



# We are Able! Advocacy Cases



The Hague Academy for  
local governance



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## About We are Able!

Persons with disabilities are vulnerable in terms of food security, the UN concludes.<sup>1</sup> The We are Able! programme enables persons with disabilities to advocate for their right to food, land and livelihood opportunities. So that they can provide for themselves and their families and be valued and respected members of their communities. To achieve this enabling environment for persons with disabilities, policies and laws should be adopted and implemented that ensure access to food for persons with disabilities.

We are Able! is a programme funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands that focuses on strengthening the voices of persons with disabilities in order to achieve a higher food security level. The programme started in 2021 and will run until 2025. We are Able! is being implemented in 6 countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The programme works with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD's) as well as local governments, to ensure enabling environments for persons with disabilities to enhance their access to food. We extend the insights and lessons learned to the national level, where policy makers can make impactful decisions to enhance food security for persons with disabilities.

As We are Able!, we have gathered multiple best practices from our several years of experience to showcase what kinds of measures in policies and law have been successful in working towards our goal. These cases are more practical recommendations that add to existing general recommendations in our position paper.<sup>2</sup> We welcome you to read our approaches and invite you to investigate how to incorporate it into your policies regarding food security.

This document contains five of these advocacy cases:

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Guidelines for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals : FOOD AND NUTRITION (ohchr.org)

<sup>2</sup> [https://weareable.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ZOA\\_WaA-Position-Paper\\_A5\\_72300656-1.pdf](https://weareable.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ZOA_WaA-Position-Paper_A5_72300656-1.pdf)

# 1: Inclusive Land Rights for Persons with Disabilities

## Fostering food security by ensuring access to land for persons with disabilities

In several countries in which our programme is implemented, most notably Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, we have observed challenges for persons with disabilities to possess their own plot of land. Owning a plot of land can, if other key elements such as provision of seeds and assistive devices are provided, enable persons with disabilities to grow produce, which they can either consume themselves with their families, or sell on the local market. If one's land rights are secure (i.e. a person has continued access to a plot of land) he or she will invest more time and resources in the plot of land, thereby making it more productive. Therefore, ensuring land rights for persons with disabilities is an effective approach to enhancing the food security of persons with disabilities and their families.

## Background: Barriers for persons with disabilities to own land

1. For persons with disabilities, challenges in getting access to land rights are strongly intertwined with **how people with disabilities are perceived** within their families and communities. People with disabilities are often seen as incapable and as subjects of solidarity, especially when it comes to practicing agriculture. This perception often causes people with disabilities to be overlooked when it comes to the inheritance of land. They are not considered as a legal party and their right to manage land might be denied and given to the other family members in their place. In the rare cases that persons with disabilities are granted a piece of land, they tend to get the worst and most infertile parts.
2. Additionally, **government procedures for registration and certification of land ownership** can also constitute a barrier for people with disabilities. In Burundi for instance, physical presence is required in multiple stages of the registration process. Also, the costs of the registration and the certification itself can be a barrier for people with disabilities, as they often live in extreme poverty. Lastly, inadequate registration procedures prevent persons with disabilities from inheriting land, as they are not recognized as fully independent individuals.
3. Thirdly, **lack of information on government procedures** when it comes to land rights constitutes a barrier for persons with disabilities to inherit, acquire, buy and own land. While it's already a hurdle for individuals without disabilities, those with disabilities face even greater challenges because people fail to recognize the importance of informing them about these procedures. Moreover, as we have seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for instance, communication materials lack adaptation for various types of disabilities, including those affecting visibility.



Photo: McWilliams Wasswa

4. An intersectional barrier that adds to the points mentioned, is the **position of women** with disabilities. In Burundi, a woman does not have a formal right to own land. Thus, she faces a twofold barrier: being a person with a disability and being a woman. This, combined with other barriers mentioned above leads to an even greater risk of food insecurity for women with disabilities.

### **Our approach**

In the We are Able! programme we have organized several initiatives aimed at mitigating the aforementioned barriers. The bullet points below describe our approach, in the next paragraph we will explain how government agencies can learn from our approach and incorporate it in their own practice.

