



An Assessment of Access to the Electoral Process for Persons with Disabilities in Sierra Leone



This Pujehun youth will vote for the first time in 2018

Overview

Persons living with disabilities represent various ethnic, religions, socio economic and gender groups. They form approximately 15% of the world's population roughly one out of every seven.¹ 80% live in low-income countries like Sierra Leone. When such a large cross cutting portion of the population does not participate fully in the electoral process, it prevents democracy from deepening and allowing these citizens a voice in the way they are governed. Their potential is not being tapped, and persons with disabilities (PWD) continue being denied their human rights and are kept on the margins of society in all parts of the world. In Sierra Leone, PWD are faced with numerous barriers, some obvious and others hidden or indirect, which hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with other citizens.

The UN *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD), ratified by Sierra Leone in 2010, the *Disability Act*, 2011 and the *Public Elections Act*, 2012 provides the legal basis and a set of standards for the full and equal participation of PWD in public elections. According to the National Disability Act, "The NEC shall ensure that during elections, polling stations are made accessible to persons with disabilities and shall provide such persons with the necessary assistive devices and services to facilitate the exercise of their right to vote."² The NEC is therefore obligated to address challenges that impede persons with disabilities from participating in the electoral process.

For the 2012 elections the NEC established a Disability Desk, in 2015 this desk became the Disability and Gender Unit headed by a Chief of Gender and Disability who reports to the Director of Human Resources, Gender and Disability. The Disability and Gender Unit has currently two staff members; also in 2015, the NEC published its Disability Policy (NECDiP). This shows that the NEC is strongly committed to making improvements in the 2018 electoral cycle, and in future elections. One of the five NEC Commissioners is responsible for efforts made on inclusion of PWD.

The UNDP project's support to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) 2016-2018, has as its main objective to "*build the capacity of the NEC to administer elections that are technically sound, **inclusive** and sustainable electoral processes that are capable of garnering public trust and confidence*". The inclusive participation aspect of the project targets two priority groups: persons living with disabilities and women.

¹ WHO report 2011

² Section 29, The Sierra Leone Disability Act, 2011

Aims and Objectives of the Assess Assessment

1. The main aim is to identify the needs and concerns of the Persons living with Disabilities (PWD) in the electoral process, and to make short term recommendations for the 2018 electoral process and long-term recommendations to the NEC. The main objective is to improve the accessibility of PWD to the political life of their country specifically in the electoral process as voters, as candidates, and as employees of the NEC.
2. To help the NEC to mainstream disability issues at HQ level and to sensitize NEC field staff. The conduct of the survey will start to increase awareness among NEC staff as the Voter Education and Training officers are involved in the workshops as well as the District Electoral officers.
3. To develop a report from the responses to a nationwide questionnaire submitted to groups of PWD', and to launch this report with media coverage to raise public awareness of the issues. To use the report to promote inclusion of PWD with relevant government bodies for example, with the Political Parties Registration Commission, and the Human Rights Commission, The National Commission for Democracy.
4. To use the report to draw the attention of the political parties of the need to engage with PWD.
5. To use the report for advocacy with donors who may be interested in funding some recommendations.
6. Through the National Commission for Persons living with Disabilities (NCPD) disseminate the report to Disability Groups who could use it for their own advocacy work.
7. The report will serve as a snapshot of the accessibility of PWD in the electoral process in 2017-2018 and as such has an intrinsic value being the first survey of this kind to be done in Sierra Leone.

Methodology

UNDP, in close collaboration with the NEC and the NCPD, developed a questionnaire (Annex 1) to be administered to groups of disabled persons in all 16³ districts of Sierra Leone.

The team:

NEC Chief of Disability and Gender, Christiana O'Reilly

NCPD Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Patrick Koroma

UNDP Inclusion and Gender Advisor, Annetta Flanigan.

Visited **16 locations** in Sierra Leone between 6 October 2017 and 17 November 2017.

The team engaged directly with 310 people, 107 women, 203 men.

Nature of Disability disaggregated by sex available at **Annex 5**

Map showing locations visited is at **Annex 3**

Sierra Leone has 16 Districts, and workshops were held in 15 of the 16 Districts. Freetown Rural District was combined with Freetown Urban District. Two workshops were held in Bonthe District, one on Bonthe island and one in Mattru Jong town.

A pilot workshop was held to test the methodology. After the pilot, it was decided that participants should be literate, and without intellectual challenges otherwise they could not participate in a meaningful way in this type of assessment.

Groups of 20 PWD were selected by the NCPD representative and/or the NEC Voter Education and Training Officer (VETO) through consultation with the representatives of the local Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO). The criteria for selection was PWD who were literate, at least 30% women from a variety of age groups representing the main DPOs in the area. Participants could bring an assistant. After an introductory presentation from the assessment team (UNDP, NEC and NCPD), the taking note of expectations and fears and a short PowerPoint outlining the issue of disability in Sierra Leone context, the participants are put in groups of five and given a set of questions for consideration. The groups discuss four different sets of questions. Each group appointed a rapporteur who collated the answers. After discussion of 1.5 hour there was a plenary session, where each question was projected on the screen in view of the entire group, the group rapporteur reports on the question, then it is put to the group. The main responses were recorded. The groups were assisted by the assessment team, the Voter Education and Training Officer from NEC, and in some districts by the District Electoral Officer. The survey responses were not recorded verbatim, the idea was to convey the general idea of what the group thought. The team kept in mind that a group can be influenced by one or two knowledgeable persons, or by those who have strong opinions, and actively sought out any dissenting opinions and tried to give in the answers an accurate rendering of the opinions and thoughts of the group as a whole. The team tried to design questions that would not elicit "yes, no" answers, but questions that would provoke discussion. The team monitored the four small discussion groups (four groups of five participants

³ Team did not do workshop in western rural district but combined this district with Freetown urban

before the plenary) and stimulated discussion where necessary. What came across was that for many of the questions groups were giving the same kind of answer.

The findings and responses recorded here are based on patterns that were clearly coming out from the sessions.

The completed surveys are available at NEC Gender and Disability unit, and on NEC website www.necsl.org. Sample completed surveys are annexed at **Annex 3**, one rural and one urban.



A Bo discussion group

Content of Questionnaire

The questionnaire of 44 semi structured questions addresses thematic areas such as the Constitutional and Legal framework for PWD the general status of PWD in politics and governance, the barriers they face in joining a political party or in running as a candidate and getting elected. The questionnaire was adapted from a slightly longer questionnaire which was discussed in a NEC workshop on 21 July 2017. The results of that discussion with the NEC are annexed at **Annex 6**. The questionnaire for the workshops is a little shorter than the original questionnaire as some of the questions were not relevant to the workshops. (For example those on electoral assistance)

Barriers in the electoral process were examined the specific issues they face during the registration and voting process, and their opinions on how information is presented to them.

The NEC was also examined, looking at the accessibility of NEC for employment, accessibility of its buildings, its communication systems and its voter information. In all the sections under consideration the aim was to seek their opinions and ideas on how the situation can be improved on. To give an example: in Sierra Leone vehicles

are banned on Election Day, does this affect them? And if so how and if it is negatively impacting what can the NEC/ other body do to help? Can they themselves do something?

The team tried to formulate the questions so that they did not elicit “yes, no” answers; and while groups were discussing the assessment team monitored the process to stimulate discussion. Sometimes if a group finished their set of questions they were given another group’s set of questions to think about and discuss.



A Lungi discussion group

Risks and mitigation strategies

The team identified the following risks to effective workshops, and identified mitigating measures to overcome the potential risks.

1. That the participants don't understand the questions. This has been mitigated by having the two team members who are fluent in the two main languages. Most participants understand Creole, but not all. In Falaba some participants spoke only Yalunka language, so one of the Disability Coordinators translated for those persons. In two districts participants in the group work found the questions too difficult and the discussions were stilted, in those cases the methodology was modified and all the questions were discussed in a plenary group with each question being explained by the facilitators who guided the plenary discussion more than usual.
2. Women don't participate actively and discussions are dominated by the men. This did not happen except in Falaba District, which is a remote and difficult to access area and where women are traditionally very retiring and shy.
3. The participants might be afraid to criticize NEC as NEC officials are present. This did not happen; the participants speak very openly.
4. Too high expectations of what the NEC can implement. The presenters point out that implementation depends on funding and it is limited. The presenters do a good job of balancing reasonable expectations without making the situation seem like a losing battle. The PWD are usually aware that they themselves need to be more active, to organise and claim rights. In some areas (Moyamba and Makeni) we found people who have been exposed to the idea of the rights based model of disability.



A Freetown group Rapporteur

Logistic considerations

The team tried to find venues accessible to persons with disabilities and appropriate for them to best profit from the activities. Only two halls out of 16 were disabled friendly. The difficulty in finding an accessible workshop venue is symptomatic of the lack of accessible public buildings. Issues with steps and access to the toilets were common. Participants did not comment but if asked it is clear they are aware that their needs regarding access to buildings (and legal right under the Disability Act to access public buildings) are frequently disregarded. Participants were given a small allowance for their transport and provided with breakfast and lunch. If a participant has come with an assistant then under the principle of reasonable accommodation the assistant also receives transport allowance and food. During the assessment, the team developed a check list form to record venue accessibility. This can be used to keep a record of which venues are suitable and to assist procurement officers in knowing what to look for in a venue. See **Annex 4**. The Team noted that when providing lunch, a catering company should employ some extra staff to serve the food and beverages. This may sound rather trivial, but bearing in mind that some PWD find it difficult to queue up for food buffet style, it is more appropriate to have food served.



