

YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK (YAN)

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES (IDD) December 3, 2023

Introduction:

The International Day for Persons with Disabilities is observed globally on December 3rd each year to promote the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities. In line with this, the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN), a non-profit organization committed to empowering young individuals with disabilities, organized a series of events and activities to commemorate this important day.

Event Overview:

YAN's commemoration of the International Day for Disabilities aimed to raise awareness, foster inclusivity, and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The event spanned a week, encompassing various activities, including:

Awareness Campaigns: YAN conducted social media campaigns, radio discussion, to educate the public about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and to promote inclusivity in society.

Interactive Sessions: The organization hosted interactive sessions where individuals with disabilities shared their experiences, triumphs, and hurdles they face daily. These sessions aimed to create empathy and understanding among the wider community.

Achievements:

Increased awareness: YAN successfully reached a diverse audience through its online campaigns, garnering significant engagement and spreading awareness through radio discussion about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Strengthened partnerships: Collaborative efforts with the school for blind in kabala facilitated the initiation of long-term programs aimed at creating a more inclusive society.

Challenges Faced:

Despite the successes, YAN encountered several challenges during the organization and execution of the International Day for Disabilities celebrations:

✓ **Limited Resources:** YAN faced constraints in terms of funding and resources, hindering the extent and scale of their programs and outreach efforts.

✓ **Accessibility Barriers:** Physical and digital accessibility barriers posed challenges for the participation of individuals with disabilities in certain activities.

✓ **Stigma and Discrimination:** Deep-rooted societal stigmas and discrimination against people with disabilities remained significant hurdles in achieving full inclusion and acceptance.

✓ Policy Gaps: Inadequate policies and support systems at the governmental level continued to impede the rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

✓ Transportation challenges

✓ Difficulty to access school materials for blind.

Recommendations:

To address the challenges faced and further advance the cause for people with disabilities, YAN proposes the following recommendations:

Enhanced Funding and Resources: Securing more financial support and resources will enable YAN to expand its programs and reach a larger audience effectively.

Improving Accessibility: YAN advocates for improved accessibility in physical spaces and digital platforms, ensuring equal participation for individuals with disabilities in all activities.

Community

Sensitization and Education: Continuous efforts in educating the public to combat stereotypes, stigma, and discrimination against people with disabilities are essential for fostering inclusivity.

Policy Advocacy: Collaborating with policymakers to develop and implement comprehensive policies that safeguard the rights and ensure the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all spheres of life.

School support: increase the number of beneficiaries of the school support in the kabala school for the blind

Conclusion:

YAN's commemoration of the International Day for Disabilities served as a catalyst for awareness, empowerment, and advocacy for people with disabilities. While the organization achieved significant milestones, persistent challenges such as limited resources, accessibility barriers, stigma, and policy gaps necessitate sustained efforts and collective action from all stakeholders to create a more inclusive and equitable society for individuals with disabilities.

MINUTE OF THE EVENT

The event organized by the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) on December 3rd, 2023, commemorated the International Day for Persons with Disabilities at the Kabala School for the Blind. Lamarana Barrie, a student at the school, chaired the event, introduced by Musa Jalloh, the PRO.

The program included various segments:

Call to Order: Conducted by Amara Salifu Samura.

Opening Remarks: Lamarana Barrie expressed gratitude for the organization's involvement and stated the pleasure of having them there.

Welcome Address: Given by the head teacher of the Kabala School for the Blind, who appreciated YAN's contribution and considered them part of their institution.

Performance: Students from the Kabala School for the Blind presented their school songs.

Introductions: YAN members introduced themselves, while the head teacher introduced the school staff.

Purpose of the Program: Explained by Feremusu Marah, a member of YAN, emphasizing the significance of the event and its past iterations.

President's Speech: Lamin Mansaray highlighted previous successful events and the debate held at the school, emphasizing the theme "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities". The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to transform our world. They are a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity. aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. He tell the audience about YAN 2023 Theme "A Day For All" by stressing the capabilities of blind individuals, even in leadership roles.

Drama: Performed by the blind students, focusing on the lesson of ending discrimination against people with disabilities.

Statements:

The head teacher requested ongoing support from the organization in enrolling visually impaired individuals in their school. YAN emphasized inclusivity and condemned discrimination through their statement.

Mr Amara Salifu Samura an older member of YAN made a statement on behalf of YAN, he express appreciation to the entire team for showing up to grace the occasion and to ensure the blind people feel belong and celebrated, he further assure the school for blind and it management of our commitment as an organization to working with them and create a positive impact, he further commend the pupils from the school for the blind for there educative dram that portrays a good moral lesion to the society to end stigma against disabilities.

Conclusion:

The event concluded successfully with positive feedback from the blind students regarding the drama and the program's impact on sensitizing them, and the history of the school for the blind where we have an interactive session and photo opportunity with the first headteacher and a founder of the blind school.

John Marah

Secretary general