



SAFOD RESEARCH PROGRAMME (SRP)

**Federation of Organizations of the Disabled Persons in Swaziland (FODSWA)
Country Report**



*Compiled by:
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2010*

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The Federation of Organizations of the Disabled Persons in Swaziland (FODSWA)

2. DATE IT WAS FORMED

✓ 9 May 1993

3. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE ORGANIZATION

- a) Swaziland National Association of the Physically Disabled Persons (SNAPDPe),
- b) Swaziland National Association of the Deaf (SNAD),
- c) Association of the Visually Impaired Persons (SAVIP),
- d) Parents of Children with Disabilities in Swaziland (PCDSwa)

4. HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION (one paragraph)

The Federation of Organizations of the Disabled Persons in Swaziland (FODSWA) is a human rights oriented organization run and managed by people with disabilities. FODSWA is a gender sensitive organization; it therefore promotes gender sensitivity amongst its members. FODSWA was formed in 1993 by organizations of people with disabilities in Swaziland due to lack of coordination of their activities. The organization was formed by the Swaziland National Association of the Physically Disabled Persons (SNAPDPe), Swaziland National Association of the Deaf (SNAD) and Association of the Visually Impaired Persons (SAVIP).

5. OFFICE BEARERS IN THE ORGANIZATION

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| a) Mr. Makhosini Makhubu | President |
| b) Miss. Celiwe Mchobokazi | Vice President |
| c) Mrs. Girlie Hlanze | Hon. Secretary General |
| d) Mr. Elliot Shongwe | Hon. Treasurer |
| e) Mr. Khanya Thwala | Youth Chairperson |
| f) Miss. Lindiwe Myeni | Women's Chairperson |
| g) Mrs. Nomsa Vilakati | Committee Member |
| h) Mr. Sozabile Simelane | Committee Member |

6. EMPLOYEES: ROLES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- a) **Mr. Bhekie Jele** - Research Project Coordinator and also responsible for coordinating other project under FODSWA.

Qualifications

- ✓ Certificate in National Vocational Qualification in Accounting level 4 (AAT 300),
- ✓ Certificate in Corporate Governance and Strategic Planning,
- ✓ Certificate in Strategic Planning and Resource Mobilisation

- b) **Mrs. Mary Mkhonta** - Office Secretary

Qualifications

- ✓ Certificate in secretariat

7. LOCATION OF OFFICE(S), FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, INTERNET ETC.

Save the Children Swaziland Premises
P. O. Box 2052, Mbabane, Swaziland

- a) 2 x computers, 1 x laptop, 2 x printers, 3 x office desk, 3 x office chairs, 2 x filing cabinets, and 1 x book shelve.
- b) The office is currently without internet and telephone connection.

8. MEMBERSHIP

a) Number

There are currently four members of FODSWA

- b) Coverage (disability types, ages, genders, geographical regions)
 - ✓ Disability Type: Visually impaired, Deaf and Physically Disabled
 - ✓ Ages: all ages
 - ✓ Gender: All gender
 - ✓ Geographical regions: National Level.

9. BENEFITS/ DISADVANTAGES TO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF BEING PART OF THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION

Benefits

- ✓ All members are recognized by government through FODSWA,
- ✓ Capacity building programs offered by FODSWA to members,
- ✓ Speaking in one voice on diverse issues of disability,
- ✓ Presentation of issues as a group,

Disadvantages

- ✓ Members are not allowed to have direct contact with government,
- ✓ Donor competition,
- ✓ FODSWA is sometimes implementing projects instead of being a coordinator and a supervisor.

10. EXCLUDED/ UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS (ON THE BASIS FOR EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY TYPE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL VIEWS)

FODSWA does not discriminate any person from being a member as long as it is a disabled person. We though still do not have representation of Albinos and mental disabled though FODSWA believes they are represented by their parents.

11. VISION

“EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL”

12. MISSION

To effectively and efficiently coordinate activities of Members through empowerment of DPOs to be strong advocates that are able to provide direction on disability issues in mainstream society and government for the attainment of equal rights and opportunities for all people with disabilities in Swaziland.

13. OBJECTIVES

- a) To raise awareness amongst 1 000 people with disabilities on HIV/AIDS issues in Swaziland by March 2013.
- b) To coordinate and undertake at least for research activities on issues of interest / concern to people with disabilities in Swaziland by the end of march 2013.
- c) To advocate and lobby for the employment and provision of employment opportunities for at least 200 people with disabilities by the end of March 2013,
- d) To raise awareness on human rights of persons with disabilities and lobby and advocate for inclusive planning and implementation of disability programmes at regional and national levels by March 2013.
- e) To strengthen and improve competencies, structures and systems of FODSWA for improved and effective coordination of programs by the end of March 2012.
- f) To develop sustainable capacities within DPO's and people with disabilities at the level at which they can articulate disability goals, implement them and be in a position to advocate for their rights and lobby government to provide services for people with disabilities by March 2012.
- g) To facilitate processes and implement an accompaniment strategy for the benefit of both the demand and supply sides (i.e. DPO's and Governments) in Swaziland in order to create conditions favorable to the ratification, domestication and implementation of the UNCRDP, protocols, agreements and national policies and support that enables them to develop programs related to these policy instruments by the end of March 2013.
- h) To build the capacity of women, youth and children and people with disabilities living with HIV/AIDS so to be able to partake in decision-making processes affecting their lives by the end of March 2013.
- i) To develop effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems for FODSWA and the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights for Persons with Disabilities in Swaziland by March 2011.

14. PROGRAMMES

- a) Capacity Building,
- b) Human Rights Advocacy and Campaigns
- c) HIV/AIDS
- d) Women Development Program
- e) Children and Youth with Disabilities
- f) Poverty Alleviation

15. IS THERE A STRATEGIC PLAN? WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN OR UPDATED?

The Current Strategic plan of FODSWA was reviewed in February 2009.

