

Advancing inclusive data at Sightsavers:

Annual review 2025



March 2026

Sightsavers

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Cover image

Mariam Aminu, 30, team lead, takes count of students during TAS1 Lymphatic filariasis (LF) survey at Turawa Primary School in Asa local government education area, Kwara State, Nigeria, June 2025.

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Introduction

This end-of-year report details the progress Sightsavers has made with its inclusive data internal work plan for 2025, providing an overview of the inclusive data initiatives undertaken across our inclusion and health programmes.

Our workplan plays a crucial role in tracking progress towards the strategic objectives outlined in Sightsavers' **Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan for 2024-27** and our **Vision and Approach to Inclusive Data**.

We made important overall progress, including:




- Improved cross-team collaborative learning
- Stronger government leadership in partner countries
- Growing recognition of Sightsavers as a technical leader in inclusive data at both global and national level

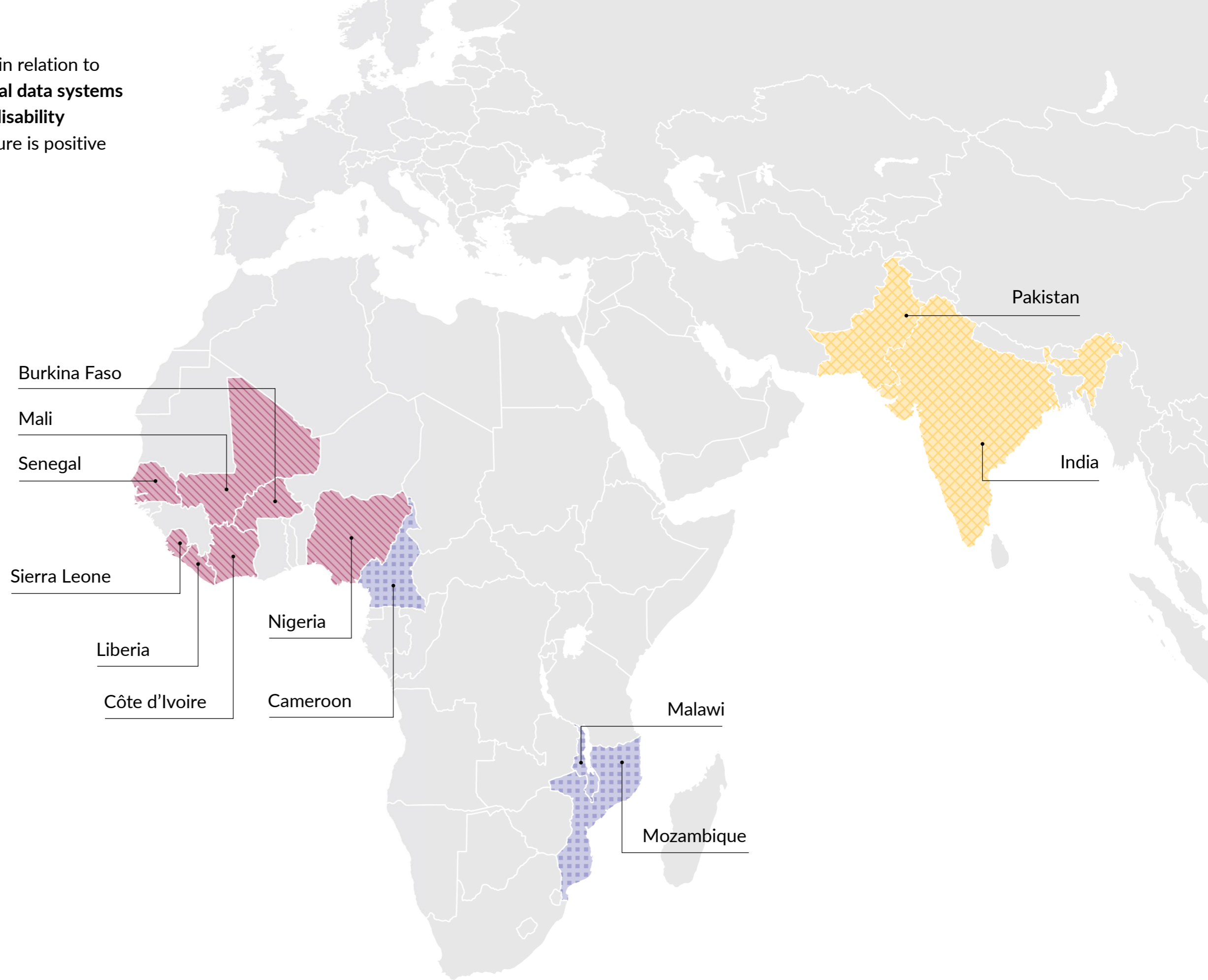


Ousmanou, is an OPD (organisation of people with disabilities) leader, expressing his gratitude to Sightsavers Cameroon country office (CCO) staff.

