

Foundation for Disabled People - Proposal

This proposal is an edited version of a document prepared in 2007 by the personnel of the Foundation for Disabled People in Banjul, The Gambia. It describes their work and puts forward the case for further funding to enable them to continue and expand their work. For more information about the Foundation, please see <http://pageant.org.uk/ffdp.htm>

Project Title: Local Wheelchair Fabrication in The Gambia - Update 2007

Background

The Foundation for Disabled People first established wheelchair production in 2003 with the support of the British High Commission in The Gambia. The Foundation was able to produce 30 tricycle wheelchairs that were distributed to needy citizens. Since then the Foundation has been doing its best to maintain production of wheelchairs for use by the hospital and people with physical disabilities.

The Foundation also provides free services to people with disabilities, such as free computer training, and maintenance of damaged wheelchairs.

The Foundation has a memorandum of understanding with the Gambian Department of State for Social Welfare in providing social services according to the Gambian Government policies on social services, The Foundation has a working relationship with Banjul City Council, and to support their operation they were given free premises to operate their workshop for wheelchair production and computer training for disabled people.

Justification for the Project

Increased production of wheelchairs is necessary to cope with ever increasing numbers of amputees and the inflow of physically disabled persons from neighbouring countries to settle in the Gambia. There is a need to produce wheelchairs locally in developing countries because of the problems associated with European or American designed wheelchairs, which can be identified as follows:

- Donated wheelchairs are usually not appropriate for conditions in developing countries. Most imported wheelchairs are based on American and European designs from the mid-20th century for indoor home and institutional use. These designs were not intended for outdoor use on unpaved terrain. They break easily, but are not easily repaired because spare parts and the equipment necessary to weld alloys are not usually available locally.
- There are no widely accepted appropriate standards to ensure quality. With few exceptions, wheelchairs donated or sold in developing countries do not meet uniform standards. Those that do are based on standards designed for the developed world, and these are not stringent enough to adequately test chairs under the more rigorous conditions of use in developing countries.
- There are no prescription or fitting standards. Donated and imported chairs are often "one size fits all" and distributed without cushions or an appropriate seating configuration. A wheelchair that is not properly fitted to the user, or comes without a cushion, may increase the risk of secondary conditions such as pressure sores (which are potentially lethal), shoulder injuries, or spinal deformity. Inappropriate and ill-fitting chairs do not provide any significant improvement to the users' mobility, independence, or integration into their community.
- The successful production of the first locally made wheelchairs in 2003 proved that they are more durable, cost effective and serviceable.
- Access and mobility is of paramount importance in movement from one place to another. With the provisions of wheelchairs, disabled people will be able to get involved in business activities and eliminate humiliating actions like having to crawl. A wheelchair will enable them to be involved in economic activities rather than begging on the street for a livelihood.

Aims and Objectives

1. To discourage humiliating activities like crawling.
2. To make access possible to disabled people at an affordable price.
3. To enable disabled people to get involved in economic activities through access to their respective business ventures.
4. To train disabled people in bicycle and wheelchair repair and maintenance.

5. To produce the tri-cycle wheelchair locally, which is more cost-effective and longer lasting than using imported wheelchairs.
6. To serve as a forum for people with disabilities to work together as a team.
7. To reduced discrimination and stigmatisation.
8. To offer mobility to physically challenged persons by access to affordable wheelchairs

Targets and Beneficiaries - People with physical disabilities.

Monitoring and Evaluation - The following mechanism is in place:

- The British High Commission in The Gambia
- A report will be submitted by the Foundation at the end of each Project

Stages in the Production of Wheelchairs (Project Planning)

The production of wheelchairs is divided into different stages of production which are handled by different experienced disabled technicians:- draughtsman, welder, fitters, painters, tailors, etc. The draughtsman produces drawings for the proposed wheelchair and instructs the welder how it will look and the positioning of the different stages for easy manoeuvring. The draughtsman also inspects the construction at every stage to confirm that it was done to specification. The welder's work is to build the wheelchair frame as specified by the draughtsman. The fitters' job is to organize the fitting of the spokes in the wheels. The painter's work is the last stage of the production. The work of the Tailor (Sewing Mistress) is to coordinate the sewing of cushions for the wheelchair seat.

