Leaving no one behind
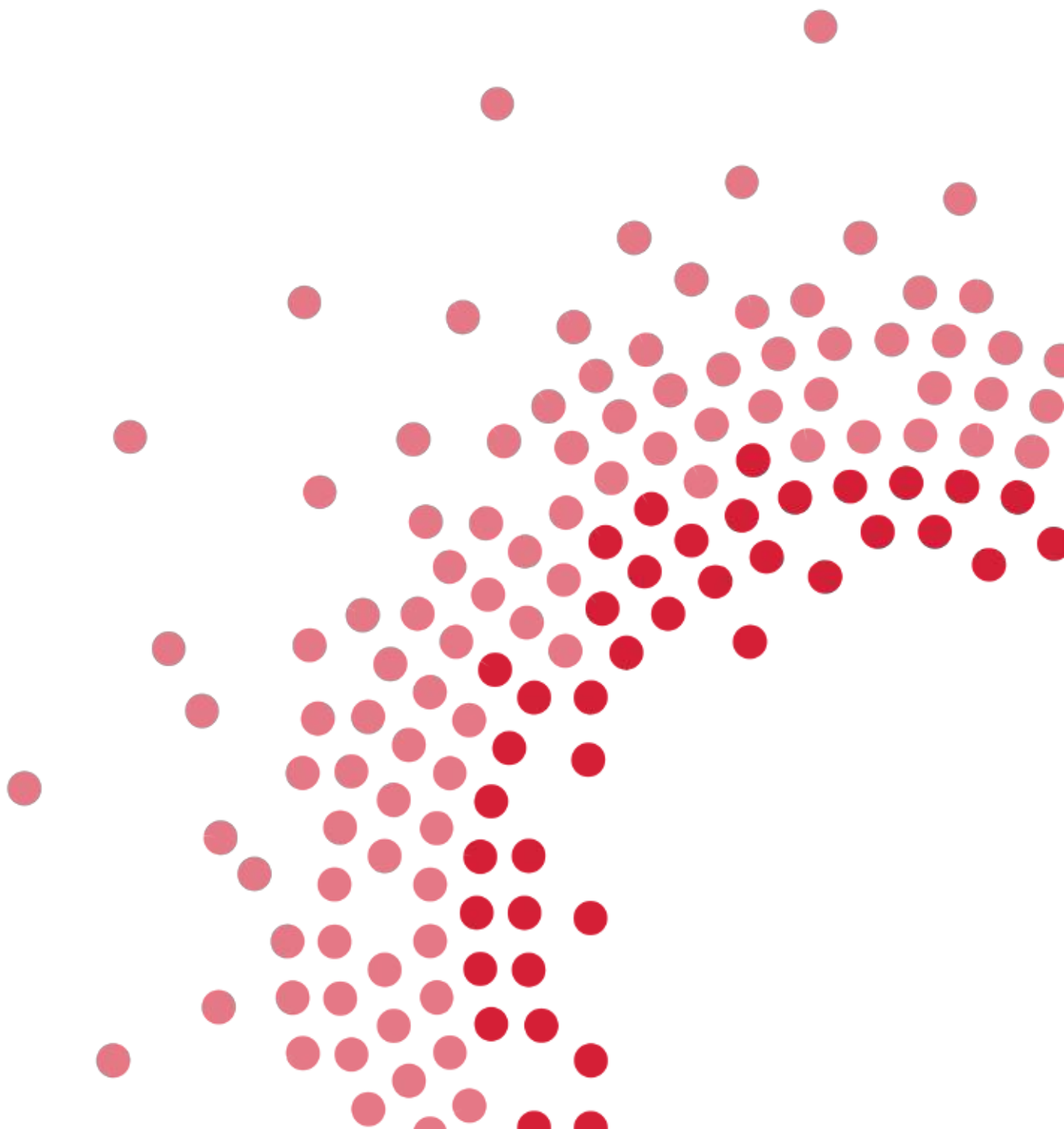
Putting marginalised people at the forefront of the Sustainable Development Goals

Contents

About Bond groups

Bond is the civil society network for global change. Our groups are a key way for members to come together, learn from each other and take joint action. bond.org.uk/groups

Acknowledgements

The Bond Sustainable Development Goals Group brings together approximately 150 organisations in the UK who focus on the international development aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The group, previously Bond Beyond 2015 UK, has been working for the last three years to secure an ambitious set of goals which integrate the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development; their focus is now on the implementation of the SDGs.

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Introduction

This paper explores what member organisations of the Bond Sustainable Development Goals Group (SDGs Group, formerly Beyond 2015 UK) are doing to build the principle of "leave no one behind", from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, into the practical elements of their work, as well as the possible implications for programming, policy, funding and resourcing.

The principle of "leave no one behind" is embedded in the essence of the 2030 Agenda. It is implicit in its ambition to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030 and by endorsing the 2030 Agenda declaration all countries made an explicit pledge to "leave no one behind":

> *"As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first."[1]*

Follow up and review processes must also be guided by the principle that "they will be people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind."[2]

"Leave no one behind" means different things to different civil society organisations (CSOs), and this paper aims to draw out the broad similarities and differences in approaches being taken. The case studies included illustrate different challenges and opportunities in operationalising the principle of "leave no one behind".

It is clear from the diversity of case studies that "leave no one behind" is not a prescriptive approach, but there are common themes and principles that the SDGs Group has tried to draw out from the case studies, to take into consideration when further developing the concept of "leave no one behind" and applying it in practice.

"Leave no one behind" has the potential to be transformational and radical. It applies to all people, everywhere. It could be a game changer in terms of development, challenging conventional approaches, ensuring that human rights are at the heart of development practice, and putting the most marginalised and hard to reach people at the forefront of development planning, processes and interventions.

