Disability Status Report for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was developed and will be launched in December 2022.
- Four Council and six Committee meetings were held to discuss policy issues. The capacity of members of the District/City Councils for Persons with Disabilities was built in 15 districts. A rapid assessment on the effect of COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities was conducted, and a disability inclusive strategy was developed as a result and disseminated to stakeholders.

7.5. Challenges

The challenges encountered were:

- Limited funding which affected the effective implementation of the Council's mandate.
- Inadequate capacity of Council members at the national and district levels to effectively perform their roles.
- Limited number of staff to accomplish the Council's mandate.
- Lack of a strong vehicle to execute the Council's functions effectively.
- Economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including preventive restrictions that slowed down the performance of activities.

7.6. Conclusion

The Council appreciates all the development partners/stakeholders for their support and guidance in the implementation of planned activities for the period under review. Appreciation also goes to the Government of Uganda through the Ministries of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Finance for the financial and technical guidance.

8. KEY MESSAGES

The mandatory lockdowns imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were a strong litmus test for disability inclusion and the SDG's mantra of Leave No One Behind. Persons with disabilities faced a double disadvantage as they were left behind in the initial responses to the pandemic, such as the formation of task forces at national and district levels, the distribution of instructional materials for home learning, the issuance of movement permits during the two lockdowns, and radio/television lessons.

The lack of disability-inclusive and disability-disaggregated data emerged as a glaring gap that affected interventions both during and after COVID-19 school interventions. For example, to date, it is not known how many persons with disabilities were infected with COVID-19 and received COVID-19 services like treatment, vaccinations, the emergency relief fund, and relief food. Even where data exists, often times, the data is not available on the websites of MDAs, LGs, and other organizations.

Access to justice remains elusive for many persons with disabilities in rural locations, especially women and children with disabilities who experience perpetual sexual abuse without their offenders facing justice. Many persons with disabilities experience discrimination, yet only a few of them seek legal redress. The lack of procedural accommodations in court, the inaccessibility of court physical premises, inability to afford legal fees, and solicitation of bribes have emerged as the key barriers to access to justice by persons with disabilities.

The remarkable increase in funding has resulted in improved access and utilization of the special grant by persons with disabilities, especially since the introduction of the National Special Grant in FY 2019/2020.

The number of funded enterprises and persons with disabilities benefitting from the national special grant has more than doubled between FY 2019/2020 and FY 2022/2023. However, the administration of the district special grant requires urgent attention to address the numerous complaints from all regions about the meager grant amounts remitted to districts and enterprises, delayed remittances of the funds to districts, mismanagement of the funds, and lack of operational funds to prepare and train beneficiaries, as well as monitor the utilization of funds. In some cases, committee executives have connived to mismanage the funds awarded to their groups, leaving out the rest of the members.

It is important to note that investment in assistive technology for persons with disabilities remains very low, with few development actors involved, despite the fact that ICT is pivotal to the daily functioning and inclusion of persons with disabilities at home, school, workplace, and community. Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize and document the assistive technology needs of persons with disabilities in the country to inform future interventions.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic was a strong litmus test for disability inclusion and the conventional ways of doing things. The financial years covered in this report were characterized by unprecedented economic shocks and disorientation of school calendars following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown measures adopted. As the nation grappled with slowing down the spread of the pandemic, the lockdown measures that were adopted had many unintended negative consequences for the general population, especially the most vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities. The conventional modes of teaching, administration of justice, and delivery of other social services changed, with various implications for the peculiarities of persons with disabilities. In light of the foregoing situation, this report advances the following recommendations to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the four thematic areas covered.