Mattru Jong District Council Office

Social Media products on the Access Assessment:

YouTube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7S3k5xsT6AI>

Photo Essay

<http://unsierraleone.exposure.co/not-about-us-without-us>

Findings based on responses given in PWD nationwide consultative workshops

A. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In all the 16 locations covered during the assessment, participants knew there is a Sierra Leone Law on Disability. A few PWD were aware that the Law on Disability guarantees access to public buildings. Hardly anyone knew that the Disability Act is relevant for elections⁴.

Many thought the Disability Act is not being implemented. A comment from a participant in Bo sums up what many thought *"I think after five years if any public place hasn't made their place accessible the institution can be taken to court.....but, it doesn't happen, so it appears that Disability Act is still not implemented as provided by law"*.

The assessment revealed inadequate knowledge by PWD on legal provisions guaranteeing their rights; inadequate/lack of knowledge about the constitution with very little knowledge about the existence of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Almost no knowledge on the International Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities.

Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

It was found that only few organisations gather information on the situation PWD in the entire country. PWDs feel that while individual organisations (mostly foreign CSO's) have interest about their plight, the government does not seem to have an interest. They say the approach to disability is piecemeal, with different organisations having projects and programs that sometimes duplicate each other.

Those living in rural areas reported that those living in bigger towns are better off, as they can get access to certain facilities, such as halls and places to meet with the possibility of accessing braille education as the case of Makeni, Bo and Kenema and Freetown. In towns PWD can interact and act collectively as a group. The team consider that PWD's living in urban areas are better educated.

Women with disabilities face similar problems to men but their situation was revealed to be much worse. All respondents within the 16 locations confirmed that women with disabilities get less access to education and have a lower economic status compared to their male counterparts.

The assessment revealed that men are often ashamed to publicly associate themselves with a woman with a disability. Women with disabilities frequently become pregnant and are then abandoned by their partner. This pattern of behaviour

⁴ The Disability Act states at Article 29 "ensure that during elections, polling stations are made accessible to persons with disabilities and shall provide such persons with the necessary assistive devices and service to facilitate the exercise of their right to vote

was mentioned in every group. In Pujehun some men mentioned that they too are abandoned by women.

Men accused the women PWD of being “shy” and said they “don’t want to show their faces out” with a perception that they “don’t struggle and fight for rights like men do”. It was found that women with disabilities within rural settings easily accepted this labelling but women with disabilities within urban settings challenged this perception and strongly asserted that they are not shy, it is just that society puts them down more than the men, and that spreading this idea that the women are “shy” is false and is not helping women with disabilities to claim their rights.

Political participation of PWD

The majority of PWD respondents who are educated knew that the electoral system in Sierra Leone is a majoritarian system. Terms like “first past the post”, “highest vote” “universal suffrage” were used by them during the assessment. However most had little knowledge of the system and some thought the system is biometric and one thought it was PR meaning “people’s representation”

All PWD in the 16 locations indicated that they have no representation in the National Parliament. The only case of a PWD representation mentioned by the groups was a Member of Parliament from Moyamba District who was reported to have become partially disabled whilst serving as MP. It was also alleged that one MP is living with a disability but he never acknowledged that he is a PWD. Some respondents indicated their enthusiasm to contest the coming 2018 elections whilst the majority of PWD consulted feel completely and utterly ignored by the political parties as they reported they are never awarded symbols which they feel is due to public perception that they cannot deliver and are unfit to hold positions of responsibility.

In Kailahun it was reported that even joining a political party can be difficult as dues must be paid and most PWD cannot afford to be a party member.

PWD further reported that they cannot contend as independent candidates as they do not have financial means or moral support from the public.

Almost all respondents reported that PWD’s registered to vote. Only in a very few cases was it mentioned that the inaccessibility and distances of the registration centres prevented PWD from registering to vote.

It was revealed that Election Observers (national) have in the past examined PWD electoral challenges, but PWD never access such reports and therefore do not what those reports contained. Most respondents made mention of NEW (National Elections Watch) which during 2012 employed some PWD as election observers. PWD also reported seeing and knowing the existence of International Election Observers but have no knowledge of whether their reports examined their status; and with no further knowledge other reports on political or electoral challenges faced by PWD. PWD respondents also reported that SLUDI (Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues) gave input to the Constitutional Review process. However, only one or two persons knew what the Constitutional Review Report says about persons with disability.

B. THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

100% of respondents believed that NEC has no permanent staff who are PWD but considered that NEC does employ PWD as ad hoc staff, especially those with polio, but not those with visual impairment. A few are appointed to positions of responsibility such as a Ward Coordinator whilst a few reported that they are discouraged from applying by NEC officials within the districts.

It was revealed that jobs for temporary staff are advertised usually on Notice Boards at the NEC District Offices and on radio. In Kabala, the radio advert actively encouraged PWD to apply. The general application process does not say "Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply". The form does not mention anything about special needs or disability. Jobs are mainly awarded to PWD through lobbying by Disabled Persons Organisations who often submit lists of persons they recommend for employment.



Voter Registration Card Distribution Officer, Bombali District

The NEC Workplace (NEC District Offices)

Most NEC workplaces within the districts are inaccessible except the Moyamba office which has a ramp. There are no NEC offices yet in the new regions of Falaba and Karene. The actual locations of NEC offices are perceived by PWDs to be safe, as they are not in ghettos or having criminals around or persons who would humiliate PWD.



Bo District NEC Office

The NEC HQ is however considered as satisfactory since it has a ramp to get in to the ground floor but most offices upstairs are inaccessible by PWD. If PWD go to the offices they can meet with staff and are usually welcomed. No one in the groups consulted had visited NEC HQ.

C. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PWD as registrants and voters

Accessibility to centres (registration centres, in this case which will be later used as polling stations) is a key issue amongst respondent PWD. In most areas, PWD revealed centres are inaccessible; entrance steps are high, roads are rough and bumpy and distances are far. However, PWD respondents indicated that this did not prevent them from registering. Though it was more difficult for them, they persevered and registered.



Exiting Magburaka workshop

Those who are visually impaired reported abuse of “assisted voting” in some cases. They must trust their helper as they cannot vote alone and in secret. They strongly advocated for the use of the Tactile Ballot Guide⁵ in the 2018 elections to enable them vote independently.

PWD respondents strongly showed they do not want separate polling stations and separate entrances to a common polling station. Only a few reported they want separate entrances to a common polling station. However, all wanted to have priority in the queue.

The majority of PWD who needed an assistant during the registration complained that the assistant was not allowed to register at the same time with them but was forced to wait in the queue during the process.

A major problem faced by PWD during the past registration was the comments, mockery and provocation that came from the non-disabled who were unhappy that PWD were given reasonable accommodation [i.e. given priority in the queue], in the registration centres. PWD indicated that they want to have priority in the queue but without being assertive. They said there are no signs at the centres indicating they should have priority, and some NEC staff did not know about the rule.

Generally, at every district, PWD felt they were treated well by the registration staff though there were a few exceptions. In Makeni it was reported that a registration officer was removed from the post as he treated PWD disrespectfully. PWD in Freetown felt there was a lack of awareness from NEC staff during the registration that the PWD should be given reasonable accommodation. PWD in Freetown also revealed that NEC staff and the police officers at the registration centres used inappropriate language out of ignorance. Those in Freetown further mentioned they had been handled impatiently by NEC staff during registration. The banning of public and private transport on Elections Day is acceptable to most PWD. All PWD advocated for NEC to accredit vehicles just for PWD on Polling Day. One group advocated allowing accreditation for motorbikes that will carry PWD.

For the sick and those who can’t get to polling stations most groups felt that it was too difficult to do mobile voting. The main objection was the possibility for fraud. Bo group felt that one or two NEC officers could do mobile registration and mobile polling. Several groups recommended that a polling station could be opened in the hospital.

⁵ Tactile Ballot Guide is a plastic folder that covers the ballot and lets the user identify the candidate by touch providing the candidate knows the position of the candidate on the ballot

PWD as candidates

According to PWD respondents, there are no barriers for PWD on paper but the perception of the public towards PWD is extremely negative. The public perceived them to be incapable.

They consider they are ignored by political parties and are never given significant roles within political parties. They are not given symbols or public speaking roles.

PWD considered that political parties have manifestos but these manifestos do not include equal access or quota for PWD or any policy for affirmative action.

They are often faced with provocation, intimidation, molestation and discrimination. This makes them stay at home during the election period as they are afraid of the violence they might face.

According to all groups consulted, no woman with a disability has ever vied for an elected position

The Election Campaign

100% of PWD respondents showed that the public perception of PWD holding office is very negative. Some reported that they are regarded as troublemakers ("ala ala") and that they are not physically fit and cannot do things correctly. The Assessment Team encountered a person living with disability from Bombali District who hails from a chieftaincy ruling house. He reported that he was excluded from participating in the chieftaincy elections of his chiefdom because of his disability using a long stick to help him walk and stand. His ruling house and the chiefdom in general were not ready to have a Paramount Chief who is a PWD. A PWD from Waterloo standing for the position of Village Head discovered that his opponent is campaigning against him based on his disability (blindness). He reported to NCPD who are following up.

PWDs also reported that they generally avoid campaigns, because they are harassed and have no free air time on community radios as Disabled Persons Organisations, let alone a candidate. According to them, the police and local authorities do not act on the reports they make, so they don't pursue their complaints. They strongly believed the campaign codes of conduct don't address PWD issues.

