



Learning Report  
Leave No One Behind Partnership Nepal  
(2018-2022)  
March 2023

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## 1. Background

Nepal is the least developed country with a GDP per capita income of \$1071 (The World Bank, 2019). COVID 19 has created a more adverse effect on economics and has impacted more adversely on women. The country is ranked 106<sup>th</sup> out of 156 countries in terms of the Gender Gap Index (World Economic Forum, 2021). There is also inequality in terms of accessing education as the male literacy rate is 79% and the female literacy rate is 60% (The World Bank, 2018). Unfortunately, the country is ranked as the fourth adversely impacted country considering climate change vulnerability (UNDP Nepal, 2020).

Nepal is pursuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with strong national commitment as a means for transformative change in the country through its integrated approach and the principle of “Leave No One Behind (LNOB)”. Nepal has made conscious efforts to incorporate the concept of LNOB in the last several years. The equity-based principle of the SDGs has a strong resonance in Nepal, as the country has now adopted a forward-looking and transformative constitution with inclusive, federal, democratic republican polity with a strong commitment to justice and the enjoyment of fundamental rights by all the people (National Planning Commission, 2020)<sup>1</sup>.

The development partners, various international government representatives, INGOs and other key players including UN Agencies are also not paying much attention and ready for coordinated actions to accelerate SDGs 2030 agenda in Nepal. They are doing some activities in their way. They seem reluctant even to coordinate with the “Nepal SDG Forum” with some exceptions. The national planning commission has recently prepared the 15<sup>th</sup> periodic plan together with CSOs and other stakeholders by aligning actions with SDGs. However, it is a big challenge to bring this plan into action with strong commitment and systematic order in the future (NGO Federation of Nepal, 2019)<sup>2</sup>.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) has been working in Nepal for the last 57 years to improve the lives of the most marginalized, and since 2013 has been implementing its Volunteering for Development (V4D) program to empower citizens, especially youth, to take part in the sustainable development of Nepal. VSO Nepal as part of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) consortium in Nepal and partnership with the International Civil Service Centre (ICSC), funded by Robert Bosch Foundation is running Making Voices Heard and Count (MVHC) in Nepal: Youth-led SDG Monitoring project. The project has been implementing by the LNOB Consortium in Nepal, currently led by VSO. The LNOB Consortium urges decision-makers at national and global levels to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and count in the planning, review, and implementation of the SDGs.

LNOB Nepal in partnership with Robert Bosch Foundation and funded by International Civil Society Centre is implementing the Making Voices Heard and Count in Nepal: Youth-led SDG Monitoring Project since October 2020. VSO Nepal, Action Aid Nepal, ADRA Nepal, Beyond Beijing Committee, Care Nepal, CBM Nepal, Islamic Relief Nepal, National Federation of Disabled- Nepal, Plan Nepal, World Vision Nepal, and WWF Nepal are consortium members of the LNOB Nepal.

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1 National Review of Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, June 2020

2 Accelerating localization of SDGs in Nepal: Civil Societies’ Perspectives on SDGs implementation: NGO Federation of Nepal, Kathmandu, 2019

## 2. Project context

Due to their historic exclusion from public processes, and lack of responsiveness among authorities and civil society groups to their unique barriers to participation, the voices of the most marginalised communities in Nepal are rarely sought, rarely heard, and generally unable to reach the right forums. As a consequence, marginalised groups have been simply left behind in the local development process and in terms of social services and government entitlement programmes. The initiative by the LNOB Consortium in recent years has sought to bring the voices of citizens focusing on various SDG goals from various parts of the country to be shared with duty bearers, yet full recognition and positive response from authorities remain a challenge. The data and evidence generated by the CSO are also challenged by statistician other decision-makers considering it as unofficial data.

The LNOB initiative, presented here on behalf of 6 organizations who have joined in the consortium in Nepal, is designed to overcome these challenges, improve the quality of evidence from marginalised communities, and implement pro-poor and citizen-responsive advocacy strategies. The initiative will be implemented by the LNOB Consortium in Nepal, currently led by VSO. The LNOB Consortium urges decision-makers at national and global levels to ensure that the voices of marginalised communities are heard and count in the planning, review and implementation of the SDGs.