- The glaring gap in collecting, mainstreaming, disaggregating, managing, and storing disability data requires urgent action. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UBOS, MOH, MGLSD, MOES, Ministry of Local Government (MOLG), Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the NCPD should establish a database of persons with disabilities to enable authorities to easily identify and reach out to them during public health and humanitarian emergencies. Such data should be disaggregated by type of disability, location, gender, age, and updated regularly to guide interventions.
- Leaving out persons with disabilities from the national task forces resulted in initially overlooking their peculiar needs in response to COVID-19. In the future, the Ministry of Health (MOH) should involve persons with disabilities at all decision-making levels during public health emergencies from the outset. This means including representatives of persons with disabilities in task forces or similar bodies to ensure that the unique needs of persons with disabilities are considered in all responses at all levels.
- The physical inaccessibility of court premises, health facilities, police stations, and magistrate offices prevents persons with mobility difficulties from accessing the services they offer. It is imperative for these institutions, including courts, the police, prisons, financial institutions, and health facilities, to make their physical premises accessible as a matter of urgency. They should also provide information about their products and services in an accessible format for persons with disabilities. To address the need for procedural accommodations, the judiciary should urgently consider and adopt the guidelines proposed on how to adapt judicature rules to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities in courts. These guidelines were proposed by UCHR and OPDs.
- The NCPD and line ministries should conduct awareness campaigns for all key stakeholders on disability rights, disability-inclusive programming, and their obligations within the existing policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks. It is also important for relevant

authorities to provide training to Persons with Disabilities on financial management, including savings, investment, and accessing financial services, as well as their right to access justice.

- While funding for the special grant continues to increase annually, with grant amounts now up to UGX 5 million per enterprise, the district special grant remains underfunded, with grant amounts as low as below UGX 500,000 for larger group sizes. The MGLSD should urgently review its management of the district special grant to ensure accountability and equitable access for all Persons with Disabilities countrywide. It is important to ensure that there is equity among special grant beneficiaries, especially for Persons with severe disabilities.
- Owing to the indispensability of ICTs to the daily functioning and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all domains of life, and considering the low access and utilization of the ICTS by persons with disabilities, the Ministry of ICT and relevant line ministries need to conduct a national assistive technology needs assessment to guide future interventions. There is a need to establish an assistive technology Centre to coordinate AT service delivery, training and monitoring.
- The significant gap between policies and their implementation threatens to undermine service delivery and the realization of the rights of Persons with Disabilities. Implementation of existing laws, policies, and regulatory standards is one of the most significant missing links affecting service delivery for Persons with Disabilities across the four thematic areas. There is a need to sensitize, train, and monitor all MDAs to ensure their compliance with existing laws and policies on disability. The significant policy-practice gap threatens to undermine service delivery and the realization of the rights of Ppersons with Ddisabilities. Implementation of existing laws, policies, and regulatory standards is one of the most significant missing links affecting service delivery for Ppersons with Ddisabilities across the four thematic areas. There is need to sensitize, train, and monitor all MDAs to ensure their compliance with existing laws and policies on disability.

ANNEXES

ATTENDANCE/ REGISTRATION FORM- Luwero Consultative Meeting 07.04.2022

No.	Name	Age	Sex	District	Designation	Disability Status		Disability Type	Highest Academic Qualification	Contacts/Email
						YES	NO			
1.	Nakato Agnes	25	F	Luwero		✓		LitHerSen	-	0785058744
2.	Nantumbwe G.	50	F	Luwero		✓		Albinism		
3.	Ogema Joseph M	36	M	Luwero		✓		Physic. CI	S.4	0775808215
4.	MABONGA CHARLES	70	M	Luwero		✓		Blind	S.6	0783472236
5.	LUGOSE RAETHA	28	M	Luwero		✓		Physical	S.2	0788536479
6.	NAMBI WINNIE	33	F	Luwero		✓		DEAF	S.1	0775524208
7.	MUWONGE JOSEPH	45	F	Luwero			✓	Interpreter	Diploma	0782640976
9.	ROBERT OKELLO A	48	F	Kampala			NO	DRIVER	Diploma	
10.	Florence Epobai	42	F	Kampala			✓	ohchr.	MASTERS	
11.	Patrick Olok	48	M	Kampala			✓	N/A	PHD	Pojok@kyp.ac.ug
12.	Nakaye Jesta		F	Luwero		guide	✓			0779660029
13.	Kaswa Hoikim			Luwero		✓		physical		0788627842
14.										
15.										
16.										
17.										
18.										
19.										
20.										
25.										
26.										
27.										
28.										
29.										
30.										