Applying a "leave no one behind" lens to our work encourages us to be more mindful and honest about who the "winners" and "losers" of development interventions are, and make sure that those who are often left behind, are instead brought in, engaged, and derive greater benefit from international development and humanitarian programmes.

This discussion paper sets out:

- 10 principles of "leave no one behind".

- Recommendations to the UK government.

- Case studies exploring the challenges and opportunities of "leave no one behind".

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[1] United Nations, Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015). Available from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf [accessed 19 May 2016]

[2] IBID.

10 principles of "leave no one behind"

1. "Leave no one behind" should apply to all goals and targets, in all countries

"Leave no one behind" goes beyond the agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it applies to all people, everywhere, and relates to a more integrated set of goals encompassing social, environmental and economic dimensions of development. As such, it should be applied as widely as possible, eg to targets on decent work, land rights, energy and environmental sustainability. It should also be understood to apply to the gender equality goal, SDG 5, to improve outcomes for the poorest and most marginalised women and girls. "Leave no one behind", as agreed in the context of a universal agenda, should apply to all countries, and deal with reducing inequalities and combating social, economic and political exclusion as much as poverty eradication.[3]

2. Recognise the importance of normative change

A recent ODI paper stresses that in some countries leaving no one behind would require major normative change as there is strong resistance to reducing the marginalisation of specific groups which face deliberate discrimination.[4] The UK government's "leave no one behind" promise acknowledges the need to change norms by "challenging the social barriers that deny people opportunity and limit their potential."[5] Reducing inequalities and exclusion is also critical in addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity, which in turn drives extreme poverty and displacement.

Social norm change can be achieved in fragile and conflict-affected states, and during emergencies, through empowering local communities and promoting social cohesion, as well as encouraging and supporting key decision-makers to promote inclusive narratives. The SDGs represent a good opportunity to drive this normative change forward as they focus international scrutiny on ensuring the goals are met for all income and social groups by 2030.

3. Drive policy change

As well as targeted programmes, leaving no one behind requires action on policy areas that are known to reduce inequalities and build resilience, including universal health coverage, education, social protection, progressive fiscal policy, child protection and universal registration at birth, with a focus on equity and quality. It will also require action to ensure that people are the focus of initiatives to sustain peace, for example by ensuring justice for all and inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making.

Implementation of SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), as well as SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), is therefore essential for ensuring no one is left behind. Governments and donors must seek to overcome political and contested issues which prevent progress on ensuring no one is left behind, such as caste-based discrimination in South Asia; discriminatory attitudes, policies and laws towards migrants, ethnic minorities and LGBT people; ethnic and religious tension; cultural barriers to accessing public services; and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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[3] Christian Aid, Leave no one behind: from goals to implementation (2015). Available from: http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/leave-no-one-behind-summary.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[4] T Bhatkal, E Samman and E Stuart, Leaving no one behind: the real bottom billion (ODI, 2015). Available from: http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9846.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[5] UK Government, Leaving no one behind: our promise (2015). Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise [accessed 29 April 2016].

4. Address multiple discriminations

People may experience exclusion or discrimination based on more than one characteristic. Any approach to "leave no one behind" needs to map out and respond to intersecting inequalities and ensure that people with multiple disadvantages still have their human rights fulfilled and are not falling through the gaps (eg Dalit women, women from minority ethnic groups, girls with disabilities, sex workers, drug users and older women). This needs to include participatory and rights-based approaches, working with communities to identify the most marginalised, such as in the World Vision case study (see p16).

5. Climate change and environmental sustainability

Poor people often rely directly on natural resources to meet their daily needs of food, water, shelter, income generation, medicines and materials. Natural resources are often the "wealth of the poor", particularly poor women, and for those furthest behind, natural resources are often one of the only assets they can use. Tackling climate change is imperative to the "leave no one behind" agenda. Climate change impacts on the poorest people first and hardest, exacerbating existing challenges of poverty, inequality, marginalisation and vulnerability. Building the resilience of communities to withstand shocks, climate-related or otherwise, will also be critical to the success of the "leave no one behind" agenda.

6. Accountability and governance

Leaving no one behind will require raising the voice of marginalised people to have a say in how decisions are made. Efforts should be made to strengthen the agency of those left behind. This should go hand in hand with other efforts to make governance mechanisms at all levels (local, national, regional and global) more open, inclusive and accountable to marginalised groups; to eliminate inequities in public participation; and to ensure effective institutions that provide equitable access to good-quality public services.

This is reflected in the UK's promise. To make the SDGs a reality, leaving no one behind, the targets and indicators must be locally contextualised and local communities empowered and supported to help identify the concerns relevant to their particular local context and decide indicators. They must be able to take an active role in monitoring and holding local authorities accountable for SDGs implementation and enforcement, including through budget monitoring and appropriate feedback mechanisms.

7. Civil society partnerships

The "leave no one behind" agenda calls for advances in the way governments and donors engage with CSOs, including community-based organisations. CSOs can play an important role in many contexts, including fragile and conflict-affected states and middle-income countries. Civil society can also play a role at different levels, such as gathering data and evidence, engaging in research, policy and advocacy, holding governments to account, mobilising communities to access services and delivering services to the most marginalised.

Engagement with civil society at national, local and community level is also important in setting the agenda, monitoring and accountability. It is vital to build the capacity of CSOs in the global south to engage in research, policy and advocacy, strengthening civil society's role as a watchdog and holding governments to account where operating space is constrained or where efforts to ensure no one is left behind may be culturally or politically challenging. CSOs are sometimes also best placed to deliver services to those furthest behind who may be hard to reach through other actors.[6] This role is

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[6] ICAI, DFID's approach to delivering impact, Report 45 (2015). Available from: http://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-report-DFIDs-approach-to-Delivering-Impact.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].

particularly important in contexts where public actors, such as health providers, may discriminate against or refuse to provide services to certain people.

