



Alexander Phiri

The Disability Dialogue (DD) is back after almost a year of being out of circulation due to funding constraints. Thanks to our German partner, Bread for the World, for their generous support that has enabled us to get back to you, our readers, with inspiring information, news and stories on disability and development through DD. It is important that we continue to dialogue on disability issues because there appears to be still a long way to go before the majority of people with disabilities in the world begin to enjoy a decent and meaningful life under conditions of freedom, dignity, autonomy and equality. It is now common knowledge that people with disabilities can make a positive contribution towards the achievement of political, social and economic development goals of their countries if a

conducive environment is created for their inclusion in mainstream society. The best way to do this is for governments, local authorities, civil society, business community, institutions of learning, and society as a whole to give people with disabilities equal rights and opportunities to participate in development activities so that they are able to realize their full potential as citizens of their countries. There should be a commitment from all sectors, including the donor community, to do away with all factors that contribute to the pathetic situation of people with disabilities, such factors as poverty, unemployment, inadequate education and training, social isolation as well as environmental, institutional, attitudinal and economic barriers. Considerable steps need to be taken by governments towards guaranteeing and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, especially now that there is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Enjoy your reading! ●

Alexander M. Phiri
SAFOD Director General

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Radical and Evolutionary

SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) to prevent past Mistakes

From the onset, the idea of the SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) was to enable Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and disabled people to be in the driving seat. Disability research has to be socialized and claimed back by the people concerned. It has to find its way from academic shelves to the centre of society in order to provide evidence for action. In this meaning the SRP builds capacity of disabled people to challenge governments and all parts of society.



Participants of the Generic Research Training posing for a photo after a 3 days training in Mozambique

From the onset, the idea of the SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) was to enable Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and disabled people to be in the driving seat. Disability research has to be socialized and claimed back by the people concerned. It has to find its way from academic shelves to the centre of society in order to provide evidence for action. In this meaning the SRP builds capacity of disabled people to challenge governments and all parts of society.

Background

The idea for SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) originated initially from a review of the DFID-funded project, the Disability Knowledge and

Research (DKaR). The DKaR project apparently increased DFID's understanding of disability issues from a policy perspective supported by the Central Research Department.

Key among the DKaR findings was the need for DFID to work directly with DPOs in developing countries; hence the need for DFID to empower SAFOD, DPOs and disabled people in Southern Africa that led to establishment of the SRP. The model proposed for the SRP can best be described as "radical and evolutionary" because from the onset, the idea of the SRP was to enable DPOs and disabled people to be in the driving seat in so far as "disability research" is concerned.

This setting vindicates SAFOD and member organizations assertion that

there is a huge gap prevailing in research on the linkages between disability and poverty, and the resulting failure to establish evidence-based disability policy. Whilst the general correlation between disability and poverty is widely accepted, the lack of focused studies has not only prevented the creation of sound understanding of the specific causal links, but has also provided the basis for a continuing discourse that denies the agency of disabled people, instead portraying them as dependent on the good will of "healthy" others.

The SRP therefore seeks to challenge the views by providing a more robust and critical examination of the lives and livelihoods of disabled people.

One of the two (from Swaziland) has turned out to be a lead researcher after successfully winning a bid to carry out research for the SRP. At the time of writing this report, he is carrying out a research on *“Innovative approaches to mainstreaming disability issues within HIV/AIDS, Policy and Practice”*

Resource Centre

With respect to the development of organizational capacity, a Disability Resource Centre has been established as a key component and activity of the SRP. The Resource Centre and Research Unit are situated in Francistown, Botswana. It was officially launched on the 4th of September in 2009.

The resource centre will service central statistical offices, research institutions, DPOs, NGOs, academics, donors and government institutions seeking disability related data. It will also manage a database of national, regional, and international stakeholders involved in disability work, including research. Moreover it will disseminate information to stakeholders through a newsletter (New Society), briefing papers, policy briefs, peer review journals and fact sheets.

The idea behind setting up of the resource centre is to use the SRP as a vehicle to enhance SAFOD’s programme implementation strategies. Specifically, the SRP will influence SAFOD’s work in policy analysis, building of partnerships and networks, strengthening of DPOs, dissemination and raising awareness of the research findings.

Communication Strategy

A Communication Strategy was developed to provide a framework for communicating and dissemination of outputs from the SRP processes. The findings have also started being made available to a diversity of wide audiences including at household, national, regional, and international level.

