



RISE

The Imprint of Humanity

FODSWA Project Profile



ABOUT FODSWA

The Federation of Organizations of the Disabled People in Eswatini (FODSWA) was established in 1992 and aims to assist persons with disabilities realize their full potential, upholding their vision of Equal Rights and Opportunities for all people with disabilities in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Mr Siphso Dlamini is the current President having assumed the role in 2017.

They achieve this through their mission of effectively and efficiently co-ordinating activities of Members through empowerment of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) to be strong advocates that are able to provide direction on disability issues in society and Government. The disabled people's organizations are:

- SNAPPD – Eswatini National Association for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- SAVIP – Eswatini Association of the Visually Impaired Persons
- SNAD – Eswatini National Association of the Deaf
- PCDSWA – Eswatini Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities
- Eswatini National Association of Women with Disabilities Wing
- Eswatini Association of Persons with Albinism
- Autism

The organization is run and managed by disabled people themselves to build effective and efficient leadership amongst its affiliates acts as a link between Government and the DPOs. They work in conjunction with the Government of Eswatini through the Deputy Prime Minister Office, Disability Unit. A value FODESWA upholds is gender sensitivity and actively promotes this amongst its members.



ACHIEVEMENTS

The most important achievement has been the formation of The Persons with Disability Act of 2018 upheld in the Constitution of Eswatini which recognizes and articulates the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Additional achievements include:

1. FODSWA has successfully lobbied for the Establishment of a Special Education Unit within the ministry of education.
2. Through the advocacy work of FODSWA, Braille is now taught in tertiary institutions.
3. FODSWA has also successfully lobbied for the establishment of a disability unit within the DPMs office.
4. FODSWA is now reliably consulted by other mainstream CSOs on all issues related disability.
5. FODSWA member has successfully been elected into the Parliament House of Senate to advance issues of disability.
6. The successful Implementation of the Living Conditions Survey.

2020 - 2022 TARGETS FOR FUNDING

Disability Act of 2018

The Disability Act upheld through the implementation of the Eswatini National Development Plan of Action (ESNDPA) is cornerstone to helping FODESWA achieve its' objectives but requires civic education to specific sectors, such as, Business, Social, Technological, Public sectors and of course their members.

Key to this is having decentralized educational workshops to all FODESWA stakeholders on the Act. The educational information dissemination training workshops endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister's Disability Unit under COVID-19 Regulations, are targeted for this year to occur at the 59 Government Regional Administration Centres, known as Tinkhundla. The training will be conducted by FODSWA members. Community elected Members of Parliament (MPs) will also be approached to assist with mobilizing communities for the disabled to also have access to this very important information contained in the Act. Local community organizations and forums, will also be utilized, as well as, direct homestead visits. Other mediums will form part of the communication strategy including media like Radio and TV. Currently, there is a FODESWA radio program on the national EBIS broadcaster on Friday's at 3:30pm but requires continued funding support.

¹<http://www.gov.sz/index.php/ministries-departments/ministry-of-tinkhundla-administration/regional-administration>



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Advocacy & Awareness

With the Disability Act now in place it has to be implemented and supported through programs accordingly to successfully raise the profile of the various Disability Program, FODESWA advocates for and raises awareness of.

HIV/AIDS

The prevailing COVID-19 pandemic has now actually put the spotlight onto the vulnerability of people living with HIV/AIDS and particularly the disabled. Rural people including the affected, their families and healthcare personnel, also need access to information on both HIV/AIDS and COVID-19. Through knowledge some disabilities might have been avoided especially those related to HIV/AIDS as preventative measures may have been instituted timeously.

Database

One of the obstacles faced is correctly determining the number of disabled people in the country but as previously indicated, estimates are approximately 200 000 people of which FODESWA with corporate partners targets in seeks to formulate a Disability Database of persons in Eswatini. The database will capture overall information including the persons general information ID, Contact Details, Caregiver, Type of Disability, but most fundamentally it will also capture skills and education for job placement. Job seekers will also need to undergo a life skills workshop where they will be prepared to manage their CVs, Interview preparation, provided with dress etc).

Governance

The proper administration of the organization is a priority aspect the President is focusing on, due to the importance of fit and proper governance in ensuring guidelines are adhered to by the FODESWA Board and members. This is to ensure correct and accountable administration of the organization. In this regard, the President envisions having Capacity Building and Governance workshops.

Office, Secretariat and Transportation

Office support functions are key to ensuring continued service delivery, but the organization has been challenged by not having the facilities and adequate resources. They have though managed to secure land in Manzini for the construction of an office which will result in recruitment for key posts. Funding for the office construction is still being sought and they require vehicles to reach even the most remote areas in the country.

Sipho Dlamini

TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT CONTACT RISE
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