

2009

2008 annual report

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SAFOD

Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled



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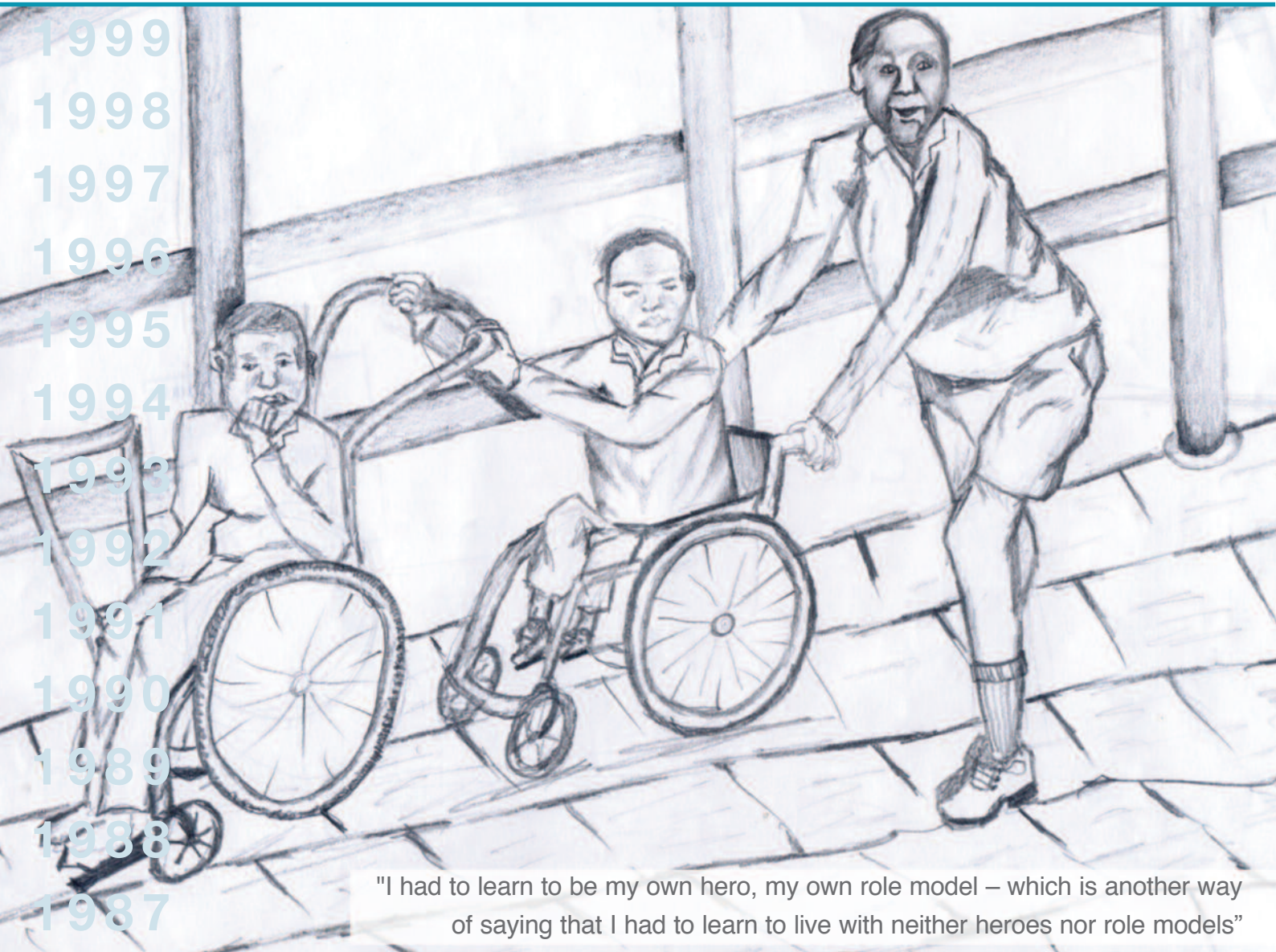
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"I had to learn to be my own hero, my own role model – which is another way of saying that I had to learn to live with neither heroes nor role models"

1986

Leonard Kriegel in his book, Flying Solo, where he describes his fight with polio and the process of accepting his disability in a world that values able-bodiedness.

SAFOD

Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled

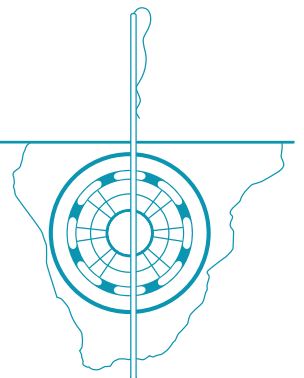
2008 annual report



*Illustrations above and on cover by the students
of King George VI School, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
"Positive about disabled people"*

SAFOD

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Abbreviations

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ABC Awareness Building Campaign

1997

BOSPED Botswana Society of People with Disabilities

1996

DFID Department for International Development

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DPI Disabled Peoples' International

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DPSA Disabled People South Africa

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DPO Disabled People's Organisation

1992

FAMOD Forum of Associations of Disabled People in Mozambique

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FAPED Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Angola

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FEDOMA Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi

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FFO Federation of Disability Organisations in Norway

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FODSWA Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Swaziland

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FOPDZ Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Zimbabwe

1986

LNFOD Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled

NCDPZ National Council of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe

NFPDN National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia

NGO Non Governmental Organisation

PAFOD Pan African Federation of the Disabled

REC Regional Executive Council

SADC Southern African Development Community

SAFOD Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled

SRP SAFOD Research Programme

ZAFOD Zambia Federation of the Disabled

Our Vision

- A new society where all people, including disabled people, women and workers, men and children are treated with dignity, respect and on the basis of equality.

