



## SELF ADVOCACY

# EMPOWERING THE SELF ADVOCACY MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

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## ONE WORKSHOP CONDUCTED IN MALAWI





## PRESENTATION

This presentation is about self advocacy work in Africa and mostly workshops conducted in Africa during the period under review (2006 – 2009). In 2005, NFU embarked on supporting programmes that promoted participation of persons with Intellectual Disabilities. As a result, supported workshops that were aim at building capacity of Self Advocates in the region. The initiative also received a good support from Inclusion International.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOPS

- To know about Self Advocacy,
- To empower Self Advocates with knowledge that shall enable them to speak for themselves on issues that affect their lives
- To gather more information on the needs of Self Advocacy
- The expectation of this initiative is to contribute to the development of training Material
- To orient persons with Intellectual disabilities in self advocacy work and to also train their support persons on how best they could help the Self Advocates achieve their goals
- To support the development of Self Advocacy groups
- To learn about UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.



## Activities

The Self Advocacy planned activities included the follows:

- To conduct National Self Advocacy Workshops in eight Countries in Africa
- Networking with other Continental Self Advocacy taskforces
- Attend IASSID World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa
- Meeting with African Decade Secretariat
- Attend ANDD Conference in Windhoek, Namibia
- Attend Inclusion International Global Forum for Inclusion 2008: Transforming Rights into Action
- Attend Inclusion International Council Meeting
- ILO Regional meeting on training and employment

## NATIONAL SELF ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS

In 2007, only three(3) National workshops were conducted (Zambia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho respectively) . However, with the support from Inclusion International and NFU, eight more National workshops were conducted in different African countries in 2008. Due to limited resources in the year 2009 only One National Workshop was conducted in Ethiopia. So far, 11 workshops have been conducted in 11 different countries in Africa



## PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

- Zambia 2005
- Zimbabwe 2006
- Lesotho 2006
- Namibia 27th – 29th January 2008
- Uganda 19th – 21st February 2008
- Kenya 18th - 20th March 2008
- Swaziland 22nd – 26th April 2008
- Malawi 20th – 22nd May 2008
- Zanzibar 24th – 26th June 2008
- Tanzania 22nd – 26th July 2008
- South Africa 05th – 07th August 2008
- Ethiopia 2009

## HOST NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Kenya Kenya Association for Intellectually Handicapped
2. Uganda Inclusion Uganda (IU)
3. Namibia Namibia Association for children with disabilities (NACD)
4. Tanzania Tanzania Association for the Mentally Handicapped (TAMH)
5. Zanzibar Zanzibar Association for the People with Developmental Disabilities (ZAPDD)
6. Malawi Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM)
7. South Africa Disabled Children's Action Group (DICAG)
8. Swaziland Parents of Children with Disabilities in Swaziland (PCDSWA)
9. Ethiopia Ethiopian National Association for Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID)



## Implementation

The actual implementation of the activities took place as follows:

- |                |             |          |      |
|----------------|-------------|----------|------|
| • Zambia       |             |          | 2005 |
| • Zimbabwe     |             |          | 2006 |
| • Lesotho      |             |          | 2006 |
| • Namibia      | 27th – 29th | January  | 2008 |
| • Uganda       | 19th – 21st | February | 2008 |
| • Kenya        | 18th - 20th | March    | 2008 |
| • Swaziland    | 22nd – 26th | April    | 2008 |
| • Malawi       | 20th – 22nd | May      | 2008 |
| • Zanzibar     | 24th – 26th | June     | 2008 |
| • Tanzania     | 22nd – 26th | July     | 2008 |
| • South Africa | 05th – 07th | August   | 2008 |
| • Ethiopia     |             |          | 2009 |

## Challenges

- Lack of basic information about Intellectual Disabilities in many countries
- Discrimination against Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
- Poverty
- HIV/AIDS
- Non existant of Self Advocates groups on the ground in some member countries
- Culture (Traditional believes)



## Way Forward

- Strengthen existing Self Advocacy groups in Africa
- Formation of more Self Advocacy groups evening in countries where they are non existent.
- Encourage parent organizations to continue spearheading formation of Self Advocacy groups in Africa

## THANK YOU

- **VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING TO MY PRESENTATION**