

InPOWER Programme and its Human Rights Approach

Inclusive Empowerment of Women and Girls with Disabilities
in Sofala, Mozambique
Milton Chifuca, 06/11/2024

Presentation Content

- Introductory note
- Contextualisation
- Objectives
- Expected Results
- Human Rights Approach

Introductory Note

- **LIGHT FOR THE WORLD** is an international disability and global development organisation committed to empowering people with disabilities and their organisations and strengthening Eye Health, Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education and Economic Empowerment services in developing countries.

Contextualisation

- The **InPOWER** Programme (Inclusive Empowerment of Women and Girls in Sofala Province) responds to the growing exposure of women and girls with disabilities to **Gender-Based Violence** (GBV) in communities in the rural districts of Sofala Province, which has been exacerbated by the recent crises, especially the cyclones in 2019 and 2021, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- InPOWER is a gender-transformative programme with equality at the core of human rights.

Demographic Information

Target group

Women and girls with disabilities aged 9 to 20.

Beneficiaries

- Direct: 18,000 people (50% women and girls) (pupils, community activists, teachers, community leaders and people with disabilities)
- Indirect: 38,400 people. (50% women and girls)



Programme Objectives

1. Empower women and girls with disabilities to prevent different forms of gender-based violence (GBV), harmful practices and promote the rights of women with and without disabilities;
2. Create safe environments in the family, community and schools where gender equality and disability inclusion are guaranteed.

Expected results (1/2)

- **R.1:** Women, girls and boys have the mental, verbal, physical and resilience capacities to act as agents of change in the protection against gender-based violence in the school communities covered.
- **R.2:** Ensured behaviour change of service providers in the community (health, social, leaders) in relation to gender and disability norms that provide a supportive environment in the protection against GBV.

Expected results (2/2)

- **R.3:** Women and girls with disabilities are retained and progress in local primary and secondary schools, which provide a safe, inclusive and gender-sensitive learning environment.
- **R.4:** A more inclusive disability rights movement is being built, with an advocacy agenda that promotes the equal enjoyment of the rights of women and girls.

Human Rights Approach – individual level

- **Equal Treatment:** Ensuring people with disabilities have equal access to opportunities, services, and resources without any form of discrimination (i.e. IE).
- **Equity:** Removing barriers that prevent equal participation, such as physical accessibility and communication support.
- **Capacity Building:** Providing education, training, and resources to empower people with disabilities to advocate for their rights and take on leadership roles.
- **Holistic Approach:** Recognizing that people with disabilities may face multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, and addressing these **intersecting factors** in our program

Human Rights Approach – community level

- **Awareness Raising:** Educating communities and stakeholders about disability rights of people with disabilities.
- **Transparency:** Keeping processes and decisions open and transparent, allowing our partners, incl. people with disabilities and other stakeholders, to hold us accountable (incl. regular partner feedback meetings).

Human Rights Approach – societal level (1/2)

- **DPOs and women's rights organisations have better tools and capacities to spread awareness about gender equality**
- InPOWER has supported DPOs to strengthen their capacity to protect and safeguard their rights in front of relevant stakeholders, including institutions that guarantee the human rights of people with disabilities such as government secretaries, judicial officials, etc.). The programme raises awareness and conducts training on gender and disability inclusion, thus enabling support when people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, come to court or deal with other public institutions at different levels.

Human Rights Approach – societal level (2/2)

Support for a more active participation of women-led DPOs and women's rights organisations in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and in the reporting processes of the UNCRPD. It also includes capacity building for women-led DPOs to engage with the UNCRPD Committee, and training them to collect evidence on human rights abuses and discriminatory practices. In addition, round tables and seminars on the rights of women and girls with and without disabilities are also supported.



OBRIGADO A TODAS E A TODOS!