



IPA ENGAGEMENT IN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Localizing SDGs through Community Participation”

Introduction:

International Presentation Association is an ECOSOC accredited Non-Governmental organisation at the United Nations working with women, children, Indigenous people and environment issues through a rights based approach. The organisation works in 23 countries at grass roots level through its ministries of education, health and community development as well as policy advocacy. We advocate for a people centered development with the belief that the effected communities are protagonists in their own transformation process.

Location of the Initiative:

International Presentation Association took its commitment to localize the Sustainable Development Goals through community participation in six countries of Asia Pacific region: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan and India.

Aim and Objectives of the Project:

“Co-visioning, Co-learning and Co-creating the Future We Want” is the key theme of the initiative with following objectives:

Strategies for Localizing SDGs



- 1. Community Mobilization for Participation:** Community participation is the key to localize the SDGs and respond to the situation. 81 Community leaders were identified

to facilitate community participation. These community leaders were trained on participatory development approach, advocacy skills, assessment of the issues of the community, SDGs etc. The community leaders worked to mobilize the community for training, awareness and advocacy. 81 community leaders organised training in 36 areas for 1244 community volunteers and the advocacy on relevant issues covering around 40,000 people.

The cluster groups setup a total of 44 local project units in India-19, Pakistan-11, Philippines-4, Thailand-1, Zambia-6 and Zimbabwe-3 to facilitate the implementation of SDGs related to the local issues identified by the cluster level teams and community leaders.

2. Capacity building: International Training on Facilitating Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals was organized for 18 representatives from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan and India. The participatory learning method enabled the participants to understand the content of the training and get specific output.

The national level training enabled the teams to understand the national mechanisms set up for the implementation of SDGs. Six national project implementation teams were built with an average of 20 members in each; in total 123 persons received 3 days training on subjects related to global advocacy for local issues through human rights mechanisms, rights based approach to development, sustainable



- Content of the training
- UN mechanisms for ensuring human rights
 - Sustainable development goals
 - Strategies of localizing SDGs
 - Advocacy and networking
 - Planning and documentation skills
 - Engaging with national plans for SDG implementation

development goals, national plans for the implementation of SDGs and the skills required for facilitating community participation for localizing SDGs. The national project teams organised trainings with relevant issues according to the place and built the capacity of community representatives for localizing SDGs. To respond to the issues identified by the national teams 22 sub-national trainings were conducted and cluster level teams were formed and 566 stakeholders were trained.

3. Advocacy and networking on issues concerning the community: The community leaders sensitized their local communities to identify the issues affecting the community. They prepared locally relevant education and communication material to spread the awareness in the community. The community leaders in local project units planned advocacy actions to pressure the duty bearers and stakeholders on the issues concerning the community. Networking with local, national and international organizations and civil societies was done to strengthen the advocacy work. Meeting with local policy makers was one of the strategies for resolving the issues of the community. Community people organized themselves and submitted memorandums to the concerned officers.







Networking with all stakeholders is one of the requirements for effective advocacy and localizing the SDGs. The national and sub-national teams made efforts for effective network and collaboration with likeminded organisations. Network and collaboration is done with following organisations:

- ❖ In India the national, sub-national and cluster level teams collaborated with local NGOs, schools, local government and the community organisations for training and advocacy action. Major organisations such as Caritas India, Office for Labour, Conference of Catholic Bishops in India, VIVAT International, and Social Work Society of Mumbai Archdiocese collaborated for programme implementation.
- ❖ The Pakistan team built a network with the Institute for Training and Research, Caritas, elected representatives of municipal corporation and the National Justice and Peace Commission of Pakistan for training and policy discussions.
- ❖ In the Philippines, our project team comprises a network of organisations such as the Confederation of Indigenous People’s Organisations, Benalbagan Community College; church based organisations, local government, elected representatives and community organisations. The network plans, implements and evaluates the activities related to the issue of environment and rights of indigenous people.
- ❖ In Thailand Presentation Sisters collaborates with the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in training the young girls on prevention of human trafficking.
- ❖ In Zambia the project team collaborates with UNDP, government authorities, local government, Christian Brothers and other religious in training and skill development.