8. We need measures of progress

A "leave no one behind" approach must include clear mechanisms to measure and fast-track progress for the most marginalised, ensuring the needs of those furthest behind are met first, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This should ensure that gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged groups, in terms of both income and access to services, are reduced across all goals and targets.

Save the Children and Christian Aid's proposals on promoting equity through the post-2015 framework advocate stepping stone targets to ensure a focus on the most marginalised from the very outset.

> *"Stepping stone targets are interim benchmarks for disadvantaged groups, and should accompany 2030 targets across all goals. They would specify the progress that disadvantaged groups must be making in the run-up to 2030 to ensure they are on track for achieving the final targets and are catching up with more advantaged groups. By 2030, no target should be considered met unless it is met for all."* **Save the Children**[7]

> *"The 'leave no one behind' principle could be seen as simply a re-articulation of the goal to end poverty by 2030. However, its added value will be in its immediate application, and in particular the setting of 'stepping-stone' equity targets. Interim national targets, with a focus on closing the gaps, will ensure that there is focus and action on the most marginalised from the outset, making it harder to simply focus on the easy wins, leave the difficult work to later or to revert to the status quo."* **Christian Aid**[8]

9. Data gathering and disaggregation

In large part, accountability hinges upon the existence of reliable data that allows the measurement of promises against reality, but data in relation to the most marginalised groups is often rare. Basic prevalence, governance and performance data-gathering needs to be improved. A results framework is needed that will report beyond high-level characteristics. Data disaggregation, at the minimum by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location is needed to improve understanding of which groups are being left behind and to bolster accountability. In urban areas we need to ensure disaggregation between slums and the rest of the city and data related to income should go beyond quintiles to at the very least, look at deciles.

In the spirit of post-2015, the process of defining who is furthest behind or excluded altogether should actively involve CSOs, especially those at the grassroots and from marginalised communities. This should include data collected in line with principles of self-identification, data protection, and the independence of official statistics as outlined by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Assessing whether real and desirable progress is being made for those furthest behind will also require a fair amount of perception-based data and qualitative evidence. Civil society is in a strong position to provide evidence that they collect in the process of their work. This evidence and data should be received as valid inputs at the national, regional and global monitoring level. At the same time, advancements in technology have made it increasingly possible to get feedback in real time from

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[7] Save the Children, Leaving no one behind: embedding equity in the post 2015 framework through stepping stone targets (2015). Available from: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Leaving_No_One_Behind.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[8] Christian Aid, Leave No One Behind – from goals to implementation (2015). Available from: http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/leave-no-one-behind-report.pdf [accessed 19 May 2016]

citizens at national and local level, providing a critical reality check as to the impact of the goals on the ground.

10. Policy coherence

To ensure no one is left behind under the SDGs framework, policy coherence is needed within and across governments. All actors should consider the impact of their actions on efforts to reduce inequalities. The international and national structures and policies that can inhibit or enable the ability to reach those furthest behind must be addressed in a coordinated and coherent way. Efforts should be made to ensure no person and no country is left behind, and to adequately fund the action required, through both official development assistance (ODA) and through the use of domestic resources.

Governments need to consider how to mainstream "leave no one behind" into other political moments and key development priorities, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, World Humanitarian Summit and Anti-Corruption Summit. They must also systematically assess how their policies and practices in areas such as trade, tax, climate, migration, arms transfers and illicit drugs can impact on inequality. Policy coherence should be a central element of both national and global review and reporting.

Recommendations to the UK government

Partnerships

DFID should recognise the long-term and often complex, non-linear nature of work needed to ensure the SDGs are met for the most marginalised. Reaching those furthest behind will require advances in the way DFID engages with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and CSOs to promote innovative programmes targeted at those groups. DFID will need to work more directly with community-based organisations in countries with DFID offices. There should be an increased focus on civil society policy and influencing capacity, inside and outside the UK, with capacity building for accountability work, greater southern leadership and protection (and in some cases expansion) of civil society space. DFID's "results agenda" has made a significant contribution to civil society effectiveness but is critiqued for focusing too heavily on short-term and measurable results relating to changes in communities' lives, which is often harder to achieve when targeting interventions at some of the hardest to reach groups.[9] DFID will need to think through how the results framework reflects progress on ensuring no one is left behind, and how other partners and government departments spending UK aid are also accountable for delivering its aim.

Enabling environment

DFID should work to build the capacity of CSOs in the global south to engage in research, policy and advocacy, strengthening civil society's role as a watchdog and holding governments to account where operating space is constrained, as highlighted in principle 9 above. This is vital in countries with middle-income country status, especially where external aid funding is being reduced due to rapid economic growth but where substantial poverty and multidimensional inequality persists.

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[9] Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Registry of Violence (2015). Available from: http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/lgtbi/docs/Registro-Violencia-LGBTI.xlsx [accessed 10 May 2016].

Climate change and environmental sustainability

DFID's focus on leaving no one behind requires an increased commitment to addressing climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources as underlying and connected drivers of poverty and instability. This should be reflected in DFID's Smart Rules[10] and environmental screening processes. When funding multilateral, bilateral, civil society and private sector partners, strong climate and environmental criteria and screening processes need to be in place. In relation to principle 5 and the WWF case study (see p17), mainstreaming climate change and environmental sustainability into all of the UK's aid spending is critical to ensure the durability of aid impacts.

