

# Rehabilitation International

---

# Annual Report 2020





## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear RI Global Family,

As we confront the global spread of COVID-19, the overwhelming priority of RI is to safeguard the wellbeing of our members, their families, and the wider communities in which we operate and serve.

As the COVID-19 continues to impact the health of citizens around the globe and create extreme market volatility, I am aware that each day is bringing significant challenges and pressures to the members of our global family.

Social and economic disruptions are impacting communities and families in all corners of the globe while disproportionately impacting the disability community as one of the most vulnerable groups worldwide.

Being with one of the largest and oldest global networks focusing on advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, at a challenging time like this, we are called upon to be vocal leaders, and advocate strongly for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

During the uncertain and unprecedented time, we should remain steadfast in pursuit of our mission to assist and support the disability community that we jointly serve.

Now more than ever, I urge you to provide a helping hand to persons with disabilities near you and around the globe.

As a disabled person who has worked her whole life on advancing disability inclusion, I have witnessed so many heartening examples of how resilient and compassionate people can be. And as your President, I am calling for your unitedness at this challenging time.

We are together in this. And I firmly trust, with courage and a caring heart, we will be together out of this.

Yours sincerely,

Zhang Haidi



---

## **RI GLOBAL STRUCTURE**

RI Global comprises a worldwide network of grassroots organizations, service providers, researchers, academics, professionals, and government agencies with members in more than 100 countries.

A democratic Non-governmental organization (NGO) governed by an Executive Committee, RI Global provides both an open forum for the exchange of experience, information, and research, as well as a platform from which people advocate for policies and enact programs that protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

RI Global is the only international disability NGO that is both cross-disability and cross-disciplinary. This approach allows RI Global to address disability, considering the range of disabilities, from physical to mental to psychosocial. Headquartered in New York City, RI Global holds consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies. Because success depends on the unity and strength of the disability community as a whole, RI Global seeks to work collaboratively in all of its activities, with a small staff based in New York that coordinates members and partners in the execution of RI Global's programs.

## **RI GLOBAL ORGANIZATION**

The RI Global Secretariat is led in New York by Secretary-General Teuta Rexhepi, who has spent more than 15 year in the nonprofit sector at national and international level, she specializes in nonprofit management and capacity building, development of membership programs, nonprofit marketing and public relations initiatives and advising on communications strategy and advocacy on rights and inclusions of people with disabilities.

The Secretariat is guided by a 25-member Executive Committee that includes disability leaders from 17 countries, chaired by RI Global President, Madame. Zhang Haidi, who is the Chairperson of China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and Executive President of Beijing Organizing Committee of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.





## RI 2020 Highlights

As we are all going through these challenging and trying times, we are aware to the personal and professional challenges that each of you is facing given the impact of COVID-19. I wanted to share an update on how the Rehabilitation International adapted to this crisis and highlight the important work still being done for our RI members and for the disability community worldwide.

We appreciate all our RI members and want to ensure that their focus is on the health and safety of their staff and the disability community that we jointly serve. For that reason, we have reached out to each of our grantee partners worked with them, case by case, to adapt project timelines and deliverables so that no organization was unnecessarily burdened by requirements set forth in our GDDF and AF grants.

Additionally, the RI Secretariat continued to work remotely and supported the RI global network during the time of COVID -19 outbreak with the guidance and the support from our RI President, Mme. Haidi and our RI Executive Committee members.

We have used different media channels to provide information, news and guidance that are regularly updated our website to help you and your community stay healthy, safe, and informed.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, on behalf of RI, Madame Haidi has written to leaders of the UN and other international organizations, including Secretary General of the UN, President of the UN General Assembly, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Director General of the WHO, to call for special attention for persons with disabilities against the pandemic. She attended the webinar hosted by ESCAP themed as Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic and called for international cooperation in helping persons with disabilities with humanitarian approaches. RI's voice was heard and warmly responded.

Upon Mme. Haidi 's instructions, we produced a COVID-19 publication, which is composed of articles by our members sharing good practices against the pandemic and stories about persons with disabilities during the pandemic. On September the 17th, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, CDPF and RI, together with UN Women and ESCAP, released an initiative titled "Call to Action: Enabling Sisters with Disabilities to Join in Shaping the Future We Want", calling for a coordinated global effort to empower disabled women and children. The initiative has been submitted to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General of the UN.

With the collective efforts of everyone, RI set up the special column of COVID-19 on our website presenting news and information from and for our members. United, we share our experiences and in doing so we become stronger and more confident in this war against the virus.



---

Many activities had to be canceled and/or postponed during the 2020, including **the 24<sup>th</sup> Rehabilitation International World Congress**, that was postponed to taking place from 7-9 September 2021, in the Danish city of Aarhus under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary.

The congress program already consists of 94 planned sessions (excluding Poster Presentations), spread across various session formats.

They are as follows:

- Keynote Sessions
- Plenary Sessions
- Master Classes
- Seminars
- Workshops and
- Presentation Forum of Various Projects and Practice.

The sessions cover 17 tracks (e.g. Work and Employment, Health and Function etc.) as well as the Key Note Session topics.

Program overview: <http://www.riworldcongress2021.com/presentations>

We have speakers and presenters from 29 different countries, covering much of the globe.

Call for Abstracts is open - deadline for submission is January 17, 2021.

FAQ on the Coronavirus

Kindly note that we continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 development across the globe to ensure that the formats of the congress are adaptable and reflect the realities and challenges we all face moving forward.



September 7-9 2021, Aarhus, Denmark

Plenary Sessions  
Master Classes  
Poster Presentations  
Presentation Forum of Various Projects and Practice  
Seminars  
Workshops

# Abstract Submission Open Until January 17 2021

Get involved at [www.reworldcongress2021.com](http://www.reworldcongress2021.com)

Questions? Contact [worldcongress@riworldcongress2021.com](mailto:worldcongress@riworldcongress2021.com)



[www.reworldcongress2021.com](http://www.reworldcongress2021.com)



## RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zhang Haidi - RI President

Jan Monsbakken - Immediate Past President

Susan Parker - Treasurer

### Regional Vice Presidents

Mark Webber - Vice President for Africa Region

Demelash Bekele - Deputy Vice President for Africa Region

Hashem Taqi - Vice President for Arab Region

Lobna Smida - Deputy Vice President for Arab Region

Yeja Lee - Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Joseph Kwan - Deputy Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Francois Perl - Vice President for Europe Region

Nick Carey - Deputy Vice President for Europe

Michael Brogioli - Vice President for North America

Mathieu Simard - Deputy Vice President for North America

### Commission Chairs & Vice Chairs

Tone Mork - Education Commission (Chair)

Asha Hans - Education Commission (Vice Chair)

Yueqin Huang - Health & Function Commission (Chair)

Silke Bruggemann - Health & Function Commission (Vice Chair)

Hiroshi Kawamura - Technology & Accessibility Commission (Chair)

Mathieu Simard - Technology & Accessibility (Vice Chair)

Pauliina Lampinen - Policy & Services (Chair)

Roy O'Shaughnessy - Policy & Services (Vice Chair)

Eckehard Froese - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities (Chair)

Jan Johansen - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities Commission (Vice Chair)

Khaled El-Mohtar - Social Commission (Chair)

Joseph Kwok - Social Commission (Vice Chair)

Friedrich Mehrhoff - Work & Employment Commission (Chair)

Madan Kundu - Work & Employment Commission (Vice Chair)



---

## RI GLOBAL COMMISSIONS





Within the structure of RI Global there exist seven Commissions of specialists and experts on issues in disability, which assist in developing and expanding programming and activities in accordance with RI Global's strategic goals. These Commissions meet throughout the year to examine the most pressing topics for people with disabilities around the world and devise an agenda of action.

