



Workshop on Raising Awareness on Disability Inclusive

Social Protection in Ethiopia

**Organized by The Federation of Ethiopian Associations of
Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD) in collaboration with the
EU-funded ILO/UNICEF joint Project on “Improving
synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance
Management”**



July 13 -14, 2021

Health International Hotel, Adama

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Abbreviations

PWD – Persons with Disabilities

FEAPD – Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities

DPO – of Disabled People Organizations

ILO- International Labour Organization

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

MoLSA – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Executive Summary

Background

The Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD) which was established in December 1996 to serve as a common voice of people with disabilities in Ethiopia is an umbrella organization of federal and regional associations of persons with disabilities.

FEAPD aspires to see a just society where all persons with disabilities are effectively included on equal basis with others.

The mission of FEAPD is to promote the overall participation of persons with disabilities in society by bringing the member associations together, serving as their common voice by representing them at national, continental and global level, by consolidating their common effort, by establishing strong relationship with their strategic partners, and working together in building their capacity.

The ultimate goal of FEAPD is to improve the quality of the lives of persons with disabilities through active and effective intervention of its member associations. To this end, the Federation has the following objectives:

- ❖ Improve the social disability awareness level on disability issues and persons with disabilities
- ❖ Collaborate with the government and other stakeholders to promote disability inclusive development initiatives
- ❖ Promote disability research, collect and disseminate information, and promote experience sharing
- ❖ Build the capacity of the Federation and its member associations, provide the required support and encourage its members to pursue good practices and ethics

- ❖ Ensure that vulnerable persons with disabilities such as women, children and the elderly are provided with the required focus in terms of availing special assistance
- ❖ Engage in advocacy and lobbying activities with the view to respect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Introduction

Social protection is an essential condition for social and economic development for all, but particularly for those who experience poverty and social exclusion. Social protection programmes can play a crucial role in alleviating and preventing poverty and vulnerability to secure people's well-being. They can also enhance the productivity, employability and economic development of people by creating better income-earning opportunities for them. Moreover, social protection can foster social inclusion and participation by ensuring effective access to food, health care, education and support services. Thus, well-designed social protection programmes have the potential to directly improve the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia is home to approximately 20 million people (World Bank and WHO report), including women, men and children with some form of disability, many of whom are unseen, unheard and uncounted. Persons with disabilities are defined as “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others” (CRPD, article 1).

In regular circumstances, persons with disabilities are more likely to be poor, to face catastrophic health expenditures, to have lower levels of education and economic participation and to live in households that are more exposed to economic insecurity and face endless daily barriers. Those barriers generate significant disability related extra costs for persons with disabilities and their families, increasing their vulnerabilities.

Regrettably, traditional disability-welfare approaches have promoted the opposite, building and spreading charity and medical perspectives in social protection responses. As a result, for too long, many national social protection systems resulted in furthering paternalism, dependence, segregation and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, limiting their opportunities to live independently in their communities.

Social protection for persons with disabilities is fundamental for achieving their effective inclusion and active participation in society through the provision of essential health care and income security along the life course; Social protection plays a critical role in reducing and preventing poverty, levelling out inequalities and building resilience for all against shocks and crises over the lifecycle.

The structure of social protection schemes can be an obstacle to the inclusion of persons with disabilities if not designed inclusively. By ensuring that persons with disabilities have income security, that their disability-related needs and extra costs are met and that they have effective access to health care services, these systems can significantly promote the participation of people with disabilities in the labour market and in society at large.

Organizer:

Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD) with financial and technical assistance of SP-PFM Project

Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to create an awareness on disability inclusive social protection and especially national social protection policy. Specific objectives are:

- a) Raise awareness among DPOs to advocate for an inclusive social protection system in Ethiopia

- b) Equip participants with better awareness for advocating for the review of the national social protection policy and strategy to be more inclusive.
- c) Providing inputs to the next five-year (2022-2026) social protection action plan to make it more disability inclusive and considerate of disability costs and support services in livelihood and social assistance programs.
- d) Advocating for social protection extension to persons with disabilities in the informal economy.