Funding and resources

DFID should reward progress along, and evidence-based refinement of, theories of change, and focus less on achievement of pre-specified outcomes. Despite an increase in available funding for innovative ideas, risk-averse cultures and rigid processes can be an internal barrier for many NGOs (as well as DFID). DFID should be cognisant of the risk of stifling innovation through requirements to deliver against inflexible pre-defined activities and outputs. This has particular relevance for the "leave no one behind" agenda because evidence of what works is often limited for those who are furthest behind, and so investing in these areas may initially require a higher risk appetite.

DFID should encourage creative thinking and new ways of doing things, offering discrete funding for innovative and higher-risk interventions, using appropriate mechanisms. DFID needs to employ a mix of strategic and programmatic funding and a balance between bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to ensure those furthest behind can be reached. Where DFID plans to achieve "leave no one behind" through partnerships, it will need to adjust expectations around its value for money framework to ensure that equity has just as much, and perhaps even a higher status, than the "three Es" of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. In doing so, there must also be a recognition from DFID and other donors, that there will be additional cost associated with reaching those furthest behind first.

Transitions

To ensure that no person and no country is left behind, ODA remains important for lower income countries, least developed countries and for ensuring responsible and sustainable transitions from donor to domestic funding in middle income countries. The transition from donor to domestic funding is more complex than a change in funding source. Domestically funded development will likely differ in terms of priorities and scale, often creating new competing priorities that all require increased allocation of resources. This shift creates the risk of leaving the most marginalised groups behind. To safeguard against this, an evaluation of the impact of donor withdrawal should be done to spot potential gaps in services and identify domestic capacity building requirements.

A clear transition plan, with budgetary support behind it, must be agreed early on in consultation with governments, donors, civil society and technical partners. The plan must be implemented with sufficient time before the final exit of ODA and should include provisions for preventing a gap in services for marginalised groups, taking into account the key role civil society plays in reaching criminalised or discriminated against groups and the resulting need for uninterrupted funding for CSOs.

The UK government should develop a transitions policy to guide DFID programme managers and ensure the sustainability of its bilateral and multilateral investments. This plan should shift the nature of DFID's interventions towards technical support and institutional capacity building and have clear connections to the ongoing support available from other departments that may maintain relationships within the

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[10] DFID, DFID Smart Rules: Better Programme Delivery (2016). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-smart-rules-better-programme-delivery [accessed 29 April 2016].

country after DFID leaves, such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

However, this should not be limited to priority countries, the UK government should use their influence on the international stage to ensure multilaterals and other donors also see this issue as a priority and are similarly approaching transition in a systematic and focused way. This will help to ensure policy and funding decisions, as well as programmes, are grounded in leaving no one behind, no matter which country they live in.

Conflict-affected contexts

Peace has been identified in the 2030 Agenda as one of five priorities for the international community. It is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Indeed, extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated in countries at risk of conflict. By 2030, even under the best-case scenario, it is estimated that 62% of the world's global poor will be located in fragile and conflict-affected states.[11]

The number of armed conflicts has recently spiked and a number of countries are at high risk. It will not be possible to work around conflict – DFID must therefore ensure that all of its development efforts promote peace and are conflict-sensitive in order to live up to the promise of supporting those who have fallen furthest behind.

Policy coherence

The UK's impact on global poverty and inequality stretches far beyond ODA. A range of policies and practices at both UK and global levels contribute to poverty and impede development. To reduce international inequalities, there must be clear commitment across all areas of government. This includes action to end illicit financial flows, tighten arms export controls, reform international institutions and tackle inequitable trade and drug policies.[12] Addressing these global challenges is also key for conflict prevention, as these factors often interact with context-specific domestic vulnerabilities to conflict. For further detail, see Save the Children's Framework for the Future and proposals from other Bond members.[13]

Stepping stone targets

Through DFID's bilateral relationships and relationships with members of the Inter Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators, DFID should support countries to adopt stepping stone targets to incentivise equitable progress across all goal areas. As set out in principle 8, this would ensure the most marginalised and vulnerable are being prioritised from the outset.

Data gathering

DFID should provide funding and technical assistance to improve statistical capacity at the national level, while continuing to promote improved data collection and disaggregation through its bilateral and multilateral relationships. This would be in line with the commitment to support a "data revolution".[14] In relation to principle 9, where there are gaps, DFID should be open to non-official data sources, for example data on LGBT communities collected by CSOs, as well as third party data collected by target

[11] OECD, States of Fragility 2015 Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions: Highlights (2015). Available from: http://www.oecd.org/dac/governance-peace/conflictandfragility/docs/FINAL%20States%20of%20Fragility%20Highlights%20document.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[12] Health Poverty Action, Drug policy and the sustainable development goals (2015). Available from: https://www.healthpovertyaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HPA-SDGs-drugs-policy-briefing-WEB.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[13] Save the Children, Framework for the future: ending poverty in a generation (2014). Available from: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Framework_for_the_Future.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].
[14]

groups and beneficiaries themselves. National statistics agencies should not be expected to manage a data revolution on their own.

Data disaggregation

DFID should commit to and work towards full data disaggregation across all its own programmes in line with SDGs commitments, as reflected in principle 4 and principle 9 above. It should work with those it funds to ensure programme data is disaggregated at least by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts in line with the 2030 Agenda. This is not a complete list and at the country programme level, DFID should work with CSOs to identify other data disaggregation requirements.

National plans and reviews

The principle of "leave no one behind" should be firmly embedded within national SDG implementation plans and in the national reviews that are presented to the High-Level Political Forum. As set out in the 2030 Agenda, countries should develop these plans and reviews with the meaningful participation of civil society and with a focus on those furthest behind. It is our hope that the UK government will produce its own SDG implementation plan, which will set out its activities to implement SDG 5 and SDG 10, and ensure that no one is left behind, both domestically and through its international programmes.