The LNOB Nepal implemented Making Voices Heard and Count (MVHC) programme with aims to bring citizen's voices on the progress of SDG goals under specific national indicators by using various participatory tools including Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), multi-stakeholder dialogues and using various social accountability tools. Processes for inclusive data and evidence generation are planned with a focus on ensuring access for marginalised groups in these Community-Led Monitoring (CLM), advocacy and other activities. The development of an online platform is planned to facilitate evidence and data gathering for robust analysis. Lastly, capacity strengthening of CSOs and duty bearer is planned to enhance data quality. The findings from both the online tools and in-person interactions will be gathered, analysed and validated for use in advocacy purpose and ultimately shared in local, provincial, national and international fora to bring forward voices of marginalized groups and influence Nepal's policy development process.

The LNOB Nepal partnership envisions the following key objectives:

- To strengthen capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Nepal around inclusive data and evidence generation: There will be the adoption of a community scorecard to collect citizens voices and contribute citizen-led data generation procedures. It is planned to initiate citizen-led SDG monitoring of SDG 13 considering inter-linkages of other SDGs mainly SDG 5, 10, 16 and 17. It will also contribute to strengthening linkages among SDG mechanisms and platforms in Nepal at local, national, regional, and global levels.
- To influence government stakeholders for increased responsiveness on citizen engagement in SDG monitoring: Evidence generated from civil society will be used for policy and practice advocacy to strengthen government commitments to promote the participation of marginalised groups in SDG reviews, VNR, etc.

In the context of pre-dominance of inequality, the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Partnership has emerged as a synergized option to reduce these gaps of unequal power relationships in development politics. Community-led monitoring has been found as an effective tool for empowering marginalized

communities to hold duty bearers to account. This report highlights the processes, findings, and learning of various districts on SDG monitoring adopting Community Scorecard (CSC) focusing specific indicators under SDG goals 4, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17 considering dire needs on improving progress on these goals.

As part of the promoting social accountability using community scorecard tool, capacity-building interventions were conducted targeting youth groups and community people to equip them with information on SDGs and their meaningful participation in community-based monitoring. Sensitization on SDGs was also organized for duty bearers and other stakeholders before their engagement in the monitoring process.

In the process of CSC, separate rankings are prepared for communities, duty bearers and there was a commonly agreed score based on interface meeting between the communities and duty bearers. It is interesting to note that the present condition rating of communities is lower than the duty bearer's claim. On the other hand, right holders seemed more optimistic for the future than duty bearers clearly indicating higher expectations on changes. It is later being adjusted based on mutual understanding and discussion in the interface discussions. It clearly indicates that this community-led participatory monitoring supports in providing more realistic tracking of the progress and expectations to avoid future conflict and promote collaboration and trust.

In this process, an aspect of empowerment is built into the data collection process – understanding and clarification on the position of the duty bearer. Thus, it helped marginalized communities in providing a platform to demand increased accountability of the duty bearers for improving the status of these SDG targets. It has also helped government stakeholders more aware on strength of inclusive data collection. Based on this evidence, there should be continued effort to lobby with the government to institutionalize and recognize these community-led monitoring and inclusive data collection procedures to accelerate the pace of empowerment and accountability for achieving sustainable development with the core principle of Leave No One Behind. The project aims to bring citizen's voices on the progress of SDG goals under specific national indicators by using various participatory tools including FGDs, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and using various social accountability tools. Processes for inclusive data and evidence generation are planned with a focus on ensuring access for marginalized groups in these community-led monitoring, advocacy, and other activities. The findings will be gathered, analyzed, and validated for use in advocacy purposes and ultimately shared in local, provincial, national, and international fora to bring forward voices of marginalized groups and influence Nepal's policy development process. The project conducted the assessment at two municipalities in the Surkhet district of Karnali province focusing on marginalized communities<sup>3</sup>.

