

Pacific Disability Forum



Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011

A. BACKGROUND:

As early as 2002, at the Oceania Disability Advisory Support Committee (ODASC) Training Seminar in Nadi, Fiji, leaders of persons with disabilities and participants from the island nations from the Pacific, began to quietly articulate their desire for an interim committee to spearhead an effort to unite persons with disabilities in the Pacific under a South Pacific federation of persons with disabilities. It was at this meeting that the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) was born. In 2003, at the Regional Leadership Training Seminar for women with disabilities held in Suva, Fiji, where a majority of participants came from the island nations of the Pacific, this sentiment was again expressed by a number of seminar participants. In the following months the interim PDF Executive Committee attempted to form such a sub-regional federation with the emergence of an opportunity for funding. However, priority shifts in funding allocations within the office of donors in Pacific continue to put a halt to this initiative so it continued as a loose organisation. The Disabled People's International (DPI) Oceania Sub region Office which was established in Suva, Fiji in 2000 to support national disabled persons organizations (DPOs) in Pacific Island countries played a pivotal role in organizing these two training seminars as well as servicing the PDF listserv.

By 2004, at the inaugural PDF meeting in Fiji, the members began to once again earnestly discuss the possibility of making PDF a formal organisation and establishing a regional office with a regional officer to coordinate the development of such a federation in the Pacific. This proposal was formally included in the draft of its Constitution and a shell plan to be presented to the AGM at its meeting at the end of 2004. The PDF Council, faced by unexpected funding constraints, mandated priority shifts which, once again, placed the Development of a new regional office at a much lower priority than original proposed.

In 2005, further consultations were done at a meeting jointly organised by Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNESCAP and ILO Pacific Offices, PDF and DPI Oceania. It was at this time that NZAID commissioned two consultants to review what existed in the area of disability in the Pacific region. As a result, the review presented strong recommendations that would give the NZAID Pacific Regional Health Programme a clear, strategic direction for assistance in the area of disability development in the Pacific region for the next 5 years. It was at this stage that some confirmation of support funding from NZAID, was forthcoming and the dream of establishing a regional organisation became more interesting. PDF was seen at this point to be well placed as a partner to NZAID in this noble task.

This notwithstanding, the years old call and aspirations of persons with disabilities of the Pacific Island nations for a regional organisation which can speak with one voice and articulate their concerns and demands to the rest of the region and the world remains, simmering away like magma lying within the womb of the many volcanoes dotting the region.

The vast distance between the island nations of the Pacific makes the frequent participation of member representative from those countries in regional gatherings of PDF extremely expensive. Thus, the needs, problems and perspectives of persons with disabilities in this part of the world are rarely, if at all, adequately addressed in regional gatherings. Yet, these persons with disabilities are the most in need of assistance and attention, given their ages old isolation from mainstream efforts at rehabilitation and the ongoing struggle for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. In addition, the young governments and struggling, tiny economies of the region often contribute to the lack of adequate service for persons with disabilities.

The establishment of a regional office with requisite resources to co-ordinate and promote development efforts in the region has increasingly become a vital step towards securing representation and ensuring participation of Pacific persons with disabilities in the regional forums of the United Nations regional inter-governmental bodies, the governments of the region, and regional non-state actors or NGOs. Such an office can orchestrate the organisation, and support the development of a federation of persons with disabilities in the region. Such a federation, in turn, can serve as a framework for the dissemination and appropriate application of information, resources and projects to persons with disabilities of these island nations. Finally, persons with disabilities in the Pacific, speaking with one voice through a federation as a regional block, cannot be lightly ignored in both regional and international forums.

B. VISION STATEMENT:

The Pacific Disability Forum envisions a Pacific society that is culture positive and inclusive of indigenous cultures, gender-equitable, barrier-free and rights-based, that promotes full participation and equality of opportunities for all persons with disabilities in all aspects of life, and including children, women, and men in isolated island atolls, remote, rural and urban areas.

