

2021

Rehabilitation International

Annual Report 2021

NGO

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Rehabilitation International





PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear RI Glob family and friends,

2021 has been a year of both challenges and progress for RI. While Covid means we can't meet in person quite as we may have wished, we can't put into actions as we may have planned, we still managed to achieve a lot.

The 24th RI World Congress was successfully held. Financial support from the Chinese government was secured to ensure RI's development for the next years. Active response to Covid has been carried out either in forms of protective supplies or appealing for more attention to persons with disabilities from international community. Projects designed to make a difference for life of persons with disabilities have been put into action. New members joined us, making RI global family more dynamic. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all RI global members for sticking together in upholding rights and interests of persons with disabilities world-wide.

2022 might still bring its challenges, but I believe that whatever challenges we may face, we will overcome them with purpose and resolve.

We will keep up progress in 2022, which is an utmost meaningful year for RI to celebrate its centenary. It will be an opportunity for RI family everywhere to enjoy a sense of togetherness, a chance to look back the enormous achievements of the last 100 years with pride and to look ahead with confidence. Let's stay united to rededicate RI to its founding idea and embrace an even greater future of RI.

China will celebrate the advent of spring in the lunar new year, I wish you all a very happy new year of the Tiger.

*Sincerely,
Zhang Haidi
RI&RIF President*



RI GLOBAL STRUCTURE

RI Global comprises a worldwide network of grassroots organizations, service providers, researchers, academics, professionals, and government agencies with members in more than 100 countries.

A democratic non-governmental organization (NGO) governed by an Executive Committee, RI Global provides both an open forum for the exchange of experience, information, and research, as well as a platform from which people advocate for policies and enact programs that protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

RI Global is the only international disability NGO that is both cross-disability and cross-disciplinary. This approach allows RI Global to address disability, considering the range of disabilities, from physical to mental to psychosocial. Headquartered in New York City, RI Global holds consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies. Because success depends on the unity and strength of the disability community, RI Global seeks to work collaboratively in all of its activities, with a small staff based in New York that coordinates members and partners in the execution of RI Global's programs.

RI GLOBAL ORGANIZATION

The RI Global Secretariat is led in New York by Secretary-General Teuta Rexhepi, who has spent more than 15 years in the nonprofit sector at national and international level, she specializes in nonprofit management and capacity building, development of membership programs, nonprofit marketing and public relations initiatives and advising on communications strategy and advocacy on rights and inclusions of people with disabilities.

The Secretariat is guided by a 25-member Executive Committee that includes disability leaders from 17 countries, chaired by RI Global President, Madame. Zhang Haidi, who is the Chairperson of China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and Executive President of Beijing Organizing Committee of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zhang Haidi - RI President

Jan Monsbakken - Immediate Past President

Susan Parker - Treasurer

Regional Vice Presidents

Mark Webber - Vice President for Africa Region

Demelash Bekele - Deputy Vice President for Africa Region

Hashem Taqi - Vice President for Arab Region

Lobna Smida - Deputy Vice President for Arab Region

Yeja Lee - Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Joseph Kwan - Deputy Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Francois Perl - Vice President for Europe Region

Nick Carey - Deputy Vice President for Europe

Michael Brogioli - Vice President for North America

Mathieu Simard - Deputy Vice President for North America

Commission Chairs & Vice Chairs

Tone Mork - Education Commission (Chair)

Asha Hans - Education Commission (Vice Chair)

Yueqin Huang - Health & Function Commission (Chair)

Silke Bruggemann - Health & Function Commission (Vice Chair)

Hiroshi Kawamura - Technology & Accessibility Commission (Chair)

Mathieu Simard - Technology & Accessibility (Vice Chair)

Pauliina Lampinen - Policy & Services (Chair)

Roy O'Shaughnessy - Policy & Services (Vice Chair)

Gregor Kemper - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities (Chair)

Jan Johansen - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities Commission (Vice Chair)

Khaled El-Mohtar- Social Commission (Chair)

Joseph Kwok- Social Commission (Vice Chair)

Friedrich Mehrhoff - Work & Employment Commission (Chair)

Madan Kundu - Work & Employment Commission (Vice Chair)



RI World Congress 2021



RI WC 2021

The main RI event for 2021 was the 24th Rehabilitation International World Congress, that was held from 7-9 September 2021, in the Danish city of Aarhus.

For more information on each individual program session, including presenters, format, time, and date, you can visit our congress website:

<https://riworldcongress2021.com/program-virtual-congress>

The RI World Congress 2021 had also a physical edition, which took place in Aarhus Congress Center from 7-9 September 2021 attended by more than 2000 persons.

The program for the physical congress consisted of thematic working meetings and forums for debate, sharing of experiences and knowledge, Keynote presentations as well as exhibition, study visits, social and cultural activities, over all three days.

The sessions covered 11 tracks as well as the Keynote presentations with highly qualified speakers, presenters, and opponents.

We had speakers and presenters from 35 different countries, covering much of the globe.

Due to the pandemic, 45 planned study visits had to be cancelled.

On the following pages you will find an overview of the virtual program of the RI World Congress 2021 that was held in Aarhus, Denmark. The overview shows the various sessions that took place within each program track.



Work and Employment

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Return to Work. Vocational Education and Training. System vs. Individual. Accessibility in Private Enterprises. Inclusive Work Redesign. Measuring Effective Interventions. Individual Placement Support. Gender Perspectives.

Seminars

RI Guideline Concerning Accessibility in Private Enterprises

Transition Engagement of Youth with Disabilities

Work and Education

Vocational Rehabilitation - A Question of Gender?

Oral Presentations

Activation Policy

Evaluation and Effect of Return-to-Work Interventions

German Federal Employment Agency

Mental Disorders

Methods in Return-to-Work

Multidisciplinary Interventions

Poverty and Unemployment

Prediction and Evaluation

Research, Development and Quality

Spine and Back Pain



By Reuben
Escorpizo

KEYNOTE
Return to Work
Models, Processes, and Outcomes
in Vocational Rehabilitation



Health and Function

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Consequences and Late Effects of Disease including Covid-19. Sexual Health Rehabilitation. Biomedical Versus the Biopsychosocial Focus. The Impact of Medical Diagnosis in Rehabilitation. Consequences for Citizens with Disabilities in Everyday Life. Recommendations. Impact of Rehabilitation. Veterans and Rehabilitation.

Seminars

Acute Pulmonary Embolism

Sexual Health Rehabilitation 1

Sexual Health Rehabilitation 2

Sexual Health Rehabilitation 3

Master Class

Physical Activity as Sexual Health Rehabilitation Interventions

Oral Presentations

Cognitive Impairment

Dementia

Disaster, Refugees, Ex-prisoners

Nutrition

Stroke 1

Stroke 2

The China Mental Health Survey - Various Perspectives

Veterans and Victims



By Matilde Leonardi

KEYNOTE
Rehabilitation as a
Life-Long Health
Strategy



By Sheila Purves

KEYNOTE
Disability Inclusive
Measures from Two Cities
in Dealing with
COVID-19



Innovative and Assistive Technologies in Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Virtual Reality in Rehabilitation. Artificial Intelligence. Assessment of Impact. Telerehabilitation. Developing New Solutions through Involvement of Lead-users. Assistive Technologies and Everyday Life.