Case studies

CAFOD: women and girls

Empowering women and girls through community-based renewable energy access in Kenya

Principles: address multiple discriminations; climate change and environmental sustainability; civil society partnerships

CAFOD, together with its Kenyan partners and a private company, implemented a four-year community-based project to address the lack of access to sustainable, affordable, reliable and safe energy services in Kenya. The project targeted marginalised people living in poverty, including women and girls, in eight districts of the most vulnerable arid and semi-arid regions of the Eastern and Rift Valley provinces of Kenya. The project involved the procurement and installation of energy-saving stoves and solar photovoltaic systems (water pumps, water heating, refrigeration, lighting, water purification and greenhouses) to provide energy services to rural communities, as well as a range of skills and capacity building.

This project reached 490,635 people through the provision of energy, mainly through community and productive services. It identified structural gender inequalities within energy-poor groups and addressed these by focusing on providing energy services to women. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to health problems and early mortality related to dirty cooking and heating fuels – women make up the majority of adult deaths from indoor air pollution. The project also installed 180 energy-saving jikos (cooking stoves), which have led to improvements in overall health conditions of women and girls. The installation of solar photovoltaic lighting and refrigeration in the 48 supported health facilities has also improved women's access to services for deliveries at night.

The project has provided solar water-pumping systems for 56 greenhouses for women's groups. Through these investments women have been able to generate income. This is significant because investments in women's access to energy services for enterprise development can play a crucial role in their economic empowerment. As women spend a high proportion of their earned income improving the health, education and wellbeing of their families, empowering women economically results in wider, inter-generational development benefits.

In addition, communities were given training in business management, market analysis, farmers' rights (eg to receive support from agricultural extension officers) and agronomic practices. This has empowered women, who have acquired new knowledge and skills in agricultural production and gained the confidence to negotiate for better prices for their produce and ask for better services from the local government.

The success of this project hinged on:

1. Identifying marginalised members of society and – in the context of their wider development needs, particularly improvements in health and education for women and girls – tailoring technical energy solutions to meet their energy needs.

2. Supporting women and girls with a range of capacity and skills building and training, so as to build the wider "ecosystem" required to ensure energy services result in wider development impacts that benefit the most marginalised groups.

Overall, using a multi-stakeholder and integrated approach that includes women and girls has resulted in more sustainable, affordable, safe and reliable energy service provision, improved environmental protection, improved health and safety, improved communications in rural areas and overall poverty reduction in target groups. Many women have also reported improved wellbeing and happiness from the project.

Christian Aid: identity-based exclusion

Helping people from socially excluded communities claim their rights and entitlements, and tackling harmful social norms and practices

Principles: recognise the importance of normative change; drive policy change; address multiple discriminations

The Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) programme is a UK aid-funded initiative working in 95 of the poorest districts in seven of India's states: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The programme is premised on the belief that chronic poverty in India is a result of discrimination and identity-based exclusion and that long-term change will require not only investment, but a strengthened civil society, empowered to help people from socially excluded communities to claim their rights and entitlements, and to tackle harmful social norms and practices.

PACS is managed by a consortium, the Indian Forum for Inclusive Response and Social Transformation (IFIRST), led by Christian Aid. Other members include Caritas India, the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, ACCESS Development Services, and the Financial Management Services Foundation. IFIRST has worked through 90 CSO partners and more than 23,000 community-based organisations. Between 2009 and 2016 it will have reached over 16 million people. The work is focused on supporting those who have been traditionally excluded: Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, people with disabilities, Muslims and women. It also recognises that people may face multiple forms of discrimination, that outcomes will be poorer and vulnerability to violence greater, for example, for a disabled Dalit woman.

As a result, PACS has focused on increasing the uptake of entitlements among the socially excluded communities, through some of the flagship programmes of the Indian government. These include MGNREGA (the Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), which commits to providing 100 days of paid manual labour work to any rural household that demands it; the Forest Rights Act, which guarantees access to forest land to tribal and other forest-dependent communities; JSY (Janani Suraksha Yojana), which aims to reduce maternal and neo-natal mortality; RSBY (Rashtriya Swastha Bhima Youjana), a micro health insurance programme for poor communities; and the Right to Education Act.

In the village of Ayar in the Bhojpur district of Bihar, the Musahar community – a particularly excluded Dalit group – were not receiving immunisations and other healthcare services because the healthcare professionals would not touch or visit them. Thanks to the work of PACS and partner Yatharth, the villagers formed a community-based organisation and successfully petitioned against this unfair treatment. Today, the health centre functions properly and the villagers are receiving the immunisations, ante-natal care and other services that are rightfully theirs.

PACS has also focused on the relief and rehabilitation of manual scavengers protected under legislation such as the 2013 Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act. Despite this legislation, there are still estimated to be 180,000 households employed in manual scavenging of human waste, the vast majority of whom are Dalit women struggling to overcome intergenerational poverty and exclusion, and dreaming of having decent and dignified alternative livelihoods. PACS and its partners have worked in collaboration with the state to get non-discriminatory access to rights and entitlements. PACS' approaches of working in collaboration with local CSOs with diverse and inclusive groups have helped to empower and promote strong leadership among the socially excluded communities.

Christian Aid was pleased to see caste-based discrimination referenced in DFID's "leave no one behind" promise, discrimination which affects over 260 million people worldwide but which failed to be named in the 2030 Agenda. Christian Aid's own work on caste, which is prominent across its South Asia programmes (Nepal, Bangladesh and India), underlines the importance of a rights-based approach, which supports people to celebrate their identity and build leadership and which does not shy away from engagement with some of the more structural and critical issues such as land rights, decent work, affirmative action and budgetary allocations.

It is Christian Aid's hope that the "leave no one behind" principle will focus on strategies for inclusion and empowerment in all countries, including middle-income countries, and recognise that civil society, including community-based organisations, has a key role to play in turning this vision into reality. Data, including data disaggregated by caste, ethnicity and gender, will be essential, but so will be the political will to challenge structural power imbalances and address entrenched discriminatory attitudes.