Materials and Equipment for Fabrication of 15 Wheelchairs

(the conversion to £ assumes 45 dalasis to £1 but at present the exchange rate is fluctuating wildly)

Qty	Items	Unit cost	Total cost	
			Dalasis	£ sterling
20 Packets	Welding rod	185.00	3,700.00	82.00
10	Steel plate 1.5 (1X2)	780.00	7,800.00	173.00
50	Chains	40.00	2,000.00	44.00
50	Hubs	45.00	2,250.00	55.00
5 dozen	Spindles	370.00	1,850.00	41.00
75	Spokes	80.00	6,000.00	133.00
50	Cranks	80.00	4,000.00	88.00
5	Plywood 1.2	435.00	2,175.00	48.00
75	Wheel frame 26X 1 2/5	95.00	7,125.00	153.00
75	Outer cover (tyre) 26X 1 2/5	95.00	7,125.00	153.00
75	Inner tube 26X 1 2/5	40.00	3,000.00	66.00
50	Free wheel	60.00	3,000.00	66.00
50	Fuckles	100.00	5,000.00	111.00
1	Grinding machine	5,000.00	5,000.00	111.00
1	Drilling machine	2,500.00	2,500.00	55.00
25	Grinding disc	50.00	1,250.00	27.00
50	Cutting disc	45.00	2,250.00	55.00
2	2mm Galvanised pipe	250.00	500.00	11.00
2	3mm Galvanised pipe	450.00	900.00	20.00
100	ST. 20X20 X1.5 Pipe	200.00	20,000.00	444.00
10	25X 4 Flat bar	155.00	1,550.00	34.00
50	Hand peddallers	50.00	2,500.00	55.00
6	Vacuum pump	50.00	300.00	6.00
7	Blue paint	260.00	1,300.00	28.00
7	Red oxide	360.00	1,800.00	40.00
10	Diluant (mixer)	50.00	500.00	11.00
150	Nuts & bolts	10.00	1,500.00	33.00
Totals			96,225.00	2146.00

Executed Projects

The Foundation has been involved in a series of developmental programs to support persons with disabilities these are:-

1. Production of wheelchairs for physically disabled people, sponsored by the British High Commission in February 2003.
2. Raising awareness of disabled people about HIV/AIDS pandemic, sponsored by National AIDS Control in November 2004.
3. Raising awareness of women with disabilities on HIV/AIDS pandemic in Kanifing, sponsored by Kanifing Municipal HIV/AIDS committee in October 2005
4. Workshop/campaign on disabled people's and women's rights, sponsored by African Centre for Democracy and Human rights Studies December 2005.
5. National Job Fair for Differently Abled Persons, sponsored by National AIDS Secretariat Banjul, December 2005
6. Production of 20 wheelchairs, sponsored by Yaya Jammeh Foundation For Peace.
7. Provision of Free Computer Training for people with disabilities from 2003 up to present.

Contact details for sponsors of these projects

- British High Commission, 48 Atlantic Road, Fajara, PO Box 507, The Gambia, Tel (+220) 4495133
- National AIDS Secretariat, The Gambia, Tel (+220) 4224674, Contact Person - Lamin Camara
- African Centre For Democracy And Human Rights Studies. Tel (+220) 4462341, 4462342 9941896 Mrs Mary Small Program Director
- Yaya Jammeh Foundation for Peace. Tel (+220) 9966675

Organization

The Foundation for Disabled People, The Gambia, have the following personnel managing the to day running of the Foundation; Board of Directors, Project Advisory Committee, Executive Director, Treasurer, Project Coordinator, Secretary, Messenger, Technicians.

Acknowledgement

If this program is sponsored by your organization, FFDP will acknowledge your Institution with a Letter of Appreciation and Press coverage.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this proposal is read and deliberated upon by your institution to ascertain its viability and workability in a bid to provide mobility for physically challenged people and training to fabricate wheelchairs in the Gambia.

Contact Details for the Foundation for Disabled People

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By email - foundationfordisabledpeople@hotmail.com