

ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHERN AFRICA
FEDERATION OF
THE DISABLED

2021



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2021 marked the first year of implementation for the 2021-2025 SAFOD Strategic Plan. The plan was endorsed during the 2020 SAFOD general assembly; it reflected renewed ambition towards SAFOD's mission to advocate for the rights of persons with Disabilities and ensure promotion of inclusion for persons with disabilities in the region. The Strategic Plan presented our strategic direction by which SAFOD will be fulfilling its mandate as a leading disability-focused network engaged in coordination of activities of organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the Southern Africa region. Most importantly, it provided a clearly-articulated road map to use in implementing its eight regional flagship programmes which are generally focused on promoting and safeguarding the rights and welfare of Persons with Disabilities, as well as their meaningful participation in all development endeavours in the Southern Africa region.

The year 2020 is one that will go down in history as the world experienced the global COVID 19 pandemic. COVID-19 was one of the biggest challenges of our time, including peace, security, and climate change emergencies. The pandemic significantly constrained systems worldwide, exposing, and exacerbating inequities.

During this period a number of travel and meetings were restricted across the globe. SAFOD, like many organisations that support persons with disabilities, faced unprecedented challenges, including reduced funding, limited mobility, and the inability to provide essential services. These disruptions crippled organisations that were already struggling with limited resources, making it difficult to continue their work and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities during a time when they were most in need of support.

In order to make SAFOD responsive to the emerging needs of its constituents, the Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People (FFO) supported SAFOD with the development of its COVID-19 Response Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. Some of the activities implemented in 2021 included capacity building training in project management to strengthen the skills and abilities of the secretariat, resource mobilization initiatives for the secretariat and affiliates, and a regional study on the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities in Southern Africa.

FFO FUNDED ACTIVITIES

In 2021, SAFOD sought an audience with the sitting Chairperson of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, who was also President of the Republic of Malawi. The audience took place in Gaborone, Botswana. SAFOD had sought the audience as part of its campaign for the SADC Disability Protocol that started in 2016 with desk research to review how different regional Protocols and other vital documents were inclusive of disability. Later in June 2017, a SAFOD consultant presented the key findings of the desk research and introduced a zero-draft of the SADC Disability Protocol during the Southern Africa.

Disability Round Table Forum, which SAFOD held in South Africa. In his remarks, the SADC Chairperson assured the SAFOD team of his support towards the campaign for a Regional Disability Protocol that SAFOD was championing. Dr. Chakwera assured SAFOD that a SADC Desk Office on disability mainstreaming will be established either within his tenure or, at least, the process of negotiating for the establishment of the office will kick start before the end of his term. SADC concurred with SAFOD on the establishment of a Desk Office at SADC however, advised SAFOD to ensure inclusion of various stakeholders and self-representation of Persons with Disabilities to guarantee legitimacy.

SAFOD SECRETARIAT - CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2021 SAFOD through the support from FFO invested in strengthening the capacity of employees through training and development.

The objectives of these trainings were:

- To support employees, acquire new, or improve existing knowledge or skills.
- improve performance their work performance
- To support employees to be more innovative and agile in responding to change.

Training of trainers in project management (P3 express)

Through the support of a consultant SAFOD conducted a training of trainers in project management for key SAFOD secretariat staff and REC members. The ToT aimed to provide capacity-building support in mobilizing funding and other resources and strengthening their institutional governance and project management skills.

Workshop on fundraising and resource mobilization

SAFOD commissioned a consultant to conduct a training on fundraising and resource mobilization. The training was targeting the secretariat. The objective of this training was to strengthen the skills on Resource Mobilization and development of Proposals to equip SAFOD secretariat staff with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively mobilize resources and develop winning proposals for various projects and initiatives. This training was aligning the participants with the current trends, where competitive funding landscape, organizations and individuals must have the expertise to secure financial support and effectively communicate their ideas and projects to potential donors and partners.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES

Joint proposal writing

SAFOD developed proposals and submitted to the following donors:

Enhancing Disability-Inclusive DRR capacities and Strengthening resilience against climate-related disasters in Southeast Africa region.

SAFOD in collaboration with Christian Blind Mission (CBM), and seven local partners, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Zambia Federation of the disability organisations, (ZAFOD) in Zambia, Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) and Federation of Organisations of disabled people in Zimbabwe (FODPZ) in Zimbabwe, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), and Federation of Disability Organisation in Malawi (FEDOMA) and Malawi Council for Disability Affairs (MACODA) in Malawi developed a joint proposal to build capacity of OPDs on Disability disaster risk reduction, and create awareness on DIDRR issues, to ensure preparedness on risk reduction for persons with disabilities.

The objective of the project is to contribute to reducing the increased risk of persons with disabilities in climate change-related disasters by strengthening inclusive disaster risk reduction processes and climate change adaptation processes.

