DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The history of decentralization in Senegal is very significant. Senegal was the first Francophone African country to implement municipalization, with St Louis and Goree in 1872, Rufisque in 1880 and Dakar in 1886. After independence, Senegal had 34 municipalities. However, it was in 1996 with the adoption of the Municipal Administration Code (which sets out the organization, powers and operation of the municipalities) that regionalization began and the municipal status of Senegal finally became a reality.

The territorial organization established in 1996 has undergone several changes. In 2009, Senegal had 14 regions, 45 departments, 46 districts, 113 urban municipalities and 370 rural municipalities.

The implementation of the decentralization policy in Senegal since 2006 has been the responsibility of the Minister of the Interior and Local Governments. However, other ministers also have responsibilities in relation to decentralization, such as the Minister for International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation and the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister in charge of Local Development. Furthermore, national structures have been also created to support the government in implementing this policy.

There is a long tradition of functioning local bodies/associations in Senegal, but the technical capacity of local government still needs strengthening. At the socio-economic level, decentralization is now well entrenched in the minds of Senegalese people. It has nurtured the emergence of a local elite more aware of their social responsibilities. A local spirit has thereby developed which is gradually becoming recognized as an effective alternative to the concept of the «welfare state».

However, although deeply rooted in the political tradition of Senegal, decentralization still has various weaknesses. To overcome these constraints and allow decentralization to be truly effective in the fight against poverty, general reforms need to be considered.
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND DISABILITY POLICIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The 2001 constitution of Senegal states that persons with disabilities must be protected. In 2001, the government organized a Ministerial Council on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Nineteen guidelines were issued by the council, the first of which affirmed the necessity of elaborating a social orientation bill.

A decade later, a social orientation bill on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities was adopted on 26 May 2010. Among its clauses were: the establishment of a 15% quota of people with disabilities recruited in public functions, the reduction of transportation fees, the creation of a «High Authority for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities», the accessibility of public buildings and the creation of an “equal opportunities card”.

The Senegalese government has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It limited himself to signing it in April 2007, even though the bill of ratification was submitted to National Assembly at the end of 2009.

Protecting the rights and needs of persons with disabilities is the responsibility of the Division for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities at the Ministry for Social Action and Relations with Institutions. The President of the Republic also appointed a special adviser to deal with disability issues.

At the local level, people with disabilities refer themselves to the regional and departmental social action services. They are supported by the Rehabilitation and Social Promotion Centres (CPRS), which are present in almost all districts in the country. As part of the decentralization process, local authorities also work in synergy with these deconcentrated government services.

The 2006-2010 poverty reduction strategic paper for Senegal targets people with disabilities as one of the most vulnerable groups requiring access to social services. This document includes monitoring indicators related to the number of people with disabilities who are fitted with devices and the number of income-generating projects managed by people with disabilities with financial support (through the Community-Based Rehabilitation – CBR- programme implemented by the State in some parts of the country). National programmes in support of poverty reduction promote the inclusion of people with disabilities through small income-generating projects.

An inclusive approach to education in Senegal is beginning to develop through teacher training programmes to support the schooling of children with disabilities, awareness-raising actions targeting parents and the local community, and initiatives to make schools more accessible.

There are over one hundred DPOs in Senegal. Some associations are national while others are local. Some organizations are specialised indifferent categories of disability, while others represent all types of disability.

DPOs have existed in Senegal since independence in 1960. Influenced by the international context of disability, DPOs have promoted real changes in Senegal, particularly in terms of moving away from a charity model of disability toward an approach that emphasizes rights and dignity and respects difference.

DPOs have implemented initiatives for economic inclusion and vocational training. Training centres for tailoring, hairdressing, batik dyeing and office skills have been opened by DPOs for the benefit of their members. These centres are part of programmes to create income-generating activities and are funded by the associations themselves or by their partners. DPOs are involved also in advocacy activities.

Most DPOs combine their efforts within the Senegalese Federation of Disabled People’s Organizations (FSAPH), created in the late 1990s. The Federation works with non-state stakeholders, although the government remains its primary ally and partner. The Federation aims to enable people with disabilities and their representative organizations to speak with one voice in promoting and defending the principles of dignity and citizenship. It is headed by a president, elected by their peers, who chairs a board of directors representing 26 national associations. There are FSAPH branches in regions and departments throughout the country.

