

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



NATIONAL POLICY ON DISABILITY

IN NIGERIA

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2018

3.22	Voting Access	33
4.0	Policy Implementation: Roles and Responsibilities	34

CONTENTS

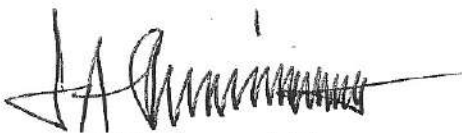
	Pages
Foreword	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Acronyms and abbreviations	v
SECTION 1:	1
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Definitions	6
1.3 Disability as a Human Rights and Development Issue	6
1.4 Causes of Disability	7
1.5 Existing Disability Structure	8
1.6 Declaration of the United Nations	9
1.7 The Sustainability Development Goals and Disability	9
1.8 Status of Disability Response in Nigeria	9
SECTION 2: NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK ON DISABILITY	11
2.1 Objectives	11
2.2 General Principles	11
2.3 Specific Target Groups:	12
2.3.1 Older Persons With Disabilities	12
2.3.2. Children With Disabilities	12
2.3.3. Women With Disabilities	13
2.3.4. People With Disabilities Living in Rural Areas	13
2.3.5 Young People with Disabilities	14
SECTION 3: POLICY GUIDELINES	15
3.1 Raising Awareness	15
3.2 Prevention, Early Intervention and Health Education	17
3.3 Treatment, Therapeutic Aids and Orthopedic Technical Services	18
3.4 Barriers Free Access	19
3.5 Access to Information and Communication	20
3.6 Education	21
3.7 Vocational Guidance, Training and After- care Services	22
3.8 Employment	23
3.9 Culture and Religion	23
3.10 Sports and Recreation	24
3.11 Welfare Services and Housing	25
3.12 Social Security	26
3.13 Transport, Traffic and Road Safety	27
3.14 Legislation	28
3.15 Human Resources Development	28
3.16 Data Information and Research	29
3.17 Organisations of and for Persons With Disabilities	30
3.18 International Cooperation	31
3.19 Assistive Devices	31
3.20 Inter-governmental Coordination	32
3.21 Monitoring and Evaluation	33

FOREWORD

Policy to guide disability related issues is critical to the inclusiveness of the development of a nation. The need to articulate objectives and strategies to ensure full integration of persons with disabilities in Nigeria is of paramount importance to government. Irrespective of the discrepancies in the available data, records continue to indicate the enormous population of persons with at least one disability in Nigeria. The World report on disability published in 2011, said about 25 million Nigerians had at least one disability while 3.6 million of these had very significant difficulties in functioning. The 2006 Nigerian census reported 3,253,169 people with disabilities, or 2.32% of the total population of 140,431,790 in that year. This portends burden of care and support to government. This is further heightened with the breakdown of the community and family safety system which usually care for its weak members in time past. This is largely due to poverty, migration and low social economic situation in the country.

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria offers general protection for the rights of Nigerians, including persons with disabilities. However, the need to strengthen the entrenchment of the rights cannot be overemphasised. There have been continued efforts to enact law that would protect the rights of persons with disabilities; ensure full integration of persons with disabilities into the society and establish a National Commission for persons with disabilities. This is yet to yield desired result.

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is tasked with the mandate to coordinate the national machinery for women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly. The Ministry in operationalizing these mandates developed the National Policy on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The Ministry equally collaborates with various organisations of and for persons with disabilities to carry out various programmes that would improve the wellbeing of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. However, review of the Policy and programmes provides the premise for the update in order to make it more responsive to the huge population of persons with disabilities who are in need of one form of support or the other. The Policy would also provide the opportunity to engage more strategically with community members, development partners, other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to provide adequate and appropriate support for full integration of persons with disabilities in Nigeria.



Senator Aisha Jummai Alhassan

Honorable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Achieving the mandate of Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) to coordinate the national machinery for women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly would not have been realized but for the good leadership of the Honourable Minister, Senator Mrs. Aisha Jummai Alhassan and her team. The contributions of Ms. Mojisola Victoria Akintaro, former Director Rehabilitation of the FMWASD, the current Director, Mrs. Nkechi Onwukwe and her team led by Mr. Valentine I. Ezulu are most appreciated.

It is significant to recognise the cooperation and technical input from all other Ministries, Departments and Agencies at Federal, State and Local government levels which provided the proficiency that is imbued in the Policy. I would also like to recognize the effort of the resource person, Dr Yinka Falola-Anoemuah for the vital role she played in writing and harmonizing the technical input from various stakeholders.

Special appreciation goes to the implementing partners and other stakeholders who work tirelessly to provide needed support to persons with disabilities in the country and also support the FMWASD to achieve its mandate. Particular recognition is given to the effort of organizations of and for persons with disabilities who are undaunted in speaking out and providing various services to myriads of persons with disabilities across the country. The support and buy-in of all stakeholders who worked with the Ministry to achieve this result is recognized and most appreciated.

The development of this Policy on Disability in Nigeria, I believe will usher in a new era of massive support, partnership, collaboration and provision of inclusive and disability-friendly services by all sectors of government and non-governmental institutions in the country and globally. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is positioned to provide the expected guidance, supportive supervision, monitoring and evaluation that would lead to full implementation of this important policy for the wellbeing of Nigerians and particularly, persons with disabilities. The Ministry will also coordinate the implementation of the policy at all levels and by all sectors and stakeholders.



Mrs. Ifeoma N. Anagbogu
Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRPD	Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DPOs	Disabled Peoples Organisations
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMLE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMOJ	Federal Ministry of Justice
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
JONAPWDs	Joint National Association of Persons With Disabilities
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
NDE	National Directorate of Employment
NPC	National Planning Commission
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organisation
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics

1.1 BACKGROUND

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines disabilities as an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Disability is thus not just a health problem. It is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives. Overcoming the difficulties faced by people with disabilities requires interventions to remove environmental and social barriers¹. The Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities recognizes that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others².

Disability Action Plan - is an organisational plan for the removal, as far as possible, of discrimination against people with disabilities. The Disability Action Plan identifies actions that a country does and will take to ensure that employment and education, services, premises and facilities are accessible and non-discriminatory to people with disabilities.

There are various estimates for number of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. The World report on disability published in 2011, said about 25 million Nigerians had at least one disability while 3.6 million of these had very significant difficulties in functioning. The 2006 Nigerian census reported 3,253,169 people with disabilities, or 2.32% of the total population of 140,431,790 in that year³. However, organisations of persons with disabilities disagree with the figure because they claim that it does not capture the full extent of disability in Nigeria.

Literature reveals there are five most common types of disabilities in Nigeria. These are visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, intellectual and mental impairment.

Nigeria ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities on 30 March 2007 and its Optional Protocol on 24 September 2010. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is charged with coordinating the national machinery for addressing disability related issues including the submission of reports on progress in the country.

In addressing disability, a social model of disability is preferred. This model of disability identifies systemic barriers, negative attitudes and exclusion by society (purposely or inadvertently) that mean society is the main contributory factor in disabling people. While physical, sensory, intellectual, or psychological variations may cause individual functional limitation or impairments, these do not have to lead to disability unless society fails to take account of and include people regardless of their individual differences. The origins of the

¹ World Health Organisation, 1994

² Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, Optional Protocol

³ Umeh, Ngozi C; Adeola, Romola. "*Nigeria*". *African Disability Rights Yearbook*. Retrieved 24 January 2017

approach can be traced to the 1960s; the specific term emerged from the United Kingdom in the 1980s⁴.