Deliverables:

The workshops aim at achieving the following results.

- ❖ An enhanced awareness on inclusive social protection among OPD leaders and a commitment to advocating for disability inclusion in the social protection policy/strategy and national action plan (2022-2026)
- ❖ The formation of social protection working groups at federal and regional levels with disability focal points appointed in key institutions.
- ❖ A position paper that captures FEAPD's commitment to advocating for disability inclusion in the existing and planned social protection programmes in Ethiopia to be communicated to MoLSA.

Structure of the workshop

This was a two-day workshop; first day of the workshop covered the presentation and discussions of **Disability Inclusive Social Protection** by disability inclusion expert from ILO followed with a group discussion and establishment of a national work force committee (composed of 8 people from DPO's and FEAPD) that will work on advocacy of inclusive national social protection policy/strategy.

On the second day, another presentation on **Ethiopian Social Protection Policy/Strategy and Action plans** was delivered by an expert from the Social

Protection Department of MoLSA followed with active question and answer session. Agenda of the workshop is attached at the end of the report.

Date and place of the workshop

The workshop was conducted for two days: July 13 – 14, 2021 at Health International Hotel, Adama, Ethiopia.

COVID Prevention

Considering the number of participants attending in the workshop, necessary COVID protection protocols had been applied with the provision of masks, hand sanitizers and observing social distancing with exception to those who need their assistants near them in relation to hearing supports.

Composition of Participants

Participants of the workshop were leaders of member associations of persons with disabilities from all the regions & two city administrations and from FEAPD staff. It is hoped that, on returning to their associations, they can influence policy implementers of lower level and regional level government offices through active participation in the implementation of national social protection policy and through advocacy. For a detailed list of the workshop participants, please refer to the annexes at the end of the report.

Welcoming

Following registration and seat arrangement of participants, Mrs. Woynshet Mulusew, FEAPD board chair, welcomed the participants and thanked ILO for their unreserved support and the EU for their financial support. He also thanked for attending the workshop. Mrs. Woynshet also thanked the presenters for dedicating themselves to help create awareness of social protection policies, which is fundamental for persons with disabilities in the society.

Opening

The training workshop was opened at 9:15 a.m. with a statement by the Disability Affairs Director of MoLSA, Mr. Asalifew Amedin, who on his speech stated that the overall goal of the training workshop was to introduce participants to what Social Protection is and existing national social protection policy/strategy so as to enable them equip with necessary know how on advocating strategically for Disability Inclusive social protection. Finally, he wished all participants a good and successful training workshop.

Deliberations

Day one: (13 July 2021) Workshop deliberations:

Two presentations one by ILO and the other by MoLSA delivered followed by active participation and Q&A sessions. Contents of presentations:

Presentation 1: Addressed by ILO focusing on how to mainstream disability in social protection systems. Major points addressed on the presentation were:

- ✚ **What is Social Protection?**
- ✚ **What is disability inclusion?**
- ✚ **Disability inclusive social protection**

Reflections from participants

- ✚ The national social security plan has been on action for years but persons with disabilities are not beneficiaries of the program to the extent it is supposed to be. Very negligent number of persons with disabilities are part of the program. The main problem for this is that associations of persons with disabilities are not consulted or been part of the planning and implementation of the policy.
- ✚ Majority of persons with disabilities do not know the existence of the policy and even those who knew do not have the idea that it is their right to be part of the program. The DPO's do not have proper knowledge of the policy so such kinds of trainings need to be given in a wide scope.
- ✚ Other people who are in better living conditions are benefiting from the programs instead of persons with disabilities. Even in the social protection programs, though

it is said that persons with disabilities will be included, the practice is contrary benefiting other people who are not supposed to be in the program in the name of persons with disabilities.