Regarding DPOs, it is also important to note that the office of the Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD) for West, Central and North Africa is located in Dakar.
INTRODUCTION OF DISABILITY ISSUES IN THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS THROUGH THE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DAGANA

**Location:** Department of Dagana, Region of St. Louis, Senegal  
**Reference to articles of the CRPD:** 29; 24; 27  
**Stakeholders involved:** the Partnership with Saint-Louis and its Region (PSLR); Federation of People with Disabilities of Dagana; Departmental Social Action Service; Departmental Inspectorate of Education (IDEN); municipal and rural councils of Dagana, Ronkh, Bokhol, Rosso, Richard Toll and Gaë; training centres in the Department of Dagana

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE AND THE PROCESS INVOLVED**

Dagana is one of the three departments of the Region of Saint-Louis in northern Senegal. In 2005, its population was estimated at 207,991 people.

In 2002, the Departmental Consultation Framework on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Department of Dagana was created to promote the socio-economic integration or reintegration of people with disabilities in the Department.

It has been implemented by “The Partnership” in connection with the Federation of People with Disabilities of Dagana and the Departmental Social Action Service, which plays the role of coordinator.

The majority of state and non-state stakeholders of the Department (Prefecture, Health Municipality, IDEN, rural communities, training centres, community-based organizations, etc.) are members. The Framework, which meets twice a year, also has resource persons among its members and is open to anyone interested in its mission.

Following a participatory approach, the Framework identifies, in consultation with DPOs, the problems of people with disabilities and tries to find solutions. Each member contributes, depending on their expertise and areas of intervention.

The Framework supports the Federation of people with disabilities of Dagana in the fields of rehabilitation, advocacy, education, vocational training, employment and accessibility.

In the education sector, the Consultative Framework has enabled the construction of ramps, sanitation facilities in schools and has provided educational support to children with disabilities. This has included raising the awareness of parents as to the importance of registering the birth of children with disabilities.

The apprenticeship of young people with disabilities who are beyond school age is encouraged by the Consultative Framework. It identifies young people with disabilities, agrees with them a trade they would like to be trained in, and then puts them in contact with public or private formal or informal institutions. The members of the Consultative Framework then jointly put in place the training process. IDEN facilitates contacts with the training institution, The Partnership and the local communities provide the financial means, and social services and the Federation of People with Disabilities takes charge of the monitoring and mentoring.

The Partnership also supports the professional integration of the trainee through subsidies for the creation of income-generating activities.

Individual promoters or groups also receive funding for activities and technical support from the members of the Framework. Activities such as the marketing of rice, the rental of tarpaulins, chairs and sound equipment, and the setting up of small businesses have been subsidized.

With the support of all the stakeholders of the Consultative Framework, advocacy tours focusing on the rights of people with disabilities are organized in the local communities. Each stakeholder makes a financial or material contribution.

Local authorities also support the activities of DPOs through periodic grants.
THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS PRACTICE POSSIBLE

The fact that The Partnership had set as a priority actions to support the integration of people with disabilities, and the fact that it had a sound knowledge of the various local stakeholders, was crucial to the success of this initiative. The strategy developed by The Partnership was completely consistent with the development programmes implemented by the government and especially by the Social Action service in the department. The Federation of People with Disabilities of Dagana was highly active and well organized, enabling it to play the role of catalyst within the Consultation Framework. The geographical proximity of the stakeholders and their integration within the local community encouraged dialogue and consultation.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Time constraints on the various stakeholders and the difficulty of meeting frequently has resulted in the Framework holding two meetings per year. An action plan with an annual allocation of tasks is developed each year. During the second meeting of the year, members assess the actions of the framework for the period just elapsed and discuss prospects for the coming period.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRACTICE

Through their participation in the Consultative Framework, people with disabilities have been directly involved in research and the implementation of actions to address their main needs and difficulties. Following the actions taken by the Consultative Framework, more children with disabilities have been enrolled in the schools of the department. Young people with disabilities have access to vocational training, conduct income-generating activities, and participate in the development of the locality.