- *Awareness-raising*

At the local level, we conducted sessions to raise awareness about the legal rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities regarding land rights. The resulting heightened community awareness led to increased involvement and consideration of persons with disabilities. In Uganda, we have noted that negative perceptions in project areas diminished, enabling people with disabilities to participate in land sharing. Moreover, households now recognize the significance of persons with disabilities within families, viewing them as valuable resources when making plans. Additionally, securing land rights enables people to seek credit or a mortgage, aiding investment in other areas to enhance food security. Persons with disabilities are also more cognizant of their rights and the importance of land, resulting in increased land registration out of own initiative.

- Training land rights service officials

Beside raising community awareness, we approached officials in the villages and communities by offering training sessions. This ensures that common practices in the community are not hindering the land access of persons with disabilities. We have sensitized officials on the rights of persons with disabilities. We approached and trained government officials together with local OPDs that were previously strengthened in their capacity to advocate for their rights. The previous engagements have ensured lasting collaborations between local civil society and government officials in the field of land rights. It resulted in person with disabilities being able to pay for their land rights certifications in installments.

- Women with Disabilities

Specific messages regarding the position of women with disabilities were developed and communicated to both community and local governments. We have seen that women are underrepresented in land rights services, and we addressed this issue. In Burundi, we raised awareness among women about the possibility to be registered on a legal marriage certificate, beside the registration of their husband. We have also engaged with public authorities to urge them to make this known among the population of their districts, so that more women will use this opportunity.

### **Policy recommendations at national level**

As our approach has shown, changes - both big and small - have greatly increased land access and the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities. We feel that adopting favorable policies and laws at national level could further increase inclusion of persons with disabilities in land rights procedures.

**Our first recommendation** is to distribute a policy instruction. A great way of formalizing inclusion of persons with disabilities in local land rights authorities is to write a policy instruction to land rights services at the national level that is distributed to the local level. The task at the local level is to incorporate the policy instructions into existing handbooks on land rights. Such a policy instruction should contain the following aspects:

- » Community and family members should note the rights and capacities of persons with disabilities, so that they are more accepted in owning land.
- » Persons with disabilities should, because of their economic situation, be able to pay in installments in land registration procedures.
- » Persons with disabilities should be able to inherit land. They are legally independent persons under (inter)national law and should not be excluded from inheritance processes.
- » Persons with disabilities should be able to apply for a loan or a mortgage to ensure a plot of land for themselves. With the produce of the land, they can repay.
- » The handbook should be written in close collaboration with the Land Rights Committee.

**Our second recommendation** is to formalize the option for women to be written down on marriage certificates. This certificate gives women legal proof of their ownership to land under their marriage. This will combat discrimination of women in land access, and enable women (with disabilities) to be a part of economic activities of the household. In our opinion, this possibility should be adopted in national law, so that women (with disabilities) can fall back on their certificate as a legal proof of their ownership of the land.

**Our third and last recommendation** for policy is perhaps most important. It is crucial that a dialogue is kept alive between the government and the existing land rights sector groups who are working on (inclusive) land rights. Also, Land Rights Committees on local and national level are pivotal to be included in the discussion with persons with disabilities. Government officials should keep engaging in dialogue with Organizations for Persons with Disabilities to be aware of the barriers and challenges for persons with disabilities. The motto of persons with disabilities is 'nothing about us without us', and we should all live up to it.

## 2: Inclusive Budget Process for Inclusive Food Security

### A case from South Sudan: an approach to foster inclusive food security

In many countries participating in We are Able!, government offices offer programmes that aim at improving food security throughout their countries. The policies and their budgets are provided at a national level, and regional and local government authorities are responsible for implementation of the government strategies. To make these policies effective, it is important to monitor the budget allocations and planning. If the budget planning and distribution is effective, it will be able to reach more individuals and households. Persons with disabilities benefit from a good budget, because it means they have more opportunities to participate in these government programmes. In South Sudan, the We are Able! programme has been engaging in discussions with national and state governments to ensure that budget planning and implementation of food security programmes are successful in reaching persons with disabilities.



Photo: Jessica Blum

## Background: Situation for persons with disabilities in South Sudan

The We are Able! programme did a study in 2022 in which it mapped the barriers that persons with disabilities face to access food. We recognize these in many of the We are Able! countries.