- ✚ Regarding the social protection programs, the criteria of selection does not take proper consideration of what persons with disability means since the awareness about disability is still at its lowest level. The program selects productive beneficiaries and with the existing inaccessibility in the country, it is understood that persons with disabilities will not get a proper chance in being selected and persons with intellectual disabilities will totally be excluded.
- ✚ There is need for a transparent planning, implementation and reporting mechanism of social security policy and all stakeholders especially persons with disabilities should participate at every stage. During reporting, clear data on how many persons with disabilities benefited from the program should be transparently reported.
- ✚ On the community-based health insurance and employment, persons with disabilities are not fairly represented and have a very low inclusion.
- ✚ Since the national social security is a policy, it needs a clear implementation guideline.

Response from presenter

- ✓ May be MoLSA could conduct a research for a clearer disaggregated data on the beneficiaries so that to make strategic move for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- ✓ The national safety net program which is one of the national social protection schemes is conducted in three ways; productive safety net (for those who are able to participate on productive works where they could be paid), permanent direct support (for those who are permanently unable to participate in productive activities and needs support) and temporary direct support (during times of difficulties like pregnancy, maternity, severe sickness and ext..).
- ✓ It is perceived that the data from the Central Statistical Agency, which underestimates the number of persons with disability in Ethiopia to be 1.09%, makes it more difficult for persons with disability to be fairly represented as

beneficiaries in the PSNP programs as reflected in the national social protection action plan. This calls for a strong strategy from DPO's to fight for the rights of persons with disabilities and this kind of trainings could equip them with better knowledge and know how about their rights and how to plan their strategic advocacy to push the government for a disability inclusive national social protection policy.

- ✓ Coming to persons with intellectual disabilities, it makes it more difficult to even imagine that they are considered in the plan. This is why all DPO's should together with FEAPD make a strong alliance and fight for the rights of persons with disabilities in a strong common voice since social security is a human right. Therefore, giving the issue a serious attention all DPO's and FEAPD should form a national working group on social protection that follows the planning, implementation & reporting and advocate strategically for inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- ✓ About 40 million people are included in the community-based health insurance but persons with disabilities are not fairly considered. This also goes to employment; the implementation of the proclamation 568/2000 "Employment right of persons with disabilities" is at its lowest. And in all misrepresentations, women with disabilities are much more vulnerable as they are under double discrimination.

Presentation 2: Addressed by MoLSA social protection directorate focusing on the National social Protection Policy (SPP 2014) of Ethiopia. Major points addressed on the presentation were:

✚ **Social Protection meaning and definitions**

✚ **Social Protection in Ethiopian**

✚ **Ethiopian National Social Protection Policy and Strategy**

Participants have been actively participating during the Q & A sessions at the middle of the presentation and brief clarifications have been delivered from the presenter.

The session was concluded by establishing a social protection 8-person Working Group (Committee) involving the Federal and Regional DPOs. The Working Group aims at advocating for disability inclusive social protection system in Ethiopia.

Day 2: (14 July 2021) workshop deliberations:

- ✓ Presentation by FEAPD on coordination mechanism between the umbrella association and Regional DPOs
- ✓ Group discussions to take position on how best to mainstream disability in the existing social protection system in Ethiopia
- ✓ Participants have passed the following message and taken position to pursue the following action to promote social protection inclusion in Ethiopia

Following a brief presentation from FEAPD on coordination mechanism between the umbrella association and Regional DPOs discussion questions have been prepared for participants to discuss in groups.

Participants have been grouped in four and discussed on how best to mainstream disability in the existing social protection system in Ethiopia?

All groups have discussed the question with active participation and bringing constructive ideas.





Reflections from the discussion questions

- Researches should be conducted on how to better craft a strategy for the advocacy of disability inclusive social protection policy,
- Pushing for a strong legal framework,
- Creating awareness on disability and disability rights,

- Evaluate reports of social protection to see the inclusion of persons with disability and act on the betterment of next phase,





- Advocate on strengthening of existing laws of disability and ask for new laws,
- Create awareness for persons with disabilities on social protection rights and other disability rights
- DPO's should have a clear data and Management Information Systems that provides information on the number of persons with disabilities that could be used in recommending to the statistical agency to reconduct research on number of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia,

- **Key messages:**

- ✓ Social protection is a human right that persons with disabilities should equally enjoy
- ✓ Social protection programmes in Ethiopia need to be accessible and effectively inclusive
- ✓ FEAPD and its member associations will work with MoLSA and relevant stakeholders in the review of social protection policy, strategy and action plan to ensure the inclusion of person with disabilities.