RI Global's **Commission on Work and Employment** promotes the rights of people with disabilities to participate in labor, trade unions and other integrated settings, thereby empowering them to be productive members of society. The Commission carries out its mission by, among other objectives, actively:

- Implementing Article 27 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with public and private entities, NGOs and trade unions.
- Developing an online Resource Network of Experts to advise on issues of disability employment.
- Conducting scientific meetings in collaboration with Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network (GLADNET), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations.
- Removing all employment barriers by providing education and training, as well as fostering employment for PwDs in developing countries.
- Providing technical assistance in developing academic and professional opportunities for rehabilitation and placement personnel in local colleges and universities.
- Offering technical assistance to member nations in collaborative research projects designed to identify evidence-based practices capable of enhancing employment outcomes and quality of life for PwDs.
- Sponsoring the International Abilympics, a competition in which disabled people compete in a wide spectrum of work skill activities, which lend support to policies advocating for employment.



RI Global's **Commission on Education** advises on the creation and promotion of educational opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. The Commission also facilitates the provision of integrated services and inclusive quality education for the participation of disabled people. The work broadly comprises:

- Fostering the implementation of the UN CRPD with a with special focus on Article 24: Education.
- Advocating the provision of facilities and services for inclusive education in different regions by Regional Chairpersons of Education Commission.
- Sharing the successful experiences of other countries in inclusive education with a view to replicate the same in respective countries/regions with appropriate modifications.
- Conducting scientific meetings on education related issues at Regional RI Global Assemblies.
- Initiating and following up on distance and e-learning facilities for youth with disabilities.

RI Global' s Commission on **Health and Function** promotes the well-being of persons with disabilities, supports the prevention of disability and strengthens gender sensitive rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The Commission, through its regular work and meetings around the world, has a mission to:

- Work closely on health issues with the WHO/UNICEF/UN agencies and international or national organizations.
- Provide technical support in health/rehab/assistive technology programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Enable training programmes for medical and paramedical professionals for the welfare of persons with disabilities.
- Encourage Community-based Rehabilitation principles through a primary health care approach.
- Hold technical meetings and general conferences on health-related issues in disability.
- Advocate principles of barrier free/right-based inclusive societies for persons with disabilities.
- Promote global disability leadership.



RI Global' s International **Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA)** broadly focuses on the promotion of accessibly built and virtual environments, including assistive technology, as well as maintains a forum facilitating the exchange of ideas and good practices, notably in the areas of housing, public transportation, communications, technical aids and universal design.

ICTA also works to sensitize decision makers in the public and private sectors regarding the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities and offer possible solutions through technologies.

Members of the various ICTA sub-commissions constitute a voluntary network of experts in the area of technology and accessibility, notably specialists in the integration and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, developers of technological aides, human resources specialists, experts in the design of accessible environments and representatives of civil society.

**RI Global' s Commission on Leisure, Recreation & Physical Activities (LRPA)** promotes the right for an interactive lifestyle for people with disabilities in educational, physical, social and cultural activities. The primary aim of the commission is to develop and promote best rehabilitation practice and knowledge for all stakeholders to achieve accessibility for all people in the field of physical, social and cultural activities. Generally, the Commission promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities with a special emphasis on Article 30 by:

- Developing and disseminating best practice in the LRPA for persons living with disabilities and elderly people.
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues.
- Encouraging the participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.
- Promoting an active lifestyle. The field of LRPA can provide an important contribution to health, participation, and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.
- Developing cooperative relationships with international organizations.



---

RI Global's **Commission on Policy and Service** identifies new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions and analyses the ways in which these developments align with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

The mission of the Policy and Service Commission is to identify and describe emerging development of new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions, including but not limited to those that indicate best practices in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Policy and Service compares rehabilitation program development between different countries and closely follows that development at the UN level.

RI Global's **Social Commission** advances knowledge- and evidence-based practice to support the psychosocial functioning of people with disabilities in order to achieve maximum richness in their participation in society as citizens. It also engages in the capacity building of groups and communities in various situations to promote and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities (CRPD), as well as disability inclusiveness throughout all sectors of society. The Social Commission upholds the principles set forth by CRPD, and emphasizes that:

- Society should be designed to enable full participation by all citizens, if not it is the failure of society not people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities should be enabled to determine the goals of their rehabilitation and to exercise the same choice as others about their human relationships, the community and the environment in which they wish to live.



---

## RI GLOBAL REGIONS





## RI Africa 2020 Highlights

The Corona virus remains ever present. While restrictions in many African countries were eased, as the wave flattened and the numbers dropped, there remains a need to be ever cautious until there is a genuine proven vaccine available. The hospitality, entertainment and tourism industry remain very hard hit, which has serious consequences of loss of jobs. Too often it is persons with disabilities who suffer first and most. The NGOs rendering services to person with disabilities and other charitable organizations, and who rely heavily on contributions from the general public, are under enormous financial pressure, often with no increase in subsidies from Government (spending its money on COVID 19 related issues), and also from reduced donations from the private sector, many of whom are struggling to survive.

- Most CSOs switched their activities to wards minimizing the impact of COVID !9, and the potential 2nd wave.
- The First Lady of Ethiopia donated wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, which was a good and welcome gesture from Government.
- The Government, in collaboration with DPOs and CSOs like our National Member Organization, are involved in promoting the COVID vulnerability of persons with disabilities and stressing that they must be excluded or left behind.
- The COVID related restrictions were lifted to a large extent in July, with a bad effect on infection numbers. As people relaxed, COVID increased exponentially. So new regulations were introduced which involves the DPOs and CSOs.
- There are intensive efforts to restimulate the economy with major policy announcement s from the President in Parliament yesterday. The test will be to convert word to sustainable action.;
- The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities is a part of an accredited to the Commonwealth Disabled People organization, a very beneficial involvement.



## RI MENA 2020 Highlights

Many countries in the region suffer from an unstable political environment, poverty, war, an already difficult situation has become even more difficult due to a global pandemic with lockdowns all around the world and disruptions to daily life.

**Kuwait**-private schools continued their education virtually while public schools and schools for people with disabilities resumed their education via online platforms in October 2020. So far, only schools for people with intellectual disabilities have resumed their services. Rehabilitation and recreational centers are not available yet. Many private institutions and recreational clubs as well as NGOs have provided online platforms so that some services can continue online. The problem with this is that not all families or care providers are necessarily tech savvy which leaves people with disabilities further behind in the disruption of services.