## 2.1 Leave no One Behind Consortium in Nepal

Leave No One Behind Consortium in Nepal is a joint platform comprising of NGOs and INGOs that has agreed to make joint efforts in the areas of strengthening capacities of civil society organizations, for generating inclusive data, for evidence-based decision making along with multi-stakeholder engagement to track progress on SDGs. It contributed to meaningful engagement of CSOs through

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<sup>3</sup> Dalits, LGBTIQ, Madhesi, PwD, Women, Youth, other minorities.



capacitating marginalized communities to raise their concerns and also hold concerned duty bearers to account.

In terms of LNOB consortium, UN endorsed the LNOB framework in 2016 after than LNOB global partnership was launched in 2017. In the year 2018 , LNOB coalition in Nepal has been launched and it actively engaged in Nepal’s second Voluntary National Review in the year 2020. Provided strong platform to raise voices of marginalized youth and National planning Commission, the lead agency coordinating VNR in the country acknowledged the information provided by these consultative procedures and recommendation on additional efforts required to raise concerns of marginalized communities has been acknowledged.

Procedure of tracking the progress on SDG monitoring has been initiated since the inception of the consortium in the country and it has been further expanded in the coming years. It initiated with the tracking of SDG 5 Gender equality however it was later realized that gender equality should not be limited only in SDG 5 so this concept of gender mainstreaming in other indicators mainly SDG 4 on education and SDG 13 on climate action.

In the recent years LNOB Nepal have also initiated more coordinated effort jointly with NGO Federation in Nepal in SDG Data Partnership. It is initiative supported as joint project of GIZ together with different national CSO partners and jointly engaged with government counterparts i.e. National Planning Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics and National Human Rights Commission.

This partnership has been initiated to strengthen capacity of CSOs and marginalized youth to enable them around the inclusive data collection. The toolkit on Citizen Generated Data has been prepared in the closed coordination with government and other CSO counterparts.



Civil society platforms comprising of national and international CSOs



Strengthen capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Nepal



Empowerment of community



Engagement of duty bearer and community



Multistakeholder engagement



Generate inclusive data and evidence generation.

## 2.2 Report purpose

The objective of this learning report is to present key achievements, major insights and main lessons learned that have emerged from LNOB Nepal initiatives in Nepal conducted between 2018 and 2022. The information and analysis contained in this document were gathered from actual scale and reach data, narrative reports produced by VSO Nepal on behalf of LNOB Nepal and various LNOB partnership engagement and initiatives. The purpose of this exercise and the report is two-fold:

- To contribute to LNOB Nepal partnership learning, improved programming and decision making in organizational practice areas and initiatives from a Leave No One Behind perspective.

- To create a sustained learning culture through an annual cycle of evidence synthesis and analysis.

This report aims to answer the following questions:

- What is the scale (extent) and quality of evidence available and what does this tell us about the impact of MVHC in LNOB initiatives?
- What are the main benefits and main challenges of participatory collection of disaggregated data on marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups?
- How can participatory generated data make intersectional inequalities or multiple and overlapping disadvantages visible?
- Would you say that the process of data collection itself had an effect on the (marginalized) groups that participated? If yes, what was the effect? What caused it? Were there differences between groups?
- What needs to happen / be in place for the data to become meaningful input for policies that support / strengthen hitherto disadvantaged / marginalized groups (context)?
- Is there any specific way of presentation of the data, which contributed to its acceptance / relevance for policy makers and participants (content & presentation)?
- How can community data specifically be used to support the participation of marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups in policy making processes (and help address local drivers of inequality)? How is it different from other data?
- What lessons can be learned based on the available evidence and what knowledge gaps exist that can drive learning practice and improve LNOB programmes?

### 2.3 Methodology

To answer the proposed questions above, we analysed the evidence arising from:

- The narrative reports produced by the VSO on behalf of LNOB partnership in Nepal and summarized the evidence and learning from LNOB initiatives in year 2021-22.
- Programmatic insights offered by programme teams, particularly with a focus on key learnings and challenges faced by teams during the timeframe encompassed by this report.

### 3. Key findings

This section of the report presents the key findings, synthesising evidence from LNOB programmes based on each learning questions. It begins by looking at the impact of LNOB Nepal work based on the scale and quality of evidence available, then evaluating the evidence of the MVHC outcomes. Next, it looks at the learning emerging around the LNOB Nepal initiatives and the effectiveness of the LNOB Theory of Change.

