

**ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE**

1. Introduction

Disability Protection Association (DPA) is a non-governmental, Non-profit-making and Non-partisan organization established in 2008 by young men and women of different disability categories including physical, sensory and mental impairments, together with parents of children with disabilities from the regions of Somaliland.

1. Inspiration Concern

The inspiration to form DPA came out of realization that men and women with disabilities are doubly discriminated, poorest of the poor; face peculiar problems and their efforts are hindered by lack of coordination communication and information on varied but vital support as far as to effectively address their plight. This necessitated the birth of DPA to design intervention strategies through self-help and sustainable community based development programmes for women and men with disabilities specially and people with disabilities generally.

Mandate

* Mobilization of PWDS for development work, provision of relevant information and training, rehabilitation services and advocacy for PWD’s rights.

Vision

* DPA envisions a society in which people with disabilities are fully integrated and enjoying their rights.

Mission:

* To empower people with disabilities to maximize their potential and improve their standard of living.

Objectives

* To raise the morale and confidence of the people with disabilities.
* To promote the equality of the people with the disabilities to those without the disabilities and eliminate the disability stigma
* To create awareness relevant to the social issues and rights of the people with disabilities
* To research and keep statistics on the issues of the people with disabilities
* To create employment opportunities by lobbying the private and public sectors
* To create a culture of volunteerism to cultivate support for the people with disabilities

Core Values

We uphold the following principles and values, and consider them the core of our existence:

* Equality
* Non-partisanship
* Sustainability, interdependence and sustainability
* Transparency and accountability
* Integrity

**Main programme component:**

**8.1. Human rights and policy advocacy:**

DPA believes that one of the most effective means of realizing her vision is by supporting development of a vibrant and representative disability movement that is actively promoting the rights of all disabled people in Somaliland. The human rights and policy advocacy component therefore aims to facilitate the growth of disability movement in the country so as to bring about lasting social change.DPA supports organizations in their campaign for rightful inclusion of disabled adults and children in the society. The program targets policy makers at regional and district levels, undertakes research into political, economic, social and cultural trends of PWDs and writing positive papers. It aims at creating human rights awareness influencing regional and districts policy and services for PWDs.

**8.2. Health:**

People with disabilities face problems accessing health services due to several reasons including inaccessible buildings, long distance to the health unites, lack of communication especially the deaf, negative attitude, of health workers and the high cost for medical services. The health component aims at increasing access of PWD,s to health services. It involves accessibility to health and disability information by PWD,s, parents of child with disabilities, stakeholders, DPA staff and volunteers and the public through a community resource centre.

It also involves disability assessment and screening by specialist, provision of specialized medical and surgical treatment and home based care service to PWDs. However, DPA would like to venture into establishing health units that will provide accessible health services to PWD,s and can be used by the community, hence, a source of income the organization.

**8.3. Vocational skills training:**

Many disabled adults missed formal education and lack functional/employable skills that would enable them engage in development activity. Currently, supports PWDs of 18 years above to undertake vocational skills training in such courses as tailoring, carpentry and joinery, salon, computer and secretarial work, electronic, shoe-making and catering at technical institutes of Somaliland. The training also involves life and business skills to enable PWDs cope with challenges of disability, create own employment and sustain themselves when they go back to their communities. The programme provides tool kits to PWDs on completion of the training to ensure they put to use the skills learnt.

However, DPA’s challenge with existing vocational institution is that they are not accessible to PWDs. DPA has had to support construction of accessible pit latrines and fix ramps to the class rooms, workshops and dormitories at various institutions to provide for accessibilities to the trainees. In light of the above challenges, DPA would like to establish vocational training centers of its own which will cater for the especial need of PWDs. The centers will also train non-disabled people at a cost in an effort to sustain activities.

**8.4. Education:**

Despite the government policy of education, most children with disabilities do not attend school and those who endeavor to attend experience high levels of school dropout. There are several reasons for this situation: Lack of accessibility to school infrastructure, long distances to schools coupled with lack of mobility appliances, lack of scholastic materials such as Braille and negative attitudes of the people within the school environment among others.

In order to address the educational challenges of children with special needs, DPA is planning to support training of especial needs teachers, construct and establish a fully fledged primary school to cater for children with special needs and children of disabled parents and provide scholarship to university level.

**8.5. Rehabilitation and empowerment:**

Disability is no longer viewed as needy due to the result of impairment. The social model of disability has increased awareness that the environmental barriers to participation are major causes of disability. The international classification of functioning, disability and health includes five environmental factors that can limit activities and these are products and technology, natural environment and human made changes to it, support and relationships, attitude, services, system and policies. No nation has eliminated the entire environmental barriers that contribute to disability. DPA would like to embark on production of mobility appliances to enable PWDs participate in development work, training in orientation and mobility, activities of daily living and awareness creation on disability management and prevention for communities.