**Jordan** - The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, provided an online platform for people with impaired hearing and the entire curriculum has been translated into sign language.

**UAE** - Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services continued the learning process and switched to virtual learning back in March 2020. Their website is also being used as a platform for updated news and resources.

**Egypt** - an NGO run by parents has been providing awareness and prevention measures through a website and informative videos for parents of people with disabilities.

On October 7, 2020, a law passed in Egypt that states that all governmental institutions must maintain a minimum of 5% employment rate for people with disabilities.

**Saudi Arabia** - many schools and centers have continued the learning process by providing virtual learning platforms for people with disabilities.

Oman - the Ministry of Education has provided people with disabilities with virtual learning opportunities that include but are not restricted to educational videos that they can view at their own convenience.

**Bahrain** - provided online educational services for all people with disabilities, especially for people with intellectual disabilities. During lockdown, all institutions and schools were closed but they were available to communicate via WhatsApp with parents until they launched their online programs.

**Lebanon** - having suffered from the effects of protests the government, a global pandemic as well as the recent devastating explosion which has caused tremendous damages to Lebanon and its people. Since the beginning of the pandemic, most of the NGOs provided people with disabilities and their parents with online awareness and educational support and even other services and healthcare. After the Beirut blast, with all the catastrophic situation people were in a disastrous circumstance, NGOs from all over Lebanon provided food, water, clothes, or to help rebuild, and find temporary places to stay, as well as psychological, social support and offering assistance for people with disabilities and their families.



## RI Asia & Pacific 2020 Highlights

RI Korea organized the Annual Conference, 18 September 2020 that was attended by more than 200 people working in disability-related fields such as professors, experts and students who are studying social welfare. The main theme of this year was: “Midpoint Review of Government Five-year Plans for People with Disabilities.”

The pandemic is bringing in much painful situation for the people with disabilities, due to lack of an adequate standard of living, or financial resources.

Since we cannot deal with all 10 Goals of the “Inchon Strategy” at the same time, the Working Group decided to focus on two main goals. **Goal 1 on “Poverty and Employment”**, and **Goal 6 on “Gender Equality”** and **“Women’s Empowerment”** were discussed.

### **Poverty and Employment**

These two issues are ongoing concerns in general but particularly in the Asia & Pacific Region, it is rather serious. It is estimated that 465 million persons with disabilities are at working age. However, they are two to six times less likely to be employed than those without disabilities and that women with disabilities are half as likely as men with disabilities to find a job.

Most countries are giving the job-training course, but the quality of this trainings is not sufficient to reach to social needs, so their job is limited in poor condition with manual work or self-employed, plus modern technology is developing very fast comparing with slower speed of job training for persons with disabilities. It causes the problem to be included in society when they are going to be a member of community with their contribution. The device gap is getting wider and wider between development countries and developing countries.

### **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**

According to the statistics, 350/690 million are women with disabilities in Asia and Pacific Region.

Due to women and disability, they are facing various forms of discriminations.

“Compare to the men without disabilities, women with disabilities are three times more likely to be illiterate, two times less likely to use the Internet, three times more likely to have unmet need for health care and two time less likely to be employed.”

Programs of RI need to have much more concerns to elevate their life to the better situations. There is time needed to achieve equal life but there is a hope since women with disabilities themselves started to raise their voice.



## RI Europe 2020 Highlights

Beginning of March to June 2020, most of European countries have slowed down their activities which have affected the work of our regional members. On the top of that, most of RI EU members have been involved in their national response to the pandemic.

The most visible consequences were the cancellation of the joint meeting with ISSA and the Global Rehabilitation Alliance that we planned on 19th March. This meeting was rescheduled to take place on October 23rd, 2020 virtually.

RI Europe is involved through two of its members (DGUV and INAMI) in the special working group on rehabilitation created by the ISSA. First presentation of the workplan of this group took place in early June in the Technical Commissions Forum of the ISSA.

The pandemic has led to the cancellation of two major events in fall and winter 2020: the RIWC in Aarhus (September) and the International Forum on Disability Management in Brussels (December). Both events have been postponed for 2021. The major issue that the disability organizations are facing in Europe is the lack of structural response from international organizations (WHO, European commission, etc.) about the consequences of the pandemic on the global health and social conditions of PWD's. Some European governments have also failed to respond properly on this issue and many specialists fear long term negative impact of the pandemic on the daily life of PWD's.



## RI North America and Canada 2020 Highlights

United States had the most reported cases of COVID 19 and the most reported deaths of any nation in the world. Parts of the nation have managed to flatten and even reduce the curve and some states have instituted mask requirements, 14-day quarantine rules for visitors and other measures to mitigate the spread of the disease.

The federal response has been uneven, and the United States continues to struggle, overall, with containing the spread of the virus. There remain ongoing concerns for people in long term care facilities (nursing homes) and we have recently experienced an unsettling surge in cases across the U.S.

The disability advocacy community has raised concerns about the impacts of COVID on people with disabilities who are at greater risk for illness and death and who are on the whole economically disadvantaged and even more so during a time of enormous economic stress.

The pandemic and subsequent economic crises in the United States and around the world underscores the need for greater engagement of people with disabilities.

RI member organization USICD is leading an effort to gain support for the International Office on Disability Act, federal legislation that would create a senior disability advisor position at the U.S. State Department.

### **Canada**

Several activities and numerous information have been shared at local and national level, targeting disability inclusion and access to services in COVID-19 time, such as:

- Online and social media presence, outlining the challenges faced by persons with disabilities (before and during the pandemic)
- Close collaboration with national and international entities on the topic.





---

# RI Global Projects 2020



---

**“Promoting Center Based Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education and Social Inclusion for person with disabilities in Ethiopia” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

This project was designed to bridge the gap in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia, particularly in rural parts of the country where the problem is more severe. In Ethiopia, people with disabilities experience multifaceted problems like social exclusion, poor access to rehabilitation services, and limited access to education. Few community-based rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation centers strive to address the rehabilitation needs of more than 15 million people with disabilities in the country. Even though these organizations have been doing quite a lot to support people with disabilities, the challenges are still untapped.

This project focused on three major areas:

- Providing rehabilitation services for people with disabilities combining community-based rehabilitation with a center-based approach.
- Promote inclusive education through training and set up resource centers.
- Raise community awareness to create better social inclusion.

With this project, VCBRA and RI managed to set up a rehabilitation center in Ambo town. This center is now providing rehabilitation services for people with disabilities in the region, particularly those who live in a deep rural area. The rehab center is equipped with based physiotherapy equipment, machineries, and outdoor games. This center is serving more than 3000 people with disabilities in the region currently. The rehab center is supporting children with disabilities who are under home-based rehabilitation. Hospitals in the region are now using the center as a referral rehab center. 13 community rehabilitation



workers received TOT training on rehabilitation skills to support children with disabilities by integrating their CBR work with the center-based rehabilitation. The community rehabilitation workers have been supporting more than 300 children with disabilities through a home-based rehabilitation service.