The SRP awareness programme will greatly strengthen current programmes and enable SAFOD to

DPOs, policy circles, legal fraternity, faith-based organization, and DFID.

These represent some of the key audiences being targeted by the SRP.

TAB’s role is to provide strategic guidance to the SRP, including informing research directions; setting priorities for capacity development and communication activities, mobilizing resources for the SRP, monitoring quality and ensuring credibility and integrity of research work.



Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Members

reach out to new audiences and target groups, e.g. policy makers, education sectors, youth, and women. It will also open up new spaces for “negotiating” about disability issues based on better understanding of the roots of social stigma and negative stereotypes and how to challenge them; and new understanding of “disability” on the basis of critical self-reflection within the disability movement.

A key aspect of the SRP Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements is the formation of a Technical Advisory Board. TAB membership is composed of 8 professional people drawn from SAFOD’s Regional Executive Committee, academia, grassroots

The TAB is also engaging policy makers and other stakeholders to promote the disability agenda, and addressing accountability and transparency of the SRP. Thus, TAB has a critical role as a forum for strategic discussions of the SRP implementation, and it also provides DFID with up-dates on SRP progress. TAB meets every quarter to review the SRP activities.

With all these components the SAFOD Research Programme is without any doubt the most progressive and comprehensive inclusive research project ever undertaken ●

By Anderson Fumulani

**SRP Information
& Communication Manager**

SAFOD will host the AfrINEAD 2011

Inspiring Disability Research in the whole World



Rachel Kachaje, Immediate Past Chairperson and Alexander Phiri, Director General of SAFOD during the last AfrINEAD Symposium in 2009

The story of Zimbabwe's choice to host the next AfrINEAD Symposium was made by the Core Group, the decision making body of the AfrINEAD, at the conclusion of the Second Symposium held in Cape Town, South Africa, in December 2009. The first symposium, also held in Cape Town in 2007, signalled the launch of the AfrINEAD as a unique African initiative that was set to spread across Africa like a veld fire.

SAFOD, together with the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (ADPD), Disabled People South Africa (DPSA), SINTEF, and the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, are some of the very early partners of the AfrINEAD initiative, a flagship project of the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.

The AfrINEAD was formed to ensure that research contributes to a better quality life for people with disabilities in Africa.

The initiative facilitates networking among researchers, persons with disabilities, government representatives, business and civil society within the African region as well as with international communities. In order to effectively realize disability rights, stakeholders need to collaborate from time-to-time in the area of disability research. Symposia, such as the next one to be held in Zimbabwe, present stakeholder's with an opportunity to interact, identify gaps in available research evidence and share results from research work. The idea is to foster the use of research evidence to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities in Africa.

SAFOD will host the Symposium in collaboration with a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) that has been formed in Zimbabwe, comprising representatives of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Zimbabwe Government Ministries of Health and Child Welfare, Labour and Social Welfare, Science and Technology, business community, local DPOs and other relevant stakeholders from civil society. The LOC, under the ablemanship of Professor Stanley Mpofu, has already started working on the preparations for the Symposium.

The opportunity to host the AfrINEAD 3rd Symposium will help SAFOD to showcase some of the products of its research programme currently being funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and the Living Conditions Studies on Disability funded through the support of the Norwegian Federation of People with Disabilities (FFO) and SINTEF (a Norwegian research institution).

Thus, SAFOD and Zimbabwe will definitely get on the world map through the successful hosting of this global event! ●

Alexander M. Phiri
SAFOD Director General

Building Communities of Trust

African Network for Evidence to Action in Disability Research

Interview with Ms Gubela Mji, the Director of the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and the Chairperson of AfrINEAD.

Ms Gubela Mji, I am very happy to welcome you to Bulawayo. You are here in Bulawayo to prepare together with SAFOD, the Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled, for the third AfrINEAD Symposium that will take place in 2011 in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Can you please tell us about AfrINEAD?

AfrINEAD is the African Network for Evidence to Action on Disability. We tried to make its name short, so we called it AfrINEAD. It is a baby that was born at the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

So, why did you give birth to that child?

We noticed that there is a problem with disability research evidence. There was a gap between the evidence itself and having it being used by different stakeholders. We had a perception that there were different problems and challenges. The evidence often does not reach the main stakeholders in the area of disability, which are actually the disabled people themselves, its second stakeholder, which is government; its third stakeholder which is the business community, and its fourth stakeholder, which is the civil society formation.

There is a need to bring all stakeholders on board to understand what actually the challenges in terms of translation of disability research are.