Seminars

AI and Digitalization to Promote Work Participation

Artificial Intelligence and Assistant Technologies

Future Patient - Telerehabilitation of Cardiac Patients

The International Society of Virtual Rehabilitation

Oral Presentations

Accessibility and Rehabilitation

Apps and Gamification

Assistive Technologies

Individuals and Assistive Technology

New Solutions

Seeing and Hearing

Technology and Case-management in Rehabilitation

Virtual Reality 1

Virtual Reality 2



By Anthony Lewis Brooks

KEYNOTE Virtual Reality Rehabilitation in Moving Societies



By Anne Holland

KEYNOTE Embedding Telerehabilitation in Clinical Practice: Implementation Opportunities and Challenges



Individual/ Family Perspectives and Processes

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Self-Management, Learning and Coping. Goal Setting. User Involvement and Co-production. Perceptions of Illness. Personal Narratives.

Seminars

Goal Setting and Rehabilitation

Perspectives of Goal Setting in Rehabilitation

Self Management, Stroke and Rehabilitation 1

Self Management, Stroke and Rehabilitation 2

The Concept of Learning and Coping in Rehabilitation

Oral Presentations

Co-production and Involvement of Relations in Rehabilitation

Holistic Assessment of Needs in Rehabilitation

Narratives and Writing to Hold on to Memories

Patient Perspectives and Needs - The Good Life after Rehabilitation

Children / Youth and (Re-)habilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Habilitation. Well-being. Inclusion. Living with congenital diseases and impairments. Parenting with reduced functional capacity. Education. Childhood.

Oral Presentations

Children: Needs and Education

Parents to Children with Rehabilitation Needs



Policy and Service

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Public Management and Governance Influence on Rehabilitation Praxis. Disability Management. Inclusiveness in Political Representation. Inclusion and Disability. Human Civil Rights. The Right to Health for Disabled Persons. Globalization. Accessibility. Poverty. Social Inequalities.

Seminars

Right to Health for Disabled Persons, Contributions, Governance Structure, Economic Incentives

Habilitation

Master Class

Self-Advocacy for People with ID

Oral Presentations

Definitions

Illuminating Gaps in Policies and Praxis

Policy and Service

Strategies



By Joachim Breuer

KEYNOTE
Rehabilitation:
The Forgotten Tool



By Francois Perl

KEYNOTE
Disability Management:
A Journey to Rehabilitation



By Christoph Gutenbrunner

KEYNOTE
The Global Rehabilitation Alliance (GRA) - A Civil Society Advocating Body



By Alarcos Cieza

KEYNOTE
Rehabilitation, the Health Strategy of the 21st Century, Really?



Approaches, Concepts and Theories in Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Defining Rehabilitation. Acceptance and Value-based Interventions. Rehabilitation and Sociology. ICF as a reference. The biopsychosocial model. Understanding disabilities.

Seminars

Acceptance and Value-based Interventions

New Directions
-a Sociological Perspective

Oral Presentations

Concepts of Rehabilitation

Education and Professionalization in Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Curricular Constructions of Rehabilitation. Empowerment. Validation and Recognition. Personal Development. Interprofessional Learning Methods. Perceived Barriers among Leaders.



By Gerold Stucki

KEYNOTE
The Learning Rehabilitation System



By Per Koren Solvang

KEYNOTE
The Curricular Construction of Rehabilitation

Oral Presentations

Education in Praxis

Empowering Rehabilitation Health Workers

Formalized Education



Research in Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Methods. Principles. Theories. Tools. Research Agendas. End User Involvement. Best Practice. Research in Complex Interventions. Pain Management.



By Sarah Dean

KEYNOTE
Improving Rehabilitation:
Theories, Frameworks,
Models or Techniques?

Oral Presentations

Autism

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Heart Rehabilitation

Low Back Pain

Needs for Rehabilitation

Pain Management

Tools

Data and Monitoring in Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Big Data, Activity Monitoring, Improving Data Quality, Economic Evaluation.



Rod Taylor

KEYNOTE
Opportunities and Challenges for Home-based Rehabilitation during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Seminar

Activity Monitoring

Oral Presentations

Heart

Monitoring and Evaluation



Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Benefits of Sports. Para Sport. Use of Wheelchairs or Other Mobility Devices. Leisure Activities to Promote Participation and Inclusion. Inclusion and Accessibility

Seminars

Physical Education,
Sports and Inclusion

Sport and Physical Activity

Oral Presentations

Benefits of Sports Activities for
Persons with Disabilities

Inclusion and Accessibility in
Sports and Physical Activity

Participation in Physical Activities

Outdoor Rehabilitation

Includes presentations covering topics such as: Nature-based Rehabilitation. Accessible Design. Urban Nature. Empowerment. Effects and Benefits of Outdoor Activities.

Master Class

Empowerment Oriented
Rehabilitation in Urban Nature

Oral Presentations

Benefits of Outdoor Activities

Nature and Outdoor Activities
Related to Specific Target Groups

Outdoor Activities with a Purpose

Film

Mov(i)ement Film Festival



RI GLOBAL COMMISSIONS



Within the structure of RI Global there exist seven Commissions of specialists and experts on issues in disability, which assist in developing and expanding programming and activities in accordance with RI Global's strategic goals. These Commissions meet throughout the year to examine the most pressing topics for people with disabilities around the world and devise an agenda of action.

RI Global's **Commission on Work and Employment** promotes the rights of people with disabilities to participate in labor, trade unions and other integrated settings, thereby empowering them to be productive members of society. The Commission carries out its mission by, among other objectives, actively:

- Implementing Article 27 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with public and private entities, NGOs and trade unions.
- Developing an online Resource Network of Experts to advise on issues of disability employment.
- Conducting scientific meetings in collaboration with Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network (GLADNET), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations.
- Removing all employment barriers by providing education and training, as well as fostering employment for PwDs in developing countries.
- Providing technical assistance in developing academic and professional opportunities for rehabilitation and placement personnel in local colleges and universities.
- Offering technical assistance to member nations in collaborative research projects designed to identify evidence-based practices capable of enhancing employment outcomes and quality of life for PwDs.
- Sponsoring the International Abilympics, a competition in which disabled people compete in a wide spectrum of work skill activities, which lend support to policies advocating for employment.



RI Global's **Commission on Education** advises on the creation and promotion of educational opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. The Commission also facilitates the provision of integrated services and inclusive quality education for the participation of disabled people. The work broadly comprises:

- Fostering the implementation of the UN CRPD with a with special focus on Article 24: Education.
- Advocating the provision of facilities and services for inclusive education in different regions by Regional Chairpersons of Education Commission.
- Sharing the successful experiences of other countries in inclusive education with a view to replicate the same in respective countries/regions with appropriate modifications.
- Conducting scientific meetings on education related issues at Regional RI Global Assemblies.
- Initiating and following up on distance and e-learning facilities for youth with disabilities.