Towards realizing the inclusive education practice, this project collaborated with Ambo University and capacitated more than 30 teachers on inclusive education. Early childhood development and disability resource center were established, and the center is now serving teachers and students with disabilities to better practice inclusive education. Various awareness-raising sessions were conducted aiming at breaking the stereotypes and negative assumptions posed against people with disabilities.

This project was implemented from November 2018 to April 2020 with a financial contribution of 105,000 USD by Rehabilitation International.

Currently, people with disabilities, health institutions, universities, and schools in the region have been benefiting from the center. This initiative has also contributed to realizing the WHO-2030 agenda of making rehabilitation services to be part of the health system.

**“To promote quality inclusive education practices in Zambia’s schools” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

Inclusive Education project was successfully launched on 29th October 2020 at Gondar primary school, one of the project targets schools. In attendance were 130 (45 Males and 85 Females) people from the community, pupils, partners, and stakeholders.

During the launch, it was stressed that inclusive education values diversity and the unique contributions each student brings to the classroom. In a truly inclusive setting, every child feels safe and has a sense of belonging. Students and their parents participate in setting learning goals and take part in decisions that affect them.





**Training of teachers (5 per each adopted school). The training aimed at equipping the teachers with**

**basic skills in Inclusive education.** - A three day workshop was conducted for 25 teachers from targeted schools with the objective that girls and boys with disabilities benefit and learn from inclusive early childhood development and basic inclusive and equitable education through training teachers and education stakeholders on inclusion of children with disabilities in the ordinary primary schools.



**Building of ramps, pathways and modifying toilets to make them accessible to children with disabilities in the 5 schools. -**

The adaption works objective is to ensure that girls and boys with disabilities benefit and learn from inclusive early childhood development and basic inclusive and equitable education. Therefore, in all the five targeted schools in Chipata District namely: Nadalisika; St Betty; Magwero school for the blind; Gondar and Chipata primary works were completed. Thus, the target schools are accessible to children with disabilities to promote and achieve inclusivity.



Thus, the target schools are accessible to children with disabilities to promote and achieve inclusivity.

**Securing of project office and staff placement**

- With funding from RI, Enlight abilities managed to secure and setup offices in Chipata comprising of programmes and CEO office. In the programmes office, there are three staff comprising of the Program Officer, Finance and Administration Officer (Intern) and Program Officer (Intern). Both offices are in use and fully functional. The offices are equipped with three laptops, furniture, drawer/office cabinet, microwave, water dispenser and hand washing facilities.





**Provision of Assistive Devices** - EA handed over a wheelchair to Rosemary Njobvu aged 16 years in Grade seven (7) at Chipata Primary School. The girl had serious challenges getting to school because she had a worn-out wheelchair but with the provision of the new wheelchair, the project hopes movements for Rosemary will be made easier.

**Training of Experts in the Field of Creation of Barrier-free Environment” funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

In 2019 the All-Russian Society of Disabled People received the Global Disability Development Fund grant to fund the project “Training of Experts in the Field of Creation of Barrier-free Environment”. The project provides the training for future experts in creation of accessible environment, the experts then join Expert Centers, which perform accessibility examination of the buildings and facilities all over Russia. From the beginning of the project in 2015, 540 experts in accessible environment were certified in 70 regions of the Russian Federation and 39 regional Expert Centers were founded in 32 regions.





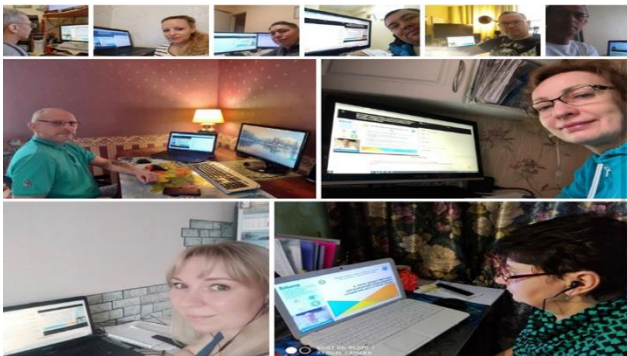
In 2020 the project earned international recognition when it was nominated as one of the best world practices in the field of education for people with disabilities by the ZeroProject 2020, and it received several Russian awards (Laureate of the Festival “World of Equal Opportunities” 2019 and 2020; Winner in the nomination "Best Innovative Practice in the Field of Employment of People with Disabilities" of the National Forum "Hope for Technology").

The trainers of the project are highly qualified experts in the field of creation of accessible environment, participated in the design and creation of the accessible environment in Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi, FIFA World Cup “Russia-2018”, elaborated set of rules for accessible environment. Both are leading experts and developers of the ARSDP System of Voluntary Certification, one of the trainers is a member of the Center for Accessible Environments (CAE, London), another trainer is a member of the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS).



Previously trainings were implemented in-person only, they consisted of theoretical part, practical lesson and examination. The theoretical part covered different topics on accessibility such as: legislative norms on accessibility standards established by the Russian government and ARSDP, measurement means used for accessibility examination, different requirements for provision of services for people with disabilities and many other. During the practical lesson, which is part of the examination process, the participants are

divided in groups, each group receives an assignment to perform accessibility examination of a facility or a building.



However, in 2020 due threat posed by the pandemic the project underwent significant changes. Some of the activities were moved to the online platform. First, in April and May the platform was tested on 6 webinars, each webinar attracted 135-190 viewers.

Then the program of the training was adjusted for the online platform, two trainings for Buryatia and Rostov region were organized in September and November, covering 173 and 86 trainees, respectively.



After the first wave of the pandemic ended 2 in-person trainings were conducted in Moscow under strict safety measures (all the participants were tested for the coronavirus before the training and received personal protection kits etc.).

During the in-person trainings 40



persons were trained.

Overall, in 2020 the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development fund helped to train 501 persons (with approximately 54 % of persons with disabilities and not less 51 % of females among them) on issues related to disability and accessibility issues in Russian Federation and to establish 4 new regional Expert Centers in Astrakhan Oblast, Perm Oblast, Kemerovo Oblast' and Stavropol Krai.





---

**“Capacity Building of Women with Disabilities: Advocating for Rights” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

This project was supported by Rehabilitation International. It was one-year project which started in May 2019 and ended in July 2020. Women in two States of India were provided leadership training so that they could carry out advocacy on their rights in the future.



An India National Gender Disability Facility Centre was established to advocate for Rights of Women with Disabilities. OPDs were brought into the program for sensitizing and future sustainability. Government officials who in the long run could support women with disabilities were invited and sensitized on women with disabilities capacity. A knowledge bank was built with training and advocacy material.

16 days activism on Elimination of Violence against Women with Disabilities - An Advocacy Campaign Azaadi Ki Udaan (Flight to Freedom) 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to fire up action to end violence against women and girls around the world. In both the state this campaign was carried on by organizing different programs. Radio Program through which the Campaign was done in Gujarat. There were street plays, puppet shows, open Mic and Slogan competitions. On the closing day the Commissioner Disability and board



**“Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

Child Welfare Scheme Nepal (CWSN- a local NGO), has implemented a project supported by Global Disability Development Fund (GDGF) of RI Global in 2019/2020 in Nepal. This project included various activities related with rehabilitation, economic empowerment of the persons with disabilities (PwDs), health services as well as support for education of children with disabilities (CwDs), community awareness and capacity building.