Our Mission

- To strengthen Disabled People's Organisations in SAFOD member countries through training, research, coordination and information sharing, promotion of human rights and adoption of appropriate strategies for stimulating people with disabilities to enhance their economic, political and social development.

Our Core Values:

- Participation
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Commitment
- Gender-Sensitivity
- Empowerment

Our Objectives:

- To promote and encourage the formation of organizations of disabled people in the region and strengthening existing ones;
- To promote training of personnel and leaders of disabled people's organizations;
- To promote and uplift the status of women and children with disabilities in the region;
- To promote and coordinate development efforts and self-help projects among people with disabilities and their organizations in the region;
- To promote, support and compliment government policies and programmes in favour of disabled people in Southern Africa;
- To facilitate exchange of information in the field of disability through public education programmes, seminars, travel and exchange, conferences, assemblies, journals and other publications concerning all aspects of the lives of people with disabilities;
- To partner SAFOD affiliates with other international organizations in the region who share its objectives and whose activities and approaches are developmental in nature and rights-based;
- To strengthen SAFOD as a regional network of independent civil society organizations of disabled people in Southern Africa.



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1. SAFOD Profile

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In 1986 the Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled (SAFOD) was formed by disabled people for disabled people as a federation of non-governmental disability organizations in the then Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) countries. SAFOD, established as a non-profit organization, is comprised of national organizations of people with disabilities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These organizations are the Botswana Society of People with Disabilities (BOSPED), Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled (LNFOD), Federation of Disability Organisations of Malawi (FEDOMA), Forum of Associations of Disabled People in Mozambique (FAMOD), Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Angola (FAPED), Disabled People South Africa (DPSA), Zambia Federation of the Disabled (ZAFOD), Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Swaziland (FODSWA) and Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Zimbabwe (FOPDZ).

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SAFOD represents over 11 million disabled people in 10 countries through its programmes and projects designed to promote the rights of and welfare of people with disabilities as full citizens of their countries.

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SAFOD is a professionally managed regional network of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) whose main objective is to represent the collective voice and aspirations of people with disabilities in Southern Africa. Formed in 1986 as a motivated groups of DPOs, SAFOD has grown to become one of the largest and most vibrant organisations of people with disabilities in Africa today.

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Since its formation, SAFOD's main activities and programmes have included raising awareness on the living conditions of people with disabilities, promoting human rights and strategies focusing on poverty alleviation, capacity and institutional building of DPOs, development of women, children and youth with disabilities, research on disability, and prevention of HIV and AIDS among people with disabilities in Southern Africa.

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2. We can win this war:

Foreword by the Chair of the Regional Executive Council



Lehlohonolo Mafofo

It gives me immense pleasure and honour to share with our partners, donors, associates and members our thoughts at SAFOD within the covers of this report as Chairperson of the Regional Executive Board. I pay tribute to my predecessor, Rachel Kachaje, for being a torch bearer for the disability movement, in Africa and globally. I have benefited immensely from her counsel and have been inspired by her strengths as a leader, colleague, mentor and mother, roles she has juggled with agility and faith. She has set a high standard. I hope, with all your support, I will maintain that standard during my term.

When you talk about disability issues, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to single out critical ones because everything is critical to people with disabilities. The challenges are diverse across Southern Africa but the solutions similar.

When you are in the disability movement, you are at war, a soldier on the ready to fight and defeat the enemy. In my report, I share with you some of the battles we have fought and won and the wars ahead. The signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been a battle well fought. During 2008, the fruits of our lobbying were realized with the raised awareness of the CRPD, but it is time to win the war against lethargic implementation, poor policy enforcement and die-hard attitudes.

Today, the disability movement has lost many gallant women and men who took up the fight for social inclusion. Their fight will be futile if it does not translate into action for social equity and global inclusion of people with disabilities as full citizens.

People with disabilities in Africa generally and Southern Africa specifically, face many challenges from lack of access to education and employment opportunities to the threats of HIV and AIDS. The Africa Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Disability and the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities brought together persons with disabilities at the 15th International Conference on AIDS and STIs (ICASA) in Senegal in December 2008. The conference which coincided with the global celebration of the World Aids Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities highlighted the need for people with disabilities to be visible and vocal actors in the response to AIDS across Africa. In addition, this gathering discussed, and motivated delegates to take an active role in halting the pandemic to which persons with disabilities were not spared. The Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV and AIDS therefore aims to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to the impact of the pandemic. The campaign seeks the inclusion of people with disabilities in HIV and AIDS programmes at national, regional and international levels.