A 2008 study by the United Kingdom Department for International Development found that the public, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in Nigeria understood disability within a discourse of welfare and charity. This is as opposed to emphasis on social adaptation, inclusion, and empowerment as advocated by the social model of disability that is generally favoured in the field of disability studies.

Historically, fundamental human and civil rights of people with disabilities have been denied. They usually experience institutionalization, abuse and neglect. Governments are tasked with the responsibility of upholding rights of all its citizens. It should be noted that the former National Policy on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is now known as the National Disability Policy. The change is necessitated by the need for a policy that would be comprehensive using human rights and community-based approaches to address all issues concerning persons with disabilities. Hence, this Policy will guide government course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered expedient, prudent, or advantageous addressing disability related developmental agenda of the government.

This policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, raising awareness, prevention, early intervention and health education, treatment, therapeutic aids and assistive technical services; social security, access to information and communication, education, employment, housing, sports, recreation and other amenities. It also highlights modus operandi for legislative concerns, human resources development, organisations of persons with disabilities, international cooperation, data information, research and monitoring and evaluation.

⁴. *Shakespeare, Tom (2006). "The Social Model of Disability". The Disability Studies Reader. New York: Routledge. p. 197*

1.2 DEFINITIONS

Generally, the issue of definition of rehabilitation and disability is more than a matter of semantic since they can influence how the society perceives persons with disabilities and how persons with disabilities perceive themselves. This could also influence the type of services provided to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. There are a number of definitions on rehabilitation and disability.

Rehabilitation is defined to include all measures aimed at reducing the impact of disability of an individual, enabling him or her to achieve independence, social integration, a better quality of life and self-actualization. Rehabilitation includes not only the training of persons with disabilities but also interventions in the general systems of society, adaptations of the environment, protection of human rights and empowerment.

The term “disability” embraces a great number of different functional limitations occurring in any population in any country of the world; the World Health Organisation (WHO) uses the medical approach to define disability. However, organisations of and for people with disabilities are increasingly adapting definitions of social model, which states that “Disability” is the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the everyday life of the community on an equal level with others due to physical or social barriers. Disability varies in terms of severity, longevity, causes and consequences. Some disabilities remain static throughout a person’s life while others may have periods of remission or regression.

For the purpose of this policy, it is the human rights and social model that is more relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities while noting that their medical needs should not be overlooked. However, if disability is perceived as a human rights and social phenomenon, legislators, architects, the family, the community and others who determine the shape of the environment have a crucial role to play.

1.3. DISABILITY: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

In the past disability was viewed as a profanity, which evokes pity and public sympathy. This resulted in unjust dependency, segregation, isolation and exclusion from the society.

Over the past decade, organisations of people with disabilities all over the world have worked to reposition disability as a human rights issue. The result is a social model of disability based on the premise that if the society cannot cater for people with disabilities, it is the society that must change. This model requires substantial changes to the physical environment. The goal must be the right of the people with disabilities to play full, participatory role in society.

This changing ethos has taken place within an international context which finally gave rise in 1993, to the UN Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. A key principle of movement of Persons with Disabilities throughout the world, and indeed of the social model itself, is the involvement of persons with disabilities in the process of transformations.

The principle of equal rights implies that the needs of each and every individual are of equal importance and that planning and policy-making should be based on those needs. Furthermore, all resources must be employed in such a way as to ensure that every individual has an equal opportunity to participate.

Special attention may be needed to ensure access to health and social services; to education; ability training and income generation opportunities; housing; transportation and building; information, cultural and social life, including sports and recreational facilities; representation and full political involvement in all matters of concern to them.

As persons with disabilities achieve equal rights, they should also have equal obligations as those rights are being achieved. Societies should raise the expectations of persons with disabilities to assume their full responsibility as members of society.

1.4. CAUSES OF DISABILITY

This Policy takes cognizance of various types of disabilities. The Policy would be applicable for all forms of disability categories classified by their causes. Many factors are responsible for the rising numbers of people with disabilities and their consequent isolation from the mainstream of society. Among them are:-

- Communicable diseases (Leprosy, Polio, trachoma, Onchocerciasis or river blindness, malaria, tuberculosis, bilharzia and other parasitic diseases, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and many others).
- Malnutrition and under-nutrition (protein-energy malnutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies)
- Non-communicable somatic diseases (arthritis, back problems, cardiovascular problems, epilepsy, cancer, diabetes, respiratory problems etc.)
- Female circumcision.
- Various causes of functional psychiatric illnesses (schizophrenia etc.) mainly stress related and partly inherited.
- Various causes of intellectual impairments often of unknown origin and usually congenital or innate.
- Chronic alcohol and drug abuse.
- Heredity (such as some albinism, blindness and deafness, spinal bifida, muscular dystrophy).
- Home accidents
- Traffic accidents
- Prenatal problems (causing cerebral palsy).
- Work accidents.
- Civil wars, unrest, tribal communal war, armed robbery etc.

The casualties of violence often suffer a lifelong physical disability, mental health complication and severe psychiatric diseases. These are evident among people who have participated or lived through a war. Examples are women raped during war.

1.5. EXISTING DISABILITY STRUCTURE

Over the years, The Federal Government of Nigeria has undertaken important initiatives towards the development of a number of policy statements, which address the demands and rights of people with disabilities.

Disability issues in Nigeria have been taken care of by the three tiers of Government, voluntary organisations for and of persons with disabilities.

At the Federal level, all the line ministries collaborate with the Federal Ministry responsible for rehabilitation of Persons With Disabilities towards achieving the goals of rehabilitation. The line Ministries and Agencies are:-

- Federal Ministry of Education,
- Federal Ministry of Health,
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Federal Ministry of Justice,
- Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development,
- Federal Ministry of Information and Culture,
- Federal Ministry of Works and Housing,
- Federal Ministry of Communication Technology
- Federal Ministry of Transportation,
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning
- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Office of The Special Adviser to the President on Social Investment
- Office of The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Disability Matters, National Directorate of Employment (NDE) etc.

In Nigeria, there are organisations/Associations for and of persons with disabilities such as: - Associations of the Blind, Deaf and Physically Handicapped. There are no legal provisions mandating the representatives of persons with disabilities to participate in policy-making and to work with government institutions. The government gives financial and organisational/logistic support to existing or new organisations of persons with disabilities. The organisations have the role to advocate for entrenchment of rights and improved services, mobilize persons with disabilities to identify their needs and priorities. They also participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services and measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities. They equally contribute to public awareness, provide services, and promote/organize income generating activities.

1.6. DECLARATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The international year of disabled persons in 1981 served as a catalyst in rehabilitation issues in Nigeria. During the UN Decade of the Disabled (1983-1992) awareness was created and organisations of persons with disabilities were encouraged.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria accepts the principles of participation, integration and equalization of opportunities as defined by the United Nations in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and by the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Federal Government of Nigeria further accepts the principles incorporated in the following declarations proclaiming the necessity of protecting the rights and assuring the welfare and rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities; the Universal Declaration of Human rights; the International Convention of Human Rights; the United Nations Development Decade for Women, the Declaration on the Rights of the Mentally Retarded Persons; and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. Nigeria is committed to adoption and full implementation of these international instruments. This Disability Policy is a strategic tool that would facilitate the realization of the goals of all these instruments.

1.7. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Member States adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 charted the course for development agenda for the next 15 years. The 2030 Agenda has 17 goals for sustainable development and 169 targets. There are 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda, and disaggregation of data by disability is a core principle.

In the efforts to ensure persons with disabilities are integrated into plans, implementation and monitoring processes of the SDGs, Nigeria Disability Policy would be made applicable in SDGs interventions in the country.