International HIV/Aids Alliance: LGBT inclusion

Advocacy to challenge impunity and violence against transgender people

Principles: recognise the importance of normative change; drive policy change; address multiple discriminations and civil society partnerships

Transgender women in Latin America have an average life expectancy of 35 years.[15] Their lives are marked by a dynamic of exclusion that is the consequence of family, social and institutional transphobia. This begins at a young age when they are often rejected by their families and excluded from the

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[15] Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Registry of Violence (2015). Available from: http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/lgtbi/docs/Registro-Violencia-LGBTI.xlsx [accessed 10 May 2016].

education and health systems. This lack of education and access to job opportunities pushes the vast majority of transgender women in the region into sex work.[16] Transgender women experience numerous violations of their human rights including extrajudicial executions, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and arbitrary detention. They are the population with the highest prevalence of HIV in Latin America.

The Latin America and Caribbean Network of Transgender People (REDLACTRANS) is a network across 14 countries that works to highlight the vulnerability and inequality of transgender women in the region. The International HIV/AIDS Alliance has been working with them since 2007, providing them with regular grants of unrestricted money.

To challenge the human rights abuses faced by transgender people, REDLACTRANS has been advocating for gender identity laws, and has achieved success in Argentina. Recognition of gender identity is a first step to making sure that the existence of transgender people is recognised. This is crucial to being able to gather data and evidence of human rights abuses specifically against transgender people. It is also a prerequisite for inclusive HIV and health policies that meet their needs.

In 2012, REDLACTRANS and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance published a report titled "The night is another country". The report highlights the impunity of people who commit violence against transgender people. It gives examples of the culture of silence that impedes the filing of complaints, the failure to adopt a differentiated approach when dealing with such cases, ineffectiveness in the justice system and the existence of discriminatory legislation.[17] Activists allege that in the majority of cases, the violence and threats come from state actors, the very people charged with the responsibility of protecting human rights and seeking justice.

> *"One night in October 2011, I was coming out of a bar when a car without plates stopped next to me. Four individuals got out and shot me four times in the head and body without saying a word. One of the bullets is still lodged in my neck. No one asked me any questions in the hospital and there was no police investigation. It wasn't the only time. I had already been shot three times while out doing sex work. Altogether I have been shot nine times. There are witnesses but they are also afraid to make a statement. I myself have witnessed many other police attacks but I'm also afraid to report them." Transgender human rights defender in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, July 2012[18]*

In response to the inadequate response of Latin American states to the violence perpetrated against transgender women, REDLACTRANS carry out training within the inter-American human rights system. Sensitisation training of judges, secretaries and the police plays an important role. This is not an opportunity that is welcomed by the judicial authorities, so the training itself cannot be carried out without strong advocacy for it to take place. In 2016, REDLACTRANS are being funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to start a project on access to justice and services for the transgender population.

Another REDLACTRANS report documented cases of human rights violations in Panama. For the first time, a representative of the Panamanian member organisation of REDLACTRANS had the opportunity to sit in front of representatives of the national government and commissioners of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In the presentation government officials admitted that the police fined

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[16] For example, between 94 and 95 per cent of transgender women in Peru and Chile are engaged in sex work. See: REDLACTRANS and International HIV/AIDS Alliance, The night is another country (2012), p40. Available from: http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/000/405/90623-Impunity-and-violence-against-transgender-women-human-rights-defenders-in-Latin-America_original.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].

[17] REDLACTRANS and International HIV/AIDS Alliance, The night is another country (2012), p9. Available from: http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/000/405/90623-Impunity-and-violence-against-transgender-women-human-rights-defenders-in-Latin-America_original.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].

[18] REDLACTRANS and International HIV/AIDS Alliance, The night is another country (2012), p14-15. Available from: http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/000/405/90623-Impunity-and-violence-against-transgender-women-human-rights-defenders-in-Latin-America_original.pdf [accessed 10 May 2016].

transgender women regularly just because they were trans. Following this, the first lady of Panama lent her support to REDLACTRANS' campaign for changes in policing.

To continue their work to ensure that Latin American and Caribbean governments and public bodies respect and protect the human rights of transgender people, and that transgender people are able to access health, education and other services without stigma or discrimination, civil society networks such as REDLACTRANS need continued funding. When the state is the perpetrator of rights violations, funding is needed from other sources for communities to advocate for their rights, for accessible, quality services and to hold governments to account.

Sightsavers: data disaggregation and disability

Measuring the participation of people with disabilities in development programmes

Principles: civil society partnerships; measures of progress; data gathering and disaggregation

In 2014 Sightsavers launched pilot project "Everybody counts" to test disaggregating data by disability, integrating the Washington Group short set of questions[19] into routine data collection in a number of their programmes. These questions focus on functional difficulties and were designed to operationalise the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Functioning into national data collection systems.

Sightsavers tested this in two of their programmes:

1. The Madhya Pradesh Urban Slum Eye Care Programme in Bhopal, India, which was established as a new eye health programme, using a hospital and vision centre in urban slums. This project is in partnership with a local community development organisation and an eye hospital.
2. The Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme in Ruvuma, Tanzania, focused on trachoma surgeries taking place in rural areas, with partners including the Ministry of Health and Tanzania League of the Blind.

Sightsavers' findings on what works and what doesn't will allow them to evaluate and improve the accessibility of their programmes. They will also help contribute to the debate on how best to collect data on the inclusion of people with disabilities as a step towards their greater inclusion in development programmes. This in turn will ensure a wider understanding of how to collect better, more accurate and comparable data at a national level.