#### A. What is the scale (extent) and quality of evidence available and what does this tell us about the impact of MVHC in LNOB initiatives?

Examining the available data, it is clear that LNOB initiative's reach is something to strengthen and put more efforts to grow significantly in the days to come. Reach in overall are presented in the table below:

Age group	No disability information				People with disability			
	Female	Male	Other	Total	Female	Male	Other	Total
0-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-18	7	9	0	16	0	0	0	0
19-24	49	52	1	102	0	0	0	0
24-35	45	122	3	208	3	2	0	5
36-60	61	150	5	216	0	1	0	1
60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	107	256	7	504	3	3	0	6

The table provides information about the number of individuals with and without disabilities who have been reached through the MVHC project in Nepal, broken down by age group and gender.

In this project, efforts have been made to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not left behind and are included in the interventions. Though, the table shows that out of a total of 504 individuals reached through the project, only 6 (3 females and 3 males) reported having a disability. The age group with the highest number of individuals with disabilities is 24-35, where five individuals reported having a disability.

In terms of gender, more males than females were reached through the project overall, with a total of 256 males and 107 females. Of the six individuals with disabilities reached through the project, 3 were male and 3 were female.

It's important to note that while the number of individuals with disabilities reached through the project may seem small, efforts have been made to ensure that they are not left behind and are included in the project interventions. This is a crucial step towards promoting inclusion and equity in healthcare for individuals with disabilities in Nepal.

**B. What are the main benefits and main challenges of participatory collection of disaggregated data on marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups?**

It is essential to include the perspectives and experiences of oppressed groups when addressing social problems. This is because the voices of these groups can provide valuable insights and perspectives that may be missed or overlooked by those in positions of power or privilege. By including these voices, we can gain a more complete and accurate understanding of social problems and develop more



effective solutions. By providing a safe space for oppressed groups to express themselves, we can help to break down hierarchical structures that may exist in society. This can create a more inclusive environment and ensure that everyone's voice is heard and valued, regardless of their position or background.

It is important to create an open forum where people can discuss social problems based on individual experiences and facts from the community. This approach can help to ensure that the solutions developed are relevant and effective, as they are based on real-world experiences and observations.

The use of disaggregated data can help to monitor and report progress, as well as identify outstanding issues. Disaggregated data refers to data that is broken down by various demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status. By analysing data in this way, we can identify patterns and trends that may be hidden in more general data sets. Disaggregated data can also be used to address cross-cutting aspects of identity that contribute to exclusion. For example, if we analyze data by both race and gender, we may find that women of colour face unique challenges that are not captured by looking at either factor alone.

However, there are several challenges to implementing these ideas effectively.

- One key challenge is overcoming systemic and institutional obstacles that may prevent marginalized or disadvantaged groups from being represented effectively. This may involve addressing biases or discrimination that may exist within institutions or systems.
- Power imbalances can also make it difficult to reach out to targeted groups effectively. Even when these groups are included, their voices may be overshadowed by those in more privileged positions.
- Defining and describing "targeted groups" can also be a challenge. It is important to use language that is specific and meaningful to the local context, rather than relying on vague or general terms.
- Without a standardized system for documenting data related to gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other factors, it can be difficult to recognize and address issues of marginalization and intersectionality.
- Finally, data triangulation can be difficult, particularly when it comes to collecting community voices. It can be challenging to ensure that the data collected is representative and accurate.

Additionally, some stakeholders may be sceptical of citizen-generated data, questioning its quality and representativeness. Addressing these concerns may require building trust and demonstrating the value of this data in developing effective solutions to social problems.

### **C. How can participatory generated data make intersectional inequalities or multiple and overlapping disadvantages visible?**

Participatory generated data can help make intersectional inequalities and multiple and overlapping disadvantages visible by involving marginalized groups directly in the data collection and analysis process. This approach can provide a more nuanced and detailed understanding of the complex and intersecting factors that contribute to their marginalization. By highlighting the diverse ways in which these identities interact, participatory generated data can identify gaps in service provision and

support and inform more effective policies and interventions that address the root causes of social inequality and promote greater social justice and equity.

