

Report on the Forum on Disability 29th July 2008

Introduction

During a consultancy for the CFPA, the consultant undertook a research visit to Haa Alif and Haa Dhaal and produced a report on the visits and consultations with parents. Alongside this work, the consultant had been working with a number of Ministries to produce a final version of the action plan. A cross-ministerial Forum on Disability was held on the 29th July to present the findings from the research visit and adopt the final action plan for children with disabilities 2008-2013.

Key Objectives of the Forum

1. To get the action plan for children with disabilities 2008-2013 adopted and the implementation process underway (Activity 3 in consultants ToR)
2. To get statements of commitment from each ministry on the specific actions they will prioritize and budget for in 2009. (Activity 4 in consultants ToR)
3. To inform ministries of the situation of children with disabilities on the islands recently visited (Activity 5 in consultants ToR)
4. To agree membership of an action plan implementation group that will share information and start implementation of the action plan (Activity 7 in consultants ToR)

Attendance

Aishath Mohamed Didi	Min. of Gender	Minister
Mazeena Jameel	Min. of Gender	Permanent Secretary
Hussain Shihab	CFPA	Assistant Director General
Ashiyath Saaid	IGMH	Physiotherapy Assistant Grade 2
Fauziyaa Mahamood	Imaduddin school	Supervisor
Thasneem Ahmed	Jamaluddin School	Special Education Teacher
Fathimath Zameel	EDC	Curriculum Developer
Ahmed Athif	EDC	Senior Curriculum Developer
Mariyam Shaugee	TVM	Assistant Director General
Aishath Azfa	Min. of Planning	Planning Officer
Asfau Hassan	Min. of Planning	Planning Officer
Ahmed Shafeeu	Min. of Education	Director General
Ismail Naseem	Min. of Youth	Assistant Executive Director
Mizna Ahmed	Human Rights Commission	Director Policy
Ibrahim Yaasir	Min. of Transport	Deputy Director
Jeroen Stol	Handicap International	Country Director
Shidatha Shareef	Care Society	Deputy Director
Mohamed Yasiph	Representative of Parents Group	Volunteer
Hawwa Zahira	UNICEF	Project Officer Child Protection
Mohamed Naeem	UNICEF	Head of Child Protection
Ameena Mohamed Didi	UNICEF	Head of Quality Education Program
Shafiyaa	Dep. Medical Service	Nursing Supervisor
Maizaan Alimanik	Min. of Construction	Director General
Abdulla Ziyad	Min. of Construction	Senior Engineer

Ibrahim Labeed	Min. of Construction	Project Officer
Ali Naseer	Min.of Higher Education	Assistant Director
Adam Mohamed	Min.of Higher Education	Social Development Officer
Aiminath Ismail	Hand-in -Hand (NGO)	Founder
Rizna Ibrahim Manik	Hand-in -Hand (NGO)	Founder
Aishath Invaza	Hand-in -Hand (NGO)	Special Educator
Luisha –	Ministry of Foreign Affairs,	
Mnaa Raafiu	Min. of Gender	Executive Director
Fathimath Yumna	Min. of Gender	Director
Joanna Champion	CFPA	Consultant
Fathimath Nihama	CFPA	Project Officer Trainee
Saleema Hameez	CFPA	Project Officer Trainee

Invited but unable to attend:

Ministry of Legal Reform, Information and Arts
Ministry of Atolls Development
Ministry of Justice

Agenda

1. Introduction by Mazeena Jameel – The introduction gave some background to the action plan and the work of the consultant.
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Minister of Gender and Family – The welcome highlighted that disability rights are a moral and international obligation and that approaches to services must be rights-based. The Minister also clarified the MGF mandate for disability.
3. Visit to Haa Alifu and Haa Dhaal by Joanna Champion, CFPA (powerpoint available)
4. Messages from Families Experiencing Disability (powerpoint available and notes available)
5. Presentations on the Action Plan for Children with Disabilities 2008-2013
Ministry of Gender and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security (powerpoint available)
6. Questions and Discussion (see below)
7. Adoption of the Action Plan (Actions agreed, see below)
8. Budgeting, Implementing and Monitoring the Action Plan (Actions agreed, see below)

Minutes – the meeting was not minuted. A video record of the event had been expected but were not possible due to a series of technical difficulties. Some presentations were given in Dhivehi. All presentations given, documents distributed and actions have been copied and are held on a file in the Child and Family Protection Authority.