While challenges remain – especially in relation to **data quality, harmonisation of national data systems and approaches to the collection of disability disaggregated data** – the overall picture is positive

We made significant progress in 12 countries – including:

-  Seven countries in the West Africa Regional Office (WARO) region
-  Three countries in the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region
-  Two countries in Asia



Key progress areas in 2025

12

Countries engaged in inclusive data activities across programmes, research and advocacy

1,700+

Individuals assessed using Washington Group questions (WGQs) in eye health programmes in **Senegal, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**

6

Research studies published on disability-inclusive education management information systems (EMIS), stigma, functional difficulties and vision impairment in **Mali, Mozambique, Kenya, Pakistan** and **Sierra Leone** in the special issue of International Health Journal to commemorate Sightsavers' 75th anniversary

384

Government councils in **Cameroon** adopted revised data collection tools that integrate disability indicators



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Anne Godion, pictured here on the left, working with Ms. Mireile Nyanyouma, municipal officials.

Objective one

Improve internal knowledge and practice to strengthen evidence and learning on how we collect, analyse and use inclusive data

- ✓ We published studies that strengthened global evidence on the epidemiology of vision impairment, the prevalence and effects of stigma and other barriers to disability inclusion, and approaches and methods to collect better inclusive data in education and other settings. In total, 42 peer-reviewed articles were published by Sightsavers in 2025. The overwhelming majority were relevant to inclusive data commitments, presenting data disaggregated by characteristics of disadvantage, assessing the magnitude and impact of health, education and social inequalities or exploring barriers for vulnerable population groups
- ✓ Using the WGQs, we collected baseline data from more than 1,700 eye care service users in our programmes in **Senegal, Sierra Leone** and **Liberia**. This enabled cross-country comparisons and new insights into who accesses services
- ✓ The Sightsavers Inclusive Data Network webinar series continued to play a key role in sharing inclusive data learnings across the organisation. A 2025 session, which was attended by more than 130 staff, highlighted the validated Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) action plans in **Cameroon** and **Sierra Leone**



Olusegun Omotosho, a medical laboratory scientist, collects blood samples while Azubike Anyaoha, the electronic data manager, scans and records participant information during an ongoing TAS1 Lymphatic filariasis (LF) survey at a primary school in Nigeria.

Objective two

Work with local, national and global partners to increase awareness and the capacity to collect, analyse and use inclusive data to improve service delivery

- ✔ We organised workshops in **Sierra Leone** and **Cameroon** – bringing together local councils, ministries, organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and community leaders to build understanding of inclusive data principles, harmonise tools and integrate disability indicators into local governance systems
- ✔ We supported **Cameroon's** Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development with reviewing its local governance data collection tools and guidelines, including incorporating disability-related indicators. This milestone will enable the generation of disability-inclusive statistics across all 384 councils in **Cameroon**, helping to track and strengthen the meaningful participation of people with disabilities in local development plans and processes
- ✔ In **Liberia**, our awareness workshop on inclusive data and the IDC led representatives from all 15 counties to jointly petition the government to join the IDC and recognise it as a sustainable approach for strengthening national data systems
- ✔ We contributed to IDC network learning sessions by presenting our experience and approaches for collecting disability disaggregated data during the July IDC Champions meetings
- ✔ We facilitated peer learning between the governments of **Ivory Coast** and **Cameroon** to share experiences on advancing inclusive national data systems and processes

Objective three

Diversify resource mobilisation, engage new supporters and strengthen Sightsavers' reporting and accountability mechanisms in order to meet our commitments on inclusive data

