Annual report for the

Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB)
55, Akintan Street, Off Clegg Road, Ojuelegba,
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Nigeria

Secretariat report

Prepared by

The Administrative Officer

December, 2020
Introduction

Nigeria Association of the Blind is a national representative of blind and partially sighted person with membership across the states in Nigeria, including the federal capital territory (FCT).

Our mission is to promote the rights of the blind and partially sighted persons in Nigeria through Advocacy, capacity building and partnership.

2020 was a year like no other, with several projects implemented while some altered due to the covid-19 pandemic.

The secretariat applied for the expression of interest for Sightsavers inclusion works, inclusive eye health and inclusive education which are to be implemented in Lagos, Kogi and Kaduna state respectively.

NAB was selected among other organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) in Lagos for due diligence by Sightsavers, held in March, 2020 at the office and was awarded to be an implementing partner for the inclusion works project in Lagos state.

On the other hand, the inclusive eye health and education project was announced during the lock down and NAB was selected to be part of the steering committee member to execute the project in the states chosen by the Funders.

The secretariat restructured with the appointment of Ms. Oluwakemi Odusanya as the Administrative Officer for the association who commenced her duties from the 1st of August, 2020 and Mr. Ololade Kolejo as the Assistant Administrative.

Before the implementation of various projects in the secretariat, there was an interview which appointed the Finance Officer (Ms. Abimbola Adeola) as the finance officer for the NAB. She performed her duties with no much enthusiasm and was termitted in November 2020, after days of job abandonment.

Projects:

NAB was awarded several projects which spans from education, inclusive and accessible employment, inclusive eye health etc. this made the office busy with one task or the other. Below is a tip of the ice.

Disability Rights Fund (DRF)

From the 20th of March- 13th of July, 2020 the secretariat team worked from home due to the wake of covid-19 in the country and globally. Although, the secretariat submitted proposal for the Small and Medium grant of the Disability Right Fund. After a long back and forth, NAB National was awarded the small grant worth $20,000 to implement the

PROJECT FOCUS
to advocate for the rights of blind persons and other print disabled individuals to access print materials
in alternative formats through the domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty in line with the CRPD article 9
(accessibility) and article 24 (education) and the SDG 4 (quality education)

Duration: September 01 - August 31, 2021

Target: the legislative/ Parliamentarian/ Nigerian Copyright Commission

Location: National

Grant awarded: $20,000

Activities implemented:

1. Organized 2- day meeting of 10 persons with disabilities (visually impaired persons, persons with
albinism, jonapwd) guided by a legal expert at have a better understanding of the Treaty, to aid
the advocacy process.

Summary: this was carried out in Abuja, from the 17th- 18th October, 2020 at the Nigeria Police
officers mess.

The participants expressed excitement to have participated in the meeting, especially for persons
with albinism, who pledged to work together with NAB to achieve its goal for the betterment of blind
and otherwise print disabled individuals in Nigeria.

2. Develop position paper on the right of blind and other print disabled individual to access printed
materials to be used as tool of engagement.

Implementation process;

Immediately after the meeting, a group of committee was set up to work on the dialogue and come
up with a formidable draft which will be converted as NAB position paper to actualizing the
domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty in Nigeria.

3. Conversion of General Mathematics for SS2 into Braille and EPUB to be used as sample fueling
advocacy.

Implementation process:

General mathematics textbook was purchased in hard format (print material) and converted o EPUB
and Braille

This was done in December 2020, and shared with experts for transcription verification.
2.0 Inclusion Works:

Project focus: the possibility of having more persons with disabilities access more formal wage employment.

The program seeks to test models of inclusive employment practice and generate robust evidence and data which can be used to influence at a national, regional and global level.

NAB National was awarded the project to be implemented in Lagos state.

Duration: August01- June 30, 2021

Location: Lagos

Grant awarded: 11,970.91 GBP

Activities implemented:

1. Advocacy visit to Platforms and TVET centers for the q1 (August-September 2020)

   Summary: The team of admin alongside few persons with disabilities visited the Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and the Lagos state Technical Vocational Educational Board (LASTVEB) who were happy with the visit and promised to work together to achieve the projects goal.

   Several organizations were reached out too but, due to the lock down there was no subsential feedback from them.

2. Organized dialogue series with pre-varsity students with disabilities (tertiary institution aspirants) on guidance to professional career paths before commencement of Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination.