Programmes aimed at uplifting the livelihood of people with disabilities in our region have not been immune to the global economic recession as evidenced by more discerning donors and tight budgets. This calls for improved programming, aggressive lobbying and focused resource mobilization.

The Regional Executive Council has deliberated on the critical issues of increasing the impact of the work of SAFOD through continuous capacity building of its staff, strengthening networks and dedicated research on disability issues by people with disabilities themselves.

Let me thank my colleagues on the REC for the confidence in selecting me as Chairperson for five years. To the SAFOD Secretariat, thank you for welcoming me into the family and being the backbone of SAFOD operations.

Lehlohonolo Mafofo, Chairperson

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3. From agreements to action: The Director-General's Report



Alexander Mwanza Phiri

Faith without works is dead, to paraphrase the teachings of the Bible. I am convinced this is the underlying philosophy in advocating for and promoting the rights of people with disabilities that SAFOD is tasked with. As we review SAFOD activities during 2008, it is critical that we reflect on two major developments that impact on the future of people with disabilities not only in Southern Africa but Africa wide. The first is the completion of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities launched in 1999 and, the second, the renewed impetus in promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

For a long time, the disability movement in Africa and elsewhere has lobbied for social inclusion with relative success. More has been said than done in integrating people with disabilities into society as full citizens with the enjoyment of all human rights. Rights should be perceived as rights by the disabled people themselves and not development workers as has been the norm. People with disabilities are the most qualified and best equipped to support, inform and advocate for these rights themselves. Evidence suggests that the quality of life of persons with disabilities and of the broader community improves when disabled people themselves actively voice their concerns and participate in decision making and programme implementation.

The year 2008 was not an easy one for SAFOD and other disability movements because of a number of factors that hindered the ability to fulfill our mandate. There was a marked decline in donor support owing to the global financial crisis. Donors and partners, citing tight budgets, cut down on programming support, forcing SAFOD to also scale down on what it would otherwise have implemented. This is not to say the quality of our service delivery and the level of our commitment was compromised.

On a more successful note, we signed a funding agreement with the Federation of Disability Organizations in Norway (FFO) for a regional gender and development strategy to address gender imbalances in disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs).

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The awareness raised on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in our region was pleasing. During the year, many countries in Southern Africa either concluded the signing of the Convention or tabled the Convention within their policy making levels for the purposes of discussing ratification. But that is not enough. We would like to see the implementation of the demands of the Convention, translating in a better livelihood for people with disabilities in Africa.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was formally agreed to by the UN on December 13 2006, becoming the first human rights treaty to improve the rights of and increase opportunities to more than 600 million people with disabilities in the world. According to the UN countries



Meeting delegates at the TICAD meeting, Japan

that sign up to the Convention will be required to adopt national laws to give people with disabilities equal rights to education, employment and cultural life. In addition, laws should give people with disabilities the right to own and inherit property, not to be discriminated against in marriage, right to have children and not to be willing subjects of medical experiments.

This is the reason SAFOD is concerned over the lack of commitment by members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) block to address issues of disability. Commitment is a huge challenge in Southern Africa and beyond because ratifying the Convention is a strong indicator of commitment by any government.



A meeting with the SAFOD Patron, H.E. Festus Mogae

Countries are not committed because they are scared of the demands of ratification. To comply with the letter and spirit of the Convention, the availing of resources is key. But this is not an excuse for them not to ratify because we need to cross cut disability issues in all development work in any given country. For us ratifying the Convention is one such show of commitment to including people with disabilities as full citizens.

The African Decade for Persons with Disabilities

In 2009, the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities comes to a close but having achieved little in our view. Hence, we welcome the African Union proposal and agreement to adopt a second African Decade for Persons with Disabilities. This will run from 2010 to 2019. This is a major achievement we have been lobbying for because we want to see more action and less talk. It is time Africa walked the talk and the lives of people with disabilities are better, more secure, healthier and happier.

The African Decade is modeled along the lines of the Decade of Disabled Persons launched from 1983-1992 by the UN and featured a global programme of action concerning people with disabilities. The African Decade actually came about as a result of the failure by African countries to implement the Global United Nations Decade and its World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Other countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas had achieved a lot in terms of translating and fulfilling the letter and spirit of the UN Decade and its objectives. In Africa there was no political will to respond to the call of this Decade, hence the little impact recorded by the Global Decade in Africa.

*It is time Africa walked the talk and
the lives of people with disabilities are better,
more secure, healthier and happier.*

The disability movement views the first African Decade as a period during which a lot of information on disability went around from different stakeholders and governments. It was more of an awareness raising period and the second decade should be used to run those pledges and plans adopted during the first decade into reality. We want the second decade to be a decade of operationalising the plans that were drawn up and governments allocating resources for programme implementation.

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Most African governments rely on donor support as well but forget that when they raise resources they should include disability. If development plans are drawn up by governments they should clearly show how disabled people will benefit from those programmes. Thanks to the Japanese government who through Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a training facility to further the impact of the Africa Decade for Persons with Disabilities. Many DPOs in SAFOD in particular and Africa in general, have benefited from this training programme.



