

Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum
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CDPF Brief Information on Implementation of UNCRPD
 Questionnaire.

Will all DPOs supporting the Re-launch of the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum and/or their delegates please ensure this form is completed and emailed back by 3rd June 2019. Delegates in their introduction of 3 minutes will be asked to summarise on 13th June General Assembly. Return to rlrieser@gmail.com by 3rd June 2019.

1. Name of your DPO: [Disability Organisations Joint Front](#)
2. Name of your country: [Sri Lanka](#)
3. Has your country ratified the UNCRPD and when? [Yes, 09 February 2016](#)
4. What has your country done to implement the UNCRPD?

[GoSL has include disability in a separate thematic area in the National Human Rights Action Pan 2017-21. Most of the strategies & actions are in line with National Policy on Disability 2003 and UNCRPD. However, there seems to be very little interest and commitment among most of the leading politicians and high level bureaucrats for initiatives to implement the UNCRPD.](#)

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

[DPO's are very active but the decision makers are pulling the strings by coming up with various reasons for not to include provisions of the UNCRPD. It seems only a handful of state officials are aware of the norms & principles of the UNCRPD. Most of the high level decision makers are looking at disability still in the lens of the charity model in Sri Lanka. This attitudinal barriers is very difficult challenge for the disability activists in Sri Lanka.](#)

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

GoSL is yet to submit their initial report as per Article 35 to the CRPD Committee. It's almost one year overdue. DOJF has started to collect grassroots level information to compile the shadow report. However, it will be finalise in late 2020 as the first country review of the Sri Lanka at UNCRPD Committee. Most probably would be late 2021.

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

GoSL has many initiatives for "Education For All". It has embarked on inclusive education programs. But at the implementation level, most of the schools are using the special education model under the disguise of inclusive education. Sri Lanka is a party to the "Salmanka Declaration", however, very little is being included for introducing the concepts of inclusive education. There is some progress in special education. However, special needs education is misinterpreted by the teachers who are at application level.

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

Government has initiated a social security scheme for PwD's below the poverty level. However, this monthly allowance (US\$25) is insufficient. The selection criterion also questionable as it is being used as a way to gather vote during elections. Recently the amount was increased to (US\$35) and increased the number of beneficiaries by two folds.

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

Government has introduced a quota system to enable employment of 3% in the public sector by a Public Admin Circular in 1988. However, none of the state institutions have implemented this quota. Whenever there is a request, the authorities will come with various reasons challenging the circular text. In early 2000, Government request the corporate sector also to consider the 3% quota. But employment rate is very low. Statistics revealed that 72% of PwD's who are above 16 & below 60 are not engaged in any economic activity.

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

The rate of the change of altitudes are very marginal. Still, the families are very afraid and concern about the social integration and do not send their disabled children out to the communities or sacristy. There are many reasons including social, cultural issues as well as security and protection issues due to sexual exploitation and the human security aspects.

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

The rate of the change of altitudes are very marginal. Till 2015, the ministry in charge of women has not included women with disabilities into their mainstream programs aimed at women development in Sri Lanka. DOJF prepared and handed over “Ampara Declaration”, a comprehensive document with suggestions for inclusion of women with disabilities aiming at inclusion and gender mainstreaming. Since 2018, there is some dialog at the Ministry of Child Development & Women Affairs for participation and inclusion of children & women with disabilities for the national, provincial & district level programs and to include women with disabilities in the grass root network of women societies created and facilitated by the Ministry.

Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Department of National Budget has introduced two new sections in the 2019 budget proposals on gender perspective and disability prospective. This disability perspective was included as a result of continues lobbying by the DOJF since 2017.

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

DOJF is desperately need to develop capacities among leaders of the PwD on CRPDSDG bridge training.

DOJF needs to initiate women & youth leadership and mobilisation training as it failed all attempt due to financial constraints.

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

DOJF has open the membership for all DPO’s, organisations providing disability services as well as for other civil society organisations as associate members and as observers. DOJF Executive Committee elected once in two years in a very democratic way. The key officers are always changes on rotational basis and the call for nominations are conducted prior to the elections and provide opportunity

for membership to elect their leadership in a very democratic way. The democracy is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Organisation.

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

DOJF is not an impairment specific DPO. It has recognised all disabilities but separated four main categories, namely physical, visual, hearing & intellectual solely for the purpose of smooth and easy in operational aspects. By Constitution DOJF has four Vice president in the Executive Committee set aside to represent above four categories. All categories of the disabled and classifications are included taking the country specific needs.

15. If there is no national; umbrella DPO. How could one be built?

Sri Lanka has a National Umbrella DPO. DOJF is the member national Assembly for Disability Peoples International.

16. How does your DPO get funded?

- a. International donor agencies such as ForumSud through MyRight Sweden, Siloam Korea, etc. and International support through AusAid, UsAid etc.
- b. UN Agencies (Small grants based on thematic interventions)
- c. Partnership with national Civil Society Networks who gets support from International NGO's such as UPR Info, WRC etc.
- d. Very small amount through membership fee.

17. What training capacity does your DPO have?

- a. Most of the key officer and staff are well experienced resource persons in different thematic areas.
- b. Specialists qualified in Social Development, Human Rights/Disability Rights.
- c. As and when need, DOJF outsource the experts.

18. What regular training do you provide for PWD?

DOJF has continually provide capacity development training for member organisations since it inception. The present interventions are; a. Training on CRPD implementation

- b. Training on disability right monitoring, specifically as per Article 33 (2) and the Implementation of National Policy on Disability 2003, National Action Plan on Disability 2014 & National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-21.
- c. Gender Mainstreaming, Inclusion & social Integration of PwD's
- d. Training on Accessibility auditing & all inclusive elections
- e. Networking with DPO's & other civil society organisations

19. How does your DPO involve young DWP (PWD)?

As mentioned in above question 12, youth mobilisation is the biggest challenge faced by DOJF.

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

Yes. DOJF has extensively worked soon after the 2003 Tsunami Disaster and as a result Government of Sri Lanka has promulgated the Accessibility Reregulation No 01 of 2006. DOJF also collected information of PwD's who became victims of the disaster. However, it could not follow-up due to "Access for All" project took precedence over providing services for victims.

Conduct a pilot in 2018/19 on the Inclusion of IASC Guidelines during Humanitarian Action, specifically on GBV & SRH with Family planning Association of Sri Lanka.