RI Global' s Commission on **Health and Function** promotes the well-being of persons with disabilities, supports the prevention of disability and strengthens gender sensitive rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The Commission, through its regular work and meetings around the world, has a mission to:

- Work closely on health issues with the WHO/UNICEF/UN agencies and international or national organizations.
- Provide technical support in health/rehab/assistive technology programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Enable training programmes for medical and paramedical professionals for the welfare of persons with disabilities.
- Encourage Community-based Rehabilitation principles through a primary health care approach.
- Hold technical meetings and general conferences on health-related issues in disability.
- Advocate principles of barrier free/right-based inclusive societies for persons with disabilities.
- Promote global disability leadership.



RI Global' s International **Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA)** broadly focuses on the promotion of accessibly built and virtual environments, including assistive technology, as well as maintains a forum facilitating the exchange of ideas and good practices, notably in the areas of housing, public transportation, communications, technical aids and universal design.

ICTA also works to sensitize decision makers in the public and private sectors regarding the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities and offer possible solutions through technologies.

Members of the various ICTA sub-commissions constitute a voluntary network of experts in the area of technology and accessibility, notably specialists in the integration and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, developers of technological aides, human resources specialists, experts in the design of accessible environments and representatives of civil society.

RI Global' s Commission on Leisure, Recreation & Physical Activities (LRPA) promotes the right for an interactive lifestyle for people with disabilities in educational, physical, social and cultural activities. The primary aim of the commission is to develop and promote best rehabilitation practice and knowledge for all stakeholders to achieve accessibility for all people in the field of physical, social, and cultural activities. Generally, the Commission promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities with a special emphasis on Article 30 by:

- Developing and disseminating best practice in the LRPA for persons living with disabilities and elderly people.
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues.
- Encouraging the participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.
- Promoting an active lifestyle. The field of LRPA can provide an important contribution to health, participation, and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.
- Developing cooperative relationships with international organizations.



RI Global's **Commission on Policy and Service** identifies new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions and analyses the ways in which these developments align with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

The mission of the Policy and Service Commission is to identify and describe emerging development of new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions, including but not limited to those that indicate best practices in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Policy and Service compares rehabilitation program development between different countries and closely follows that development at the UN level.

RI Global's **Social Commission** advances knowledge- and evidence-based practice to support the psychosocial functioning of people with disabilities in order to achieve maximum richness in their participation in society as citizens. It also engages in the capacity building of groups and communities in various situations to promote and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities (CRPD), as well as disability inclusiveness throughout all sectors of society. The Social Commission upholds the principles set forth by CRPD, and emphasizes that:

- Society should be designed to enable full participation by all citizens, if not it is the failure of society not people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities should be enabled to determine the goals of their rehabilitation and to exercise the same choice as others about their human relationships, the community and the environment in which they wish to live.



RI GLOBAL REGIONS



RI MENA 2021 Highlights

As COVID-19 has had a global influence for more than a year and a half now, it is important to note how individuals with disabilities are unlikely to be impacted by the pandemic, including health, education, job, social, and economic aspects. While the whole world was on a halt because of covid-19, we were expecting that people with disabilities became a priority in the world especially on the health level. However, concerning the MENA region this was not the actual case, people with disability are still facing tons of barriers regarding several facets. Let's take Lebanon for example, since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination people with disabilities came at the bottom of the chain, many efforts were done to help in prioritizing the vaccination. On the other hand, people with disabilities face many obstacles concerning online education which is not suitable to the needs of children. Regarding the employment, as there are currently no legislation or employment rules in many nations to encourage inclusive employment and when legislation exists, there is a lack of execution.

In addition to a lack of a comprehensive inclusive employment policy with an enforcement mechanism and clear roles and responsibilities, there is a lack of awareness (on the part of employers and society) of issues such as pre-conceptions, discrimination, stereotypes, pity, bullying, and exploitation, as well as a lack of suitable work environments and insufficient data on inclusive employment. Employer regulations and job-related information are also poorly communicated to people with intellectual impairments. In addition, clients' tolerance and understanding when dealing with People with disabilities are lacking.

While employment has always been an issue for people with disabilities in the MENA region, COVID-19 pandemic did not help people with disabilities to keep their job in most of the time. There have been several organizations in different Mena Countries that are trying to help with the issue, in Egypt, KSA, Jordan, Lebanon and UAE. For example, creating awareness initiatives for society and employers, as well as media and political efforts. Furthermore, strong contacts with future employers must be established and potential employers consulted on accessibility and work environment modification. Moreover, Empowerment and training of persons with disabilities. And the provision of services and programs for job-seeker preparation, job opportunities and open job market follow-up.

Excluding people with disabilities from social and economic activities has a detrimental impact not just on the people involved, but also on their families and communities. Integration and adaptation of persons with disabilities into the labor market are essential strategies to decrease both public expenditures and family costs, as well as to secure handicapped people's involvement in productive employment. Developing policies and strategies to integrate people with disabilities into all elements of social and economic life, such as education, rehabilitation services, and work, would benefit not just the person, but society.



RI Asia & Pacific 2021 Highlights

CSO Capacity Building Project

Theme: The Implementation of Disability Inclusive SDGs as a Level of AP Region
Disability-inclusive Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

4 CSOs from Nepal, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Pakistan are participating in this project to ensure the rights of the disabled in the Asia-Pacific region and to fully participate in society. The project runs from June to December, and the final joint meeting will be held in early December.

Chairs meeting of all committees of KRI- July 23, 2021

There were 10 items to suggest to each party for coming new government but specially weighted on old generation with disabilities because the number of this generation is increasing since our life span is extended longer very fast.

The ratio of this group more than 40 % of total population with disabilities in
Global It Challenge

- National league: March 2021, 165 youths with disabilities in 4 countries / on-site
- Preliminary Round: June 17~18, 484 youths with disabilities from 13 countries / online
- Final Round: in October 20~21, 352 youths with disabilities from 13 countries / online
- Outcome:

With the goal of 2024, the GITC International Organization Preparation Committee was formed (Chairman: former UN Ambassador Oh Joon), it laid the foundation for standardization of operation methods and securing fairness of competitions such as upgrading regulations and establishing an automatic scoring system.

The possibility of online competitions was confirmed that youths with disabilities can participate in GITC anytime and anywhere by establishing the one-stop online platform including e-Learning system.

It is laying the foundation for developing it into a world-certified IT competition in the scale of the Special Olympics through forming the GITC Committee centered on RI members.

The 50th Conference of RI Korea- Oct 29, 2021

RI Korea have been organizing Conference with specific topics each year, we celebrated 50 anniversary and the topic of this year was “Paradigm Shift: COVID-19 and Disability Rights” and “Policies of New Government



RI Europe 2021 Highlights

The national secretaries of RI Europe met twice (by video conference) during the year 2021. During these meetings, the national secretaries had the opportunity to discuss the evolution of RI global. A statement was issued following the meeting of 11 June 2021 in which the national secretaries expressed their concern about the consequences of COVID on the activities of RI global. This concern is still valid today. Depending on health developments in Europe, the national secretaries of RI Europe will meet in a "physical" meeting in the first half of 2022.

