



SAFOD RESEARCH PROGRAMME (SRP)

Federation of Disabilities Organisation in Malawi (FEDOMA) country Report



Compiled by:
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1. Name of organisation: Federation of Disabilities Organisation in Malawi (FEDOMA)

2. Date formed: March 1999

3. Member organisations affiliated to organisation:

Disabled Women in Development Empowerment (DIWODE)
Parents of Disabled Children Association in Malawi (PODCAM)
The Albino Association of Malawi (TAAM)
Malawi Union of the Blind (MUB)
Malawi Disability Sports Association (MADISA)
Malawi National Association for the Deaf (MANAD)
Disabled Women and Orphans in Malawi (DWOOM)

4. History or the organisation

FEDOMA was born with support from the Danish Council of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (DSI) at a meeting attended by the then existing DPO's, which it replaced.

5. Office bearers in the organization

Montfort Chadzama	Chair
Mr. Matenje	Vice Chair
Juliana Mabangwe	Secretary
Maynard Zakaliya	Vice Secretary
Chimwemwe Kampondeni	Treasurer
Stuart Chauluka	Youth Representative
John Suluma	Board Member
Sekerani Kufakwina	Board Member
Anitta Hanjahanja	Board Member
Peter Muyala	Board Member

6. Employees: roles and qualifications

Name: Miss Chiwaula
Role: Director
Qualification: ?

Name: Mrs Virginia Nyalo
Role: Accountant
Qualification: Accounting Diploma

Name: Miss Tione Mzila
Role: Secretary, Programmes Coordinator
Qualification: ?

Name: Mrs Pamela Juma
Role: Office Assistant, youth/ microfinance coordinator /PRO
Qualification: Diploma in sales and marketing

Name: Mr Manawira
Role: Driver
Qualification: Junior Certificate

Name: Mr Pangane
Role: Driver
Qualification: Junior Certificate

Name: Mr Bonongwe
Role: Cleaner
Qualification: Junior Certificate

7. Location of office(s), facilities, equipment, internet etc

Location: Maselema along Chipembere Highway road Opposite Tayubu's Furniture
Equipment and resources: 2 cars, resource centre, wireless internet, 8 computers

8. Membership

a. Number	8 organisations
b. Coverage	national
c. Disability	Albinism, deaf, blindness
d. Ages	All
e. Gender	All
f. Geographical regions	North, Centre and South

9. Benefits/ disadvantages to member organizations of being part of the umbrella organization:

Benefits:

It allows disabled people to speak with one voice

- It is easy to get funding
- Networking
- Its easy to do advocacy lobbying

Disadvantages:

- Deficiency syndrome
- Conflict of interest
- If organisations mess up, members mess up.

10. Benefits/ disadvantages to members themselves of being part of the umbrella organization

Benefits:

It helps to know the challenges of the disabled colleague

It helps to promote team spirit

Disadvantages:

It is only the office bearers who are involved in the programmes as beneficiaries

11. Excluded/ under-represented groups (on the basis for example of disability type, sexual orientation, religious or political views)

(unanswered)

12. Mission:

FEDOMA is an umbrella of Disability Organisations which works to unify, coordinate efforts and strengthen the advocacy work of its affiliates for the well being of people with disabilities in Malawi.

13. Vision:

FEDOMA strives for an inclusive barrier free society where every individual is able to maximize their fullest potential.

14. Aims:

(Unanswered)

15. Objectives:

- To promote, support and compliment Government policies and programmes directed at persons with disabilities.
- To support and encourage the formation of persons with disabilities organizations in Malawi and to strengthen the existing ones.
- To promote and coordinate development efforts and self help projects among persons with disabilities and their organizations.

- To promote and encourage representations and participation of gender and youth within disability organizations.
- To coordinate and strengthen the capacity of the affiliated DPO's.

