

Leave No One Behind

From Principle to Practice

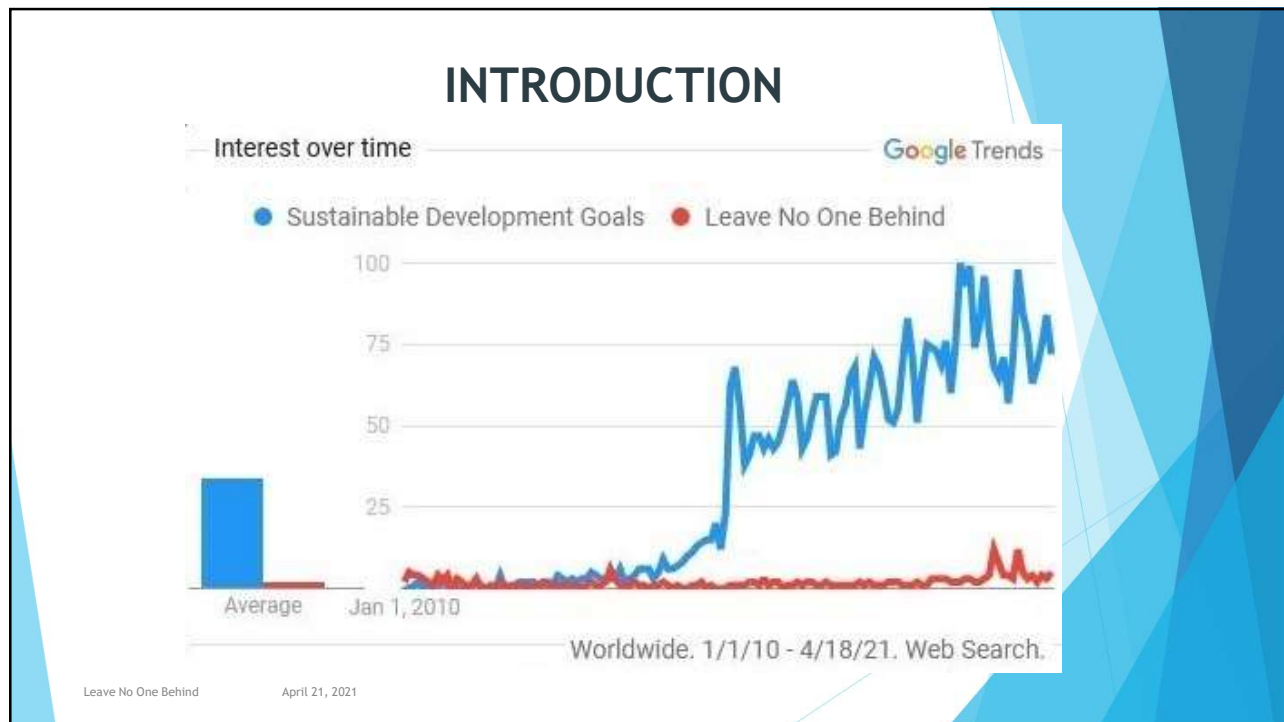
Cercle de Coopération / Forum Politique Online Conference
Leave No One Behind - Can the Private Sector Fulfill this Ambition?
Session 1 on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 11h15
Speaker: James G. Bennett

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Origins of the LNOB Principle
- ▶ LNOB in the 2030 Agenda
- ▶ LNOB in German development cooperation
- ▶ Practical applications
- ▶ LNOB in private sector development
- ▶ Perspectives
- ▶ Key questions
- ▶ References

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ORIGINS OF THE LNOB PRINCIPLE (1)

Contextual factors during MDG implementation (2000-2015):

- ▶ 2007 - 2008: International financial crisis
- ▶ 2011: Occupy Wall Street movement
- ▶ 2012: Joseph E. Stiglitz publishes “Price of Inequality”
- ▶ 2013: ODI (Wild & Bergh) publication points to MDG governance issues “being clearest in fragile and conflict-affected states, which have been **left furthest behind**”.
- ▶ Aug. 2013: Thomas Piketty publishes “Capital in the Twenty-First Century” (English translation in 04/2014)
- ▶ May 2014: Pope Francis addresses UN Chief Executives Board in Vatican City

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ORIGINS OF THE LNOB PRINCIPLE (2)

Milestones in the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda process:

- ▶ 2010: UNGA High Level Plenary Meeting calls for development agenda beyond 2015
- ▶ 2011: UN Task Force & High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP)
- ▶ 2011: UN 64th NGO Conference in Bonn proposes 17 SDGs & targets
- ▶ 2013: UN's Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG) agrees on 17 goals and 169 targets
- ▶ May 2013: HLP introduces "Leave No One Behind" principle
- ▶ March 2014: France, Germany and Switzerland reject stand-alone goal on inequity (rationale: prefer mainstreaming instead)
- ▶ Dec. 2014: UNGA agrees to OWG's proposals