**FINAL LIST FOR KARAMOJA DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
FOR 6 DISTRICTS OF NAPAK, ABIM, KAABONG, NAKAPIRIPIRIT, MOROTO AND KOTIDO DISTRICTS**

7th December 2021

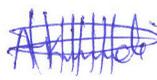
S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE AND EMAIL	SEX/ GENDER	DISABILITY STATUS	SIGNATURE
1	Sagal Emeot	Chairperson	Napak	0787646489	male	PHYSICAL	
2	Moru James	Youth Representative	Napak	0772554075	MALE		
3	Hon. ^{ERU} Nyangan Jema	Women representative	Napak	0787456943	Female		
4	Agan Mary Apuun	CDO Disability & Elderly	Napak	0774029790			
5	Oryono Godfrey Okorithum	Chair Person	Abim	0772177868	MALE	PHYSICAL	
6	Akidi Lucky Agnes	Youth Representative	Abim	0786546912 0773370837	FEMALE	PHYSICAL	
7	OJok Charles	Guide	Abim	0773283326	MALE		

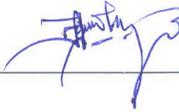
8	Awilli Josephine Odyek	Women Representative	Abim	0789961613 ayosephine@gmail.com	F	MULTIPLE	
9	Ogwaria Lawrence Karwoth	Ccdo Disability & Elderly	Abim	0782126227 ogwaria@gmail.com	M	N/A	
10	Achero David	Chairperson	Kaabong	0782973673	M		
11	Nalibe Rose	Guide	Kaabong	0782973673	F		
12	Lokuwam Joseph	Youth Representative	Kaabong	0784527922	M	abled	
13	Akongo Betty	Women representative	Kaabong	0777927136	F	women's	
14	Kubal Mathew	CDO Disability & Elderly	Kaabong	0783716139 kubalmathew28@gmail.com	M	None	
15	Napokol John Gaston	Chairperson	Moroto	0782398579 napokolj@gmail.com	M	Physical	
16	Aiko Sarah	Women representative	Moroto	078527327 0785273297	F	Physical	 Saud
17	Hon. Longora Goretti Lometa Joseph OPIO	Youth Representative	Moroto	0784725571 0786005870	M	physical	

18	Akot Jennifer Longoli	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Moroto	0782786707	F	-	10/5
19	Namit Leo	Chairperson DCPD	Kotido	0773241500	MALE	PHYSICAL	10/5
20	Lokwang Paul Kalanda	Youth Representative	Kotido	0778334435 0785103424	M	Deaf	10/5
21	Igira Anna Grace	Women representative	Kotido	0776853851	F	physical	10/5
22	Moding David	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Kotido	0782421401 dmoding311@gmail.com	M	-	10/5

**FINAL LIST FOR KARAMOJA DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
FOR 6 DISTRICTS OF NAPAK, ABIM, KAABONG, NAKAPIRIPIT, MOROTO AND KOTIDO DISTRICTS**

8th December 2021

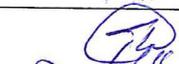
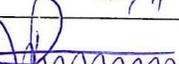
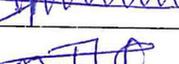
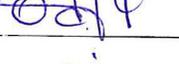
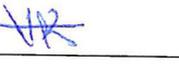
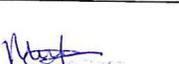
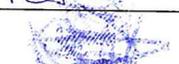
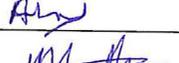
S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE AND EMAIL	SEX/ GENDER	DISABILITY STATUS	SIGNATURE
1	Sagal Emeot	Chairperson	Napak	0787646489	male	PHysical	
2	Moru James	Youth Representative	Napak	0772554075	MALE		
3	Hon. ^{ERUU JEMA} Nyangan Jema	Women representative	Napak	0787456943	Female		
4	Agan Mary Apuun	CDO Disability & Elderly	Napak	0774029790			
5	Oryono Godfrey Okorithum	Chair Person	Abim	0772177868	MALE	PHYSICAL	
6	Akidi Lucky Agnes	Youth Representative	Abim	0786546912 0773370837	Female	Physical	
7	OJok Charles	Guide	Abim	0773283326	male	-	

