



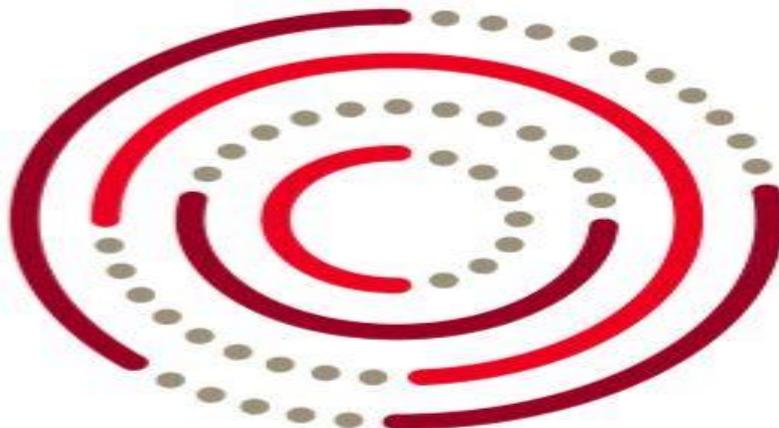
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**Leave no one behind: How the development community is realising the pledge**



# Leave No One Behind: How the Development Community is Realizing the Pledge (New Report from BOND)

The Preamble to the UN's [“Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals”](#) notes that the Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and that the Agenda seeks to strengthen universal peace and eradicate poverty. With “leave no one behind” as the central principle, the 2030 agenda puts forward 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets that demonstrate the scale and ambition of the agenda, bringing together governments, multilateral agencies and NGOs in a universal attempt to solve the world's greatest challenges.

Despite the 2030 Agenda's potential to bring about unprecedented change for the world's poorest and most excluded people, there is a risk that the ambition of “leave no one behind” could be lost among competing political priorities and bureaucratic inaction. Given that the 2030 Agenda is not prescriptive, the responses to it have thus far been diverse. It is therefore important that “leave no one behind” does not become an empty promise; progress must be reported on and kept in the public consciousness so as not to lose momentum. Equally, governments and other stakeholders should not lose sight of the positive impact that tackling marginalisation, discrimination and inequality can have on the wider society, and ensure that the focus remains firmly on those most in need. Agenda 2030 particularly highlights *‘children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants’*.

To this end, BOND's new report on [“Leave no one behind: How the development community is realising the pledge”](#) tracks the progress of governments and multilateral agencies working towards the SDGs. In analysing how six European countries and several multilateral agencies are addressing “leave no one behind”, BOND identifies three concrete steps development actors are taking;

1. Identifying who is left behind
2. Understanding the reasons why people are left behind
3. Taking action against the exclusion of 'left behind' groups and individuals

The report is rich with information and analysis of efforts toward realizing the “leave no one behind” pledge, also noting that “more action and greater coherence is needed.” The efforts discussed in the report range from those with a consistent focus on inclusion in development programs to those that exacerbate the marginalization and impoverishment of vulnerable people. In one encouraging example, the NGO Christian Aid identified a need to address how they design budgets, manage community engagement processes and think about staff and partner development, which resulted in “a commitment to build strong gender and power analysis into all programme design, implementation, monitoring, evaluating and learning, and to train staff and partners to ensure this becomes part of regular practice.” A more cautionary tale illustrates how development programs can exacerbate the marginalization and impoverishment of vulnerable groups if they are not designed and implemented in a way which fully accounts for potential social impacts and is sensible to local power dynamics. “For example, a World Bank Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP) in Northern Kenya was found by the Bank’s own inspection panel to have failed to secure the customary land rights of the Sengwer indigenous people, and instead strengthened the commitment and capacity of the Kenya Forest Service to evict them from their ancestral land.” (Forest Peoples Programme, **How Can the EU WaTER Project Help Secure, Not Undermine, Human Rights in Kenya?**, December 2016: <http://www.forestpeoples.org/en/rights-land-natural-resources/news-article/2016/how-can-eu-water-project-help-secure-not-undermine>)

The 2030 agenda has the potential to challenge the existing status quo and to bring about widespread and lasting change for marginalised and disadvantaged communities. However, ambitious action must be taken early in the SDG implementation period to ensure that it remains high on the political agenda, and funding must remain focussed on poverty and inequality rather than being diverted to other competing agendas. There is cause for optimism, but it is clear that there is a significant way to go before these results can be realized.

As the TAAP Inclusion Team works to finalize the TAAP Toolkit, we reflect often on TAAP’s 5<sup>th</sup> principle – “Think Big / Think the Impossible.” We stand in awe of the ambition and scope of the “Leave No One Behind” Agenda. **We are inspired by the hope, smarts and grit required to “realize the pledge” of the Agenda.**

**Graphic: Report Cover "Leave no one behind: How the development community is realising the pledge", Published by Bond, January 2018.**



## **FHI 360's Jamaica Project Integrates Gender and Social Inclusion Principles**

As TAAP Tuesday readers will remember, World Learning's Jennifer Collins-Foley and FHI360's **Andrea Bertone** and **Emily Brown** conducted a gender and social inclusion (GSI) analysis in May 2017 in Jamaica to inform the [Local Partner Development \(LPD\)](#) project, which is a five-year, USAID-funded Associate Award, part of the Strengthening Civil Society Leader with Associates award. FHI 360 is leading the project with several local partners.

