



Ngativawanisei Mukana

INCLUSIVE TIMES

"Be Part of the Community"

Inclusive Communities launched Zimbabwe

REPSI and its partners are implementing an Inclusive Communities project. The goal of the Inclusive Communities project is for people with disabilities, in all their diversity, to be resilient, gain access to their rights and actively and equally participate in national, community and family life in the target areas of Chipinge and Chimanimani districts of Zimbabwe.

The intervention aims to strengthen the voices of people with psychosocial disabilities, increase access to human rights information and improve quality of service through active participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of mental health laws, policies and programs. The project has a strong focus on women, girls and people with mental health and psychosocial disabilities. It will strengthen organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) to raise awareness, reduce disability stigma and advocate for systemic change. The project aims to improve access to education, peer support, health services and livelihood opportunities through community-based inclusive development (CBID) as well as improving resilience to emergencies. Communities will create sustainable change in how disability and mental health is perceived by people with disabilities, their communities and government institutions.

This project is targeting duty-bearers (representatives of local authorities, the district rehabilitation officers) at the district level, gender focal points, disability focal point person, teachers, religious leaders, community leaders with training and continual engagement on disability inclusion, mental health and psychosocial support. Through consistency with the multi-level capacity building approach, the project will engage with caregivers of people with disabilities, health care workers and educators to ensure that children and adults with disabilities, including those with mental health challenges receive the full continuum of services they are entitled to without stigmatisation and names attached to them. The project

Taking the disability policy to the people – NDS1 in Motion

In simple terms, the National Disability Policy can be defined as a guideline that governs the provision of disability-inclusive rights-based social protection services to persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe. The National Disability Policy is informed by international, regional and national frameworks that include the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act (2013), the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1 2021-2025) and the United Nations Convention On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006. However, this article will critically

was officially launched by the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs & Devolution for Manicaland Honorable Nokuthula Matsikenyere. In her address, the Honorable Minister indicated that there has been a lot of talk on programming around assisting persons with disabilities but the tone has been very low when it comes to implementation. She was grateful to the project for walking the talk in bringing inclusion to communities. "Like some of you, I have had an opportunity of going through the project document and I would like to applaud the implementing partner for having a listening ear to concerns raised around livelihoods.

The income generating component of the project will go a long way in empowering persons with disabilities because if we talk inclusion but actions do not support inclusion we will have missed it. I also noted that this project is not a one Ministry initiative but the project is working with a number of ministries. This is critical because we do not encourage a silo approach where only one ministry supports an initiative, that is not integration of services or efficient use of resources. The Inclusive communities project is working with health, social development, education and local authorities complementing the Government's multi-sectorial approach which is the way to go now. I encourage the ministries and local authorities here present to take advantage of such platforms where organisations bring you together to cross pollinate and share best practices." Explained Honorable Matsikenyere in her official remarks.

appraise some of the strategies that can be adopted to ensure the full operationalization of the aforementioned disability policy and paying particular attention to the National Development Strategy 1. To show the highest level of commitment, The National Disability Policy (2021) was launched by his Excellency CDE, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.

The current role of the Department of Disability Affairs under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare is to facilitate the establishment of existing structures that will enhance the implementation of the National Disability Policy at national, provincial and district levels.



Welcome! to our Inclusive Communities Newsletter

Who are we?, you may ask

We are REPSI, (the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative) is the leading African psychosocial support organisation. REPSI's vision is that all communities and families nurture, protect and empower their children and youth. REPSI has strong partnerships with governments (particularly the ministries responsible for social services, education and health), development partners, international organisations and NGOs in thirteen countries of East and Southern Africa.

For twenty years REPSI has provided technical capacity enhancement to its partners to strengthen communities' and families' ability to promote the psychosocial wellbeing of their children and youth. In Zimbabwe, REPSI is registered with the Government as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO 10/12).

REPSI partners with governments, development partners, international organizations and NGOs to provide programmes that strengthen communities' and families' competencies to better promote the psychosocial wellbeing of their children and youth. Our aim is to ensure that everyone has access to stable care and protection through quality psychosocial support. REPSI offers capacity building in Community Based Approaches that promote and strengthen the capacity of families and communities to address child protection issues.

This Newsletter seeks to amplify the voices that are calling for disability inclusion. We are inviting partners and government department that wish to contribute to the next edition to freely reach out.

Enjoy our first edition!!! Happy 2022!!