- i. Participants were selected based on the inclusion and thus they bring their perspective with evidence:

When participants are selected based on inclusion criteria, it means that they represent a specific population with a shared experience or characteristic. This can include but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or socioeconomic status. By selecting participants based on inclusion criteria, they can bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the discussion, providing evidence-based insights that are relevant to their community. This approach helps to ensure that the voices of marginalized or underrepresented groups are heard and taken into consideration during the decision-making process.

- ii. Comparison among participants in terms of services they are receiving:

Comparing the services received by different participants can reveal gaps and disparities in access to resources and opportunities. This information can be used to identify areas where improvements are needed to address inequalities and ensure that all individuals receive the support they need. By analysing the differences in service provision, policymakers can work to develop more equitable policies that address the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

- iii. The facilitation process while conducting CSC promotes an enabling environment for all participants:

The facilitation process is essential in creating a safe and inclusive environment for all participants. It can include techniques such as active listening, open communication, and encouraging participation from all members. A skilled facilitator can help to ensure that everyone has a voice and that the discussion is constructive and productive. This approach can help to promote trust and collaboration among participants and lead to more effective decision-making.

- iv. Sharing real-life examples:

Sharing real-life examples can provide a more tangible and relatable understanding of the issues being discussed. Personal stories and experiences can help to illustrate the impact of intersecting inequalities and highlight the need for action. Real-life examples can also provide inspiration and motivation for participants to work towards change.

- v. Experiential evidence is very crucial in depicting the phenomenon such as "overlapping", "inter-linkages", and "inter-relatedness" of intersectional inequalities:

Experiential evidence, which is based on personal experience and observation, can provide valuable insights into the complexities of intersecting inequalities. It can help to identify the ways in which different forms of discrimination and disadvantage intersect and reinforce each other. This approach can help policymakers to develop more comprehensive and effective strategies to address inequality.

- vi. Provides reliable data to measure the state's and other service providers' resources and opportunities:

Collecting data on the resources and opportunities provided by the state and other service providers can help to measure the effectiveness of policies and programs. This data can be used to identify areas where improvements are needed and to evaluate the impact of interventions over time. Reliable data is essential for evidence-based decision-making and can help policymakers to allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.

- vii. Generate a comparison of the applicable outcome metrics:

Outcome metrics are used to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programs. By comparing outcomes across diverse groups, policymakers can identify disparities and gaps in service provision. This information can be used to develop more targeted interventions that address the specific needs of different populations.

- viii. Gather information to determine who is being left behind, where they are being excluded, and why they are being excluded:

Collecting data on who is being left behind, where they are being excluded, and why they are being excluded can help policymakers to develop more targeted interventions. This information can be used to identify the barriers that prevent certain groups from accessing services and to develop strategies to overcome these barriers. By addressing the specific needs of marginalized and underrepresented populations, policymakers can work towards a more equitable society.

- ix. Gather data to describe intersectionality and its many facets to determine what works in various ways with different groups of people:

By understanding the complex intersections of different forms of discrimination and disadvantage, policymakers can tailor interventions to meet the specific needs of diverse groups of people. This can include providing targeted resources and support, improving access to services, and addressing systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality. By gathering data on the various facets of intersectionality, policymakers can ensure that their interventions are evidence-based and effective in promoting social justice and equity for all.

**D. Would you say that the process of data collection itself had an effect on the (marginalized) groups that participated? If yes, what was the effect? What caused it? Were there differences between groups?**

Yes, the process of data collection itself had an effect on the (marginalized) groups that participated.

The facilitation process played a critical role in orientating and capacitating all participants about the discussion issues and method. This allowed them to understand the purpose and objectives of the participatory process and ensure that all participants were on the same page. By providing a clear framework for the discussion, the facilitators helped to ensure that the data collected was relevant and useful.

Participants were welcomed and given space to talk and express their perspectives, creating an enabling environment for marginalized groups to share their experiences. This allowed the voices of the oppressed to be heard and contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by diverse groups of people. By creating a safe and inclusive space, the participatory process helped to build trust and foster collaboration between participants.