OSISA Proposal- Advocacy for adoption and implementation of the regional ECDE strategy

SAFOD developed a proposal as a build up from a project implemented in 2019 with OSISA funding. SAFOD developed a draft regional inclusive ECDE Strategy Framework, that would be used as a policy document to guide the SADC Secretariat, States Parties, and other strategic stakeholders in the SADC Region on how best that can achieve the universal availability of, and equitable access to, inclusive ECDE services in the region.

Consultative engagements were held to develop the strategy as well as a validation workshop. However, the strategy remains a draft as it has not been endorsed. The Osisa proposal sought to close this gap, to ensure that the strategy gets endorsed and implementation starts by different stakeholders at different levels. The proposal was developed in a tripartite partnership between SAFOD, TRANAC, AND AFECN. SAFOD as the lead partner would coordinate the project, implement activities at a regional level. TRANAC will be the implementing partner at a national level in 6 countries, yet to be agreed on. TRANAC is a consortium hosted by ZINECDA (Zimbabwe Network of early childhood Development actors) The consortium is made of up of ECDE CSO national coalitions from Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho (NECDOL), the Malawi ECD Coalition and the Zimbabwe. AFECN (African Early childhood network) was the technical partner in the 2019 project they will continue to give technical advice and support.

CANADA FUND- Women empowerment

The Canada for Local Initiatives is a program designed to support small-scale, high-impact projects in developing countries. SAFOD developed a proposal targeting the thematic area “Growth that works for everyone”, safeguarding women with disabilities s economic empowerment, making emphasis on their day-to-day vulnerabilities, and also focusing on the impacts of Covid 19. 45 000 USD

Resource Mobilization training workshops

SAFOD conducted training to five affiliates on Proposal development and fundraising particularly focusing on fundraising events. The affiliates trained were BOFOD from Botswana, LNFOD from Lesotho, FODPZ from Zimbabwe, NFPDN from Namibia, and ZAFOD from Zambia. All the five were paired with Resource Mobilization volunteers to support and offer technical assistance on their resource mobilization initiatives, particularly proposal development. The volunteers were given a Six-month contract starting 1st of March, ending August 2022.

Seed funding fundraising events for national federation

After the resource mobilisation training all the trained affiliates were requested to develop seed funding proposals and resource mobilization plans as a next step from the Resource Mobilization training. The plans guided the volunteers to align their support and technical assistance while working with the affiliates. ZAFOD proposed to start up a social enterprise to offer a conferencing facility, and a marque. BOFOD proposed to conduct a Wheel & Walk campaign, on raising awareness of the challenges that persons with disabilities face. NFPDN proposed that they would implement three activities to raise funds to open a computer lab in Windhoek. NFPDN proposed to sell raffle tickets and have a disability expo where they would award the raffle ticket prizes during the expo. They would also host a gala dinner with a select few potential sponsors where they would pitch their idea of opening a computer lab. LNFOD proposed to host a gala dinner to raise funds towards establishing a printing house as a social enterprise. FODPZ proposed to host a gala dinner to raise funds towards building a disability resource center through pledges from donors and land pledge from the ministry of lands in Zimbabwe.

Status of seed funding activities

BOFOD's mentorship was paused due to limited staff to implement the activity and would resume once they are in a position to carry out the activity. LNFOD communicated that they are struggling to meet the seed funding demands due to the limited capacity at the office in terms of staff because some of the key staff resigned. LNFOD mentorship was paused and will be considered in the next phase of training and mentorship. FODPZ was awarded 3000 USD seed funding after passing the proposal reviews however they have not implemented their activities which were scheduled to be implemented on the 29th of July 2022. FODPZ has not communicated any challenges to their delay in implementing the activity. SAFOD shared with them a reporting template and are still waiting for their submission. FODPZ shared that they are unable to implement the activity due to internal issues in their organization and would return the 3000 USD while they get their house in order.

NFPDN was awarded the 3000 USD seed funding after the proposal passed reviews. They were scheduled to host the disability expo from the 28-29th of October 2022 and host the gala dinner on the 2nd of December 2022, however postponed as they communicated that they met challenges and needed more time to plan as their events were coinciding with other big events in the country. NFPDN has since requested to implement either end of March or beginning of April 2023, and are yet to share the tentative dates. They changed the initial venue to a bigger one and have mobilized more support from donors.

NFPDN held the Disability Expo on 28-29 April 2023. The official opening was officiated by our partner Konrad Adenauer Stiftung - KAS Namibia Angola country office, while on the same day there was also a Disability Expo in the town of Ongwediva organised by the NFPDN Oshana Regional structure, that opening ceremony was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Disability Affairs, Honourable Alexia Manumbe-Ncube.