A photo opportunity with some of our donors in Botswana

Millennium Development Goals and Disability

In the background of the global economic and food crises, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a topical issue around the world during the year 2008. Halfway to 2015, developing countries, mostly in Africa, risk missing the goals. SAFOD has made presentations at regional and international meetings on the MDGs, which we believe on the whole, do not specifically refer to disability as a target. For example, on the universal primary education, there is no mention of the provision of mobility appliances to encourage school attendance by children with disabilities. On poverty reduction and other strategies there is no clear target that refers to people with disabilities. It is assumed that when they talk about women, women with disabilities are part of that and when they talk about HIV, people with disabilities are included. Like any development that we have challenged, if there is no specific mention, the tendency is to exclude people with disabilities. How can world leaders including African governments reduce poverty by 50 percent by 2015 when the poorest of the poor, people with disabilities, are not a target?

The exclusion of people with disabilities in the MDGs was the focus of a meeting organized by the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) and the African Decade Secretariat in Nairobi in September 2008 at which SAFOD was represented. The 200 delegates to the meeting produced a position statement calling on African governments to mainstream disability into the MDGs and for governments to move and support a motion during the UN General Assembly, for the establishment of a new UN Special Agency on Disability.

Policy advocacy

Policy advocacy is a cornerstone of our work at SAFOD. Towards this end during the year under review we conducted a pilot research programme on policy audit in four countries, i.e. Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland. The key focus of the audit was to find out existing policies on persons with disabilities in terms of issues such as education, gender and land access, and how people with disabilities were included as a target group. The research also sought to find out the level of knowledge about these policies, in particular law enforcement agents. Evidence based approaches are being used to fill in the policy awareness and implementation gaps.

There is some awareness about disability in various countries in which SAFOD has a member. However, if we look within SADC, disability competes with other issues such as HIV and AIDS, and the political issues of peace making. We are pleased, though, with efforts made by SADC on gender policies on disability. SAFOD would like to see more and more disabled people becoming aware of their political



Lesotho meeting

collaborative projects at SAFOD. ATLAS Alliance was represented by Halvor Kasland and Trine Riis-Hansen from the secretariat of the organization.

Our colleagues from DFID also paid a visit to our offices to discuss the SAFOD Research Programme (SRP), now in its second year. The SRP, based at the SAFOD Botswana office, is aimed at building the capacity of SAFOD and its member organisations to design, drive, own and use research to influence policy and practice that responds to particular needs and interests of people with disabilities in Southern Africa. The programme, which is now in its Main Phase (up to 2012), will also assist SAFOD to improve its organizational and operational approaches, procedures and performance.

The Immediate Past REC Chairperson, Rachel Kachaje, led a SAFOD delegation on a four-day exchange visit to Namibia, one of SAFOD's member countries. The visit was to promote the SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) and to meet and learn from DPOs, researchers, government institutions, institutions of higher learning and the academia, and other civil society organisations in Namibia.

In May, SAFOD was invited on a working visit to Frankfurt, Germany for the first members' meeting of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD), an organization initiated by the World Bank in 2004 to promote and facilitate inclusive development as a response to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The meeting was an opportunity to network and promote SAFOD programmes among old, present and potential partners. One major lesson from this meeting was that donors and other development agencies, including governments, do not seem to know or understand the meaning of capacity building in terms of disability.

Therefore, the World Bank, AUSAID, USAID, developed and developing countries and other UN agencies need to learn how to address disability issues; e.g. by organizing a meeting of World Bank country directors in Southern Africa in order to urge development agencies to include disability in their targets for emergency relief and other interventions. At this meeting, I was part of a nominations Committee for the elections of an Interim Board of Directors to which our colleague, Mr. A.K. Dube, C.E.O of the African Decade Secretariat, was elected as Chairman for a one year term. We congratulate him warmly and look forward to greater collaboration.

During the same month of May, SAFOD was represented at a conference organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and

situations and actually aspiring to get into higher levels within the political system and being visible. If more and more people with disabilities could move into higher political decision making levels within Southern Africa, the better our prospects of advocating for their social inclusion.

Networking

During the year under review, the Director-General welcomed a delegation from the ATLAS Alliance, a Norwegian organization, to follow up on a number of



Meeting in Zambia

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the Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) to deliberate on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. SAFOD's presentation at the conference focused on the Living Conditions Studies in the Global South as well as on changing community attitudes towards disability.

Towards the end of the year, I was a resource person at one of the workshops at the All African Conference of Churches 9th General Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique from 7-12 December. The Assembly also marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during a key note address by former President Joachim Chissano. In discussions during President Chissano's presentation, concerns were raised over limited access to effective ways the church can work in partnership with African governments to promote and ensure the human rights of individuals in the society with particular reference to the human rights of women and people with disabilities. In his response, President Chissano pointed out the need for efforts to be made at all levels, beginning with "personal de - colonization from certain negative attitudes and mentalities", and added that citizens and civil society organisations need to be in constant touch with the action plans of their governments in order to understand what is going on in their respective countries and possibly make recommendations. The Assembly discussed a number of issues, some pertinent to the disability movement such as human health, HIV and AIDS, peace and the role of the church in advocating disability issues. Through EDAN which introduced SAFOD to the AACC, we recommended that churches should be encouraged to nominate persons with disabilities as full delegates to future assemblies; and that AACC should facilitate a study on the Disability Situation Analysis in the Church to identify the Status of Disability in the church, and the barriers that hinder the participation of people with disabilities in church life.

