

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the edition of Disability Lesotho. The edition will cover news for the Month of April, 2018

Its been reported that children with disabilities are 10 times less likely to attend school than those without disability. Even if they attend school they are more likely quit or dropping out early, with that reason they receive level of schooling below that of their peers.

With some of those reasons learners with disabilities have been denied on education due to to their vulnerability and being excluded in their communities. I am happy that Lesotho government through Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) has developed a draft of Lesotho Inclusive Education Policy (LIEP). I do hope that it will work for Basotho learners with disabilities in this country. I think it will help learners with disabilities not to struggle towards their education, so that they could help themselves in future without leaning on one's shoulder.

On behalf of Disability Lesotho I would like to thank Lesotho government through Ministry of Education

and Training through Special Education Unit (SEU), UNICEF and LNFOD and other development partners for their financial and technical support in the development of the Lesotho Inclusive Education Policy(LIEP). It seems as learners with disabilities will be assisted in order to reach their goals towards education.

I just want to plea to all decision makers to change those discriminatory laws and develop more policies to accommodate persons with disabilities in this country.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue or have received this newsletter from a third party and wish to be included on the mailing list please contact Pascalina Letsau on (+266) 5905 5406 or pletsau@gmail.com

If missed any edition please visit www.infod.org.ls
We welcome any feedback that may improve the quality and content of this free service.

Best regards,



The Editor

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

KEEPING THE PROMISE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE ENACTMENT OF THE DISABILITY EQUITY BILL

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled is implementing a three year intervention "Capacity development for people with disabilities" with the financial aid from Diakonie Austria whose backdonor is Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

One of the key objective of this project is to increase protection of the rights of persons with disabilities through the enactment of the disability rights legislation by the parliament of Lesotho known as Disability Equity Bill.

LNFOOD is conducting several advocacy activities with the highly recognized institutions of the government with the hope that those institutions may assist to fast track the presentation of the Disability rights bill in parliament taking into consideration that it has taken quite a considerable amount of time without being passed.

In December 2017, LNFOOD held a high level advocacy meeting with the parliamentary committee on social cluster lobbying for the speed up of the presentation of the Disability Equity Bill in Parliament. The said committee was approached because it is playing oversight role over the Ministry of Social Development to ensure that the funds allocated to this ministry and the mandate of the Ministry of Social Development is being implemented in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Some of the key asks of LNFOOD to the committee was to call the Honourable Minister of Social Development before the committee to explain the reasons which delay the presentation of the Disability Equity Bill in parliament and measures to be undertaken to speed up the presentation of such a bill in the parliament for the deliberations. Additionally, LNFOOD asked the committee to follow up on why disability issues are not allocated the budget for effective implementation by the

government.

It is interesting to note that the committee has indeed called the Honourable Minister and her team to brief the committee on the progress towards the presentation of the Bill. It is equally notable that the Disability Equity Bill presentation in parliament is no longer the song of LNFOOD alone as the parliament through this committee has urged the Minister to speed up the tabling of the Bill as it has taken a long time before being presented in Parliament.

The committee has taken action of bravery by approaching the Minister to explain the progress towards this matter as a result of the request from LNFOOD. I am saying this because it is quite difficult if not impossible in Lesotho to the parliamentary portfolio committee to hold the executive accountable on public affairs such as this one.

LNFOOD therefore urges the committee on social cluster to keep up the good work of following up the disability rights issues beyond the presentation of the Disability Equity bill because the gist of the matter in terms of protection of the rights of people with disabilities lies with the effective implementation of the Act.

Additionally, LNFOOD together with the organisations of persons with disabilities and key human rights civil society organisations of Lesotho wrote a joint letter to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister in June 2017 demanding the presentation of the Disability Equity Bill to the parliament in favour of people with disabilities. The Right Honourable the Prime Minister responded positively in which he pledged to order the presentation of such a law in parliament soonest. However, the Disability Equity Bill is not in Parliament till to date.