Development stakeholders have started to recognize the need to make their work more inclusive of people with disabilities.

RELATED ARTICLES OF THE CRPD

The Consultation Framework of Dagana for the inclusion of people with disabilities is fully in line with section 29 of the Convention. It also highlights articles 24 and 27 on education and employment.

AN EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

The approach of the Consultation Framework is inclusive in that all development stakeholders in the department have joined forces to give more space to their fellow citizens with disabilities, and have started to systematically take disability into account in all their actions.

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I’m 18 and I have a disability. Thanks to the Consultation Framework of Dagana, I am doing a training course in catering at the Regional Technical School for Girls (CRETEF). I have finished my first year and I was first in my class. I’m entering my second year. I have many friends in the centre. At the end of my training, I want to open a big, high-class restaurant where I will employ people with disabilities.

A beneficiary of the vocational training programme.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE AND THE PROCESS INVOLVED

South Yeumbeul is an urban municipality in the Department of Pikine, located in the suburbs of Dakar. According to the 2002 census, it has 80,439 inhabitants.

Given the significant number of community-based organizations (CBOs) active in the municipality (75), the Mayor of South Yeumbeul invited them to come together as a single entity to make their actions more effective and coordinated and to give the mayor a single point of contact.

The CBOs therefore created the Network of Community-Based Organizations of Yeumbeul South (ROCBYS). It is a network of organizations from all social and professional categories of Yeumbeul South, including 2 DPOs: Handicap SOS Réinsertion, and the Association of Blind Musicians of Senegal (AMAS).

The organizing committee of the first general meeting of the network in 2004 was led by a person with a disability. This placed DPOs at the heart of the movement from the outset. After the meeting, members of Handicap SOS Réinsertion and AMAS were placed at the head of organizing committees: the women’s committee, and the committee for communication and external relations, respectively.

The headquarters of the Network was installed in the premises of the city hall; the most accessible part was occupied by the DPO members of the network.

In 2005, on the fringes of the network’s annual general meeting, these committees organized awareness-raising days on decentralization in the presence of the Minister for Local Government and Decentralization.

The Network works in the fields of micro-finance, education, and training. Network representatives are always invited to the meetings of the council and participate in the decision-making process concerning local development strategies. For example, in collaboration with the municipality, the Network has created the Savings and Credit Mutual Association of South Yeumbeul (MECYS), the management of which is entrusted to the treasurer of the Network, a woman with a disability.

The president of Handicap SOS Réinsertion and director of the management committee of a parents’ association, represents the Network on the Local Committee for Education and Training. Under the annual programme of support for access to school supplies, all children of the municipality, disabled or not, are taken into account.

THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS PRACTICE POSSIBLE

- The willingness of the municipality to encourage synergy among its social partners, promote dialogue, and provide spaces for civil society (headquarters of the Network);
- the motivation, dynamism, and mobilization capacity of the DPOs whose work on the ground was very visible and known to the inhabitants of the municipality;
- the understanding among CBOs and DPOs that unity is strength.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

CBOs in South Yeumbeul were numerous and not easy to mobilize. The process of creating the network faced logistical and transportation problems. Distances were often long and difficult in the suburbs. But thanks to the financial and material support of the municipal council and the solidarity of the stakeholders, the network was put into place in two phases: the first phase was the setting up of a small committee of 12 organizations that developed a strategy to reach out to all the CBOs of the municipality; in the second phase,
the Network was established with the support of local authorities.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRACTICE

Through the establishment of the Network, people with disabilities have access to very important elected and appointed positions. Some of them have had some responsibilities of paramount importance for the development of the area with the possibility of intervening in all spheres of the life of the municipality. The creation of a savings and credit mutual association with the help of the Network has allowed women with disabilities in the municipality to have access to micro-finance and thereby strengthen their financial autonomy. Through the annual educational support programme, several children have received support.

RELATED ARTICLES OF THE CRPD

The experience of the Network of Community-Based Organizations of South Yeumbeul has allowed a real participation of people with disabilities in the governance of their communities, in line with Article 29 of the Convention.