C. MISSION STATEMENT:

It is the mission of PDF to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in Pacific Island countries and territories by realizing and fulfilling the stated philosophy and objectives of PDF through building and strengthening the capacity of the regions national Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) to provide practical services, humanitarian support and advocacy services to their members and clients.

D. PHILOSOPHY:

The Pacific Disability Forum affirms its belief in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

PDF will assist in the identification, establishment and development of National Disabled Persons Organisations, according to PDF Policy, in order to promote the rights and defend the dignity of persons with disabilities in Pacific Island countries and territories.

Given the combined factors of a fragile environment and a high population growth in the Pacific, PDF will assist in the co-ordination of National Plans and Activities to lift the profile of disabilities in the region and promote the sharing of resources among Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs). DPOs will be encouraged to target National Plans not only towards beneficiary groups and donors, but also towards decision makers and government.

Due to the wide distances between countries in the region, the comparative small populations and the disparity in the population size of member countries, PDF will increase dialogue between DPOs and improve communication in the region.

A high incidence of disability in the region is aggravated by the relative poverty of communities and servicing agents. PDF will assist DPOs to shift from over-reliance on others and move towards a self-help and community approach, this will be done by sharing information, experiences, resources and expertise. PDF will help DPOs enter into income generation projects and assist in contacting possible donors.

Whilst PDF is aware of the strength of Pacific Cultures which have provided the basis for social cohesion and acted as effective social safety nets in the past, these are coming under increasing strain as expectations are altered by education, communication and the cash economy. PDF will assist DPOs to reactivate the indigenous strengths of these cultures, towards a Pacific type of community-based rehabilitation programme.

Pacific Island Nations have striven to accentuate their developmental uniqueness in terms of geographic isolation, smallness in size, extensive cultural and ethnic diversity. The Pacific Islands have a character quite distinct from the rest of the world. Hence the special problems associated with their development, their persons and disability issues, should be recognised.

PDF will establish within the Pacific the regional office to realize the above philosophy. It will serve as a regional voice on disability through an information service and provide a link into the PDF family and relevant regional and international agencies, to constructively address this situation.

E. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND REPRESENTATION.

OBJECTIVE: To establish a representative and responsive regional organisation with requisite resources to articulate and pursue the concerns of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Region with governments, decision makers and other relevant organisations on a national, regional and international basis.

2. ESTABLISHED AND STRENGTHENED NATIONAL DISABLED PERSONS ORGANIZATIONS' SERVICING CAPACITY.

OBJECTIVE: To build and strengthen the capacity of national DPOs in the region so as to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities at local, national and regional levels.

3. ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS.

OBJECTIVE: To support national DPOs and stakeholders in the region in raising awareness on the concerns of persons with disabilities and to provide relevant information to the community.

4. ORGANISED REGIONAL TRAINING, INFORMATION SHARING AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS.

OBJECTIVE: To organise training for and mutual exchange of information, ideas and experience among national DPOs in the region.

5. EMPOWERED WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES.

OBJECTIVE: To promote the equal participation of women with disabilities at all levels.

6. DISABILITY INCLUSIVE PLANS, POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT.

OBJECTIVE: To promote the adoption of disability-inclusive approach and mainstreaming of disability perspectives in policies, plans and programmes of governments, development agencies and CSOs in the region.

7. SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL ORGANISATION.

OBJECTIVE: To work towards the financial sustainability of the Pacific Disability Forum.

F STRATEGIC PLAN:

KEY RESULT AREAS (KRA)	POLICY OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)
1. Effective and efficient regional organisation and representation.	To establish a representative and responsive Regional organisation with requisite resources to articulate and pursue the concerns of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Region with governments, decision makers and other relevant organisations on a national, regional and international basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the capacity of PDF Secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PDF Secretariat staff increased to 4 by 2008.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage member organisations to seek cooperation with relevant authority for the signing, ratification, accession, and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PICs signed and ratified CRPD by 2011.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish partnerships and linkages with PIFS, UN agencies, development partners and regional CSOs on issues and concerns of persons with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance with PIFS and relevant partners established and strengthened.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop governance and procedures manual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance manual adopted by 2008.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as voice of disability for the Pacific and influence decision makers at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability profile and visibility increased at all levels.

