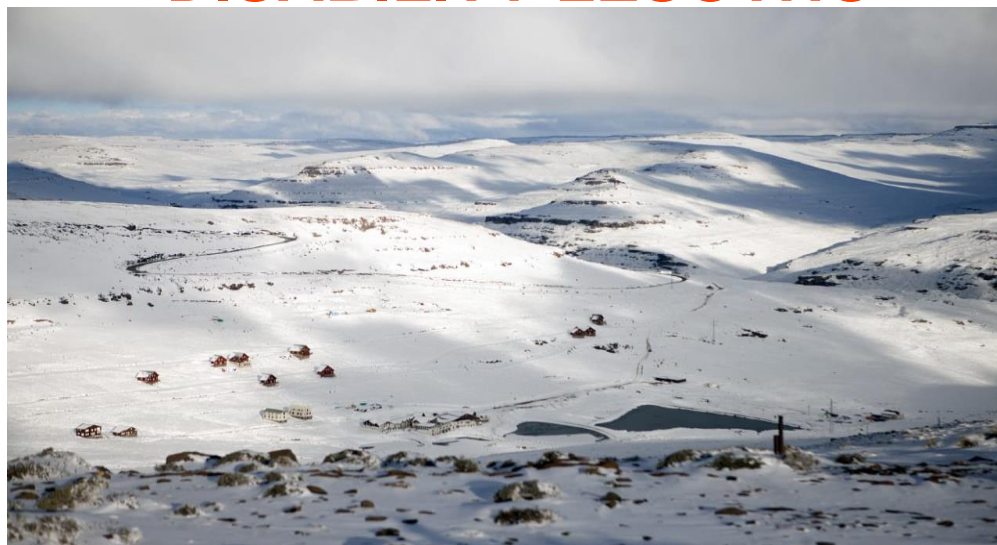


# DISABILITY LESOTHO



## From the Editor

Dear Partner,

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

This season is very tough to us, as it is very cold. It is very tough as it needs a lot of money to deal with coldness. The problem is that; most of us have no shelter to hide, no monthly income to assist us deal with issues of life but still lifecycle should continue. I think the happiness is very vital and makes people's lives changing to the better.

I am saying this because I have realized how persons with disabilities happily and actively expecting the tabling of the Disability Equity Bill before the parliament. There is hope to their life that everything will be okay after the bill being approved by the parliament.

The hope is brought by the challenges that persons with disabilities are facing in their daily life. They have hope that they will be treated like anyone else. They

Aare hoping that they will no longer referred to Ministry of Social Development for every service.

I wish everyone a very wonderful and blessed time, let's continue with the very hard time like we did in the passed years. The struggle is not yet finished.

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](mailto:pletsau@gmail.com)

If missed any edition please visit [www.infod.org.ls](http://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

### LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN POVERTY REDUCTION

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is implementing a project "capacity development for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities" with the financial support from the Austrian development agency (ADA) through Diakonie Austria.



One of the key activities of the intervention is to empower people with disabilities with economic activities that may help them to reduce poverty and improve the livelihood status of people with disabilities living in the program area.

It must be stated from the onset that people with disabilities living in the rural program area of this project experience serious barriers in terms of access to financial services, job opportunities and education which makes it very difficult for them to live normally. In attempt to alleviate this devastating situation, LNFOD has recently provided training on manufacturing of products which they could produce to earn a living. After which, a total of 168 people with disabilities were trained on business management with the technical assistance from Basotho Enterprise Cooperation preparing them to establish their small scale businesses intended to get them out of poverty.

The beneficiaries had also been introduced to the mobile banking provided by the several mobile companies as a safe means of keeping their funds and sustaining their businesses.

LNFOD opened a call for loan applications from the trained people to come up with the concrete proposals which can be translated into real business operations and make profits that can assist the beneficiary in question to finance his/her family.

The beneficiaries had also been introduced to the mobile banking provided by the several mobile companies as a safe means of keeping their funds and sustaining their businesses.

