



ANNUAL REPORT

**SOUTHERN AFRICA FEDERATION OF
THE DISABLED**

2023

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CBM Project Activities

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Ongoing fundraising and resource mobilization activities

Resource Mobilization Trainings for affiliates

In 2023 SAFOD trained 4 affiliates, DPSA in South Africa, FDPO/TZN in Tanzania, FENAPHACO in DRC and FEDOMA in Malawi on resource mobilization focusing on proposal writing, fundraising events, using online platforms for resource mobilization and visibility of organizations. Additionally, SAFOD conducted refresher training for affiliates trained in 2021, ZAFOD in Zambia, NFPDN in Namibia and FODPZ in Zimbabwe. Affiliates were to develop resource mobilization calendars to guide their resource mobilization efforts

Networking & partnership building meetings

In 2023 SAFOD built partnerships with European Disability Forum (EDF), an umbrella organization of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of persons with disabilities in Europe.

Project proposals

SAFOD continued to actively seek funding and other resources to support its programmes and initiatives for the year 2023. This includes engaging with donors and writing grant proposals. SAFOD responded to the GUPTA Family Foundation's call of proposal on empowering disadvantaged individuals to become self-reliant. The proposed project will develop interventions to support persons with disabilities to become self-reliant, particularly targeting young women and women in Botswana, Kgatleng district. The main objective of the project was to increase economic participation and empowerment of young women and women in Kgatleng District by promoting access to capacity building and entrepreneurship opportunities by 2025 to realize their potential and become more self-reliant.

The project will be implemented through the following activities:

1. Identification of Beneficiaries and stakeholder involvement
2. Capacity building -Knowledge Exchange
3. The project will support participants to purchase machinery and raw materials to develop their products.
4. Documentation of case studies, lessons learnt, best practices and challenges to inform future work, policies, and processes.

Regional Disability Protocol seminar

SAFOD held the SADC disability protocol seminar to map out a series of strategic advocacy actions to effectively influence buy-in to the SAFOD Protocol on Disability and to develop a clear advocacy road map to influence the SADC leadership to adopt the Regional Protocol on Disability. The SADC Disability Protocol is an instrument that was developed by SAFOD after rigorous consultation meetings with various stakeholders and analyzing how inclusive SADC policies are. The protocol will be used to positively influence the advocacy actions throughout the SADC region. From the seminar a three-year stakeholder influence plan was developed to influence the adoption of the SADC Disability Protocol.

Governance & Leadership

Regional Executive Committee meetings

In 2023, Regional Executive Committee meetings were held quarterly with the aim of providing the SAFOD secretariat the opportunity to give feedback to the REC members 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.

Capacity building for the REC and affiliates

Governance and Leadership Trainings

SAFOD organized a training workshop on Leadership and institutional Governance for national federations in 4 countries and the REC. The training aimed at strengthening capacities for the federations on leadership and governance and to ensure sustainable leadership of OPDs at all levels and facilitate participation and ownership. Strong Leadership and governance will also help to strengthen the voice of OPDs at a national and regional level, within other government and development partner structures.

CBM Project

In 2022, SAFOD undertook a process of internal recruitment, to ensure that the project team is ready once signing of the contract is done. In 2023, SAFOD was involved in project initiation processes to lay a strong foundation and understand the project at a high level. To define specific objectives, deliverables, and project roadmap in more detail. These processes involved signing the project contracts and budgets, training on reporting tools.

CBM Project Activities

Promote exchange on inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) between governmental and non-governmental actors in the three countries.

Kick off meeting

In 2023, CBM conducted a kick off meeting and a two-day training in Zambia, Lusaka, for SAFOD staff and representatives for national OPDs in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The training was on DRR, CCA and Environmental Protection. The training also focused on developing basic understanding about key aspects of disability inclusion and engaging with OPDs during disaster risk reduction contexts, after the training participants were informed on how climate change affects persons with disabilities and learnt on inclusion on DRR, to ensure that women, men, and children are not excluded in DRR.



participants during the kick off meeting in Zambia

SAFOD hosted a policy analysis training in Gaborone, Botswana facilitated by a consultant. The objective for the training was to equip SAFOD and the implementing OPDs (FODPZ, ZAFOD, FEDOMA) in policy analysis capacities, processes of identifying policy gaps and develop measures to address the identified gaps in inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at regional and national levels.

The training was attended by 12 participants, 3 representatives from SAFOD, 3 from ZAFOD, 3 from FEDOMA and 2 representatives from FODPZ.



participants during the policy analysis training

Mapping the national situation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction strategies and mechanisms.

SAFOD commissioned an independent consultant to carry out a mapping exercise on the national situation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction strategies and mechanisms in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi and at a regional level targeting the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The feasibility study conducted by CBM already identified some concrete policy gaps as well as entry points for disability inclusive DRR and climate change adaptation. Therefore, the mapping exercise was building on to the feasibility study by conducting a more in-depth analysis of the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to disaster risk reduction.

The study provided SAFOD and country level partners with sufficient information on how responsibilities for DRR and climate change adaptation are distributed, and whether the issues have different audiences and processes.

The study revealed a lack of awareness and understanding of disability-inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction among stakeholders. Additionally, physical and communication barriers hindered the participation and access to information for persons with disabilities. Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi have made progress in developing policies and legal frameworks for disability rights and disaster management, but implementation gaps were identified. There is a need to strengthen the enforcement of existing policies and ensure alignment with international standards, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Limited capacity and expertise among government officials, emergency responders, and DRR practitioners were observed. Training programs focused on disability-inclusive approaches are essential to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary for effective implementation. Data on disability and disaster risk reduction are often lacking or incomplete. There is a need to establish robust mechanisms for data collection and monitoring to inform evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation. The baseline study and mapping exercise highlighted the need to prioritize disability-inclusive approaches in disaster risk reduction strategies and mechanisms in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi.

By addressing the identified challenges and implementing the recommended actions, these countries can enhance the resilience and inclusion of persons with disabilities, ensuring their active participation and protection during times of disasters.