

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled. The edition will cover news for the Month of April, 2017

I am happy and like to congratulate the partnership of LNFOD and IEC. This is the fourth week that LNFOD has been working on electoral education across the country targeting electorates with disabilities and their families. It is through this partnership that persons with disabilities are high on spirits raring to go at polling stations come 03rd June 2017. This initiative has brought outcomes are beyond the plans as LNFOD has discovered so many people with disabilities who had individual their individual needs of which they were referred to the service providers. people with disabilities out there are faced by so many challenges and visiting each and every house has revealed so much. This type of support is very important as it is also giving courage to parents, family members and as well as people with disabilities to realize that there are people outside who care. Imagine meeting a person with disabilities who is bedridden and could not move an inch, then educating him or her about their legitimate right to go cast a vote. They understand their responsibility to elect a government of their choice and are ready to go and vote.

However, the question remains, the system in Lesotho needs one to stand, move to the polling station in order to go and vote; and how does one elect when there is no wheelchair provided to move them from homes to the polling stations? Is it not denying them their right to vote?

I plead with the coming government to take these issues of persons with disabilities serious on board so as to level the ground and equalise opportunities for persons with disabilities. One thing which is a common need among these individual persons with disabilities is to find a leader of the Lesotho Government who will make it a priority to pass Disability Equity Bill before the parliament post elections so that the rights of people with disabilities will be legally protected by the law.

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.lnfod.org.ls
We welcome any feedback that may improve the quality and content of this free service.

Best regards,



The Editor

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE BASELINE ON ENROLLMENT OF LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE PROGRAM AREA

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is implementing a three-year program. Capacity building for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in five districts namely, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's hoek and Leribe in 14 local community councils under mentioned.

District	Community Councils
Mohale'shoek	Siloe Community Council
	Mashaleng Community Council
	Thaba-Mokhele Community Council
Mafeteng	Mamantšo Community Council
	Metsi-Maholo Community Council
	Tšana-Talana Community Council
Maseru	Makhoarane Community Council
	Ratau Community Council
	Semonkong Urban Council
Berea	Kanana Community Council
	Tebe-Tebe Community Council
	Khoelenya Community Council
Leribe	Maoamafubelu Community Council
	Maputsoe Urban Council

One of the key envisaged activities of this

program is to conduct a baseline study to determine the existing inclusion of children with disabilities in the identified schools within the program area. The baseline will inform the interventions to be undertaken by LNFOD to advocate for the inclusive education, capacity building of teachers on inclusive education and increased enrolment of learners with disabilities in the mainstreamed schools by the end of 2019.

The study will find out the inclusiveness of the existing legal and policy framework for the inclusion of learners with disabilities in Lesotho and how the existing legal and policy framework translate into the realisation of the right to education of learners with disabilities in the program area.

The study will further determine the enrolment of learners with disabilities in the mainstreamed

Schools within the program area in order to formulate appropriate advocacy interventions leading to increased enrolment of learners with disabilities in schools.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this baseline is to increase the enrolment of children with disabilities in the mainstreamed schools within the program area.

KEY ACTIVITIES

LNFOD will conduct this baseline in collaboration with the Intellectual Disability Association of

Lesotho (IDAL) Lesotho National Association of the Physically Disabled (LNAPD) Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP (and the National Association of the Deaf Lesotho (NADL) through engagement of data collectors from the aforementioned organisations of persons with disabilities.

The data collection tools will be designed in line with the UN standards pertaining to people with disabilities in order to establish the common understanding of disability across.

One day training will be conducted for the data collectors to establish common understanding of the data collection tools designed to generate appropriate data for the development of the baseline study.

After which, the data collectors will be deployed in the program area for data collection for a period of 5 days and report back to LNFOD.

LNFOD will interpret and analyse the collected data for purposes of writing up the baseline study report.

METHODOLOGY

LNFOD will generate data for the development of this baseline through desktop research assessing the legal and policy framework for the inclusion of learners with disabilities.

Data collection tools finding out the practical inclusion of learners with disabilities in the regular schools will be done and undertaken by the data collectors in the 14 above mentioned community councils.

