



COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS PROGRAMME BRIEF (2025-2029)

Atlas Organization: The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD)

Local Partners: Organizations of Persons with Disabilities including NUDIPU, SHAU, Inclusion Uganda and Mental Health Uganda

Brief Program Description:

The CADIR Programme aims to improve the ability of persons with disabilities and their families in Uganda to achieve inclusion in all areas of society through greater participation in decision making processes and greater access to health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment opportunities and their resilience to climate change and disasters. The program is implemented by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). It will strengthen collaboration of OPDs regionally.

Programme Goal: The Rights of Persons with disabilities are fulfilled in Atlas Alliance partner Countries (Uganda)

Programme Specific Objectives

1100: Improved realization of human rights by persons with disabilities in Atlas Alliance partner countries

1200: Improved presence participation and achievement to quality inclusive pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education for learners with disabilities

2. Key Thematic Areas & Objectives:

The program focuses on five interconnected thematic areas:

- a) Human Rights and Organizational Development (HROD)
 - Develop and implement a national advocacy agenda
 - Build capacity of OPD structures and strengthen cross-border collaboration
 - Enhance inclusive policies and practices of NGOs
- b) Inclusive Education (IE)
 - Improve equal access to quality inclusive education at all levels for children with disabilities
 - Improve quality of inclusive teaching
 - Strengthen capacity of OPDs to advocate for and support inclusive education

3. Relevance of the Programme

The program addresses critical challenges in Uganda, including weak implementation of disability rights despite UNCRPD ratification, limited government funding for rehabilitation, high prevalence of mental health disorders, poverty disproportionately affecting persons with disabilities, low school enrollment for children with disabilities, and high vulnerability to climate change impacts.

The program's relevance is deeply rooted in Uganda's commitment to international conventions (UNCRPD, SDG 8, SDG 4, and Sendai Framework) and national policies (NDP III, Persons with Disabilities Act 2020). It builds on past successes of OPD-NGO partnerships, emphasizing local ownership and leveraging existing structures.

4. Target group

Under each thematic area, the program targets persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

It works with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), to strengthen their structures and abilities to advocate for rights of people with disabilities.

Finally, it works with government on changing local, regional and national legislation, policies and practice to enhance inclusivity of services and legal frameworks. Other duty bearers will also be targeted.

5. Program Contribution:

The program contributes to a more inclusive Ugandan society by:

- Strengthening awareness and rights of individuals with disabilities, empowering them to claim their rights and participate fully.
- Building community awareness on inclusion, benefiting all community members.
- Fostering an active civil society by strengthening OPDs capacity for joint advocacy and a stronger voice for the disability movement.
- Working systematically at individual, civil society, and system levels across five thematic areas to ensure Uganda fulfills its commitments to disability rights.

6. Implementation Approach:

The program will run from 2025-2029, influencing change at individual, organizational, and system levels. It will begin with knowledge and capacity building across all thematic areas. Early efforts will focus on empowering individuals to know and access their rights. The program will work to strengthen OPDs with necessary skills to influence systems change, influence policy reviews and reforms, and build coalitions. The program will also train duty bearers on the importance of inclusion.

Baseline studies will establish the initial level of disability inclusion among state and non-state actors, guiding advocacy for improved inclusive policies, data collection, and resource allocation, ultimately mainstreaming disability within the broader development agenda.

7. Sustainability & Local Ownership:

Sustainability is ensured by working with existing structures and empowering persons with disabilities and their organizations to continue advocacy efforts post-program. Emphasis is placed on building strong national and local OPD capacities. The program aims to foster strong relationships between rights holders and duty bearers that will endure beyond the program's lifecycle.