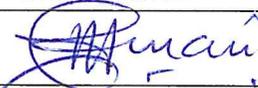
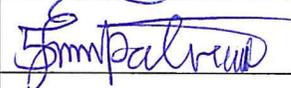
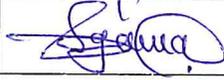
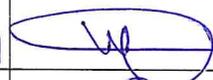
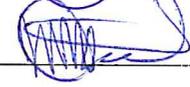
8	Awilli Josephine Odyek	Women Representative	Abim	0789961613 ajosephineodyek@gmail.com	F	MULTIPLE	
9	Ogwaria Lawrence Karwoth	Ccdo Disability & Elderly	Abim	0782126227 ogwaria@gmail.com	M	—	
10	Achero David	Chairperson	Kaabong	0782973673	M		
11	Nalibe Rose	Guide	Kaabong	07829783673	F		
12	Lokuwam Joseph	Youth Representative	Kaabong	0784527922 736	M	Blind one	
13	Akongo Betty	Women representative	Kaabong	0777927136	F	—	
14	Kubal Mathew	CDO Disability & Elderly	Kaabong	0783716139 kubalmathew28@gmail.com	M	Nose	
15	Napokol John Gaston	Chairperson	Moroto	0782398579 napokol@gmail.com	M	physical	
16	Aiko Sarah	Women representative	Moroto	0785273279	F	physical	
17	Hon. Longora Goretti LOME TO JOSEPH	Youth Representative	Moroto	0784725571 0786005870	M		

18	Akot Jennifer Longoli	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Moroto	0782786707	F	-	Handwritten signature
19	Namit Leo	Chairperson DCPD	Kotido	0773241500	MALE	PHYSICAL	Handwritten signature
20	Lokwang Paul Kalanda	Youth Representative	Kotido	0778334435 0785103424	M	DEAF	Handwritten signature
21	Igira Anna Grace	Women representative	Kotido	0776853851	F	Physical	10/01
22	Moding David	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Kotido	0782421401	M	-	Handwritten signature

FINAL LIST FOR NORTHERN UGANDA DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS FROM
SELECTED 6 DISTRICTS (GULU, MOYO, LIRA, OYAM, KITGUM & ARUA)

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

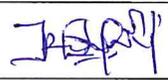
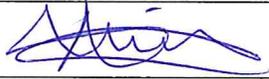
S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRIC	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Okumu Martin	Chair person	Gulu	0774460709	
2	Komakech Geoffrey	Youth representative	Gulu	0783952891	
3	AciroTeddy Luwar	Women representative	Gulu	0782998709	
4	Akot Anna Grace	CDO Disability & Elderly	Gulu	0773170341	
5	Odongkara Juliet	Guide	Gulu	'005294843	
6	Robert Vukoni	Chair person	Moyo	0782 142469	
7	Vuciri Kizito Ambayo	Youth representative	Moyo	07866109971	
8	Eleo Beatrice	Women representative	Moyo	0774901767	
9	Muraa Rose	CDO Disability & Elderly	Moyo	0774290435	
10	Mandu Edward	Chair person	Lira	0773622626	
11	Susan Angom	Guide	Lira	0773109622	
12	Awor Martha	Youth representative	Lira	0774647303	
13	Akello Susan	Women representative	Lira	0780688867	
14	Acen Flavia	Guide	Lira	0771754008	

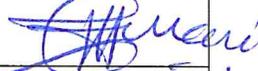
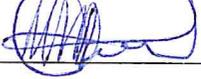
S/N	NAME	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
	Mari Samuel	Hop	NCD	0772660809	
	Ojok Patrick	Consultant	NCD	0773181655	
	Guzu Beatrice	?	NCD	0772643084	Beatrice
	Nabbanja Sandra Majorine		NCD	0787902039	
	Menya Patrick	SGO	MALSA	0772746321	
	Segawa Daniel	driver	MALSA	0781516688	
	Emmanuel W	HRD Driver	OKHR	0782876971	
	Okello Nelson	HRD	OKHR	0772951564	

SELECTED 6 DISTRICTS (GULU, MOYO, LIRA, OYAM, KITGUM & ARUA)

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRIC	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Okumu Martin	Chair person	Gulu	0774460709	
2	Komakech Geoffrey	Youth representative	Gulu	0783952891	
3	AciroTeddy Luwar	Women representative	Gulu	0782998709	
4	Akot Anna Grace	CDO Disability & Elderly	Gulu	0773170341	
5	Odongkara Juliet	Guide	Gulu	'005294843	
6	Robert Vukoni	Chair person	Moyo	0782 142469	
7	Vuciri Kizito Ambayo	Youth representative	Moyo	07866109971	
8	Eleo Beatrice	Women representative	Moyo	0774901767	
9	Muraa Rose	CDO Disability & Elderly	Moyo	0774290435	
10	Mandu Edward	Chair person	Lira	0773622626	
11	Susan Angom	Guide	Lira	0773109622	
12	Awor Martha	Youth representative	Lira	0774647303	
13	Akello Susan	Women representative	Lira	0780688867	
14	Acen Flavia	Guide	Lira	0771754008	

