



South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop

A Summary Report



18 – 19 November 2013 | Islamabad, Pakistan

Summary Report

South Asian Disability Forum

Strategic Planning Workshop

18-19 November 2013 | Islamabad, Pakistan

Organized By

Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Government of Pakistan
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
South Asian Disability Forum (SADF)
Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network Pakistan
Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)



In Collaboration With

Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)
Light for the World
CHEF International
Sightsavers
British Council



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Please contact info@apcdfoundation.org for further details.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALSO	Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization
APCD	Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
ASHA	All Sanghar Handicaps' Association
BPKS	Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity
CBID	Community-Based Inclusive Development
CHEF	Comprehensive Health and Education Forum
CRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOJF	Disability Organization Joint Front
DPO	Disabled People's Organization
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NDWA	Nepal Disabled Women Association
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADDI	South Asian Disability and Development Initiative
SADF	South Asian Disability Forum
STEP	Special Talent Exchange Program
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The “*South Asian Disability Strategic Planning Workshop*” was organized by the Government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Law & Justice and Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Islamabad, the South Asian Disability Forum (SADF), the Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network Pakistan and the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), the Light for the World, the CHEF International, Sightsavers and the British Council on 18-19 November 2013 at Margala Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan.

The workshop was arranged in order to attain unanimity on strategic plans to empower women with diverse disabilities through capacity building initiatives in the South Asia region. In this regard, the draft of “*South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI)¹ 2014-2016*” was introduced. In line with the conjunctions of Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): Women with disabilities and Goal 6 of the Incheon Strategy to “*Make the Right Real*”, 2013-2022: Ensure gender equality & women’s empowerment, a comprehensive “*South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016*” was unanimously adopted to address the rights of women with disabilities facing multiple fold discrimination.

Around 50 participants, including representatives of women and men with disabilities from South Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, international development agencies & the business sector, participated in the South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop.

¹ Attached in reference section

I INTRODUCTION

SOUTH ASIAN DISABILITY FORUM: AT A GLANCE —

The South Asian Disability Forum (SADF) is a regional network of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) which works as a think-tank for the disability sector in the eight countries in South Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. To ensure full and equal inclusion and participation of persons with diverse disabilities in the development process, dynamic and effective strategies for the promotion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in this sub-region need to be adopted by this international forum through developing a sub-regional mechanism and cooperation.

All South Asian countries are globally introduced as a group of developing countries. As a fact, 23.4% of the total population of the world is living in the South Asian region.² With such important social background, the Regional Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities was organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education of Pakistan, the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), the Sightsavers, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), the British Council and the Telenor Pakistan from 31 July to 2 August 2010. An outcome of the Conference, the South Asian Disability Forum (SADF) was initiated by leaders with disabilities in South Asia. The "Islamabad Recommendations on Regional Networking and Collaboration in South Asia" was adopted by the Government of Pakistan, STEP, the Sightsavers, APCD, the British Council and the Telenor Pakistan. Since then, SADF has been recognized as a regional network of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) in the eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. With a focus on the empowerment of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and those with severe disabilities, SADF envisions to mainstream disability towards an inclusive society for all in South Asia.

In line with the main objective, the Second Regional Leadership Conference of Persons with Disabilities in South Asia was held on 21-22 September 2011 at the British Council Auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare of Bangladesh, SADF, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), APCD, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the British Council. The Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS) made local arrangements for the Conference. Through the adoption of the "Dhaka Recommendations to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in South Asia", SADF was formally established to support the facilitation among DPOs and other stakeholders.

² According to World Bank's WDI 2012

According to ESCAP's Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", 2013-2022, SADF has been identified as one of the Working Group members with a status of Civil Society Organization (CSO). In cooperation with regional key partners such as ESCAP, APCD, the British Council and CHEF International, SADF is expected to play a role to highlight a sub-regional focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

RATIONALE OF THE WORKSHOP

Keeping in mind the significance of all international and regional instruments on disability and development, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", 2013-2022 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This workshop aims at achieving the tangible outcomes by targeting:

- 1) Article 6: Women with disabilities, United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- 2) Goal 6: Ensure gender equality & women's empowerment, Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", 2013-2022.