AN EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

The Network and the local authorities take into account people with disabilities in their work. They do not hesitate to use the expertise of DPOs and to give them positions of responsibility.

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All the members of the network have benefited from capacity building initiatives developed locally with support from various partners. People with disabilities have systematically been invited to participate in training sessions organized by community organizations. Equally, when DPOs organize activities, they always involve the other members of the network.

*I am a member of Handicap SOS Réinsertion. I participated in the creation of ROCBYS. I was involved in the financial and material organization of the first general meeting, and it was a success. Today, I am a local politician and adviser to the Mayor on disability issues. I must admit that ROCBYS has influenced me a lot at the political level. I have represented the network in almost all meetings with the municipal council. That’s where I realized that I could become a local elected official. So I joined a political group that positioned me for election in my community. Thanks to my popularity with grassroots community organizations and DPOs, I am now part of the municipal team. I will work for everyone but I will always be mindful of people with disabilities who are my real foundation.*
INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK OF EAST PIKINE

**Location:** Municipality of Pikine, Region of Dakar, Senegal  
**Reference to articles of the CRPD:** 29

**Stakeholders involved:** DPOs of East Pikine (AHPE), Local Development Consultation Framework of East Pikine (CLC/DPE), Union of Associations of East Pikine (COGAPE), urban municipality of East Pikine.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE AND THE PROCESS INVOLVED**

The urban municipality of East Pikine is located in the Department of Pikine in the Dakar region.

As part of a decentralized cooperation with the city of Antwerp, East Pikine has implemented since 1999 a local development programme based on civil society participation. Under this programme, the municipality of Pikine established in 2001 the Local Development Consultation Framework of East Pikine (CLC/DPE).

This body was created to promote conditions for concerted and participatory development. It is composed of 10 local networks and federations of the organizations of East Pikine, such as the Association of neighbourhood representatives, the Coordination of public schools, the Union of Women’s Groups, the Coordination of Medical Stakeholders, etc.

The framework's mission is to intervene in the fields of health, education, sanitation and environmental management, culture and sport, and to support local entrepreneurship and income-generating activities.

During the setting up of the Local Consultation Framework, in compliance with the inclusion principles of the Decentralized Cooperation Programme, the City council has asked the DPOs of Pikine to join the Framework.

In 2004, the Collective of Associations of East Pikine (COGAPE) was asked by the Local Consultation Framework to identify the persons with disabilities in the municipality and to detail their needs. This work has led to the creation of a training centre for tailoring, hairdressing and literacy run by the Association of People with Disabilities of East Pikine. This training project was made possible through support from the Pikine - Antwerp cooperation programme that financed the rental of a building for the training and for the headquarters of the organization.

At the end of the project, the DPO moved into the headquarters of the Local Consultation Framework, where it continues its training activities.

Collaboration with all the members of the Framework has enabled the DPO to find other funding partners to strengthen the training workshops and develop the income-generating activities.

**THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS PRACTICE POSSIBLE**

The North-South partnership (between East Pikine and Antwerp) has been crucial for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the programme. Indeed, the management of the programme requires not only the sharing of responsibilities between the local authorities and civil society, but it also explicitly promotes the involvement of all population groups, including women and people with disabilities.

The willingness of municipal authorities and leaders of associations has also facilitated the identification of the DPOs working in the locality and a process of taking into account their concerns.
Our participation in operations and management through the responsibilities which have been entrusted to us demonstrates that we have our place in the Framework. We participate in decision-making and our concerns are taken into account. The Framework helps us to strengthen our capabilities: training in ICT, administrative and financial management, project development and management, strategic planning, institutional analysis and local development initiatives (financing education projects, training, creation of income-generating activities).

The President of the Association of Persons with Disabilities of East Pikine, member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of the Local Coordination Framework.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

It was not easy to identify people with disabilities and to document their expectations. People with disabilities often have many needs for autonomy and not all of them can be satisfied by the action of the Consultation Framework. Partnerships with stakeholders at the local, national and international levels are crucial.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRACTICE

All the actions developed by the municipality and the Local Consultation Framework take into account people with disabilities and their organizations.