1.8. STATUS OF DISABILITY RESPONSE IN NIGERIA

In 2010, the Federal Republic of Nigeria ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has also ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the provisions of Section 12 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, no treaty between the Federation and other country shall have the force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly. However, the ratification thereof remains in the agenda of the State policy, and the necessary domestication laws have been passed in several States of the federation. The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has passed a Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill, 2016 giving fuller and essential improvements in the opportunities and conditions necessary for the full exercise of rights by the persons with disabilities. A similar Bill titled Nigerian with Disability Bill, 2016 has been passed by the House of Representatives. Both laws have been harmonised and sent to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his assent. There is every expectation that assent will be given soon.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the Ministry coordinating the implementation of the Convention and other disability focused intervention in the country including States and organizations of persons with disabilities and a number of interested non-governmental organizations.

The policy implemented in respect of persons with disabilities is holistic — starting from the care of persons with disabilities in special establishments up to creating necessary conditions for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and ensuring equal opportunities. In the last decade, the ideology and approaches for resolving the problem of social protection of persons with disabilities were changed in the Federal Republic of Nigeria — the medical model of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities was substituted with a social model which implies a comprehensive, multi-lateral involvement of different social institutions in the resolution of economic, social, psychological issues related to disability.

The disability data in the country is not comprehensive and there is lack of a generally accepted estimate for the number of PWDs in Nigeria. However, According to the national baseline study on Persons With Disabilities conducted in 2010 by FMWASD in collaboration with NBS, the most common disabilities suffered by PWDs in Nigeria were found to be physical handicap, including that caused by leprosy (27.09%), deafness/hearing disability (23.76%), mental illness (13.44%), visual impairment/blindness (12.22%), autism (3.02%), intellectual disability (7.26%), speech defect 6.41%, cerebral palsy (3.68%), and unspecified category of disabilities referred to as others (3.11%). A breakdown, by State shows a marked variation in the prevalence. It ranges from the lowest, 0.6% in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to the highest, 22.2% in Sokoto State.

Interventions for PWD coordinated by FMWASD in the country include publications and sensitization the general public on the rights of PWDs and activities marking the International Day of Persons With Disabilities - December 3 of every year; White Cane day - October 15 of every year; World Leprosy day - last Sunday in January; World Autism Day- April 2nd of every year. Disability related activities have also gained inclusion in political/electoral and participation, inclusive education, accessible health services, accessible physical infrastructure, transportation, financial inclusion, etc. (JONAPD, 2016). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the various State bodies responsible for the welfare of vulnerable people are putting structure in place to ensure the welfare, safety and evacuation of PWDs is prioritized in situations of emergency.

Despite these significant progress in planning and implementation of disability friendly social interventions, gaps still exist in scale and depth particularly in access to information and communication on their rights, diagnosis, and medical record and available services and programmes; standard of living and social protection; education, participation in political and public life; habilitation and rehabilitation; work and employment; personal mobility and populations with need for more specialized programmes for women, children, young and older persons with disabilities.

SECTION 2:

NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK ON DISABILITY

2.1. OBJECTIVES

It is important that a sound and comprehensive national policy on disability is developed for the following reasons: -

- (i) To ensure that disability issues are on agenda in all spheres of social, economic and political life.
- (ii) To ensure maximum access of people with disabilities to all mainstream services and facilities.
- (iii) To promote the coordination of services and avoid unnecessary duplication
- (iv) To develop appropriate disability prevention and rehabilitation programmes throughout the nation.
- (v) To promote coordination between rehabilitation services and all other sectors
- (vi) To promote an equitable national distribution of services.
- (vii) To prevent discriminations against persons with disabilities in all spheres.
- (viii) To provide persons with disabilities tools to change their lives and to give them a greater degree of independence.
- (ix) To take into account the specific needs of different disability groupings.
- (x) To increase awareness on disability issues and support national/international advocacy for persons with disabilities.

2.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The principle is guided by the belief that the Nigerian society has a moral responsibility to cater for the needs of its citizens including persons with disabilities. Consequently, the government will give priority to persons with disabilities to enable them participate fully in all spheres of life, thus removing obstacles which have hitherto hampered their active participation and integration.

The proposed departure from the past is informed by the principle of inclusion, which seeks to enhance full participation of persons with disabilities in all domains of Nigerian society. In implementing the policy, the government will aim at the following: -

- (a) Assisting and supporting persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal human potentials
- (b) Making the various systems of society and the environment such as services, activities, information and documents available and accessible to all citizens in formats they can understand, for example, Braille for the blind and sign language for the deaf who use this form of communication.
- (c) Preventing or reducing the occurrence of physical, intellectual, psychological or sensory impairment and permanent functional limitation or disability.
- (d) Inclusiveness and respect for human rights of persons with disabilities by ensuring their participation in all aspects of life including family life, sexual relationship, marriage and parenthood

2.3 SPECIAL TARGET GROUPS

2.3.1. OLDER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The prevalence of disability increases drastically with the onset of old age. It follows that, as the life expectancy of Nigerian population increases, so too will the prevalence of disability among the older persons in our society.

The problems of older Persons With Disabilities in Nigeria are increasing for the following reasons:-

- (a) There are increasing numbers of older persons with disabilities in the population as life expectancy increases.
- (b) Urbanization and rural-urban migratory labour mean that many older persons with disabilities are left to look after subsistence farms with inadequate support from the younger generation.
- (c) Few older persons with disabilities have adequate State or any other social security, pensions or savings, even after a lifetime in employment.
- (d) Nigeria is increasingly experiencing intensified hardship which disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as the elderly persons with disabilities. The social security is being further eroded by prevailing economic realities.
- (e) Poor access to home-based health and social services, especially in rural communities, means that older persons with disabilities are often confined and neglected.

2.3.2. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Disability in children could broadly be categorized into three⁵. These are:

- i) Children with intellectual disabilities; emotional/behavioural disorder and learning disabilities having significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviours which include many everyday skills
- ii) Children with sensory impairment and children with mobility impairment include those who are blind or have low vision, or are deaf or deafened or hard of hearing
- iii) Children with mobility impairment include those who need a wheelchair or crutches or cane for greater mobility, as well as others who have trouble walking or taking part in activities due to their physical conditions.

Nigerian children with disabilities have over the years suffered neglect owing to the fact that they are perceived to be incapable, ill, misfit and a burden to their families and the society at large. Their case represents a problem to be dealt with differently from other children issues.

⁵ Bridging the Gap: Your role in transporting children with disabilities to school in developing countries (2017), Access Exchange International, San Francisco, California, USA

The fact that such children are unable to defend themselves, they are often left alone at home and are undervalued by those around them. Hence, they become vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Such children when born into families of poor social-economic backgrounds are often confronted with many problems, which tend to have negative effect on their emotional growth and development. Parents often hide the children behind the curtains or send them out to the streets to beg. Many poor families fully depend on their disabled children's income from begging and cannot afford to send them to school. This attitude affects the children's development and personality in different ways. As infants, children with disabilities are deprived of stimulation that could lessen their difficulties that arise when they go through the normal stages of development.

2.3.3. WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Women with disabilities in general unlike their male counterpart suffer double jeopardy; first as women and second, as women with disabilities. They have continued to experience a lot of setbacks in all spheres of life not only because they lack educational opportunities, but also because of negative attitudes, stereotypes and lack of understanding which exist among the larger non-disabled group in the society.