Questions and General Discussions

- Discussion was held about the confusion caused to families and others because of the differing mandates on disability.
- Questions were asked to MHEESS about how their equipment procedure and other services they provide could be improved and how awareness can be increased.
- The need for a reliable implementation group and how that could work was discussed and membership partly agreed.

- Considerable time was given to discussing how best to monitor and implement the action plan.
- Concern was expressed about the limited amount of therapies available through the health system and the lack of sustainability in service provision. Issues about staff retention in these fields were raised and suggestions made about running short-term internships to provide the services.
- The importance of coordination and information sharing was raised as a repeated issue
- The point was made that existing services must be promoted better, and services must also be expanded.
- Discussion was held on the data that is available on disability and how information should be shared. The Ministry of Planning and National Development offered to lend resources and support to the MHEESS to centrally collect and gather the data on disability. The Ministry of Planning will also have copies of the data collected by the EDC mapping exercise.

Participants were asked to consider the following questions both at the beginning and at the end of the Forum:

1. What actions will the four key Ministries for disability be taking to improve the situation of children with disabilities in 2009?
2. What actions will your ministry be taking and is anyone doing something similar that you should find out more about?
3. Where will the budget for these actions be coming from and where will assistance be sought?
4. Which individual people from the key ministries will attend the monthly meetings of the action plan implementation group?

Specific Comments made on the Action Plan during discussions:

- The Ministry of Public Construction has been missed off the consultation list. Please amend.
- The Human Rights Commission is not solely responsible for the development of a National Human Rights Action Plan as stated in the introduction. Please amend.
- The Ministry of Education would like to know where the identification of children with disabilities for the purposes of planning school should be included.
- Human Rights surveys referred to in the Logical Framework for Part One are not being carried out as previously planned. Please remove.
- There is an action in the transport section that needs to be removed.
- The Washington-set questions will not be being used in the consensus. Ministry of Planning will email the CFPA with more details of the changes to this.

Agreed Actions

- All Ministries will develop their own logical frameworks given the format used in Part One. These will be submitted to the CFPA by email by **the 7th August 2008**. The action plan will be submitted to Cabinet for approval after this date. If logical frameworks are not given, by the 7th August, the consultant will create one and it will be submitted with the assumed consent of the Ministry concerned. **The Action Plan will be submitted to the Cabinet on 10th August at the latest.**
- All Ministries to confirm with CFPA how they will be fulfilling the Human Resource obligations in the Action Plan **by Thursday at the latest**. It will be assumed that HR is not an issue if they do not raise it. This is to ensure that HR is raised with the Civil Service Commission by the end of next month.
- All Ministries will send their last minute comments on the action plan **in the next two days**.

- The MHEESS was asked to review the comments made after its presentation and give a list of the 3 priorities for action from MHEESS in 2009.
- MHEESS will confirm the name of the person for the working group **tomorrow**.

Outcomes

1. Membership of the Implementation Monthly Group was partly agreed:

Name	Ministry	Position	Contact
Aishath Shehenaz	Gender and Family	Director	shehenaz@mgf.gov.mv 7788014
	Social Security		
Ahmed Athif	EDC	Senior Curriculum Developer	a_athif@edc.edu.mv 7650381
Dr Sharahu Ahmed	Health	Medical Officer	sharahu@health.gov.mv 7796017
Fathimath Nihama (co-ordinator)	Child and Family Protection	Trainee Project Officer	cfpa@mgf.gov.mv 7931262

The first agenda for this meeting should agree that specific role (eg. to implement the action plan, to share information, to identify gaps or areas for action)

It was also suggested that there should be a circulation list for the groups minutes to ensure all actions reach the right people and that members should have replacements if they are unable to attend. The group will invite other ministries as and when appropriate.

2. The last stages of the process for the action plan with deadlines were agreed.
3. Greater collaboration on data collection was encouraged. Ministry of Planning will now be centrally collected data on disability and will offer assistance to other Ministries.
4. The forum was covered by TVM and a follow-up TV programme may be carried out. This will increase awareness of the issues.