The main activity of RI Europe this year was the RI world congress in Aarhus from 7 to 9 September. The National Secretaries of RI Europe would like to underline the fantastic work of RI Denmark once again and the work of Jan Johanssen, whom they would like to thank for the great success of this congress, which greatly advanced the cause of people with disabilities.

The RI Belgium project Practical toolbox for prediction of return to work and labour market inclusion of people with disabilities is in its final phase. The manual will soon be available in book form and the website (accessible to people with disabilities) will be available before the end of the year.

Other projects: MOU RI Global/ISSA

Some of the members of RI Europe are active in the ISSA rehabilitation SWG (which is chaired by François Perl, also Vice President for RI Europe). A series of very interesting seminars have been organized in this framework.

Meeting with the President and Secretary General of ISSA and the VP Europe of Rehabilitation International. The aim of the meeting was to exchange views on the collaboration between the RI World Congress, the International Forum on Disability Management and the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.



RI North America and Canada 2021 Highlights

RI member USICD (U.S. International Council on Disability) applauds the recent appointment by U.S. President Joe Biden of Sara Minkara as U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights at the Department of State.

USICD held a Power of International Development and Inclusion panel co-hosted with Trick Up and Sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase on July 8.

USICD also co-hosted a two-day webinar on September 7 and 8 on A Call to Action to Protect the Right to Family: International Challenges and Solutions for Children in Orphanages and Residential Care Worldwide.

USICD will mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities during its Annual Awards Gala on December 2 (virtual format) when it honors U.S. Senator Robert Menendez as well as H.E. Mrs. Catalina Devandes and Dr. Victor Pineda.

USICD and other disability advocacy organizations in the United States continue to advocate for passage of President Biden's "Build Back Better" legislative package that includes \$250 billion in annual funding to support home and community-based services for people with disabilities.

Canada

Joint work with the Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) body to implement new norms on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Canadian level for physiotherapy programs across Canada.

In-process: technical, staffing and content support for the Canadian shadow report the CRPD under the leadership of BCANDS <http://www.bcands.bc.ca> (submission: Jan 2022). Coverage including the article 11 on situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies, art. 32 on international cooperation.

Ongoing research and advocacy work on disability-inclusive practices and inclusive climate-change adaptation and disaster risk management



RI Global Projects 2021

“Training of Experts in the Field of Creation of Barrier-free Environment” funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

Background

In 2011 the state program “Accessible Environment” was launched to resolve the problem of inaccessible buildings and services in Russia. However, at the very beginning of the program the issue of lack of specialists in the field of creation of accessible environment was raised by many implementors of the program. As a result, the All-Russian Society of Disabled People decided to provide support to the state program by launching the project “World Accessible for Everyone”. The project provides educational trainings, during which the participants receive all the necessary information on the legal regulations in relation to barrier-free environment in accordance with the Russian legislation as well as how to perform the examination of accessibility of facilities, buildings, and services.



The participants of the training perform accessibility examination of the shopping center

Upon completion of the educational training the participants receive an opportunity to be certified as “Experts in the Field of Barrier-free Environment” and to be employed by one of the Experts Centers all over Russia. The Expert Centers perform the examination of buildings, facilities and services and issue certificates of accessibility, helping private and state institutions to create accessible environment at the same time providing employment opportunity for persons with disabilities.



Project Implementation During Grant Period from April 2020 to June 2021 the project was funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund. During this period 2133 online and 182 in person participants took part in the project activities, 97 participants successfully passed examination, correctly submitted practical assignment, and joined the pull of 567 Experts operating in 72 regions of Russia and in 41 Expert Centers.

It is important to mention that despite the restriction imposed due to the spread of the COVID-19 the outcomes of the project exceeded considerably the expectations at the time of the application.

In comparison, it was expected that the project would consist of:

- 4 in-person trainings (120 participants)
- 1 motivational training (20 participants)
- 1 conference (20-25 participants).
- However, the outcomes were the following:
- 15 webinars (1614 participants)
- 3 online trainings (469 participants)
- 3 in-person trainings (76 participants)
- 1 motivational training (12 participants)
- 1 conference (25 participants)
- 2 in-person trainings for the Russian Railways employees (69 participants, financing by Russian Railways)
- 1 online training for the members of the All-Russian organization of parents of disabled children (50 participants, financing by AROPDC)

Вебинар
Комплексный подход к созданию доступной среды в региональном муниципалитете на примере проведения масштабных спортивных мероприятий. Взаимодействие с органами власти, контрольными и надзорными органами

ОСНОВНЫЕ ТРЕБОВАНИЯ К ПРОХОЖДЕНИЮ СЕМИНАРА ПО ВРЕМЕНИ

- Прохождение промежуточных тестирований после каждой лекции (+1 неделя)
- Сдача отчета о самостоятельном обследовании ОСИ (Приложения 1-6 к Акту, проект Паспорта доступности ОСИ) (+2-3 недели)
- Прохождение итогового тестирования по окончании обучения (+1 неделя)
- Предоставление в Орган по сертификации (АНО ЦИПИ) комплекта документов (до 12 месяцев)

Сертификат об участии в семинаре

Сертификат эксперта СДС ВОИ «МИР, ДОСТУПНЫЙ ДЛЯ ВСЕХ»

Бухаров Евгений Александрович

MacBook Pro

The 3 in-person trainings were conducted in Moscow under strict safety measures (all the participants were tested for the coronavirus before the training COVID safety kits (which included masks, sanitizers, gloves etc.) and UV lamp were purchased and actively used during the trainings.

Despite all the challenges caused by the pandemic the project has been successfully developing on the national level, the number of Expert Centers grew from 2 Centers in 2015 to 41 Centers in 2021 nowadays covering almost completely the most populated regions of Russia.



The online platform was tested and proved to be successful, the agenda of the in-person training was adopted for the online implementation, it requires some minor adjustments in the future, but the assessment showed that the audience was highly satisfied with the online education method.

Moreover, the project started to provide training of staff on accessibility and provision of services for people with disabilities for employers and elaborating corporate standards and documentation on accessibility and disability inclusion. Among the trainees of the project were the biggest service providers in Russia, such as airports, museums, banks, and different state agencies. In 2020-2021 the staff of Russian Railways underwent training and set of standards on accessibility is being elaborated specifically for the Russian Railways employees and customers.

The project also involves cooperation with non-commercial sector, in 2021 the project conducted the online training for members of the All-Russian organization of parents of disabled children.

In addition, the project started providing conferences and workshops on different disability topics. The project started attracting interest of the organizations from the neighboring countries. In 2020 and 2021 2 participants from Kazakhstan sent their application for participation in the in-person training. Due to the travelling restrictions, they were not able to participate. However, they are expected to be trained, when the situation allows, which means that the project could be broadened to more countries, starting with the post-Soviet region, since these countries have similar issues with accessibility.



The Russian Railways employee during practical assignment of the training

Furthermore, the association agreement with the International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) was signed to take the role of the IAAP Representative in Russia as well as to become approved Global Certification Preparation Training Provider. The IAAP is a Division of the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict). G3ict is an advocacy initiative launched by the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under UN DESA. Joining IAAP can spur the development of the project and bring the discussion of the accessibility issues on the next level, since it will enhance the level of qualification of the trainees, will allow to adopt best international practices and will raise more awareness about accessibility in Russia.



