

Overview of the Disability Committee

Quality Working Group Reflective Meeting

Background to the Disability Committee

- Will operate in the framework of the AU -CESA ECED Cluster & the Quality Working Group.
- ECED Cluster Quality Working Group promotes access to quality ECED services to all children including children with disabilities.
- CESA ECED Cluster -Objective 1: Intensify action to improve equitable access to quality ECED programmes and services. This objective contributes to achievement of:
 - *CESA 16-25 Sub Objective 2: Education infrastructure, and policies that ensures a conducive learning environment **for all**, to expand access to quality education.*
 - *CESA 16-25 Sub Objective 5: Accelerate processes leading to gender parity and **equity**.*
- Children with disabilities are amongst the most excluded - due to barriers existing in supply & demand of services.
- Promoting IECED requires a comprehensive approach in the design and implementation of programmes and services.
- The Disability Committee was set up by the Quality Improvement Working Group of the ECED Cluster, to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in quality ECED services.

Objectives/Functions of the Disability Committee

The Objective of the Disability Committee is to advocate and advance issues of IECED in the region. The Disability Committee will;

- Generate knowledge on trends, achievements, and challenges regarding disability inclusion in ECED in the region.
- Convene and participate in knowledge exchange events and coordinate sensitizations on disability inclusion in ECED.
- Advocate for the development, implementation, and evaluation of Inclusive ECED policies at national and regional levels.
- Collaborate with AU CESA ECED Cluster working groups and key stakeholders to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance of inclusive ECD service delivery.
- Mobilize and enhance partnerships to improve access to quality ECED for children with disabilities.

Composition of the Disability Committee

- Provides clustering of partners around the thematic area of inclusive ECED - an effective tool for enhancing a coordinated response.
- The criteria for admission into the Disability Committee will be determined by the Quality Working Group.
- The current membership of the Disability Committee is as follows:

	NAME	ORGANIZATION
1.	Pholile Dlamini	Swaziland Network for Early Childhood Development.
2.	Ronah Lubinda	Mulumbo Early Childhood Care and Development Foundation
3.	Given Daka	Africa Early Childhood Network
4.	Maserame Mtshali	Swaziland Network
5.	Mandinda Zungu	Catholic Development Commission in Malawi
6.	Charles Odol	SightSavers Kenya
7.	George Kayange	Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled
8.	Georgina Navicha	The Malawi Council for the Handicapped
9.	Dolorence Were	Uganda Society for Disabled Children
10.	Spiwe Chakwa	Chiedza Child Care Centre
11.	Colani Magongo	The Swaziland Church Forum
12.	Flavio Fernandes	Wona Sanana

Working Modality of the Committee

- It is an ad hoc committee under the Quality Working Group and the need for its existence will be determined by the members of the Quality Working Group.
- The Committee will report to the Quality Working Group of the CESA ECED Cluster.
- Management of the Committee will consist of a team leader, co-team leader and secretary.
- Members will be drawn from organisations working in the area of children with disabilities.
- Team leader will chair the Disability Committee meetings; ensure adherence to the strategic direction of the Quality Working Group and report progress to the Working Group and the ECED Cluster.
- The Secretary will provide administrative and technical advice; support Cluster operations; support implementation of key actions of the annual plan; consolidate and analyse data into reports for dissemination to all members and co-ordinate communication to and from the committee to the Quality Working group.
- Sub-cluster meetings will be held as needed and agreed upon by the members.

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