These included:

- In South Sudan, persons with disabilities often face stigmatization in their own communities, which hinders them to participate in public life, including in economic activities. As a result, persons with disabilities are reliant on family members to provide for their food. Because of food scarcity, persons with disabilities are food insecure.
- In South Sudan, another specific barrier for persons with disabilities to participate in public life is the lack of assistive devices. The unavailability because of either limited supply or because of too high prices leads to physical barriers for persons with disabilities to access public infrastructure, working environments or marketplaces. This hinders persons with disabilities in their access to food.

## Our approach

In South Sudan, the We are Able! team realized that making the budget process more effective would lead to increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in food security opportunities. That is why OPDs have been in discussion with government authorities at different levels.

The involvement included:

- Recognition as representative organization of persons with disabilities  
Jonglei Disability Organization engaged in discussions with the national and state authorities to discuss the challenges of persons with disabilities when it comes to food security. This led to the government recognizing the regional organization for persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities and advocate for them when it comes to inclusion in government services.
- Discussions on budget planning  
As a result of aforementioned recognition, OPDs were able to bring across the importance of inclusive budgeting for food security. Policy stakeholders at national level have for a large part understood the food security and livelihood importance for persons with disabilities and have allocated budget to support agricultural initiatives for them, for which persons were selected in collaboration with OPDs. Discussions at state level were focused on ensuring that the budget was allocated to the most suitable project participants, especially to persons with disabilities that had been neglected in these programmes for a long time.
- Discussions after budget implementation  
After the budget was allocated to the food security intervention, discussions were again held to evaluate the allocation. In these discussions, it was noted that many persons with disabilities were still not able to engage in the programmes, because of lack of assistive devices.



The government has sadly indicated that there is insufficient budget for supporting assistive devices, as government authorities are not receiving salaries now and that is their priority. On top of this, budget is only available in digit, but no liquidation. It should therefore be a priority, as soon as budget comes available, to provide assistive devices to persons with disabilities, as they are now the main hindrance for them to participate in society.

### **Specific recommendations**

Our key recommendation that follows from the experiences in South Sudan regarding the budget process, is that Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) should be a key stakeholder in budget planning, allocation and monitoring. The case of South Sudan has shown that involvement of OPDs has led to more inclusion of persons with disabilities in food security programmes. Our specific recommendations to ensure a fruitful collaboration in the budget process are the following:

1. Be transparent in budget evaluations:

Increasing transparency enables Civil Society Organizations, such as those active under the We are Able! programme, to investigate the budget allocations, implementation and evaluation. This work will enable them to assist government agencies with insights in their budget process. We believe and have proven that this leads to more efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Persons with Disability should be a priority in budget planning:

Food insecurity is prevalent under persons with disabilities. Budget planning should be done with Organizations for Persons with Disabilities and aim to include them in food security budgets. A suitable starting point is the commitment by African Union Member States to allocate 10% of national budget to agriculture. Including persons with disabilities in these allocations would support persons with disabilities considerably. To support this budget allocation, governments should provide assistive devices to persons with disabilities, as lack thereof hinders their participation in society.

3. Persons with disabilities should be part of sector budget committees:

In existing review committees per sector, the government and existing participants should invite persons with disabilities, organized in their associations, to join the budget evaluations. This needs to happen at national level (with national level OPDs) and state level. Gender and Inclusion Focal Points at the national level should take the responsibility to make sure this happens, as women with disabilities are among the most vulnerable.



Photo: Lieuwe de Jong

### 3: Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) for Inclusive Food Security

#### **The PIP approach: full household participation in agricultural activities**

Although levels of food insecurity in the DRC are high, the country has fertile lands and abundant water resources. It possesses sufficient natural resources to be self-sufficiency in food production. However, various underlying causes such as the conflict in eastern DRC, the lack of infrastructure, low access to quality inputs and finance and the impact of climate change on temperature and rainfall patterns are major challenges for people to properly feed themselves and their families. These challenges are even more severe for persons with a disability, and in particular women with a disability. The only way to break the cycle and shift these trends is to help rural families increase their resilience and productivity.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Background: Persons with disabilities excluded from food production chain**

Persons with disabilities face physical barriers for their food security. In the areas of implementation of We are Able! in the DRC, inadequate road infrastructure makes travelling hard for persons with disabilities. Following this, persons with disabilities cannot acquire seeds that can withstand

<sup>3</sup> Joint FAO/WFP News Release, September 2023

harsh weather conditions, nor can they sell their produce on the markets. Additionally, because the land has eroded, farmers need to do physical, tough work to make the land fertile. This land-conservation work is often not possible for persons with disabilities. As a result, persons with disabilities are excluded from the food production chain and have limited food security.

