THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT

ACTIVITY REPORT – 2021

Overview

TIP's activities focused mainly on conducting quantitative and qualitative research and analysis on the underdeveloped, underreached and invisible communities by providing ground-level research data, evidence and information. TIP, along with its network, identified and mapped DWD communities and rights experts, capacitated them through training, study courses, conferences, and discussion groups to understand the conditions and magnitude of their concerns. TIP brought stakeholder networks and organizations together and facilitated dialogues and strategy sharing to overcome the hurdles of marginalization. TIP worked mainly on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially on the monitoring and follow-up/review and providing data and evidence for the nation-state for effective and inclusive program implementation. Some of the major activities conducted by TIP include:

1. Rights Experts Capacitation Training

Since April 2021, TIP has mapped, shortlisted and started working with CDWD Rights Experts (REs), who are academics, activists, human rights defenders, and CSO functionaries, through networking partners and civil society organizations. TIP has been working with 13 CDWD Rights Experts from Niger, Pakistan, Mauritania, Belgium, Mali, Mauritius, Nepal, Brazil, and India to reach out to the primary target beneficiary groups at each of these countries. Training sessions for the REs were conducted twice a month. They were trained through module-based sessions, enabling them to take forward the core of the TIP's efforts. The activity focused on capacitating the CDWD Rights Experts to act as ambassadors or change-makers who can network with CSOs in the countries, strengthening the work at the grassroots levels. They are also empowered to raise the community's concerns at the national and regional levels by ensuring participation in the regional and global forums. TIP and the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), who anchors the Major Group and other Stakeholders (MGoS) mechanism in the UN-facilitated the Rights Experts and CDWD to participate in the regional and global forums. TIP facilitated CDWD Rights Experts' participation in the MGoS, High-Level Political Forums (HLPF) and HLPS reviews, and Voluntary National Report (VNR) monitoring mechanisms.

2. Round Table on *Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation for All*

On 4 June 2021, the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Germany and Spain, The Inclusivity Project, and the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent organised a virtual Round Table on *Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation for All*. The event was organised against the runup to the biennial Resolution on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation put forward by Germany and Spain in the Third Committee of the United Nations. The event focussed on the importance of ensuring access to water and sanitation for all with a particular focus on communities discriminated on work and descent and highlighted the relevance of the contribution of sanitation workers to Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring all persons have access to sanitation services.

His Excellency Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN inaugurated the event. Professor Chin Sung Chung, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination given the keynote address. Mr. Paul Divakar Namala, Executive Director, TIP moderated the panel discussions. His Excellency Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur for Water and Sanitation, Ms. Mary James Gill, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Justice, Pakistan, Mr. Brahim Rhamdane, founder of the Sahel Foundation and African Network against Discrimination based on Work and Descent, Mauritania, Dr. Givania Silva, Executive Director, Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ), Brazil shared experiences on discrimination in access to water and sanitation as well as in other areas across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, Ambassador María Bassols had given the closing remarks.

Africa Network on Discrimination on Work and Descent (ANDS), Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF), National Confederation of Quilombola Communities (CONAQ), Brazil, European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), TrustAfrica, Dalit Solidarity in Germany, International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) co-hosted the roundtable.

3. *Youth resilience: Perspectives from Africa, Asia, South America and Europe*

The Inclusivity Project and the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent organised the *Youth resilience: Perspectives from Africa, Asia, South America and Europe* by youth activists from CDWD on 6 April 2021.

Youth activists from 4 continents gathered and shared their perspectives as activists and members of DWD communities on how the Pandemic has impacted them and how resilience can be built and strengthened. For the first time, global youth DWD activists from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean unite in a global event and exchanged their experience during the Pandemic. They shared the vision of achieving SDGs, especially SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies) and 17 (Partnership) to *Leave No One Behind*.

4. COVID-19 Country Study Reports

TIP made sustained efforts in addressing the concerns of CDWD during the Pandemic. Country assessment studies on COVID-19 and CDWD in South Asian Countries, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia, looking at 'Leave No One Behind' one year into a global pandemic conducted along with ADRF. COVID-19 has amplified CDWD existing uncertainties around food, humanitarian relief, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, employment, healthcare, financial inclusion, and disaster response. CDWD faces problems when it comes to immunization and the anti-COVID vaccination drives. Considering the need for a focussed, inclusive and sustainable approach to protect the most vulnerable CDWDs, TIP shared recommendations for improvements with concerned policymakers in the intervention countries. TIP further proposed domestic interventions in strengthening CDWD rights through inclusionary practices in the COVID-19 context.

The assessment reports of country study reports were published and released on 19 March 2021 during the People's Forum Side Event *Development Justice for Dalits in the Pandemic* conducted alongside the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM).

5. Youth Beat COVID

TIP organised a CDWD Youth Conclave: *Youth Beat COVID*, on 12 August 2021, along the side-lines of *International Youth Day*. Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, GFoD, ADRF, Child and Youth Major Group, National Coordination of Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communites, GCAP, Trust Africa, and ERGO were the joint organisers of this event.

The event provided an opportunity to recognise and highlight the voices, initiatives, actions, and engagement of young people across the world. The event also highlighted the importance of CDWD youth participation in political, economic and social life and processes and shared their perspectives.

6. UN High-Level Political Forum Side Event

TIP organised a side event during the UN High-level Political Forum on 13 July 2021 on *DWD Communities: Modern Slavery and Resilient Recovery in the face of a post-Pandemic World.* The event was co-organised and supported by GFOD, Youth MG, Trust Africa, CONAQ, ERGO, ADRF, Nagorik Uddyog.

While SDGs indirectly influence the concerns of the excluded communities, it fails to recognize DWD or caste as an essential determinant of poverty and under-development. The absence of DWD from the SDG main document, goals and targets, and the global indicators are clear evidence that there is less to no recognition of DWD in the global agenda of development. While on one hand, the SDGs stand for transparency, accountability, and participation with the inclusion of all populations, on the other hand, it structurally excludes the traditionally marginalized and socially excluded people. Taking this into account, TIP organised the event. The event focused on ensuring the rights of CDWD when the world begins to recover from the Pandemic.

7. Modern Slavery Study and Reports

The Inclusivity Project supported the Global Study and preparation of the reports on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Modern Slavery. TIP joined ADRF and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung South Asia in organising a two-day National Conference on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Contemporary Slavery at New Delhi on 20-21 October 2021. The release and dissemination of two key research reports a) CDWD in South Asia: Status of Modern Slavery; and b) CDWD in Modern Slavery: A Global Phenomenon were the highlights of the conference. The conference was attended by experts, academicians, CDWD individuals, journalists, CSOs, community leaders from India. The event was also attended by participants from all over the world who participated in the presentations and discussions through a virtual meeting platform.