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRIC	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
15	Ola Ronny	CDO Disability & Elderly	Lira	0782699144	
16	Obwor Tom Richard	Chair person	Oyam	0720350401	
17	Awino Sandra	Youth representative	Oyam	0787822220	
18	Aciro Betty,	Women representative	Oyam	0782712359	
19	Gira Chris Otim	CDO Disability & Elderly	Oyam	0772618488	
20	Mathew Omoya Atto	Chair person	Kitgum	0774064775	
21	Amony Jackline	Guide	Kitgum		
22	Lajara Lucy Oryang	Women representative	Kitgum	0782164199	
23	Ajok Christine	Guide	Kitgum		
24	Okello James P'Okidi	CDO Disability & Elderly	Kitgum	0772890583	
25	Muki Joshua	Chair person	Arua	0777912746	
26	Baiga Godfrey	Youth representative	Arua	0784777801	
27	Ayikoru Molly	Women representative	Arua	0782385771	
28	Endra Edward	CDO Disability & Elderly	Arua	0772647992	

S/N	NAME	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
	Mari Samuel	Hop	NCD	0772660809	
	Ojok Patrick	Consultant	NCD	0773181655	
	Guzu Beatrice	Ex. Secretary	NCD	0772643084	
	Nabbanja Sandra Majorine	GUIDE	NCD	0787902039	
	Patrick Memyo	SGO	MGLSD	0772746321	
	Segama Daniel	Driver	MGLSD	0784516688	
	Emmanuel Klatula	HR O	OHCHR	078287697	
	Orelo Nelson	DRIVER	OHCHR	07729151564	

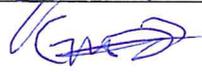
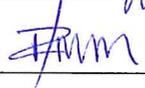
ATTENDANCE/ REGISTRATION FORM- Mubende Consultative Meeting 13.04.2022

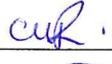
No.	Name	Age	Sex	District	Designation	Disability Status		Disability Type	Highest Academic Qualification	Contacts/Email
						YES	NO			
1.	Kalisa Caleb B	59	m	Mubende		YES		mental health	Praymary	0792639 2146 / 0700432469
2.	Tukahirwa Penlope	27	F	Mubende		yes		Physical disability	S-4	0705264681
3.	Bilungi Janaki	35	F	mubende			no			0784588 720 / 0709200084
4.	Ssenyonyo SIBAJI	26	M	Mubende		yes		Deaf		0785114077
5.	Abdu Swamad	19	M	Mubende		Yes		Ataxia	S-2	
6.	baale Juma	29	m	mubende		YES	NO			0757830 970
7.	Sseremba Badru	52	M	mubende		yes		Blind	P-5	0758633 1146
9.	Buwembo MOSES	38	M	Mubende	Mayor		NO		Teacher	0752202522
10.	Kyobutungi Annet	45	F	mubende	Sec Gender		NO		P-7	0780298291
11.	MUGANZI JAVIRA	40	M	Mubende	Councillor PWD	YES	NO	Physical dis	P-7	0755557125 / 0781513516
12.	BIROCHANE ANNE	38	F	Mubende	Asst. Town Clerk				Asst. Town Clerk	0751173801 / 0772931830
13.	TUSHEMEZA RUKA ERIKHE	32	F	MUBENDE	TEACHER		NO		Grade III Teacher	0757238651 / 0784929441
14.	SEKALIGA STEPHEN	45	M	MUBENDE	SCDO	yes		Physical	Degree / social work	0701752429
15.	Jawe Willm	43	M	MUBENDE	CSO		NO		Degree LE	0753043955
16.	Patrick Ojok	48	M	Mubende	Consultant		NO	N/A	PhD	0773181655
17.	Florencia Epedai	42	F	Kampala	HRO		NO	N/A	Master's	0772996320
18.										
19.										
20.										
25.										
26.										
27.										
28.										
29.										
30.										

