



Te Toa Matoi (TTM)
Anderson Causeway
P.O. Box 606
Nanikaai, Kiribati

tetoamatoak@gmail.com
www.tetoamatoa.org
phone: (+686) 75022679

Universal Periodic Review

Joint Stakeholder Submission for the Review of Kiribati

A joint submission by:

KSCCSN – Kiribati School & Center for children with Special Needs.
KSA – Kiribati Scouts Association
KRCS – Kiribati Red Cross Society.
KANGO – Kiribati Association of Non-Government Organizations.
K-WIMA – Kiribati Women in Maritime Association.
RAK – Reitan Aine ni Kamatu.
AMAK – Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati.
KFHA – Kiribati Family Health Association
HEMO – Healthy Eita Maeao Organisation
Irekenrao

I. Background information

1. Te Toa Matoa Association (TTM) is a Disabled Persons Organization run by persons with disabilities and has an increasing number of small groups that affiliate to it. TTM gathers a group of people with different types of disabilities such as hearing impairment/deafness, physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and psycho-social and advocacy for their rights.
2. TTM was established on 10 May 1999 and it was registered as an incorporated society on 10 of June 2011. Since from that time TTM has worked with government ministries, communities and NGOs to promote the rights of PWDs. TTM has already worked in the area of Education, disaster and climate change issues, woman and youth development.
3. As stated in the Kiribati Disability Monograph, that used data from the Kiribati Population and Housing Census carried out in 2015, that there are 3.1 % Persons who have disabilities out of the total populations in Kiribati which about 95,743. The figure is for the age of 5 years old and over.

II. Issues and Recommendations

Issue

4. TTM, its partners and stakeholders commend the government for coming up with a National Disability Policy key area 4, pg 11, paragraph 1 which ensures all available resource need to be provided to the community by improving accessibility in terms of public infrastructure to be accessible to PWDS, and providing accessible information and technologies for vision impairments.
5. TTM knows that there are things have been done by our government in term of achieving this goals and target but it is not enough as there are still challenges faced by PWDs by still no having accessible information provided or available for vision impairments.
6. In terms of the infrastructure, public buildings still not accessible for PWDs. E.g. offices, Bank, Wharf, Airport terminals etc.

7. PWDs still do not have full access to public transport where it is very hard for them to travel for example, on public buses. Most of the bus drivers pass them when they see PWDs at the bus stop. The problem is doubled according to PWDs who are using wheelchairs which there are no available accessible buses that can accommodate them. Transport is more expensive for wheelchair users as they need to hire a truck because the public buses are not accessible.

8. Recommendation A/HRC/29/5, cycle 2, page 20, paragraph 84.105 by Spain was concerned with strengthening policies around accessibility for persons with disability. Data related to people with disabilities and their accessibility to physical spaces and provision of accessible information is increasing each year as persons with disability become more aware of their rights to participate developmental activities, compared with the recent research (Kiribati National Disability Policy key area 4, pg 11, paragraph 1.) Ensuring accessibility to physical spaces and information is a priority area in the Kiribati National Disability Policy 2018 – 2021. However, persons with disabilities still face challenges to access public spaces and services such as government offices, Bank, terminal and wharf, access to information and communication technology for people with vision impairments, signs and sign interpreters for hearing impaired and improved mobility devices such as prosthetic limb for those with physical disabilities. This will offer improved means of communication with others, gain knowledge about important life enhancing resources and opportunities like health care needs and services, education, employment and community events such as church and other cultural events and/or performances.

Recommendations

9. The government to liaise with TTM and its members to prioritize public spaces, essential services and information that need to be progressively made accessible for the different types of disabilities.

10. Provide communication technology such as assistive technologies – braille, screen reader software, hearing loops, tactile paving in public areas and mobility devices to enable

persons with disabilities to attend school, employment, training and other services to enhance their wellbeing.

11. Reviewing Kiribati Building Code to ensure reasonable accommodation to access public buildings.

Issue

12. According to the recommendation A/HRC/29/5 cycle 2, page 20, paragraph 84.106 by Germany calls for an elaboration of the National Disability Policy (NDP). This coalition of the view that efforts to fully implement this policy is not satisfactory. For instance, this report emphasizes the accessibilities of information and communication technology by those affected with hearing impairment facing challenges in their communication by lacking of interpreters in workplaces.

13. The National Disability Policy recognizes TTM as a conduit to reach other persons with disability and promises to strengthen its capacity through a combination of activities that target skills, resources, and capacity building of individuals. This should enable TTM mainstream to advocate for and mainstream issues for persons with disability into other sectors and communities.

Recommendation

14. The government must include an annual budget for the implementation of the National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018 – 2020.
15. It is recommended that the government make annual budgetary allocation and technical assistance available to TTM to effectively implement its programs.