The initial plan had 3 activities, Raffle tickets, Gala Dinner and Expo. The raffle draw was suspended as it did not make financial sense. The Expo was held and drew a modest yet satisfactory attendance and stalls on display by individuals and 3 cooperates. The Gala will be held next and are suggesting the date to be some time October 2023, to allow for more and better planning.

ZAFOD has not implemented their activities because their concept was on establishing a marquee as a social enterprise, however they were given feedback that FFO does not fund social enterprises and they needed to come up with another concept which can raise funds towards their proposed social enterprise. ZAFOD developed another concept to host a music concert but did not implement it as they felt it was an imposition from SAFOD. SAFOD and ZAFOD are yet to meet to discuss the way forward with regards to their fundraising activities. The five affiliates that were trained were only trained on some of the topics under resource mobilization and were scheduled to have the other part of the topics be delivered the next year. The topics which they were trained on were grant writing and fundraising events and crowdfunding, the topics that were pending are finance and budgeting, concept development, visibility and marketing using ICT. To prepare for this, a resource mobilization training evaluation survey was developed and shared with the 5 affiliates to gauge how the resource mobilization department can improve the training in the next round.

More trainings were scheduled to train 5 more affiliates in 2023, and to prepare for this activity capacity assessment forms and capacity building request forms were developed and shared with affiliates- to capture the needs of the organizations and the building request forms for the affiliates to request for the specific capacity they need for their organization's resource mobilization initiatives.

COVID-19 REGIONAL SURVEY

Study on the impacts of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities in Southern Africa.

SAFOD conducted a study on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities in 10 countries of Southern Africa namely: Botswana, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa and Malawi. This study aimed to demonstrate how the COVID-19 pandemic and national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the rights and livelihoods of persons with disabilities in Southern Africa. This research was a qualitative study that involved three data collection methods: interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and document analysis. The selection method for participation in the study was based on purposive sampling. A total of 55 semi-structured interviews were conducted for the first round targeting persons with disabilities as follows: Botswana (26), Lesotho (14), Namibia (15).

The second round of 23 semi-structured interviews was further conducted with key informants from eight countries in Southern Africa as follows: Botswana (1), Eswatini (3), Malawi (4), Mauritius (3), Mozambique (4), South Africa (2), Zambia (5), and Zimbabwe (1). These key informants, such as leaders/officials from the OPDs and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), were deemed to have relevant expertise and knowledge related to the aim of the study.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Regional Executive Committee meetings

In 2021 SAFOD conducted four Regional Executive Committee meetings, the meetings provided an opportunity for the secretariat to give feedback to the REC on project and programme implementation. The REC meetings also provide an opportunity for the REC members to give strategic direction and advisory to the secretariat to drive the organisational mission and foster commitment in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Development of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

In 2021 SAFOD developed a Strategic Plan for the year 2021 – 2025 which presented the strategic direction of how SAFOD will fulfill its mandate as a leading disability-focused network engaged in coordination of activities of organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the Southern Africa region. Most importantly, to provide a clearly-articulated road map which SAFOD will use to implement its eight regional flagship programmes which are generally focused on promoting and safeguarding the rights and welfare of Persons with Disabilities, as well as their meaningful participation in all development endeavours in the Southern Africa region.

Development of the policy and Stakeholder influence strategy

After the development of the strategic plan, to drive its work in the region. SAFOD developed a policy and stakeholder influence strategy. The Policy and Stakeholder Influence Strategy was developed to guide SAFOD's strategic advocacy work towards the implementation of the UNCRPD and other regional, continental and international human rights instruments. The Policy and Stakeholder Influence Strategy will run concurrently to the five years strategic plan which runs from 2021 to 2025. The development of the Policy and Stakeholder Influence Strategy was participatory in that all the SAFOD affiliates had an input in its development and validation.

Monitoring and evaluation workshop for key SAFOD and REC members.

SAFOD also conducted a monitoring and evaluation workshops for the SAFOD staff and regional executive council member which led into the development of the SAFOD Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2021- 2025 providing an overview and operational mechanism of M & E for the regional disability network, and for individual projects supported by SAFOD.