“Women's Voices Project”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

Women's Voices became a reference project by giving women a voice and establishing innovative formative practices and paths, enabling dialogue between women with different histories, from different locations and different types of disabilities.

The challenge of the project, in its second year, was the consolidation of partnerships already established, the conquest of more partnerships and, thus, the expansion of its activities to the peripheral neighborhoods of the city of São Paulo, significantly combining its activities with women with disabilities, women caregivers, poverty and social exclusion.



What the project's team couldn't predict was the coronavirus pandemic, declared in March 2020, in Brazil. Women's Voices were fully adapted to virtual meetings and overcame barriers of technological exclusion by acquiring equipment to women with disabilities and caregivers of Brasilândia, the territory (a big favela – slum) chosen due to the connections with the public rehabilitation center. In this context, we initially trained 7 women with disabilities and caregivers of disabled family members to act as



mobilization and social inclusion agents (AIMS) in their communities, coordinating rounds of conversation with other women on issues related to the rights of women and people with disabilities.

Even with a smaller attendance, the mutual support of these women was noticeable. They conducted weekly virtual rounds of conversation among approximately 70 other women with disability and caregivers of Brasilândia and Freguesia do Ó, with themes suggested by the participants themselves, such as female empowerment, self-esteem and violence against women. In these rounds of conversation, we found another 8 women with disabilities and caregivers to join the AIMS team.

The 15 Agents of Inclusion and social mobilization (AIMS) formed in 2020, plus the 4 women in the operational team, decided in 2021 to develop a mapping survey with the objective to find more people with disability, the idea appeared as a need to contribute to provide quality accessible services, as the limited availability of accessibility keeps people with disabilities away from social interaction spaces such as work, entertainment, education, and health.

This mapping finished with an online event to present the results, but it also leaves an opportunity to grow and expand the project in other peripheries both in the city of São Paulo and in the states of Brazil where BRASA have partnerships.

In a virtual experience the team has learned that virtual activities can be considered easier to carry out and, because of this, the team could perform a higher number of expected meetings, publications on the project online platforms and webinars (previously unplanned). This numerical decrease in women participants, however, was accompanied by an increase in activities and made the team realize greater and better results in improving the quality of life of each woman participating in Women's Voices.



RI GDDF & AF Sharing Sessions - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

Three sessions of RI GDDF & AF Sharing held on 23, 25-Aug and 15-Sept by the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities via Zoom. There are 21 projects from around the globe funded by the Rehabilitation International (RI) presenting throughout the 3 sessions to share their experience in executing in 6 different themes.



All sessions generate discussions and brainstorming with 60 participants in total around the world, such as Cambodia, Norway, Uganda, sharing the experience and use of funding, for example building accessible places and building hostels for SEN etc.

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“Contribute to the protection of students with disabilities in Lebanon from COVID-19 through Mask provision” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic started its rapid spread in Lebanon in 2020 and became top challenging for the government to control and relieve the increasing stress on the health system. Several lockdowns were announced trying to stop it or slow down its spreading in order to keep things under control. Lebanon already has enough economic, social, and political issues that were already stressing the citizens and were the spark to the revolution which was launched in October 2019 due to the deteriorating situation hoping for a change.



The pandemic had clearly affected people with disabilities (PWD) as the most vulnerable part of the community due to the nature of their disabilities, access to information, and other social factors. The families, in general, can't afford to pay for the hygiene products needed for all the family members, this will push families unfortunately to prioritize their children and leave the PWD behind.

Education is one of the areas that was directly impacted by the pandemic where all the students couldn't attend schools or rehabilitation centers and all the learning was done remotely.

Once the government opens schools to start hybrid learning or a full week of learning the PWD will start going back to the schools, centers, or NGOs to resume their education and rehabilitation process. Here comes the importance of providing masks to the beneficiaries in order to protect them from the virus. As the government has limited resources to distribute masks to all students and the discriminatory practice, students with disabilities will potentially be left behind in accessing the masks. This project is designed to ensure students with disabilities in the country get the facemasks to protect themselves from COVID-19 as they return to the centers that look after them.

This project has two main objectives:

- Raise awareness on the use of COVID-19 protection mechanisms
- Distribute facemasks to students with disabilities and protect them from the spread of COVID-19 virus.





Implementation:

The National Rehabilitation and Development Center (NRDC) contracted an expert local supplier to purchase facemasks and distribute them to students with disabilities all over the country. This supplier is already our partner in vocational training where the beneficiaries are integrated at its workshop to produce medical face masks and customized PPEs for local healthcare units. All the workers had already a capacity-building session to know how to cooperate and work together with PWD.

The beneficiaries were working at the workshop with the workers and were part of all the production lines in order to produce 24,000 washable and reusable facemasks, FDA approved (three-layer, first layer polyester, second layer polypropylene, inner layer 100% pure cotton breathable, comfortable, premium protective mask with RI logo printed on).

By the end of the project 24,000 masks were distributed to NGOs and Centers. We contacted the NGOs and the centers to get the exact location, assigned the day and time to deliver the masks, arranged transportation, and staff available to raise awareness and disseminate the message to all the staff



“Practical toolbox for prediction of return to work and labour market inclusion of people with disabilities” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The objective of the project is to create an evaluation toolbox that is easy to access and usable by the greatest number of people. The purpose of this toolbox is to identify and fight the individual barriers that prevent the disabled person from accessing the employment guaranteed by Article 27 of the Convention. The toolbox is not designed to replace existing scales of evaluation but rather to draw inspiration from it to facilitate preliminary work that is often necessary to build individual insertion on the labor market. The toolbox will be based on a “tailor made” approach and an individual case management system.

The international evidence shows a great distance between public organizations, social security institutions, international and local experts and the ground realities that are the daily lives of people with disabilities. This practical toolbox would solve many situations and improve the fluidity of access to the labor market for people with disabilities.

The return to work of people with disabilities and chronic illnesses is very often a difficult journey. That is why RI Belgium is publishing this practical guide for people with disabilities and professionals in the sector.

The first part of this guide is a reminder of the major Belgian and international issues surrounding the return to work of people with disabilities or those suffering from long-term disabling chronic diseases.

The second part focused the attention on assessments deemed useful in the return-to-work program. We also excluded assessments not available in English.

The screenshot shows the website for the 'Practical Toolbox'. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, TOOLBOX, TOOL SHEETS, THE BOOK, and REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL. The main content area features a large heading 'PRACTICAL TOOLBOX' and a sub-heading 'PREDICTION OF RETURN TO WORK AND LABOURMARKET INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES'. Below this, there is a placeholder text 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet...' and two buttons: 'read more' and 'Download the book'. To the right, there is an image of a person with a prosthetic leg working in a workshop. Below the main heading, there is a section titled 'WHAT IS MY SITUATION TODAY? WILL I BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO WORK?' with another placeholder text and a large blue 'START' button. Further down, there is a 'TOOL SHEETS' section with a row of six boxes representing different assessment tools: 2 THE WORK REHABILITATION QUESTIONNAIRE (WORQ), 3 WHO DISABILITY ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE A (WHODAS 2.0), 5 ASSESSMENT OF WORK PERFORMANCE, 6 ORTESES, 1 ICF, and 4 WORK-DISABILITY FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT BATTERYDUNT. Below these boxes is a downward arrow and the text 'OTHER TOOL SHEETS'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the RI logo, a 'Download the book' button, a 'CONTACT' button, and a copyright notice.