It is the mandate of SADF to devise and formulate strategies for full and equal inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in this sub-region. Empowerment of women and their inclusion in mainstream activities will be assured through capacity building activities, ultimately accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

In preparation for the workshop, all the participants were handed an initial strategic plan draft to brainstorm. An inclusive approach is dominant throughout the whole workshop; every participant shared her/his point of view and imparted technical inputs to perfectly modify the initial draft into a concrete plan of action.

The workshop adopted a participatory and interactive methodology that comprised of group sessions and activities which contributed to building an understanding of the strategic planning process and concepts of marginalized segment i-e women with disabilities.

PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Around 50 participants with diverse backgrounds including international delegates representing South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan (Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights), United Nations agencies and other international organizations (UNESCO Islamabad, APCD, British Council), the corporate sector and other partners attended this workshop.



Group Photo of Participants

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

OPENING SESSION

The inaugural session was chaired by Ms. Shirin Akhter (Chairperson, SADF). She stressed the need for clear articulation of women with disabilities and mainstreaming them in the SADF agenda to further strengthen the efforts for their empowerment. She further added some of the recent activities SADF has undergone like participation in ESCAP's meeting in Bangkok and also in the Central Asian Disability Forum (CADF)'s meeting. Moreover, she applauded the efforts of Mr. Atif Shiekh, Honorary Chairperson of SADF and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Nizamani, Coordinator of ASHA and founder member of SADF, and their visionary ideas.



*Opening Remarks by
Ms. Shirin Akhter,
Chairperson, SADF*

Mr. Atif Shiekh (President, STEP) warmly welcomed all the international and national delegates for uniting under the umbrella of SADF. He was optimistic about mainstreaming women with disabilities. He is also involved in designing the website of SADF.

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata (Director, UNESCO Islamabad) praised this particular event of SADF as timely as South Asian can drive, accelerate and ensure the CRPD in our South Asian region. The critical issue of human rights and development problems of persons with disabilities is on national as well as international agendas, she further added, we are in pursuit of reviewing the post 2015 MDG agenda, and working hard to mainstream persons with disabilities.

Honorable Ms. Nyla Qureshi (Director General, the Ministry of Law and Justice and Human Rights of Pakistan) assured the support of the government in highlighting the issue of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Sohail Ayaz (Chief Executive Officer, CHEF International) and Mr. Akiie Ninomiya (Executive Director, APCD) shared their views and expectations of the workshop along with future perspectives of this forum.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

This session was emceed by Ms. Shirin Akhter (Chairperson, SADF) and other speakers included Mr. Atif Shiekh (Honorary Chairperson, SADF), Ms. Abia Akram (Project Coordinator, STEP), Ms. Sadia Rehman (Director of Civil Society Programme, British Council Pakistan) and Mr. Ryuhei Sano (Acting General Manager, APCD).



Mr. Atif Sheikh, Honorary Chairperson SADF, presenting the initial draft of SADDI

Mr. Atif sheikh briefly overviewed the historical perspective of initiating this draft by referring to executive members SADF meeting recommendations that include SADF will emphasize women with disabilities in a strategic plan. He further added that initially SADF is focusing on four countries, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. From each country initially 10 women with disabilities will be trained as trainers and then ultimately they will train 100 women with disabilities at a grass root

level from each country. "South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016 is the proposed name for this strategic plan. In conclusion of this first phase the 2nd strategic planning will be held, and the executive committee will decide whether SADF should be enhanced to the next level i-e 2nd phase of SADDI. 2nd Strategic planning workshop will be followed by the leadership conference of persons with disabilities in 2016.

