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Good Practice *IN DETAIL*

Advocacy for the Rights of People with Disabilities



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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Manase King
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List of Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PWD	People with Disabilities

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1. General Information

Name, address and geographical region of the organisation or institution

Human Life Defence Department, Rulenge-Ngara Catholic Diocese in Biharamulo, Kagera – Tanzania

Purpose of the institution and area of work

- Promotion and Protection of Rights of Marginalized Groups For Inclusive Society
- Provision of Social Service
- Environmental Protection

Name of the experience

Advocacy for the Rights of People with Disabilities

When was this experience made?

The experience has been made in the past four years.



Geographical range where the experience has been made/ the practice is applied

Protection of the rights of PWDs has a national recognition through the existence of the National Policy on Disability, National Law on PWDs and a good number of government circulars.

The shared experience covers the Biharamulo District in Kagera Region within the United Republic of Tanzania

Why is this experience relevant?

Human Life Defence Department started its move way back 2017 in analysing socio-economic and political challenges facing rights of PWDs. The move (in coalition with other national CSOs) has succeeded by amending the parliamentary law into commanding the local government authorities to categorically apportion 2% of internal collections for groups of PWDs. In the project area the local government has consistently and gradually been allocating its 2% of her internal collections and the ward councillors have been capacitated to stand firm for it in the District council's debates.

To date there are about 14 social groups of PWDs which have accessed these grants out of the 2% internal collections to about TZS. 24 Million. These grants have greatly stimulated

PWDs groups in their identified economic activities for their welfare.

2. Context of the Experience

Reason for the experience/ practice to emerge; context (initial situation) and challenge(s)

2017 backwards there was no any action advocating for the rights of PWDs in Biharamulo District. There was no census done to identify a number of PWDs in place although challenges facing this social group were vividly identifiable. HLDD took a move by making a census in identifying number and kinds of disabilities in the District.

The action proceeded into raising awareness to the right holders and duty bearers as per the enshrined policies. Grants for social groups (women, PWDs and youths) were already enshrined in the policy however there was no legal obligation tasked to duty bearers for the allocation. Likewise the three social groups were all mixed up in one basket as there was no specific allocation percentagewise to each group. This fact led to all available opportunities be allocated to women and youths only.

HLDD with other PWDs promotion CSOs jointly made a national move to persuade the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services find a need to amend the law and establish an obligation to local governments to allocate 2% of their internal collections specifically to PWDs groups quarterly.

Were gender and/or HIV/Aids aspects part of the initial challenge? If yes, explain how they affected the situation.

No. Gender and/or HIV/Aids aspects or environmental issues were not part of the initial challenge.



3. Main Characteristics of the Experience

Where does the practice/ experience come from? How was it developed and by whom?

The good practice comes from the initiatives in place by the HLDD through capacity development to duty bearers and right holders in the project area as well as the joint efforts by the

PWDS promoting CSOs into amending the PWDS policies to regard special allocation of local government collections percentage to PWDs social groups.

How did this experience evolve (the process/history)? Describe the main steps and turning points! In which way was it a participatory process?

Way back in 2017 Human Life Defence Department started a campaign on advocacy for the rights of PWDs in Biharamulo District. The advocacy strategy was initiated by conducting district census, conducting different capacity building activities to duty bearers and right holders on the enshrined rights and duties of the PWDs groups as well as raising awareness to the public on rights of PWDs through different activities.

The campaign proceeded into analysing the policy issues hindering the effect and enjoyment of the rights of PWDs of which one of them was identified to be lack of financial catalyst for PWDs groups as for them to access loans from financial institution is practically hard for the PWDs due to their poor financial status. As a number of CSOs accessed an opportunity to persuade the parliament to see the need and amend the law.

From the legal proposition a move has extended into raising awareness to duty bearers (local government leaders) abide to their duty and the right holders understand the available opportunity and prepare themselves for the opportunity available

Purpose/ Objective: Describe the purpose of your experience in a few sentences

The main purpose for this practice is the welfare for the PWDs

Methodology: Which tools, instruments/methods and/or methodology are used in order to implement the experience and address the challenges?

The methodology has mainly been roundtable discussions and lobbying through CSOs joint interactions.



4. Stakeholders and Partners – Roles and Responsibilities

Beneficiaries: Who are the main beneficiaries of the experience/ practice?

Main beneficiaries are People with Disabilities in the project Area

Which parties/ institutions and groups of people are mainly involved in the implementation of the experience?

Parties and institutions involved in the experience are the PWDs Groups, District Development Officers, Councillors and CSOs Resources

What kinds of resources are needed to carry out/ implement the experience? How much of every resource is needed?

Resources needed are skilled and experienced human resource in advocacy and lobbying, substantial amount of funds for conducting capacity building activities and conducting round table discussions



5. Impact of the Experience/ Practice

What has been the impact of this experience on the beneficiaries' (both men and women) livelihoods? What has improved through the presented experience on the level of individuals, and on the organizational level?

- The experience has made a friendly room for the PWDS come to unity social groups where they are able to exercise their financial muscles into generating interests at the group level and individual level.
- Public buildings have been renovated to suit needs of PWDs by establishing ramps for their ease of access.
- There are three schools of students with special needs established at the primary level whose existence help to accommodate students living with disabilities in the project area.
- There is increased number of road sign posts for PWDs



Did the experience contribute to an innovation in the livelihoods of men and women? If yes, describe in which way!

Unit and solidarity among the CSOs have great influence in lobbying and influencing for policy changes.

Formation of social groups of PWDs that for better and effective groups let the group members choose themselves among the closest ones and have a social-economic activity which is practical within their community. This is a cement among the groups for sustainability.



6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

What are the key messages and lessons learned from the experience?

The processes for the amendment of the law on PWDs allocation of 2% local government collections proved that unit is strength among the CSOs with common goals.

What would you suggest to someone in a similar situation?

Policy issues requiring national interventions for the CSOs to successes need coalitions and strong ties among themselves.



7. Challenges

What are the main challenges encountered by men and women in applying the experience?

The capacity of PWDs in handling public grants given for stimulating their economic activities is still low. There are some wicked people who use disability as a room to enrich themselves within PWDs groups at the expense of their fellow PWDs.

How have these challenges been addressed so far?

There is continued capacity building activities as well as close supervision and follow up in

finances and choice of economic activities to rely and invest in by respective groups considering the socio-economic potentials available in each community.

8. Sustainability



What are the elements that need to be put into place for the practice to be institutionally, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable?

The general public need to be capacitated to understand that disability is not inability. Environment has to be made friendlier for PWDs to live happily.



9. Experience Sharing/ Up-scaling

What are the conditions (institutional, economic, social and environmental) that need to be in place for the practice to be replicated?

Changing the policy directives need commitment especially in the community where the democratic space is shrinking. The leading organization has to be equipped with skilled, experienced and dedicated staff in PD.

Did you already share your experience with other organisations or institutions?

No.

Do you know any other institutions which have similar experiences or which have implemented similar practices?

Advocacy for the rights of PWDs - The Foundation for Civil Society in Tanzania