**8.6. Micro finance Services**

There are no microfinance institutions in Somaliland. Therefore, no credit services are provided to PWDs. The reasons for this kind of situation range from lack of collateral by PWDs, high interest rates charging on the loans, negative attitudes of service providers to inaccessibility of the infrastructure. The per capita income for an average person in Somaliland is less than 1 US dollar while that of a disabled person is nothing. Poverty and low income levels among PWDs have for a long-time been a great constraint to their social, political and economic development. Due to this, DPA came in to support PWDs in income generation to empower them economically, improve their livelihoods as well as create awareness of the capacity and ability of PWDs in managing credit by establishing disabled peoples cooperatives and credit societies. These cooperatives support savings and credit schemes of people with disabilities by:

* Providing training in business and loan management
* Providing loan to PWDs groups as a startup capital for onward lending to members for working capitals
* Lobbying with MFIs, local authorities and other NGOs for inclusion of PWDs in mainstream and poverty programs.

**8.7. Institutional Development:**

* DPA aims to strengthen her institutional capacity to respond to the needs of PWDs and stakeholders in areas of health services, sustainable livelihoods, vocational skills training, education, rehabilitation and empowerment, human right and policy advocacy and micro finance services. The institution has acquired a strong position at district and national level attaining representation in a number of NGO networks and advocacy coalitions.
* DPA has acquired a wealth of knowledge and practical experience, which is shared out with other development actors engaged in disability work. In order to be able to take on new challenge that face the organization and offer quality service to the target group DPA needs to construct her own offices and equip them with relevant facilities including transport.
* The management information system needs to be computerized to include an accounting system, a soft ware based monitoring and evaluation system and disabled people’s Data base, so as to get good quality and timely information to enable management take decisions from informed point of view. Through the years the organization acquired wide experience in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation. DPA’s entry point to disability work is through joint community meetings and workshop during which PWDs are assisted to identify service requirement and develop action plans and budgets.

**8.8. Sustainability:**

* It is evident that DPA has realized reasonable growth over the years. There is a great need for consolidating the achievements and develop a sustainability plan for DPA activities beyond donor funding**.** DPA is planning to establisha community resource centre, which will accommodate the offices, a vocational skills training centre, a modern guest wing with conference hall, a modern salon, secretarial service centre with cyber café, and a show room for finished products from carpentry, tailoring, crafts work, a prayer centre and library.
* The community resource centre will also act as a centre for research into the social, economic, political cultural trends of PWDs and enhance the establishment of Data bank to inform the planning and programme design by DPA in the next year. The centre will enable the PWDs, parents of children with disabilities, institutions and the general public access information on wide range of aspects including disability, community based rehabilitation and community development generally. The centre will also offer consultancy services to the NGOs and CBOs in the district.

**8.9. DPA Principles:**

DPA’s work in this area is based on the philosophy that all human beings have the same rights i.e.

* A right to Education, Influence, A livelihood, Mobility, Health, A home and relationship, Food and clean water, Recreation, Safety
* Some of the principles upon which DPA’s work is built are: Disability is social development issue, Disabled people particularly disabled women and children are among the poorest and most socially excluded in society, Disabled adults and children have largely been excluded from development work up to now, their needs often been seen from the medical or welfare perspective, Inclusion of disabled people in society and all aspects of development depend on the work of disabled peoples organizations, policies, responses and inputs made by government and other development agencies, It is the removal of environmental, legal, institutional and attitudinal barriers which will lead to disabled realizing their full potential and equal opportunities, It is self help work controlled by PWDs themselves, which is sustainable in the long term.

**9. Cross cutting issues:**

*In addition to main programme to the main programme components DPA programme incorporates other cross cutting issues of HIV/AIDS and the environment.*

**9.1. HIV/AIDS mainstreaming:**

*HIV/AIDS was identified as a challenge to be PWDs and cannot be overlooked when the development programme is to cause change. PWDs are not targeted by many actors in the HIV/AIDS sector resulting into lack of information and vulnerability to the pandemic by PWDs. DPA integrates HIV awareness in all training programmes, BOD and staff meeting.*

**9.2. . The Environment:**

The Programme emphasizes environmental protection and conservation in communities where DPA operates. It addresses issues of fertile soil management and a forestation. The sustainable livelihood activities emphasize sustainable agricultural and environmental practices such as organic farming and adoption of fuel saving stoves. This has helped to increase agricultural production in terms of quantity and quality.

**9.3. Networking and Collaboration**

* DPA networks and collaborates with a number of NGOs, CBOs, national organization as well as government. The main aim is to enhance partnership service on the basis of mutual support, comparative advantage and wider outreach in the programme area.
* Some of the collaborative venture includes: Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF), Somaliland HIV/AIDS Network known as SAHAN Network.