Citizens and civil society organisations need to be in constant touch with the action plans of their governments in order to understand what is going on in their respective countries.

SAFOD also welcomed institutional partners from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

I thank the Regional Executive Council for its unwavering support to the Secretariat, in particular the new REC Chairperson, Lehlohonolo Mafofo. It would be amiss of me not to thank the Secretariat staff for their diligence, commitment and unity in advancing the mandate of SAFOD despite the trials and tribulations in 2008.

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Report. Enjoy, contribute and participate.

Alexander Mwanza Phiri, Director-General

4. Administration

Regional Executive Council Members (2008-2012):

Chairperson:	Lehlohonolo Mafofo, Lesotho
Immediate Past Chairperson:	Rachel Kachaje, Malawi
Deputy Chairperson (Development):	Adao Joao Pombal, Angola
Deputy Chairperson (Women and Under-Represented Groups):	Farai Cherera, Zimbabwe
Honorary Treasurer/Secretary:	Lazaro Manuel, Mozambique
Council Member:	Buyelaphi Masuku, Swaziland
Council Member:	Wabotlhe Chimidza, Botswana
Chairperson of the Regional Women's Committee:	Josephine Shinaka, Zambia
Chairperson of the Youth Committee:	Moses Chanda, Zambia
Past Chairperson and Honorary Legal Advisor (ex-officio):	Moses Masemene, Lesotho
Director General (ex-officio):	Alexander M. Phiri, Zimbabwe

Secretariat:

It is with sadness that SAFOD records the passing on of two Secretariat Staff members during 2008, Mr. Modicai Gumbo, the Finance Officer and Mrs. Rosie Magarasadza, the Bookkeeper. May their souls rest in peace. As at end of December 2008, SAFOD appointed a financial consultancy, Sippers Trading (Pvt) Limited, represented by Ms. Sue Els, to manage the Finance Department pending the appointment of substantive officers.

Director-General:	Alexander Phiri
Personal Assistant:	Xoliso Siwela
Finance Officer:	
Women's Coordinator:	Dorothy Musakanya
Programmes Officer:	Robert Mkozho
Administrative Assistant:	Jairos Patana
Personnel Assistant:	Annie Malinga
Information Assistant:	Prosperity Sibanda
Bookkeeper:	
Secretary/Typist:	Sikhohliwe Mpofu
Service Driver:	Bekithemba Moyo
Service Driver:	Panganai Sande
Office Orderly:	Janet Ngulube
Office Orderly:	Thembelihle Moyo



Alexander
Phiri



Xoliso
Siwela



Dorothy
Musakanya



Jairos
Patana



Annie
Malinga



Prosperity
Sibanda



Sikhohliwe
Mpofu



Bekithemba
Moyo



Panganai
Sande



Janet
Ngulube



Thembelihle
Moyo

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5. Our Programmes

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Overview

2006

1. Human Rights Project (HRP)
2. Disability Documentation Resource Centre for Southern Africa (DDRC-SA)
3. Conscientisation and Public Education Programme (COPE)
4. Capacity and Institutional Building Strategy (CIBIS)
5. HIV and AIDS Information and Prevention Programme (HIPP)
6. Women's Regional Development Programme (WRDP)
7. Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA)
8. Children and Youth with Disabilities Promotion Programme (CYDP)
9. SAFOD Research Programmes (SRP)

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Human Rights Project (HRP)

In May 2008, the Director General facilitated discussions and presented a paper on Changing Community Attitudes towards Disability at an International Conference on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD). The paper highlighted the need for deliberate approaches to secure and safeguard the rights of people with disabilities as human rights. Attitudes towards people with disabilities were still largely negative despite a number of strategies being implemented to promote inclusion and participation. Therefore, the Human Rights Project seeks to widen awareness programmes on disability issues as human rights issues.

The Convention, as it is now commonly known, was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December, 2006, and is the first new comprehensive Human Rights Treaty of the 21st century. It is a result of years of lobbying by disability organisations at all levels of the disability movement for a convention dealing specifically with the rights of persons with disabilities. Initially, many governments, including those traditionally in the vanguard of human rights protection, had reservations about the need to negotiate a major new human rights instrument. They were concerned about the large resources required for such a negotiation; and argued that there was no need for a new convention because the existing human rights instruments applied to persons with disabilities, in just the same way as they did to everyone else. This, however, was not correct because existing human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have not in practice been universally applied to all people. Some groups such as women and people with disabilities were found to be of less priority for governments to enforce. Hence, it was recognized that some groups of people who suffer from discrimination needed their own specific conventions to spell out in more detail their rights. Examples are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.