Ms Gubela Mji in Bulawayo on the 19th of May 2010

We also want to unite these stakeholders because we have the perception that each stakeholder carries knowledge which is essential to enhance research evidence itself in terms of who should be the drivers of exploring disability research evidence. How should disability research evidence be explored? And what exactly should be explored? These are the main critical questions that need to be explored.

Of course we developed a deeper understanding that we can not work without disabled people themselves, being the ones who actually guide in terms of what are the critical questions that need to be explored. It is very difficult for researchers to come with relevant research questions that will be meaningful enough to make a change in the lives of disabled people.

One of the key challenges was related to the issue of inclusion. If you are going to do disability research you

have to include disabled people. But how should you do it? What processes could you put in place in terms of inclusion? Disabled people are myriad of constituencies. These myriad of constituencies come with different knowledge and skills. You can not just bundle them in one box and use them in research for one purpose. That is dangerous.

You need to understand the different knowledge and skills they have and the different assets they come with.

But how do you challenge the problem that research evidence often is not utilized by stakeholders as it should be?

There is the issue of utilization strategy. Before we have complained that research evidence had actually stayed in cupboards and gathered dust. This is a very unsatisfactory situation for disabled people. It is also a huge challenge that disabled people are expect-

ted to implement research results as they are already struggling for funds. Disabled people are the poorest of the poor. So when you take research results and throw them back to disabled people and expecting them to implement these results, where are they going to get the resources to implement the recommendations?

This means when you are designing a research project you must put in funding for a utilization strategy. So you have to look at a wider range of stakeholders to include in planning for the inclusion of a utilisation strategy in the design of the project. These stakeholders might be government departments or business partners.

What are you expecting from Governments? Why do you invite governments to the AfriNEAD?

First we want to assist governments to understand the critical questions that are asked by the key stakeholders – the disabled people. But we also expect them to contribute in suggesting questions which need to be included in terms of exploring those questions which could assist governments departments to understand the challenges disabled people face in terms of accessibility, in terms of main-streaming, regarding schooling and job and work, in terms of health and sexuality.

Governments need to develop clear policies and clear frameworks in order to respond to all the needs of disabled people. Then governments can work in partnership with researchers in terms of developing frameworks on how to answer all the questions. So again the government is a strong partner. We feel the relationship between AfriNead and government does need further fostering. A good relationship between these stakeholders can furth-

er assist in realizing the rights of disabled people.

There is another stakeholder you mentioned. It was the business community. What role does it have within AfriNead?

Business is a very critical stakeholder in this dimension. We know that business is creating our world. Disabled people require employment opportunities from business. Business needs to understand the disability debates to be able to create enabling work opportunities for disabled people and prevent the revolving door syndrome. Research evidence can assist in deepening this understanding.



AfriNEAD Pioneers: Gubela Mji & Siphokazi Gcaza

Government and business are very much engaged with our environment. Of course with support we are hoping they will also work together with civil society because without civil society formations they could just be instructive and going on alone on their own agenda. They need the civil society formation to support them in terms of what are the things which are critical to them. How should they design something that is all inclusive? The disabled person is within the civil society and the voice of the disabled needs not be left out.

When you look at it critical, AfriNEAD is saying, research is a tool

that actually can emancipate us all. We can all use research evidence as a tool for emancipation. But it is difficult to do this. We are used in functioning in compartments. In the present hour we need to develop partnerships, meaningful partnerships. And researchers in the past have worked very much in silos and we have developed a lack of trust among each other. So we create these bottlenecks in all the areas we function but now we also understand that this way to exclude each other has already impoverished all of us. It has undermined our work and the speed in which we could realize disabled people's rights.

So this is the reason for the main title of the next AfriNEAD Conference which will be "Building communities of Trust for Evidence to Action in Disability Research"?

At this hour we are asking ourselves where AfriNead is now. We are mature enough that we can pull out the skeletons out of the cupboards. We can start challenging our fears. Trust is one of the elements that can unite us. We need to ask ourselves what has undermined each other's trust. We feel confident enough as a network that we are in a position to debate this in a constructive manner. Trust on each other has undermined the process of using research evidence to realize the rights of disabled people. We are a family of human beings and can be united by our humanity. We need to start trusting each other so that we can work more effectively and more speedily. Trust is like water. It can assist us to move to the next level of development _ we need to reclaim it back.