The Data Collectors will administer the research questionnaires throughout the program area to the key stakeholders or key informants identified before the implementation of this baseline. Study population is comprised of persons with disabilities aged 3-50 years old.

Key informants will be link data collectors with the households of persons with disabilities within this age limits.

A two-stage sampling strategy will be applied where screening procedure will be done using the Washington group instrument to identify disability on individuals. This will be followed by full interviews of selected households. It is expected that more than 200 households will be sampled.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The Ministry of Education and Training, Special education unit, Itinerary teachers based in the district offices, senior education district officers, Organisations of people with disabilities (DPOs) Principals of the schools located in the program area, Disability Focal persons are the key stakeholders in the development of this baseline.

The baseline will enable LNFOD and other key stakeholders to determine the number of learners with disabilities enrolled in the schools located in the program area. As a result, LNFOD will be in the best position to track the impact of its program towards increasing the number of learners with disabilities studying within the program area.

The baseline report will be available by the end of May 2017.

GENERAL NEWS

No one should be left behind in the Electoral Education for the upcoming Snap General Election

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is currently implementing a 41 day project on electoral education for persons with disabilities under the auspices of the Independent Electoral Commission (I.E.C) The objective of this short term project is to increase the number of electorates with disabilities who will be voting on the 3 June 2017 snap General Election 2017.

LNFOD target is to reach 15000 people with disabilities and their families with voter education by the 21 May 2017.

In order to reach the aforementioned target within this period, LNFOD has placed 60



Voter education at Mafefoane village in Maama #41 constituency Maseru

Voter Educators to conduct electoral education for persons with disabilities in the 22 identified constituencies on daily basis.

The constituencies in which LNFOD is working are;

Butha-butha: will be implemented in three (3) constituencies which are Hololo #.2, Qalo #4 and Butha-Buthe #5 Constituencies.

Berea, five (5) constituencies will be reached namely, 'Makhoroana #20, Malimong #22, Khafung #23, Thupa-Kubu #26 and Berea #27 Constituencies.

Leribe five(5) constituencies., Mahobong #9, Hlotse #13, Tsikoane #14, Maputsoe #15, and Kolonyama #18 Constituencies.

Mafeteng, five (5) constituencies will be covered namely, Thaba-Phechela #48, Thabana-Morena #52, Likhoele #53, Qalabane #54, Mafeteng #55 Constituencies.

Maseru three (3) constituencies. namely Thaba-Bosiu #37, Machache #39 and Maama #41 Constituencies.

Electoral education is the key activity envisaged in the plan of this project as it forms the basis for the strategies undertaken to attract people with disabilities to recognise their right to vote on the 3 June 2017.

Most of the Voter Educators are people with disabilities coming from the four member organisations namely, Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL), Lesotho National Association of the Physically Disabled (LNAPD), Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP) and the National Association of the Deaf Lesotho (NADL) with the aim of encouraging their fellow people with

disabilities to vote on the upcoming snap General Election.

The voter educators mentioned above employ strategies such as focused group discussion, Door to door visits, and public gatherings to convey electoral education messages to all people with disabilities living in the program area.

One of the strategies used to influence eligible persons with disabilities to vote on the 3 June 2017, is to make a promo encouraging voters with disabilities to participate on the upcoming General Election.



Tloutle Ha Mpiti, is one village LNFOD did the Voter education

GENERAL NEWS

EYE OPENING SESSION

By: Malehlohonolo Molelengoane

LNFOOD held a capacity building workshop on access to justice for persons with disabilities from the 27th to the 28th April. The target group for the workshop was the magistracy, prosecution, legal aid and police investigators. To ensure effectiveness for the workshop, LNFOOD procured a human rights consultant from Zimbabwe who was responsible for the training.

The main focus of this workshop was affording reasonable accommodations in the criminal justice sector for persons with disabilities. The participants were taught in detail what reasonable accommodation is and also how it is ensured from the preliminary stages up to the courts of law.