LNFOD is also liaising with the Ministry of Small Business development, Marketing and Cooperatives and other development organisations and save and credit service providers to determine the appropriate means through which the existing financial services can be accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities.





# GENERAL NEWS

## Persons with disabilities want to start their own businesses

By: Rabasotho Moeletsi



The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) was amazed by the response of persons with disabilities who registered their interests to indulge into business enterprises. This comes after LNFOD had issued a call for business loans proposals for individual persons who live within the project area consisting of fourteen (14) councils in Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale'shoek. LNFOD received more than five hundred (500) proposals from persons with disabilities who want to start or improve their own businesses. This is part of economic empowerment component of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) funded program implemented by LNFOD in partnership with the Diakonie Austria (DA).

About ninety five percent of the proposals produced were of the top quality and it was a close contest as there had to be only hundred and sixty eight (168) beneficiaries who would get the loans under this program.

"With lots of proposals we received, it was always not going to be easy to make a decision on who gets the loan and who doesn't. Thanks for us

(LNFOD) we established a local proposals review committees made up of local authorities in the communities in order to broaden the assessment. These people did a wonderful job in all the 14 councils to come up with the deserving 168 proposals which qualify for loans. The proposal were listed on merit starting with the best proposal," commended Rabasotho Moeletsi, the project coordinator.

"Congratulations to those who were successful, and to those who are not successful, they should not despair, they were not bad and it is not their problem that they didn't make it. It just that there were some people who raised the bar higher, and that had nothing to do with them. They were encouraged to beef-up those proposals and deliver them to other avenues whereby business ideas are called for funding. These may include government entities as well as whereby business ideas are called for funding. These may include government entities as well as other civil society organisations in development work or in the private sector.

LNFOD has already taken steps to make it a reality by engaging a few ministries now to propose to them to fund these business ideas

from persons with disabilities who aspire to be entrepreneurs," he concluded.

Some of these ministries have registered their support to the idea. One such a ministry is the ministry of science and technology spearheaded by the minister himself, Hon. Thesele Maseribane. He pledged as the ministry will do all in their power to see to it that they work hand in glove with other ministries to ensure that these business ideas by persons with disabilities are funded.

One of the officers from the same ministry, Malefa Mapholeba had this to say, "We must thank LNFOD for the good work they are doing. In fact we as government, we are responsible to sell the idea of starting own businesses to the people, here come LNFOD with the people who already have business applications to start their own small business enterprises. This shows that LNFOD has already met us half way, so all we need

to do is to fund all these applications to show that we are a responsible government.

Persons with disabilities are already marginalised, and it's government obligation to see to it that they are leading dignified lives," she concluded.

This is the right move towards the economic inclusion which LNFOD and its advocacy partners have been pushing for in a long time. Therefore LNFOD hopes this promise becomes a reality as there is a strong evidence that exclusion of persons with disabilities to economic activity is a direct consequence why they are disproportionately represented among the country poorest population as the costs of disability makes them poorer than next person in the same economic situation.

## GENERAL NEWS

**“What I have achieved .....**”

**By: 'Maitumeleng Letsoara**



“I am a woman aged 25 years old. I am staying in the Mahobong village. I am a parent to two children, a boy who is physically disabled and a girl. To earn a living I am having a mini shop selling groceries.”

‘I am now involved in LNFOD activities of advocacy work. We were trained on how to do advocacy for our children and other people with disabilities around our villages. We were told that it is our responsibility as communities to make sure that lives of persons with disabilities are changing and cared for by the government. With our voice we can make things better.”

“I was given forms that I will have to go and explain to service providers and find out how persons with disabilities are getting services and referrals. I started with issues of education to children with different disabilities.

I did visit one school and find out that there are three children with different disabilities attending school there. One had physical

disability, the other one was deaf and the last one visually impaired.

After some time I realized that the one with visually impaired is no longer going to school. I then started asking the said person. He explained to me that is always harassed by his fellows, calling him names, so he decided not to go to school ever again. I persuaded him to go back to school but he refused.

I then take action, I went to school and asked teachers about the absence of such a child but they showed that they are not aware of that. I again asked; “do you really check if children are not attending?”t they showed that the normally not doing it.