KEY RESULT AREAS (KRA)	POLICY OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)
2. Capacity building	To build and strengthen the capacity of national DPOs in the region so as to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of persons with disabilities at local, national and regional levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity and strengthen leadership of national DPOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership training conducted and national DPOs well managed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with RRRT to implement regional training of disability advocates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability advocates training implemented by 2009.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with UN agencies, APCD, JICA, PIANGO and IDA on capacity building initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant institutions with existing capacity building programmes engaged.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the capacity of members to contribute to policy making, planning, research and data collection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPOs involved in policy development, disability research and data collection.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish national DPOs in Pacific countries and territories where none exist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National DPOs established in all Pacific countries and territories by 2011.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage National DPOs and service providers in member countries to become members of PDF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PICs become members of PDF by 2011.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and establish focal points in countries where PDF is yet to be established. • Survey member countries to determine their needs and other emerging issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database on needs analysis established by 2008 and updated thereafter.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support national DPOs and national coordinating committees on disability in advocating to government to allocate adequate funding for disability-related services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability services funded by governments in the region with annual allocation in their national budget.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop advocacy skills of national DPOs to improve disability services and systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability services and facilities improved.
3. Disability awareness raising	To support national DPOs and stakeholders in the region in raising public awareness on the concerns of persons with disabilities and to provide relevant information to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Disability Awareness programme to be used by national DPOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising package developed and implemented by national DPOs in 2008.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop information education materials on disability that are relevant to the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability information and education materials developed and used in the region by 2009.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support national DPOs in conducting national and regional disability awareness campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability awareness campaigns conducted at national and regional levels.
4. Regional information sharing, training and cooperation	To organize training for and mutual exchange of information, ideas and experience among national DPOs in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an effective communication mechanism within PDF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication systems developed by 2007.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform membership on regional and international initiatives such as the MDGs, CRPD, Pacific Plan, BMF and Biwako Plus Five. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members updated on regional and international disability initiatives.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue use of PDF listserv. • Create a PDF website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website developed by 2008 and listserv coverage increased.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation and monitoring of BMF and Biwako Plus Five in the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMF implementation reported annually.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize internal PDF expertise and other human resource sharing programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshops conducted and PDF resource persons utilised.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize workshops and seminars based on identified training needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries exchanged information and shared resources.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotate PDF Council and General meetings in member countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDF meetings rotated biennially.

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5. Women with disabilities and gender development	To promote the equal participation of women with disabilities at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of members to promote the equal participation of women with disabilities. • Build the capacity of girls and women with disabilities at all levels. • Focus on gender sensitization training for national DPOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building training programmes for national DPOs and WWD groups organized at national and regional levels.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a women project officer to support PDF women's programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDF WWD programme established and resourced by 2007.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish linkages with gender focal points in PIFS and other regional CSOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkages with regional and international WWD networks established by 2007. • PDF WWD programme established linkages with women focal points and CSOs in the region.
6. Disability inclusive development.	To promote the adoption of disability-inclusive approach and mainstreaming of disability perspectives in policies, plans and programmes of governments, development agencies and CSOs in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of disability-inclusive national plans, in consultation with national DPOs and other stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability dimension included in PICs national development plans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a training manual on disability mainstreaming for use by members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability mainstreaming package developed and used by national DPOs by 2008.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of national disability policies and legislation in PICs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy on disability developed in 4 PICs by 2011 using Fiji as a model.

KEY RESULT AREAS (KRA)	POLICY OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)
7. Organisation sustainability.	To work towards the financial sustainability of PDF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways to make PDF self-sustainable. • Explore the future sustainability of PDF. • Develop a funding sustainability plan for PDF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-sustainable activities and potential funders for PDF identified by 2009. • PDF sustainability plan approved and implemented by 2010.