Mr. Ryuhei Sano (Acting General Manager APCD) softly mentored participants about the rough draft which would be presented through a participatory approach where every participant will have a chance to point out key issues and modifications in the draft. Mr. Atif Shiekh then read out the draft plan of SAADI 2014-2016. He further added that there are three types of activities:

1. Trainings
2. Publications on disability and development in South Asia
3. Regional Collaboration.

In this regard, training manuals then publication of laws and regulations in each country would be compiled, and finally the leadership conference would be held for regional collaboration.

A few questions and suggestions were presented during this session. Mr. Akiie Ninomiya suggested that in a strategic plan there should be tangible indicators that can easily be measured. Mr. Atif Shiekh responded to that question and referred the participants to three tangible outcomes that can be achieved from the initiative SADDI. Mr. Shahnawaz Munami (National Coordinator, CBID Network Pakistan) urged the government to hold a census so that a clear picture of persons with disabilities can be assessed and strategy could be formalized accordingly.



Ms. Abia Akram added that this draft is not confined to a few countries of the South Asian region but rather it is a pilot project, suggestions and comments are highly appreciated from other countries, and once this is successful we will extend it to other countries of the region as well.

TECHNICAL INPUTS ON KEY TOPICS ---

This session was steered by Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar from Nepal. Other speakers included Ms. Amina Azimi from Afghanistan, Ms. Shirin Akhter from Bangladesh and Ms. Duptho Zangmo from Bhutan. The same topic was continued after the lunch break to acquire technical inputs from representatives of the other three countries namely Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar from Nepal, Ms. Abia Akram from Pakistan and Ms. Manique Gunaratane from Sri Lanka. The post lunch session was chaired by Ms. Ashrafunnahar Misti from Bangladesh.

In pre and post lunch sessions, the representatives from these countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were asked to talk about the current situation of disability in their respective countries and highlight technical points regarding the proposed activities of SADDI.



Women with Disabilities as the Leaders of South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI)

Ms. Amina Azimi from Afghanistan portrayed the current picture of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in Afghanistan and how dismal their lives are with negligible empowerment. This type of initiative would certainly help to empower women with disabilities. She was requested to comment on the strategy, and was asked, would it be possible to organize training and identification of women with disabilities, and further training of 100 women, in response to that she replied in affirmation.

Ms. Shirin from Bangladesh shed some light on the current disability rights movement in Bangladesh and told the audience that they are going to introduce a law to support women with disabilities. She assured that Bangladesh would implement all agreed upon strategies resulting from this workshop.

Ms. Duptho Zangmo from Bhutan said that persons with visual disabilities are the only ones with disabilities who receive higher education and better employment opportunities than other persons with other disabilities in Bhutan. There is a disparity within the disability community, males with disabilities are dominant over females with disabilities hence fewer chances are available to women with disabilities to strengthen and develop. She suggested in response to SADDI that the preferred medium of training manual should be in local language. Moreover, during the first phase of SADDI, Trainings of Trainers (ToT) should be confined to educated women with disabilities so that they can effectively impart trainings to less educated women with disabilities in the 2nd phase.

Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar from Nepal emphasized that every country should get a chance to contribute to this initiative as the major primary activities revolve around 4 countries. Ms. Abia Akram responded by referring to activities like publications and regional cooperation meetings in which all the countries of the South Asian region will have an opportunity to contribute. Ms. Rama further highlighted that capacity building is an integral part of empowerment of women with disabilities, along with the awareness of family as well. She noted that there is a low number of women with disabilities in the decision making process, we need to mainstream women with disabilities.

Ms. Abia Akram from Pakistan added that in Pakistan the disability movement has operating since 1997 and DPO's are finding it hard to identify women with disabilities, hence the expectations of Pakistan from this strategy is the time bound activities, and experience sharing from best practices in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other countries. Ms. Manique from Sri Lanka proposed to include one more region of the north, as well as 4 other regions regarding trainings in Sri Lanka, and suggested that language of Training of Trainers (ToT) should be in English with the later phase in local language.