Information and Education

The assessment discovered that there is nothing in braille, no sign language interpreters used by NEC in all their centres nationwide or any of the stakeholder's meetings, and there are no captions for the deaf in NEC TV spots or on any informative TV spots. In Makeni where there is a school for the deaf the participants were very aware of the difficulties of the deaf and stated they are a particularly neglected group.

The pictorials in Voter Education materials produced by NEC and other bodies are often not clear enough. They are often combined with text, and the illiterate cannot understand the message.

It was stated that the NEC Voter Education and Training Officers hold voter education sessions for the public at district levels which PWD can attend, but PWD would like to be more present in those meetings and expressed a desire for information sessions for PWD.

PWD reported that they are always depicted as passive participants and not as staff members in the pictorial voter education materials.



Voter Information Poster showing Persons with Disabilities

Recommendations

(Combined from Participants and Team)

To NEC

Short-term for 2018 election:

Staffing

- NEC should set a quota for the employment of PWD as temporary staff, and monitor compliance, and be able to produce statistics on the number of PWD temporary staff.
- NEC should encourage PWD by including in their advert that PWD are encouraged to apply.

PWD as Voters

- NEC should undertake a survey of the most inaccessible polling locations and try to either relocate or make these places accessible.
- Government structures (schools and hospitals and court barrels⁶) being used as polling stations should be made accessible.
- NEC should include in the polling staff procedures that PWD and their helper and aged have priority in the queue. The aged, who are often disabled should also be given priority. NEC should determine the mechanism to ensure this priority and train on the same. The queue controller should be responsible for ensuring that the PWD and the aged are given priority, and should undertake the task proactively.
- NEC should procure the Tactile Ballot Guide and train the visually impaired on its use.
- Consider putting braille numbering on the ballot boxes (i.e. to indicate the different races)
- The polling staff should be trained on the use of appropriate language when speaking and referring to persons with disability.
- NEC should consider introducing a mechanism to allow the accreditation of vehicles, including motor bikes that would be used to convey PWD on Election Day.

⁶ Traditional meeting place in the Districts

Information and Education

- More voter information in formats accessible for those with visual impairment; braille and large text.
- The quantity of voter education materials should be increased as currently they are inadequate to cover the country effectively.
- More systematic and structured engagement with PWD groups in the districts, with a view to PWD helping NEC to disseminate voter information to other PWD.
- More pictorial information in an easy understandable format for those persons of low literacy.
- NEC should employ a PWD to assist Voter Education and Training Officer in all districts.

Long term recommendations

- NEC should endeavour to make district offices accessible by provision of ramps.
- NEC HQ should provide a lift to all floors within the building.
- NEC should continue to work constructively with CPWD and set up a regular working group with the main Disabled Persons Organisations.
- NEC should endeavour to employ more PWD as permanent staff.
- NEC Staff should be fully capacitated through training and awareness raising on disability mainstreaming within NEC operations.

Recommendations from the survey thematic areas:

Constitutional and Legal Framework

- Civic Education program on the Disability Act, particularly for persons living with disability.
- Reintroduction of Civic Education as a subject on school curriculum.
- Drafting of implementing regulations for the Disability Act. Without any implementation secondary legislation, the obligations in the Act are unenforceable

Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

- Gathering of data on the number of people living with disability and the types of disability. Recent attempt to gather data during 2015 National Census exercise is not considered by the NCPD to be accurate. The figures 93,129 (1.3% of total population) are considered by NCPD to be too low.
- Research and analysis into the situation of PWD in different sectors, education, health, employment. This could be coordinated by CPWD.
- Authorities to try to effect a shift in mindset: inclusivity instead of non-exclusion of PWD.
- The government buildings used by the NEC should be provided with a ramp and lifts by the government.
- The PPRC to ensure that the parties address the needs of PWD in their manifestos.
- PPRC to consult with political parties so parties commit to set a targeted quota for the granting of symbols.

- Disabled Person Organisation's to mobilise to put forward an independent candidate from among their members, whom they will support financially and to seek for help from other Sierra Leonean organisations to support.
- Disabled Person Organisation's to seek for leaderships skills training from concerned organisations.
- NCPD, NEW, and SLUDI should continue to include PWD as observers for the electoral process and try to increase their number.
- President should have an advisor on Persons living with Disability. (recommended by Freetown group)

PWD as candidates

- Political parties should include in their constitution a commitment to grant a specific amount or quota of symbols to PWD, with a view to ensuring that PWD get represented in the parliament. (i.e. giving them winnable seats)
- There needs to be a coordinated public sensitisation by NCPD and DPO's to begin to combat negative perceptions, and stigmatisation, and to foster the idea that PWD can contribute meaningfully to society and can hold responsible positions.

The Election Campaign

- Security forces to have training on the rights of persons with disabilities, and to keep statistics on intimidation and provocation against PWD.
- Media Houses (print, radio and TV) should adopt or include in their code of conduct that PWD issues are given coverage.

Annex 1

Questionnaire

Framework for conducting assessment of access to electoral processes for persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

Field Assessment

Location _____

Constitutional and Legal Framework

A1	Does the constitution of Sierra Leone guarantee equal rights for persons with disabilities? If yes, what specific provision guarantees their equality?
A2	Is there a specific law that mandates or requires equal access to public places and processes for PWD?
A4	Is there a state institution with powers to give guidance or advice on access to elections for PWD?
A5	Do any laws relating directly to elections and the regulation of political parties include references to equal access for PWD?
A6	What are the constitutional or legal provisions that establish the right to vote? Does this definition meet international standards for the right to vote and voted for including PWDs?

Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

A9	Does any organisation collect data on literacy, education levels, labour force participation, ownership and wealth of PWD; any general inclusion issues?
A11	Is the status/condition of PWD broadly the same across the country or different in some districts concerning status of PWD. What are the differences? Any difference in status of men PWD and women PWD.

Electoral Framework: Political participation and representation of PWD

A13	What electoral systems are used in Sierra Leone?
A14	What has been the representation of PWD in the national parliament and where relevant, in regional or local elected bodies since 2002
A15	What is the representation of PWD in the governance, and where relevant in governments or councils at the regional and local level?
A16	Did PWD's register to vote? If they did not register why? Was it due to the disability?
A17	How many PWD ran as candidates at the last national parliamentary and local council election? How many were independent and how many were party candidates? If they did not run why not? And what measures can be applied to enhance PWD participation as independent candidates?
A18	Have domestic or international electoral observation reports examined the status and participation of PWD in registration and elections? Do Observer groups include PWD as observers?
A19	Is there research or other reports that have examined the challenges that PWD

	confront in terms of their political participation?
--	---

B: EVIDENCE COLLECTION

The National Electoral Commission

B14	In your opinion does NEC give opportunities to PWD to work as A. Permanent staff B. Adhoc staff . Do they appoint ad hoc staff to positions of responsibility e.g. Polling station manager? Or are they usually given subordinate roles?
B15	If the NEC appoints short-term staff to work throughout the country during the election period (including in polling stations), how does it recruit these staff? What is the profile of these short-term staff in terms of PWD.

The NEC workplace (also applies to district offices)

B25	Are NEC headquarters and district offices situated in a safe place for PWD?
B26	Can PWD access the office at all times when required?
B27	Does the NEC office have equal facilities for PWD in terms of toilet facilities?

C .THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Political Participation: PWD as voters

C2	Are there known shortcomings or obstacles in the voter registration process that are disadvantageous to PWD? How did the NEC seek to overcome them? Are there any issues related to needs for photographs, documentation etc. where PWD may have more difficulty in complying with the requirements? Do the times and places for registration present any problems for specific groups of PWD? How are PWD treated at the centres (are you satisfied)
C4	Are there cultural traditions that tend to inhibit the registration or participation of PWD? Are authorities taking any measures to overcome them?
C6	Have you seen any electoral education material that helped you in understanding the electoral processes? (registration, exhibition, voting, what the elections are about in general??)
C8	Do You think that the NEC has taken action to provide an enabling environment for PWD as voters? if yes what are these actions? And if no what should NEC do to provide the enabling environment

C9	Have there been instances of 'abuse of assisted voting
C10	Did you mark the ballot in the last elections, if not, why not? Did you need an assistant to help you vote? Did you have an assistant to help you vote? If not what did you do? Did you know you can have an assistant? Did you cast the ballot in the ballot box yourself, if not why not? How then was it done? Were you satisfied with the voting process? Do you feel that you have equal access to the process inside the polling station as the non-disabled persons. If not what do you think can be improved on?
C11	Is there a need to provide separate voting locations for PWD, or separate entrances to a common voting location? Has this been tried and how was it?
C12	Are voters required to produce identification or other documents to vote? Does this requirement impact equally on all PWD?
C13	What are the polling hours (7am-5pm) provide sufficient opportunities for PWD to vote?
C14	Are polling locations well known and notified to voters ahead of time?
	Are there alternative polling methods for those who cannot attend or access a polling station? Can you suggest an alternative method for those who cannot attend (also including the sick) at the registration centre or polling centre? What are your opinions on the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day? How does the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day affect you? If adversely what can be alternative measure to remedy the situation.

Political Representation: PWD as candidates

C18	Do the qualifications or disqualifications for being a candidate present any barriers for PWD's? (qualifications -21 years. Sound mind, citizen, registered voter etc. Disqualification-convicted felon)
C21	Do political parties have written rules for the selection of candidates? Do these rules provide equal access to candidacy for people with disabilities? Do they award symbols to PWD and if so how many? Do they have any special policy for PWD Is there a policy for affirmative action?