SAVE THE DATE WHEN: On Valentine's Day | Monday, 14 February 2022

WHAT: For the 1st time ever, as part of the Global Disability Summit, youth from all over the planet will gather on a virtual world tour for the Global Disability Youth Summit (GDS Youth) over a 24-hour period to offer a platform where youth can actively participate in decision making and express themselves.

WHO: Youth with disabilities - starting in the Pacific, then to Latin America, through Asia to Europe, via Middle East and onto Africa - will raise the ideas and concerns of the estimated 200 million youth with disabilities including teenagers and young adults from all over the world. Their voices combined will draw attention to the topics that are most important to youth with disabilities.

Topics will include, for example:

- participation of youth in organizations of persons with disabilities and other youth organizations
- inclusive education
- the right to live independently and to be included in the community
- access to working opportunities
- climate change
- new technologies
- humanitarian emergencies
- access to inclusive health, including mental health
- the right to family, including the right to decide to have children

WHY:

Youth with disabilities must be involved in the roll-out of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Agenda 2030 because you are the future leaders and the issues you face today deserve more attention.

WHERE:

On Zoom! You will receive the link after you register.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Spread the word on social media and in your community.

@GDSYouth @GlobalDisabilitySummitYouth REGISTER TODAY FOR GDS YOUTH 2022

Taking the disability policy to the people – NDS1 in Motion

paying particular attention to the National Development Strategy 1. To show the highest level of commitment, The National Disability Policy (2021) was launched by his Excellency CDE, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa. The current role of the Department of Disability Affairs under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare is to facilitate the establishment of existing structures that will enhance the implementation of the National Disability Policy at national, provincial and district levels. For example, the Department of Disability Affairs is in the process of unpacking the National Disability Policy using existing Provincial Disability Networking Forums such as Masvingo Provincial Disability Networking Forum. It should be noted that the above-mentioned Forum consists of government line ministries, civil society, organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant development partners. The other point worth mentioning is that the Department of Disability Affairs is currently sensitizing the Zimbabwean nation about the National Disability Policy utilizing various National Radio Stations in Zimbabwe. Therefore, the implementation of the National Disability Policy cannot be done by a single person or Department but there is a need for collaboration between government institutions and Development Partners.

Further, the Department Of Disability Affairs is working tirelessly to take the National Disability Policy to the people by translating the above-mentioned policy into 16 different languages spoken in Zimbabwe. The Department of Disability Affairs is also busy translating the aforementioned Disability Policy into Braille,

augmented formats and sign language in order to meet the special communication needs of visually impaired and hearing/speaking impaired persons. In other words, the above-stated statement is in line with the New Dispensation MANTRA which states that NO ONE AND NO PLACE SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND. The other critical element in the process of taking the National Disability Policy is by making sure the process is fully financed. In this case, Government line Ministries in partnership with Development Partners should come up with disability inclusive budgets, paying particular attention to the implementation of the National Disability Policy. The Department of Disability Affairs and other relevant development partners are making frantic efforts to take the National Disability Policy to the people by crafting disability inclusive quarterly action plans, annual plans, and five year strategic plans. However, the above-mentioned plans should not gather dust on the shelves but should be implemented. The Department of Disability Affairs can also engage with various popular political parties in Zimbabwe and make sure that their respective political leaders unpack the National Disability Policy to their Supporters and Sympathisers.

In conclusion, the National Disability Policy can be taken to the people through the operationalization of the National Development Strategy 1. This can be achieved by making sure that the 14 Sector Thematic working groups are disability inclusive since disability issues are perceived as cross-cutting.

S. Nyeperayi
Deputy Director – Disability affairs
Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare.

Government walking the talk on Disability inclusion

By W. Mahubo

Zimbabwe has made some commendable strides towards expanding the goals and potentials of people with disabilities according to the SDG 10. The launch of the disability policy in Zimbabwe in June (2021) demonstrates government's efforts to rationalise disability inclusion.

In Education, government is ensuring that all learners including those with disability are enrolled at any school of choice and each school must adapt its environment to accommodate every learner. Teacher's training now includes specialisation in the major four areas of disabilities such as visual, hearing, intellectual and learning disabilities even their recruitment is done without discrimination.

Most schools are now mandated to construct new buildings with ramps, inclusive toilets and a wheelchair friendly environment. Schools are encouraged to open special classes to accommodate diverse learning abilities. The curriculum was revised into a competence based curriculum in order to have more learning areas as a way to accommodate the interests of all learners.