Many Nigerian Women with disabilities still live in obscurity, silent misery, and socio-economic dependency. One of the most serious obstacles preventing the participation and integration of women with disabilities is the fact that the greater majority of them have not yet been encouraged to take on their duties as citizens which is an essential measure of claims to success. Their rights to good life, love and family life are usually denied. Women with disabilities are less likely to get education and are most likely to be denied access to sexual and reproductive health services. Studies have also shown that many women with disabilities silently experience physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Opportunities to report, seek support and redress are not easily available to women and girls with disabilities who are abused. Addressing issues pertaining to women should be fully integrated into all efforts to address disability related matters.

2.3.4. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN RURAL AREAS

In Nigeria, services enjoyed by people with disabilities in urban areas are not readily available in most rural areas. This is owing to the disparity between the level of development in rural and urban areas.

Disability in rural areas is synonymous to deprivation, abandonment, curse, burden and complete societal ostracism in political, social and economic life of persons with disabilities in rural areas apart from dehumanizing stigma attached to them by their immediate community, are completely cut off from rehabilitation services and other opportunities that are prevalent in urban areas.

It is a vital problem that parents and relations of children with disabilities in the rural areas are often not mentally prepared to recognize the disability in a correct sense. This prevents them from stimulating the children to develop in a positive way.

2.3.5. YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Transition into adulthood portends difficulty for young people. Young people with disabilities are particularly confronted with greater challenges. They are confronted with poverty, social isolation, lack of services and supplies, hostile and inaccessible environment. This Policy on disability recommends integration and availability of programmes that would ensure full development of potentials of all young persons in the country irrespective of their ability status. Interventions for young persons with disabilities must ensure fulfilment of the rights as stated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in terms of access to health services, sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS, access to water and sanitation. Interventions should particularly address poverty, inclusive development, early childhood development, adolescent with disability with specific interventions for girls with disabilities, education, family life and institutionalization, violence and exploitation, child labour and employment, nutrition, participation in decision making. They should be specially targeted in interventions in humanitarian crises and armed conflict situations.

SECTION 3: POLICY GUIDELINES

3.1. RAISING AWARENESS

3.1.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest hurdles persons with disabilities face when trying to access mainstream programmes is a negative attitude. It is these attitudes that lead to the social exclusion and marginalization of people with disabilities. The changing of attitudes is not something that happens spontaneously. Attitude changing is a complex process, which involves moving in a series of stages, from one set of attitudes to another. Thus, raising awareness is central to the changing of attitudes.

3.1.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To raise awareness of disability as a human rights and development issue targeting every component of government and society at large.
- (ii) To reduce discrimination against persons with disabilities based on archaic beliefs and customs
- (iii) To give adequate publicity on issues affecting persons with disabilities.

3.1.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Design and promote Programme for raising awareness to change public attitude towards persons with disabilities
- (ii) Publicize all activities of persons with disabilities
- (iii) Address the issue of the lopsided portrayal of persons with disabilities as objects of pity and public sympathy.
- (iv) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to mass media especially those with sensory loss.
- (v) Promote effective partnership among the inter-governmental organisations, governments and organisations of and for persons with disabilities.
- (vi) Develop programmes of social mobilization and awareness generation so as to abolish those practices that have encouraged discrimination against persons with disabilities.
- (vii) Promote partnerships with government, the independent press and alternative media practitioners at community level on issues concerning persons with disabilities.

3.2. PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION

3.2.1. INTRODUCTION:

One of the cornerstones of disability policy is prevention. The majority of disabilities are preventable. The Federal Government of Nigeria has in place a National Health Policy with the goal to establish a comprehensive health care system based on Primary Health Care, which is

promotive, protective, preventive, restorative and rehabilitative to every citizen of the country within available resources. However, because of poverty, lack of information in accessible media for people with disabilities, inaccessibility of health facilities among other difficulties, people with disabilities are not able to avail themselves of these opportunities.

3.2.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To strengthen the vaccination of children and pregnant women against the identified endemic and preventable diseases that cause disabilities
- (ii) To educate people about health and social issues including sexuality and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS as well as helping people to develop the ability to make informal decisions about their own health. It shall include information about institutions, which can offer support to persons with disabilities.
- (iii) To prevent diseases and accidents which may cause impairment and disabilities
- (iv) To develop specific protective measures such as immunization, protection against accidents and protection against occupational hazards.
- (v) To develop and strengthen early intervention programmes to prevent impairments and disabilities.
- (vi) To develop and implement strategies to address discrimination against persons with disabilities in the health sector

3.2.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Ensure improvements in primary health care, immunization activities, hygiene, nutrition and occupational health and safety.
- (ii) Improve educational, economic and social status of the poor.
- (iii) Ensure integration of disabilities in all efforts for sexuality and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS programmes
- (iv) Identify impairments and develop appropriate intervention.
- (v) Design appropriate, accessible and affordable health service at primary, secondary and tertiary levels for persons with disabilities.
- (vi) Include general medical and nursing assistance on in-patient, out-patient or community home care bases and specialized health professional assistance.
- (vii) Develop measures to identify and reduce discrimination on the basis of disability in the health sector. Particular attention should be given to the elimination of discriminations against persons with disabilities. It should ensure access not only to the facility buildings but to health providers by way of ease of communication while seeking health care. Thus, the issue of availability of sign-language interpreters in health facilities should be

- taken seriously. Special schemes under the universal health coverage programme should be adopted for PWDs
- (viii) Ensure comprehensive free health care for all children with disabilities under twelve (12) years including free access to assistive devices and rehabilitation services
 - (ix) Health personnel should as a matter of necessity receive adequate pre-service and in-service capacity building on the handling of PWDs.
 - (x) Carry out and encourage research on diseases that cause disabilities

3.3 TREATMENT, THERAPEUTIC AIDS AND ORTHOPAEDIC TECHNICAL SERVICES

3.3.1 INTRODUCTION

The government of Federal Republic of Nigeria shall ensure the development and supply of support services including assistive devices for persons with disabilities in order to minimize the consequences of disabilities and to increase their level of independence

3.3.2 OBJECTIVE

- (i) To ensure that all persons with disabilities shall have full access to rehabilitation, therapeutic aids and orthopaedic technical services within their communities as a part of community-based rehabilitation programme. Their families, where possible, will be informed and involved in these rehabilitation programmes.
- (ii) To design a programme for the provision and supply of appropriate prosthesis, orthosis and technical aids
- (iii) To ensure treatment, provision of therapeutic aids and orthopedic services for persons with disabilities

3.3.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provide regular medical treatment and medicine for persons with disabilities may need to preserve or improve their level of functioning
- (ii) Provide prostheses, orthosis and technical aids to persons with disabilities
- (iii) Provide Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes
- (iv) Government will encourage and support the setting up of more local mini industries for the manufacture of prosthesis and other therapeutic aids.

3.4. BARRIERS TO FREE ACCESS

3.4.1 INTRODUCTION

The way in which the environment is developed and organized in Nigeria contribute to a large extent to the level of and equality that people with disabilities enjoy.