During the project period, 490 PwDs have received the dolls for play and cognition to improve their quality of live, 250 persons received wheelchair, crutches, white canes, walker, 4-legs sticks which are supportive for physical and social mobility. Similarly, 96 families have received income generation support include chicken rearing, groceries, goat rearing, pig rearing, doll making, tea shop, vegetable shop, snacks stall, material for boutique, Sewing machine etc. 30



PwDs have received the specialized services from different government and private hospitals. This service is more technical and helpful to the target groups. The project team also formed 15 self-help groups and provided training to empower local resource mobilization.

The project also provided opportunity of inclusive education for children with disabilities. In 30 schools,



School Management Team (SMT) and Parents Teacher Association (PTA) were formed and orientation on rights of the child, inclusive education, and equal opportunity for CwDs. 326 CwDs were received uniform, stationery materials and 29 disable friendly infrastructure were constructed. During this project period, more than 60 events conducted at schools and various awareness raising materials were distribute





### COVID-19 response activities in Nepal supported by RI Global

Since the global outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, project has faced many challenges to implement large scale of awareness activities and meetings. However, staff have been following closely on how the pandemic is affecting lives of PwDs and CwDs in project areas. We found many PwDs and CwDs and their families were facing challenges their health, education food, sanitation, some of them have lost income sources.

Seeing the challenges COVID-19 and its consequence to the most vulnerable persons with disabilities and their families, project started to distribute of emergency relief packages, sanitation items, health service and medicine support for most vulnerable families of PwDs. The project supported more than 2000 persons with disabilities and children with disabilities through this emergency support (COVID-19 response) program.

Apart-form the health, education, disable- environment, awareness programs and emergency support program, the project also covered the COVID-19 insurance of 360 persons from 111 families. The project team also conducted COVID-19 awareness programs with persons with disabilities, health workers, community members and local government representatives.





## “Women's Voices Project”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

With the coronavirus pandemic project had to adapt the creation and consolidation of the network of women with disabilities and caregivers of family members with disabilities in Brasilândia, a neighborhood of high social vulnerability in São Paulo, and decided to concentrate the actions of the second year of the project. This challenge was easily overcome with the engagement of the 8 Social Inclusion and Mobilization Agents (AIMS), chosen from among the women with disabilities and caregivers found in the territory.



AIMS at all times bring news, life experiences and debates that are important to the context that they are inserted, in addition to disseminating the project to other women and caregivers of family members with disabilities in the region and neighboring neighborhoods, with a forecast of involvement of 150 women with disabilities and/or caregivers in new groups led by the trained AIMS. As the meetings progressed, the virtual format became common among the participants despite the constant reports of missing the face-to-face meetings.



With the success of the online format, new partnerships and contacts emerged with the local specialized Municipal Rehabilitation Center (CER), the Integrated Center for Youth and Adult Education (CIEJA) of Brasilândia, and other health and social services in the region, which has open the possibility of expanding the project to other territories both in the city of São Paulo and in the states of Brazil where, BRASA have partnerships. Some actions are already planned for the first months of 2021 to publicize

the format of the project and the activities underway with partners in the states of Tocantins, Goiás, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte and Pará.

**“Exploring the Benefits and Drawbacks of Transiting from CBR to CBID”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) was first initiated by the World Health Organization following the International Conference on Primary Health Care in 1978 and the resulting declaration of Alma-Atta. By then CBR was a strategy to improve access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in developing countries.

The study aims to establish a clear understanding of CBR and CBID interventions implemented by the different stakeholders to inform deliberation of the name change: CBR to CBID.



**Image1: Discussion de groupe avec l'Association des Sourds du Togo (AST)**



**Image 2: Focus group au centre d'éducation des aveugles à Kpalimé**



**Image 3: Groupe de discussion avec les bénéficiaires (moteur) au centre de Monde Radieux à Sokodé**



**Image 4: Groupe de discussion avec les bénéficiaires (auditif) au centre d'APHAK à Kara**



**Image 5 : Focus group avec les bénéficiaires (visuel) à Institut des Aveugles du Togoville**



**Image 6 : Groupe de discussion avec les élèves handicapés auditifs de l'Ecole SHALOM de Dapaong**

**The main objectives of the project:**

- To establish the nature of interventions and services provided by different stakeholders implementing CBR or CBID
- To establish the changes realized by the different stakeholders since the declaration of the transition from CBR to CBID
- To identify the challenges and benefits associated with the transition from CBR to CBID in Africa.
- To propose appropriate strategies to facilitate harmonization of service provision to persons with disabilities



### **Main outcomes from the project:**

Existing documents on CBR and CBID in the selected countries reviewed to establish the nature of interventions, implementation strategies and target population.

- Preliminary information on the status of CBR and CBID obtained to inform completion of the inception document and development of appropriate data-collection instruments.
- Gaps necessitating data collection clearly identified.

Study instruments (questionnaire and interview guide) reviewed resulting from the testing exercise.

- Validity and reliability of data collection instruments established.

Four teams, each comprising a team leader and two assistants in place.

- Objective and competent teams to offset the project in the four selected countries

Teams were recruited using an elaborate process in the four countries. The recruitment exercise was based on applications and CVs of people found to be competent in carrying out research.

Data obtained at national and local levels in the 4 countries.

The four country reports have been compiled. However, they are still in draft form and undergoing a review to be finalized.

### **“Public private partnership on vocational training and education for youth with disabilities in Hanoi, Vietnam” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

In Vietnam, services of transition from VET to work for PWD are limited due to lack of collaboration between VET providers and employers. Currently, PWD mainly manage by them or get support from their relationships and DPOs to find suitable jobs after training.

This project aims at piloting an initiative of public private partnership (PPP) in providing vocational and education training (VET) and employment to youth with disabilities (YWD) in Hanoi to contribute to increase employment outcomes for youth with disabilities in districts in Hanoi, Vietnam

The main objective of the project is to pilot a model of improving access to formal VET and labor market for YWD through public private partnership between the government, vocational centers, disability employment services (DES), enterprises, and DPOs.

### **Main activities**

- Develop and implement a joint action plan on VET and employment for YWD through PPP between National Department of VET, Hanoi Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (DOLISA), vocational training centers, DES, enterprises, and organizations of people with disabilities (DPOs).
- Provide PWD the reasonable accesses and realistic orientation, skills according to their individual abilities.



### **Impact of the project:**

- Opportunities in accessing VET and employment for YWD was increased through a new and effective model of VET and employment for YWD in order to help them gain benefits of VET and employment such as rehabilitation, improved self-esteem, income and social inclusion.



- New skills and experiences that participants learn during the project are expected to bring positive changes in the disability and general community.
- Materials and handbooks are also useful tools for project holder to continue providing vocational training programs for YWD.
- Advocacy activities of this project are expected to bring positive impact to the whole community as new policies and policy modifications are essential tools to change the lives of people with disabilities in the long run.
- In addition, this project is expected to contribute to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of people with disabilities (UNCPRD) through practicing rights to work for YWD in Vietnam.

