

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 November, 2018

We all know that this time of the season has started and we already excited for our plans of having trips and visiting our home towns and villages. It is in this season where everyone comes with a joy, smile faces that brings happiness. I think it is a time for love and peace all around having shopping time.

It is with my pleasure to wish everyone a blessed holidays. Let us all celebrate with responsibility. This time is great for all ages, including the grown-ups. There are countless special events this time of year, and many of them only come around once a year, so don't let the holiday to ruin your life by making unnecessary things. With these words I would like to wish everyone a very happy holidays.

There are many people out there who do not have families to be happy with, let us support them, do good things for them too. Let us share whatever we have with needy people. Lets show them love and respect---

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

You can also Tweet us [@Infod_lesotho](https://twitter.com/Infod_lesotho)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pletsau'.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - 2018

By: Sefuthi Nkhasi

The 2018 commemoration of the international day of persons with disabilities was held on the 3 December in the district of Mokhotlong.

An estimated 700 people attended this event alongside the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Chairperson of LNFOD and the members of the parliament and the community at large.

The 2018 commemoration of the international day of persons with disabilities is celebrated under the theme: "Empowering people with disabilities by ensuring equality and inclusiveness." The theme focuses mainly on the need for the members of the United Nations to implement sustainable development goals in line with the provisions of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The commemoration of this important day for people with disabilities provides us with an opportunity to voice out our concerns and report to the public at large about the progress towards implementation of our advocacy activities.

LNFOD is an umbrella body of organisations of people with disabilities whose mission is to advocate for, protect, promote and defend the human rights of people with disabilities through training, emotional support and by representing their needs to the government, development partners and the wider community.

LNFOD is doing its advocacy by building the capacity of the DPOS and their local branches so that the branches may advance the protection of

rights of people with disabilities in the community councils.

As such in 2018, LNFOD has supported 115 people with disabilities to establish small scale businesses in the district of Leribe, Berea, Maseru rural, Mafeteng and Mohale's hoek with the aim of alleviating poverty among people with disabilities.

The organisations of people with disabilities are closely monitoring the beneficiaries to ensure that the businesses proposed are established and the business is running as per the agreement.

I therefore call upon the beneficiaries of this program to repay as per the agreement so as to enable Infod to extend the program to other people.

Secondly 168 people with disabilities were trained on income generation which include; production of petroleum jelly, creams, piggery, chicken raring, and also on business management so that they can run properly.

LNFOD is fully aware that organisations of people with disabilities are experiencing challenges with regard to access resources which will enable them to reach out to all people with disabilities in Lesotho. As such, LNFOD has capacitated their member organisations to develop resource mobilization plans which may be used to mobilise resources within and outside Lesotho.

I therefore call upon the Minister of Social Development to take the brave step as she usually does of increasing the provision of subvention to organisations of people with disabilities so as to enable them to reach to the dark corners of the kingdom of Lesotho where people with disabilities suffer most.

GENERAL NEWS

“A lot of work still needs to be done.....”

By: Trine Petersen



I am the chief of Education and focal point on people with disabilities at UNICEF and I am here to represent the UN on this important day. I must apologise on behalf of the Resident Coordinator who was unable to be her today and asked me to represent him.

The theme of this year's international day of persons with disabilities focuses on empowering persons with disabilities for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda pledges to “leave no one behind”. Persons with disabilities, as both beneficiaries and agents of change, can fast track the process towards inclusive and sustainable development and promote resilient society for all, including in the context of education, growth and employment, inequality, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action, and urban development, Government, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, academic institutions and the private sector need to work as a “team” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

More than 1 billion people in the world live with some form of disability. In many societies, persons with disabilities often end up disconnected, living in isolation and facing discrimination. Although we face a major challenge in Lesotho on the collection of appropriate data for monitoring on persons with disabilities we know that at least 2.5 percent of the

population live with disability. The UN is working with the GOL to improve the accuracy and detail of the data available of persons with disabilities, but beyond the numbers, these are girls, boys, women and men that experiences challenges in access to education, healthcare and employment.

In its pledge to leave no one behind, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a commitment to reducing inequality and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including people with disability. That means implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in all contexts and in all countries.

