

**Strengthening the Capacity of Associations of People with Disabilities in São Tomé e Príncipe - Draft 2  
March 2016**

<b>São Tomé e Príncipe 2016</b>	
<b>Appealing Agency</b>	<b>UNDP</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening the Capacity of Associations of People with Disabilities in São Tomé e Príncipe
<b>Project Code</b>	00095755/00099824
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	Governance and Poverty
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop the capacity of the ADSTP and ACASTP associations</li> <li>2. Support dissemination of the basic law for the disabled</li> <li>3. Provide capacity building support for the development of income generating activities for people with a disability</li> </ol>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ People with a disability in STP</li> <li>➤ ADSTP and ACASTP</li> <li>➤ Families and carers of people with a disability</li> </ul>
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
<b>UN Executing Agencies</b>	UNDP, UNFPA
<b>Project Duration</b>	3 years
<b>Funds Requested</b>	\$55,000
<b>Potential Donor</b>	Netherlands
<b>Location</b>	S. Gabriel; District d'Água Grande-São Tomé
<b>Gender Marker Code</b>	GEN2
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**Background**

Around 10 per cent of the world's population, or 650 million people, live with a disability. Persons with disabilities (PWD) form the world's largest minority with approximately 80% living in developing countries. At the same time, the number of people with a disability is increasing through a combination of factors including population growth, medical advances and the natural ageing process.

In many instances, PwD are also amongst the most vulnerable members of society. Indeed, it has been shown globally that the vulnerability index is increased manifold due to disability Research reveals in every country worldwide, the rate of unemployment experienced by PwD is above the average national unemployment rate. In certain countries, the rate of unemployment of PwD can be as great as 80%, resulting in their being amongst the poorest 15 – 20% of the population. The high levels of poverty of PwD can result in deprivation in a wide range of areas including, inter alia, a lack of access to education and health, rehabilitation or social services. These difficulties are further aggravated by the obstacles frequently encountered by PwD in finding

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appropriate work. Moreover, in many instances, their families suffer also as their children are often more likely not to go to school. In addition, PwD are likely to encounter discrimination that is made worse by their economic circumstances.

This economic poverty experienced by people with a disability can lead to other kinds of social deprivation including a lack of access to education and health, rehabilitation or social services. Disabled people are frequently unable to obtain appropriate employment and their children have a greater risk of not being able to attend school.

PwD are generally marginalized in the competition amongst different sectors trying to obtain access to assets, markets and capital while at the same time having negligible or inadequate influence on the political and broader social establishment. This virtual exclusion from both the economic and socio-political spheres can have an extremely negative and damaging impact not only on the economic status of PwD but also on their social and emotional well-being.

Therefore, it is essential that PwD receive support to enable them to create their own livelihoods. Livelihoods, in this sense, does not just concern the earning of an income but also includes the totality of means by which PwD and their families can earn and sustain a living that will enable them participate fully in society. Therefore, it also includes the social, legislative, institutional and organizational environment that exists in their society. While being able to participate in an economic activity is extremely important for all members of society, both in terms of self-esteem and self-fulfilment as well as ensuring the economic means to survive, it is also critical that the organization and legislative structure of society permits the participation of PwD on an equal basis in the social and economic life of the country.

The situation for PwD in São Tomé e Príncipe (STP) is a precarious one. As things stand there are currently very few support structures or economic opportunities for PwD to enable their equal participation in the economic, political and social life of the country. It is therefore imperative that PwD in STP receive support in order to enable them participate to the fullest extent possible in society.

This project has been designed by UNDP and UNFPA in close collaboration with two major organisations for disabled people in STP namely the Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted of STP (ACASTP) and the Association of the Disabled of STP (ADSTP) in order to improve the socio-economic and legal-political status of disabled people in STP. The project will tackle both the wider legal and political issues that regulate the equal participation of PwD in society while also providing technical assistance and support to the PwD organisations named above in developing livelihood structures to increase the economic and social status of its members.

This project will also support the second and fourth pillars of the STP Government's National Development Strategy Social. The second pillar of the Government's strategy to create a favourable environment for sustainable and integrated economic growth that will permit the distribution of income and creation of employment will be supported by the project's technical assistance to PwD in developing business plans and improving the resources available to undertaken small-scale economic ventures. The project will support the fourth pillar by helping increase foster a more socially inclusive and cohesive society in STP by promoting the effective application of the legislation on disability, advocating for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability and assisting PwD participate both economic and socially in the daily life of STP.

The UN Framework for Development Action Plan (2012-2016) in STP listed as the second of its four principal objectives improving access to productive resources to reduce vulnerability. This project will help achieve this objective by assisting PwD in developing

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their economic status and thence reducing their vulnerability. Similarly, the project will advance the achievement of the third of the Action Plans objectives, in particular sub-component 'vi' concerned with respecting the peoples' rights, by helping promote the full application of the legislation on disability and advocating for the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability.