There are a number of barriers in the environment, which prevent persons with disabilities from enjoyment of equal opportunities with non-disabled people. For example, structural barriers in the built environment, inaccessible service point, inaccessible entrances due to security system, poor town planning and poor interior design. There should be a national requirement for an accessible built environment because this is an important development in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Development agencies do not have clear policies on environmental access. The result is that hundreds of schools, clinics and other public buildings are presently being built with no regards for barriers free requirements,

3.4.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To introduce programmes of action to make physical environment accessible to all persons with disabilities
- (ii) To develop standards and guidelines and to consider a lasting legislation to ensure accessibility to housing, building, public transport services and other means of transportation, streets and outdoor environment.
- (iii) To ensure that architects, construction engineers and others who are professionally involved in the design and construction of the physical environment have access to the disability policy and the requirements for making places accessible to people with disabilities

3.4.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Develop standards and guidelines for accessibility to all public buildings and facilities, for example, transport, telecommunication, sports and recreation facilities
- (ii) Enact legislation to ensure compliance
- (iii) Professionals who are involved in design and construction of the physical environment have access to adequate information on disability policy and measures to achieve accessibility
- (iv) Include barrier free design in the academic curriculum of the construction design
- (v) Ensure that PWDs are given priority in the process of designing and building of facilities e.g. transport, car parks, convenience, sports and recreation
- (vi) Ensure information and notices around facilities are made available in accessible media for all

3.5 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

3.5.1 INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, people with disabilities have limited or no access to information and communication on their rights, diagnosis, medical record and available services and programmes pertaining to their disabilities as well as on those services which are generally available to the general public. Communication and information are important aspects of access to public services. Access to communication and information therefore forms an integral part of the equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities, such as the deaf, people with speech disabilities and people with visual disabilities.

3.5.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To develop strategies to make information and communication services and documentation accessible to all persons with disabilities
- (ii) To make available in formats that can be used and understood by people with hearing, visual and other communication needs
- (iii) To promote the development and implementation of standards and best practices to make information and communication accessible to persons with disabilities.

3.5.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Develop strategies to make information and communication services and documentation accessible for persons with disabilities
- (ii) Television stations shall provide sign language inset or subtitles in at least one major newscast Programme each day and in all special Programme of national significance
- (iii) Telephone and telecommunication companies shall provide at reasonable price special telephone and telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired
- (iv) Postal agencies shall provide for persons with disabilities free postal services for all materials to aid the learning or improvement of persons with disabilities.
- (v) Develop strategies to make information, communication and documentation accessible for different groups of persons with disabilities. Braille, tape services, large print and other appropriate technologies should be used to provide access to written information and documentation for persons with visual impairments. Similarly, appropriate technologies should be used to provide access to spoken information for persons with auditory impairments or comprehensive difficulties.

3.6 EDUCATION

3.6.1. INTRODUCTION

A human rights and development approach to disabilities has significant implications for the way in which education is provided in the nation. Educationists tend to classify persons with disabilities according to disability. Disabled learners are either placed in special schools or classes, or totally excluded from any educational opportunity on the ground that they are “too severely disabled”

The limited capacity of special schools particularly in rural areas has resulted in the majority of learners from these areas being excluded from education opportunities altogether, as the environment in regular schools does not facilitate integration. A good number of children with disabilities of school age are presently out of school. This normally results in illiteracy and low skills amongst adults with disabilities, contributing significantly to high levels of unemployment.

3.6.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To facilitate equal access to education
- (ii) To develop a single education system that will cater for the needs of all learners within an inclusive environment with various placement options
- (iii) To facilitate capacity building for all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students and planners)
- (iv) To facilitate earlier access to education for all learners but in particular for learners with special education needs
- (v) To facilitate effective and relevant research that would promote inclusive and appropriate education for all
- (vi) To ensure that persons with disabilities have the same rights to education as their able counterparts
- (vii) To ensure availability of appropriate adult education opportunity for interested citizens
- (viii) To make any reasonable alterations and provisions in the premises of schools and institutions required to ensure that they are accessible and safe for PWDs

3.6.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provision of free education to persons with disabilities in all public educational institutions at all levels
- (ii) Provide education based on the fundamental principles of inclusive education which demand that all children shall be taught together whenever possible, regardless of any individual differences or difficulties they may have
- (iii) Develop the capacity of the regular school system to enable it to meet the diverse educational needs of all children
- (iv) Support the social service system to identify and ensure enrolling and sustaining children with disabilities in school
- (v) Take into consideration the special needs and requirements of persons with disabilities in the formulation, design of educational policies and programmes.

- (vi) Promote specialized institutions that will facilitate research and development of education of persons with disabilities
- (vii) Promote adult education to eliminate illiteracy, which forms preventable handicaps for Nigerians living with disabilities. Particular needs of people with mental disabilities and of learning difficulties and the needs of elderly people with disabilities shall be taken into accounts and be encouraged to participate in adult education programmes.

3.7 VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE TRAINING AND AFTER CARE SERVICES

3.7.1 INTRODUCTION

Vocational rehabilitation should be aimed at persons with disabilities whose prospects of securing and retraining employment are substantially reduced as a result of their disabilities but who have reasonable prospect of securing and retaining suitable employment. In Nigeria, government has put in place rehabilitation centres/institutions for vocational training for persons with disabilities. In addition, government has adopted the Community Based Vocational Rehabilitation (CBVR), which involves vocational skill training at the community level. This Programme has gone a long way in attending to vocational needs of persons with disabilities. However, there is still room for improvement.

People with minor disabilities need help particularly ability/vocational training and jobs. In fact, most rehabilitation programmes are targeted at this group of persons with disabilities.

3.7.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To provide vocational training programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities
- (ii) To provide vocational guidance and information about different occupation to enable persons with disabilities to make informed decisions when choosing an occupation according to their interests and abilities
- (iii) To make necessary adaptation in existing public and private services and institutions which provide skills training to persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas.
- (iv) To ensure that vocational training and rehabilitation are directed at helping persons with disabilities to obtain or retain employment and to advance in their career, thereby facilitating their integration or re-integration into the society.
- (v) To support the awareness and implementation of Community Based Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

3.7.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Ensure that aptitudes of individual persons with disabilities are taken into consideration before allocating them to vocational training
- (ii) Ensure that the range of choices of vocational training for persons with disabilities is adapted to development in the labour market
- (iii) Vocational training as much as possible should take place within the community to ensure social integration
- (iv) Ensure effective after-care services by provision of resettlement tools.
- (v) Make adequate provisions for PWDs including rehabilitation in the national health policies and programmes

3.8. EMPLOYMENT

3.8.1. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment remains a fundamental problem affecting the majority of persons with disabilities and their families. The Federal Government of Nigeria provides employment opportunities for its citizens including persons with disabilities. However, there are many misconceptions about their potentials to work. Nevertheless, there is strong evidence that a substantial proportion of persons with disabilities who are not currently in the labour force are capable of being employed in some way, given proper support and removal of barriers.

3.8.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities in employment process in the country
- (ii) To identify and eliminate employment barriers and making reasonable accommodation to the limitation of persons with disabilities
- (iii) To provide technical aids and assistive devices which they need to perform their job
- (iv) To ensure that labour related legislation does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

3.8.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Promote employment of persons with disabilities both in formal and informal sectors,
- (ii) Establish shelter employment for persons with disabilities who because of their disabilities or special needs are unable to obtain, keep or cope with the demands of a job in a competitive labour market
- (iii) Establish a comprehensive and up to date labour market information system
- (iv) Ensure that shelter employment shall be subject to general supervision by competent authorities and shall have an adequate contractual status, which takes into account

their needs for personal assistance and development. This shall take the form of a normal employer /employee relationship and remuneration.

- (v) Develop Programme to assist entrepreneurs that have disabilities

3.9. CULTURE & RELIGION

3.9.1. INTRODUCTION

Culture and religion which is the way of life of the people forms the basic tenets of Nigeria. Persons With Disabilities are members of the society which is most of the time guided by culture and religion. Some cultural and religious tenets are protective of persons with disabilities while some have negative impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that irrespective of cultural and religious leaning, rights of persons with disabilities are protected by the social institutions especially from experiencing the negative impact of cultural or religious practices.