Thank you very much for this interview! ●

Interview by Monika Scheffler

Disabled People at the Heart of Disability Research

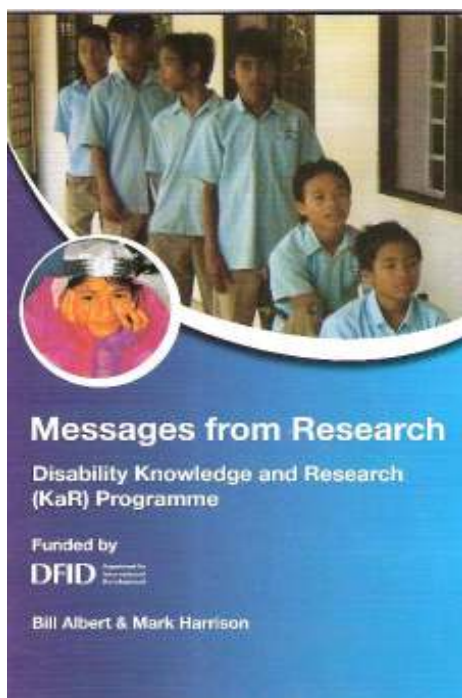
A retrospective Appreciation of the Disability KaR Programme

The Disability Knowledge and Research Programme (Disability KaR) has been one of the most ambitious, wide-ranging, and innovative research projects on disability and development ever carried out. As such it is still worthwhile to look at its results and lessons learnt. The current SAFOD Research Programme can be seen as a progression of the Disability KaR, which both are funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the U.K.

Disabled people have always been involved in disability research in one way or another, but usually as passive subjects, not as active participants or researchers. The Disability KaR Programme has actively challenged this traditional research paradigm. Although many funders are now demanding that disabled people be included as a condition for awarding disability project grants, in most cases it has meant that Northern-based organisations with the resources and knowledge to bid for such grants have developed research projects and then searched for Southern Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) willing to become 'partners'. This downstream involvement can result in a research agenda being pre-set, the unequal power relationship between researchers and researched not being challenged and real control remaining in the hands of the intermediary organisation and/or professionals.

There were five key messages that emerged from the Disability KaR Programme:

- Disability is not about health status, it is about discrimination and systematic exclusion. It must be seen and addressed as a question of fundamental human rights;
- Meaningful research to support sustainable development demands that disabled people and DPOs take a leading role and not simply be 'included' or 'consulted';



- DPOs need support which builds and sustains their capacity and not the capacity of International NGOs that all too often act as intermediaries;
- Governments and development agencies need to tackle the problem

of policy evaporation which has meant that good policies on mainstreaming disability in development remain trapped on paper;

- Development agencies themselves must set an example on inclusion and equality by employing more disabled people as well as drawing on the experience and expertise of DPOs both in the North and South.

There were three research strands within the Disability KaR's: Research on enabling disabled people in poverty reduction, Policy Project research, and Commissioned thematic research.

Research on Disability and Poverty Reduction

Three important researches were done and their results are still valid.

First to mention is the study on *Mainstreaming disability in development: lessons from gender mainstreaming*. The research discovered that there are important lessons to learn from the experience of mainstreaming gender in development.

These include among others the need for a clear policy mandate and implementation strategy on disability. A robust institutional structure to promote a disability equality agenda is as essential as an organisational culture that is supportive of disability equality and staff that have the skills needed to mainstream disability. Other recommendations were to develop practical guidelines and tools to mainstream

disability and to use appropriate tools for monitoring progress and outcomes.

The full research report is available at: http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/red_main.html.

Another important research report about Disability, poverty and the new development agenda is still worthwhile to read. This report offers a radical critique of poverty and disability, arguing that the relationship between disability and poverty has often been referred to as a vicious circle, but this obscures the similarities between the processes of marginalisation experienced by disabled people and poor people. The assumption that inclusion is desirable, for example, in IMF/World Bank poverty reduction programmes, fails to take into account arguments that it is the globalisation agenda which they support that help create and perpetuate poverty. A more critical assessment of the impact of neo-liberal political economy on poor people is urgently required and alliances need to be built between marginalised groups if there is to be any real chance of creating a more humane and just society.

The full report is available at: http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/red_new.html

The social model of disability, human rights and development & Disability and a human rights approach to development was the title of two linked briefing papers which argue among other things that the social model of disability makes the most sense in terms of an emancipating, participatory, human rights approach to development. A human rights approach to development, they argue, can only succeed if user led civil society

organisations, including DPOs, are afforded capacity-building support so that they can take part on equal terms, consult and inform their members and hold their governments to account.