At first the participants were reluctant to even listen to the arguments put forth but as the time went, everybody had a hang of the topic. At the end of the workshop, the criminal justice sector participants were all willing to work hand-in-hand with LNFOOD in order to ensure meaningful access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Some of the participants mentioned that they were reluctant to enact laws or even try to accommodate persons with disabilities because they never understood disability issues. They applauded LNFOOD for organising such a fruitful workshop and vowed to work closely with LNFOOD



GENERAL NEWS

School; the provider of fundamental knowledge to everyone

By: Thabo Selikane

My name is Thabo Selikane. I am a Mosotho man with physical disability. I am the founder of a school known as Bambiva in Maputsoe. While at school, I was supported by the SAVE THE CHILDREN fund and I specifically got all the support from a youth joined group from one university in America that sponsor other youth from developing countries to proceed with their education. The group was known as Bambiva club.



The group remained close to my heart for it contributed so much in my life. That is why I named my school Bambiva after that group. Even today the school is famously known as Bambiva even though it did not register as such. The school is registered as LOVE THE KIDS. It was also my wish to help children in their education as well

I was firstly employed as a teacher in one school (ECCD) and that is where I learned a lot to start mine. Early Child Education is a very important branch of education which relates to the teaching of children formally or informally up until the age of starting the primary education.

It is an infant or toddler education that denotes the education of children from two years.

My school accepts children with and those without disabilities.

My skill for education where learners with disabilities are join in mainstream education classroom with other learners without disability was enhanced by the training I underwent years back through the programme of Community Based Rehabilitation that was funded by Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD) to Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD). It was under the same program where I was taught on livelihood aspect of the program where we were taught on how we can start our own businesses.

It was then that I realized the shortage of ECCD schools in my area. It was then that in 2011, I started a nursery school in Maputsoe.

All in all, the school has 25 children to care for. The school still have some challenges to deal with like shortage of swings, toys and fencing of the premises. In fact the premises, I am renting but on the agreement of having a lease for the compound. The main objective of the school is to improve lives of children through skills and primary education. I want to see the school, as well known school that cares and support children in all ways



GENERAL NEWS

LNFOD is welcomed in Siloe Community Council

By: 'Masekara Sekoankoetla

Lesotho National Federation of the Organizations of the Disabled (LNFOD) has a new three year intervention which has started this year. On 23 May LNFOD convened people with disability living in Siloe Community Council where the project was introduced to them as beneficiaries. Speaking to the beneficiaries Mrs Malakane mentioned that the intervention is aimed at improving the livelihoods, good health and education of people with disabilities living in the community council. She further mentioned that the project is targeted at promoting employment of people with disabilities and empowering their organization.

The project was very much welcomed by the crowd of 185 people with disability who were in attendance. Speaking at the meeting there, Mrs Matebaliso Moletsane expressed her gratitude to LNFOD for the project. She shared that she was hopeful that her sister's



daughter will be able to see the walls of the classroom again since she last went to school in 2010 while she was doing standard 3.

The beneficiaries pledged to work hard to ensure they seize the opportunities brought LNFOD's intervention to ensure that its impact on their lives are sustained.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Visually impaired Persons from Maseru Rural under campaign to sensitise Security services



The beneficiaries of the newly introduced project at Siloe Community Council



Voter Education public gathering held at Qalabane #54 in Litsoeneng village



Mr. Motlalepula Teisi who showed his views about Lesotho governments regarding disability issues

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT



SOUTHERN AFRICA DISABILITY ROUND TABLE FORUM

For more information please contact: SAFOD Program Manager on;

Tel; +25733700751

Email: programs@safod.net

Or

Visit: <http://www.disabilityroundtable.org>

**Training workshop on
Inclusive Education Media
Campaigns in manifestos of
political parties starting from
the 9th – 12th May at 'Melesi
Lodge Thaba-Bosiu**

For more information, please contact
LNFOD office on 22320345 or email:
malehlohonolo@lnfod.org.

**Baseline Study on enrolment
and retention of learners with
disabilities in schools in
Leribe, Berea, Maseru,
Mafeteng and Mohale'sHoek**

For more information, please contact
LNFOD office on 22320345 or email:
moeletsi@lnfod.org.ls

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ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe

Brot
für die Welt

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