

ELTE-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

**TITLE: SYNERGY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: BRIDGING THE GAP,
SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

By Edwin Wagah, Ubin-Adam Afrika NGO

INTRODUCTION

- Importance of inclusive education in Africa
 - equal access to quality education.
 - It promotes diversity, equality, and the rights of every child
 - fosters social integration, reduces discrimination, and creates a more inclusive society.
 - unlocking potentials/ equal opportunities for success.
 - benefits society as a whole-fosters empathy, understanding, & acceptance of individual differences





Addressing the specific needs of children with disabilities

- Individualized learning plans/accommodations
- Accessible learning materials, technologies, & assistive devices for improved participation & engagement.
- Qualified special education teachers & professionals trained
- Collaborative partnerships-holistic support.
- Sensitization programs
- Inclusive extracurricular activities & social integration opportunities for all children.
- Provision of support services
- Continuous assessment & evaluation of progress

CHALLENGES IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Lack of infrastructure and resources for inclusive education
- Limited teacher training and awareness on inclusive practices
- Stigma and discrimination towards children with disabilities
- Inadequate policies and legal frameworks supporting inclusive education



THE ROLE OF SYNERGY

- Synergy: the collective effort and collaboration of various stakeholders.
- Sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices
- Collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, NGOs, and communities.
- Regular communication and coordination help identify challenges and address them collectively





SUCCESS STORIES

Successful initiatives promoting inclusive education in African countries

1) **Special Underserved and Needy Children Empowerment Project (SUNCEP) Pilot Project**

- support the educational needs of seven Children with Disabilities (CWDs).
- **The project is Funded by: ADRA-Hungary** and is implemented in Migori County Kenya.



2) **School Development Program and Methodology Support for Students with Disabilities**

- Sub - project of SUNCEP: targets schooling environments for children with disabilities.

Aims: building capacities for the local schoolteachers, improve accessibility of the classrooms, visibility of the information put on the white or blackboards, audibility & clarity of information passed down to students. Promote social acceptability and integration of CWDs into the regular schools.

- **This project is funded by: Hungary Helps**, facilitated by the department of special needs from **ELTE University, Hungary.**

UBIN-ADAM AFRIKA?

- **Area of focus:** Supporting people with Disabilities
 - **Scope of Work**
 1. **Education:** providing all educational needs
 2. **Supportive equipment:** Providing items that promote personal independence for children and adults with disability.
 3. **Community awareness:** Educating local communities of the basic rights of people with disabilities
 4. **Social/Care Farming:** Integration of disadvantaged groups in productive farming activities to promote their rehabilitation, social inclusion and employability
- Partners:** Hungary Helps, ADRA Hungary, **ELTE Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education, Miss Toth Erszebet**



Outcomes/Testimonials

- 7 direct beneficiaries
- Overall wellbeing, self-esteem, and academic achievement have all significantly improved as a result
- Reach (850 households & 5 schools, 67 teachers, & a total ca. 1000 children)
- Assessment of the current state of institutions
- Screening: A total of 291 children were screened
- Methodological workshops supporting student cooperation



STRATEGIES FOR BRIDGING THE GAP

- Comprehensive teacher training programs on inclusive education
- Accessibility improvements in schools (ramps, Braille materials, etc.)
- Adaptation of curriculum and teaching methodologies to accommodate diverse learners
- Integration of assistive technologies and tools for learning support





COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Why? Provide avenues for stakeholders to work together in promoting inclusive education
 - Collaboration forms: sharing resources, expertise, and best practices.
 - Joint projects and partnerships key in addressing specific challenges and maximizing impact.
 - Specific challenges addressed when stakeholders actively seek out & participate in joint projects and partnerships
 - Funding opportunities should be availed for collaborative efforts in inclusive education.
- Resource-sharing initiatives and databases for best practices

CONCLUSION

- Synergy creates a powerful network of stakeholders working together towards achieving inclusive education, fostering an inclusive society where all children, including those with disabilities, can thrive and reach their full potential.
- By leveraging collaboration opportunities, stakeholders in inclusive education can harness collective strengths, pool resources, and work together towards creating a more inclusive and equitable educational system for all learners, including those with disabilities.
- Inclusive education is a collective responsibility, and through synergy and collaboration, we can bridge the gap and support children with disabilities in Africa. By working together, leveraging our resources, sharing best practices, and advocating for inclusive policies, we can create a society where every child, regardless of their abilities, has equal access to quality education. Let us embrace synergy and empower children with disabilities through education, fostering a more inclusive and equitable future for all.
- Ubin-Adam Afrika open to collaboration opportunities

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Contact details for further inquiries or collaboration opportunities
- Email address:
ubinadamafrika@gmail.com

edwinwagah@gmail.com

- Facebook: @Ubin-Adam
Afrika Foundation- UAAF



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