### **“Nothing About Us Without Us: Empowering People with Intellectual Disabilities through Self-Advocacy and Leadership in Israel” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

120 participants in 11 local Self-Advocacy Groups and 1 National Leadership Group met regularly to implement advocacy initiatives selected by the participants including: workshops for disability professionals and parents of children with intellectual disabilities on the importance of self-advocacy from childhood; advocacy and dialogue with public transport drivers to increase awareness and sensitivity towards people with disabilities; defining a healthy process for transitioning out of institutional housing and into community living; dialogue with potential employers to discuss barriers and solutions to employing people with disabilities; defining the role of an “Employment Supporter”, and self-advocacy for women with disabilities in the ultra-Orthodox community.

We also finalized the syllabus for the new Training Course “A Seat at the Table”, which trains people with disabilities to participate in non-profit Boards of Directors.

Members of the National Self-Advocacy Group were invited by Government to join two forums designed to address core issues. The first was to create regulations for implementing the Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making Law. The second was to advise Government on increasing the involvement of people with disabilities and their families in making welfare policy for people with disabilities. They also met members of Israel’s Ministry of Welfare to ensure people with disabilities have their voices heard by Diagnostic Committees.



The National Self-Advocacy Group has a representative on the Advisory Committee at the Ministry of Justice’s Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Based on the CRPD, The National Self-Advocacy Group drafted a recommendation for the Ministry of Welfare to better define the roles and boundaries of staff in community housing frameworks so that people with disabilities may exercise their right to control their own lives. They also wrote a position paper expressing their expectation that social workers in community housing will serve as mediators with the counselors.

Justice’s Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Based on the CRPD, The National Self-Advocacy Group drafted a recommendation for the Ministry of Welfare to better define the roles and boundaries of staff in community housing frameworks so that people with disabilities may exercise their right to control their own lives. They also



wrote a position paper expressing their expectation that social workers in community housing will serve as mediators with the counselors.





---

**“Improving DPO Stakeholders’ Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

The Improving DPO Stakeholders’ Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32 project will provide an accessible, high quality online training program on specific models of disability inclusive development in several sectors and available in 2 to 3 languages with complementing accessible guidance documents. Training modules include interviews with subject matter experts and relevant videos clips.

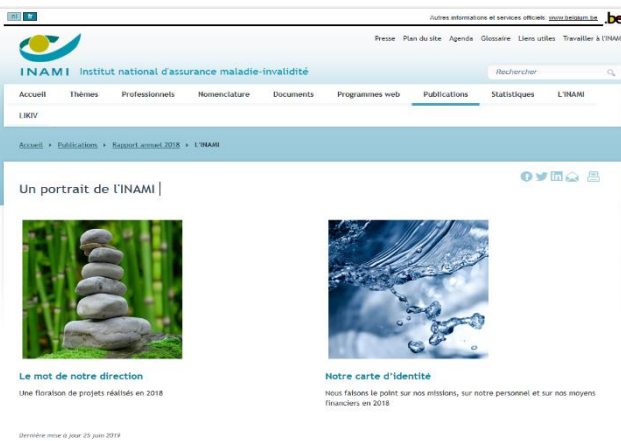


*World Bank Global Disability Advisor, Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, sharing why it is time to make inclusive development inclusive. Her TEDx video has been approved and is included in the general overview of Article 32.*

The targeted audience for USICD’s training pilot is government personnel, disabled peoples’ organizations, civil society organizations and CRPD reporting or shadow report training personnel from the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Armenia, and the United Kingdom. Examples of sectors covered in the training are: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (Art .11), Access to Justice (Art. 13), Health (Art. 25), Education (Art. 24), Work and Employment (Art. 27). The in-country pilot of the project has been delayed due to the pandemic and is now expected to occur in the early Spring of 2021.

## “Creating a practical toolbox for prediction of return to work and labor market inclusion of people with disabilities” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The objective of the project is to create an evaluation toolbox that is easy to access and usable by the greatest number of people. The purpose of this toolbox is to identify and fight the individual barriers that prevent the disabled person from accessing the employment guaranteed by Article 27 of the Convention. The toolbox is not designed to replace existing scales of evaluation but rather to draw inspiration from it to facilitate preliminary work that is often necessary to build individual insertion on the labor market. The toolbox will be based on a “tailor made” approach and an individual case management system.



The international evidence shows a great distance between public organizations, social security institutions, international and local experts and the ground realities that are the daily lives of people with disabilities. This practical toolbox would solve many situations and improve the fluidity of access to the labor market for people with disabilities.

INAMI has already worked on these issues by developing a self-assessment questionnaire for supporting people with disabilities in return to work. But also, by developing the use of ICF in predicting the return to employment of certain categories of disability. The objective of the project is to generalize this method of work and specially to disseminate it in other countries.

The project is going well and are ahead of targets. We will be able to present this work during several congress next year as expected (confirmation for the next Rehabilitation International world Congress, the International Forum on Disability Management and the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work; we are waiting for the congress of European Union of Insurance Medicine and Social Security (due to the pandemic, registration and modalities are postponed).

Literature review is completed. More than 290 abstracts have been reviewed, from 2 databases. 45 texts have been analyzed in detail and already more than 30 relevant tools found (some of them need to be further investigated). After the completion of the draft in the next 4 months the project we launch the website concept in spring.



---

**WHO – “World report on hearing” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

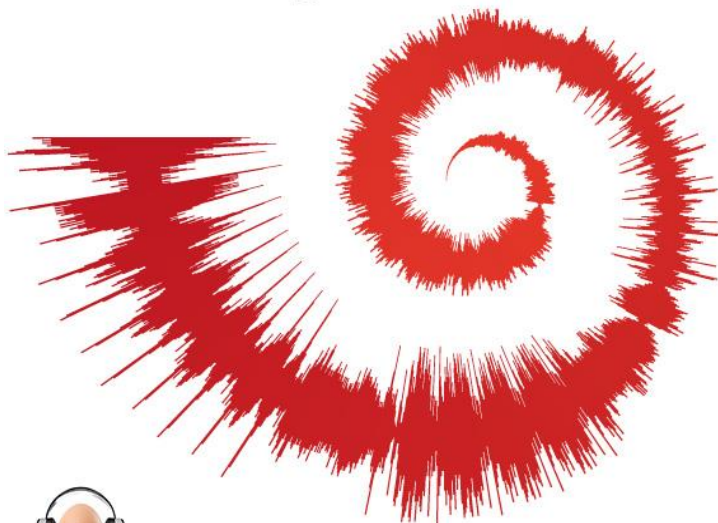
The World Health Assembly resolution on the prevention of deafness and hearing loss (WHA70.13) calls upon WHO to prepare a World report on hearing. WHO has initiated work on this report which will provide a cohesive and consistent narrative on hearing loss and ear and hearing care that is based on the best available evidence; outline the shift in the epidemiological distribution of hearing loss globally; and highlight best practices and priorities for ear and hearing care.



The report will provide an opportunity to establish the links between addressing hearing loss and achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably those relating to ending poverty (Goal 1), ensuring healthy lives (Goal 3), improving chances for education (Goal 4), and promoting employment opportunities (Goal 8).