4. Localizing SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals are for the people and planet to achieve prosperity and peace through partnerships. Achieving sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner in its economic, social and environmental dimensions is the commitment of all member states. The implementation of SDGs needs every country to judiciously prioritize, and adapt the goals and targets in accordance with local challenges, capacities and resources available. The United Nations guidelines on localizing SDGs focused on participation of all concerned stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring process at national, sub-national and local levels. The guidelines also called for the participation of governments, private sectors, civil society organizations, academia, philanthropic organizations and volunteer groups. The International Presentation Association’s national teams made an assessment of the ministry it is performing and the area of work which corresponds with SDG’s targets to identify the issues of concern for people and the SDGs related to it.

Issues selected to Localize SDGs:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental degradation and poor waste agement (SDGs3,6,13) ➤ Lack of access to social security services to Indigenous (Tribal) and other marginalized people including Dalits (SDG 1,2,10) ➤ Lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene practices (SDG 6) ➤ Lack of employable skills among youth and unskilled labourers (SDG 8) ➤ Sensitization of school children about the issues of the poor (SDG 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drug peddling and addiction and substance abuse among youth (SDG 3) ➤ Violence and civil unrest and people live in fear (SDG 16)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental protection, protection of sea coasts (SDG 13,14) ➤ Rights of Indigenous people living in mountains (SDGs1,2,8,13,15, 16) ➤ Sustainable agriculture (SDGs 2, 15)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Migration for labour and human trafficking of young women (SDGs5, 8,16)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of safe portable water (SDG 6) ➤ Cutting down trees for charcoal burning and tobacco plantation (SDG 13,15) ➤ Waste management and plastic use (SDG 13)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Human rights violation because of unstable government (SDG 16) ➤ Pollution SDG 3)

Localizing SDGs through Community Participation: The following advocacy actions were taken on both people oriented and policy level advocacy.

- Community leaders at Rees and Karanje, Maharashtra, India organised Tribal women to obtain the Ration Card to obtain food grains from public distribution system under Food Security Act 2013 and also get the tribal identity cards. The women visited the District Commissioner’s office and submitted the applications, participated in public hearing and presented their plea. The matter is followed up by the community leaders.



- Community leaders at Sikthya, Jarkhand India worked on getting their tribal identity card to protect their right to property. They also worked on other social security benefits such as right to subsidized food grains under Food Security Act, employment guarantee for 100 days under MGNREG and National Rural Livelihood Mission. As the people lacked the proper document for the claim, the community has applied for the documents. The women managed to get the food grains at subsidized rate from fair price shops.
- In Mandva, a village in the district of Maharashtra, the people managed to get the Panchayat (Local Government) to place waste bins to manage the garbage. The tribal community of Karanje has presented the memorandum to the electricity board for the connection to the village. The action is initiated by the concerned board.

- Children’s groups at Rothak, Hariyana, organised themselves and initiated the village sanitation drive. They raised awareness among villagers and involved the villagers in cleaning the village. They also warned the people not to dump the waste in open spaces. The children’s group met the DC about the unhygienic condition in the village and presented a complaint for which the health department was directed by district commissioner to respond to the situation immediately.



- The women at Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu organised themselves around waste dumping in public places. They conducted a survey and presented the issue before the municipality authority. The officials visited the place and made arrangement for waste mangement by placing waste bins in different locations and collecting them regularly

In Chennai, slum people were evacuated by the Slum Clearance Board. The women and children faced problems related to schooling, work and housing. The people got together and marched on the streets of Chennai demanding adequate arrangement of transport, housing and livelihood. The city corporation and the government responded by providing buses to the children to commute to their school from their new location. The families are provided with temporary shelters and the women are provided with skill training from both NGOs and government. But the women are negotiating for better reliable social security facilities.