Why is this important? Councillor William Mwambu from Masindi, Uganda, explains:

"When the duty bearers, when the planners, when the counting officers, when the implementers, lack information, lack data, it becomes very hard – one – for them to plan. Because what are they planning for? Two – it becomes hard for them to justify; why are we saying we need schools? Why are we saying we need accessibility? Why are we saying we need increased funding towards disability? Why are we saying we need people to include 'a/b/c/d' in their programming? It becomes

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[19] Disability serves as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations or participation restrictions. While it is desirable to collect information on all aspects of disability, this aim cannot be achieved in censuses or in surveys not dedicated to disability. However, censuses can be used to obtain data on selected aspects of disability. The Washington Group has developed a short question set for use on national censuses for gathering information about limitations in basic activities in national populations. The questions were designed to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations regardless of culture or economic resources. See: Washington Group, Census Questions on Disability Endorsed by the Washington Group (nd). Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/washington_group/wg_short_measure_on_disability.pdf [accessed 19 May 2016].

hard for us to influence policy direction. 'Why are you asking us to do this? Where are the people? We are not seeing them.'

"So lack of data influences planning and budgeting, and for that reason the challenge we've got is little funding, little interest. Even the government partners coming to Masindi. Nobody shows interest in disability. Why? Because they don't know they are there. They don't know the challenges. They do not know what are their specific needs? They don't have the entry point. But if we have this data with us, with them, readily accessible, it becomes easier, it adds weight on our advocacy, it adds weight on the justification, on the rationale we give, and can even attract more development partners to come in, because there is a reason."

UNICEF and partners: children affected by conflict

Putting education and child protection at the centre of the response to the Syria crisis

Principles: drive policy change; address multiple discriminations; civil society partnerships

The No Lost Generation initiative was set up in 2013 to focus attention on the situation of children affected by the Syria crisis and address the potential "loss" of a generation of children to the effects of violence and displacement. The initiative led by UNICEF aims to put education and child protection at the centre of the response to the crisis, both in Syria and in five refugee hosting countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt).

In March 2016 the Syria conflict entered its sixth year, with more than 7 million children affected by the ongoing crisis. The conflict has taken a tremendous toll on children's access to educational services and protection. Children in Syria suffer protracted and multiple displacement, continuous exposure to violence, family separation, chronic psychosocial distress, recruitment into armed groups and economic exploitation. Inside and outside Syria, there are 2.7 million children out of school; one in four schools in Syria cannot be used; 52,500 teachers have left their posts; and the loss of school infrastructure is estimated to have cost nearly US$700 million.

The second phase of the No Lost Generation initiative focuses on further integrating its three core pillars – education, child protection, adolescents and youth – at the community level. For example, by setting up child and family centres that provide protection, education and adolescent services under one roof, or by providing support to livelihoods and social protection that helps raise family incomes and reduces negative coping trends, such as child labour and early marriage.

Guiding the three core pillars are four key strategies and outcomes:

1. To increase the supply of and access to services.
2. To improve the quality of services.
3. To address barriers to services and increase demand.
4. To advocate for legal and policy reforms to improve national education and child protection services.

Partnership has been key in driving the No Lost Generation initiative, including with United Nations agencies and international and local NGOs, as well as governments, international donors, private sector and young people themselves who are so affected by the crises in Syria and Iraq.

Through the initiative, UNICEF and partners have been able to reach 1.8 million children with learning supplies, 717 schools have been built and rehabilitated and 730,000 children have attended non-formal learning centres in their camps and poor communities. The initiative was accompanied by extensive

advocacy efforts to shed a light on abuse of children's dignity – the silent toll of child labour, child marriage and domestic violence. As a result of a massive region-wide effort, access to education among Syrian refugees in the five host countries has increased from 33% in January 2015 to 53% in December 2015.

VSO: multiple discriminations

Improving access to HIV and health services for prisoners across southern Africa

Principles: recognise the importance of normative change; drive policy change; address multiple discriminations; accountability and governance; civil society partnerships

> *"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."* Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom (1995)

> *"When you go to prison you lose your dignity, your integrity, you lose who you are. I tried to regain that."* Omberai Zambuko, an ex-prisoner from Zimbabwe who served six years in Zimbabwean prison and now works to rehabilitate prisoners

Yearly, over 30 million men and women spend time in prisons and other closed settings. Approximately a third are pre-trial detainees. Virtually all of them will return to their communities, many within a few months to a year. Globally, the prevalence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis in prison populations is two to 10 times as high, and in some cases may be up to 50 times as high, as in the general population. HIV rates are particularly high among women in detention. Health services provided in prisons settings are often substandard and under-funded, characterised by shortage of staff and of essential medications.

A high proportion of prisoners are involved in risky behaviours which increase their vulnerability to HIV infection, such as unsafe sexual activities and injecting drug use. In addition, systemic institutional problems, including overcrowding, violence, corruption, lack of protection for vulnerable prisoners, lack of training for prison staff, and poor medical and social services, increase the susceptibility of prisons to HIV, TB and other diseases.

Sexual abuse of prisoners both by fellow inmates and prison staff is common. Stigma and discrimination against HIV positive inmates affects their rate of uptake of HIV services. Undernutrition means prisoners living with HIV and AIDS are more susceptible to opportunistic infections. Rehabilitation and reintegration programmes are often ad hoc and not needs based. Released prisoners reoffend because the only access to a livelihood on release is to reengage in criminal activities.

VSO's Regional HIV and AIDS Programme in Southern Africa (RHAISA), in partnership with UNODC, is working across southern Africa to promote access to health services and address the challenges of healthcare provision in prison settings. The programme aims to improve access to and quality of health and HIV and AIDS services in the prison population, and to lobby governments, prisons and correctional facilities to adopt and implement policies on health reform in line with SADC minimum standards.