3.9.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To support, promote and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to cultural events and activities nationwide and at all levels
- (ii) To encourage religious authorities to make their facilities and activities accessible to all persons with disabilities
- (iii) To ensure persons with disabilities are protected from negative cultural or religious tenets

3.9.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Promote and develop Nigerian material and spiritual culture, and enhancing participation in cultural activities through the mechanism of dance, music, drama, literature, oral traditional arts, crafts and popular culture
- (ii) Ensure that planning and presentation of cultural activities is such that people with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate
- (iii) Ensure that persons with disabilities are not victimized or experience abuses based on negative cultural or religious practices

3.10 SPORTS AND RECREATION

3.10.1 INTRODUCTION

People with disabilities experience the same need for sports, including competitive sports and recreation as their non-disabled peers. Sports are generally regarded as one of the vital components in the integration of persons with disabilities into society. It is also often a vital component in the successful rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Sports at school level are critical for the development of physical qualities, as well as for the development of self-esteem,

courage and endurance. It is therefore, vital that sports at school level both with ordinary and special schools receive urgent attention.

3.10.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To develop and extend sporting activities for persons with disabilities in both mainstream and special facilities
- (ii) To ensure that sports, recreation facilities and events are made accessible to persons with disabilities
- (iii) To ensure that participation of persons with disabilities participate in sports for both recreational and competitive purposes

3.10.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Initiate aid and support the development and integration of sports for persons with disabilities within the national sports development programmes
- (ii) Ensure that all sporting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities
- (iii) Ensure that all participants have equal opportunities to develop their skills and to practice the sports code of their choice
- (iv) Ensure organizers of sports and recreation consult with organisations of persons with disabilities when developing their services for persons with disabilities

3.11 WELFARE SERVICES AND HOUSING

3.11.1 INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, the government has the responsibility of providing basic social amenities for the use of her citizenry. Unfortunately, the national planners do not often consider the predicaments faced by the people with disabilities in our society. This means that the group has been denied access to social welfare services. Similarly, majority of persons with disabilities have limited access to independent housing. The existing houses are often inaccessible due to poor design and overcrowding. This compels PWDs to live in institutions against their wish.

3.11.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To develop welfare services that aim to integrate persons with disabilities
- (ii) To provide persons with disabilities and their families with safe shelter and houses of their own
- (iii) To develop welfare services that will accommodate the need of all categories of persons with disabilities

- (iv) To facilitate the orientation and training of welfare service providers to be more disability sensitive. Such services should include persons with disabilities.

3.11.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Ensure that adequate allowances and pensions are allocated to all persons entitled to them including adults and children with disabilities.
- (ii) In planning and development of housing schemes, ensure that access needs of persons with disabilities are met
- (iii) Provide social security income for unemployed persons with disabilities.
- (iv) Provide adequate funds and upgrade existing training institutions with adequate materials and personnel

3.12 SOCIAL SECURITY

3.12.1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of social security which involves provision of financial assistance to the needy and unemployed persons with disabilities does not exist in Nigeria. Hence, persons with disabilities are left to fend for themselves. They often become a burden to their immediate families.

3.12.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To provide for a coordinated and equitable system for social security to meet basic needs and delivery of capacity for independent living, self-sufficiency and integration of the group into mainstream of society
- (ii) To increase the supply of accessible information to PWDs on how to access social security service as may be available in the country

3.12.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Ensure that adequate income support is given to persons with disabilities.
- (ii) In order to develop personal and economic independence, persons with disabilities shall have the rights to a decent standard of living through provision of income support and social security protection to individuals who undertake the care of persons with disabilities
- (iii) Incentives should be provided for persons with disabilities to secure employment or establish income-generating activities of their own.
- (iv) PWDs should be assisted to access available social services in the country and there should be availability of mechanisms to assist them with problem that may arise from accessing the support

3.13 TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

3.13.1 INTRODUCTION

Persons With Disabilities have continued to remain largely invisible and unable to contribute to or benefit from services and commercial activities available to most of their fellow citizens primarily due to inadequate transport system.

Transport system in the country is largely inaccessible and not flexible enough to accommodate the basic needs of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, persons with disabilities are cut off from activities such as attending schools or going to work, or taking part in social programmes. The lack of accessible transport poses a great barrier to their full integration into the society.

3.13.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To develop an accessible and affordable multi-model transport system that will meet the needs of persons with disabilities
- (ii) To design and install modern traffic devices that will meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- (iii) To make traffic rules and regulations available in format accessible to persons with disabilities i.e. Braille for the visually impaired
- (iv) To create public awareness on the needs of persons with disabilities on our roads

3.13.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Develop public transport system that is flexible and accessible to the needs of persons with disabilities
- (ii) Design or adapt the various systems of public transport that would provide travel opportunities to passengers with disabilities
- (iii) Design or modify the traffic infrastructure to meet the needs of persons with disabilities
- (iv) Provide adequate training for road safety personnel and traffic wardens to assist persons with disabilities on our roads
- (v) Ensure reservation of 1 out of 10 seats in all public transportation system in the country

3.14. LEGISLATION

3.14.1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria had a Disability Decree of 1993. The purpose of this Decree is to provide a clear and comprehensive legal protection and security for Nigerians living with disabilities as well as establish standard for enforcement of the rights and privileges guaranteed under this decree and other laws applicable to persons with disabilities in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. At present, there is no coherent legislation pertaining to persons with disabilities and their rights. The reason for non-existence of such legislation is a result of the negative attitude and the belief hitherto held towards persons with disabilities in our society.

3.14.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To legislate the principles enshrined in the constitution to protect the rights of Nigerians irrespective of the abilities
- (ii) To ensure equality, non-discriminatory practices and protection for persons with disabilities
- (iii) To ensure that the existing legislation is scrutinized for compliance with the constitutional principles to protect persons with disabilities
- (iv) To take into account the present and future legislative environment needs of persons with disabilities

3.14.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Enact legislation embodying the rights and obligations of persons with disabilities
- (ii) Ensure that organisations of persons with disabilities are involved in the development of national legislation concerning the rights of persons with disabilities as well as in the on-going evaluation of the particular legislation
- (iii) Provide for appropriate sanctions in case of violations of the principle of non-discrimination in the legislation
- (iv) Enact legislation to remove conditions that may adversely affect the lives of persons with disabilities, including harassment and victimization

3.15. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

3.15.1 INTRODUCTION

This is one of the key elements that can be used to break the cycle of poverty and under-development. The basic prerequisite for development is the capacity of society to use its own resources to sustain itself. Unfortunately, majority of people with disabilities find themselves in the state of poverty because of the past and prevailing discriminations against them.

3.15.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities in socio-economic development of the Nigerian society.
- (ii) To provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain highest possible educational and vocational qualifications
- (iii) To ensure and monitor equalization of job opportunities for persons with disabilities in public and private sectors

3.15.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Promote equitable vocation, pre-employment and on-the-job training for persons with disabilities in all sectors of the economy
- (ii) Provide adequate funds and materials/ resources for institutions/centres responsible for training and development of persons with disabilities
- (iii) Ensure that a percentage of work-force is reserved for qualified persons with disabilities
- (iv) Design and review curriculum of training institutions of persons with disabilities from time to time to meet the challenges of contemporary living

3.16 DATA INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

3.16.1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty and inequality as they affect persons with disabilities in Nigeria can be better tackled when the exact size and the magnitudes of the problems are understood by those responsible for national planning. Lack of sufficient data has made it difficult to appreciate the magnitude and scope of problems facing persons with disabilities in the country. From the statistics available, it is not an overstatement to say that Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world. The data and information at hand do not include details of those with disabilities, hence, it is difficult to effectively plan for them.