Empowering people with disabilities with locally made wheelchairs

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The new Convention is an important liberating instrument not only for people with disabilities but for governments as well because it elaborates in considerable detail the rights of persons with disabilities under international law, and sets out a code of implementation for governments. It touches on a wide range of real – life issues affecting people with disabilities, including accessibility, personal mobility, health, education, employment, habitation and rehabilitation, participation in political life, equality and non – discrimination. It marks a “paradigm shift” from thinking about disability as a social welfare matter to dealing with it as a human rights issue, which acknowledges that societal barriers and prejudices are themselves disabling.

Meanwhile, SAFOD was one of the African NGOs represented at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Yokohama, Japan, during 28 – 30 May, 2008. The conference, held under the theme of “Towards a Vibrant Africa”, was attended by African Heads of State and Government (hosted by the Government of Japan) representatives of multilateral organisations, the private sector, academic institutions, and civil society organisations from both Africa and Asia.

The Conference noted with concern that African countries continue to face a number of serious challenges that include widespread poverty and unemployment in rural and urban areas, coupled with rapid population growth; low agricultural productivity together with generally poor agricultural infrastructure and the increasingly severe effects of climate change. In addition, there are low levels of industrialization and inadequate generation of energy across the continent.

While the scourge of HIV /AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases, inadequate access to education at all levels and a corresponding lack of adequate education infrastructure pose major challenges. All these challenges negated efforts towards the rights of people with disabilities. Conference participants committed themselves to work together on the following priority areas:

- Towards boosting economic growth;
- Towards ensuring human security, including achieving the MDGs and consolidation of peace and good governance;
- Towards addressing environmental issues and climate change.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) also agreed on developing an African and Japanese CSO Network for promoting African Development and for continued process of TICAD.

Capacity and Institutional Building Strategy (CIBIS)

The main activity under this programme was the Zambia Awareness Building Campaign (ABC), a two year project funded by FFO through SAFOD. The project successfully produced and aired a radio programme, Disability Panorama, on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) radio station. A total 26 programmes on different professionals on disability and adverts on human rights issues were featured on Disability Panorama. The radio programme is a regular feature every Saturday in Zambia.

Other ABC project achievements included the signing by the Zambian Government of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Zambia Federation of the Disabled (ZAFOD)’s establishment of a Disability Resource Centre. The resource centre is playing a very vital role in informing people with disabilities on disability issues. In addition, to the resource centre, ZAFOD registered and developed a web site which is now fully operational. The site will soon be linked to the sites of ZAFOD’s partners and affiliates.

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As a result of the successful ABC, ZAFOD representatives have been invited to be part of the National Constitutional Conference (NCC), a body working to revise the Zambia Constitution and a ZAFOD representative now sits on the country's Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission.

African countries continue to face serious challenges including poverty and unemployment.

The ABC project in Zambia is a result of a series of surveys on the "Living Conditions of People with Disabilities" which started with the first study in Zimbabwe in 2002/2003. After Zimbabwe, subsequent studies were carried out in Malawi (2003/2004), Namibia (2004/2005), Zambia (2005/2006) and Mozambique (2006/2007). An important component of these studies is a dissemination strategy developed by the organisation to share the findings from the studies with different stakeholders such as community leaders, schools, teachers, government departments, policy makers, development agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Awareness Building Campaigns have been held with positive results in Malawi and Namibia. Thanks to SAFOD's Norwegian partners, FFO, who have funded these studies and the ABCs. The ABC in Mozambique is due to be launched towards the end of 2008 when the study report will be published. The next countries to undertake their Living Conditions Studies are Lesotho and Swaziland (in 2009 and 2010). The reports on the studies that have so far been carried out can be obtained on request from the SAFOD Information Department or accessed through the SAFOD web-site. After Lesotho and Swaziland, the next countries to undertake the studies are Botswana and Angola, most probably in 2011 and 2012.

Conscientisation and Public Education Programme (COPE) and Disability Documentation Resource Centre for Southern Africa (DDRC-SA)

One of the most successful activities launched by SAFOD through COPE was the project on "Promoting Dialogue and Dissemination of Information for the Empowerment of Disabled People in Southern Africa" funded by Bread for the World.

During the entire period of SAFOD's cooperation with Bread for the World, a lot has been achieved, in terms of raising the visibility of children, youth, women and men with disabilities in the region. There has been sharing of knowledge and information on disability among policy makers, academia, media professions, researchers, governmental and non – governmental organisations, development agencies, the business community, and the broad range of mainstream society.

Sharing of information on and implementation of some elements of the following organization's Strategic Plan (2007 – 2012) pre occupied member organizations and SAFOD Headquarters during 2008:

- Forming and strengthening women's structures in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland ;
- Transforming the SAFOD women's programme into a Gender and Development Programme and facilitating SAFOD member organisations to employ part time Liaison Officers to assist in strengthening national organisations through active participation of women with disabilities and prioritizing their needs;
- Establishing Standing Committees and other functional mechanisms to promote the needs of parents of children with disabilities, and youth with disabilities; and mobilize resources for these activities;

- Conducting training needs assessment in each SAFOD member country and organize national and regional training workshops on various relevant topics;
- Promoting investment opportunities among women and men with disabilities;
- Organizing a regional workshop for sharing experiences;
- Conducting workshops on gender awareness and gender mainstreaming; and creating networks of children, youth and women with disabilities with other institutions/organizations;
- Developing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating SAFOD's work;
- Carrying out research on various aspects of disability pertinent to the challenges of people with disabilities; research activities to be carried out through member organisations for the purposes of development of policies and programmes;
- Organising national consultative processes for developing effective methods of sharing information, e.g. through use of Braille, sign language, etc.