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

After rigorous discussion on the draft strategic plan through group activities, there was a consensus on Ms. Rama's suggestion that three committees should be constituted for three different components of proposed activities. Ms. Abia added that suggestions are highly encouraged from each and every country but each committee is responsible for the assigned tasks.

Mr. Sano from APCD suggested accordingly that for three expected outcomes mentioned in SADDI, each committee should be responsible for a specific expected outcome.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Capacities of women with disabilities will be strengthened to ensure that women with disabilities will be included in development opportunities.
2. Awareness about the rights of women with disabilities in South Asia will be raised.
3. Sub-regional networking and collaboration on women with disabilities will be enhanced through South-to-South cooperation in South Asia in line with the framework of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

The day was closed by Mr. Akiie Ninomiya from APCD by saying “Although information is important, we ought to know which area needs change and which doesn’t, this comes from wisdom.”

DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES —————

The day was opened by Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, UNESCO, by confirming the economic, social and cultural importance of the South Asian region, and also highlighting the democratic transition of Pakistan and other countries in the region. She bestowed her message for the day that “It is not strategically correct if we isolate an issue from other issues, there should be an intersectoral approach in addressing a problem, like in a disability meeting we must not forget to incorporate economic, social, cultural and political factors.” She further stressed that inclusion of government is also inevitable and there should a national monitoring mechanism in which includes half representation from government and half representatives from disabilities.



*Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata
UNESCO Islamabad*

Ms. Shirin Akhter nominated Ms. Abia Akram from STEP as the key person to lead the movement of SADDI. After discussion, the SADF Executive Committee selected Ms. Abia Akram as the Project Coordinator for SADDI.

Ms. Abia Akram constituted three committees for 3 components i-e trainings, policy compilation and regional cooperation.

Ms. Rama urged everyone to have an email group so that the activities can be shared with every partner country.



DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN ---

In this session two groups were constituted and after brainstorming groups presented their recommendations for the action plan. 1st group included Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, for the training component and 2nd group included Bangladesh and Bhutan for policy compilation.

Each group was assigned 4 key elements to brainstorm within the scope of Training and Policy Compilation components.

1. Identifying the resources
2. Technical support
3. Mechanisms
4. Time frames

Finally two groups presented numerous suggestions and amendments to the action plan and draft, keeping in mind all technicalities and hindrances.

FINAL SESSION ---

The closing session was facilitated by Ms. Abia and Mr. Shiekh who recited the Islamabad Recommendations on Women with Disabilities in South Asia . Then they opened discussion to the floor for any recommendations.

Mr. Sohail Ayaz (CEO, CHEF International) came up with a very good suggestion to have some follow up activities after the ToT in Afghanistan and other countries.

Many questions and suggestions were raised during this session as one of the participants from CHEF International inquired about collaboration of SADF and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Mr. Sano from APCD responded to the question that SADF is a consortium of DPOs while SAARC is an inter-governmental body of South Asian countries. SADF may come up with a concrete approach of inclusion of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in the agenda of SAARC.

The final draft of “*South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016*” was then presented in the workshop after incorporating all the suggestions and recommendations of the participants and collaborating partners.

When delivering the closing session of the workshop Ms. Kozue Kay Nagata (Director, UNESCO Islamabad) and Ms. Shirin Akhter (Chairperson, SADF) stressed the implementation of the strategy plan by the letter and with spirit.

The draft “*South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016*” was unanimously adopted. It was later signed in the “*Leadership Conference of Persons with Disabilities on Community Based Inclusive Development*” in Islamabad on 20-22 November 2013.