Working directly with prison populations, CSOs and communities, the programme works at all levels of the prisons system, with a focus on the prisoners themselves to ensure that they are aware of their right to health. Through volunteer placements, VSO focuses on capacity building of prisons and correctional facilities, and partner organisations. It also coordinates the Southern African Regional Prisons network.

Lessons for the "leave no one behind" agenda:

1. Prisoners are often experiencing multiple discriminations, for example, due to their status as prisoners, as people living with HIV, as people who have injected drugs, and as men who have had sex with men – and they are frequently from the poorest or most excluded socio economic groups in the first place.
2. Often the most marginalised groups will be hidden and unpopular with politicians and societies at large. This needs to actively acknowledged, and it is not a simple process to address – securing political buy-in from influential figures and power holders is critical.
3. It is imperative to ensure that the voices of the group who are being left behind are involved. In this example, ex-prisoners' associations are critical in helping to guide the aims of the programme as well as direct inclusion of prisoners themselves in order to achieve sustainable solutions.
4. Because poverty is multidimensional, the solutions need to be equally holistic – for prisoners this has meant addressing the combined health, livelihood and education interventions in an integrated way. This requires a different model of funding and assessments of success than may currently be being used.

World Vision: local accountability

Community by-laws against child marriage in Sierra Leone

Principles: drive policy change; accountability and governance; civil society partnerships

As part of World Vision Sierra Leone's child protection and advocacy (CPA) work, funded by UK aid, children contributed to a nationwide report on child protection systems called ADAPT (Assessment, Design and Planning Tool). From this, children and adults in 30 communities in the Bonthe District themselves identified and prioritised issues of teenage pregnancy, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), and child marriage. The project was designed based on these priorities, an understanding of the root causes of these issues, and the identification of gaps and opportunities in existing formal and informal child protection systems (for example, local clubs and networks).

As a direct result of advocacy from children's clubs, by-laws were introduced in 24 communities in the Chiefdoms of Kpanda Kemoh and Sogbini, prohibiting parents and guardians from giving their children into early marriages and from subjecting them to FGM/C below 18 years of age. This resulted in an agreed advocacy plan aimed at combating harmful practices against children across the entire district, and not only in project areas.

Since then, however, the Ebola outbreak has had an enormous impact on Sierra Leone, including on children in these communities. During that period, schools were closed to prevent the spread of the virus. As a result, children were made more vulnerable to abuse and to exploitative situations. Anecdotal evidence suggests that child marriage has increased during the crisis period and continues to do so. Responding to the situation, World Vision Sierra Leone has mobilised community volunteers to serve as home visitors. They have been able to provide psychosocial support to Ebola-affected children and families, as well as to continue raising awareness about child marriage and other forms of abuse, while reminding them of the existence of the relevant by-laws.

It is clear that the SDGs must be matched by local, context-specific commitments to make the SDGs meaningful for local communities and thereby help ensure that the "leave no one behind" principle is relevant to each local context. Involving local people in developing and monitoring these commitments can also be empowering.

By codifying these commitments through, for example, context-specific local by-laws, citizens' charters or similar instruments, communities are enabled to monitor their implementation and hold the relevant local authorities accountable for it. World Vision's experience suggests that local by-laws accompanied by education and work on social norms can also have a positive impact on local law enforcement. The fact that they are passed and/or endorsed by local leaders reinforces their normative value.

WWF: environmental sustainability

Inclusive river catchment governance in Tanzania

Principles: climate change and environmental sustainability; accountability and governance

The Great Ruaha River Catchment (GRRC), covers 183,791 square kilometres – about 20% of Tanzania. The population of the GRRC is an estimated two million and increasing. Economic development is diverse, with rain-fed and irrigated agriculture (including large scale rice schemes), livestock keeping, plantation forestry, and associated rural and urban enterprises. While downstream, the Ruaha National Park and game reserves are important tourist destinations, the many wetlands provide for fishing, and hydropower plants provide nearly 50% of the country's electricity. Since the early 1990s the river has become seasonal, ceasing to run for up to five months a year, with major impacts on people's lives and livelihoods as well as on the extensive wildlife.

Over time, understanding of the problem has shifted from it being seen as a problem of poor water management to being seen as a problem of governance and complexity. WWF now analyse the problem in terms of catchment complexity (conflict and disagreement between water users and sectors, knowledge gaps and uncertainties, exacerbated by climate change) and critical weaknesses in catchment governance. Poor, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups have not been actively engaged in decision making processes.

Confronted by both catchment complexity and polycentric governance (ie many centres of decision-making, formal and informal), WWF set about piloting a multi-stakeholder learning approach. This involved actively engaging all stakeholders – and especially hard to reach groups – in the decision-making processes. Until now various groups have often been excluded from formal decision-making arenas. The groups that have been left behind and left out include poorer rural women, "tail-enders" (the folk displaced downstream when collective rice schemes were privatised), pastoralists and youth.

The process has involved large-scale annual workshops, with the first day set aside for local people – including those at risk of being left out – to demonstrate that their participation is valued and to give them time to clarify their concerns and demands before being joined by the diversity of formal stakeholders. Engaging local stakeholders takes place over the preceding weeks as many are remotely located. Workshop processes are designed both to reveal differences and conflicts, identify shared aspirations, initiate shared activities that are both responsive to local people's needs and develop mutually acceptable solutions.

WWF are also facilitating the various authorities (eg local government associations, Water Basin Office, Zonal Irrigation Units) in joint strategising, planning and implementation, and in ensuring they are responding to the diversity of demands from their local constituents. Hitherto unheard voices are increasingly being heard and diverse local people are having more say in the key decisions that affect their lives, particularly with respect to the access, use and management of water resources.

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