- ✔ In March 2025, we published the **2024 Sightsavers inclusive data annual report**, which highlights progress on inclusive data commitments across all of the thematic areas and countries where we operate. The report is aligned with the four objectives of our **IDC action plan**, strengthening our ability to report effectively on its implementation
- ✔ We launched the Sightsavers inclusive data workplan dashboard on the organisation's intranet. This dashboard captures inclusive data-related activities across various teams and functions, supporting collaboration across programme teams and decision-makers by offering a snapshot of inclusive data work across the organisation
- ✔ The Sightsavers **India** team rolled out a new Management Information, Tracking, Reporting, and Analysis (MITRA) system across all eye health and social inclusion programmes. This milestone strengthens data management and reporting, with MITRA already supporting rural and urban eye health programmes where data collection is underway

Objective four

Advocate for governments and development organisations to improve their policies, systems and processes that are aimed at collecting, analysing and using inclusive data

- ✔ We supported the development and validation of inclusive data charter action plans for the governments of **Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Nigeria**
- ✔ We advocated for disability to be a key area for disaggregation in the global goal on Adaptation indicators, which was a key part of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a result of this engagement, disability is listed in the suggested disaggregation for all indicators, which is key for monitoring the impact of adaptation measures on people with disabilities
- ✔ At the Global Disability Summit in April 2025, Sightsavers and Christian Blind Mission (CBM) developed and announced joint commitments on inclusive data. These commitments highlighted shared priorities, such as strengthening disability data systems, improving collection and analysis practices, and ensuring that governments and partners can use better evidence to drive the 'leave no one behind' agenda



Mr Anaba Christian, head of communications, Nkoteng municipality.

Ongoing challenges

Strengthening disability-inclusive national health data systems

Efforts to pilot disability disaggregated data collection through OPD registers in **Malawi** were postponed due to challenges in harmonising disability identification documents. This underscored the need for stronger coordination and standardisation within national health systems to support reliable inclusive data practices

Changing funding environment

The wider sector context in 2025 was marked by intensified resource mobilisation pressures. The need for organisations to engage new and diverse supporters has created uncertainties in the funding environment. These constraints suggest that financing challenges may increasingly affect the scope, continuity and long-term sustainability of inclusive data work. As competition for limited resources grows, there is a risk that investments in data systems strengthening, capacity building and innovation may not keep pace with programme needs

Data quality in national education systems

Our efforts to advance inclusive education cohort tracking in **Cameroon** and **Senegal** revealed persistent data quality challenges that continue to limit the accuracy and completeness of learner records. We identified critical issues, such as missing unique identifiers, inconsistent documentation across schools and significant gaps linked to incomplete civil registration – particularly the absence of birth certificates for many learners with disabilities