We have used the PIP-approach in Uganda, Burundi and the DRC as a method to overcome many of these challenges. It has proven to be successful, and with the right support from the national government, the PIP can be a good approach to foster greater inclusive food security among persons with disabilities.

### **Our approach**

An approach that has been used widely across the We are Able! programme is the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach. The PIP is an inclusive bottom-up approach that promotes environmental stewardship and sustainable climate-smart farm practices. It motivates farmers to tackle land degradation and invest in sustainable land management. This approach, which has primarily focused on the household level, aims at involving all household members in making an agricultural plan for the household. As such, it has facilitated the integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities in their households. The key approach of the PIP-method is to develop a farm plan with all members of the households, whereby the whole household together comes up with a list of assets that the household possesses, so that all these means and assets can be used towards a certain goal. That goal is formulated based on the input of all the household members, including women and men who have a disability. As results of our approach, we have perceived the following:

- Involvement of persons with disabilities in household plans under the PIP approach has reduced their stigmatization, and there is a better understanding of their potential as an asset to capitalize on when collaborating in agricultural practices.
- Due to the PIP training, communities are better aware of the persons living with disabilities in their communities and involve them in community discussions on development issues. The PIP approach has in some cases been scaled up to village level, where all members of a village have jointly developed a vision for their own village, in which all voices were heard. Persons with disabilities are now part of village level Income Generating Activities and Village Savings and Loans Groups.
- Because of the active involvement of persons with disabilities in the PIP-training sessions, their self-esteem has been boosted and they are more aware of their own strengths and opportunities. They are now developing future visions for themselves out of intrinsic motivation.

## Specific recommendations

With the right support from government authorities at multiple levels, the PIP can be a good way of improving the food security of persons with disabilities further and on a broader scale. To reach this, we have the following recommendations for policymakers:

1. Institutional authorities should **enable a favorable environment for the PIP approach**. Local governments should provide training locations, as well as monitor the progression of the household plans. Additionally, government officials on agriculture should be made aware of this approach and the actors that are implementing and participating.
2. Support approaches such as PIP by **providing resources to kickstart agricultural practices**. NGOs such as those active under the We are Able! programme should collaborate with local, state and national governments to ensure that households are not only trained but also receive resources to capitalize on the training. Agricultural government departments should provide these resources, such as seeds, tools or micro-credits.

# 4: Access to Financing for Persons with Disabilities via Inclusive Civil Society Organizations on Food Security

## **Empowering project participants to advocate for financial services in the fight for food security**

In Sudan, we found a particular way to strengthen the position of persons with disabilities in terms of food security. The approach could be used on a more general level and could be adopted by policymakers. But before explaining the approach, it is important to understand the circumstances for persons with disabilities. This case speaks about the conditions in Sudan specifically, but these can be generalized to other countries in the region.

## **Background: Disadvantaged economic position of people with disabilities**

- Persons with disabilities are often not receiving a proper education, which constitutes a barrier for them to get jobs to gain an income for their families. Education is often a necessary step towards ensuring better food security.
- Some persons with disabilities engage in informal jobs, for example in marginal work in the local markets. Their jobs remain informal however, as they are often not supported by the government to engage in formal education, jobs, or agricultural activities.
- Some government programmes exist to support persons with disabilities, for example by training them on Income Generating Activities and offering them small grants for starting a business. However, the scale of these support programmes is too minor to sufficiently increase food security for persons with disabilities.
- Prior to the We are Able! programme, persons with disabilities were underrepresented in existing associations or initiatives on food securities. They were unorganized as a group in society and therefore unable to advocate for themselves.