Signing Ceremony of “South Asian Disability and Development Initiative” (SADDI) 2014-16

R EFERENCES

SADDI 2014-2016

Introduction

The “South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI)” is designed to strengthen the sub-regional movement further in 2014-2016, and to achieve the envisaged goals. There is a need to build the capacity of women with diverse disabilities in South Asia. All activities encapsulated as SADDI are mainly contributing to the attainment of the following:

Article 6: Women with disabilities, United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Goal 6: Ensure gender equality & women’s empowerment, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”, 2013-2022

Expected Outcomes

- 1) The capacities of women with disabilities will be developed to ensure that women with disabilities will be included in development opportunities. Moreover, such enhanced capacities of women with disabilities will strengthen sustainability of their local groups/organizations.
- 2) Awareness about the rights of women with disabilities in South Asia will be raised. Information about disability in South Asia, particularly gender aspects, will be available from the regional viewpoint.
- 3) Sub-regional networking and collaboration on women with disabilities will be enhanced through South-to-South cooperation in South Asia in line with the framework of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

Indicators to be Achieved

Indicators for expected outcome 1

- 1) The “Leadership Training Manual on Women with Disabilities in South Asia” will be developed and published, taking into consideration the local context (e.g. languages), accessibility and the perspective of an easy-to-read publication. The booklet will be utilized in the training for the reference of trainees with disabilities.

- 2) 10 women with disabilities from 4 provinces will receive 5-day international training to be master trainers locally in Afghanistan. With the enhanced capacity, 10 master trainers will join newly/continue to be in the management body of respective local groups/organizations in Afghanistan.
- 3) 10 women with disabilities from 5 regions will receive 5-day international training to be master trainers locally in Nepal. With the enhanced capacity, 10 master trainers will join newly/continue to be in the management body of respective local groups/organizations in Nepal.
- 4) 10 women with disabilities from 5 provinces will receive 5-day international training to be master trainers locally in Pakistan. With the enhanced capacity, 10 master trainers will join newly/continue to be in the management body of respective local groups/organizations in Pakistan.
- 5) 10 women with disabilities from 5 provinces will receive 5-day international training to be master trainers locally in Sri Lanka. With the enhanced capacity, 10 master trainers will join newly/continue to be in the management body of respective local groups/organizations in Sri Lanka.
- 6) 100 women with disabilities from 4 provinces will receive 5-day local capacity building training in each area in Afghanistan.
- 7) 100 women with disabilities from 5 regions will receive 5-day local capacity-building training in each area in Nepal.
- 8) 100 women with disabilities from 5 provinces will receive 5-day local capacity-building training in each area in Pakistan.
- 9) 100 women with disabilities from 5 provinces will receive 5-day local capacity-building training in each area in Sri Lanka.
- 10) The reports of 4 international trainings of trainers will be developed and published.
- 11) The 4 country reports of local trainings will be developed and presented.
- 12) Follow-up actions will be taken while conducting local trainings in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Indicators for expected outcome 2

- 1) The “National Laws and Policies on Disability in South Asia” will be documented from the gender perspective, taking into consideration the local context (e.g. language), accessibility and the perspective of an easy-to-read publication. The booklet will be utilized in the training for the reference of trainees with disabilities.

Indicators for expected outcome 3

- 1) The Second SADF Strategic Planning Workshop will be organized in Sri Lanka in 2016.
- 2) The Leadership Conference of Women with Disabilities will be organized in Sri Lanka in 2016.

Proposed Activities

1) Leadership Training of Trainers

Leadership Training Manual on Women with Disabilities in South Asia

- Dates: From January 2014 to May 2014
- Country: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- Editing Committee: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 3,500

International Training in Pakistan

- Dates: First week of June 2014
- Venue: Islamabad
- Participants: 10 women with disabilities from 5 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 2 SADF / 1 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 10,210

Report on International Training in Pakistan

- Dates: From July to September 2014
- Editors: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 2,000

Local Training / Follow-up in Pakistan

- Dates: From July 2014 to June 2015
- Venue: 5 provinces
- Participants: 100 women with disabilities from 5 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 10 master trainers
- Report: By presentation
- Estimated Budget: USD 4,000