- **FEAPD Position:**

- ✓ FEAPD has to participate in SP policy review, programme design, implementation and monitoring
- ✓ CRPD compliant Disability assessment and determination system be introduced in Ethiopia
- ✓ Tax-financed social assistance programmes in Ethiopia should take account of disability costs and should provide support services and concessions to persons with disabilities
- ✓ Disability card (equal opportunity card) be introduced in the social protection system for persons with disabilities to access concessions, support services and to cover disability costs.
- ✓ MoLSA and concerned social protection institutions should consult FEAPD and Regional DPOs in social protection system design implementation and monitoring.

Closing of the training

Following the presentations of the group discussion the two days training came to a close. During the closing speech, FEAPD chair of Management Board Mrs. Woynshet Mulusew thanked the participants for their active participation and the inputs they provided on disability inclusive social protection.

Mrs. Woynshet also thanked the ILO and the EU for their technical and financial support that enabled FEAPD to conduct this important workshop training at the time when needed most. The workshop was closed at 5:40 PM on July 14, 2021.



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Federation of Ethiopian Association of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD)
Workshop on Raising Awareness on Disability Inclusive Social Protection in Ethiopia
Attendance Sheet
July 13-14, 2021 At Adama Health International Hotel

S.no	Name of Participant	Sex	Organization	Position	Telephone	E-mail	Signature			
							7/13/2021		7/14/2021	
							Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
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S.no	Name of Participant	Sex	Organization	Position	Telephone	E-mail	Signature			
							7/13/2021		7/14/2021	
							Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
1	Pawlos Kasu	M	KNAD	Presid	0923551220	pawloskasu@gmail.com				
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3	Firehiwet Minde	F	W.E.N.	-	0912772746	FirehiwetMinde@gmail.com				
4	Myriam Alem	F	ENAD	Sign. Officer	0911697435	-				
5	Amarc Ayalew	M	ENAD	Adm. Director	0925763725	enad@enad.gov.et				
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8	Adanicht Meles	F	FEAID	Board	0920641897	-				
9	Tegste Meles	F	FEAID	Member	71	-				
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11	Abraham Tule	F	ELDA	Assistant	0913506735	-				
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18	Zenebe Aster	F	CD A	Member	0912125517	-				
19	Mohamed	M	CD A	Member	0927520664	-				
20	Getachew Kure	M	CD A	Member	09167073103	-				



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Federation of Ethiopian Association of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD)
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Attendance Sheet

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S.no	Name of Participant	Sex	Organization	Position	Telephone	E-mail	Signature			
							7/13/2021		7/14/2021	
							Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
1	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0912094620	—				
2	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0911-3621-01	—				
3	ገብረ-ገብረ	ባ	ENAB	ፓሪቲከን	0911403954	gibrielgibriel@gmail.com				
4	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	ENAB	ፓሪቲከን	0955346235	gibrielgibriel@gmail.com				
5	አብነት/አብነት/አብነት	ባ	Somali Federal	Chairman	0915101355	koribare6@gmail.com				
6	አብነት/አብነት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	member	0912743283	addisabab@gmail.com				
7	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0912382035	—				
8	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0967630877	—				
9	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	09260809126	—				
10	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0913770684	—				
11	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	091367507	hidaya.mil1993@gmail.com				
12	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0949117904	—				
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14	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0953119849	—				
15	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0911541685	gibrielgibriel@gmail.com				
16	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0916023699	melakubede67@gmail.com				
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18	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0932248880	hiwot5@gmail.com				
19	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0911694149	tenabel2@gmail.com				
20	ወ/ሮ/ፊት/አብነት	ባ	FEAPD	ፓሪቲከን	0931141940	—				

21 አብነት/አብነት/አብነት