"Using the TAAP tools and methodology to conduct the GSI analysis enhanced FHI 360's commitment to inclusive development," notes FHI360's Gender Leader **Andrea Bertone**. **Inclusive development draws on the voices, skills, and lived experiences of all people, especially those traditionally marginalized and excluded from political, social and economic agency/self-determination, access and power. This includes, depending on the context, displaced persons, LGBTI identities, older persons, persons with disabilities, racial, ethnic, indigenous identities, religious identities, women/men and youth and other identities. Through transforming agency (self-determination), access to development and other resources, and power, it is envisioned that development projects can contribute to more peaceful and just**

societies. Too often, international development activities perpetuate power imbalances instead of intentionally disrupting and transforming them.

By focusing on boosters (already-favorable factors or conditions upon which inclusion work can build) and barriers for four significant identity groups – LGBTI individuals, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and boys and men – some of the key findings of the GSI analysis were:

- LGBTI Individuals experience high levels of stigma and discrimination; they are at high risk of contracting HIV; poverty, homelessness, lack of education and employment opportunities lead to survival sex. Levels of inclusion for LGBTI individuals has increased due to advocacy and visibility; rights of LGBTI individuals are increasingly seen within a human rights framework; and social media is seen as a positive way to raise awareness
- People with disabilities significantly lack access to resources such as education, health, employment and information; there is a heightened stigma against people with mental illness. Boys and men are especially alienated from families and communities rather than being treated, resulting in high rates of homelessness for men with mental illness. People with disabilities are at greater risk of being a victim of crime or sexual violence. This harsh landscape is juxtaposed against a significant booster which is that large companies in Jamaica have raised awareness about disability inclusion and are working to remove the stigma for people with physical disabilities.
- Exposure to violence, low quality education, lack of job opportunities, financial hardship, and lack of positive male role models leads men to feel that they must meet certain expectations of masculinity that may be harmful to themselves and others. A booster to this situation is that youth training programs provide employability skills for men and women.
- Despite high levels of participation in the workforce, women primarily occupy middle management positions, hold few decision-making positions at the corporate level, in universities, churches, political parties, and trade unions. A booster to the inclusion of this identity group is that girls have better support systems to stay and succeed in school.
- Social norms, gender roles, stigma and discrimination limit the voices of marginalized groups in civil society, including youth, PWD, and LGBTI individuals.

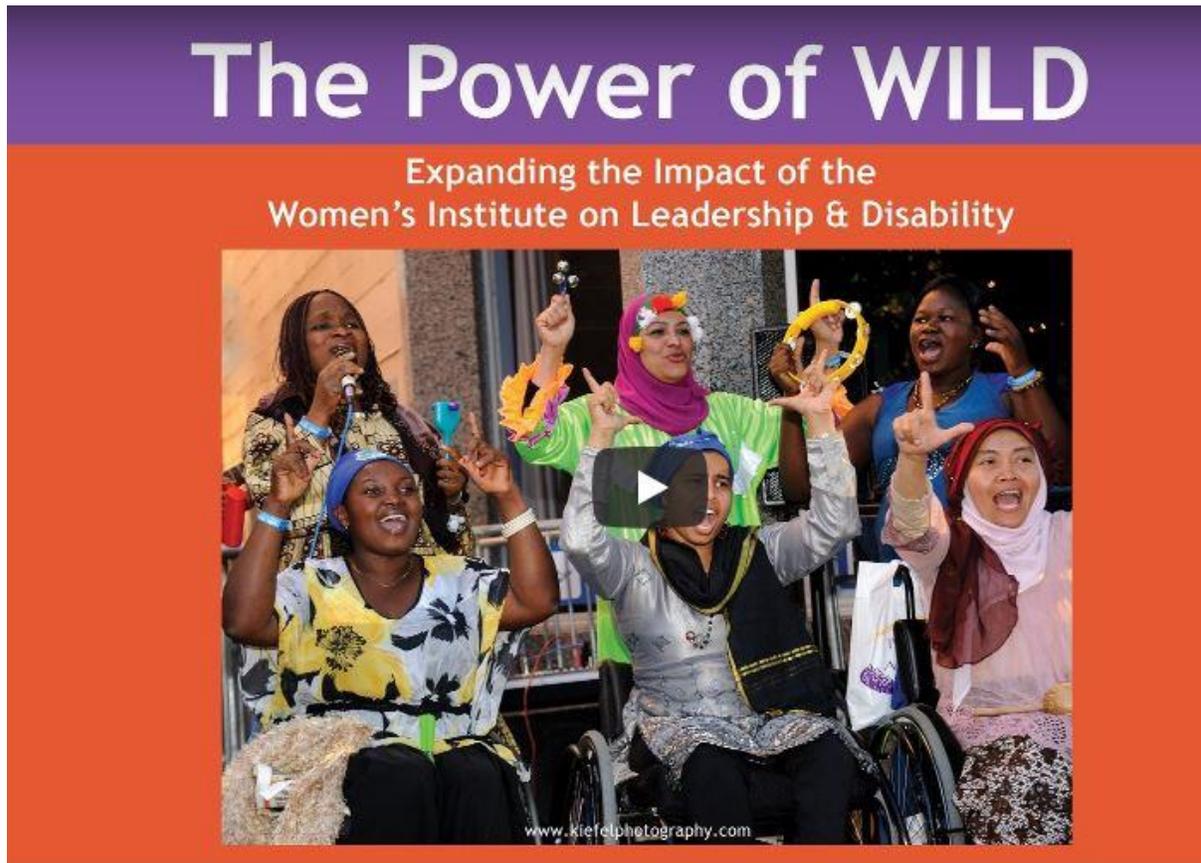
- The high burden of unpaid and underpaid work that women carry extends to civil society organizations and social enterprises where mostly women are employed and/or are volunteers, contributing to the unsustainability of civil society activities.
- Unequal levels of decision-making power among men, women, and other identity groups in business and in government, and high levels of gender-based and community-based violence contribute to an unfavorable environment for sustainable civil society activities.
- Engaging men in discussions of unequal gender and social norms has proven difficult, therefore, the national discourse about the links between masculinity, citizen security, and civil society has been undeveloped.