   The dialogue was carried out in Q2 (November 2020) which was attended by university management, persons with disabilities, OPDs, HR personnel, etc. the aim was well achieved and several questions were answered from the students and professionals, and the university management assure the students an inclusive and accessible environment regardless of their disabilities.

3. Dialogue series with the platform members (ICAN and MAN) on disability compliance in accordance with the UNCRPD and the SDG

   Summary: the platform members were first reluctant to use the word ‘disability’ they termed it derogative name and should not be used for individuals in the category, but they were enlighten on the terminology, and guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) which embraces all diversifiedabilities,and ensures an inclusive and accessible state for all.
Most importantly, the floor was exciting as the private organizations representatives were marveled to see diverse persons with disabilities.

Finally, it was agreed that a communiqué be circulated to enable easy referencing of the points and be published by the press men, to give it a wider spread.

This was implemented in December, 2020.

3.0 WIPO/ABC project
Project focus: production of print materials in accessible formats in the North East and South South region of Nigeria.

Location: three states each from the North East and South-South region

Duration: December 21, 2020 - December 15, 2021

Grant awarded: $28,284

Activities implemented
The project started pretty late due to the lock down which affected most activities, such as the physical training to be held in Lagos guided by the WIPO expert, and this resulted to having the eight (8) designated persons from the various organizations (NAB, Nigeriawives, ANWAB, Disability Empowerment Solutions and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social development) to have to undergo a 36hours mandatory self-access online course which should be completed on or before the 15th day of February, 2021 after which the production of selected textbooks will begin and project ends by December 15, 2021.

Implemented activities

1. The project memorandum of understanding was finally sent in on the 15th of December, 2020 and the first activities of onsite/online training to be held at the NAB Secretariat started with the eight representatives from NAB, Nigeriawives, ANWAB, DES Nigeria and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development. The ABC course online registration for the completion of the module 1-3 on or before 7th of January, 2021 commenced 22nd December, 2020.

Inclusive Education
NAB was selected as a steering committee member.
The project is to be implemented in Kaduna.
Several meeting was held virtually for the startup of the project proposal before its final signing.
In the month of August, it was stated that the project was in its final stage and the steering committee members will be update in 2021 on the status of the inclusive education project.
Inclusive eye health project
The project is to be implemented in Kogi state. Two representatives from NAB (the Admin Officer: Ms. Oluwakemi Odusanya and the Kogi state NAB Chairperson, Ms. Zainab Sule). These persons will be representing the organization during meetings and implementation of activities for the project.

Implemented activities
Accessibility audit was conducted in four local governments in Kogi state from 7-16 December, 2020. In Ampa LA, Idah LG, The Admin Officer was selected to draft the report for the accessibility audit conducted with other OPD members.

How you can support
In spite of the ups and downs 2020 presented, we contributed in our little corner to the development and inclusion of blind and partially sighted persons across the nation, these you have seen in the report. Although, many persons and states are yet to benefit and we are not tired to implement projects through partnership and advocacy.
Our national office is open Mondays- Fridays 9am-5pm, except on public holidays, for inquiries at, 55, Akintan street, off Clegg Road, Ojuelegba, Surulere, Lagos
Or send a mail to info@nigeriaassociationoftheblind.org or kemi.odusanya@nigeriaassociationoftheblind.org and be sure to get swift responses.

Areas of Concern
Inclusive and accessible education: with the era of remote learning, blind and partially sighted persons are left behind to struggle on adaptive measures to be included in the education sector.
Education institutions do not have reading and writing materials in accessible formats such as, Braille, DAISY, EPUB, audio, etc or even reading devices that enables blind or visually impaired persons learn independently.
This has rapidly eaten deep into the education system, and gradually reducing the academic performance of blind and visually impaired persons in Nigeria, especially in the rural areas.
How you come in
NAB as a national body of blind and partially sighted persons in Nigeria, is open to partnership that will enhance the inclusive and accessible education culture, by building the capacity of blind and partially sighted students specifically in the remote area, to educational in independent, and also train them with the use of various digital devices that can be operated independently without having to depend on another, hence, increasing the IQ and EQ of the student to bring to life the champions of today, through the SDG 4 (promoting equitable and qualitative education that will promote lifelong learning)
You can partner with NAB on this project by---
Agricultural investment

Vocational And technical operations

Building capacity of blind and partially sighted persons on the SDG
Disability compliance in the employment sector