- In Balasva Delhi City, people were facing unhealthy hygienic conditions due to dumping the garbage in open spaces, poor management of sewage gutters, lack of connecting road due to encroachment etc. The children's parliament members and self help groups did a signature campaign, approached the concerned department, and submitted their complaint demanding action. After several attempts the health department along with local authorities cleaned the place, did regular fogging and monitoring of waste management. The children and women follow up for sustainability.



- In the Nedumpuaram, Thiruvallur district Tamil Nadu, the community people got together and cleaned the community well and rejuvenated the water source. Waste dumping was prevented in the place. Villagers managed to obtain a new water connection from the panchayat.
- In Rees, Maharashtra village people cleaned the overhead community water tank and demanded the local administration to clean it regularly.
- The youth and young girls who dropped out of school in Dabwali, Hariyana, India, wanted to get employable skills under skill India scheme. The community leader made a survey of the interested candidates and the skills and approached the district authority that is responsible for providing the training. As the efforts of the team were not successful, the youth are provided with training by the sisters and ongoing efforts are continued to connect with government benefits.

- In Theni, the school children took action to plant saplings in different places. The women from the self-help groups were given saplings to plant in their kitchen gardens. Children also prepared seed balls to produce plants.



- Women from Kodaikanal planned and dug a pit for waste management. In Nedumpuram the women obtained the toilets under government scheme.
- In Pakistan, a team provides school children with awareness on peace and non-violence amidst constant civil unrest. Many schools invite the team for the sessions.
- The project team along with community leaders visited the drug control society and drug de-addiction centre and had a discussion on prevention of drug use and prohibition of drug peddling. The discussion is being taken forward to the people in the communities and schools.

- The national project team had meetings with policy makers about the SDG implementation and drug control and peace initiatives. The elected representatives were positive and have agreed to act in this regard.

- The students of Binalbagan community college undertook action for mangrove planting in the sea coast to protect the environment.



- The community leaders along with representatives of the Confederation of



Indigenous People Philippines have approached the government department regarding the land rights of indigenous people. The elected representatives have responded positively and efforts

are still on for positive results.

- Binalbagan Catholic Community College and the Indigenous people network together towards sustainable



agriculture. The college has set up an Eco-Garden and produce seedlings for the plantation by the tribal people at the mountains on traditional local crops. The youth are trained on folk culture and used them for awareness rising.

- The community leaders at Kaoma and Livingston, Zambia, did house to house campaign on save mother earth and preventing plastic use. The youth built a huge structure of an elephant to dump the plastics.
- The community leaders had dialogue with tobacco companies who were responsible for de-forestation for tobacco growing, lobbied and ensured planting of saplings to save the environment. The youth group conducted awareness programmes on charcoal burning and environment degradation.
- The Kaoma school and village was facing water scarcity, the community leaders and project team set up roof water harvesting in school and the community to train people on water conservation. Government assistance was taken to drill the bore well to provide water for the community.
- The elected representatives/political leaders participated in the training on environment protection organised by the national project team in Zambia. The government in turn organised similar programmes and invited the national coordinator give the sessions and made action plan to take local actions for environment protection.
- The community leaders along with the national project team in Zimbabwe are training people on use of Electronic Voting machines and the civil right of people.



Conclusion:

IPA engagement in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is geared towards co-visioning, co-learning and co-creating the world we want. This goal is achieved by localizing the SDGs through community participation. Community participation is ensured through capacity building, networking and advocacy by the stakeholders for transformation. The good practices and lessons learnt will take the process of development to sustainability and peace and prosperity of people and planet.

Our learning is that civil society and faith based organisations has much to contribute not only in identifying local issues, creating awareness among the grassroots communities and engaging them in the SDG implementation processes, but also in educating the local administration regarding the SDGs and connecting the global policies to the local realities. Communities are eager to participate when they are part of the process not when they are mere recipients.