Since the analysis was completed in June, the LPD project has integrated several of the recommendations made in the report. For example, LPD included language in the request for applications for core partners, highlighting LPD's prioritization of GSI principles and the commitment of LPD to work with partners who prioritize the same. LPD assigned weight during the grant evaluation process to grant applications that demonstrated commitment to the principles of inclusivity.

The project team is targeting outreach to diverse stakeholders, so that participants at all LPD-sponsored events are more likely to be representative of the spectrum of Jamaican society. They target participants from rural areas and seek gender balance among program participants. Invitations include options for participants to request accommodations (e.g. wheelchair access, sign language interpreter, dietary restrictions), thereby promoting disability inclusion. Recently, LPD integrated accessibility requirements into the procurement process to secure a venue for a major roundtable event. The project is targeting marginalized populations, (e.g. rural CBOs/youth/LGBTI people) for additional engagement. For example, in the lead up to a significant program meeting LPD staff conducted extensive outreach to community development councils in rural/central Jamaica as these organizations have been identified as having lower organizational capacity and therefore in need of targeted outreach to ensure that they have the chance to actively engage in the development process.

*Photo: Courtesy of FHI360, "Local Partner Development (LPD)" project, Jamaica, 2017.*

## This Week's TAAP Staff Pick:



### Empowering People with Disabilities (Women in Foreign Policy Interview):

Check out this recent [interview](#) in Women in Foreign Policy with MIUSA's CEO and Co-founder Susan Sygall. Sygall discusses how MISUA works to empower people with disabilities to achieve their human rights in two ways: through international exchange and international development. Sygall notes that within the field of foreign policy and international development, women with disabilities have historically had almost non-existent representation. Though many international institutions and organizations work to support marginalized and discriminated people, actually including them in programming and leadership positions is often overlooked. Sygall points to one of the exceptions – MIUSA's signature program, the Women's Institute of Leadership and Disability (WILD), which has provided leadership training to over 230 women

from 83 countries. Women who have participated in the program have now created their own disability organizations in countries such as El Salvador and Panama. Check out WILD's [video](#).

Sygal also details how partnering with influencers such as the US State Department, USAID, and Interaction, a consortium of 170 US international NGOs, has been crucial to MIUSA's goals of building a pipeline of leaders with disabilities in countries such as Peru, Vietnam and Kenya. With their support, MIUSA has been able to encourage the inclusion of women as leaders in programming, and has worked with local governments and civil society to improve and implement disability rights and laws. In societies experience conflict and other events that can cause disabilities, having those who best understand the impacts as part of the decision-making process can ensure programming is truly inclusive, and participatory. Further, Sygal encourage girls and young women with disabilities to think about going into foreign policy because it's not until more disabled women are in those high-level leadership positions that we will actually see some real change. She also emphasizes that if people with disabilities are not included in a policy or development effort, development policymakers and practitioners should ask why, and actively seek their participation as advisors, trainers, and staff. Sygal's hope is that these efforts will "ensure that people with disabilities are included in all aspects of international development, not just as beneficiaries."

Photo: Video about the "Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD)" programme, MIUSA, 2017.



## Got Inclusion?

We want to hear from you! Please share your inclusion activities, success stories, upcoming events, and intriguing resources. Send to [TAAP@worldlearning.org](mailto:TAAP@worldlearning.org).

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