Policy Project Research

The second strand of the Disability KaR Programme was Policy Project Research. Of the six research reports in this area which are available at the KaR homepage, I will only mention one:

The first one is on Participation of disabled people in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) & Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) process in Uganda.

The results are that although DPO involvement in the PEAP was significant this was only as a result of strong lobbying by the National Federation of Disabled Peoples' Organizations. DPOs at a local level felt they did not have the capacity to respond to calls for input as quickly as required and there was a feeling that in the end they were squeezed out of the process. DPOs also felt that if governments and donors are committed to getting their contributions to the PEAP, they need to offer sufficient time and financial support to enable organisations to respond. Some even felt that the government was using DPO involvement as a way of legitimizing the PRSP process, rather than out of genuine interest in the rights and needs of disabled people. Read more:

http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/small_prsp.html

Commissioned thematic Research

Seven thematic research topics were commissioned. All but one of the research managers were disabled people, supported by a team of dis

abled and non-disabled people from the North and South. DPOs played a significant part in managing the majority of the projects and represented a significant group involved in the research process. Only one of the researches will be mentioned here: Promoting inclusion? Disabled people, legislation, and public policy produced results which unhappily are still up-to-date:

- Legislation is invariably inadequately funded and subject to ineffective monitoring and enforcement;
- Enforcement mechanisms that exist place too much reliance on disabled people's voluntary effort;
- Information is not being communicated;
- Governments appear rarely to acknowledge a need to resource DPO inclusion in the consultative process or to fully recognise their expertise.

The full report including recommendations is available at: http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/thematic_legis.html

Disabled People on the steering wheel

The Disability KaR was led by disabled people from the South and North. Therefore the whole programme has ensured that disabled people have been active participants at all stages in the research process. Thus it has challenged the traditional top-down way in which disability and development research was usually carried out and provided a model of emancipatory research grounded in the experience and expertise of disabled people themselves. This was perhaps the most significant overall achievement of the programme.

Congratulations! 

Implementing the Convention through Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

DPI Update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In January 2010 over 100 people with disabilities from around the world came together in Geneva to discuss how to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Convention requires that Disabled People’s Organizations participate fully in the monitoring process of this treaty. Disabled Peoples International (DPI) is deeply involved in the global process to make the CRPD work. Here is an update on recent global developments.



Rachel Kachaje, DPI Deputy Chairperson, and Muzi Nkosi, Chairperson of DPSA, at the last DPI World Assembly in South Korea

The 3rd paragraph of Article 33 of the CRPD requires that civil society and in particular persons with disabilities and their respective organizations be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process of the CRPD.

Background

In May 2008, persons with disabilities around the world celebrated as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) entered into force.

As a comprehensive treaty the CRPD is a human rights instrument that contains an explicit social development dimension; it adopts a broad definition of disability and affirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Building on the historical legacy of several UN conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the CRPD is the first and only international agreement to stipulate

explicitly the rights of persons with disabilities in international law. Today, little more than two years after entry into force, there are now 145 signatories and 87 ratifications to the CRPD worldwide.

In addition to the Convention, its Optional Protocol establishes two procedures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD. The first allows individuals to bring petitions to the CRPD Committee. In other words, once all domestic remedies have been exhausted an individual may petition the CRPD Committee claiming a breach

of their rights under the CRPD. Secondly the CRPD Committee has the authority to undertake inquiries into serious violations of the CRPD. To date, 89 States Parties have signed the Optional Protocol; among these, 54 have ratified it (UN, June 2010).

Global Activities in 2010

In January 2010 over 100 people with disabilities from around the world came together in Geneva, DPI executive members and staff participated and helped with facilitation.

The focus of the event was to begin to build the understanding and capacity of Disabled Peoples Organizations

to develop parallel reports on CRPD implementation, as mandated by Article 35 of the treaty. The key outcome of the event will be the production of a guidance document for use in preparation of these reports. This document will be freely available to Disabled Peoples Organizations for use by the end of 2010.

In March 2010, the Human Rights Council held a debate on national implementation and monitoring frameworks of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. States representatives, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders were invited to participate.

The aims of the meeting were:

- To **enhance understanding** of the rationale and content of Article 33 of the CRPD on national implementation and monitoring;
- To explore **good practices** in the implementation of Article 33 and reflect on potential obstacles to effective implementation at a national level;
- To reflect on the **role of civil society** in the functioning of such mechanisms.