In addition to supporting initiatives for people with disabilities in the fields of vocational training, literacy and income-generating activities, the Framework has also identified the educational needs of children with disabilities in the municipality. Five children with severe disabilities have been placed in a special school located outside the suburbs. The transportation and school supplies of these children have been supported by the Local Coordination Framework and its partners.

The President of AHPE was the treasurer of the Consultation Framework and sits on its board of directors. This gives the DPO an important role in the decision-making process and contributes to the change in attitude of society vis-à-vis people with disabilities.

Through the partnership between the Framework and the municipality, the president of the Women’s Section of AHPE was appointed adviser to the Mayor on issues relating to the promotion and protection of people with disabilities in the community.

The 2010 local development plan of the municipality envisages the granting of land to the DPO for the construction of its headquarters and to make its activities more sustainable.

RELATED ARTICLES OF THE CRPD

People with disabilities in Pikine are involved in the local governance mechanisms of their locality. Some participate directly in decision-making in the Consultation Framework and at the municipality level. This practice is therefore an example of the implementation of Article 29 of the Convention.

AN EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

Due to the participation of DPOs in the Consultation Framework, the problems of people with disabilities are taken into account in local development activities.

The municipal team uses the technical expertise of a people with disabilities to make sure that the specific needs of people with disabilities are not overlooked.

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MECHANISMS FOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE CHEIKH ANTA DIOP UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR

Location: City of Dakar, Senegal
Reference to articles of the CRPD: 29; 24
Stakeholders involved: Board of Education, Department of Student Life in Relation to the City (DVERC), University Social Services (COUD) of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Association of Students with Disabilities of UCAD (AEH/UCAD), Students’ Association.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE AND THE PROCESS INVOLVED

The Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) is one of the oldest universities in Africa. It has about 50,000 students of 44 different nationalities, including students with disabilities.

UCAD is an autonomous community space for living and study. The academic community is composed of teachers, scholars, students and technical and administrative staff. It is a sort of a local authority.

The Association of Students with Disabilities (AEH/UCAD) brings together people with disabilities studying at the university. Founded in 1997, it has more than one hundred members (including people with motor, visual and hearing impairments). Its main mission is to ensure the improvement of the living conditions and education of its members. It has submitted a number of specific disability issues to the university authorities which, if neglected, can adversely affect the success of students. These include access to infrastructure and university exams, and financial and material support.

In 2003, the University created the Department of Student Life in Relation to the City (DVERC) to ensure, among other things, the reception of students and the development of the capacities of student organizations.

This department has a division in charge of students with disabilities. This division is headed by a former disabled student of UCAD and works for the better integration of the needs of disabled students. DVERC ensures the proper functioning of the Association of Students with Disabilities (general meetings, renewal of members, etc.) and supports its actions with government and other stakeholders outside the University. It presents grievances to the Assembly of the University and follows them up.

The combined actions of AEH/UCAD and DVERC have significantly improved the lives of people with disabilities on campus.

The new facilities of the university (classrooms, toilets, bedrooms, etc.) have begun to integrate accessibility concerns. Scholarships are awarded to all students with disabilities. They have priority for university residence. They also have improved access to the technical and administrative services of the university (collecting scholarships, obtaining the student card, access to medical services, to the restaurant, etc.). The Board of Education and the Social Service Centre of the University provide support for the purchase of technical aids to facilitate mobility and access to the campus and to its knowledge resources. Deserving students with disabilities have access to scholarships to go and study in foreign universities and are prepared for their professional inclusion.
THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS PRACTICE POSSIBLE

The mobilization of students with disabilities has been mainly driven by the university crisis in Senegal. Faced with the loss of social benefits and the increasing number of students, they came together in order to become a strong lobbying force.

The foresights of the authorities, their awareness of disability issues and their willingness to make the university accessible to all citizens have been decisive in the establishment of this practice.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The mobility of students with disabilities on the campus is not always easy. The campus is very large, larger than some of the municipalities. Students with disabilities have made great efforts to organize meetings and be heard. The solidarity between students with and without disabilities as well as the close relations with teachers resulted in the establishment of the association and its smooth functioning.