DID YOU KNOW? The constitution has allowed sign language to be officially used under 16 indigenous languages in Zimbabwe. The government through ZIMSEC has allowed national examination papers to be in enlarged print and offer extended hours of writing to accommodate learners with disability. Employment in education is irrespective of disability. The government expands inclusivity work by providing the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) funds to support the vulnerable, those with disabilities and those under severe poverty.

Learners with disabilities are assessed, screened recommended for placement in schools by Psychologists deployed across all districts, provincial and national offices of the government. Above all, government, invites other partners to compliment its efforts in such areas as disability inclusion.

Compiled by

MAHUBO W
(M.E.D.Psychology, BE.D.SNE, DIP.SP.ED H.I, DIPED pry gen)
lwamahubo@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 20 February 2022
World Day of Social Justice | 10-12 June 2022
13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD | 21 September 2022
International Day of Peace | 10 December 2022
Human Rights Day |
| 21 March 2022
World Down Syndrome Day | 13 June 2022
International Albinism Awareness Day | 23 September
International Day of Sign Languages | 3 December 2022
International Day of Persons with Disabilities |
| 2 April 2022
World Autism Awareness Day | 15 June 2022
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day | 10 October 2022
World Mental Health Day | 20 December 2022
International Human Solidarity Day |
| 6 April 2022
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace | 12 August 2022
International Youth Day | 17 October 2022
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty | |
| 15 May 2022
International Day of Families | 21 September 2022
United Nations will mark its 75th anniversary | 31 October 2022
World Cities Day | |

Disability Inclusion at COP26



On Friday, 5 November, 15.30-17.30 GMT, REPSSI Zimbabwe participated in a Webinar that was held on the side-lines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) Glasgow. The event was live-streamed to the COP26 YouTube channel and other websites. REPSSI Zimbabwe contributed a short film that had survivors of Cyclone Idai highlighting how the disaster impacted their lives

The REPSSI Zimbabwe country director (Mrs. Sibusisiwe Marunda) was part of a panel discussion while Mr. Johnson Fani-Matenga responded to questions in the spotlight session and as part of the response, he shared programming experiences during the response to Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION

Mrs. Sibusisiwe Marunda

Question:

The preamble to the 2015 Paris Agreement identifies persons with disabilities, who constitute 15% of the world's population, as one of the groups most acutely affected by climate change. Yet they have been largely excluded from climate decision-making processes and action. What are some of the reasons for this?

Answer:

- Exclusion of persons with disability is largely driven by discrimination and inequality
- The deliberate exclusion of persons with disability in social, economic and climate dialogue perpetuates inequality.
- Lack of resources for disability inclusion in climate change action by states is evidence that persons with disability are still regarded as passive recipients without the capacity to contribute to global decisions.

Question:

How can local civil society and organisations of people with disabilities be more effectively add their voice to civil society advocacy shaping preparedness and response planning for climate change?

Answer:

- It's time we demand a rights-based approach to climate change action and one evidence of this is the accessibility of all climate change communications and events.

An Inclusive planet: inclusion, mental health and climate change

- Capacity building of all relevant players including Organizations of Persons with Disability in MHPSS in emergency and Psychological First Aid is an important approach.

Question:

Inclusive mental health and psychosocial support is an important component of emergency response in general. What approaches do we need to adopt to make sure this is also reflected in climate change preparedness and response?

Answer:

- Approaches should include community conversations intended to promote emotional preparedness, resilience, community cohesion, social capital and a sense of community.

Mr. Johnson Fani-Matenga

Question:

How can community and regional civil society structures support a more inclusive approach to preparedness and response?

Answer:

- What is clear is the need to tackle attitudinal barriers – e.g. people with disability can't learn, they can't contribute, therefore they have to be represented. This hinders efforts towards inclusion
- It is important to recognise that persons with disabilities have a right to participate. They are agents of development.
- One of the most important principles to follow is 'Nothing for us without us', and this means that it is important to include Persons with Disabilities from design to the implementation stage
- Adolescents are an important entry point to promote inclusion. Let us invest in the young people to achieve an inclusive future
- Disability support groups help to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities making it difficult to leave them behind in disaster preparedness and response.

CONTACT US ON:

- +263242740954 / +263242740466 @REPSSI
- +263781 000 010 REPSSI
- repssi.zw@repssi.org 19 mull Rd Belvedere Hre