To support the debate, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner produced a thematic study on the structure and role of national mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Of significance in the conclusion of this document is

- 1) The need for States Parties to distinguish **between** implementation of the Convention from protection, promotion and monitoring of its implementation;
- 2) Implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of **government**;
- 3) Protection, promotion and monitoring

requires the leadership of national entities established in line with the Paris Principles and the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

4) According to the Convention the functions outlined in points two and three above should **not** be assigned to one entity.

As an adjunct to the above, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recently published on its website on disability a document titled *Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance for Human Rights Monitors*. (2) The document includes background information on the CRPD and its monitoring mechanisms, along with challenges in monitoring of the CRPD as they relate to inclusion of persons with disabilities and overall accessibility.

Finally, the fifth meeting of the Inter-agency Support Group on the CRPD (IASG) was held 6-7 May 2010 in Washington, DC, USA. Members of the IASG presented their current work and reviewed modalities for increased cooperation, along with challenges and opportunities to support the implementation of the Convention.



UN Human Rights Council adoptedn new resolution

The Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted its resolution 13/11 entitled “Human rights of persons with disabilities: national implementation and monitoring and introducing as the theme for 2011 the role of international cooperation in support of national

efforts for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.” The resolution calls upon States Parties to the Convention to establish and strengthen domestic mechanisms and frameworks for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, as well as include civil society organizations in the monitoring process of the Convention.

The HRC also decided that its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities will focus on the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts to implement the Convention.

Looking Ahead

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention (CoSP) will be held 1-3 September 2010 at the United Nations, New York, USA. This session, under the theme “Implementing the Convention through Advancing Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,” will focus on the election of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and include substantive roundtable discussions and an interactive informal session with civil society.

Conclusion

DPI congratulates Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled (SAFOD) on its valuable work toward the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Africa. Your work on the African Decade and furthering the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention will help to bring to light the continued injustices that women, men and children with disabilities continue to endure on a daily basis ●

By Cassandra Phillips
& Steve Estey
DPI Headquarters

3) The Decade provided space and awareness for the planning of multi-faceted programmes that helped to articulate the needs of persons with disabilities in Africa. Programmes were in the fields of Policy and Legislation Development, Poverty Reduction Strategies, HIV/AIDS, UN Convention on the RPD, MDGs, Gender Programmes, and others.

4) Tactics for effective advocacy emerged from the Decade. The ‘carrot or stick’ approaches were used and put to test – and the carrot approach won! Let us not unnecessarily use radical methods as these tend not to be effective. However, other activists argued against giving governments the ‘full carrot’ as they may get too full and forget commitments to disability mainstreaming.

5) The Secretariat pilot the Ambassadorial Country concept, which proved to be an effective way doing advocacy. Ambassadorial Status is awarded to a country that facilitates planning and resource mobilization processes for programmes, projects, and strategies in the field of disability including those that the country has already or is in the process of implementing. This work includes progress made in the development of policies and legislation on disability, mainstreaming of disability in sectors of government and implementation achieved to date. Ambassadorial Status is awarded to a country that facilitates and contributes funding for a second-decade National Disability Programme (2010-2019) that is planned and implemented by the government in cooperation with Disabled Persons’ Organisations.

6) We would like to mention the leading nations in this process that is Rwanda, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania,

and South Africa. All thumbs up to East Africa including the East African Legislative Assembly for leading the way in terms of disability mainstreaming!

Evaluation of the First Decade

The evaluation of the First Decade is being coordinated by the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. A Consultant will shortly be appointed to review questionnaires received from African Governments. The Evaluation Report will be submitted to the Ministers of Social Affairs in November 2010 in Khartoum, Sudan, where the Ministers will request the next Heads of State Summit to note the progress (or lack of it) of the First Decade.


Unfortunately there has been some confusion (some emanating from the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission) as to whether the second Decade has already been declared or not and whether all is depended on the evaluation. The official position is that the African Union, by resolution EX.CL/477 (XIV) of the Executive Council’s Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the African Heads of State held from 26 – 30 January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has declared the second African Decade of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2010 to 2019.

Nevertheless the results of the evaluation will be of some importance for the future of the Second Decade. The Questionnaire and Framework for reports on progress achieved by Member States towards the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on the African Decade of Disabled Persons was circulated to all AU member States. Copies of this questionnaire can be obtained from

Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang KesamangL@africa-union.org
All DPO’s are kindly requested to ensure that their governments complete this questionnaire and send it to the AU.

