

# Spring 2023 Professional Fellow

**Name:** Clara S Muchunguzi  
**Country:** Tanzania  
**Job Title and Employer:** Program Coordinator, [Restless Development](#)  
**Project Title:** Kijana Wajibika “Youth Be Responsible” Pilot Program

**Problem:** It is estimated that the number of persons with disabilities in Tanzania who are aged seven years and above is 11.7% (7.2 million) of the entire population (Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Goal 16.7 (United Nations, n.d.) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) promote full engagement for all persons with disabilities in the decision-making process. However, in Tanzania, youth with disabilities are misrepresented in the decision-making process. A United Nation’s Call to Action states that, “One of the main barriers to participation in public and political life is the lack of communication platforms for informing young persons with disabilities of various opportunities for engagement [...]” (UN, 2021, p.3).

A potential platform are the so-called community development meetings or councils, established as a result of the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act of 1982 to influence local-level general policymaking and to coordinate and prioritize development planning. These meetings present a unique opportunity to engage youth with disabilities and help them to develop the skills necessary to participate and effectively advocate for issues that are important to them.

**Project Objective:** Clara’s objective is to develop a pilot training program for the meaningful engagement of youth with disabilities in decision-making spaces at the local level in Kibaha and Kongowe Wards.

**Project Description:** Clara will recruit 20 young people from these two wards, 70% with disability, and train them on their rights and responsibilities as active citizens. The training will comprise a total of six sessions (one per month). Youth Accountability Advocates will facilitate these sessions using an adapted version of the Restless Development Leadership and Democracy Training Manual. To broaden the impact, participating young people will be encouraged to reach out to their peers to raise awareness about these community engagement opportunities.

Additionally, Clara will hold capacity development sessions on disability inclusion and meaningful youth engagement with 20 parents, two Ward Executive Officers, two Community Development Officers, and two Village Executive Officers. In each session, the stakeholders will engage in dialogue with the trained youth.

## References:

Tanzania Bureau of National Statistics (n.d.). Integrated Labour Force Survey 2020/21. Retrieved from: <https://www.nbs.go.tz/index.php/en/>

United Nations (n.d.). Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Retrieved from: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

United Nations (2021). Call to Action: Meaningful Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from: [https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CALL-TO-ACTION\\_YOUTH-WITH-DISABILITIES-1.pdf](https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CALL-TO-ACTION_YOUTH-WITH-DISABILITIES-1.pdf)