The Election Campaign

C22	What is the public perception of PWD's figures holding public offices or becoming M.P's/President? Are there issues relating to harassment or persecution of PWD, and does this occur during election campaigns?
C23	Does the NEC or other state institution collect information on election related violence?
C24	Have disabled candidates suffered intimidation or interference with their campaign efforts in the past? Do PWDs report such incidents to the police or local authorities? What actions were taken? Have PWD's encountered any other problems during campaigns, either as candidates or as voters?
C25	Is there monitoring of the election campaigns for PWD equality? In particular, is there any analysis of media coverage rates of disabled candidates? Do political parties have disabled speakers at rallies and interviews?
C26	How does the media cover disabled candidates? Are disabled candidates given equal opportunity to present their programmes and policies?
C27	Do parties have PWD platforms? Are these platforms covered in media reports of the campaign?
C26	Are there laws or regulations related to hate speech on the basis of PWD? How and by whom are these enforced?
C28	Are there campaign related codes of conduct? How do such codes handle PWD equality issues?
C29	Do parties and candidates provide their information in accessible formats?

Information and Education

C34	Do the information and education campaigns have materials or initiatives specifically targeted at PWD? How effective have these been?
C35	In any materials produced by the EMB or other actors, is there a fair representation of PWD in both passive and active roles? In particular with materials that show the voting process, are PWD depicted equally as polling officials, voters, observers and security personnel?
C36	What methods are used and are most effective to deliver education and information? Does anybody or group do inclusive in voter education or information? Do you think inclusive is necessary? Does the plan for the campaign include strategies to target PWD through the use of specific delivery channels or specific delivery times and places?
C37	Is NEC public information material provided in accessible formats?
C38	Does the NEC provide a public inquiry service to provide information on elections and is this accessible to PWD?
C39	Is there a need to deliver education and information directly to PWD in PWD-only groups? If this is done, how has it worked?

C40	Are there voter information materials in easy-to-read format specifically for persons with intellectual disabilities or those with low literacy?
C41	Does voter information material intended for person to person voter information campaigning have pictures or written materials? Do voters with low literacy have a chance to speak to an educator in person?
C42	Are there materials in braille and large print format for persons who are visually and hearing impaired?
C43	Are there captions for deaf or hearing impaired in TV spots for voter information and is electronic text used with screen reading software in such adverts?
C44	Are there other methods NEC could use to communicate with specific disabled groups?

Annex 2 (examples of completed questionnaires)⁷

Framework for conducting assessment of access to electoral processes for persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

Field Assessment Magburaka town/ TONKOLILI DISTRICT

(No visually impaired in this group)

Constitutional and Legal Framework

A1	Does the constitution of Sierra Leone guarantee equal rights for persons with disabilities? If yes, what specific provision guarantees their equality? Yes, by citing examples of a few people who got positions ...and another person said no...citing examples of accessibility to transport, medical etc...so doesn't guarantee. Generally though the idea is no.
A2	Is there a specific law that mandates or requires equal access to public places and processes for PWD? yes, the law exists but not implemented.
A4	Is there a state institution with powers to give guidance or advice on access to elections for PWD? NEW..PPRC
A5	Do any laws relating directly to elections and the regulation of political parties include references to equal access for PWD? no.. no idea
A6	What are the constitutional or legal provisions that establish the right to vote? Does this definition meet international standards for the right to vote and voted for including PWDs? <u>This question is confusing this groups, the word provision was not understood at first. On explanation people said 18 and not mad. Yes it is</u>

Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

A9	Does any organisation collect data on literacy, education levels, labour force participation, ownership and wealth of PWD; any general inclusion issues? No organisation..they (Tonkolili district disabled association) counted 1666 within Tonkolili district and 336 children out of this total figure. Nobody else has counted them or gathered any information as far as they know..." it could be but we don't know"
A11	Is the status/condition of PWD broadly the same across the country or different in some districts concerning status of PWD. Not the same, those in the towns have access to employment and education but rural don't have it. Another person says it cross cutting bad all over sierra Leone What are the differences? Any difference in status of men PWD and women PWD. One key problem women get pregnant and when they face this problem their situation becomes much worse ..women are vulnerable , women come round then and they get pregnant and then leave them. Education, for PWD women the lack of education is big difficulty. Financial struggle for

⁷ The numbering is taken from a questionnaire given to NEC (Annex 6), some questions were deleted as they were not suitable for the survey purposes and this is why some numbers are missing.

	women is more. Men bold women are shy. Men and women both considered that....Having a child while abandoned is not totally a disaster as the disabled women has a child to care for and love, and that child will care for her.
--	--

Political participation of PWD

A13	What electoral systems are used in Sierra Leone? First past the post
A14	What has been the representation of PWD in the national parliament and where relevant, in regional or local elected bodies since 2002 no
A15	What is the representation of PWD in the governance, and where relevant in governments or councils at the regional and local level? no
A16	Did PWD's register to vote? If they did not register why? Was it due to the disability? Yes, all register
A17	How many PWD ran as candidates at the last national parliamentary and local council election? How many were independent and how many were party candidates? If they did not run why not? And what measures can be applied to enhance PWD participation as independent candidates? One ran for UDM and didn't win. Inclusion in political process. Financial support is KEY.
A18	Have domestic or international electoral observation reports examined the status and participation of PWD in registration and elections? no Do Observer groups include PWD as observers? no
A19	Is there research or other reports that have examined the challenges that PWD confront in terms of their political participation? no

B: EVIDENCE COLLECTION

The National Electoral Commission

B14	In your opinion does NEC give opportunities to PWD to work as A. Permanent staff no B. Ad hoc staff .no Do they appoint ad hoc staff to positions of responsibility e.g. Polling station manager? Or are they usually given subordinate roles?
B15	If the NEC appoints short-term staff to work throughout the country during the election period (including in polling stations), how does it recruit these staff? What is the profile of these short-term staff in terms of PWD. PWD are not encouraged to apply

The NEC workplace (also applies to district offices)

B25	Are NEC headquarters and district offices situated in a safe place for PWD? NO..steps
B26	Can PWD access the office at all times when required? Yes...if there is an ad we can go and read it outside
B27	Does the NEC office have equal facilities for PWD in terms of toilet facilities? no

C .THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PWD as voters

C2	Are there known shortcomings or obstacles in the voter registration process that are disadvantageous to PWD? Yes, long queues and no special priority. And no privileges, in one place the centre has a separate queue and NEC stopped it. How did the NEC seek to overcome them? Are there any issues related to needs for photographs, documentation etc. where PWD may have more difficulty in complying with the requirements? Yes, some people couldn't sit up straight for the photo and they felt a bit humiliated. Do the times and places for registration present any problems for specific groups of PWD? How are PWD treated at the centres (are you satisfied?) distance between the centres is too far for us, and the attitude of some public and also some people employed in the centres is not ok...transport far. Some centres are friendly. Sometimes the machine gave problems. (they refer to the camera used for Voter ID card) Some the access is not good. Some are friendly others no.
C4	Are there cultural traditions that tend to inhibit the registration or participation of PWD? no Are authorities taking any measures to overcome them?
C6	Have you seen any electoral education material that helped you in understanding the electoral processes? (registration, exhibition, voting, what the elections are about in general??) yes, pictures are there
C8	Do You think that the NEC has taken action to provide an enabling environment for PWD as voters? if yes what are these actions? And if no what should NEC do to provide the enabling environment yes, they did take measures but they haven't done anything about the ramp.
C9	Have there been instances of 'abuse of assisted voting. No visually impaired here in this group No trust ..one person says he saw that the blind are not able to vote in secret.
C10	Did you mark the ballot in the last elections, if not, why not? Yes. None here is blind and they say you need a trusted person. Recommendation TBG. Did you need an assistant to help you vote? yes Did you have an assistant to help you vote? If not what did you do? Did you know you can have an assistant? Did you cast the ballot in the ballot box yourself, if not why not? How then was it done? Yes, and blind do it too here Were you satisfied with the voting process? yes Do you feel that you have equal access to the process inside the polling station as the non-disabled persons. yes If not, what do you think can be improved on?

C11	Is there a need to provide separate voting locations for PWD, or separate entrances to a common voting location? No separate location but separate entrance separate place but separate entrance Has this been tried and, how was it?
C12	Are voters required to produce identification or other documents to vote? Yes of course. Does this requirement impact equally on all PWD? yes
C13	What are the polling hours (7am-5pm) provide sufficient opportunities for PWD to vote? Yes. We chose the time wisely and try to go when it is not too busy ..in middle of day
C14	Are polling locations well known and notified to voters ahead of time? yes
	Are there alternative polling methods for those who cannot attend or access a polling station? Can you suggest an alternative method for those who cannot attend (also including the sick) at the registration centre or polling centre? No..what you suggest? Carry them or transport them. Proxy voting What are your opinions on the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day? Vehicles should be banned but NEC should provide vehicles for disabled and aged to vote How does the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day affect you? If adversely what can be alternative measure to remedy the situation.