It is still not clear to LNFOOD what is really holding back the Disability Equity Bill from moving on to the Cabinet for approval and Parliament for enactment despite the political will demonstrated by the Cabinet to adopt this law.

GENERAL NEWS

AWARENESS RAISING BY LNLVIP

By: Jeremane Teele

The Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired persons (LNLVIP) is one of the four DPOs under the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD). In March to April of every year LNLVIP hold the awareness raising concerning the visual impairment activities. The reason for this is to achieve our goal of social participation and inclusion of PWDs mostly the visually impaired to the society by delivering disability awareness concerning their fundamental human needs and rights, their right to life, education, employment, good health and all the same social benefits that the non-disabled persons get to live better and acceptable life in communities.

This year 2018 the organisation went to schools, churches and made villages gartering in districts of Maseru, Mohale's Hoek, Berea and Botha-Bothe. In these different places we visited, we elaborated the organisational benefits like the visual impairment trainings which are Braille literacy, computer with JAWS, mobility and orientation and vocational studies like home

economics, candle moulding, basic hand grafts, kneading and sowing. All these studies are taught in Mohloli-Oa-Bophelo Training and Rehabilitation Centre (MBTC) based in Ha Ts'osane. We as well have the relationship with another LNFOD DPOs by giving them disabled people that we find during our advocacy and searching of PWDs in our awareness raisings despite school that are accepting visually learners since way back,

we are as well working with different schools that we visited during our awareness raising and some of those schools started to include the visually impaired learners since we started. Those schools are St Gerald primary school, St Cyprian primary school, LIFE High School and 'Mabathoana High School.



Those school started accepting visually impaired learners although some of essential learning devices and teaching aids are not available and those present are very limited. It is the hope of the League that we will have the coverage of schools in all 10 Districts of Lesotho when still continuing with this work and mostly after the domestication of the National Inclusive Education Policy which will enforce all schools to be inclusive. The League is having approximately 5000 registered members of which most of them we found during our awareness raisings.

LNLVIP offices are located at Health Headquarters 5th floor at Lerotholi road in Corner Constitution. Telephone: +26622317428 Email: lnvip@tlmail.org.ls

GENERAL NEWS

LNFOOD ASSISTS IN IMPROVING THE INCOME OF THE DISABLED PEOPLE: WHAT A BIG STEP!!

By: 'Makatleho 'Molotsi

The well-known human rights principles of indivisibility, interdependence of human rights have long negated preference of civil and political rights over socio-economic and cultural by the principal duty bearers of human rights (states) on the footing that the former are comparatively cheaper and quicker to implement. These principles suggests that the enjoyment of civil and political rights is dependent on the enjoyment of socio-economic and cultural rights and vice versa. For an example, one cannot be claimed to be fully enjoying their right to life which is a civil and political right without them also enjoying accessible healthcare which is a socio- economic right.



Aware of and observing the principles of indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. LNFOOD advocates for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of both civil and political rights and socio-economic rights of people with disabilities. In addition, LNFOOD supports the disability community through its representative organizations in order to promote their human rights.



Supporting people with disabilities, in collaboration with its affiliates held trainings for people with disabilities from 14 community councils in Mafeteng, Maseru, Mohale's Hoek, Leribe and Berea districts. In these trainings people with disabilities were equipped with skills to manufacture goods of their choice so that they can sell and make a living out of them. According to Mr Moeletsi, (LNFOOD's Projects Coordinator) with the improved income, people with disabilities will be able to afford other essential services and food that will enable them to enjoy their human rights.

People with disabilities were trained to among others, Manufacture goods from leather, Vaseline and body lotions and hair products. This training was highly welcomed by the trainees with disabilities some of who are in the process of starting their own business manufacturing Vaseline and body lotions.

GENERAL NEWS

BABY STEPS TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

By: 'Malehlohonolo Molelengoane

LNFOOD has been monitoring a Ministry of Education and Training implemented project; Lesotho Quality Education for Equality. This project is targeting least performing schools in all districts of Lesotho, with three key areas; retention, pass rates and drop-out rates.