PRACTICAL TOOLBOX

The third part is RI Belgium's own questionnaire. It is a self-assessment questionnaire for people with disabilities or chronic illnesses to assist them in their return to work. It is not binding. Its sole objective is to situate them in relation to the resumption of a professional career. It can also serve as a basis for support by a return-to-work professional. The latter should, however, use scientifically validated tools in order to continue the process if the self-assessment questionnaire leads to the conclusion that a return to work is possible. RI Belgium recommends that return to work should always be voluntary and adapted to the individual medical and social situation of each person. In this area as in others, only approaches adapted to the situation can yield convincing results.

This is a user-friendly guide. That's why we use straightforward language, understandable for most people, included people with disabilities. For the sake of simplicity, it is chosen only to present a resume of assessments, highlight the key points, and not compile a thorough report of their psychometric properties.

The only use of an assessment does not allow to understand health condition of the exact problem of the person with disability. We recommend

putting the assessment into perspective with the ICF model. In this way, you can verify if all dimensions are to draw up a return-to-work plan. Medical and/or paramedical and/or social advice must be considered to draw conclusions about health conditions and work possibilities. Try to understand the interaction between health components. Cross reference objective data with subjective information. Don't forget to consider the wish / perspective of people with disabilities. Each person is unique and works in a specific environment. The same diagnosis doesn't mean the same functioning for two individuals. Consider the person with a disability as the most important expert of his disability and engage him in the procedure as far as practicable. A mixture of assessments can be useful in highlighting all barriers or facilities. Don't forget that people assessment isn't a waste of time but in fact really adds value in establishing a sustainable solution. Finally, we tried to include the reference by obtaining the questionnaire or contacting the authors. Most of them are in open access but others require a paid license to use them

PREDICTION OF RETURN TO WORK AND LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



“Contribute to the protection of students with disabilities in Ethiopia from COVID-19 through Mask provision”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Africa Fund

In January 2021, Vision Community Based Rehabilitation Association purchased 30000 washable and reusable face masks from local mask production. The masks purchased have premium protection quality with three-layer, first layer Polyester, second layer Polypropylene, inner layer 100% pure cotton that is breathable and comfortable. The masks are Food and Drug Administration approved. Among the 30000 masks, 10 thousand masks were inclusive masks. All the masks have the RI and VCBRA log printed on it.



VCBRA distributed 30000 masks for nearly 14 500 students in five regions of the country. Addis Ababa, Oromia, Amhara, Southern Nations, and Nationalities, and Sidama regions are among the regions that the masks were distributed for students with disabilities. Schools that have more students with disabilities in 22 cities reached the provision of masks. More than 34 schools in 22 cities were covered with the mask provision project.

The masks were distributed directly by going to the schools where quite a high number of students with disabilities were found. Some of the schools are special schools for the deaf and special schools for the blind. We received information about the number of students with disabilities from regional education offices. During the distribution, we found most students with disabilities were not using masks following the shortage of masks and not affordable for poor students with disabilities.





With regards to inclusive masks, no one knows about it, and everyone was surprised to receive the inclusive mask. Sign language teachers and deaf students found the inclusive mask quite important. We delivered the mask through CBR programs operating in various regions for students with disabilities who are not yet returned to school. Six VCBRA CBR team members were fully dedicated to the distribution of the masks.

During mask provision, VCBRA staff also conducted awareness-raising activities about COVID -19 prevention and ways to adhere to health measures to stop the pandemic's spread. Proper use of mask, handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, and maintaining social distancing was among the topics communicated.



“Mask for Prevention project - implemented by Child Welfare Scheme Nepal” – funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The aim of the “Mask for Prevention” project is to produce and distribute masks, personal protective equipment’s (PPEs) and health items i.e., sanitizers, gloves, hand wash soaps, face shields, provide home based medicine services, supply emergency relief packages and counselling services to the students, teachers, health workers, children with disabilities, families of persons with disabilities, members of child clubs, self-help groups, mother groups, and COVID-19 infected and affected persons living in Pokhara Metropolitan City, Nepal to protect and prevent from COVID-19. This is a 6-month project started from July and ends at the end of December 2021.



During this project period, the following major activities were executed:

Production and distribution of masks: - CWSN made an agreement with a local manufacture to produce the quality and convenient Masks with the logos of RI and CWSN. A-total 4,30,500 (four hundred thirty thousand ad five hundred) masks were produced. CWSN started to distribution of masks from 24th November and completed on 15 December 2021. In total, 33,767 individuals were benefitted from the project. The total beneficiaries included 27,298 students and 1452 teachers from 35 schools (30 community and 5 disabled schools), 119 health workers from 22 urban health Centers, 375 individuals from 75 families of persons with disabilities, 2376 members from 96 child clubs, 1900 members from 196 mother groups, 196 members from 16 self-help groups, 41 persons with disabilities and 20 government staff from Education Department of Pokhara Metropolitan City.



Distribution of PPEs and health materials: CWSN distributed PPEs and other health related materials i.e., sanitizers, gloves, hand wash soaps, face shields for 119 health workers from 22 Urban Health Centers of Pokhara Metropolitan City.

Sanitizer distribution: During the project period 416.8 liters sanitizer distributed including 275 liters for 35 schools, 110 liters for 22 UHCs, 22.8 liters for self-help groups, 9 liters for families of persons with disabilities.

Home based medicine services: during this reporting period, 41 persons with disabilities including children with disabilities have received home based medicine services. 10 out of 41, have also received dressing services, and a 9-year-old girl with Cerebral Palsy (CP) rescued and taken to the hospital for further treatment. This activity has been carrying out from July to December 2021.

Emergency relief/food packages distribution: CWSN distributed emergency relief packages for the 375 individuals from 75 families of persons with disabilities. These packages were included rice, lentils, oil, spices, soyabean chunks, dry beans, salt, soaps, washing powder, pad and diaper. This distribution program carried out during the lock down from the 20th to 26th August 2021.

Counselling service: CWSN mobilized its two Psychosocial Counselors to provide counselling services for the persons with disabilities, mother groups, child clubs members, and self-help group's members on COVID-19 impact during and post covid period. CWSN started counselling services form July and till the reporting period, a total 548 individuals were benefited from this service.

Mask Distribution to Children with Disabilities implemented by Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, India - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

COVID 19 brought in new rehabilitation needs for persons with disabilities. For many, this has meant an increased demand for rehabilitation worldwide. We found that many required (I) Special Rehabilitation services to meet needs of lungs affected by the virus, back and leg pain, high fatigue requires therapy and (II) Counselling as COVID 19 has resulted in increased stress and psycho – social disabilities. (III) As COVID 19 continues the prevention strategies for future was necessary.