16. PLAN OF ACTION? WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN OR UPDATED?

Our current plan of action was developed in July 2009 and it would be reviewed in March 2010.

17. HOW ARE ACTIVITIES MONITORED AND EVALUATED? HAS EFFICIENCY BEEN MONITORED AND IF SO IN WHAT WAY, AND WHAT WERE THE RESULTS

There's currently not systematic methodology of monitoring and evaluating programs. The National Executive Committee (NEC) acts as a monitoring body though there's sometimes a conflict as the NEC usually finds itself implementing programs for the organization.

18. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING – HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE, WHO MAKES DECISIONS

The General Assembly is responsible for taking decisions on programs for fives and the decisions are made by the GA are implemented and monitored by the NEC. The President is the head and supervisor of the NEC.

19. STAKEHOLDER/ PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS:

- ✓ FODSWA is well recognized by the government and all disability issues are handled by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office under the Social Welfare department. A Disability Unit has been established to specific work on programs of service to people with disability.
- ✓ FODSWA is a member of the Coordinating Assembly of Non Government Organizations (CANGO) in Swaziland and has been enjoying financial support from this organization.
- ✓ We are working closely with a few private sector institutions and have received financial support from them.
- ✓ We do work with international agencies especially those with offices in Swaziland. The UN agencies in Swaziland do recognize issues of people with disabilities and has on several times financial supported members of FODSWA for projects.

20. RELATIONSHIP WITH CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS – SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES; COMMUNICATION

- ✓ The relationship with members has been good though there ahs been members who have been feeling that FODESWA is not doing enough to represent their issues.
- ✓ The communication between affiliates has been hindered by the fact that the organization does not have a secretariat fully responsible for the management of issues of both affiliates and FODSWA,
- ✓ Our key success has been that FODSWA is formed by all members and members and we have been having a 100% representation of all members in the General Assembly.

21. RELATIONSHIP WITH SAFOD - SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES; COMMUNICATION

The organization is a full member of SAFOD and has in the past years successfully contributed towards the work of SAFOD and SAFOD has also financial and technically supported programs of the organization.

Communication has posed a challenge to the relationship of the two organizations due to lack of communication facilities on the side of FODSWA. The organization has been managing its affairs with a secretariat which has resulted into lack of effective communication to SAFOD during the past years.

22. FUNDING – ALL FUNDERS AND FUNDING CHALLENGES.

- ✓ The only funding currently enjoyed by the organization is on the Living Conditions Project funded by FFO through SAFOD and the Open Society for Southern African (OSISA) for a women’s capacity building project which ends in December 2009.
- ✓ We have been receiving financial support in kind of donations from corporate sector.
- ✓ Our challenge is that the organization that does have capacity and skills to engage in resource mobilization.

23. INFLUENCE ON HEALTH, HIV/AIDS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY TO INFORMATION (EG SIGN LANGUAGE ON TV)

- ✓ The organization has no influence of the above except that we have been lobbying and advocating for issues on the above issues.

24. GENDER ISSUES IN THE ORGANIZATION

- ✓ Gender issues are well recognized and thus we have a committee responsible for addressing issues of women with disability.
- ✓ The chairperson of the women’s committee is automatically a member of the FODSWA NEC.

25. YOUTH AND CHILDREN FOCUS

- ✓ Issues concerning the youth and children are also well recognized and thus we have a committee responsible for addressing issues of youth and children with disability.
- ✓ The chairperson of the youth committee is automatically a member of the FODSWA NEC.

26. RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICAN DECADE ON PEOPLE WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

- ✓ We have no relationship with the African Decade.

27. UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- ✓ The organization has successfully lobbied government to sign the UN Convention and currently in a process for its ratification and drafting of a national disability policy.
- ✓ We did not take part in the drafting of the Convention and the organization was not consulted in its implementation in the country by the government. The government did not even make effort to consult before signing, we only learnt from the media about the signing.

28. OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INFLUENCE INTERNATIONALLY

- ✓ We have been working closely and further seeking advice from our neighbors South Africa in several issues of disability and development. Due to not having a secretariat, the organization has in the past lost contact with most of international organizations that we had built a relationship with. Such organizations include SHIA, Health Link, DPI, Abilis Foundation, PHOS.

29. SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES IN MAINSTREAMING

Successes

- ✓ Lobbied for the extension of the school for the deaf into a high school,
- ✓ Braille is now taught in tertiary institutions,
- ✓ Establishment of a special education unit within the ministry of education,
- ✓ Establishment of a disability unit within the DPMs office,
- ✓ Involvement of FODSWA in the mainstream NGOs.
- ✓ A member of senator who is disabled.

Challenges

- ✓ Lack of understanding of disability issues by the general public,
- ✓ Cultural Disability Myths,
- ✓ Lack of skills within members of FODSWA and the NEC of FODSWA

30. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES; COMMUNICATION

- ✓ Recognition by Government,
- ✓ Having a senator who is disabled,
- ✓ Drafting of the National Disability Policy,
- ✓ Recognition by SAFOD,
- ✓ Implementation of the Living Conditions Survey,
- ✓ HIV / AIDS strategic Plan

Challenges

- ✓ No secretariat
- ✓ Lack of adequate office space,
- ✓ Funding not enough to achieve our aspirations.

31. FUTURE PLANS

- ✓ See attached Strategic plan and July 2009 – March 2010 operation plan.

32. ANYTHING ELSE

- ✓ Need to strengthen and support secretariat of National Umbrella organizations and ensure that they are able to fundraise on their own through the support of SAFOD.