Lessons learned

Leveraging existing government frameworks for action plan delivery

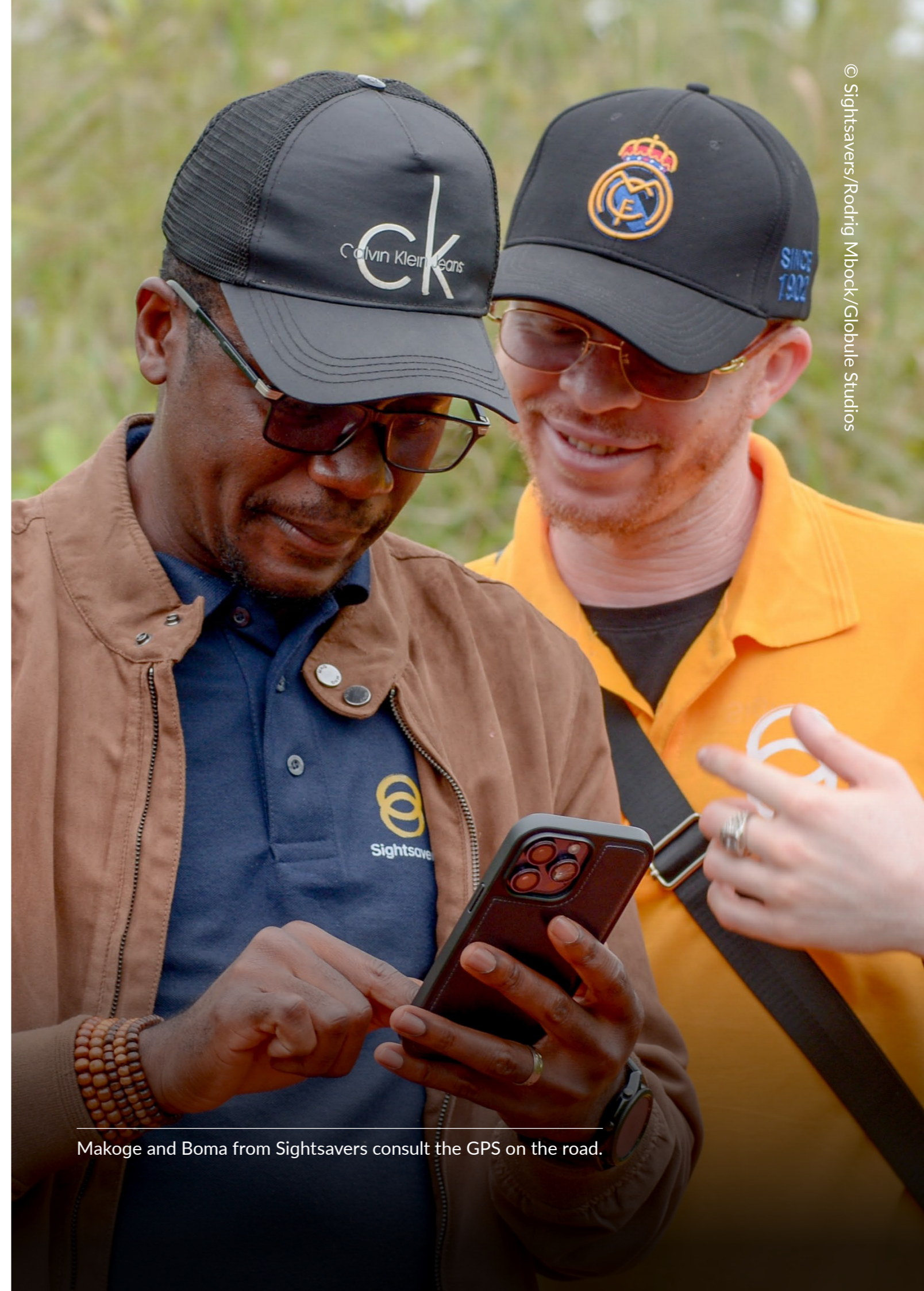
IDC action plans that have been technically validated by government stakeholders can move into implementation even without a formal launch – provided they align with existing government policies, frameworks and ongoing programmes supported by international and UN partners. The experience in **Cameroon** demonstrates that embedding action plans within existing structures can accelerate progress and reduce delays

The role of the IDC in driving broader government action

The IDC continues to act as a catalyst for strengthening disability-inclusive policies and systems beyond Sightsavers' programme areas. In **Liberia**, IDC engagement with county authorities, the national statistics office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs generated new opportunities, including commitments to integrate disability disaggregated data into future population censuses. In **Sierra Leone**, the IDC has helped improve data systems and generated insights applicable across multiple sectors, including education and health – demonstrating its value in promoting cross-sector learning and advancing systemic change

Digitalisation of national data systems

Our cohort tracking work in **Cameroon** and **Senegal** highlighted the ongoing difficulty of uniquely identifying learners with disabilities within EMIS. A key learning from 2025 is that both countries' accelerating digitalisation efforts present a timely opportunity to embed unique learner identifiers and strengthen data reliability. Aligning programme experience with these national reforms could significantly improve the visibility and tracking of learners with disabilities across the education system



Makoge and Boma from Sightsavers consult the GPS on the road.

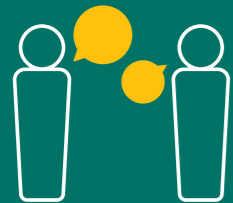
Our plans for 2026

Our work in 2026 will include:



Developing an internal high-level document, integrating guidance from MEL, EVRI and PGA¹ teams to promote a shared understanding across the organisation of key aspects around Sightsavers' work on inclusive data, particularly disability-related data

Showcasing Sightsavers' learnings and experiences on inclusive data at the 2026 Global Data Festival hosted by the government of Kenya and co-organised by the GPSDD² and the government of Kenya



Collaborating with partners to advance inclusive data advocacy and action plans in Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone and other Sightsavers countries

Sharing our experience of collecting disability data in eye health at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) In Sight Live conference



1 Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Evidence Research and Innovation (EVRI) and Policy and Global Advocacy (PGA).

2 Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).



Bosede Oluwaokere, 48, a mother of five, trader and community volunteer who works as a human landing catcher by the stream in Budo Iya, Ilorin, Kwara Nigeria.

We work with partners in low and middle income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities

www.sightsavers.org

Read Sightsavers' vision and approach to inclusive data at www.sightsavers.org/programmes/inclusive-data



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