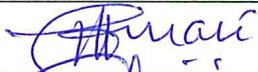
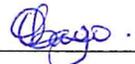
14th - 15th December 2021 in MBALE

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

DAY 1 14/12/2021

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Edonu Moses	Chair person	M	Soroti	0774833629 0774460709	
2	Olebe Stephen	Youth representative	M	Soroti	0779102940 0783952891 0779102940	
3	Mary Charity Achieng	Women representative	F	Soroti	0784321623	
4	Esatu Moses	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Soroti	0774301131	
5	Ikileng Simon Peter	Chair person	M	Tororo	0777-466200	
6	Onawe Geoffrey	Youth representative	M	Tororo	0772-315379	
7	Akayoroit Annet	Women representative	F	Tororo	0774-597145	
8	Moiza Moses	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Tororo	0772-389918	
9	Ikiror Immaculate	Guide <i>S/L INTERPRETER</i>	F	Tororo	0773-682438	
10	Balikoowa Henry	Chair person	M	Kamuli	0751426007	
11	Kiryra Hamza	Youth representative	M	Kamuli	0753533989	
12	Balidawa Harriet	Women representative	F	Kamuli	0759148475	
13	Mmerewoma Leo	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Kamuli	0751614540	
14	Muthar Noor	Chair person	M	Mbale	0776532464	

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
15	Jalia Nandutu	Youth representative	F	Mbale	0774372468	
16	Neumbe Josephene	Women representative	F	Mbale	0779681675	
17	Angela Neumbe	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Mbale	0702468148	
18	Nambafu Josephene	Chair person	F	Sironko	0773494806	
19	Wodeya Muhammed	Youth representative	M	Sironko	0780705245	
20	Mwambu Sarah Prisca	Women representative	F	Sironko	0703598998	
21	Masaba Charles	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Sironko	0772519041	
22	Kalule Rashid	Chairperson	M	Jinja	0704-728-982	
23	Watongola E.Ngobi	Youth Representative	M	Jinja	0786-680-156	
24	Namwase Rona	Women representative	F	Jinja	0753-435-332	
25	Nampima Rose	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Jinja	0772-462-465	
26	Mwanga Muzamiru Twaibu	Chairperson	M	Kapchorwa	0779978367	
27	Cherop Philis	Women representative	F	Kapchorwa	0781990754	
28	Mwanga Isaac	Youth Representative	M	Kapchorwa	0789009041	
29	Cherotich Febia	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Kapchorwa	0778535323	

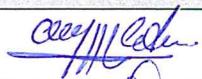
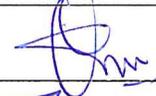
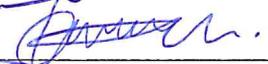
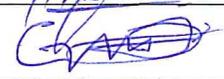
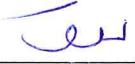
S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
30	Mari Samuel	NCD	M	MUKONO	0772660809	
31	Ojok Patrick	NCD	M	Kampala	0773181655	
32	Guzu Beatrice	NCD	F	WAKISO	0772643084	 R.H.T
33	Nabbanja Sandra Majorine	NCD	F	WAKISO	0787902039	
34	BOSSA HEBERT	GUIDE / P.A	M	MBALE	0770825561	
35	WESSWA DAVID	Interpreter	M	MBALE	0783752248	
36	OBAY IDDI	GUIDE/ DRIVER	M	MBALE	0780682426	
37	MARI					

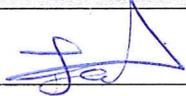
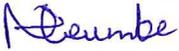
DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETING FOR EASTERN UGANDA

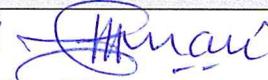
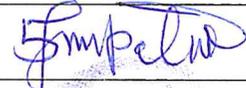
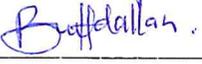
14th - 15th December 2021 in MBALE

