

SDC Leave No One Behind Event | 5 July 2019

Joint Report of Working Group Sessions

Working Groups

Leave **No one** Behind



Access to Labour Markets for Marginalised Groups in Albania

A small group discussed a project of Swisscontact in Albania (input by Eliane Herrmann), where the youth unemployment rate is very high (around 50%). Swisscontact is working together with the private sector (companies), institutional entities (such as employment offices) and NGOs in order to tackle this issue. Swisscontact focusses especially on marginalised groups such as Roma or Egyptians.

They developed a specific and adjusted approach, called Coaching Cycle for Employment. Within a cycle of nine months, young people out of marginalised groups are trained in different modules in order to increase their possibilities to get a job. Therefore, the needs of the market in the private sector are matched with the trainings delivered to the young. Within the frame of this coaching, the participants are also trained in personal skills so as to increase their self-esteem or presentational skills, important aspects in the job search. Another key part of the Coaching Cycle is the formation of peer groups in order for the young participants to exchange their experiences and issues. These groups also serve as a backing possibility after experiencing discrimination situations.



Companies are being motivated to fill their vacancies with these young persons. Swisscontact has also managed to change policy at a national level. The state is obliged by law to place young, marginalised people into the labor market.

Most disruptive factors in this field are prejudices, discrimination, stereotypes and unemployment in general.

In order to change mindsets, sensitisation on both sides (e.g. companies, but also the Roma Community) is crucial.

Author: Srdan Dragojevic, SDC

See also:

 [SDC Thematic Working Aid on LNOB and Employment & Income](#)

Decentralisation and Inclusive Governance in Burkina Faso

In a small but interested group, a project of Solidar Swiss (input by Klaus Thieme) was discussed to foster democratic and decentralised governance in Burkina Faso. In the Plateau Central Region of Burkina Faso, Solidar Swiss facilitates the inclusion of the public in decentralised governance at community level. The collection and dissemination of information, the provision of trainings for different actor groups, the initiation of community meetings and the interlinking of actors enable the inclusion of different actor groups in political processes and conflict prevention in the increasingly fragile context of the country. For such an achievement, information and trainings need to be tailored to the needs of the different actor groups that speak different languages and are not all literate. Radio programmes in different local languages, communal newspapers and brochures, and the work of facilitators ensure that different stakeholders are included. Trainings for Majors and administrative staff, civil society organisations, associations as well as radio producers prepare the different actors to play their role in decentralised inclusive political processes. The inclusion in political processes enables the actor groups to bring up their demands in political debates. An example for such demands brought up by the public is the demand to install a centralised garbage collection at community level. With the initiation of watch dog committee, the activities of the local government are monitored and its accountability to the local population is improved.

The group critically discussed that decentralisation of governance does not naturally lead to inclusive governance. The conversation also touched upon the difficulties of the project to ensure that all actors are included in local governance.

A finding was that the constitution of inclusive decentralised governance requires well-prepared actors and time to develop step by step. Accompanying such development requires long-term engagement and patience but the inclusion of excluded actor groups is an important contribution to ensure that no one is left behind.

Author: Fabian Käser, SDC

See also:

 [SDC Thematic Working Aid on LNOB and Decentralisation and Local Governance](#)



Education and Protection in Fragile Contexts

This working group discussed the implementation of LNOB in the context of education for marginalised children and out of school-youth in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Severine Ramis from Terres des Homme Suisse presented the approach of her organisation and explained that a thorough assessment of the initial question “who is where, when, why and how excluded?” lies at core of every intervention. As all stages of project management are characterised by a participatory methodology, the communities are involved in the identification of the beneficiaries and of potential obstacles to broad outreach.

The principle of inclusion equally applies to the elaboration of specific curricula: participants shared their success stories and emphasised the importance of having an open and flexible programme that can adapt to changing contexts and community needs in order to achieve a long-lasting positive impact. For children and young adults to express their own needs, it is essential to create educational environments that represent safe spaces. This is often a big challenge where violence permeates all levels of society, representing a major obstacle to education in the first place. The relevance of context-specificity also informs the understanding of LNOB in terms of “access to education”, which should be broader than formal schooling and include human rights and peace education as well as girls’ education on reproductive rights – all depending on a community’s challenges and the political context. In the spirit of empowerment and representation, it was mentioned how beneficial it is to train individuals to become peer educators.

Participants critically discussed the limits and possible blind spots in terms of truly achieving LNOB in educational projects. Very remote communities as well as people without basic literacy can often not be included. Cost-benefit calculations and the need for project sustainability imply a prior selection of potential beneficiaries. The risk of missing the most marginalised is aggravated by the pressure for quick wins and results of scale. In addition, the concern was raised whether or not development actors systematically address the drop-outs from their own educational programmes. However, participants recognised that a single project can never address all segments of the population in the first place. Hence, it must be clearly communicated why the identified range of beneficiaries is the most suitable for a specific project.