PWD as candidates

C18	Do the qualifications or disqualifications for being a candidate present any barriers for PWD's? (Qualifications -21 years. Sound mind, citizen, registered voter etc. Disqualification-convicted felon) no
C21	Do political parties have written rules for the selection of candidates? Yes, Do these rules provide equal access to candidacy for people with disabilities? Not sure Do they award symbols to PWD and if so how many? A few do they have any special policy for PWD Is there a policy for affirmative action? no

The Election Campaign

C22	What is the public perception of PWD's figures holding public offices or becoming M. P's/President? Are there issues relating to harassment or persecution of PWD, and does this occur during election campaigns? Public perception is negative, the PWD won't be happy, people say they are not fruitful. Issues relating to harassment and persecution
C23	Does the NEC or other state institution collect information on election related violence? Police, civil societies, media, international observers
C24	Have disabled candidates suffered intimidation or interference with their campaign efforts in the past? Yes it is the order of the day, and was v bad

	for UPM candidate who was a total physically disabled. Do PWDs report such incidents to the police or local authorities? What actions were taken? Yes reported and nothing happened, they don't listen they look low on us. Have PWD's encountered any other problems during campaigns, either as candidates or as voters? Yes..usual stigmatisation and discrimination
C25	Is there monitoring of the election campaigns for PWD equality? no In particular, is there any analysis of media coverage rates of disabled candidates? No analysis, and no free airtime not even from government station. Do political parties have disabled speakers at rallies and interviews? No, no chance
C26	How does the media cover disabled candidates? No coverage Are disabled candidates given equal opportunity to present their programmes and policies? no
C27	Do parties have PWD platforms? No Are these platforms covered in media reports of the campaign?
C26	Are there laws or regulations related to hate speech on the basis of PWD? Yes but not enforced How and by whom are these enforced?
C28	Are there campaign related codes of conduct? Yes How do such codes handle PWD equality issues?
C29	Do parties and candidates provide their information in accessible formats? They don't target us, and answer is NO, no information that is easily understood.

Information and Education

C34	Do the information and education campaigns have materials or initiatives specifically targeted at PWD? How effective have these been? no
C35	In any materials produced by the EMB or other actors, is there a fair representation of PWD in both passive and active roles? No always shown as voters In particular with materials that show the voting process, are PWD depicted equally as polling officials, voters, observers and security personnel? Only voters.
C36	What methods are used and are most effective to deliver education and information? Mass media, radio, cultural forums, national TV, Does any body or group do inclusive in voter education or information? No Do you think inclusive is necessary? Yes, to gain knowledge Does the plan for the campaign include strategies to target PWD through the use of specific delivery channels or specific delivery times and places?
C37	Is NEC public information material provided in accessible formats? blind...no, visually impaired no, and hearing. For physically challenged it is ok
C38	Does the NEC provide a public inquiry service to provide information on elections and is this accessible to PWD? no, never happens , not invited even to stakeholders meetings
C39	Is there a need to deliver education and information directly to PWD in PWD-only groups? Yes very necessary, because we have a lot of limitations, during registration if this was done we would understand faster and increase our own knowledge If this is done, how has it worked?

C40	Are there voter information materials in easy-to-read format specifically for persons with intellectual disabilities or those with low literacy? No, material isn't there. Challenge for persons with intellectual problems
C41	Does voter information material intended for person to person voter information campaigning have pictures or written materials? Written, there are pictures but they are difficult to understand. Do voters with low literacy have a chance to speak to an educator in person? Not at all. Even able minded persons are not listened to, so what about slow people...no chance.
C42	Are there materials in braille and large print format for persons who are visually and hearing impaired? No. Never
C43	Are there captions for deaf or hearing impaired in TV spots for voter information and is electronic text used with screen reading software in such adverts? no
C44	Are there other methods NEC could use to communicate with specific disabled groups? Pictures, big pictures...for visually impaired, and TV stations

Each NEC office should employ a disabled focal person in all 16 districts to assist in the Voter education process

Framework for conducting assessment of access to electoral processes for persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

Field Assessment FREETOWN Urban/ Freetown Urban District

Constitutional and Legal Framework

A1	Does the constitution of Sierra Leone guarantee equal rights for persons with disabilities? If yes, what specific provision guarantees their equality? Yes. Establishment of NEC. NCPD.
A2	Is there a specific law that mandates or requires equal access to public places and processes for PWD? Yes there is specific law but not popularised
A4	Is there a state institution with powers to give guidance or advice on access to elections for PWD? Yes, the NCPD, NEC,
A5	Do any laws relating directly to elections and the regulation of political parties include references to equal access for PWD? NO (so they didn't remember what was said about the public elections etc. so maybe didn't understand the way it was presented as we mentioned this before the survey started .so they really don't make a link between election law and PWD)
A6	What are the constitutional or legal provisions that establish the right to vote? Does this definition meet international standards for the right to vote and voted for including PWDs? Constitution of SL 18 and above. NO doesn't meet international standard....another says it doesn't. ...because there wasn't in reality the things they needed to help them vote.

Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

A9	Does any organisation collect data on literacy, education levels, labour force participation, ownership and wealth of PWD; any general inclusion issues? No. Not to our knowledge. SLAB does it and works with CBR...try to find out where they are and train them on how to manage. They collect some data but no the main aim. Another person explains that they help the blind , but collecting specific data is not done
A11	Is the status/condition of PWD broadly the same across the country or different in some districts concerning status of PWD. Not the same..education, provinces if they give birth to a disabled they send them to do farm work, or keep them behind doors. Here in urban we have skilled workers but people come from district to be street beggars. Isolation in urban area as well, because of shame. What are the differences? Any difference in status of men PWD and women PWD ? .more vulnerable in terms of education..women get more stigmatised than men..political participation...men come out more, women are shy. A woman says they don't get moral support. Another woman says we aren't shy ..the issue is we don't have support. Women have come up..issue is they don't get support. Another woman says we are not ashamed at all...this isn't it...its lack of support. "and you my brother are not helping in that by saying this thing"

Political participation of PWD

A13	What electoral systems are used in Sierra Leone? Biometric system and manual voting.
A14	What has been the representation of PWD in the national parliament and where relevant, in regional or local elected bodies since 2002 None...since 2002 ..some but it is NOT adequate. Yes 1parliament.
A15	What is the representation of PWD in the governance, and where relevant in governments or councils at the regional and local level?). Zero but its 0.3 considering CPWD. Minister of works Hon kemosi...crutch..partial stroke...but he got it during his tenure. Jallwarra..Hon MP..he has polio....but he doesn't even accept that he is disabled
A16	Did PWD's register to vote? If they did not register why? Was it due to the disability? Yes 70% registered 30% didn't register due to accessibility, lack of sign language, and distance. Others disagree with his assessment.
A17	How many PWD ran as candidates at the last national parliamentary and local council election? 0.5..some tried but they didn't get a symbol many were independent and how many were party candidates? 0..we aren't aware of the party If they did not run why not? Lack of finance, and due to discrimination from the society And what measures can be applied to enhance PWD participation as independent candidates? need support from society and encouragement of other PWD, need funding The independent candidate also needs money. Public perception. Need support from PWD themselves. Need the support of Media, we need adequate media programs and TV programs...newspapers etc to sensitize the general public
A18	Have domestic or international electoral observation reports examined the status and participation of PWD in registration and elections? yes Do Observer groups include PWD as observers? no...NDWF (national disabled womens forum)...and united women disability through NEW. HEALy Sierra Leone...
A19	Is there research or other reports that have examined the challenges that PWD confront in terms of their political participation? Yes..NEW had a report.

B: EVIDENCE COLLECTION

The National Electoral Commission

B14	In your opinion does NEC give opportunities to PWD to work as A. Permanent staff no B. Ad hoc staff .no/ another man said he was registration officer, and polling station staff..in KONO ..yes but very few..ward 107Do they appoint ad hoc staff to positions of responsibility e.g. Polling station manager? Or are they usually given subordinate roles?
-----	---

B15	If the NEC appoints short-term staff to work throughout the country during the election period (including in polling stations), how does it recruit these staff? What is the profile of these short-term staff in terms of PWD. Through application..go through SL Union on Disability Issues...gets recommendation from the union...some people have a problem to go through SLUDI..if you have all the qualifications shouldn't need to go through. One women thinks it helps to go through an umbrella...coz otherwise no real chance.
-----	--

The NEC workplace (also applies to district offices)

B25	Are NEC headquarters and district offices situated in a safe place for PWD? no
B26	Can PWD access the office at all times when required? Yes, but with difficulties. Wheelchair, crutches
B27	Does the NEC office have equal facilities for PWD in terms of toilet facilities? No idea. Obviously no as it is upstairs... we don't know if it is wide enough for the wheelchair

C .THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PWD as voters

C2	Are there known shortcomings or obstacles in the voter registration process that are disadvantageous to PWD? Yes, no easy access to the registration, lack of sign interpreters, lack of adherence to give us priority in queues...no inclusion as staff.so yes How did the NEC seek to overcome them? Access..no remedy and sign language..no remedy yet...the impmmentation of the queue priority. And for no inclusion as staff...still no remedy. .Are there any issues related to needs for photographs, documentation etc. where PWD may have more difficulty in complying with the requirements? Thought that NEC could have got a solution...they did not realise that the actual eyes need to be captured. (NASSIC did biometric and it didn't have to snap the eyes)..one person had photo taken with glasses on and then had to be redone. Do the times and places for registration present any problems for specific groups of PWD? OK...places might gave n issue. Next registration we need preferential treatment for blind How are PWD treated at the centres (are you satisfied) because no sign language it took time..and the ordinary people got very irritated. Lack of awareness on preferential treatment of PWD. language of NEC staff not appropriate and don't use the right language out of ignorance. Police Officer used the word 'cripple' and this shows that law officers and some NEC temporary staff don't use the correct terminology. Also, the fact that they didn't have the time to get the photo taken, staff impatient in handling PWD.
----	---

