

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Strategic Objective 7: To promote accelerated and shared economic growth and development with emphasis on the second economy and social inclusion

Flemish Project:

- Trained 40 people with disabilities in the area of media production and animation in the provinces of Limpopo.
- Submitted draft proposal to Flemish Government in order to spend funds remaining from the Awareness Raising Development Co-operative between the Governments of Belgium and South Africa.

Special projects

- Danish Donor Funded Project:
- Economic Empowerment of protective and sheltered business enterprises was implemented in Limpopo, Gauteng, Western-Cape and the Free State with the aim of transforming them into viable business entities.
- The project was rounded off in March 2009 and a final Exit/Handover Report has been completed.
- Compiled a video documentation of the Economic Empowerment project in Gugulethu - Western Cape.

Key Priority Areas

- Development of cooperatives
- Poverty alleviation including early childhood development
- Increasing representation in decision-making, employment and in the workplace
- Skills development, especially in rural areas
- Transformation of all spheres of society with special reference to the private sector
- Addressing violence and abuse against women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older person., including the issue of human trafficking
- Job creation and the advancement of decent jobs
- Fostering mentorships, coaching and support structures

Current Activities

- Finalizing the National Disability Policy (NDP) as the South African implementation plan for the UNCRPD.
- Coordinating the 2% target for 2009-2010 of the employment of persons with -disabilities.
- Reporting obligations after signing the UNCRPD for South Africa. Preparation for Country report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Capacity building and orientation of municipalities on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Popularisation and translation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Current Activities

- Establishment of the task team and committee of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Preparations for participation in the Second Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August.
- Working with SADA (South African Disability Alliance) in preparations for nomination of a candidate for the Committee of 12 Experts to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Involvement within African Decade for Disability 2010-2019. The signing of the extension is in Libya October 2009.
- Promotion of Sign Language and Braille literacy in the country through participation in the celebrations for the Bicentenary of Louise Braille working with the SA National Council for the Blind.

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Current Activities

- Co-hosting the workshops of Artists with disabilities with Department of Arts and Culture.
- Working in collaboration with the Department of Transport regarding improvement of accessible public transport for persons with disabilities.
- Reports to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities.
- Finalisation and handover of the Danish Economic Empowerment Project.
- Preparations for the IDPD with the involvement of the Committee of 12 Experts to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and DESA (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs).
- **Budget**
- The budget allocated per MTEF in 2008/9 was R2 333 000.
- Total amount spent as allocated: R2 333 000.

Budget 2009/10

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- The budget allocated for 2009/10 is R2 440 000.
- The budget is being reviewed by National Treasury.

POA 2009/10 in the Social Protection and Community Development Cluster:

The 4 focal areas are to:

- Develop strategies aligned to the War on Poverty strategy and campaign to support vulnerable groups including children and families at risk.
- Development of a Disability empowerment Fund.
- Development of a strategy and action plan for development and empowerment of people with disabilities living in rural areas including at grassroots level.
- . Undertake a study to establish the reasons why government has not been able to meet the Disability Target for employment in the public service and review the target with specific recommendations

OSDP Key priorities

- Finalisation and adoption of the Draft National Disability Policy.
- Development of cooperatives.
- Poverty alleviation programmes.
- Increasing representation in decision-making, employment and in the workplace.
- Job creation and the advancement of decent jobs.
- Skill development especially in rural areas.
- Transformation of all spheres of society with special reference to the private sector.

Key priorities

- Addressing violence and abuse against Persons with Disabilities.
- Establishment of funds for economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- Establishment of a Disability Fund.
- Encouraging the participation of DPOs (Disabled People Organisations) and civil society.
- Fostering relationships with the National Disability Machinery and other partners.
- Observance of Commemorative Days and other Advocacy Programmes.
- Hosting of Disabilities Parliament 2009/2010 in collaboration with the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities.
- **Budget**
- The budget allocated for 2009/10 is R2 440 000

Challenges

- Limited budget
- Limited capacity within the disability sector
- Government Departments continue to treat disability as a separate issue rather than an issue to be mainstreamed into the general work of the department.
- Government has not yet reached the 2% target set for the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Ineffective coordination among various Government Departments and stakeholders.