REPORT OVERVIEW | 2020

GENDER AND DISABILITY:



INSPIRING PRACTICES FROM WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE IN AFRICA

# SUMMARY

The 2020 Making It Work report “Gender and disability: inspiring practices from women and girls with disabilities addressing discrimination and violence in Africa” provides an **overview of the violence and discrimination faced by women and girls by documenting** **8 good practices across 5 African countries**.

The practices are carried out by Women-led Disabled Persons’ Organizations (DPOs) and Women’s Organizations. They are concrete examples on inclusive Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response programming.

Following two calls of good practices since 2017, MIW now works with 17 partner organizations across 8 African countries.

# WHAT IS MAKING IT WORK?

The Making It Work Gender and Disability project aims at **eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities**, by advocating for their rights using well-documented **good practices** as evidence.

The MIW project involves:

* A project team located at HI headquarters,
* A Technical Advisory Committee made up of individual members and representatives from key organizations working on disability rights and women's rights,
* Regional and country partners including the Good Practice Holders.

# FOCUS ON SCALING: INCREASING THE IMPACT

MIW supports its country partners on **scaling their projects**. Scaling is a process aimed at **expanding the impact of a successful project.**

MIW partners have been supported in **scaling their practices in more than one direction, depending on the strategy.**

Scaling can take four directions.

* ***Scaling up (institutionalization):***

Producing changes in laws, policies, institutions or norms.

* ***Scaling out (expansion or replication):***

Geographically replicating or broadening the range or scope of good practices to serve a larger number of people.

* ***Scaling in (capacity development):***

An organization investing in its own capacity development to strengthen its capacities to deliver impactful projects.

* ***Scaling down (resource allocation):***

Sponsoring ground‐level implementation at community level, including allowing for adaptations to local contexts and conditions.

# 2020 NEW GOOD PRACTICES

**Criteria used for the selection of the good practices**

* + Achieved **positive changes.**
  + **Diversity** of persons involved in the practices.
  + **Leadership** of women with disabilities.
  + Aiming for **gender equity.**
  + **Collaboration** with women and girls with disabilities.
  + Potential for being **scaled up**.

*The following content presents the key elements that make each practice successful and unique. For more information about the practices, please refer to the full MIW report.* [*bit.ly/MIW2020REPORT*](https://bit.ly/MIW2020REPORT)

## Using sports and art to discuss GBV with children and youth with disabilities

KEFEADO (Kenya Female Advisory Organization), KENYA

* **Sports** are used as a tool to **counterbalance gender inequality**.
* **Girls develop physical skills and strength**, improving their self-protection aptitudes.
* **Discussion sessions** take place at least once a month in safe spaces in school.
* **Teaching boys** about gender equality, gender roles and male engagement.

*KEFEADO’s practice is gender responsive: it uses sport and art activities as a mean to promote gender equality and inclusion and challenges gender norms.*

## Improving access to social protection services and the realization of rights of women with hearing impairments

RNADW (Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women), RWANDA

* Awareness-raising meetings on **rights and access to services**.
* Supporting deaf women in registering to obtain a **national identity card**, allowing access to services.
* **Disability-sensitivity training sessions** towards women and girls with hearing impairments.

*RNADW tackles the isolation of women with disabilities living in rural areas through home visits, liaising with local authorities and networking through the community of peers.*

## Strengthening public structures and access to services for women and girls with disabilities

NUWODU (National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda), UGANDA

* Training women with disabilities on **being paralegals**
* **Awareness-raising sessions towards local government** members on responding to GBV against women and girls with disabilities.
* **Cooperation with police officers and health workers** to improve their knowledge and practices regarding women and girls with disabilities.

*Having women with disabilities as leaders increases* ***opportunities for empowerment and reassures all women with disabilities of their capacity to effect change****.*

## Developing women with disabilities’ empowerment through income generating activities

UPHB (Union des Personnes Handicapées du Burundi), BURUNDI

* **Training women with disabilities on entrepreneurship, methods of accessing credit and saving systems.**
* Promoting leadership and economic independence of women and girls with disabilities.
* Preventing GBV by tackling poverty.

***Female leadership:*** *UPHB is a women-led organization since 2016 with 40% of the executive committee being women with disabilities.*

## Amplifying the voices of women with disabilities

UDPK (United Disabled Persons in Kenya), KENYA

* Working with authorities at all levels to ensure the rights of women and girls with disabilities are **included in policy framework** development and implementation.
* **Establishing links with the women’s rights movement** for an enhanced inclusion within the Kenyan movement.
* Using the **male engagement initiative** by identifying male champions amongst the local administration, members of the community, and parents of children with disabilities.

***Women Empowerment:*** *579 isolated women with various forms of disabilities have joined groups of women, such as DPOs and women’s organizations.*

## Promoting the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls with disabilities

ODI Sahel (Organisation pour un Développement Intégré au Sahel), MALI

* **Increasing the reporting of GBV** by informing women and girls with disabilities of different reporting mechanisms.
* Increasing **access to family planning** through trainings on SRHR within the community.
* Building **confidence and self-esteem** of women and girls with disabilities.

*ODI Sahel collaborates with gatekeepers (village chiefs, religious leaders) and female genital mutilation practitioners, which leads to increased awareness and lasting changes to the collective mindset.*

## Providing access to services and promoting the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities

MUDIWA (Mubende Women with Disabilities Association), UGANDA

* Including women with disabilities **in mainstream income generating activities (IGA) groups.**
* **Improving access** to services for women with disabilities by **addressing physical, communication and behavioral barriers** to health, education and social welfare services.
* **Cooperation with the district probation office** on GBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities through case management and follow-up through to court.

***Male engagement:*** *men champions increase their knowledge on GBV, and raise the awareness among their peers.*

## Promoting women with disabilities’ inclusion and social change in communities

WARD (Women And Realities of Disability Society), KENYA

* **Inclusive community dialogues** with women with and without disabilities and service providers.
* Creating **safe space to share stories and experiences** and deconstruct misconceptions about the sexuality of women with disabilities.
* Information on **family planning and contraception.**

*WARD held inclusive community dialogues on topics at the heart on every woman’s life: maternal health, sexuality, economic empowerment, education, hygiene and the political representation of women with disabilities.*

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