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

DAY 2 15/12/2021

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Edonu Moses	Chair person	M	Soroti	0774 857629 0774460709	
2	Olebe Stephen	Youth representative	M	Soroti	0783952891 07749102940	
3	Mary Charity Achieng	Women representative	F	Soroti	0784321623	
4	Esatu Moses	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Soroti	0774301131	
5	Ikileng Simon Peter	Chair person	M	Tororo	0777-466200	
6	Onawe Geoffrey	Youth representative	M	Tororo	0772-315379	
7	Akayoroit Annet	Women representative	F	Tororo	0774-597145	
8	Moiza Moses	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Tororo	0772-389918	
9	Ikiror Immaculate	Guide SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER	F	Tororo	0773-682438	
10	Balikoowa Henry	Chair person	M	Kamuli	0751426007	
11	Kiryra Hamza	Youth representative	M	Kamuli	0753533989	
12	Balidawa Harriet	Women representative	F	Kamuli	0759148475	
13	Mmerewoma Leo	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Kamuli	0751614540	
14	Muthar Noor	Chair person	M	Mbale	0776532464	

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
15	Jalia Nandutu	Youth representative	F	Mbale	0774372468	
16	Neumbe Josephene	Women representative	F	Mbale	0779681675	
17	Angela Neumbe	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Mbale	0702468148	
18	Nambafu Josephene	Chair person	F	Sironko	0773494806	
19	Wodeya Muhammed	Youth representative	M	Sironko	0780705245	
20	Mwambu Sarah Prisca	Women representative	F	Sironko	0703598998	
21	Masaba Charles	CDO Disability & Elderly	M	Sironko	0772519041	
22	Kalule Rashid	Chairperson	M	Jinja	0704-728-982	
23	Watongola E.Ngobi	Youth Representative	M	Jinja	0786-680-156	
24	Namwase Rona	Women representative	F	Jinja	0753-435-332	
25	Nampima Rose	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Jinja	0772-462-465	
26	Mwanga Muzamiru Twaibu	Chairperson	M	Kapchorwa	0779978367	
27	Cherop Philis	Women representative	F	Kapchorwa	0781990754	
28	Mwanga Isaac	Youth Representative	M	Kapchorwa	0789009041	
29	Cherotich Febia	CDO Disability & Elderly	F	Kapchorwa	0778535323	

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	SEX	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
30	Mari Samuel	NCD	M	MUKONO	0772660809	
31	Ojok Patrick	NCD	M	Kampulu	0773181655	
32	Guzu Beatrice	NCD	F	WAKISO	0772643084	
33	Nabbanja Sandra Majorine	NCD	F	WAKISO	0787902039	
34	Wesswa David	Interpreter	M	Mbale	0783753348	
35	OBAYO IDDI	Guide/Driver	M	Mbale	0780612426	
36	BOSSA HERBERT	GUIDE TO BLIND / PA	M	MBALE	0770875561	

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR UGANDA DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS IN KCCA RUBAGA

TOWN HALL ON THE 24 MARCH 2022

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	TELEPHONE
1	Kimbowa Juliet	Secretary	07500555914
2	MUWENDA LAWRENCE	SECRETARY D.	0700604994
3	SEMANTA JOSEPH	HELPER to Lawrence	0757365825
4	KAWERE Paul	SECRETARY LUBYA	0704581977
5	SAM SSERANAKIHA	C/ person	0751077339
6	TUSASIRWE LEDA	C/ Person	0756084070
7	NABIRYO HELLEN	INTERPRETER	0750096748
8	RHah Namgajjak.	curator	0752598792
9	MUKWAZA ANDREW	C/PERSON	0702993240
10	MUKIBI BRIAN	Guide	0778667585
11	Florence Epodai	OHCHR	0772996320
12			
13			
14			

