

## **Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya Training Manual**

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### **4.2.4 SUB-MODULE 4: DISABILITY AND VULNERABLE MARGINALISED GROUPS**

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are described according to the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities to include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. Hence, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis. The 2019 Kenya census recorded 2.2% of the population above five years of age had a disability, whereas the 2009 census recorded 3.8%. In 2019, 1.9% of men and 2.5% of women had a disability while in 2009, 3.7% of men and 3.9% of women had a disability.

A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). The PWDs are entitled to a barrier-free and disability-friendly environment to enable them to have access to buildings, roads and other social amenities, and assistive devices and other equipment to promote their mobility.

The four major types of disabilities include physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional, and sensory impaired disorders. However an expanded list include:

- Vision impairment (blindness/ low vision).
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Mental health conditions
- Intellectual disability
- Acquired brain injury
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Physical disability
- Dwarfism
- Leprosy cured persons
- Locomotor disability

Vulnerable and marginalized populations are groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political, and economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions. Vulnerable populations include the economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, the uninsured, low-income children, the elderly, the orphans, widows, internally displaced people (IDP), refugees the homeless, those with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and those with other chronic health conditions, including severe mental illness.

Marginalized groups exist nearly everywhere. They are people who, for whatever reason, are denied involvement in mainstream economic, political, cultural and social activities. Marginalization – sometimes also called social exclusion – refers to the relegation to the fringes of society due to a lack of access to rights, resources, and opportunities. It is a major cause of vulnerability, which refers to exposure to a range of possible harms, and being unable to deal with them adequately. It can negatively impact individuals' physical, psychological and emotional health. Some but not all of these consequences may include feelings of anger, anxiety, fear, depression, self-blame, sadness, stress and isolation.



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development  
State Department for Crop Development  
P.O. Box 30028, Nairobi



Emergency Locus Response Program  
P.O. Box 30028,  
Nairobi



Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organisation  
P.O. Box 57811-00200,  
Nairobi



The World Bank  
P.O. Box 30577-00100  
Nairobi

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### *Do disabled pay taxes in Kenya?*

Persons living with disability (PWD) are granted a tax exemption on their monthly or annual income. This exemption applies to the first KES 150,000 per month or for the first KES 1.8 million per annum. The Government funds services (including direct financial assistance) to support disabled people. By providing these services, the Government helps to give disabled people the opportunity to live an ordinary life. Disabled people receive extra support from a range of government agencies. Women, the elderly, adolescents, youth, and children, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, refugees, migrants, and minorities experience the highest degree of socioeconomic marginalisation. Marginalised people become even more vulnerable in emergencies. A sample of the most common marginalised groups:

- Senior citizens (retirees)
- Racial/cultural minorities
- Military combat veterans
- Persons of below average intelligence
- Hearing, visually, and physically challenged persons.
- Persons with a serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI)
- Persons with cognitive impairments.

Eight marginalised groups still fighting for the freedom to vote include:

- People with limited mobility
- People without valid ID
- Individuals with felony convictions
- Individuals deemed “mentally incompetent”
- Undocumented immigrants
- Low-income individuals
- People experiencing homeless
- Indigenous communities.

### **Further reading**

- GoK. (2017). Government of Kenya. Ministry of Education Report on the vulnerable and marginalised groups; The Kenya Primary Education Development (PRIEDE) Project; Government Printers, Nairobi.
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- Kabare, K. (2019). Social protection and disability in Kenya working paper: October 2018. Development pathways.