

**Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum**

**c/o World of Inclusion**

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**CDPF Brief Information on Implementation of UNCRPD Questionnaire**

Will all DPOs joining the Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum and/or their delegates please ensure this form is completed and emailed back. Return to rlrieser@gmail.com along with the completed application form.

1. Name of your DPO:

* Rwanda Ex-combatants and Other People with Disabilities (RECOPDO)

2. Name of your country: RWANDA

3. Has your country ratified the UNCRPD and when?

* Rwanda have ratified UNCRPD 15 December 2008

4. What has your country done to implement the UNCRPD?

After its ratification Government of Rwanda has done a lot its implementation especially in lifelong challenging issues classed in following articles:

* **Article 5: equality and non discrimination**, Rwanda has developed different policies and measures in order to ensure that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
* **Article 24: Education:** it has also done a lot in respecting right of persons with disabilities to education, where it put more effort to ensure inclusive education system at all levels.
* **Article 9: Accessibility:** Many years ago, Persons with disabilities used to face different barriers relating to user-friendliness. After ratification Rwanda took strong measures towards to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment and transportation.

Rwanda has done a lot on the implementation UNCRPD but also we still have same challenges especially to the mind set of same of the government officials who are not really ware on how to support persons with disabilities and giving the reasonable accommodation to the people who are in need

5. How much is your DP0 involved in implementation with the Government of your country?

* We have involved in the implementation to the maximum level 95% especially in our core areas of intervention which are equality and non discrimination, Employment, independent living programs accessibility, access to justice, health and education. This means that all our activities are based on UNCRPD.

6. has your DPO been involved in producing a shadow report to go to UNCRPD Committee and how?

Shadow report have been produced by National union of disabilities organization in Rwanda and members, RECOPDO is among the members. Through that that channel

We have involved by interviewing our members, helping in organizing trainings and workshops for the drafting the shadow reports up to the final documents to be submitted

7. What progress has been made on implementing Inclusive Education?

* Education as a base for development and wellbeing should not exclude anyone. Our Government has done a lot so far for ensuring inclusive education where it has developed new inclusive curriculum which brings together persons with different impairments in same class of education. It has also modified inaccessible education environments like classes, laboratories and accommodations in order to make them favourable for PWDs. Government of Rwanda put more efforts in supporting Specials schools especially those with metal disabilities in different areas of the country.

8. What progress has been made on social protection for PWD?

* Government has done a lot in social protection, where it has developed policies and programs with aim of reduce poverty to PWDs by including them in community development programs like VUP, GIRINKA ... in order to diminishing their exposure to hunger, malnutrition and enhancing their capacity to towards self-reliance. Rwanda also has managed to include PWDs in different Authorities in order to ensure that their daily issues are quickly reported and considered.

9. What progress has been made in implementing employment opportunities for PWD?

* Towards work and employment opportunities, Rwanda has put great efforts in developing policy guiding Equal access to employment in every category of people. More specifically for any job offer, priority is given to a PWD who proved his/her ability to the job Market. Also in partnership with different development stakeholders, Government provides grants to marginalized groups and a person with disabilities includes, for encouraging them in overcoming their life issues.

10. What progress has been made on challenging negative attitudes and stigma to PWD?

* A lot has been done at different levels to encourage PWDs to overcome lifelong discrimination and reveal their potentials in different areas like business, education, sports and entertainment. This is done in partnership of government and different DPOs through Exhibitions, public dialogues, meetings, workshops and advocacy sessions prepared by disabilities organization in Rwanda

11. What progress has been made in achieving gender equality for PWD?

* Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities for both women and men are taken into consideration. Our country a great achievement in raising women with disabilities voice and ability in community participation. It has also encouraged women protection against sexual abuse in public and private sectors.

12. What capacity building does your DPO need? Identify areas.

For Our Organisation to realise our Goals and mission effectively we need capacity building in below mentioned areas:

* Financial resources to facilitate our organisation to reach out beneficiaries and in different areas of the country with developmental and advocacy programs.
* Equipments like wheelchairs and assistive devices to our members with severe disabilities.
* Skills improvement and development in different disability issues like Safeguarding, Advocacy.
* Professional mentors in project proposal writing and fundraising.
* UNCRPD Trainings to support our daily activities.

13. If you are the National Umbrella DPO, how do you operate democratically with other DPOs?

We are not umbrella, but as an organization we have structures that governs our organization and those are the following

1. General assembly which where all decisions are made to the organization
2. Board of directors that usually looking if the organization is in the right track of the mission and vision
3. Executive secretariat that runs daily activities of the organization

14. If you are an impairment specific or have a particular focus or are a regional DPO, how do you work with Umbrella DPO?

Our organization deals with different categories of disabilities and those are Physical impaired persons which includes whose who are wheelchair users, spinal cord injuries and those who still have fragments in their body . Secondly we are dealing with those who have visual impairment and mental disabilities

15. If there is no national umbrella DPO, how could one is built?

We have two umbrellas and RECOPDO are the member of national union of disabilities organization in Rwanda

16. How does your DPO get funded?

* We get funds from donor by applying to different project funding proposals calls both locally and internationally.

17. What training capacity does your DPO have?

* Most of our Committee have been trained in UNCRPD.
* Our staff has been trained in Effective project Management.
* Same of our members and staff have different expertise and good education background that helps organization to run daily activities
* Team working and collaboration with other DPOs are the weapons used by our organization to uplift our organization growth and transparency

18. What regular training do you provide for PWD?

* We provide regular trainings on PWDs rights.
* Income generating activities and savings in sector of livelihood
* Anti-discrimination laws and self-advocacy
* We provide trainings on business management and cooperatives management to the members and projects beneficiaries.

19. How does your DPO involve young PWD?

* Yes, we do specifically to those who have mental disabilities

20. Does your DPO have any experience working in a humanitarian disaster?

Not really, we do not have enough experience working in a humanitarian disaster except on of our members who went to japan on the training of disaster management and risk mitigation.

Thank you

Louis Kwizera