3.16.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure appropriate integration of indicators on persons with disabilities in the regular data collection processes in the country
- (ii) To ensure that data on persons with disabilities should reflect their physical or mental conditions, resources/capabilities and the environment in which they live, work and play
- (iii) To ensure optimum dissemination of information on the living conditions of persons with disabilities

3.16.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Conduct national survey on persons with disabilities and update it from time to time
- (ii) Establish a national research centre equipped with modern database facilities
- (iii) Establish national guideline and minimum norms and standards for disability related research
- (iv) Support the integration of disability in national census and surveys

3.17 ORGANISATIONS OF AND FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

3.17.1 INTRODUCTION

The government of Nigeria recognizes the formation and establishment of organisations of and for persons with disabilities to cater for their interests and represent them at local, national and international / regional levels. Such organisations are saddled with the roles of identifying the needs, services and advocating changes as well as raising public awareness towards the plights of persons with disabilities. The organisations met with difficulties owing to limited resources.

3.17.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To support organisations to provide direct services to persons with disabilities ensuring gender responsiveness
- (ii) To support the promotion of welfare and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities
- (iii) To collaborate with government in the implementation of rehabilitation programmes
- (iv) To initiate and provide services for the improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities

3.17.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Put in place a mechanism for effective coordination and monitoring of activities of various non-governmental organisations of and for persons with disabilities including those addressing specific male and female issues
- (ii) Encourage the involvement of NGOs/Associations of persons with disabilities in the formulation of policies and programmes relating to them. Particular attention should be taken to involve women with disabilities in all the processes
- (iii) Support the establishment of non-governmental organisations in view of the vital roles they play on issues relating to persons with disabilities
- (iv) Provide technical assistance where possible to NGOs involved with persons with disabilities

3.18. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

3.18.1 INTRODUCTION

Countries will participate actively in international cooperation concerning policies for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. Failure to have contacts with some notable and reputable international bodies dealing with disability issues will definitely have some negative effects on the quality of life as well as the rights of persons with disabilities. It is important to interact with recognized institutions, particularly, the United Nations entities that deal with relevant conventions, treaties and agreements pertaining to disabilities.

3.18.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To maximize benefits from activities of international bodies as they relate to persons with disabilities
- (ii) To develop appropriate disability-related technologies from various international bodies involved in issues relating to persons with disabilities

3.18.3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Initiate the establishment of contact with international bodies involved in disability issues, as well as United Nations and its specialized agencies
- (ii) Introduce disability issues in general negotiations concerning standards, information exchange and development programmes for persons with disabilities
- (iii) When planning and reviewing programmes of technical and economic cooperation, special attention shall be given to yearnings and aspirations of persons with disabilities
- (iv) Ensure that the United Nations and the specialized agencies include in their work-plans programming for persons with disabilities

3.19 ASSISTIVE DEVICES

3.19.1 INTRODUCTION

Aids and appliances that are meant to enhance the potentials of persons with disabilities are usually not available. Where they are available, they are often beyond the reach of an average person with disability. Although some aids and appliances are produced locally at affordable cost, they are not sufficient. The local producers can no longer meet the increasing needs of persons with disabilities because financial and material resources required for the production of aids and appliances are grossly inadequate.

3.19.2. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure availability of needed aids and appliances for persons with disabilities
- (ii) To provide an enabling environment for the local producers of aids and appliances
- (iii) To encourage the use of local raw materials for the production of aids and appliances

3.19.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Encourage the local production of aids and appliances through grants, loans and technical services
- (ii) Encourage the training of personnel on the production of sophisticated aids and appliances
- (iii) Promote foreign investors in the area of production of aids and appliances to establish the plant in Nigeria
- (iv) Provide the needed aids and appliances free to indigent persons with disabilities
- (v) Provide guidelines on the distribution of aids and appliances to persons with disabilities

3.20 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

3.20.1 INTRODUCTION

Lack of coordination of most of the government activities especially those pertaining to persons with disabilities has made it difficult for most of their dreams to be realized. This is buttressed by the fact that there is seldom an inflow of communication among different bodies as well as the three-tiers of government on issues relating to persons with disabilities

3.20.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure effective coordination of all the policies and programmes of all tiers of government aimed at improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities
- (ii) To provide a standard and comprehensive policy framework to guide all tiers of government for effective service delivery to persons with disabilities

- (iii) To ensure effective distribution of responsibilities among the three tiers of government on matters relating to persons with disabilities

3.20.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Federal, State and Local governments shall take immediate steps in including disability issues in their overall development plans, budgetary allocation and releases
- (ii) National Committee on Disability Issues shall be set up to advise and mediate between the three tiers- of government on matters affecting persons with disabilities. The committee would include persons with disabilities with cross disability and gender representation
- (iii) Exchange Programme for the personnel of three tiers of government in the service delivery to persons with disabilities shall be promoted
- (iv) The Federal government shall ensure adequate coordination of all activities and issues relating to all persons with disabilities

3.21 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.21.1 INTRODUCTION

Monitoring is tracking of the efforts to ensure full integration and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. It is an essential element in the upholding of the human rights of PWDs. It can be used as a corrective tool against the violated rights of persons with disabilities. Monitoring can also be used to measure trends and patterns of discriminations on the grounds of disabilities both at an individual and systemic level. It can be used as an educative tool to create awareness.

Evaluation on the other hand is assessment of all programmes that directly affect persons with disabilities with a view to reviewing it from the earliest conceptual and planning stages

3.21.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure that projects and programmes designed to enhance quality of life of persons with disabilities are effectively implemented
- (ii) To make information available for future planning of projects/programmes meant for persons with disabilities
- (iii) To assess the extent to which the projects/programmes have been utilized to the benefit of persons with disabilities

3.21.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Evaluate periodically and systematically national disability programmes and services
- (ii) Develop and adopt terminologies including indicators, tools and criteria for the evaluation of disability related programmes and services.
- (iii) Develop criteria and terminologies and include organisations of and for persons with disabilities from the initial planning stages.
- (iv) Participate in international cooperation in order to develop common standard for national evaluation in disability field through the national coordinating committees.
- (v) Evaluate various programmes in disability field to ensure overall efficiency in fulfilling policy objectives.

3.22. VOTING ACCESS

3.22.1 INTRODUCTION

It is one of the fundamental rights of any adult citizen of Nigeria to vote and be voted for as well as have access to free assembly for lawful political process. Due to a number of impediments persons with disabilities are unable to fully exercise this right. Hence, the need to ensure integration of needs of persons with disabilities in the electoral processes in the country cannot be overemphasized.

3.22.2 OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure persons with disabilities shall have the right of assistance by a person of his choice to vote at the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (ii) To collaborate with the Independent National Electoral Commission and ensure available polling places and materials are accessible to persons with disabilities in all elections.
- (iii) To ensure persons with disabilities are fully integrated in the electoral processes including working with political parties at all levels.

3.22.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Government shall respect, protect and support the civil liberty of persons with disabilities.
- (ii) Persons with disabilities shall be supported to have access to information and materials to facilitate their participation in the electoral process.
- (iii) Provide technical and strategic support to stakeholders and relevant institutions that will ensure full integration of concerns of persons with disabilities in the electoral processes in the country.

SECTION 4.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RATIONALE

In order to fast track and accelerate the implementation of the National Disability Policy, it is imperative that roles and responsibilities of institutions that are relevant for successful implementation are defined, clarified and aligned. This will facilitate the strengthening of collaboration, minimise duplication of effort, and strengthen coordination for better and inclusive service delivery for persons with disabilities.