## **Our approach**

The We are Able! programme focuses on organizing durable change. By establishing, empowering and strengthening Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPD's) to advocate for their rights, but also by making Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL) CSO's more inclusive to persons with disabilities. This strategy has proven successful in opening up opportunities for, and unleashing the potential of, persons with disabilities to become productive members of society. This makes them less dependent on aid, either from institutions or their families, increasing their self-worth and their value to the community. We have established Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that focus on inclusive food security interventions. These CSOs have a specific focus on inclusion of persons with disabilities and have advocated for inclusive financial services.

Our approach includes three steps:

### 1. Establishing Inclusive Food Security CSOs

Under the We are Able! programme 94 inclusive FSL CSOs were established. These Civil Society Organizations together entail 2,941 members, with over 40% (1,244 members) being persons living with disabilities. Many persons with disabilities, including women, are active members of these associations and represented in the highest positions of all these FSL CSOs, holding positions such as Chairperson, General Secretariat, and Treasurer. In order to keep record of these Food Security and Livelihoods associations, a database system was developed. The registered data include the association's location, their valid registration certificate, association members' contact, type of business, and association bank account. The database will be useful to design other complementary projects to improve food security and livelihood access for vulnerable groups.

### 2. FSL CSO Capacity Building

Aiming to improve the capacities of these FSL CSOs, they received different training packages within the We are Able! programme. Beside acquiring specific agricultural and technical knowledge and skills according to their interests and needs, the associations and their members were trained in topics that specifically related to business activities, to ensure that they had better business plans for applying for financial loans at financial services and institutions. Training sessions included bookkeeping, entrepreneurship, project management and legal skills. Additionally, the organization's members were trained on lobby and advocacy.



Photo: Jessica Blum

### 3. Access to Financial Resources

Because the organizations were legalized and registered by the government of Sudan, they could get funds from financial institutions. They were able to achieve micro-finances and loans at commercial banks and other financial institutions. At the same time, the We are Able! programme team engaged in discussions with the financial institutions, upon which they created a **special funding portfolio** for organizations that have a focus on persons with disabilities. In Ethiopia, the We are Able! team had a similar approach, which enabled persons with disabilities to take loans for buying working premises, tools, and seeds. As a result of these interventions, persons with disabilities engage more in formal income generating activities, with a specific focus on agriculture.

### **Specific Recommendations**

We have seen that, through our interventions, persons with disabilities have been encouraged to become engaged and productive members of the community. They are now more active in the local economy, specifically in agricultural activities. This was a win-win situation for the individuals and the organizations. A crucial role in this positive change is played by the financial institutions that have enabled persons with disabilities to snowball their economic activities.

Persons with disabilities participating in the We are Able! projects have shown that they are able to work and maintain their food security if we build their capacity and link them to the right opportunities. With a small support intervention, persons with disabilities experience a big change in their life.

Therefore, we recommend that:

- » Governments make an effort to supply persons with disabilities with the opportunities for gaining loans or micro-finance grants. The Central Bank should ensure inclusive regulations and policies within financial institutions. Our approach has been very successful at the local level and should now be scaled up to a national level.
- » Financial institutions and governmental departments should be trained on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to better facilitate their positive response towards inclusive Food Security for persons with disabilities.
- » Banks at the national level should consider setting apart shares of their social accountability budgets to be accessible for persons with disabilities. This would greatly assist persons with disabilities in starting income generating activities, thereby increasing their food security.

# 5: Making Government Food Security Programmes Inclusive to Persons with Disabilities

## **Approaches towards inclusive food security: supporting government programmes**

Food insecurity has many causes. In the countries of our We are Able! programme, we see that livelihood losses, escalation of food prices, political instability, global warming, conflict, gaps in social protection policies, judicial exclusion, and overall discriminatory practices hinder persons with disabilities in their food security. Ethiopia, like other We are Able! countries, has overarching food security policies and programmes in place that aim to ensure better food security for persons with disabilities. Nonetheless, ensuring that persons with disabilities are included in their implementation is still a challenge.

## **Background: Situation for persons with disabilities in Ethiopia**

- In Ethiopia, an estimated 95% of all persons with disabilities live in poverty. The most vulnerable among them live in rural areas, where basic services are limited and the chances of accessing rehabilitative or support services are slim because of remoteness. This leaves persons with disabilities with limited options, and they mostly turn to begging for food.
- Ethiopia has an estimated 15 million children, adults and elderly persons that have a disability, one of the highest prevalences in sub-Saharan Africa.