International Training in Afghanistan

- Dates: Fourth week of November 2014
- Venue: Kabul
- Participants: 10 women with disabilities from 4 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, ALSO, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 2 SADF / 1 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 10,510

Report on International Training Reports in Afghanistan

- Dates: From December 2014 to February 2015
- Editors: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 2,000

Local Training/Follow-up in Afghanistan

- Dates: From December 2014 to November 2015
- Venue: 4 provinces
- Participants: 100 women with disabilities from 4 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, ALSO, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 10 master trainers
- Report: By presentation
- Estimated Budget: USD 4,000

International Training in Nepal

- Dates: Fourth week of April 2015
- Venue: Katmandu
- Participants: 10 women with disabilities from 5 regions
- Organizers: SADF, NDWA, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 2 SADF / 1 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 11,110

Report on International Training in Nepal

- Dates: From May to July 2015
- Editors: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 2,000

Local Training/Follow-up in Nepal

- Dates: From May 2015 to April 2016
- Venue: 5 regions
- Participants: 100 women with disabilities from 5 regions
- Organizers: SADF, NDWA, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 10 master trainers
- Report: By presentation
- Estimated Budget: USD 4,000

International Training in Sri Lanka

- Dates: Fourth week of September 2015
- Venue: Colombo
- Participants: 10 women with disabilities from 5 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, DOJF, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 2 SADF / 1 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 9,910

Report on International Training in Sri Lanka

- Dates: Sri Lanka: From October to December 2015
- Editors: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 2,000

Local Training/Follow-up in Sri Lanka

- Dates: From October 2015 to September 2016
- Venue: 5 provinces
- Participants: 100 women with disabilities from 5 provinces
- Organizers: SADF, DOJF, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Resource persons: 10 master trainers
- Report: By presentation
- Estimated Budget: USD 4,000

2) *Booklet on National Laws and Policies on Disability in South Asia*

- Dates: From January 2014 to December 2014
- Country: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- Editors: 2 SADF / 2 APCD
- Estimated Budget: USD 8,000

3) Regional Meetings on SADDI

Second SADF Strategic Planning Workshop

- Dates: November 2016
- Country: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Organizers: SADF, DOJF, STEP
- Collaborators: APCD, British Council, CHEF International, other partners (TBC)
- Participants: 16 SADF members from 8 countries
- Resource persons: 2 APCD / 2 British Council / 2 CHEF International
- Expected Outcomes:
 - To review the implementation of SADDI 2014-2016
 - To develop phase 2 of SADDI
- Estimated Budget: USD 8,560


Leadership Conference of Woman with Disabilities in South Asia

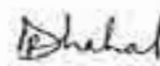
- Dates: November 2016
- Country: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Organizer: the Government of Sri Lanka, SADF, DOJF, STEP, APCD, British Council, CHEF International
- Collaborator: Other partners (TBC)
- Domestic Participants: 4 government officials/80 women and men with disabilities
- International Participants: SADF members from other 7 countries
- Resource Persons: 2 APCD/ 2 British Council/ 2 CHEF International
- Expected Outcomes:
 - To share the outcomes of SADDI 2014-2016
 - To develop a recommendation paper at the regional level
 - To launch the SADDI Phase 2
- Estimated Budget: USD 49,375

Estimated Budget


The estimated budget for the “SADDI 2014-2016” will be USD 135,175.