It also means integrating the voice and concerns of people with disabilities into national agendas and policies. The rights of persons with disabilities is enshrined in the following instrument: Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 19, 2 and 23)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 16)

In 2016, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) adopted a draft protocol on the rights of persons with disabilities, intended to complement the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and address continued exclusion, harmful practices, and discrimination affecting those with disabilities, especially women, children, and the elderly.

All of those global and continental agreements which Lesotho is also signed up to, highlight the human rights for persons with disabilities and rights to protection from exclusion and all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

While important gains have been made in this area, a lot of work still needs to be done to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are fully

realised. Lesotho ratified the convention of the rights of persons with disabilities in 2008, but still needs to go further to fully domesticating the convention through the disability equity act. It is estimated that 40 per cent of disabled children in Lesotho aged 5-10 do not attend school. The recent approval of the inclusive education policy is a great leap forward in this area and the UN will work closely with the GOL to support its implementation to ensure that children with disabilities are able to realise their right to education.

Today, the United Nations is issuing the UN flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018- Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities.

The report shows that people with disabilities are at a disadvantage regarding most sustainable Development Goals, but also highlights the growing number of good practices that can create a more inclusive society in which they can live



independently. The report and good practices highlighted can inform the important work that we will continue to do with the government of Lesotho and civil society, academia and the private sector.

On this international day, let us reaffirm our commitment to work together for a better Lesotho that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable for everyone, where the rights of people with disabilities are fully realized.

GENERAL NEWS

“I can see a success road ahead of me.....”

By: ‘Malerato Sefuthi

It's been a long time that I fantasized on how to make money from the sewing business. I have learnt sewing at Ithuseng Vocational Rehabilitation Centre. At that time my talent was not quite ready to run a business. I was ready to learn more designing and sewing for money. It is only this year that my dream came true. I looked at my sewing skill and then I applied for a revolving fund from LNFOD, I became successful, I then got fund to start my own business.

I know that getting rich quick is not easy but I think as I am determined entrepreneur I can make a serious money out of sewing. Before starting this business, I doubted myself just because I lasted doing it long time ago. This was I had no machine, no linen and threads to do my sewing.

I was doing the business at home, I thought doing that won't cost me. There will be no rent to be paid, no transport fares needed. I tried to market my products after completing them but it is also hard for me to travel a long distance.

Like other businesses, my business too has some ups and downs here and there. To me right now the main challenge is to find the market especially when still working at home. It is not easy to sell to people who are your neighbours as they always seek for credit and then pay after a long time.



I am now thinking of migrating from home to town. I think by doing so, will help the growth of my business. I will be able to market the business where there are many people around one place. I will also be able to copy new patterns from my competitors, so with that my business will get better.

I would like to thank LNFOD for assisting me. I am good at doing Sesotho dresses, I like sewing Sesotho dresses as Basotho women are proud when wearing them, for that reason can make a lot of money out of it.

SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. 'Matebatso Doti, Minister of Social Development

1. What do you see as the primary responsibility of your Ministry towards the advancement of the disability inclusive services for people with disabilities?
 - To protect with (laws and regulations) and promote (policies, guidelines) human rights of people with disabilities.
2. What do you consider to be the key achievement of your ministry towards the inclusion of people with disabilities in 2018?
 - Disability Equity Bill
3. What do you think should be done to reduce inequalities faced by people with disabilities in society?
 - All ministries and private sectors must have disability inclusive sectorial policies; there must be focal persons in the ministries and private sector; capacity building and engagement of all stakeholders in policy-making, programme development and implementation; allocation of adequate budget; awareness creation; enactment of the Disability Equity Bill.
5. What are the challenges faced by your ministry in an attempt to mainstream disability in the daily routines of your ministry?
 - The limited human and financial resources, limited expertise on disability mainstreaming.
6. What do you think needs to be changed to enable the government of Lesotho to allocate budget for the implementation of the disability related policies?
 - To change the perception of parliamentarians and policy-makers towards persons with disabilities through sensitization

NEWS IN PICTURES



Important invitees for Disability Day at Mokhotlong District



Sefako da menoaneng entertaining persons with disabilities at Mokhotlong



LNFOF chairperson is presenting LNFOF Executive committee and Staff to the public



Principal secretary (Ministry of Social Development) is giving PWDs packages for christmas



Mrs. Khetsi – LNFOF chairperson is giving out her speech at Mokhotlong



Seeiso High school students playing drama making people aware about disability

ADVOCACY WORK



PARTNERS in Advocacy Work