QUESTIONNAIRE FORM- Kalangala Consultative Meeting

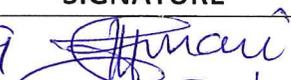
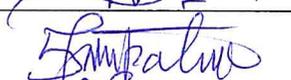
	Age	Sex	District	Designation	Disability Status		Disability Type	Highest Academic Qualification	Contacts/Email
					YES	NO			
ETIM	56	F	KALANGALA	COUNCILLOR Kyambwanda	✓		Physical	D Level	0757157887
RUDAH	36	F	KALANGALA	COUNCILLOR	✓		Physical	A Level	0780700142 Kirfaridh@gmail.com
BETTY	62	F	KALANGALA	COUNCILLOR	✓		PHYSICAL	PRIMARY	0774374892
RED	42	M	KALANGALA	CHAIR MAN	✓		Physical	primary 7	0776652978
SUMAR	45	M	KALANGALA	DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	✓		Physical	A-LEVEL	0788223707/0703441782
BRUNO	46	M	Kyambwanda	COUNCILLOR	✓		PHYSICAL	primary 6	0702718666
SEMERU	45	F	KALANGALA	CHAIR VILLAGE	✓		BLIND	primary 5	—
	47	M	KALANGALA	CHAIR	✓		CHAIR	PRIMARY 5	—
ILIP	40	M	KALANGALA	COUNCIL MEMBER	✓		BLIND	PRIMARY 4	—
UA	43	F	KALANGALA	Sec. pub DIST	✓		Physical	P.7	0758089559
SIRK.	50	M	KALANGALA	V/CHAIRPERSON	✓		Physical	S.I	0783184743
ROSSY	47	F	Kalungala	councillor			PHYSICAL	S. 3	0759590779
JK	48	M	Kampala	Consultant	✓		N/A	PhD	0773181655/pejok@kyr.ac.ug
D	30	F	KAMPALA	HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER	✓		N/A	LL.M	0772775781
ei	40	F	Kampala	HR O	✓		N/A	LL.M.	0772996380
IAN	38	M	Kalangala	SEDO PWD	✓		N/A	Bachelors	0752141726

**FINAL LIST FOR WESTERN UGANDA DISABILITY STATUS REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
FOR 6 DISTRICTS OF HOIMA, BUNDIBUGYO, KABALE, RUKUNGIRI, MBARARA AND KASESE DISTRICTS**

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION *1 Feb. 2022*

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Gadi Andronzi	Chair person	Hioma	0776364821	<i>Gadi</i>
2	Atagwirweho Mayega Nickson	Youth representative	Hioma	0773703321	<i>Mayega</i>
3	Tumusiime Jesika	Women representative	Hioma	0772018275	<i>Tumusiime</i>
4	Kamihanda Godfrey	<i>S</i> CDO Disability & Elderly	Hioma	0772350673	<i>Godfrey</i>
5	Bagonza William	Chair person	Bundibugyo	0782679201	
6	Bwambale Peter	Youth representative	Bundibugyo	0783006784	
7	Mbambu Idah Siluhukwa	Women representative	Bundibugyo	0773017873	
8	Katusiime Agnes	CDO Disability & Elderly	Bundibugyo	0782678811	
9	Katugwensi Casmil	Chair person	Kabale	0783822479	<i>Casmil</i>
10	Sunday Andrew	Youth representative	Kabale	0788552979	

S/N	NAMES	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
11	Night Baine	Women representative	Kabale	0772612908	
12	Tumwesigye Denis	SCDO Disability & elderly	Kabale	0781446899	
13	Oryoroba James	Chair person	Rukungiri	0772834627	
14	Kiconco Catherine	Youth representative	Rukungiri	0787796432	
15	Kenyangi Agnes	Women representative	Rukungiri	0783381325	
16	Twesigomwe John Bosco	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Rukungiri	0782135902	
17	Ngabirano Vicent	Chair person	Mbarara	0782851448	ngabirano vicent@ig
18	Juliet Kyomuhangi	Youth representative	Mbarara	0788148882	
19	Mugizi Godfrey	SCDO Disability & Elderly	Mbarara	0772577048	
20	Mukirane Meso Johnson	Chair Person	Kasese	0782284905	
21	Muhammed Masereka	Youth Representative	Kasese	0788635156	
22	Kiiza Florence	Women Representative	Kasese	0784493030	
23	Thembo Robison	Cdo Disability & Elderly	Kasese	0772368158	
24	MARI SAMUEL	HOP / NCPCD	Kampala	0772660809	
25	GWZU BEATRICE	EX. SEC. NCPCD	K'la	0772643084	

S/N	NAME	TITLE	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
	Mari Samuel	HOP / NCPD	NCD	0772660809	
	Ojok Patrick	Consultant	NCD	0773181655	
	Guzu Beatrice	Ex. Sec NCPD	NCD	0772643084	
	Nabbanja Sandra Majorine	GUIDE	NCD	0789902039	
	Florence Egodai	HR O	OACHA	077990320	