The diverse groups of participants brought different perspectives grounded in their personal and social experiences. This allowed for a more nuanced and diverse understanding of the challenges faced by diverse groups of people. By including a wide range of voices, the participatory process helped to ensure that the data collected was comprehensive and representative.

During the data collection process, there was an immediate realization of exclusion and marginalization among various classes. This highlighted the systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality and demonstrated the urgent need for targeted interventions to address these issues. By making these inequalities visible, the participatory process helped to inform more effective policies and interventions.

An aspect of empowerment was built into the data collection process by providing participants with an understanding and clarification of the position of the duty bearer, among other things. This helped to empower participants by giving them a better understanding of their rights and entitlements and by creating a platform for their voices to be heard.

The participatory process helped to create a relationship between the group and those in positions of responsibility. This helped to foster collaboration and build trust between participants and duty bearers, creating a more conducive environment for the development and implementation of effective policies and interventions.

Participant selection criteria ensured that a wide range of people were included in the CSC process, including marginalized groups and those with diverse perspectives. This helped to ensure that the data collected was representative and that the participatory process was inclusive and accessible to all. By including a diverse range of voices, the participatory process helped to ensure that the data collected was comprehensive and representative of the challenges faced by diverse groups of people.

**E. What needs to happen / be in place for the data to become meaningful input for policies that support / strengthen hitherto disadvantaged / marginalized groups (context)?**

Following are the major things to consider to happen / be in place for the data to become meaningful input for policies that support / strengthen hitherto disadvantaged / marginalized groups (context).

- Disaggregating data from oppressed or intersectionally disadvantaged populations is crucial to understand the unique challenges faced by these groups. By disaggregating data based on factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, policymakers can develop targeted interventions that address the specific needs of different groups of people. This can help to ensure that policies are more effective in promoting social justice and equity.
- Predefined methods and tools should be in place to ensure evidence-informed policy formulation and execution. This includes data collection software or a standard that can be used for broad data analysis at national and local levels. By using standardized methods and tools, policymakers can ensure that the data collected is comparable and can be used to inform policy decisions at different levels of government.
- Data sharing and ownership promotion is essential to ensure that a broader audience of policymakers can access and use the data collected through CSC processes. By sharing data

with a wider audience, policymakers can promote transparency and accountability and ensure that policies are developed based on the best available evidence.

- Follow-up by youth participants on the agreed-upon action plan is crucial to ensure that the commitments made during the CSC process are implemented. By involving youth participants in the follow-up process, policymakers can ensure that the voices of young people are heard and that policies are developed with their needs in mind.
- Tracking CSC's progress on a regular basis is essential to ensure that policies are effective in addressing the challenges faced by marginalized groups. By monitoring progress, policymakers can identify areas where further action is needed and ensure that policies are implemented effectively.
- Involving the duty bearer in the CSC process prior to the actual data collection day is important to ensure that they understand the purpose and objectives of the participatory process. This can help to build trust and foster collaboration between participants and duty bearers, creating a more conducive environment for the development and implementation of effective policies and interventions.

**F. Is there any specific way of presentation of the data, which contributed to its acceptance / relevance for policy makers and participants (content & presentation)?**

Adapting the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) process for data collection, analysis, and presentation can help ensure that excluded or vulnerable groups are included in the process. This may involve developing specific tools or methods to collect data from these groups, such as using alternative data collection methods that are more accessible for people with disabilities. It may also involve adapting the analysis and presentation of data to ensure that the unique challenges faced by these groups are highlighted.

Creating a fact sheet, infographics, and a visual overview can help to make the data collected through the GESI process more accessible and understandable to a wider audience. By presenting the data in a brief and visually engaging format, policymakers can ensure that the information is more likely to be used to inform policy decisions. Translating the information into the local language is also crucial to ensure that the information is accessible to everyone. Comparing the data to national statistics can help to contextualize the information and highlight any disparities that exist.