Signed by


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Empowering Women with Disabilities Manager
Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization, Afghanistan


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Ms. Manique Gunarantne
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Witnessed by



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Mr. ACF Sheikh
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Mr. Aline Kheeriyva
Executive Director,
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability


Ms. Shazia Khawar
Director, Youth and Society,
British Council Pakistan


Mr. Shah Asar
Chief Executive Officer,
CHEF International

END

ISLAMABAD RECOMMENDATIONS ON WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTH ASIA



The representatives of women and men with disabilities from South Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, international development agencies, the business sector and in total around 50 persons, participated in the South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop, on 18-19 November 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

We, the participants of the Workshop, thank the organizers, the Government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Islamabad, the South Asian Disability Forum (SADF), the Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network Pakistan and the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), the Light for the World, the CHEF International, Sightsavers and the British Council for the successful coordination and arrangement of the Workshop;

Recognizing the significance of all international and regional instruments on disability and development, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”, 2013-2022 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);

Reaffirming the mission of SADF to facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities in South Asia, in collaboration with governments and other partners, including civil society organizations and the business sector;

Noting the need to implement the South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016 on a collaborative basis, which was intensively discussed in the Workshop among the key partners particularly women with disabilities in South Asia;

Hereby unanimously recommend as follows:

1. The capacities of women with disabilities should be strengthened through leadership trainings conducted by local and international partners in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
2. The “Leadership Training Manual on Women with Disabilities in South Asia”, the “Information about National Laws on Disability in South Asia”, and training reports should be published, taking into consideration the perspective of women with disabilities, accessibility and local contexts such as languages;
3. SADF should be the key platform to promote the rights of women and men with diverse disabilities in South Asia through the implementation of the proposed SADDI 2014-2016; and
4. In collaboration with APCD, the British Council and the CHEF International, the Government of Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries, as well as other potential partners such as UNESCO, ESCAP, UN Women, the Light for the World and Sightsavers should support the proposed SADDI 2014-2016 in which SADF is expected to further promote the inclusion of women and men with diverse disabilities in South Asia.

Presented and unanimously adopted
at the South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop
19 November 2013



*Islamabad Recommendations
on Women with Disabilities
in South Asia*

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Monday, 18 November 2013

08.00 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 10.00 **Session 1. Opening Session**

(MC: Ms. Abia Akram)

Welcome Remark:

Ms. Shirin Akhter (Chairperson, SADF)

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Muhammad Shahnawaz Munami (National Coordinator, CBID Pakistan Network)

Mr. Sohail Ayaz (CEO, CHEF International)

Mr. Akiie Ninomiya (Executive Director, APCD)

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata (Director/Representative, UNESCO Islamabad)

Ms. Nyla Qureshi (Director General, Ministry of Law & Justice and Human Rights)

Group Photo

10.00 - 10.30 Refreshment Break

10.30 - 11.00 **Session 2. Introduction of the Draft Strategic Plan**

(MC: Ms. Shirin Akhter)

Mr. Muhammad Atif Sheikh (Honorary Chairperson, SADF)

Ms. Abia Akram (Project Coordinator, STEP)

Ms. Sadia Rehman (Head of Program, British Council Pakistan)

Mr. Ryuhei Sano (Acting General Manager, APCD)

11.00 - 12.30 **Session 3. Technical Inputs on Key Topics**

(MC: Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar)

Ms. Amina Azimi (Afghanistan)

Ms. Shirin Akhter (Bangladesh)

Ms. Duptho Zangmo (Bhutan)

Question & Answer

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 15.00 **Session 4. Technical Inputs on Key Topics (Cont.)**

(MC: Ms. Ashrafunnahar Misti)

Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar (Nepal)

Ms. Abia Akram (Pakistan)

Ms. Manique Kishara (Sri Lanka)

Q & A

15.00 - 15.30 Refreshment Break

15.30 - 17.00 **Session 5. Discussion on the Draft Strategic Plan**

Ms. Abia Akram (Pakistan)

Group Activity

18.30 - 20.30 Dinner Reception

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

09.00 - 10.30 Session 6. Discussion on the Proposed Activities in Detail
(MC: Ms. Abia Akram)

Ms. Kozue Kay Nagata, UNESCO (Opening Remarks)
Rigorous Participatory Discussion

10.30 - 11.00 Refreshment Break

11.00 - 12.30 Session 7. Discussion on the Draft Action Plan
(MC: Ms. Sadia Rehman)