C4	Are there cultural traditions that tend to inhibit the registration or participation of PWD? Are authorities taking any measures to overcome them? no
C6	Have you seen any electoral education material that helped you in understanding the electoral processes. registration , exhibition, voting, what the elections are about in general??) yes
C8	Do You think that the NEC has taken action to provide an enabling environment for PWD as voters? if yes what are these actions? Yes , working with sludi to ascertain their needs, aiming to provide Tactile Ballot guide...trying to have policy to include PWD And if no what should NEC do to provide the enabling environment . access buildings for polio. Include disabled in NEC. but particularly in disabled unit.
C9	Have there been instances of 'abuse of assisted voting yes.. man was bragging he voted for A and another person who helped him joked and said actually you voted for b
C10	Did you mark the ballot in the last elections, if not , why not? yes No (blind man)..big row over whether it was there or not Did you need an assistant to help you vote? yes Did you have an assistant to help you vote? Yes If not what did you do? Did you know you can have an assistant? Did you cast the ballot in the ballot box yourself , yes. if not why not? How then was it done? Were you satisfied with the voting process? No because we didn't vote independently. Do you feel that you have equal access to the process inside the polling station as the non disabled persons. If not what do you think can be improved on? Accessibility to structure, sign language instructor, provision of Tactile ballot guide
C11	Is there a need to provide separate voting locations for PWD, or separate entrances to a common voting location? Has this been tried and how was it? No need for that, separate entrance is wanted
C12	Are voters required to produce identification or other documents to vote? Does this requirement impact equally on all PWD? Yes..
C13	What are the polling hours (7am-5pm) provide sufficient opportunities for PWD to vote? yes
C14	Are polling locations well known and notified to voters ahead of time? yes
	Are there alternative polling methods for those who cannot attend or access a polling station? no Can you suggest an alternative method for those who cannot attend (also including the sick) at the registration centre or polling centre? No, not within the law, and country isn't prepared for mobile voting

	What are your opinions on the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day? Its OK as people had to register in their locality How does the banning of public and private vehicles on polling day affect you? If adversely what can be alternative measure to remedy the situation. If you relocated yourself, its more difficult for PWD. Some people are saying it is discrimination to give a special accredited vehicle, because it is giving " special treatment to PWD".
--	---

PWD as candidates

C18	Do the qualifications or disqualifications for being a candidate present any barriers for PWD's? (qualifications -21 years. Sound mind, citizen, registered voter etc Disqualification-convicted felon) the actual qualifications no..except the " sound mind" as the disabled community provides that we have to be of sound mind...no definition of that , who is deciding on that one?
C21	Do political parties have written rules for the selection of candidates? Yes Do these rules provide equal access to candidacy for people with disabilities? No Do they award symbols to PWD and if so how many? 3 do they have any special policy for PWD no Is there a policy for affirmative action? not to our knowledge

The Election Campaign

C22	What is the public perception of PWD's figures holding public offices or becoming M.P's/ President? Are there issues relating to harassment or persecution of PWD, and does this occur during election NO campaigns? Perception is that PWD can't hold office
C23	Does the NEC or other state institution collect information on election related violence? Not to our knowledge
C24	Have disabled candidates suffered intimidation or interference with their campaign efforts in the past? Yes, provocation they pick on their disability. Should focus on issues. A person from waterloo , standing for village head and on his campaign found out that his opponent is campaigning against him based on his disability ...saying he is blind. Do PWDs report such incidents to the police or local authorities? Yes What actions were taken? Depends on your political party, if you support the ruling party complaints will be taken seriously. The first thing that will happen is that police laugh at you..a they can't even imagine that PWD will run Have PWD's encountered any other problems during campaigns, either as candidates or as voters? Can't reach out to people, and in general having political differences in opinion is more difficult for them
C25	Is there monitoring of the election campaigns for PWD equality? Not to their knowledge In particular, is there any analysis of media coverage rates of disabled candidates? No Do political parties have disabled speakers at rallies

	and interviews? Yes ...and others disagree and a pastor says we have disabled wing in APC and SLPP.
C26	How does the media cover disabled candidates? No special coverage Are disabled candidates given equal opportunity to present their programmes and policies? Yes, if you have money..star radio give free coverage. Depends if it is a disability program and the presenter is disabled.
C27	Do parties have PWD platforms? Yes. Pastor knows of disabled wing but not of platform. No specific programme for PWD Are these platforms covered in media reports of the campaign?
C26	Are there laws or regulations related to hate speech on the basis of PWD? No someone says the disability act How and by whom are these enforced? by CPWD, by the police
C28	Are there campaign related codes of conduct? Yes How do such codes handle PWD equality issues? don't know, not privy to them
C29	Do parties and candidates provide their information in accessible formats? yes

Information and Education

C34	Do the information and education campaigns have materials or initiatives specifically targeted at PWD? How effective have these been? No, because not in a format that is easily accessible and understood by PWD..visually impaired and deaf
C35	In any materials produced by the EMB or other actors, is there a fair representation of PWD in both passive and active roles? no .. only passive In particular with materials that show the voting process, are PWD depicted equally as polling officials, voters, observers and security personnel?
C36	What methods are used and are most effective to deliver education and information? Music, radio and TV magazine programs, sign language, and jingles Does any body or group do inclusive in voter education or information? DO groups, Westminster foundations, One family. Do you think inclusive is necessary? yes, everyone should be there Does the plan for the campaign include strategies to target PWD through the use of specific delivery channels or specific delivery times and places?
C37	Is NEC public information material provided in accessible formats? Some say yes, and some say NO...braille..and learning difficulty people can also understand
C38	Does the NEC provide a public inquiry service to provide information on elections and is this accessible to PWD? yes, and it is accessible
C39	Is there a need to deliver education and information directly to PWD in PWD-only groups? If this is done, how has it worked? Should be open dissemination of information to all..should be general..no need for PWD groups. Training to disability groups only is Ok
C40	Are there voter information materials in easy-to-read format specifically for persons with intellectual disabilities or those with low literacy? Posters that are easy to read yes

C41	Does voter information material intended for person to person voter information campaigning have pictures or written materials? Do voters with low literacy have a chance to speak to an educator in person? There is no existence
C42	Are there materials in braille and large print format for persons who are visually and hearing impaired? no
C43	Are there captions for deaf or hearing impaired in TV spots for voter information and is electronic text used with screen reading software in such adverts? no
C44	Are there other methods NEC could use to communicate with specific disabled groups? Get into schools of blind and give out material. Bring sign language interpreters when NEC on TV

Employment for PWD to develop and improve and develop a cordial relationship between NEC and PWD community.

Employ a person to be included in the planning to identify the gaps



A Freetown group Participant

Annex 3 (Map of Locations visited)



Annex 4

Accessible venues for SNEC events: checklist

Name of Venue:

Is there a different entrance to assist people with mobility problems? It is clearly signed? Is it always unlocked?	
Can a car drive right up to the entrance to the building itself, to drop off passengers?	
Does the building have fully level access?	
Are there steps? How many?	
Is there a ramp?	
Is the ramp secure and stable with a low gradient?	
Are there any obstructions or hazards along the route to the entrance?	
Are all doors wide enough for a person in wheelchair to enter by themselves?	
Is there adequate lighting?	
Does the meeting or workshop room have chairs with no armrests?	
Does the meeting or workshop room have chairs with armrests?	
Can you travel from the meeting room to the bathroom without using stairs? Are there stairs or barriers in the bathroom?	

Comments:

Annex 5

TYPE OF DISABILITY, ACCESS ASSESSMENT SIERRA LEONE

S/N	CATEGORY OF DISABILITY	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
1	POLIO	112	65	177
2	AMPUTEE	17	16	33
3	VISUALLY IMPAIRED/POOR VISION	42	15	57
4	DEAF	4	0	4
5	SPEECH DIFFICULTY	2	0	2
6	MENTAL DIFFICULTIES	2	1	3
7	ALBINISM	2	2	4
8	EPILEPTIC	1		1
9	OTHER (includes Kyphoscoliosis, club foot. Leprosy, and persons paralysed by stroke)	21	8	29
	TOTAL	203	107	310

Annex 6

Framework for conducting assessment of access to electoral processes for persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone

Discussed at NEC internal workshop 21 July 2017

A: BACKGROUND RESEARCH/DESK REVIEW

Constitutional and legal framework	
A1	Which of the main UN human rights treaties has Sierra Leone signed up to concerning PWD?
UDHR, ICCPR, CEDAW, CRPD	
A2	Is Sierra Leone a party to regional treaties and conventions that relate to PWD equality; which ones?
AU instruments. ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. New AU Charter on PWD rights	
A3	Does the constitution of Sierra Leone guarantee equal rights for persons with disabilities? If yes, what specific provision guarantees their equality?
General protection of rights of all S. Leoneans as a matter of equality. May change after the CRC process and any subsequent change to the Constitution	
A4	Is there a specific law that mandates or requires equal access to public places and processes for PWD?
Child Rights Act 2007; Disability Act 2011 s29	
A5	Is there a state institution with powers to give guidance or advice on access to elections for PWD?
NCPD and NEC and HRC and IMC	
A6	Do any laws relating directly to all levels of elections and the regulation of political parties include references to equal access for PWD? Please provide law name, date and key provisions.
Electoral Act has provisions for assistance. No specific reference to PWD.	
A7	What are the constitutional or legal provisions that establish the franchise? Does this definition meet international standards for the enfranchisement of PWD?
Franchise is defined in Constitution s31:	
Every citizen of Sierra Leone being eighteen years of age and above and of sound mind shall have the right to vote, and accordingly shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for the purposes of public elections and referenda. And PEA s16: No person shall be registered as a voter or, having been registered as such, shall be entitled to vote at a public election if the person is– (a) a non-citizen; (b) a lunatic within the meaning of an enactment in force in Sierra Leone; (c) disqualified from being registered as a voter or voting by an enactment in force in Sierra Leone relating to offences connected with elections; or (d) serving a sentence of imprisonment.	