Recognizing existing best practices and success stories can be a powerful way to inspire change and promote positive action. This may involve sharing stories of individuals or groups who have successfully overcome barriers or achieved positive outcomes, despite facing significant challenges. Storytelling can help to humanize the data and make it more relatable to policymakers, encouraging them to take action to address the challenges faced by marginalized groups.

Media coverage and attention can be a powerful way to raise awareness about the challenges faced by excluded or vulnerable groups and promote positive change. By working with the media to promote the data collected through the GESI process, policymakers can ensure that the information reaches a wider audience and helps to mobilize public support for change. This may involve issuing press releases, holding press conferences, or collaborating with journalists to develop stories that highlight the challenges faced by marginalized groups and the need for action.



**G. How can community data specifically be used to support the participation of marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups in policy making processes (and help address local drivers of inequality)? How is it different from other data?**

The comparison of the targeted population's condition to the country's position, policy, strategy, expenditure, and programs allows for a better understanding of the disparities and gaps in service provision and implementation. By analysing and comparing data, policymakers can identify the areas that require more attention and investment.

The information gathered through participatory data collection should be used to identify crosscutting problems and fundamental gaps between perceived and actual needs. This helps in addressing the root causes of issues and designing more effective policies and programs that meet the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Evidence empowers communities when they participate in policy-making processes. By sharing their perspectives and experiences, they contribute to a more inclusive and informed decision-making process, leading to more effective policies and programs.

Encouraging youth engagement is crucial because marginalized groups have fewer opportunities to participate in policy-making processes. By involving youth, policymakers can ensure that the needs and perspectives of younger generations are taken into account.

Participatory data collection can help identify policy gaps that need to be addressed. By involving communities in the data collection process, policymakers can gain insights into the realities of people's lives and use this information to design policies that better serve the needs of the people.

Unlike other tools, participatory data collection encourages active community involvement and the sharing of real-life experiences as pieces of evidence. This approach provides a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the issues facing marginalized communities.

Interface dialogue is a unique approach in which community members and duty bearers engage in constructive dialogue based on facts to establish a shared understanding and develop future action plans. This approach fosters collaboration between community members and duty bearers, leading to more effective and sustainable solutions to the issues facing marginalized communities.

**4. Achievements working with government**

The positive outcomes of the journey towards strengthening citizen-generated data (CGD) and its relevance for equitable development. It notes that there has been an increase in commitment from local and federal government agencies to support CGD and allocate additional budgetary resources to achieve SDG targets. This increased commitment is seen as a positive sign for the recognition of CGD as a valuable tool for development.

Moreover, the inclusion of marginalized youth agenda in the Voluntary National Review Report is a testament to the relevance of CGD for equitable development. This demonstrates that the government is taking a proactive approach to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and that they are being included in the development process.

Another positive outcome mentioned is the effectiveness of CSO alliance building in standardizing CGD procedures. This implies that government and other CSO stakeholders are working together to ensure that CGD is being collected in a consistent and reliable manner. This is crucial to ensure that the data collected is of high quality and can be used to inform evidence-based policies and programs.

However, there is still knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to further improve LNOB programs. These gaps are related to the effectiveness of different CGD collection methods, data validation, and data analysis. By addressing these gaps, it is possible to drive learning practices and improve LNOB programs to better serve marginalized communities.

## 5. Key Challenges:

There are two critical challenges that need to be addressed to make citizen-generated data (CGD) a more effective tool for promoting equity and leaving no one behind. Firstly, despite efforts to create platforms to amplify the voices of marginalized communities, there is a need to address underlying systemic discrimination and unequal power relations. This is essential to enable these communities to voice their concerns and perspectives more effectively. This suggests that CGD is not just about collecting data, but it is also about creating an enabling environment where marginalized communities can participate in decision-making processes and have their voices heard.

Secondly, there are no standard institutionalized mechanisms for generating reliable CGD, leading to concerns about the quality of data collected and its validity in informing decision-making processes. This implies that there is a need to establish clear procedures and guidelines for collecting and analysing CGD that can ensure its quality and reliability. This could involve creating standards for data collection, establishing quality control mechanisms, and building capacity among community members to collect and analyze data effectively.