This project will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG1), as outlined in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Project Support to SDG Attainment**

Sustainable Development Goals	
SDG1	<i>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</i>

**Project Objectives**

1. Develop the capacity of the ADSTP and ACASTP PwD associations
2. Provide capacity building support for the development of income generating activities for people with a disability
3. Support the effective application of the legislation on disability and the ratification of the UN Convention on the Right of People with a Disability

**Anticipated Outcomes**

- The ADSTP and ACASTP will be better able to fulfil their mandates, provide increased livelihood support for their members and advocate on disability issues
- Capacity building assistance will have been provided directly to PwD and their families, including those of children with a disability and their mothers, on income generating activities
- There will be improved understanding and implementation of legislation on disability in STP
- A centre will be established for PwD that provides both a location for entertainment activities as well as engaging in artisanal production activities.
- Annual Business Plans will have been developed and implemented for both the ACASTP and the ADSTP
- Small scale office equipment such as computers and IT as well as tables and chairs together with other essential facilities will have been provided by the project
- Capacity Building training will have been provided on the use of IT equipment and in the development of Business Plans and other relevant business topics
- Equipment and transport assistance will be provided to help PwD, including children, participate fully and have free access to the Centre's facilities
- Assistance will be provided to ADSTP and ACASTP in the establishment of a Savings Account and other administration technologies to help them manage their finances and operations as efficiently as possible and develop increased and opportunities for their members

**Strategy**

This project will adopt a two pronged approach to improve the situation for disabled people in STP. Firstly, the project will work to ameliorate the conditions that enable the full participation of disabled people participate in the economic and social life of the country. This will entail ensuring that the legislative framework in place is effectively implemented to ensure equality of treatment and access for people with a disability as

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well as advocating for the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability.

Secondly, the project will concentrate on providing the required livelihood and capacity building support to enable PwD increase their ability to participate fully in the political, economic and social life of STP.

The project will work with both the ACASTP and ADSTP, together with other relevant PwD stakeholders and their families, in obtaining these two objectives. ACASTP and ADSTP are national organisations and the project will gain from their combined expertise. Support will be provided in the both advocacy techniques and livelihood support modalities. Reference, where applicable, will be made to other disabled organisations and the approaches they have adopted in their particular context to analyse what might be of value to the situation faced by PwD in STP. In particular, the experiences faced by PwD in Cape Verde, Angola, Brazil and Portugal will be examined and where possible experiences will be exchanged with relevant organisations.

Both the ACASTP and ADSTP will benefit from targeted business development support and capacity building. Of primary importance will be improving the overall management structure of these organisations and helping them develop business plans through which they can maximise the resources at their disposal, undertake more ambitious economic and social development programmes in the future and provide the best possible support to their members and their families. The ADSTP and ACASTP will also receive assistance in how to monitor and evaluate as well as effectively audit their own work. Furthermore, a study will be undertaken to examine the obstacles faced by PwD living in different regions around STP to better understand the specific support these people and their family might require. To facilitate the improvement of their management capabilities, the project will provide small scale business support in the terms of computers and IT as well as desks and chairs. ADSTP and ACASTP will also receive capacity building support in terms of advocating for resources from both the private and public sector.

In addition, the project will assist in the establishment of a centre for PwD and their families in STP. This centre will include both a place where entertainment activities can be enjoyed, including for children with a disability, as well as an area for the pursuit of artisanal manufacturing activities. This centre will help improve the social integration of PwD and provide them with a location where they can come together to share experiences and increase their social contacts.

The project will encourage active participation in the project by PwD and their families both in planning the delivery of the project's interventions and their implementation. Disabled people will therefore be at the centre of the project. This is imperative in order to ensure that optimal and appropriate solutions are found to enable PwD overcome the obstacles that they face in their daily lives whether these be in the political, economic or social sphere. PwD will be encouraged to take ownership of the project to the fullest extent possible and to take pride in the project's activities and achievements. This approach will help build the capacity of PwD in STP and ensure sustainability of the project's achievements. ADSTP and ACASTP will be assisted in preparing a 'Way Forward' strategy to come into effect after the project's closure. There will be a final evaluation of the project's results at which the ADSTP and ACASTP's strategy will be launched.

Gender concerns have been fully incorporated in the design of this project and will be actively taken into account during its implementation to ensure that the particular needs of both young men and women with a disability are given equal weight and attention.

***Project Funding***

This project will cost US\$55,000 in total. UNDP will contribute a total of US\$5,000. This leaves a shortfall in funding of US\$50,000.

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The project therefore requires funding of US\$50,000 in funding from external donors.