During 2008, SAFOD produced and disseminated to its members and partners various forms of printed and electronic documents, reports, newsletters, brochures, policy briefs, position papers and other materials through its broad range of programmes and projects.

In an effort to promote mainstreaming of the disability agenda in social and policy development, several meetings and discussions both large and small, were held with donor agencies (e.g. World Bank), regional and international bodies (SADC, Economic Commission for Africa and COMESA), institutions of higher learning, faith based- organisations, community leaders, business community and other stakeholders. For example, through the support of and collaboration with the Southern African Trust, there are on-going discussions to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between SAFOD and the SADC. MoUs were also signed with the African Decade Secretariat and Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD).

The SAFOD Patron, His Excellency the Former President of Botswana, Mr. Festus Mogae, offered to work on a campaign to sensitize the SADC Heads of State to ratify the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD) and to particularly include disability in their countries' national development plans.

HIV and AIDS Information and Prevention Programme (HIPP)

HIV and AIDS was one of the topics covered under the SAFOD Research Programme's pilot research projects in Namibia and Malawi. However, country reports from both Namibia and Malawi make no mention of disability, either as a result or a risk factor for HIV / AIDS, but statistics indicate that the estimated adult prevalence rate of HIV / AIDS in Namibia is 18% of the population and that of Malawi is 14% of the population. Among these are people with disabilities and therefore there is need to have further research to determine the effects of HIV / AIDS and people with disabilities in Southern Africa.

The nature of the interaction between HIV / AIDS and disability is the focus of the Yale/World Bank Study on HIV / AIDS and disability. HIV / AIDS and disability have been linked to the following:

- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Elevated risk for violence and abuse
- Disabled AIDS orphans
- Access to care; and
- Stigma

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Poverty increases the likelihood of developing disability through lack of access to health care and this may create an environment where people with disabilities are infected by HIV / AIDS. Another point is that children with disabilities are less likely to access education due to negative attitudes and this may lead people with disabilities to having a high risk of HIV infection. Lack of accessible HIV / AIDS prevention materials and messages targeted at people with disabilities through the media is an additional factor that makes this group more vulnerable to HIV infection. The social marginalization of women with disabilities increases their vulnerability to rape and abuse and compounds the stigma attached to HIV / AIDS should a disabled woman become infected.

The research concludes that as long as governments, health service planners and all those involved in the fight against the HIV / AIDS epidemic continue to see disabled people as a low risk population, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reverse the epidemic by 2015 will be elusive. People with disabilities must be acknowledged as a high risk group whose needs should be included in HIV / AIDS policy formulation and prevention strategies. .

Womens' Regional Development Programme (WRDP)

Regional Women's Workshop

In collaboration with the Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled, a Regional Women's workshop attended by representatives from all SAFOD member countries was held in April 2008 at the Victoria Hotel in Maseru, Lesotho.

The main objective of the workshop was to give an opportunity to women with disabilities to exchange views, experiences and knowledge on a range of issues of concern to them, including learning about the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The idea was to empower women and their organizations to take up issues with relevant authorities. At the workshop, women updated each other on their country and personal experiences, and more specifically, engaged in discussions on the following critical issues and came up with recommendations on:

- Challenges facing women with disabilities in Southern Africa and their engagement with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- The impact of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa and women's response to this;
- Gender based violence and abuse of women and girls with disabilities in Southern Africa;
- Identifying capacity needs of women with disabilities and models of good practice for empowering themselves and their organizations;
- Structural arrangements for building a viable and broad network of women with disabilities in Southern Africa;
- Identifying and developing national strategies for ratifying the UNCRPD with specific reference to women's issues.

At the end of the workshop, each country drew an action plan for follow-up and a detailed comprehensive report on the workshop was compiled.

An exchange programme was carried out in July-August 2008, involving Angola and Mozambique, and Swaziland and Zambia respectively. Each country delegation in the exchange visit comprised women and men. The main objective of the visits was to enable participants to learn about the extent to which organisations involved women with disabilities in their structures, planning, decision making and

development activities.

It was found that in all countries visited, there was minimal involvement of women in planning and decision making processes. Women are lagging behind in many respects, and they lack confidence support and empowerment.

Therefore, there is need to support and empower women with disabilities in terms of economic and leadership skills. It was also found that in all the countries visited, there was lack of focus on gender issues, and there were no financial resources to implement development activities concerning women with disabilities.

One of the recommendations from the visit was that the Women's Desk at SAFOD should help mobilize resources for addressing challenges facing women with disabilities.

The consultative meeting on the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and SADC Protocol on gender held on 3rd – 4th November 2008, was attended by the Director General and the Regional Women's Development Programme Coordinator. It brought together participants from Southern and Eastern Africa and was hosted by UNIFEM.