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ORIGINS OF THE LNOB PRINCIPLE (3)

Disappointment with the results of MDG implementation:

- ▶ *"The empirical reality of the way some of the MDG targets were framed (e.g. cut poverty in half) permitted some countries to claim success in meeting the MDGs even while select groups (often women, minorities, disabled) made no progress or even regressed. This was deemed unacceptable by the HLP members, so there was a determination to disaggregate by various characteristics of people to ensure no groups were being systematically left behind."*

Statement by Homi Kharas, former executive secretary of the High-Level Panel (HLP) secretariat

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ORIGINS OF THE LNOB PRINCIPLE (4)

Controversial **issues** in preparation of the 2030 Agenda:

- ▶ Leadership: Ireland as “honest broker”, Kenya as partner
- ▶ “Cultural and religious impediments” claimed by some countries
- ▶ Role of (in)equality and the bottom 40%: issues of concentration of wealth among elites were neglected
- ▶ Fear of hidden agenda on gay rights: “all economic and social groupings” replaced by “all segments of society” (cf. Agenda §4)
- ▶ Priorities: first focus was on the poorest and most marginalized: principle of “furthest behind first” (FBF) was introduced later
- ▶ Human rights: Legal battles avoided through LNOB + FBF “in spirit”
- ▶ Openness to interpretation, e.g. “quality education” (Goal 4)

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LNOB IN THE 2030 AGENDA

- ▶ The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle is mentioned six times and
- ▶ The Furthest Behind First (FBF) principle is mentioned twice

... in the 2030 Agenda’s 91 paragraphs and 36 pages.

Frequency of some related terms in the 2030 Agenda:

- ▶ Inclusive (40), rights (23), vulnerable / vulnerability (22), equality / inequality / inequalities (21), dignity (4), marginalized (1), distribution (0), social justice (0)

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LNOB IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Focus on the German experience:

- ▶ GIZ's LNOB Innovation Forum established in Sept. 2016
- ▶ GIZ 2018: "The principle means that the people with the fewest development opportunities should be reached first"
- ▶ GIZ 2020: LNOB Guidelines for Project Planners and Practitioners
- ▶ GIZ website "End poverty, reduce inequality, leave no one behind" with numerous case studies, relevant reports, factsheets, project cycle toolkit, LNOB decision tree, LNOB indicators etc.
- ▶ LNOB Innovation Forum meets with global project staff quarterly
- ▶ Perspectives: Emphasis on civil society, marginalized groups and their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (1)

GIZ's Guidelines (2020) showcased practical project-level LNOB experience regarding:

- ▶ Burkina Faso: Financial governance and communal development
- ▶ Cambodia: Health protection, poverty data and disabilities
- ▶ Mexico: 2030 Agenda, inclusive economies in Oaxaca and child migration
- ▶ Palestine: Civil society and local governance

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LNOB IN PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Case Study: Inclusive Economies in Oaxaca (Mexico)

- ▶ Project executed by Oxfam Mexico with EU funding
- ▶ Overall aim: To reverse processes that produce and reproduce economic and social inequalities
- ▶ Specific aims include financing and support to local economic alternatives, capacity building, advocacy, and research for improving policies for economic inclusion
- ▶ After first call for proposals (06/2019), 14 projects were approved in diverse fields including small-scale food & beverage production, crafts (textile, pottery), waste separation for recycling, and microfinance

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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (2)

GIZ's Guidelines (2020) identified best LNOB practices:

No.	Approach / methodology / tool	Specificity	Transferability	Score (max. = 3)
1	Project-level LNOB focal points	Low	High	2.0
2	Dedicated LNOB staff and expert pools	Medium	Medium	2.0
3	Staff training in statistics and analysis for LNOB	Medium	Low	1.5
4	LNOB-oriented results models	Medium	Low	1.5
5	LNOB awareness-building workshops	High	Medium	2.5
6	Power Walk (internal group exercise)	High	High	3.0
7	LNOB-sensitive indicator systems	High	Medium	2.5

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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (3)

GIZ's Guidelines (2020) define “due diligence” for LNOB:

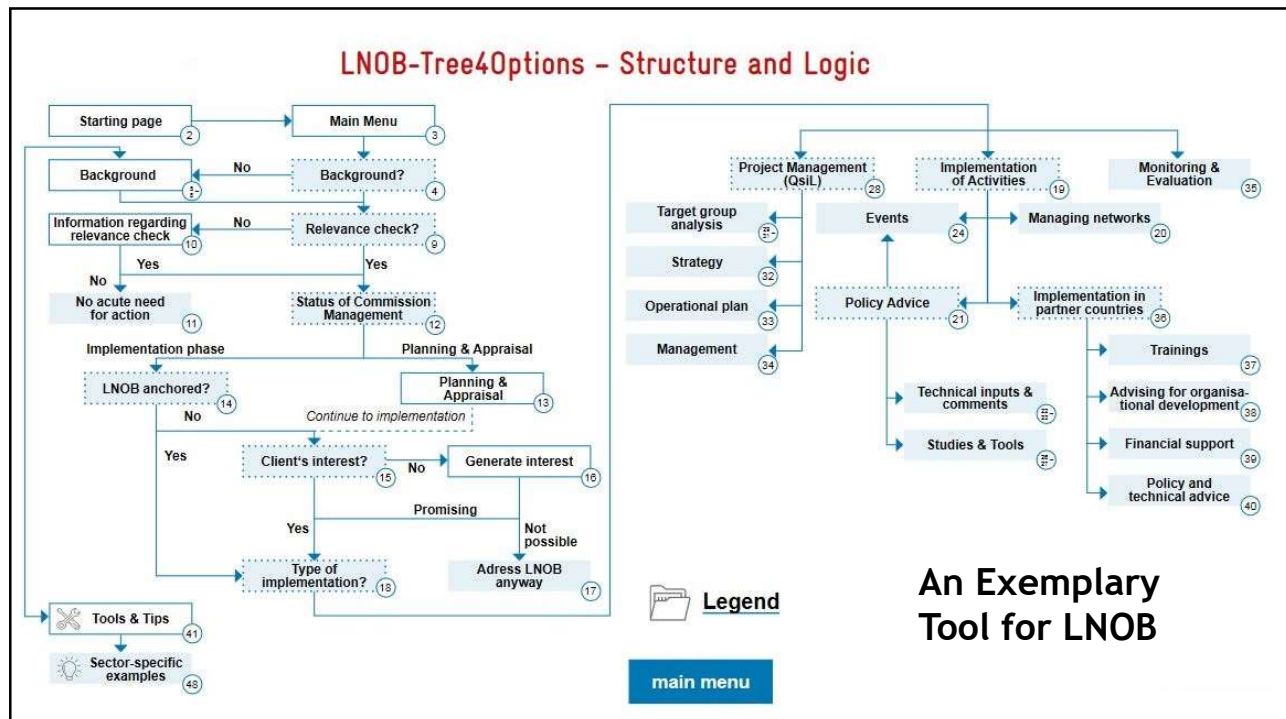
- ▶ Key question: Are we leaving specific segments of our target group(s) behind, and what can we do about it?
- ▶ Main conclusion: The observed practice of Blind Spot Assessment, conducted at least once during every project cycle and feeding into project-level activity plans and results frameworks, may serve as a good indicator (or marker) of due diligence in ensuring alignment with the LNOB principle in development cooperation.

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PERSPECTIVES (1)

Taking the **complexity** of the LNOB challenge into account:

- ▶ It is not enough to design and implement measures to lift the poor out of economic poverty, such as targeted cash transfer programs and pro-poor vocational education and job creation schemes. (“LNOB-lite”)
- ▶ Complementary measures are required to combat multiple forms of discrimination, exclusion and deprivation if the risk of being left behind is to be effectively and sustainably mitigated.

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PERSPECTIVES (2)

In the same sense, a quote from David Donoghue (2018):

- ▶ *“We need to move this promise forward from rhetoric, or from words to action, and that is the big challenge for everyone. ... That means we all have to be part of the solution, no group can be left out, we have to ensure that all the pieces on the board are taken into account, and we have to ensure that there’s no piece left out of the puzzle.”*

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KEY QUESTIONS

1. What can be done to raise **awareness** of the LNOB principle and its possible implications for international development cooperation?
2. What can be done to address the **root causes** of exclusion (discrimination, marginalization, deprivation etc.)?
3. How can LNOB be **operationalized** for specific actors (government, private households, businesses etc.) through specific incentives while also ensuring due transparency and accountability?

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REFERENCES

- ▶ GIZ 2017: Poverty Targeting Primer (Full and Condensed)
- ▶ GIZ 2020: LNOB Guidelines for Planners and Practitioners (Full and Synopsis)
- ▶ GIZ Website “End poverty, reduce inequality, leave no one behind” at <https://www.poverty-inequality.com/>

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR INTEREST!

JIM BENNETT



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