It is expected that the report will kick-start global collaboration and provide guidance to Member States on next steps for making ear and hearing care accessible in their countries. This report will guide public health efforts to address hearing through advocacy, integrate ear and hearing care into national health plans, and include ear and hearing care on the agenda of development fora.

# World Report on Hearing



The report is being developed in collaboration with experts and stakeholders in the field of ear and hearing care who will inform the report's strategic direction and ensure that it reflects a range of cultural contexts and approaches to hearing care.

The report is expected to be global in its reach while keeping a special focus on low- and middle-income countries, where the number of people with hearing loss is not matched by the availability of services and resources.

The target audiences are policymakers and representatives of international agencies, civil society organizations, professional bodies and service providers.



The World report on hearing is expected to be launched in March 2020.

### Aims

- To highlight the rising prevalence of hearing loss and share information regarding its causes and consequences.
- To document scientific evidence and country experiences on the provision of patient-centered comprehensive ear and hearing care services that are integrated into national health systems.
- To set the agenda for the coming years in ear and hearing care globally.

*World Hearing Day  
3 March 2021*



**HEARING CARE FOR ALL**  
SCREEN - REHABILITATE - COMMUNICATE







## UNFPA partnership with Rehabilitation International (RI) - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

The cooperation between RI and UNFPA aims to contribute to strengthening sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services for women and young people with disabilities both in China and developing countries in support of the full realization of disability inclusive development.



During the UNESCAP meeting on Advancing Disabilities-Inclusive Development in December 2019 at Guangzhou, China, UNFPA together with RI organized a session titled as “Empowering women and girls with disabilities, including addressing their specific needs for sexual and reproductive health services” to promote universal access to SRH and ending gender-based violence (GBV) for women and girls with disabilities.





With support from RI and several partners, UNFPA China Office supported UNFPA Asian & Pacific Regional Office to develop a fully accessible video entitled "Respect, Recognize and Engage: Making SRH information and services accessible for persons with disabilities in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, especially under COVID-19 pandemic."

The video calls to “Respect” the rights of PWDs, “Recognize” the challenges in their lives, and “Engage” them in all spheres of social life. It promotes PWDs’ access to GBV prevention, their rights to education, representation and to achieve their full potentials. The video was launched on 3 December 2020 to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. For the next step, it is planned to make different language versions including Chinese for further media campaign.



UNFPA have worked with Women Enabled International (WEI) in Q3-Q4 2020 and developed the SRHRS checklist for PWDs during COVID-19, which is a key PWD inclusion activity in 2020. UNFPA and WEI have conducted a series of consultation with women led organizations for persons with disabilities in Asia and Pacific and gained rich feedback. The checklist is to be finalized in December, upon which, it will be translated into multiple languages and distributed globally, including Chinese in China.



---

**“Youth with Disabilities, Job seekers' Training” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Africa Fund**

30 trainees were placed w with 7 other employers in various South African Towns and a mentor was allocated to each trainee. The workplace experience adds to the valuable skillset needed to find employment, start your own endeavor, or enter tertiary education. Most experience is in the field project coordination, sales, Social Media and PR, Arts and Culture, Youth Development, radio, and admin.



In South Africa, the legislation for the appointment of persons with disabilities is very comprehensive and we use the quota system. However, there is no consequences for employers who do not reach targets. The pressure on an advocacy organization is very high and such programs are understandably not easily funded from South African resources.

As a result of this project, a contract was signed with SABPP (the South African Board of People Practitioners). Inclusive workplace standard was developed to get HR practitioners to subscribe to.



Monthly webinars were conducted with speakers on topics such as Disability Equity Training, Impairment Disclosure and Reasonable Accommodation in the workplace, Universal Design and Access, Support Programs, Career Development, Workplace policy, understanding White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding the workplace and economic participation of persons with disabilities.

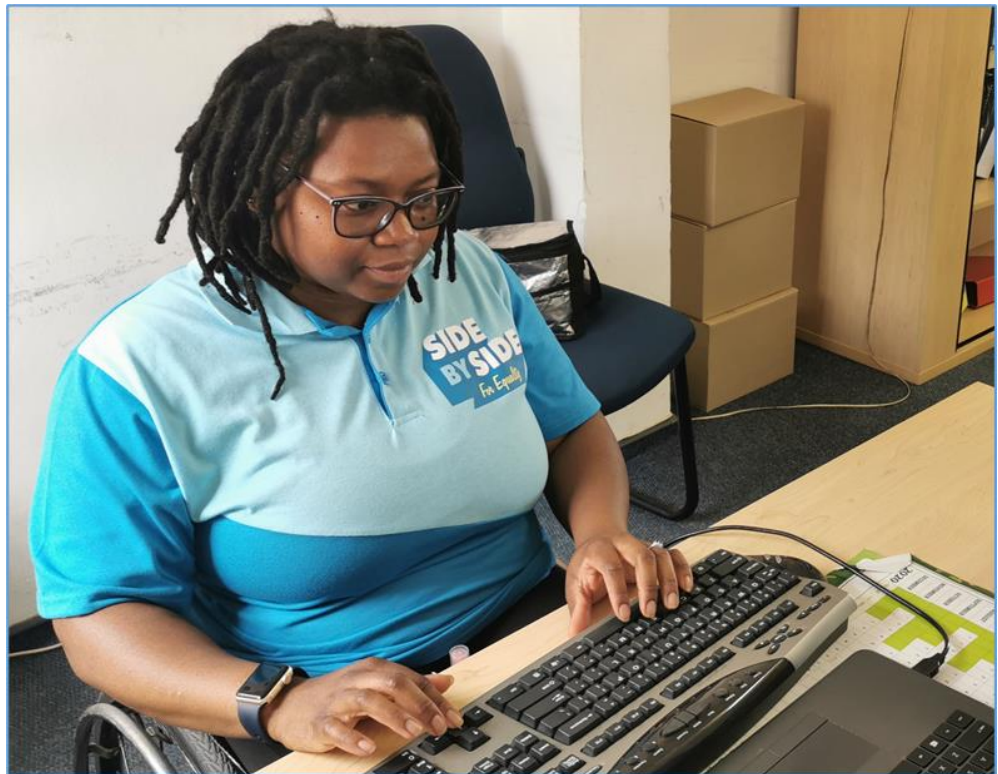
An agreement was signed with SALGA (the South African Local Government Organization), to provide them with workplace services for inclusion, and recruit candidates with Disabilities for employment.

The agreement also involves 5 other areas of inclusion and collaboration.

Amidst the COVID-19 - 19 Pandemic, the employment of persons with disabilities is an even lower priority in South Africa.

This project prepared 30 persons with disabilities for the workplace, thus supporting us to meet two of governments pieces of legislation by preparing people for employment.

Furthermore, this project ensured an income for 30 persons with disabilities during the most severe pandemic period of our country.







**“Environmental barriers: why implementation delayed & awareness” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

The project to building Inspectors in how to apply and understand the SANS 10400 Part S Building standard of South Arica. This Building Standard is the minimum requirements that must be adjured to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in the build environment



Although the COVID-19 lockdown and other related challenges made the project very difficult, we are very proud of this impactful project.

