SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER PPIMA PROGRAM IN 2018

Public Policy Monitoring and Advocacy, PPIMA - Programme is a civil society support project aimed at promoting an active interest among Rwandan Civil Society organizations in Public policy affairs and helping them to self-organize and acquire the skills they need to engage effectively in national and local level processes of policy formulation, implementation and management. PPIMA was initiated by the Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) with its partners of Civil Society organizations, under the title ‘’Strengthening the participation in decision making and services delivery and advocate for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities’’. The goal NUDOR has been contributing to is: ‘The Government policies, laws, programs and plans as well as services delivery are improved in order to benefit to persons with disabilities as other citizens

To equip knowledge other CSOs to ensure they are supporting NUDOR advocacy work, NUDOR has trained NPA partners working at district and national levels on disability rights and inclusion and one of the outcome was that participants have committed to mainstream disability into their plans.

To ensure disability is meaningfully mainstreamed into district plans , NUDOR has trained Districts authorities on disability rights and inclusion in Ngororero, Nyaruguru, Gatsibo and Gakenke Districts. This training has allowed the participants to gain knowledge on disability rights and inclusion and this has guided them in the process of developing District Development Strategies.

To educate the community on disability rights and inclusion, awareness campaigns were organized in all eight PPIMA Districts. These campaigns have been an opportunity for the community to raise issues affecting PWDs in the community and the following were mostly common in all District: a big number of PWDs who missed categorization exercise, a very poor participation into VUP program especially in financial services, limited access to education, limited access to assistive devices to mention a few.
From the raised issues during the awareness campaigns, community debates were organized, where PWDs and local leaders have given space to discuss on the raised issues and made commitments to solve them.

From the community debates, advocacy meetings were organized with local leaders. The meetings have been a space for NUDOR to present its achievements especially for the District whose leaders were newly elected. The meetings were an opportunity to raise issues from the community debates for relevant commitments to solve them.

Radio talk shows and call-in in were organized in Ngororero, Burera, Gatsibo, Nyaruguru. The following topics constituted the discussions during the talk shows: Access to finance by persons with disabilities in Ngororero District, Access to education by children and youth with disabilities in Burera District, Participation of persons with disabilities to community development programs such as VUP and access to social services in Gatsibo District, Empowerment of PWDs for Access to assistive devices and other services in Nyaruguru District.

NUDOR has organized the national dialogue on accessible public transport to persons with disabilities, conducted on November 29, 2018 in UMUBANO/MARASA Hotel where 80 people included 27 PWDs, participated. The following issues were presented during the dialogue: 

- **Accessibility** where most of the buses are not physically accessible, and create barriers to physically impaired to get into them because of the steps at the entrance. Most of buses have no places reserved to wheelchair users, which is a barrier to access those buses. This goes also to motorcycles used for public transport, the same issue is faced by persons with short stature.

- **Negative mindset** to public transport service providers: considering some PWDs as beggars instead of facilitating them to travel as any other passenger, requesting extra payment to wheelchair users.

- **Communication barrier**: challenge to persons with hearing impairment as they sometimes enter in the bus without knowing the direction, limited information on price changes in public transport, limitation to bargain on prices especially when using the motorcycles.

- **Inaccessible infrastructures**: water canalizations around the roads that are not well covered can harm the visually impaired when travelling alone in the street.

- **Discrimination**: people with intellectual disability, Persons with albinism face discrimination in public transport; they are named with inappropriate terms.
**Limited knowledge on disability rights:** public transport services providers and other users are not aware on the importance of white cane for instance; some thinks reserving accessible and comfortable is a favour.

The dialogue was a space to issue some recommendations where the main was addressed to organizations/institutions such as Rwanda National Police, departments of traffic roads safety Association des Transporteurs de Personnes au Rwanda, (ATPR), Rwanda Federation Transport Cooperatives, (RFTC), JALI Holdings Company to raise awareness on issues affecting PWDs targeting the drivers, companies managers on public transport service delivery such as travel tickets distribution, communication in the buses, time at bus stop station, to mention a few.

**NUDOR** was recommended to put in place the steering committee that should follow up the implementation of these recommendations.

During 2019, NUDOR will continue to monitor the implementation of commitments and recommendations made during the previous advocacy initiatives to ensure PWDs are fully mainstreamed into policies, laws and programs.

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