A8	What are the policies of the NEC regarding PWD?
Disability Policy to ensure equal access	
Status of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone	
A9	Collect data on literacy, education levels, labour force participation, ownership and wealth of PWD; any general inclusion issues? no
A10	National trends and policies in relation to the employment of PWD
A11	Is the status of PWD broadly the same across the country or different in some districts concerning status of PWD.
More PWD issues in North, esp. Visually impaired	
A12	What do we know about the level of political interest of people with disabilities?
Is high. PWD have run for election. DPOs have mobilised their members in support of particular candidates. But public participation limited to Persons with physical disabilities. Many CSOs working on PWD issues.	
Political participation of PWD	
A13	What electoral systems are used in Sierra Leone?
First Past the Post, mostly single member but some multi-member districts in local councils. Presidential elections will require a second round if no candidate gains 55% in first round.	
A14	What has been the representation of PWD in the national parliament and where relevant, in regional or local elected bodies since 2002
There was 1 MP with a physical disability in 2007 Parliament. Other MPs may have been PWD but not identified as such.	
Possible PWDs on local councils but this information is not collected centrally.	
A15	What is the representation of PWD in the government, and where relevant in governments or councils at the regional and local level?
There was a Visually Impaired Deputy Minister until 2016.	
A16	How many PWD were registered to vote in the 2012 election? What is the voter turnout for PWD in last elections?
This data was not collected.	
A17	How many PWD ran as candidates at the last national parliamentary election? How many were independent and how many party candidates?
Quite a few PWD seek the parties' symbols but they are rarely successful in getting the nomination (also not gaining internal party office)	
A18	Have domestic or international electoral observation reports examined the status and participation of PWD in registration and elections? Summarise their findings.
EUEOM p27 and recommendation 7: Revise NEC procedures in order to provide tactile ballot guides to facilitate voting in secret for those with sight impairment.	
Carter Centre EOM: p31-2 and recommendation: The NEC should reconsider utilizing tactile ballots in future elections and should consider efforts to hire a greater number of people with disabilities as staff and poll workers as a means of enhancing the participation of this significant population in the electoral process. Future voter and civic education efforts should also include components that target disabled voters and should include people with disabilities in the dissemination of information.	
A19	Any there research or other reports that have examined the challenges that PWD confront in terms of their political participation? Summarise their main findings.
UNIPSIL & OHCHR, Moving Forward Together: Report on the Rights of	

Persons with Disabilities in Sierra Leone

B: EVIDENCE COLLECTION

The National Electoral Commission	
B1	Confirm that the assessment has collected the correct information on the structure, composition and appointment of the NEC.
Constitution and Electoral laws	
B2	What have been the historical trends for PWD membership of the NEC itself (the Commission) since 2002
None have publicly identified as PWD	
B3	How is the NEC supported in its work - by a permanent staff, by other public bodies or by staff appointed only at electoral periods?
NEC has own permanent secretariat and temporary staff for electoral processes	
B4	How are the staff assigned or appointed to the NEC?
NEC hires own staff (since 2005)	
B5	If the NEC's staff are covered by wider public sector rules in terms of appointment, promotion etc. do these rules include provisions on PWD equality and equal opportunity?
There are wider public sector rules on equal access to employment that incl PWD. Standing Order.	
B6	What have been the historical trends for PWD in the staff of the NEC, including staff retention and promotion?
There are less than 10 PWD as permanent staff. They have been retained for some years.	
B7	Does the NEC have a strategic plan, and if so does it include objectives related to PWD equality?
Yes.	
B8	Does the NEC provide information in annual or other reports that tracks the status of PWD?
Yes, in the human resources section	
B9	Does the NEC have a PWD policy and a PWD focal point?
Yes and yes	
B10	Where or how does the NEC publish any PWD disaggregated data that it holds?
No publication of PWDs in staffing tables	
Lower level staffing retention and promotions in NEC	
B11	Are lower level bodies for running elections (or conducting voter registration) established at district or other level? How are these district level leaders appointed?
Appointed by NEC	
B12	What is the PWD composition of the district level staff, stratified by level? If the national NEC does not have this information, has it attempted to collect the information?
There are two PWD in District Offices	
B13	Does the NEC establish polling station committees or similar for running elections? How are these polling station committees appointed?
No	
B14	What is the PWD composition of these polling station committees, both in terms of membership and in terms of leadership positions? If the NEC does not have this information, has it attempted to collect the information? Not applicable

B15	If the NEC appoints short-term staff to work throughout the country during the election period (including in polling stations), how does it recruit these staff? What is the profile of these short-term staff in terms of PWD
NEC recruits to such posts, and advertises them widely. There is a test to be performed. A database of previous staff is maintained.	
NEC estimate that PWD may constitute up to 40 to 45% of temporary staff in some districts, mostly in cities and towns. No statistics are currently collected. Roles that temporary staff who are PWD are known to have undertaken include: staff in registration and polling stations; town criers; outreach staff	
B16	Does NEC have a plan to increase the employment of PWD?
NEC specifically encourages applications from PWD. Is a provision in the disability policy.	
Access to training and development opportunities	
B17	Does the NEC have a policy on access to training and development?
Yes	
B18	How are decisions taken on participation in training and similar events?
Through the management structure.	
B19	Does the NEC collect PWD statistics on the participation of its members and staff who attend training events? Does this figure closely correlate to the overall gender and PWD composition of the NEC and its staff?
No, but will start to do this soon	
B20	How many visits abroad for elections, conferences, seminars or the like has the NEC participated in over the last two years? What has been the percentage of PWD participants in NEC delegations to these events? Does this figure closely correlate to the overall PWD composition of the NEC and its staff, or to the PWD composition of the NEC and management levels of the staff?
Overall number not known. One PWD has participated in such an event	
B21	How many formal training workshops organised by international organisations (UNDP, IFES etc.) has the NEC participated in over the last two years? What has been the percentage of PWD participants from the NEC to these events? Does this figure closely correlate to the overall PWD composition of the NEC and its staff, or to the PWD composition of the NEC and management levels of the staff?
No PWD participation as not many are staff who qualify for these opportunities	
B22	Are there any factors that may inhibit the full participation of PWD in training and development opportunities, whether organised by the NEC or by partners? (e.g. international trainings in languages spoken; training at times and places that present difficulties for PWD)
No	
B23	Does the NEC provide training on PWD equality, or include PWD equality in wider training programmes? Has the NEC sent members or staff to such training offered by international partners?
Yes, both. Not to international training.	
B24	If the NEC has a pool of regular trainers, or a pool of accredited BRIDGE facilitators, what is the PWD breakdown of this pool? Is the composition of training teams monitored?
No PWD trainers	

The NEC workplace (also applies to district offices)	
B25	Are NEC headquarters and district offices situated in a safe place for PWD Yes
B26	Can PWD access the office at all times when required?
Yes	
B27	Does the NEC office have equal facilities for PWD in terms of toilets, break rooms and if required prayer rooms?
No - buildings not in control of NEC in most locations	
B28	Does NEC have a policy on provision of adaptive technology or communication methods for staff with disabilities? Is there a wider public sector policy on this?
No, not yet	
B29	How is the impact of the election period - long hours, weekend work, travelling etc. - on the staff and their personal responsibilities managed by NEC? Is the impact different for PWD?
The impacts would be different, particularly if a person had specific accommodation at their regular workplace and needed to work in a different place for an election task	
Additional Q: Is there a specific budget line to provide adaptations and accommodations for PWD	
No	

C .THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PWD as voters	
C1	Does the NEC have data on the PWD breakdown on the electoral register? If this is not done, has it been considered for implementation? Are there legal barriers to collection and/or reporting about PWD on the electoral register?
Not from 2012 but will have for 2017/8	
C2	Are there known shortcomings or obstacles in the voter registration process that are disadvantageous to PWD? How did the NEC seek to overcome them? Are there any issues related to needs for photographs, documentation etc. where PWD may have more difficulty in complying with the requirements? Do the times and places for registration present any problems for specific groups of PWD?
Yes. Refer to the forthcoming NEW report. PWD in SL have equal access to national ID documents etc. Venue issues as at previous electoral events PWD may have faced difficulties/poor attitude from other registrants in taking advantage of assistance provisions, queue priority etc.	
C3	If the voter's register uses or is based on other data sources such as population or civil registries or property registers, are these registers known to have full representation of PWD across the population? If there are deficiencies in these other registers, is the NEC empowered to take steps to ensure full inclusion of PWD?
Currently VR is a direct process, not based on other sources. Will be in the future.	
C4	Are there cultural traditions that tend to inhibit the registration or participation of PWD? Are authorities taking any measures to overcome them?
In general no but in some areas some specific disabilities may be considered a sign of witchcraft. In some areas families may feel shame at PWD in the family. Is a minority view and spread equally across the country	
C5	Does the NEC produce training materials for those staff involved in registering voters? Does this material include information on how to ensure an inclusive registration process for PWD?
Yes. Disability section contributes to process.	
C6	Does the NEC produce public information materials on voter registration? Does this material include information stressing that registration is for PWD?
Yes	
C7	Does the NEC collect and report turnout data in a PWD disaggregated fashion? If this is not done, has it been considered for implementation? Are there logistical or legal barriers to collecting and/or reporting the disability of voters at an aggregate level?
Will concentrate on analysing registration rates. Logistically very difficult to collect turnout by PWD status. Would want to collect only for research purposes at a national level	
C8	What actions has the NEC taken to provide an enabling environment for PWD as voters? How are decisions taken to choose polling locations? Are PWD involved in taking those decisions?
PWD not involved. Is a NEC function. NEC staff are mindful of access issues in choosing locations. NEC do publicise their decision to locate a polling station but is no individual right to petition for a change of location.	