Training manual and Facilitators Guide was developed that is a huge millstone in the South African context.

The first training sessions were held on 4 and 5 March 2020 at NCPD with 15 Building Inspectors actively participating. 2 staff members included to learn from the training process with the view of being co-trainers in future.

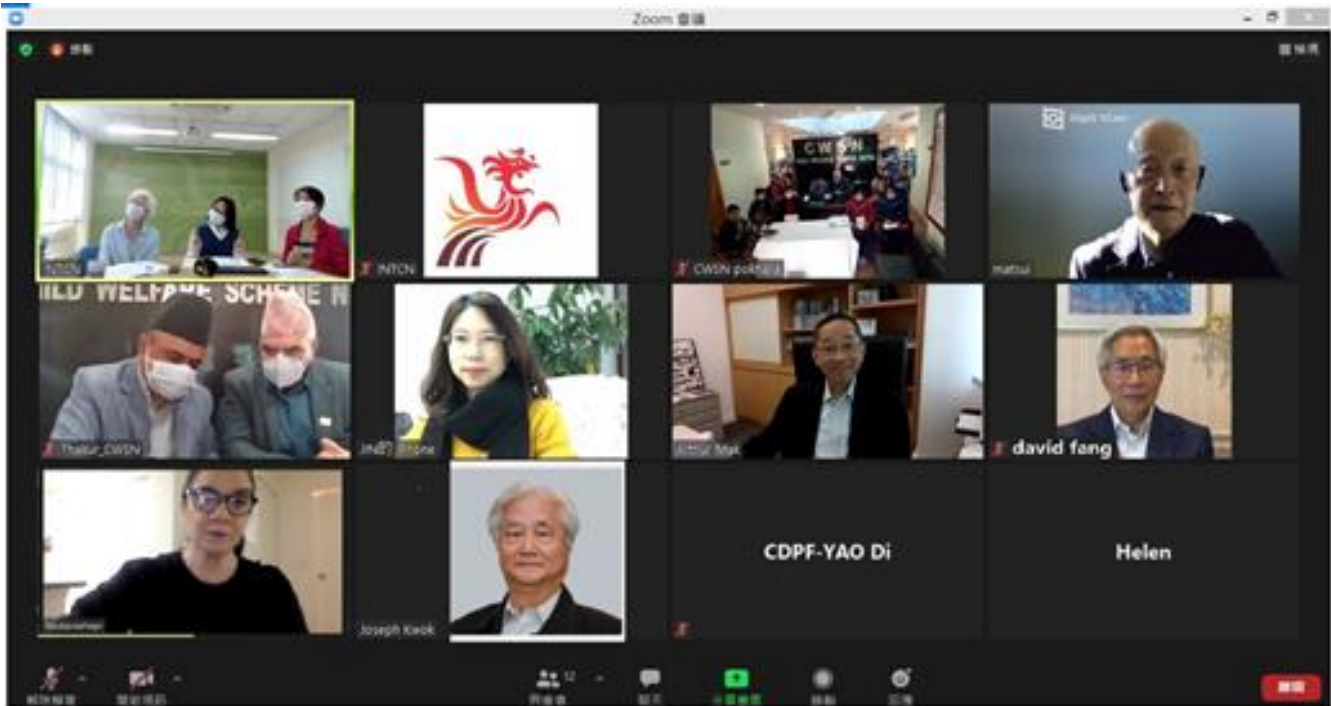
The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions of South Africa (SACPCMP) played a key role in identifying the Building Inspectors, as well as driving and motivating the Building Inspectors to participate in the training





## “Capacity building on rehabilitation practice with children with disabilities for members of Rehabilitation International in Asia”- funded by the 16th RI World Congress Fund

The project is developed and operated by The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) with support from Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSPRD) and sponsored by RI Social Commission. The local partner in the first stage of this project is Child Welfare Scheme Nepal (CWSN), and in the second stage other RI members from Asia will be invited to join.



The first stage of this project will last for 24 months starting from November 2020. The budget for the first stage is USD97,700. The 16th RI World Congress Fund provides a grant of USD40,000, and the rest of the budget is supported by Asia Trust whose trustees are Mr. Benny Cheung and Mr. Joseph Kwok.

As a WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation, The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) has been involved in rehabilitation training in Mainland China for more than 30 years. We also have experience co-working with other regional countries providing training, consulting, and development assistance, including India, Indonesia, Laos, Macau, Mongolia, Philippines, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

The objectives for this project are to improve the activity and participation levels of children with disabilities through expanding the rehabilitation knowledge and skills and sharing experience with the local partner’s staff teams in Pokhara, Nepal, and to develop and pilot the training modules, consolidate experience with case examples from other cultures, and refine them with the support of International and local experts. The training modules would be a good reference to replicate and conduct similar training in those countries with less resources in rehabilitation training.





---

The project aims to train 50 trainees, include 10 community health and rehabilitation workers, 10 local teachers and 20 parents. The training outcome is expected to have positive impacts on 500 children with disabilities and their caregivers. The training will be conducted onsite as well as online. The training content focuses on key issues facing children with disabilities such as feeding and swallowing, positioning and mobility management, and significance of play and practical approaches for children to enjoy and learn from play.

**UN ESCAP – “Protecting and Empowering persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

The project aims to train 50 trainees, include 10 community health and rehabilitation workers, 10 local teachers and 20 parents. The training outcome is expected to have positive impacts on 500 children with disabilities and their caregivers. The training will be conducted onsite as well as online. The training content focuses on key issues facing children with disabilities such as feeding and swallowing, positioning and mobility management, and significance of play and practical approaches for children to enjoy and learn from play.

The cooperation between RI and UNESCAP aims to enhance protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities to deal with the adverse impacts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. One of the two main components under this project is providing seed-funding for pilot initiatives to support the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities, including through disability mainstreaming, during the COVID-19 pandemic and in its aftermath. The other is enhancing the “Make the Right Real” portal as an online resource hub on COVID-19 for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Under component 1: ESCAP has already identified five initiatives in Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand to protect and empower PWDs in the COVID context and have completed partnership negotiations with four out of five organizations running these initiatives, as of 28 December 2020. These initiatives range from the provision of multi-tier mental health support; training in disability rights, gender equality and accessibility audits; the promotion of livelihoods through skills development; advocacy for representation in decision-making mechanisms at the community level and for the mainstreaming of disability concerns into national level sectoral strategies. Formal partnership agreements with these organizations will be concluded by January 2021.

Under component 2: the prototype of the website, which provides comprehensive information on disability-inclusive responses by country, has been completed and is undergoing internal review. The website will go public by end January 2021 and will be updated regularly therefore to ensure continued relevance.



September 7-9 2021, Aarhus, Denmark

Society Perspectives

Policy Perspectives

Scientific Perspectives

  
RIWC 24th  
**REHABILITATION  
WORLD CONGRESS**  
**MOVING SOCIETIES**

September 7-9 2021  
Aarhus, Denmark

Professional Practice Perspectives

Individual Perspectives

[www.riworldcongress2021.com](http://www.riworldcongress2021.com)