I hardly talk to teachers about learners with disabilities. I then asked to see the principal and said; “I think its your responsibility and my responsibility to see that children with disabilities are attending school and are free, not abused by their school mates.” I told the principal about the visually impaired person who is now not attending school due to harassment done to him by other learners. I told the principal that I will bring the child and the principal is the one who can help me stop those abusive actions to other children

The child is now at school again and I have learnt that there are no harassments done to him.

I really like to thank LNFOD with its trainings as we were not aware that those things are happening. We are now have knowledge about how to fight for our children’s rights in every sector. There will be no offensive actions that will happen to other children in our presence. Thank you LNFOD once again and its development partners.



# SPOTLIGHT



**Mr. Pusetso Solane**

**Age – 23 years old**

**Course of study & Completion - Social-Work.**  
2019

## 1. Why LNFOD?

- I learned about LNFOD in my social work course that talked about principles and rehabilitation of the people with disability. LNFOD came as one of the examples of the organizations that we have in Lesotho dealing or advocating for the people with disability's rights. It was also said to be the umbrella body for the organizations dealing with disability in Lesotho. I chose LNFOD because I felt like I would like to learn about how is it like in the daily life's of the persons with disability and what are the major life challenges that people living with disability in Lesotho face and LNFOD being the umbrella body I felt like it can give me answers to this questions.

## 2. Do you have a friend with disability?

- Not yet, but I think I will soon find one.

## 3. What triggered your interest in disability?

- Stevie Wonder, American musician who was born blind triggered my interest in disability, as through all the hardships that come with disability, he was still able to achieve mega success in life. It was really amazing to see a person with disability doing great things in life despite their condition. I realized that in life we all equal as people and disability does not necessarily mean inability.

## 4. If you can change anything in Lesotho what would it be ?

- I would establish Disability Units at various institutions of higher learning in Lesotho, which will aim to create an enabling environment by providing

## 5. What are you planning to do after graduation?

- Start a foundation that aims to empower and motivate students in schools , and engages them in recreational activities such as dance and music , with the inclusion of people with disability, as they are less intergrated in the sports activities and other recreational activities that happen at schools.

## NEWS IN PICTURES



Training workshop for teachers of Special education at Mohloli – oa – Bophelo



Mr. Pusetso Solane is attached for inteship at LNFOD



Persons with disabilities trained of manufacturing vasseline using available resources



Teachers are getting training on special education Mafeteng

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Her Abilities Award

The international disability and development organisation [Light for the World](#), along with Right Livelihood Award winner **Yetnebersh Nigussie**, are launching a brand new award this year: [Her Abilities](#)... the first global award honouring the achievements of women with disabilities across the board, in health & education, rights, arts, culture & sports.

This award celebrates women with disabilities who achieved greatness in their life or field of work and shines the spotlight where it is too seldom shone!

To say it in the words of Yetnebersh, with this award we want to inspire the world to *"focus on the 99 abilities and not the one disability"*.

**Nominations have started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

Together we will decide on the winners in three categories: Health & Education; Rights and Arts, Culture & Sports.

**Award winners** will join a celebrated network of other successful women (the Jury) who commit to finding opportunities to support each other in their further pursuit of justice, equality and excellence. Winners will receive a certificate, a physical award, and will be celebrated through communications and advocacy outreach opportunities.

More info is available on the official website: [www.her-abilities-award.org](http://www.her-abilities-award.org)

It would be amazing if you could help us drive forward this brand new initiative!

### You can help by:

- Sharing information on the award as well as the link [www.her-abilities-award.org](http://www.her-abilities-award.org) on your social media channels
- Writing a short news article for your organisation's website / newsletter
- Most importantly, nominating inspirational women with disabilities

For any questions, please contact Marion Draxler at [m.draxler@light-for-the-world.org](mailto:m.draxler@light-for-the-world.org)



JUNE, 2018

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# ADVOCACY WORK



## LNFOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



**Diakonie**   
*Katastrophenhilfe*

**Brot**  
**für die Welt**

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