16. Projects

- Conducting community awareness building campaigns, rallies and workshops to sensitize the communities on disability issues.
- Organising orientation workshops for members of Parliament and journalists to sensitize them on disability issues.
- Lobbying Government on the need for a national disability policy.
- Played a significant role in the development of the National disability policy, which was approved by parliament and is currently involved in the review of the Handicapped Persons Act.
- Organizing leadership training workshops for the leaders of all the affiliated organizations to assist the organization effectively carry out their mandate
- Organizing training workshops on economic empowerment and business management skills for parents of children with disabilities.
- Carried out a study on the living conditions of people with activity limitations.
- Trained youths with disabilities in lobbying and advocacy for disability rights.
- Carried out a study on the impact of HIV/ AIDS and information to reproductive health and services.
- Organized community awareness campaigns on the rights of children with disabilities.
- Trained parents and guardians of children with disabilities in business management and gave them loans to run small scale businesses.

17. Is there a strategic plan? When was it written or updated?

Yes. A five year plan which was reviewed in July 2008.

18. Plan of action? When was it written or updated?

Yes. Written June 2009.

19. How are activities monitored and evaluated? Has efficiency been monitored and if so in what way, and what were the results?

Most programmes have M&E frameworks, which is operationalised in the form of annual reports, which usually result in funding being sustained.

20. Governance and decision-making – how are decisions made, who makes decisions?

Executive council takes decisions during meetings.

21. Stakeholder/ partner relationships:

- a) Government: Good, we are working hand in hand
- b) Civil society: Very good. We involve them in International day of Persons with Disabilities, they consult us on issues
- c) Other DPO's: Good, we work and plan together.
- d) NGOs: Good, they involve us in their disability programmes.
- e) Private sector: Fairly good, sometimes they respond to our call when we are in need
- f) International agencies (e.g. UN, CIDA, Sight Savers, DFID): So far so good since some of them are donors to our affiliates

22. Relationship with constituent organizations – successes and challenges; communication

We plan and implement together, other DPO's have managed to establish their own secretariat. Most DPO's are still struggling to get funding

23. Relationship with SAFOD - successes and challenges; communication

Successes:

- It has so many programmes which involve FEDOMA in implementation
- It is able to source funding on behalf of FEDOMA

Communication is so far so good.

24. Funding – all funders and funding challenges

Funders are:

NAD, Fire Right International, Sight Savers International, DFID, SUERYDER International.

25. Influence on:

Health : Sexual reproduction health to women with disabilities.

HIV/AIDS: some people with disabilities have been trained as peer educators, now they are able to give out information of HIV/AIDS to disabled people.

Education: we have programmes encouraging youths, children with disabilities by using role models and we are advocating for inclusive education

Employment: Its part of the draft bill which will be enacted.

Accessibility to information (e.g. sign language on TV): We lobbied a lot of stakeholders; we held meetings with Television Malawi and well wishers who can provide support. Incorporating Braille, sign language and large print.

26. Gender issues in the organization

In our Executive Council we have both men and women from all affiliated DPO's

27. Youth and children focus

We have programmes that deal with youth and children.

28. Relationship with African Decade on People with Disabilities

(Unanswered)

29. Relationship with the UN convention

Our Government has signed, but they have not ratified.

30. Programmes towards implementation of UN convention

To incorporate issues in the UN Convention into our draft bill on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

31. Did the organization make inputs into the development of the UN convention? If yes, describe.

(Unanswered)

32. Has the DPO made a contribution to the government in the country in implementing the convention?

Yes - by incorporating the UN Convention in the draft bill.

33. Other international partnerships and influence internationally

a) relationship with international DPO's

SAFOD

b) relationship with international research partners

SINTEF, SUN

c) relationship with international development agencies

DFID, Sight Savers, Fire Light International.

34. Successes and challenges in mainstreaming (E.g. inclusive education; inclusion of disabled people in gender-based violence programmes; sustainable livelihood programmes)

The main challenge is that stakeholders are not willing to mainstream our disability programmes for free.

35. Major achievements successes and challenges; communication

(Unanswered)

36. Major challenges

(Unanswered)

37. Future plans

We are planning to build a seven storey building within FEDOMA premises. This building will have an IT training centre for persons with disabilities