Group Activity

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 15.00 Session 8. Closing

Summary of the Workshop

Adoption of the Recommendations

Adoption of the Strategic Plan

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata (Director/Representative, UNESCO Islamabad)

Closing Remarks

Ms. Shirin Akhter (Chairperson SADF)

15.30 - 16.00 Refreshment Break



Recommendations Session of the Workshop

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



Afghanistan

Ms. Amina Azimi
Mr. Maiwand Nazari



Bangladesh

Ms. Shirin Akhter
Ms. Ashrafunnahar Misti



Bhutan

Ms. Sonam Wangmo
Ms. Duptho Zangmo



Japan

Ms. Etsuko Ueno



Nepal

Mr. Kiran Shilpakar
Ms. Rama Dhakal Shilpakar



Pakistan

Ms. Abia Akram
Mr. Sohail Ayaz
Dr. Muhammad Shahnawaz Munami
Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata
Mr. Ghulam Nabi Nizamani
Ms. Nyla Qureshi
Ms. Sadia Rehman
Mr. Muhammad Atif Sheikh



Sri Lanka

Ms. Manique Kishara Hendawitharana Gunarantne



Thailand

Mr. Akiie Ninomiya
Mr. Ryuhei Sano
Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE

International New York Times

Special workshop

People need education on disabled's rights

Four South Asian countries agree on enhanced capacity building measures

SEHRISH WASIF
ISLAMABAD

Four countries inked an agreement aimed to empower the region's disabled women through capacity-building measures.

The signing ceremony for the South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) was held on Tuesday at the concluding session of a two-day South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop at a local hotel. It was attended by people with various disabilities from all over South Asia.

Sharing details of the initiative, Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP) President Atif Sheikh told *The Express Tribune* that Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka have signed the initiative.

He said SADDI will be implemented by the South Asian Disability Forum in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, Thailand, the British Council and Comprehensive Health and Education Forum.

He said the secretariat of South Asian Disability Forum will be in Pakistan and STEP will facilitate it.

Recommendations

Recommendation made during the workshop included

“A woman born with a disability is considered a matter of shame for the family and they usually keep her in isolation

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organisation Manager
Amina Azimi

strengthening the capacity of women with disabilities through leadership training conducted by local and international partners in the four countries.

Talking to *The Express Tribune*, Amina Azimi, manager of the Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organisation, who lost a leg

to one such explosive device, said the situation for disabled women is almost the same in all South Asian countries.

“A woman born with a disability is considered a matter of shame for the family and they usually keep her in isolation,” she said.

She said in remote areas, these women have to face more hardship and are deprived of their basic rights.

Siriporn Praserdchat, logistics officer at the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, said there is a need to educate communities on how to deal with disabled persons and educate them about their rights.

“The moment I arrived in Islamabad, I found people staring at me because I do

“The moment I arrived at Islamabad I found people staring at me because I do not have hands

Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability Logistics Officer
Siriporn Praserdchat

not have hands. This attitude made me feel strange and even deprived,” she said.

Shirin Akhtar, vice chairperson of the Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, Bangladesh, who is visually impaired, said women with disabilities are leading a backward life not only in Pakistan but in all of South Asia.

“It is important that the

family recognise the ability of women with disabilities and should not make her feel special, while giving her an equal place in the decision-making process,” she said.

Akile Ninomiya, executive director of the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, Thailand, said women with disabilities have been facing difficulties in both public and private spheres in obtaining access to adequate housing, health, education, livelihood, social protection and economic development.

“Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women with disabilities is essential for achieving the internationally agreed development goals,” he said.

PHOTOS



Discussion among SADF Members



*Volunteers Supporting the Workshop
in collaboration with the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)*



South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop

A Summary Report



18 – 19 November 2013 | Islamabad, Pakistan

Accessible for Persons with disAbilities

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