All countries in Southern Africa have ratified the CEDAW which is a key instrument for advocating for and implementing human rights in the region. 12 of the 14 SADC countries have reports due to the CEDAW Committee in the next two years, except for Madagascar and Malawi which have submitted their quarterly reports. It is evident that reporting on the status of women with disabilities remains a critical challenge for SADC member states. The failure to translate CEDAW into national laws is another challenge as most member states do not use it as a planning and programming tool. It was agreed that the UNIFEM sub – regional office will develop a project document on CEDAW which will include among others the training of national women's organizations and the strengthening of existing women networks in the use of the multi – sectoral CEDAW model. Regional training will also be conducted on CEDAW reporting for all countries for CSOs and governments and the UNIFEM model will be piloted on a multi sectoral and integrated approach for the implementation and monitoring of CEDAW in Namibia and South Africa.

The legal environment at the international level indicated that a lot of ground has been covered in providing instruments to facilitate women's participation in politics and decision making but the same cannot be said of countries in Southern Africa. Progress towards the implementation of the commitment to include women with disabilities in politics is slow.

2009

2008 Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA)

2007

During the year under review, DIWA finalized its Strategic Plan of Action at a meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi in March 2008. The meeting was organized by Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) in collaboration with SAFOD and DIWA. Key issues discussed included positioning DIWA as the voice of Women with Disabilities in Africa through focused networking with women's structures in the region such as the African Union, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and other international bodies.

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Noting that research evidence was key, the meeting resolved that a needs assessment for women with disabilities should be conducted to come up with accurate scenarios of what should be done, where and how. This was after the realization that DIWA should be a catalyst for mobilizing women with disabilities in Africa. As this role was not being adequately fulfilled because of lack of capacity and resources.

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As a way forward, the meeting agreed that DIWA should establish functional mechanisms to promote and protect the needs and interests of women with disabilities. Some of the activities identified include training and building the capacity of DPOs, lobbying and advocacy, HIV and AIDS awareness, economic empowerment and forming women's structures and strengthening existing ones in Africa. Not all sub-regions have visible women's structures as the Pan African Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD) has not done much to promote the development of women with disabilities. A needs assessment will be done as a one-off project from which a number of needs/activities are expected to flow.

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SAFOD Research Programme (SRP)

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The SAFOD Research Programme (SRP) was launched with funding support from DFID in 2006, the same year the Baseline Survey on Violence Against and Abuse of Women and Girls with Disabilities was started, following a Planning and Conceptualization Phase Process which resulted in the development of a Five-Year Programme on Poverty, Disability and Policy Research. The purpose of the SRP is to build the capacity of SAFOD and its member organisations to design, drive own and use research to influence policy and practice that responds to particular needs and interests of people with disabilities in Southern Africa. The programme, now in its main Phase, will also assist SAFOD to improve its organizational and operational approaches, procedures and performance. The SRP, whose coordinating offices and a full time secretariat have been established in the SAFOD new offices in Francistown, Botswana, involves a lot of activities around disability and research. It is anticipated that at the end of the programme cycle the findings from the research activities will lead to favourable policy change for people with disabilities in Southern Africa. At the time of writing this report, the following pilot research projects had just been completed:

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- Policy Audit (in Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Namibia);
- Education and Training (in Lesotho and South Africa)
- HIV and AIDS and Reproductive Health (in Namibia and Malawi),
- Needs Assessment (in Lesotho)
- Literature Review (in all 10 SAFOD member countries)

The research reports can be sourced from the SAFOD Information Department

6. The Federation in Figures

SAFOD AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2008

SUMMARISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	USD	USD
Grants	271,453	
Interest received	3,157	
Rent received	949	
Sundry income	440	
Total income		275,999
EXPENDITURE		
Admin, vehicle maintenance, postage, workshop Expenses, consultancy fees, travel & subsistence, etc	514,506	(514,506)
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(238,507)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 2008

ASSETS	USD	USD
Non - current assets		310,733
Current assets		<u>25,306</u>
		<u>336,039</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		300,354
Current liabilities		<u>35,685</u>
		<u>336,039</u>

2009

2008

CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 2008

2007

Operating activities

USD

2006

Net deficit for the year

(238,507)

2005

Interest income

(3,157)

2004

Depreciation

15,313

2003

Loss on exchange reserve

(10,136)

2002

Increase in trade and other receivables

(2,225)

2001

Increase in trade and other payables

34,262

2000

Net cash flows from operating activities

(204,450)

1999

Investing activities

Purchase of property, plant and equipment

(10,092)

1998

Interest received

3,157

1997

Net cash flows used in investing activities

(6,935)

1996

Net increase in cash and cash equivalents

(211,385)

1995

Cash and cash equivalents at 01st January, 2008

233,765

1994

Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December, 2008

22,380

1993

NOTES

1992

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1991

- a i) The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.
- ii) The Financial Statements are presented in United States dollars.
- b i) Donations are brought into account in the year they are received.
- ii) Finance income is recognised as it accrues.

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BANKERS: BARCLAYS BANK; KINGDOM MERCHANT BANK

1988

AUDITORS: ERNST & YOUNG

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