Finally, the investment in CGD is low, despite its potential impact in promoting equity and leaving no one behind. This highlights the need for greater investment in building capacity for community-led data collection, promoting collaborations between CSOs and government agencies, and scaling up successful CGD initiatives. Overall, the statement highlights the need to address critical challenges and invest in strengthening CGD as a tool for promoting equity and leaving no one behind.

## 6. Lessons learned

Based on the available evidence, some lessons that can be learned are:

1. Participatory approaches that involve marginalized groups in policy-making processes can generate evidence that empowers communities and improves the effectiveness of LNOB programs.
2. Disaggregating data based on characteristics like gender, ethnicity, and age can reveal intersectional inequalities and help identify who is being left behind.
3. Facilitation and capacity-building for participants are important elements of the participatory process and can improve the quality and accuracy of the data collected.
4. Real-life examples and experiential evidence are crucial for depicting intersectional inequalities and promoting a shared understanding between community members and duty bearers.

5. Regular follow-up and tracking of progress are necessary to ensure that action plans are implemented, and goals are met.
6. Creating a relationship between community members and those in positions of responsibility can promote data sharing and ownership and encourage youth engagement in policy-making processes.

Some knowledge gaps that exist include:

1. The need for more research on the effectiveness of participatory approaches in improving LNOB programs and reducing intersectional inequalities.
2. The need for more comprehensive and standardized data collection methods and tools that are adapted to the context of the communities being served.
3. The need for more resources to support capacity-building for community members and duty bearers to facilitate the participatory process and ensure accurate data collection.
4. The need for more research on the impact of media coverage and attention on improving LNOB programs and reducing intersectional inequalities.
5. The need for more research on the impact of policy gaps on LNOB programs and the effectiveness of policy interventions in addressing intersectional inequalities.

## 6. Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed based on the findings:

- Inconsistent processes for gathering and reporting on evidence is a major challenge in VSO's global learning. A key focus should be on developing a more consistent VfD-based strategy and methodology for global RMEL that can be applied to the entire VSO programme portfolio consistently and coherently, examining programme impact, volunteer KAP and partner capacity. This will help maintain quality assurance in research, monitoring, and evaluation, while allowing space for learning unique to each context. Toolkits should be developed, and capacity-building opportunities should be organised to ensure a shared level of knowledge that meets a global standard for the quality and scale of evidence required for learning documents.
- Improve the intersectionality of programme areas, core approaches and VfD pathways to change. In learning documents, these appear to be disconnected almost as unique projects, whereas they should be integrated as supporting aspects within each programme area with deeper analysis on how they interact to improve overall impact for primary actors.
- Priorities communication resources to encourage inclusive programming. To scale up the inclusion of marginalised communities, budgets must include resources for interpretation and the translation of materials into local languages to reach rural communities and into sign languages and braille to reach people with disabilities. Increase activities that advocate for this in the public sector.

- Priorities conflict-sensitive assessment, design and implementation, particularly in active conflict regions or areas hosting refugees or internally displaced persons to ensure that VSO programming follows a “Do No Harm” approach.
- Build climate change action into programme design and learning across all VSO programme areas, as that remains one of the top global crises facing marginalised and vulnerable people.

## 7. Way Forward

The key steps the consortium is taking to address the challenges and gaps identified in the use of citizen-generated data to promote the agenda of Leave No One Behind. The first step is to establish a robust partnership between the government and CSOs to address the quality concerns around citizen-generated data. This is critical to ensure that the data collected is reliable and can be used to inform policy decisions.

The second step is to lobby for increased investment to institutionalize citizen-generated data. This is important to ensure that citizen-generated data is systematically collected, analysed, and shared to support evidence-informed policy-making processes. The third step is to address systemic discrimination to raise unheard voices. This involves creating an enabling environment where marginalized communities can express their concerns and voices more strongly, without fear of discrimination or marginalization.

Overall, these steps are critical in ensuring that the consortium can provide evidence to promote the agenda of Leave No One Behind and achieve sustainable and equitable development. Through these efforts, the consortium can contribute to building a world where every person, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to live a fulfilling and prosperous life.