Photo: Jonneke.nl



- The government of Ethiopia has introduced an approach to boost food security across the country. These are organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and focus mostly on livelihood approaches via income generating activities. The government provides budgets for these initiatives. Although these programmes do not have a specific focus on persons with disabilities, they focus on the most vulnerable groups in the country (women, persons with disabilities, refugees, low-income households).

### **Our approach:**

In Ethiopia, we have ensured that persons with disabilities are reached more often by the existing government programmes for food security. We have used multiple approaches to ensure this. As a result, persons with disabilities are now able to engage in income generating activities that ensure an income for themselves and other household members. In some cases, , this meant that they received their own working site or plot of land for their labor. Their income ensures that they can provide for their basic needs, thereby increasing their food security. Our approaches to ensure the government programmes were effectively inclusive to persons with disabilities included:

- *We are Able! as an implementing party to the government programmes*  
The We are Able! team in Ethiopia implemented an Income Generating Activities (IGA) programme themselves. They were in contact with the government to discuss how they could roll out their food security improvement programmes, with a specific focus on persons with disabilities. As such, valuable discussions were held with the Ministry of Agriculture, sharing experiences when it comes to the food security of persons with disabilities. As We Are Able!, we have experience with persons with disabilities working in bakeries, garmenting, poultry production, and metal works. We have seen that these activities have boosted food security and livelihoods among persons with disabilities. In our discussions with local governments, we have specifically shared the importance of providing assistive devices to ensure that persons with disabilities are empowered to engage in income generating activities.
- *Training of OPDs to assist the government programme to reach persons with disabilities*  
The motto of persons with disabilities is 'nothing about us without us'. To ensure a lasting influence of the We are Able! programme, we have been training Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to be able to advocate for themselves. They have now become a valuable discussion party for many policymakers and local government officials. They are consulted in so-called Disability Mainstreaming Committees, where they advocate for how government policies interact with the food security situation for persons with disabilities.
- *Using success stories of government programmes to ensure access to loans*  
With our successful turn-outs of persons with disabilities engaging in economic activities, we have shown to financial authorities such as banks and microfinance institutions that persons with disabilities can deliver valuable contributions to the economy. We, together with OPDs, have advocated for financial inclusion for persons with disabilities: they are now eligible to take loans for buying working premises, tools, seeds, or other working equipment.

## Specific recommendations

The collaboration between the government programme on increasing food security and the We are Able! Programme has been a fruitful one in our opinion. We urge governments to adopt this approach more broadly in other food security efforts and programmes. We have formulated several specific recommendations for the government at national level to increase food security for persons with disabilities.

Our key recommendation for national policy stakeholders is to **include Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the planning and implementing phases of food security strengthening programmes**, such as the ones organized by the Ministry of Agriculture. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities have knowledge of the local community and are therefore a great asset to make sure the programmes are optimized to the local environment. This approach should not only be enlarged among We Are Able! related OPDs, but on a broader scale and in other regions.

Specific elements of this collaboration are:

- » **In the planning process** of food security programmes, persons with disabilities should be consulted on how to make the programmes inclusive for persons with disabilities, following the 'nothing about us without us' principle. Additionally, OPDs should be part of the approach used to improve food security, for example by including OPDs in the selection of participants to these government programmes.
- » **In the implementing phase** the OPDs should, apart from assisting in the selection of participants, be a partner in monitoring and evaluation of the government programmes. Because of their knowledge of the local community, they are a valuable asset. In particular, be mindful of the position of women with disabilities in this regard, as because of the intersectionality of being a woman and having a disability, they become extra vulnerable to food insecurity.
- » **During implementation** ensure that persons with disabilities have access to assistive devices. With the right support, persons with disabilities can thrive. Being able to move around and work is a basic right as well as a necessity for them, and the government could play a pivotal role in making this happen.
- » **In discussions with financial institutions** the government should promote financial inclusion of persons with disabilities. Being able to secure a loan, mortgage or micro-finance grant can kickstart the economic activities of a person living with a disability, which will greatly increase their household income and subsequently their food security. OPDs could fulfill a linking factor in these discussions, to understand the circumstances of persons with disabilities better.