The future plans for the new African Decade

The evaluation of the first Decade will form the basis of planning for the renewed Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Future plans are likely to include some of the objectives of the CPOA for the First Decade, with adaptations to accommodate the UNCRPD and other African protocols and Charters. Governments must translate declarations and conventions to programmes that are backed by allocated budgets, time, and human resources to ensure effective implementation. They must also provide leadership and take more responsibility than was the case during the first Decade.

The Secretariat will continue to work as a civil-society technical agency and resource for governments and DPOs involved in disability programming, resource mobilisation, and translating sweet political statements into practical programmes that benefit persons with disabilities at country level. We will use international relations, diplomacy, and Article 32 of the UNCRPD to unlock resources and add value to disability programmes. We will, within our facilitator role, work with the African Union and governments on practical strategies to implement key elements of the new CPOA, UNCRPD, and other protocols 

Andrew K. Dube
Chief Executive Officer
African Decade

Make Noise for Inclusiveness of MDGs!

Disabled People's Regional Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Meeting agreed upon concerted Action

Communities all over the world are urged to make noise on the 18th of September 2010 at 12 Noon by beating drums and any other way which will attract the attention of authorities in every country in the world. This was a resolution made at a Millennium Development Goals Regional Meeting for Disabled People's Organizations on MDGs and Disability in Southern Africa.

The meeting was held in Zimbabwe's capital Harare on 18 - 19 March 2010. It was attended by representatives of People with Disabilities from five South African countries i.e. South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The reunion was organized by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) Africa Office and the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) based in Kenya.

The United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon recently called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York from the 20th to the 22nd September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. The eight Millennium Development Goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education. All this should be done by the target date of 2015. The MDGs form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was

adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the Millennium Summit in September 2000.

The participants of the regional meeting in Harare felt that the upcoming summit in New York is a very good opportunity for people with disabilities to attract attention of the world leaders as they prepare to attend it in September. Making noise is a peaceful way of demonstrating against non-inclusion of disabled people in the MDGs. Disability issues continue to be given such a low priority that even the United Nations Millennium Development Goals have failed to accommodate them in the specific targeted areas of concern. Persons with disabilities are the poorest of the poor and any poverty alleviation programme cannot be effective when persons with disabilities are left out.



Robert Mkozho

Other resolutions agreed upon at the meeting include vigorous campaigns to make sure that People with disabilities are included in each government delegation attending the September summit. If this is achieved it

will be a milestone success as disabled people will have the greatest opportunity to be visible at the summit and have their voices clearly heard. International and regional bodies such as the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) should have a shared vision on the improvement of the lives of Persons with disabilities. Delegates to this meeting also agreed that the UN should ensure that there is a consultative process to have self-representation of disabled people in these international bodies.

This arrangement will ensure that their views are captured at all events discussing developmental programmes including the MDGs summit.

Another strategy agreed upon was to introduce a programme on "Kick Out Poverty Campaign" where sport such as soccer can be targeted to play a role in the campaign towards recognizing disability rights. Sport is universally being used to unite different nations and as a tool for awareness campaigns. It was also agreed that governments should be urged to assist disabled children to go to school as these are also the future leaders of various institutions as well as Disabled People's Organizations. However, DPOs should ensure that there is a monitoring and evaluation mechanism in each government to make sure issues of disability are not ignored or left out in decision making and implementation processes ●

By Robert Mkozho
SAFOD Regional
Programmes Officer

Shuaib Chalken named UN Rapporteur on Disability



Shuaib Chalken of South Africa has been appointed the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2009-2011. He is the Director of the SAFOD Research Programme. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, and to advance the status of persons with disabilities throughout the world.

African Policy on Disability & Development (A-PODD)

A-PODD is a three years project (2009-2011) that investigates the need for disability to be included in national and international development initiatives. The full title of the project is: A-PODD - Enable Africa: Evidence-to action Pathways to Realising the Rights and Potential of Persons with Disabilities in Africa through Influencing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). It aims to document and analyse the factors that contribute to realising the rights

of disabled people, but also focuses on how research evidence can be utilised to inform the policy environment and development institutions. The research also seeks to explore pathways of involving disabled people. The project is taking place in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, and Uganda.

In 2009, data were gathered in Uganda and Malawi. Two country reports will be finalised soon. A final report will be discussed at a concluding workshop in 2011 to which governments, civil society, donors, researchers and others will be invited.

