



## SAFOD RESEARCH PROGRAMME (SRP)

Federation of Organisations of Disabled people in Zimbabwe (FODPZ) Country  
Report



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*2010*

**1. Name of organisation**

Federation of Organisations of Disabled people in Zimbabwe (FODPZ)

**2. Date it was formed.**

26 July 2003.

**3. Member organisations affiliated to the organisation:**

National Council of Disabled People of Zimbabwe (NCDPZ)

Zimbabwe Down's Syndrome Association (ZDSA)

Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association (ZPHCA)

Albino Association

Zimbabwe Association of the Visually Handicapped (ZAHV)

Zimbabwe Women in Development (ZWIDE)

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Zimbabwe (MDAZ)

Association of the Deaf (ASSOD)

Zimbabwe National Association of the Deaf (ZIMNAD)

Epilepsy Foundation

Quadriplegic Association of Zimbabwe (QUAPAZ)

Zimbabwe Sports of the Disabled Association (ZSAD)

**4. History of the organisation**

The Federation of organisations of disabled people of Zimbabwe was formed on 26 of July 2003. In the past a similar organisation, the Zimbabwe Federation of the Disabled (ZIFOD) was in existence, however efforts to register ZIFOD failed because of unclear circumstances. What was however interesting was that in its unregistered form, ZIFOD made a great deal of progress including effectively lobbying for the enactment of the Disabled Persons Act in 1992. During the late 1990's a quasi umbrella under the name Zimbabwe National Disability Forum (ZNDF) was also established. However evidence on the ground shows that not much was achieved by ZNDF. Both ZIFOD and ZNDF disbanded to pave way for the formation of FODPZ.

**5. Office bearers in the Organisation**

National Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson- Children and youths

Deputy- Chairperson - Gender and underrepresented Groups

Deputy –Chairperson- Human Rights and Development

Hon. National Secretary

Vice Secretary

Hon Treasure

Vice- Treasurer

Six (4) Committee Members

**6. Employees: Roles Qualifications**

The Federation has no employees at the moment

**7. Location of offices, facilities, equipment, internet etc**

The organisation owns nothing, however at present FODPZ uses SAFOD offices and equipment for communication.

**8. Membership**

**a. FODPZ is made up of 12 member organisation**

**b. Coverage (disability types, age's genders geographical regions.**

Types: 10 types of disabilities are covered.

Ages: All age group.

Genders: Both Male and female

Geographical: National

**9. Benefits / Disadvantages to member organisations of being part of the umbrella organisation:**

By being a member of FODPZ, a feeling of belonging is felt by a member organisation. In fact; being a member of FODPZ, the collective aspiration of (DPO's) are strengthened, i.e. speaking with one strong voice about issues that concern the disabled people in Zimbabwe.

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

The major benefit is the availability of a common link to SAFOD, which ultimately create opportunities such as the attendance of workshops, seminars and capacity training. There is also a potential to mobilise resources for use by members in future. The only disadvantage is that some member organisations have no secretariat.

**11. Excluded/ Under- Represented groups (on the basis for example of disability type, sexual orientation, religious or political views.**

FODPZ is apolitical –the federation is not identified with any political party or religion.

Membership is open to any disability organisation which is defined as a DPO, provided it is registered under PVO as a grassroots entity.

**12. Mission**

Not stated in the constitution

**13. Vision**

Not stated in the constitution, but is covered under objectives.

**14. Aims.**

Not stated in the constitution, also covered under objectives.

**15. Objectives**

1. Facilitate the collaboration , networking and voluntary coordination of the activities of the organisations of disabled people in Zimbabwe, with the aim of enhancing through capacity building the effectiveness of advocacy and lobbying efforts directed to improving the lives of disabled people in the country.
2. Provide a common forum for the exchange of information and advice on all matters affecting disabled people.
3. Work with national and local authorities towards achieving an environment that is conducive to the attainment and enjoyment of full human rights by disabled people.

**16. Programmes**

None of these programmes are active, due to a lack of funding. Skills training through SAFOD is not really organised by FODPZ, but rather by SAFOD.

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

Updated in May 2007 but was not implemented because expected funding from EU was not approved.

**18. Plan of Action? When was it written or uphold?**

Available – updated 2007.

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

There are currently no activities therefore; no monitoring and evaluation.

**20. Governance and decision making how decisions are made who makes the decision?**

The federation is governed by the following structure.

- General Assembly which is the supreme decision making body.
- The General Assembly should hold regular meetings once every 3 years, at which major policy issues are adopted or reviewed. Leadership changes are also dealt with during the national assembly.
- Each member organisation sends four voting delegates each with a single vote to the general assembly, comprising of two men and two women. The National Assembly elects the national Executive Committee that consists of 12 persons. Therefore during the period before the holding of the national assembly; the affairs of (FODFZ) are run by the National Executive Committee. The national Executive committee meets according to the constitution to deliberate on the affairs of FODPZ.

## **21. Stakeholders / Partner relationships**

- a. Government: FODPZ is represented in the National Disability Board (NDB)
- b. Civil Society: FODPZ is a member of NANGO.
- c. Other DPO's: FODPZ is a member of SAFOD
- d. NGOs FODPZ is a member of NANGO
- e. Private Sector: no formalised relationship
- f. International agencies (e.g. UN): ad hoc contact with DFID and British Embassy

## **22. Relationship with constitute organizations successes and challenges; communication**

Constituent organizations are all registered with the PVO. Although the 12 constituent members have PVO status they have limited resources and weak capacity in varying degrees to fully participate in FODPZ. FODPZ has no normal means of communicating with its constituent members. Whilst the constituent organisations are in theory willing to support FODPZ as the national umbrella organisation in practice, given its current status, this is proving impractical at the moment. Member organisations of (FODPZ) are often accused of not being committed to the umbrella organisation.