Women with disability are found particularly vulnerable owing to their already restricted access to physiotherapy need being suspended further. SMRC provided a Mobile Health Unit with well-equipped rehabilitation need to provide physiotherapy services at the doorstep. The team consisting of a physiotherapist, a health assistant, a counsellor, and the driver of the vehicle.

The team also educated women about infection preventions and control measures and the requirement of physical distancing during pandemic



Women with disabilities were encouraged to make masks to be distributed in the project area and provide them with some earning.

India's second wave has seen an increasing number of children being affected by the corona virus. The virus is moving into India's rural hinterland where 71% of population stays without any health services. It is being predicted that the third wave of the virus which will follow at the end of the second by June – July will affect mostly children. This means India's children are at high risk and children with disabilities at a higher risk. RI's efforts through SMRC to create awareness on children using masks and providing masks to them through DPOs and local Government Officials from the Departments of disability helped in creating change.

SMRC used the Women with Disabilities from its project area to make 22500 facemasks made of cotton and with RI logo. 2500 inclusive (transparent) masks have been given to deaf children. A communication package was made and distributed with the masks to explain to parents on methods of using Masks and why it is necessary to use them. Mobile Health Unit to Address Rehab Need of Women with Disability during Pandemic

“Public private partnership on vocational training and education for youth with disabilities in Hanoi, Vietnam”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

In Vietnam, services of transition from VET to work for PWD are limited due to lack of collaboration between VET providers and employers. Currently, PWD mainly manage by them or get support from their relationships and DPOs to find suitable jobs after training.

This project aims at piloting an initiative of public private partnership (PPP) in providing vocational and education training (VET) and employment to youth with disabilities (YWD) in Hanoi to contribute to increase employment outcomes for youth with disabilities in districts in Hanoi, Vietnam

The main objective of the project is to pilot a model of improving access to formal VET and labor market for YWD through public private partnership between the government, vocational centers, disability employment services (DES), enterprises, and DPOs.



Main activities

- Develop and implement a joint action plan on VET and employment for YWD through PPP between National Department of VET, Hanoi Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (DOLISA), vocational training centers, DES, enterprises, and organizations of people with disabilities (DPOs).
- Provide PWD the reasonable accesses and realistic orientation, skills according to their individual abilities.

Impact of the project:

Opportunities in accessing VET and employment for YWD was increased through a new and effective model of VET and employment for YWD in order to help them gain benefits of VET and employment such as rehabilitation, improved self-esteem, income and social inclusion.



New skills and experiences that participants learn during the project are expected to bring positive changes in the disability and general community. Materials and handbooks are also useful tools for project holder to continue providing vocational training programs for YWD. Advocacy activities of this project are expected to bring positive impact to the whole community as new policies and policy modifications are essential tools to change the lives of people with disabilities in the long run.

In addition, this project is expected to contribute to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of people with disabilities (UNCRPD) through practicing rights to work for YWD in Vietnam.



One of the highlights of the project is the interest of stakeholders (such as Hanoi Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs, a number of businesses, vocational schools, organizations of people with disabilities, youth with disabilities wishing to study and find a job, families of PWDs the media, etc.)



Improving DPO Stakeholders' Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32 - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The United States International Council on Disabilities' (USICD) *Improving DPO Stakeholder's Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32* project provides accessible, high quality online training to advance implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD and covers specific models of disability inclusive development in multiple sectors. The overall goal of the project was to ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can actively participate and benefit from donor supported international development and humanitarian aid projects.

A graphic for a training slide with an orange background. On the left, the text 'Disability Inclusive Development' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with 'Monitoring Disability Inclusive Development and other CRPD Obligations' in a smaller white font below it. To the right is a white square containing a black and white illustration of a magnifying glass over a document with a blue highlighted section. At the bottom right of the slide is a small video inset showing a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored top, smiling. A small speaker icon is located in the bottom right corner of the slide area.

The project began in March 2020 and concluded in December 2021. The targeted audience for the training is government personnel, disabled peoples' organizations, civil society organizations and CRPD reporting or shadow report training personnel. With the COVID-19 pandemic and global travel restrictions being implemented, the decision was made that the intended project pilot would shift from a face-to-face pilot to an online pilot.



USICD produced 16 training lessons on Article 32 (<https://usidc.org/education-training/>) The topics covered in the course are:

- Article 32 and its Obligation to Advance Disability Inclusive Development Through the CRPD
- Monitoring Disability Development and Other CRPD Obligations
- Identification for Development and Persons with Disabilities
- Article 32 and the Right to an Education (Article 24)
- Inclusive Vocational Education and Training (VET) Practices
- Greater Disability Inclusion in ICT: Assessing Article 32 Implementation
- Article 32 & Article 27 Work & Employment
- Right to Health for Persons with Disabilities
- HIV and AIDS in Disability Inclusive Development
- Inclusive Health: Disability Inclusion in COVID19 Response in the Dimension of International Development
- Disability Inclusive WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as an Element of Article 32

Implementation

- CRPD Article 11 & Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action
- CRPD & Climate Change Impact on People with Disabilities
- Election Access and International Cooperation Programs
- Access to Justice & the CRPD
- Women and Girls with Disabilities
- CRPD Article 30 Participation in Sport & Recreation & Article 32

Each lesson in the course includes closed captions and audio. Additional materials are included in the materials section in each lesson. The PowerPoint version of each lesson is available for downloading so that they can be customized for participant's training purposes. There are plans to translate the first three lessons of the course into 3-4 languages.

At the course level, participants can download a Facilitator's Guide, Reporting Guidance for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs): Tips for Reporting on Disability Inclusive Development and Implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD, and Reporting Guidance for States Parties: Tips for Reporting on Disability Inclusive Development and Implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD.

Quote: "For someone who is not well versed in the CRPD, the modules offered an interactive way to quickly learn about how the CRPD protects a person with disabilities in a variety of aspects, and the way in which the modules were categorized was great!"

Masks for persons with disabilities in South Africa, and staff of NCPD (2022)- funded by the Rehabilitation International Africa Fund

Background

South Africa is currently under a National State of Disaster since the beginning of the first lock down of March 2019, currently on adjusted alert level 1, and dealing with the Omicron variant like other countries. Along with the exceptionally cold winters and a number of other challenges which makes persons with disabilities even more vulnerable to the virus.



Most people cannot afford disposable masks and relies on cloth masks that are washable, with the result that some people wear the same cloth mask for months. The average cloth mask has a lifespan of not more than 2 months. (This is depending on the quality of the fabrics and material used)
This project's objectives are to arrange for masks to be made, sanitized, and packaged and dispatched from our warehouse across various urban and rural places in South Africa.



The Expected results and impact of the project are:

- Having masks will lower the chances of persons with disabilities to get the Covid – 19 virus;
- It will also on an emotional level show most vulnerable citizens that their lives matter and that they are cared for;
- It will give vulnerable people an opportunity to leave the house without being arrested/fined for not wearing a mask;
- Care givers who are assisting persons with disabilities washing, cleaning pressure sores and dressing will feel and be more protected;
- When people are wearing masks, they can go to clinics, hospitals and vaccination sites;
- Giving each person two masks, will prevent people from using old dirty masks, or no masks at all;
- It will save lives;
- It will save the countries health cost, and
- It will prevent deaths that are leaving children orphaned.