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Epilepsy Support Foundation of Zimbabwe

The Epilepsy Support Foundation of Zimbabwe is a registered voluntary welfare organization founded in 1990 to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy. It has an active membership of 2000 members. A research recently undertaken in the Zvimba district, Mashonaland, to assess the impact of primary health care worker training also recommended the need for research into the prevalence of epilepsy at baseline level. There is urgent need to scale up advocacy on knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices particularly in rural settings. The Epilepsy Support Foundation seeks funds to conduct baseline researches and to do human capacity building.

For more details, please contact epilepsyzimbabwe@gmail.com

Zimbabwe Deaf Media Trust registered

The Zimbabwe Deaf Media Trust is a registered media for devel-

opment and advocacy trust. The trust was recently registered and its main objective to promote and advance the Deaf Culture and Language, and rights of the Deaf community in Zimbabwe.

The Trust also aims to raise awareness about disability issues in general in Zimbabwe. The major activity of the Trust will be to produce regular TV programmes for public broadcast in Zimbabwe Sign Language. Literacy for Deaf people in Zimbabwe is very low. They have very little information to enable them to advance their status or to respond to HIV and AIDS. The Trust is now looking for funding.

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Mary Ennis left DPI in May due to health problems

Mary Ennis, Executive Director of Disabled People's International (DPI) began working at DPI in 2005 as the first community representative to the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She soon took the lead in persuading the Canadian Government to support a stand-alone article on the rights of women with disabilities in the Convention. Her tireless effort was to fight against the marginalization and victimization of women and girls with disabilities. Mary supported the development of Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) which is hosted now by SAFOD. DIWA and SAFOD want to thank Mary for her support and her friendship.

**Disability and Poverty:
a global challenge**

B. Ingstad, B. & A. H. Eide published a new book: *Disability and poverty: a global challenge* (2010). The A-PODD Team contributed an article: Wazakili, M, Chataika, T., Mji, G., Dube, A.K. & MacLachlan, M. . *The Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Poverty Reduction Policies and Instruments: Initial Impressions from Malawi and Uganda*. The book is available at Policy Press. Contact: tpp-info@bristol.ac.uk

**Millennium Development
Goal Report 2010**

Finally Disability has been included in the Millennium Development Goal Report 2010, which has recently been issued. The report now includes several references to disability and persons with disabilities, especially under MDG2 - achieving universal primary education.

The inclusion of disability perspectives and persons with disabilities in realizing the achievement of the MDGs has been reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 63/150 and 64/131. Download the full Report from: www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/

Disability Rights Bulletin

Find out more about the participation of civil society in the work on the implementation of the CRPD, as well as the work of the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Download the latest issue at: www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/advocacy-work/disability-rights

**1 - 3 September 2010:
Third Conference of States
Parties**

The third Conference of States Parties to the Convention will be held from 1-3 September 2010 at UNHQ in New York. This session, under the theme: “Implementing the Convention through Advancing Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities”, will include election of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and include substantive roundtable discussions and an interactive informal session with civil society. As the total number of ratifications has passed 80, the membership of the Committee will increase by six to a total of 18 members. Additional elections will be held for the six members whose term expires in 2010. Information, including NGO accreditation and participation, has been posted at: www.un.org/disabilities/

**17 - 19 September 2010:
Stand Up, Take Action:
Make a Noise for the MDGs**

Around the world, people will participate in a wide range of events, relevant actions and initiatives to show their support for the achievement of the MDGs. They will articulate their demands for delegations attending the Summit. This global action is designed to grab public, political and media attention and to make sure that the global movement in support of the MDGs is seen and heard around the world. More information: www.endpoverty2015.org/en/stand-up

**20 - 22 September 2010:
Millennium Development
Goals Summit**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend the MDG High-level Summit that will be held in New York. The Summit aims to boost efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015. For the first time disability issues have been included. More information: www.un-ngls.org

**20 - 22 September 2010:
International Forum
on Disability Management**

The International Forum on Disability Management (IFDM) will bring together speakers from around the world to discuss disability management on every level, from employer relations to government policy. With the theme “Collaborating for Success”, IFDM 2010 provides a unique opportunity for the health, safety, workers’ compensation and disability management communities to advance their knowledge and share insight. More information: www.ifdm2010.com/index.html

**26 - 29 October 2010:
4th CBR Africa Conference**

The theme of this Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Conference is “Linking CBR with Disability and Rehabilitation” and will be held in Abuja, Nigeria. The conference aims to promote better CBR practices in Africa and provides an opportunity for people to share information, knowledge, and experience on how disability concepts and CBR programmes can link together to help improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families. www.riglobal.org/4th-community-based-rehabilitation-cbr-africa-conference