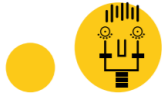
To reach the most left behind, different innovative and long-term approaches must be thought of, including low level-entry programmes that do not primarily aim at promoting literacy.

Author: Sophie Von Wartburg, SDC

See also:

 [SDC Thematic Working Aid on LNOB and Education](#)





“Out of Sight - of Reach - of Scope”: Red Cross and Crescent Partners Breaching the Gaps

This working group discussed tools and approaches developed by the IFRC on humanitarian aid and leave no one behind. The World Disaster Report 2018¹ identifies five ways of how people are left behind: (1) OUT OF SIGHT - the people we fail to see concerns people and problems that remain hidden in society (e.g. *sans-papiers*, gender-based violence), (2) OUT OF REACH - the people we can't get to relates to communities that cannot be reached for geographical or political reasons, because of physical, logistical and technological barriers and risks to the safety and security of staff (including health hazards like Ebola), (3) OUT OF LOOP - the people we unintentionally exclude refers to generic programming failures to meet specific needs (e.g. people with disabilities), (4) OUT OF MONEY - the people we don't prioritise talks about the consequences of underfunding, where only a prioritised and limited part of targeted people can be reached. Finally, (5) OUT OF SCOPE - the people who 'are not our problem' refers to people that are intentionally not targeted, as they do not fit into traditional areas of concern of the humanitarian sector (e.g. people in protracted crises).

The IFRC's response to these challenges is to target humanitarian action at the most grass-root level as possible, reaching communities through volunteers and civil society. The Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) provides a tool to accompany communities to be more resilient through the assessment of their priority needs. Localisation is thus at the centre of IFRC's work, aiming at empowering local communities and connecting them with relevant stakeholders at all political levels. An inclusive and participatory process of the VCA with local actors ensures that hidden vulnerabilities are being targeted. Trust is key in this process. CSOs are thus chosen by the four humanitarian principles. The organisation of local disaster risk reduction groups further strengthens the accountability of the demand created from local communities brought into government.

Participants continued to share similar tools (DRR-Resilience Tool, Conflict Sensitive PM Tool) within SDC and discussed opportunities and limitations in working with local communities. They concluded that long-term partnerships with CSOs as well as with local governments are key in LNOB.

Author: Jelena Schwarzenbach, SDC

How to Monitor our Contribution to LNOB? Input on Indicators and Data

The session opened by a brief presentation of the challenges and issues raised by the identification, collection and monitoring of LNOB data by Ida McDonnell, Senior Policy Analyst and Team Lead on Development Cooperation Reports at the OECD.

As a first step, it is important to reflect on the implications for the analysis of adopting a specific definition of poverty compared to the many existing ones. It is also important to ask ourselves what kind of data are needed as well as the quantity and quality of the data collected – are they sufficient and good enough? While, in many

¹ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Sanderson, D., & Sharma, A. (2018). *World disasters report 2018: Leaving no one behind*.



cases, quantitative data exist, the collection of qualitative data is lagging behind. In order to design a reliable analysis, it is important to gather both types of data and to have systematic and multidimensional analyses. One way to collect qualitative data is to adopt participatory approaches where vulnerable groups are included, could answer our questions and express their own views. People directly affected are best placed to answer our questions.

The adequateness of the methodologies used for gathering accurate information about vulnerable local people was put into question. In particular, while well-defined indicators are available, the methodology on how and which data should be collected is lacking. Tracking progress is always a difficult task to undertake and the question on how to report progress and the alignment of the LNOB indicators with the SDGs indicators was raised.

Another highlight of the discussion concerned the importance of knowing who is collecting data and which particular skills they have. In addition, we should reflect on how we are conducting analyses and how these analyses are then impacting our choices, programmes and strategies. Do we have a Theory of Change entailing reflections on the principle to LNOB and are the analyses made influencing this theory? The crucial point here is to systematically challenge our assumptions, methods and data and find other ways to identify vulnerable and excluded people.

As a final point, the difference between developed and developing countries was underlined. The latter are sometimes facing huge difficulties in collecting and analysing data due to lack of capacities and finance. Therefore, capacity building around data collection and statistics was discussed as a key enabling factor for better LNOB analysis. While technical skills could be learned and improved, one underestimated factor still remains: the political dimension of data. Sometimes, there are strong political obstacles within countries and between them not to collect and share sensitive data.

Cooperation between and beyond the different actors gathered during this workshop was accepted as a crucial requirement to continue to reflect upon and improve the issue of LNOB data.

There is space to learn from each other. The question is: How do we coordinate with each other? Are we sufficiently sharing our methods and results? There could be an issue of quality assurance when organisations are not sharing their results and methods with their peers.

Author: Nadine Fragnière, SDC