48 women with disabilities have been engaged, who are entrepreneur seamstresses, to make of the masks. Prior to this excellent income stream, the ladies instantly lost all their work and income when lockdown started



Creating Enforcement and Compliance at the Building Planning Department Level South Africa. Training for Building Planning Department Personal and System Development South Africa funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The background and putting forward of this proposal were based on the following elements:

The results and findings of the NCPD with regard to the application and knowledge-set of building inspectors and associated personnel:

- The NCPD's placement as the foremost specialists in Universal Accessibility and in ensuring equitable and transformative access to the built environment by Persons with Disabilities within South Africa and the associated expertise that NCPD has acquired;
- The conducting of similar training by the NCPD for a number of different other entities, along with NCPD's track record of providing capacity building and institutional support in this area;
- Current work being undertaken by NCPD to create working SAQA modules for enforcement of instruments (such as Part-S of the National Building Regulations) in this space, and in creating SAQA modules for Universal Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation around a number of different sectoral areas.

The NCPD has conducted two unpublished surveys regarding the knowledge, application, enforcement, and operationalization of Part-S of the National Building Regulations at the level of building plan approval processes at several of the major metropolitan municipalities nationally; the first of these took place in 2011 and the second survey was conducted in 2014. The findings of these surveys may be summarized as follows:

There is a gross lack of enforcement, starting with application perusals, regarding the provisions of Part-S of the National Building Regulations:

- There is a substantial misunderstanding regarding the enforceability and the applicability of Part-S, as well as a similar misunderstanding regarding the changes to Part-S of the NBR that were promulgated in 2011;
- A lack of knowledge regarding the application of Part-S, and a wider lack of knowledge regarding the policy environment around access regarding persons with disabilities and the built environment, specifically issues such as the Integrated National Disability Strategy, the Disability Rights Activity Machinery (DRAM) set up by National Department of Social Development, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Public Works Technical Specifications on Environmental Accessibility and the applicable case law that has emerged;
- Organizational challenges regarding the responsible parties for checking and ensuring compliance with Part-S of the Building Regulations, with the general finding that, on the whole, Part-S is checked together with Part-T (Fire Regulations);



- Overall lack of oversight regarding ensuring backward and forward enforcement and ensuring compliance with Part-S of the Building Regulations;
- Other non-specific challenges faced by building inspectors and associated personnel regarding checking of plans, relating to issues such as lack of capacity, failure to upskill staff and so forth.

This has created a situation in which there is clearly a problem regarding the regulation of the National Building Regulations as pertains to Part-S. The timing of this proposal, however, relates to the recent approval of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (WPRPD), and the establishment of sectoral Universal Accessibility Plans by Department of Social Development and the Presidency, which are now awaiting approval from the Office of the Presidency.

The content and application of the WPRPD, which has now been promulgated and is being affected, will ultimately substantially change, and empower the rights of Persons with Disabilities in South Africa, and enforcement of Part-S will be more strictly regulated in future and will create a substantial burden on the part of building inspectorates to fulfil. Based on our findings and the current policy environment, this proposal seeks to address this in a pro-active manner to ensure that building inspectorates are already re-gearing when the more stringent and onerous regulatory environment comes into place.

NCPD has developed significant capacity in the last five years towards ensuring that is the main focal point for civil society activity in the field of environmental access for Persons with Disabilities and in the field of Universal Accessibility. We developed and finalized the training manual and Facilitators Guide that was a huge millstone in the South African context.



The feedback was overwhelming positive, and the Building Inspectors were grateful to have been part of the workshop. They left with new knowledge that they will implement and hopefully will be the start of a change in how Building Inspectors look at the SANS10400 Part S Building Standard. It is clear that the training is definitely necessary and relevant.

The Covid-19 pandemic had obviously stopped us to do the remote training sessions and the municipal, government staff does not get access to data and devices to do online training from home. We continued with the training in other ways to achieve our goals:

- Circulating the training material to building inspectors with telephone support from NCPD;
- Continue the training on a Webinar platform.
- Create online and media awareness to keep momentum.

This is an example of how we adjusted the in-person training to accommodate virtual training sessions that was attended by more than 80 persons per session:

The training of Building Inspectors will indeed be an ongoing program. Our future plan is to also reach trainee building inspectors and develop the appetite with Local Government, to enforce the approval of building plans/renovations, by a universally designed trained specialist Building Inspector, just like they enforce the approval by “green” experts and safety experts.



Training to prepare 30 persons with disabilities for the workplace in South Africa – funded by the Rehabilitation International Africa Fund

In South Africa the percentage of unemployed persons with disabilities are rising and have now exceeded 67%. The Recruitment process included persons with a wide variety of impairments such as blindness, Deaf people, persons with physical, psychosocial, and psychiatric impairments. Our 30 trainees were placed in our structures as well as with 7 other employers in various South African Towns and a mentor was allocated to each trainee.



The workplace experience adds to the valuable skillset needed to find employment, start your own endeavor, or enter tertiary education. Most experience is in the field project coordination, sales, social media and PR, Arts and Culture, Youth Development, radio, and admin. These are all areas that are needed in the labor market. A definite highlight is the fact that 17 of our 30 students have been placed in full time employment and earning a good income.



As a result of this project, we have signed a contract with SABPP (the South African Board of People Practitioners). They are the board who set standards for best practice in the workplace. We developed an inclusive workplace standard for them to get HR practitioners to subscribe to. We also do monthly webinars with them, where we are speakers on topics such as Disability Equity Training, Impairment Disclosure and Reasonable Accommodation in the workplace, Universal Design and Access, Support Programs, Career Development, Workplace policy, understanding our White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding the workplace and economic participation of persons with disabilities. We have also signed an agreement with SALGA (the South African Local Government Organization), to provide them with workplace services for inclusion, and recruit candidates with Disabilities for employment. The agreement also involves 5 other areas of inclusion and collaboration. A breakthrough indeed.

South Africa has always been low on the employment and career development of persons with disabilities. Amidst the Covid - 19 Pandemic, the employment of persons with disabilities is an even lower priority in South Africa.

The RI grant has enabled us to prepare our 30 trainees with disabilities for the workplace.

This is of utmost significance:

- For everyone who can as a result of this be meaningfully employed
- Financial independence for persons with disabilities restores dignity and assists a great deal in prevention of Gender based violence as persons with disabilities does not have to stay in abusive relationships because of dependence of financial resources
- The South African Government's Social security budget saves significantly because when people are employed, they no longer receive Government disability grants
- The South African health budget saves money because they no longer must provide a free health service for somebody that is working
- Working people becomes taxpayers which is good for the country's economy
- RI supports in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- By this program RI also assists our organization to work towards our organizational Vision:

Current position of trainees:

- 17 people placed in employment
- 2 people place in protective workshops
- 8 people joined our enterprise development programme
- 3 people are still in our office for further training (Stipends provided by a private company for the 3 trainees for 9 months)

www.riglobal.org