It has been observed that this project is not going to benefit learners with disabilities directly because the tool that is used to collect data and devise suitable interventions does not specifically mention disability.

Moreover, there are many problems that lead to low retention rates and pass rates that this project is not likely to solve. For example, some students leave school due to poor school facilities such as buildings but the project does not include construction; meaning the problem will not be solved.

LNFOOD gave a report to the World Bank task team leader on education and she advised the team working on this project to work together with LNFOOD in procuring accessible learning materials for learners with disabilities.



GENERAL NEWS

St. Angela Cheshire Home receives donations from Lewis Store – Maseru

By: Justice Kalebe



St. Angela Cheshire home set recieved furnitures from Lewis store, a furniture store operating in Lesotho. The donation includes a fridge, kitchin sink, stove and 31 beds.

The donation worth of LSL 114. 4499. 64 was handed on Thursday the 26th April, 2018 at Lewis Store Moposo House Maseru at 5 pm. The handing over was made in the presence of Lewis guests and customers. The donation of this magnitude comes following a request made by St. Angela Cheshire Home to Lewis store to assist children with disabilities at this home.

Mpho Lepota on behalf of the children at the home said; “ I khave no words but to say thank you and hope that other local companies and individuals can contribute supporting us”.

St. Angela Cheshire Home chair in Lesotho Mrs. ‘Mabakoena Cheoane says; “we are

pleased that our children are finally receiving new beds and kitchen equipment. I wish to thank Lewis Store for this mdonation and urge Local companies and individuals to join forces with us to transform the lives and opportunities for people with disabilities in Lesotho.

This noble course comes from a company outside of Lesotho through operating in Lesotho and I humbly request all Basotho to support us.”

St. Angela Cheshire Homedepends on network of partners both locally and internationally to support and complement their services. The Lewis Branch Manager Ms. Lerato Tlakane says; “We are pleased as the management of Lewis Store to be presenting these gifts to the children of St. Angela Cheshire Home. As Lewis Store, we seek to improve the quality of life oa all our stakeholders by positively impacting on their lives. We strive to support communities that supports us.”

The handing over was attended by Lewis customers representatives of the children from the centre as well as centre management and the National Executive Board representative.

GENERAL NEWS

Female entrepreneur breaking barriers that hinder her growth and success.

By: Pascalina Letsau

A lady known as Motselisi Moreboli in the village of Ha Mashapha. She is a visually impaired mother of a boy child aged 9 years old. She is also a care mother of a girl aged 17 years who is now doing Form D.



Persons with disabilities have been enhanced with livelihood skills. Among all these people Motselisi is one of them.

"I am a happy woman this days, I am happy because LNFOD made me so. I am empowered woman through DPOs in this country especially LNFOD and LNLVIP. I am now able to tell people about my rights. I accepted myself to that extend I stand up in a public gathering and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. I am now empowered in economic right, as I am now able to do things that can change my life and earn money from those things."

"I started with candle-making and knitting while at Mohloli-oo-Bophelo Rehabilitation Centre. Then LNFOD trained me on how to do Vaseline and body cream through aloe found in mountains of Lesotho. I am also trained on hair waves and agriculture. I am now willing to register my own company to deal with Vaseline and body cream. I am saying this because it is something I can do on my own for a start. But for hair waves would like to do it jointly with other people."

"After all these trainings I am feeling excited as now trained on marketing my products and how to do a good advertisement for the company. I am really excited as when opening my company, I know where to start and what to do so that I can be a successful woman in business."

"I would like to thank LNFOD and its development partners to bring this wonderful project for us, now people will respect PWDs in this country as we will no longer be ashamed and vulnerable to jobs."



NEWS IN PICTURES



This is one of the manufacturing training for PWDs held at itjareng



LNFOOD and the ministry of education and training held a 3 day workshop on development of costed inclusive education implementation plan



The visually impaired persons delivering disability awareness concerning fundamental human needs and rights at schools



This is one company of persons with disabilities needs financial support



Jeremane Teele and the colleague attending CBR Africa Network forum in Zambia

ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe

Brot
für die Welt



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