C9	Have there been instances of 'family voting' involving PWD? What action did the NEC take?
Were allegations of family voting in relation to blind people at previous elections? In response NEC have looked at the tactile ballot template.	
C10	Do the NEC's instructions for polling officials include information on equal access to voting for PWD and on ensuring that all voters have the opportunity to cast their own ballot?
Yes	
C11	Is there a need to provide separate voting locations for PWD, or separate entrances to a common voting location? Has this been tried and how was it received?
Not currently	
C12	Are voters required to produce identification or other documents to vote? Does this requirement impact equally on all PWD?
Yes have to show ID but NEC feel there is no access implication	
C13	What are the polling days and hours? Do these times provide sufficient opportunities for PWD to vote?
7am to 5pm.	
C14	Are polling locations well known and notified to voters ahead of time?
Yes. Well-known local locations and concept of 'vote where you register'	
C15	Are there alternative polling methods for those who cannot attend or access a polling station? Are these methods equally accessible to PWD and do they ensure that all voters would remain free of intimidation when casting their vote?
No other method.	
C16	If polling stations are run by staff, rather than appointed committees as discussed in B13 above, what is the breakdown of polling staff?
Answered above	
Note: There is a driving ban on polling day: does have an impact on PWD. Is under 1965 Public Order Act, not electoral law.	

PWD as candidates	
C17	Does the law include any quotas or affirmative-action provisions to ensure PWD are elected? If so, what is the role of the NEC in the enforcement? How do officials deal with candidate lists that fail to meet the quota?
No	
C18	What are the qualifications or disqualifications for being a candidate? Do these present any barriers to the candidacy of people with disabilities?
Mental capacity only	
C19	Does the NEC disaggregate statistics on candidates by PWD? Is this information uniformly collected at the time of nomination? If this is not done, has it been considered for implementation? Are there legal barriers to collection and/or reporting the disabilities of candidates?
No, this information is not collected. No barriers to doing this	
C20	Does the NEC or other state institution collect information on election related violence? Is this information disaggregated to ascertain any differential impact on disabled candidates or voters?
ONS, NEC, SLP, PPRC, CSO (WANEP etc), NEW: not aware of disaggregation	
C21	Do political parties have written rules for the selection of candidates? Do these rules provide equal access to candidacy for people with disabilities? Is there a policy for affirmative action?
Have rules but open to interpretation. No knowledge of equal access or affirmative action provisions	
The Election Campaign	
C22	What is the status of PWD as public figures in the country? Are there issues relating to harassment or persecution of PWD, and does this occur during election campaigns?
No many prominent PWD but there is clear strategy for parties to showcase PWD members or campaigners during election campaign. No pattern of harassment	
C23	Does the NEC or other state institution collect information on election related violence? Is this information disaggregated by disability to ascertain any differential impact on disabled candidates or voters?
Answered above	
C24	Have disabled candidates reported intimidation or interference with their campaign efforts in the past? Have these differed from problems encountered? Have PWD encountered any other problems during campaigns, either as candidates or as voters?
Yes to some extent. Some PWDs also anticipate that intimidation could be a problem for them if they choose to run.	
C25	Is there monitoring of the election campaigns for PWD equality? In particular, is there any analysis of media coverage rates of disabled candidates? Do political parties have disabled speakers at rallies and interviews?
Not a lot of general media monitoring, No known attempts to monitor PWD related speech. Parties do showcase PWD at rallies etc to demonstrate their inclusiveness	
C26	How does the media cover disabled candidates? Are disabled candidates given equal opportunity to present their programmes and policies?
Can be quite prominent and get lots of coverage.	

C27	Do parties have PWD platforms? Are these platforms covered in media reports of the campaign?
Need to check. There will be lobbying for this in 2018 (SLUDI)	
C26	Are there laws or regulations related to hate speech on the basis of PWD? How and by whom are these enforced?
There are general hate speech provisions. NEC, HRC, IMC, NCD and PPRC are responsible.	
C28	Are there campaign related codes of conduct? How do such codes handle PWD equality issues?
There are codes promulgated by the various Commissions. No specific PWD provision in them	
C29	Do parties and candidates provide their information in accessible formats?
No	
Information and Education	
C30	Does the NEC have a policy that governs its information and education work? If so, how does the policy cover PWD equality issues?
No policy on information and education but is covered in disability policy	
C31	Are there other bodies or groups that undertake information and education on electoral matters? How do their policies cover PWD equality?
NCD, NCPD, PPRC, HRC. Yes, they cover PWD equally. CSOs also engage in this and are quite disability aware	
C32	Does the NEC track the impact of their information and education work through surveys or other assessment methods? If they do, are the results of this research disaggregated by PWD?
NEC do self-assessment but it is not uniformly disaggregated by PWD	
C33	If there are different levels of electoral comprehension in the society, is it clearly understood whether some of these differences are between people with disabilities and those without? Has the NEC developed strategies that aim to ensure PWD have an equal level of electoral knowledge?
No PWD specific gap. Low electoral knowledge is a factor of other causes such as poverty, educational access etc.	
C34	Do the information and education campaigns have materials or initiatives specifically targeted at PWD? How effective have these been?
NEC does specific activities, has been hard to measure in the past but NEC are trying.	
C35	In any materials produced by the EMB or other actors, is there a fair representation of PWD in both passive and active roles? In particular with materials that show the voting process, are PWD depicted equally as polling officials, voters, observers and security personnel?
NEC has taken care to depict PWD as people registering and voting but not previously in NEC staff roles.	
C36	What methods are used to deliver education and information? Does the plan for the campaign include strategies to target PWD through the use of specific delivery channels or specific delivery times and places?
Yes, NEC does this through both delivery channels and through specific workshops etc.	
C37	Is NEC public information material provided in accessible formats?
Yes when resources allow	
C38	Does the NEC provide a public inquiry service to provide information on elections and is this accessible to PWD?
NEC has used the situation room for this. Does use media as well.	

C39	Is there a need to deliver education and information directly to PWD in PWD-only groups? If this is done, how has it worked?
NEC conducts outreach to DPOs in the districts and the DPOs spread messages through their membership. NEC also uses PWD in media to spread messages. Use town criers, comedians and artists to spread messages.	
C40	Are there voter information materials in easy-to-read format specifically for persons with intellectual disabilities or those with low literacy?
Yes	
C41	Does voter information material intended for person to person voter information campaigning have pictures or written materials? Do voters with low literacy have a chance to speak to an educator in person?
Yes	
C42	Are there materials in braille format for persons who are blind or have low vision?
Yes when resources allow	
C43	Are there captions for deaf or hard-of-hearing in TV spots for voter information and is electronic text used with screen reading software in such adverts?
Yes TV spots have subtitles	
C44	Are there other methods NEC could use to communicate with specific disabled groups?
Text (SMS) messages.	
C45	Are NEC resourced to produce materials in accessible formats?
Not sufficiently	

D ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

D1	Did the NEC receive support from international donors ahead of the last election? What were the main types of interventions?
UNDP, IFES, NDI and other partners. Focus on electoral administration	
D2	Are there, or have there been, longer term programmes of electoral assistance?
Yes, UNDP project ran after the election but it had to close because of Ebola	
D3	If there are project documents and/or assessment mission reports, do these include PWD analysis?
Current UNDP project document for 2016-2018 refers to bringing an adviser on Inclusion, the person has been identified.	
D4	Did the support received include PWD mainstreaming advice and assistance? If so, please explain the types of interventions and the impact they had. If no such support was provided, why was that?
No focus on PWDs with NEC. IFES did work on PWD issues	
D5	What type of support for PWD would be most useful in the future (such as provision of PWD expertise, BRIDGE training, sharing of experiences with other EMBs, etc.)?
Training and CB for NEC itself, funding to provide adaptive technology, funding for more outreach work; access specific study tours	
D6	If there has been international assistance, did any evaluation of the assistance include evaluation of its PWD impact?
Not as far as we know	

D7	What was the overall expenditure on electoral assistance (if there has been long term assistance, use the amount for the last electoral cycle)? How much was dedicated to PWD mainstreaming activities?
Obtain exact information later	
D8	Has there been international assistance that focused on PWD candidates and/or within political parties? Did this have any impact on the work of the NEC? Not aware of this and didn't impact on NEC work.
D9	How many international advisers and consultants have been engaged in assistance in the country (if there has been long term assistance, use the figures for the last electoral cycle)? What is the breakdown in terms of numbers, level and roles?. <u>2012</u> Chief Technical Advisor – 1 Civil Society Advisor – 1 Data Base Developer & Administrator – 1 Decentralised results and Tally Advisor – 3 Training and Procedures Advisor – 1 Voter Card and Ballot Printing Advisor -1 Logistics Advisor (International) – 2 Logistics Officer (National) -1 Regional Tally Centre Advisors (UNV) - 11

Survey was sponsored by Irish Aid, the EU, DFID and UNDP



Photos: Annetta Flanigan and Manty Dabo Turay