The roles and responsibilities for identified institutions and respective mandates for the implementation of the Policy are presented on Table 1.

Table 1: Stakeholders Roles and Responsibilities

S/N	STAKEHOLDER	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
A	Federal Level	
1	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees the overall coordination of the implementation of the Policy. This includes development and implementation of appropriate Strategic Action Plans and guidelines for relevant stakeholders Provides national legal frameworks for the implementation of the Policy Serves as the secretariat for the Coordinating Committees (Steering, Technical etc) Initiates, organizes and implements programmes and projects for effective implementation of the Policy Oversees the national community-based rehabilitation activities and programmes Ensures adequate resources for the effective implementation of the Policy
2	The National Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives and their Committees on Women Affairs & Social Development or Disability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact legislations for the overall wellbeing of persons with disabilities Provides oversight on government projects relating to the Policy Ensures adequate budgetary allocations towards effective implementation of the Policy
3	<u>Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):</u> Federal Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures enrolment and retention of persons with disabilities at schools Ensures schools are accessible to persons with disabilities, through elimination of barriers (physical or otherwise) Promote transportation to and from school for children with disabilities Provides high quality education to persons with disabilities Provide educational materials to children with visual and hearing impairment in formats accessible to them Promote inclusive education across all levels of education
	Federal Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures access to quality and affordable health care by persons with disabilities

	National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that persons with disabilities benefit from the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) • Sees to the implementation of the National Disability Health Insurance Scheme
	Federal Civil Service Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure PWDs are gainfully employed in the civil service and ensure equal opportunity for PWDs in the civil service
	Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities on employment related matters
	Federal Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities
	Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures implementation of youths and sports developments for persons with disabilities
	Federal Ministry of Information and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization and information dissemination about the Policy and on persons with disabilities
	Federal Ministry of Communication Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures access to information, communication and technology by persons with disabilities
	Federal Ministry of Works and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures accessible and disability-friendly infrastructural developments
	Federal Ministry of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures efficient, affordable and disability-friendly transportation systems
	Federal Ministry of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures a safe and conducive environment
	Federal Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides budgetary releases for funding of programmes and projects
	National Planning Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures resources are equitably distributed to persons with disabilities
	National Agency for the Control of AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure provisions of the Policy are integrated into HIV/AIDS activities and programmes the Agency coordinates
	Offices of the Senior Special Assistants to the President on SDGs, and Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the interests of persons with disabilities in social protection and SDGs activities of the Federal Government
	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream persons with disabilities into programmes/ activities for employment development
	National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	
	National Human Rights Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the rights of persons with disabilities are respected and protected
	Other MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream disability issues into their policies and programmes as the cases may be
4	Organisations of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaises with government in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Policy • Oversees the activities of other DPOs at states and LGA levels • Provide support services for persons with disabilities throughout

		the Federation
5	Civil Society Organisations; Organisations for persons with disabilities (Community-Based, Faith-Based, Non-Governmental Organisations, traditional and cultural organisations and systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective delivery of services • Liaises with government in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Policy
6	Public Private Partnerships and Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize resources for the implementation of the Policy
7	International Donors and Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial supports for the successful implementation of the Policy
8	Academia and Research Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research and provide evidence for and on the implementation of the Policy
9	Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information dissemination and social mobilization on the Policy
B	States Levels	
1	States Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development and other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in charge of disability issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the Policy implementation at the States. • Ensure compliance to Strategic Action Plans and guidelines by all stakeholders • Support the provision of the States level legal frameworks for the implementation of the Policy • Serve as the secretariat for the States Coordinating Committees (Steering, Technical etc.) • Initiate and implement programmes and projects for effective implementation of the Policy at the states levels • Oversee states level Community-Based Rehabilitation activities and programmes • Ensure adequate resources for the effective implementation of the Policy
2	State Assemblies (House Committees on Women Affairs & Social Development or in charge of Disability Matters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact legislations for the overall wellbeing of persons with disabilities at the states levels • Provide oversight on states governments projects relating to the Policy • Ensure adequate budgetary allocations towards effective implementation of the Policy
3	States Level Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs): States Ministries of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure enrolment and retention of persons with disabilities in schools • Ensure schools are accessible to persons with disabilities, through elimination of barriers (physical or otherwise) • Provide high quality education to persons with disabilities • Promote inclusive education at the State level
	States Ministries of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to quality and affordable health care by persons with disabilities

	States Health Insurance Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that persons with disabilities benefit from the States Social Health Insurance Scheme • See to the implementation of the Vulnerable Groups Health Insurance Programme
	States Ministries of Labour and Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equal and fair treatment for persons with disabilities on employment related matters
	States Ministries of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities
	States Ministries of Youths and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure implementation of youths and sports developments for persons with disabilities at the states levels
	States Ministries of Information and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization and information dissemination about the Policy and on persons with disabilities at the states levels
	States Ministries of Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to information, communication and technology by persons with disabilities
	States Ministries of Works and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure accessible and disability-friendly infrastructural developments
	States Ministries of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure efficient, affordable and disability-friendly transportation systems
	States Ministries of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a safe and conducive environment
	States Ministries of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide budgetary releases for funding of programmes and projects
	State Planning Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure resources are distributed to serve persons with disabilities
	State Agencies for the Control of AIDS Other States MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure provisions of the Policy are integrated into HIV/AIDS activities and programmes that they implement • Mainstream disability issues into their policies and programmes as the cases may be
	Organisations of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaises with government in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Policy • Oversees the activities of other DPOs at states and LGA levels • Provide support services for persons with disabilities throughout the Federation
C	LGA Levels	
1	LGAs Departments of Women Affairs and Social Development and other Departments and Agencies in charge of disability issues at the LGA level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the implementation of the Policy and appropriate Action Plan at the LGA levels • Provide LGA level legal frameworks for the implementation of the Policy • Serve as the secretariat for the LGA Coordinating Committees (Steering, Technical etc) • Initiate and implement programmes and projects for effective implementation of the Policy • Oversees the LGA Community-Based Rehabilitation activities and programmes in collaboration with the states • Ensure adequate resources for the effective implementation of

		the Policy
2	LGA Legislative Councils (Supervisory Councilors for Women Affairs and Social Development or Disability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact enabling bye-laws for the wellbeing of persons with disabilities at the LGA level • Provide oversight on LGA governments projects relating to the Policy • Ensure adequate budgetary allocations towards effective implementation of the Policy
3	<u>LGA Departments and Agencies:</u> LGA Departments of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure enrolment and retention of persons with disabilities in schools • Ensure schools are accessible to persons with disabilities, through elimination of barriers (physical or otherwise) • Provide high quality education to persons with disabilities • Promote inclusive education at the Local Government level
	LGA Departments of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to quality and affordable health care by persons with disabilities
	LGA Departments of Labour and Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equal and fair treatment for persons with disabilities on employment related matters
	LGA Departments of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities
	LGA Departments of Youths and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure implementation of youths and sports developments for persons with disabilities at the local government levels
	LGA Departments of Information and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization and information dissemination about the Policy and on persons with disabilities at the local government levels
	LGA Departments of Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to information, communication and technology by persons with disabilities
	LGA Departments of Works and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure accessible and disability-friendly infrastructural developments
	LGA Departments of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure efficient, affordable and disability-friendly transportation systems
	LGA Departments of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a safe and conducive environment
	LGA Departments of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide budgetary releases for funding of programmes and projects
	LGA Agencies for the Control of AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure provisions of the Policy are integrated into HIV/AIDS activities and programmes that they implement
	Other Departments and Agencies at the LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream disability issues into their policies and programmes as the cases may be