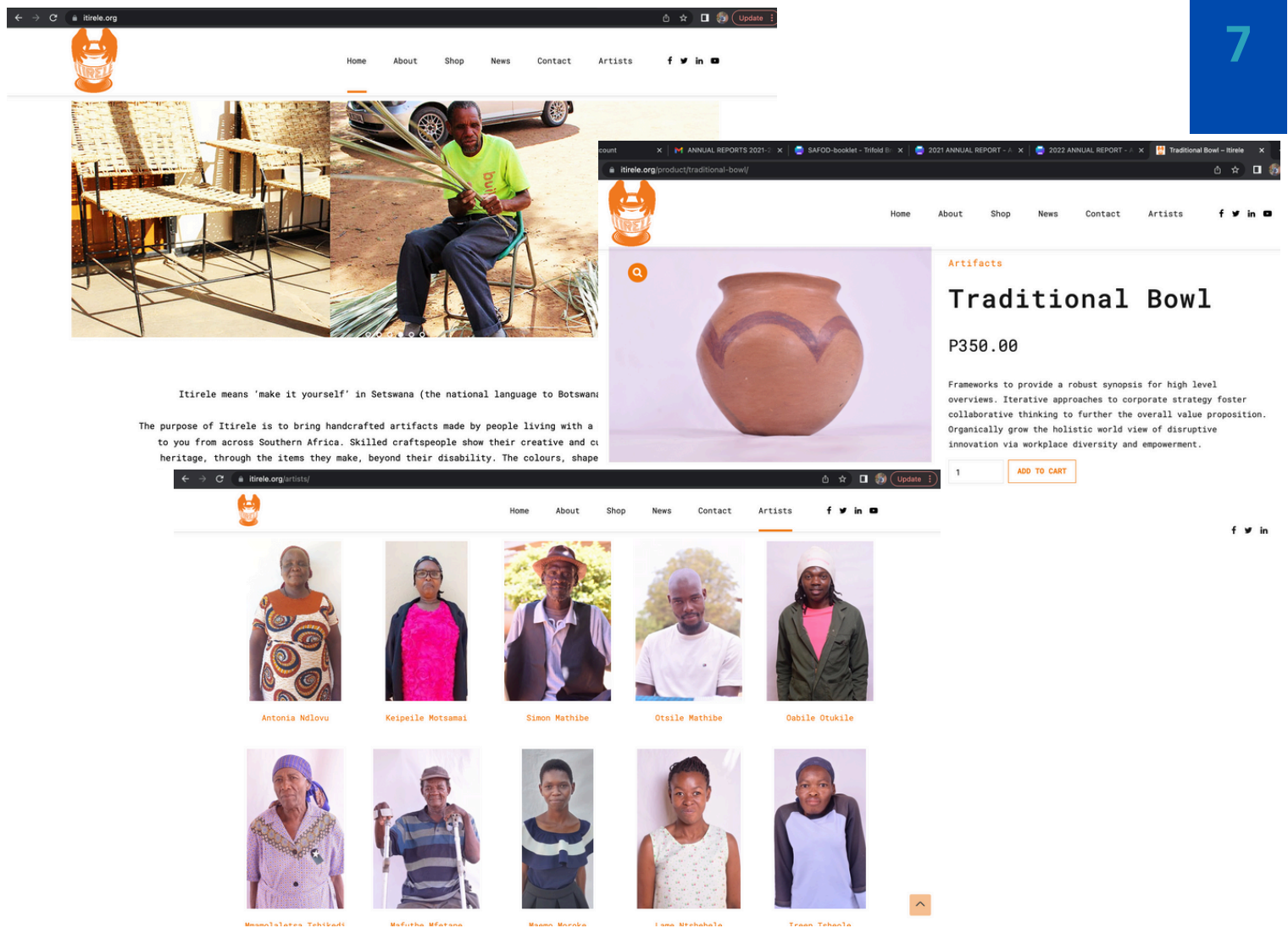
Loughborough University Activities

Arts and crafts project 3

SAFOD implemented a 5-month arts and crafts project 3 under the SAFOD disability economic empowerment and entrepreneurship program funded and supported by Loughborough University in the UK. This project targeted 13 craftspeople with disabilities in the Kgatleng District of Botswana through the Kgatleng Disabled People's Association (KDPA). It aimed to enhance existing networks, training and supporting 13 craftspeople with disabilities to develop inclusive sustainable enterprises through a center for culture, heritage, innovation and enterprise. The following activities were implemented under this project:

Collecting content and developing profiles for each crafts person on the SAFOD crafts abilities website. (www.craftsabilities.org)

- Developing e-commerce website to market and sell their artefacts.
- Host a regional webinar on economic empowerment for persons with disabilities, (to share best practises, challenges and opportunities).
- Commission a study targeting the 13 crafts persons to gather information on the needs, aspirations, challenges and opportunities for their businesses.
- Construct a multi-purpose hall to benefit persons with disabilities in the district, especially those who are into arts and crafts.



Webpages for the itirele website

Research Projects

Covid 19 Pretoria study

SAFOD and the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria conducted a study on Monitoring the human rights impact of Covid-19 and related emergency measures on persons with disabilities in Southern. This study was conducted to gather information through questionnaires on how the selected Southern African countries - Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe - are responding to the effects of Covid-19, to support the regional understanding of the consequences of the challenges on persons with disabilities.