## **23. Relationship with SAFOD –successes and challenges; communication.**

FODPZ and SAFOD relationship is what could be called “working relationship” taking into consideration that SAFOD has 10 member organisations that have to “drink from the same well”. SAFOD has succeeded in many ways to build the capacity of the organisation e.g. leadership skills training, capacity building and research, to mention a few. Communication between SAFOD and FODPZ it's rather difficult because FODPZ has no secretariat, but SAFOD has been making sure that correspondence reaches FODPZ and SAFOD should be applauded for this. SAFOD has many challenges in terms of building strong effective organisation. However, it is anticipated that SAFOD will increase the assistance to FODPZ e.g. fundraising.

## **24. Funding-all funders and funding challenges**

- No funding totally
- Fund-raising skills (e.g. project proposal writing) not adequate – no human resources to address this, further complicated by the political, economic, social situation in Zimbabwe
- DFID supported a disability scoping study and has committed to mainstream disability in the Protracted Relief Programme (PRP)
- FAO / UNICEF supported a study understanding the live hoods of children with disabilities and their children.
- The British Embassy provided small grants to disability and DPO's. The multi donor Gender scoping study highlighted the neglect and marginalisation of disabled women within the sector.
- UNIFEM, WFP and IOM expressed interests in addressing disability

**25. Influence on:**

HEALTH: FODPZ networks with the ministry of health e.g. organising workshops on family planning and HIV/AIDS during the period of 2007 and 2008.

HIV/AIDS: Some of FODPZ members sit on the provincial Aids Council.

EDUCATION: FODPZ in conjunction with SAFOD came up with an Action Plan and is yet to be implemented

EMPLOYMENT: Advocacy is being done by individual organisations.

TRANSPORT: Done by individual organisations

ACCESSIBILITY: Sign language dictionary was developed (only ad hoc rhetoric Press release).

**26. Gender issues in the organisation.**

- The national executive comprises an equal number of women and men.
- There is a deputy Chairperson for Gender
- Increased donor resources for the gender sector e.g. EC Gender Support Programme it was planned and was going to be used to be build capacity of organisations dealing with disabled women and girls

**27. Youth and Children focus**

No policy for youth and children, but parents represents the children .Youth in Zimbabwe participated in the formation of the regional interim committee. Not much has taken place on the children and youth programmes due to inadequate funding. There are parent's organisations who are working on the issues.

**28. Relationship with African Decade on people with Disabled people.**

Not much has been done except some member of FODPZ was being continually invited to attend workshops in their individual capacity. FODPZ is not in touch with African Decade on disabled people and vice versa

**29. Relationship with UN convention**

The relationship is via SAFOD structures.

**30. Programmes towards implementation of UN convention**

Member of FODPZ –A youth represented us she was included in the government Delegation. However the bulk of the contributions were done through SAFOD structures.

**31. Did the organisation make inputs into the Development of the UN convention?**

Not directly but, via SAFOD structures.

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

Yes through the National Disability Board (NDB). It is also very possible that other individual (DPO's) contributed.

**33. Other international partnerships and influence internationally**

- FODPZ is a member of disabled people's international (DPI) by being a member of SAFOD
- Research partners –We do not have a relationship, but the relationship with DFID in conjunction with SAFOD
- International Development- Not yet

**34. Successes and challenges in mainstreaming**

- E.g. inclusive education, inclusion of disabled done by individual organisations
- Inclusion of disabled people in gender based violence programmes- done by individual organisations
- Sustainable livelihood programmes done by individual organisations
- PRP-FODFZ participated in the scoping study

**35. Major achievements successes and challenges: communication**

Achievements- e.g. capacity-building, leadership skills at Nedziwe, KWEKWE, organised by SAFOD and the SRP.

**Challenges:**

FODPZ need to improve its advocacy strategy.

No Secretariat

Human and financial resources

No equipment

However, FODPZ has the expertise to advise mainstream agencies how to

Practically begin to address some of the needs of the disabled and

Include them in their programmes

**36. Major Challenges**

- FODPZ has financial constraints which are hindering the development of the organisation and its member organisations. It has little connection with the external agencies that provide humanitarian and financial assistance. Donors, UN agencies and NGOs recognize the relevance of disability but are unsure how to practically begin to tackle the issue.

### **37. Future plans**

FODPZ is supposed to engage with agencies delivering humanitarian and financial assistance as partners.

Urgent need of a secretariat with full time paid staff and all the necessary office equipment

Willingness to do more to address disability issues

Review the disability act

Develop policies to support our lobbying and advocating programmes

Exchange visits with other umbrella organisations that have succeeded

Implementation of strategic planning

Ensuring the participation or visibility of member / constituent organisations

Ensure representation in parliament and other decision making bodies to enhance staff and disabled people's competence to success fully manage organisations and programmes

*Training in the areas of:*

Using research for policy analysis

Evaluation and monitoring projects

Participation in research

Project management

Research methodologies

Fundraising