The relatively short period of time students take to complete their studies can lead to mismanagement in the operation of the association and its bodies. For this reason, DVERC has a section which is responsible for students with disabilities and which ensures that disability issues are taken into account at all decision-making levels.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRACTICE

The number of students with disabilities has increased significantly since 1997 (the year of the establishment of the Association of Students with Disabilities). In 1997, AEH/UCAD had only seven members; at its last meeting in 2008, it had more than 100.

The success rate of students with disabilities stands out clearly.

The UCAD library is accessible to students with disabilities and is preparing to open a Braille section. The new buildings built in 2000 are all accessible. Each year AEH/UCAD organizes, in conjunction with DVERC, open days aimed at the general public to raise awareness about issues relating to the social integration of people with disabilities. It also offers its expertise for free to DPOs present in the country. Two years ago, in conjunction with teachers, researchers and students of the university, it initiated an annual forum as part of the International Cultural Festival of People with Disabilities of Dakar (www.handifestival.com).

RELATED ARTICLES OF THE CRPD

The actions of AEH/UCAD and those of DVERC are related to articles 29 and 24 of the CRPD on the participation of persons with disabilities in public life and on education.

AN EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

By trying to make room for students with disabilities, the university opens itself up to all categories of the population. It becomes an inclusive place that guarantees access to education for all.

POINTS TO WATCH OUT FOR AND SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT

The sustainability of the Association of Students with Disabilities is crucial. One of the weaknesses of the association is that it is run by dynamic young people who leave when they start to acquire leadership experience. The support and monitoring provided by the Disability Division of the Department of Student Life in Relation to the City is therefore fundamental.

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PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF OUSSOUYE

Location: Municipality of Oussouye, Region of Ziguinchor, Senegal
Reference to articles of the CRPD: 29; 27

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE AND THE PROCESS INVOLVED

The municipality of Oussouye is the administrative centre of the Department of Oussouye. According to the 2002 census, it has 4,052 inhabitants.

It is located in Lower Casamance in the region of Ziguinchor, southern Senegal, and is surrounded by thick forests of mango and kapok trees; most of the forest is sacred and used by Diola animists.

In 2000, a Consultation Framework involving the municipal council, CBOs, NGOs, decentralized services and other partners was established by the Prefect of the Department of Oussouye.

The aim of the Framework was to promote the socio-economic development of the municipality with the participation of all development stakeholders.

The Union of People with Disabilities of the municipality of Oussouye was invited to join the Consultative Framework; it is in charge of the administrative secretariat of the income-generating activities committee.

The Consultation Framework has supported people with disabilities in several areas, including the creation of income-generating activities such as basketry or small businesses (through financial support and guidance) as well as gardening and livestock farming (through the provision of a site on the outskirts of the city).

To address the needs of people with disabilities, the municipality has allocated land to the DPO for the construction of an equipped multi-use headquarters. It has also linked the organization with a Spanish NGO with which a tripartite agreement (city council, NGO, DPO) has been signed for the construction and equipment.

Accessibility issues are addressed at the level of the town council during the meetings of the Consultation Framework, and more generally at the municipality level.

THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS PRACTICE POSSIBLE

The Mayor of Oussouye, who is recognized as a human rights activist, places great importance on the socio-economic integration of people with disabilities. Before heading the municipal council, he was involved in the organization and empowerment of mine victims in the municipality of Oussouye and in the Ziguinchor region.
In this locality, tradition inspires a lot of practices. One of these traditions prohibits the marginalization of people with disabilities in social life.

Disability INGOs have been present in this area for over a decade, providing services in the fields of education, advocacy and training to develop the capacities of people with disabilities and improve their leadership. These factors have encouraged the inclusion of people with disabilities in all local development projects.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Means of transport are limited in the municipality of Oussouye. People with disabilities often live far from the town centre, where the Consultation Framework is located, and this poses difficulties as regards regular attendance.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRACTICE

Through the Consultation Framework, people with disabilities in Oussouye can develop actions supported by the community and local authorities.

RELATED ARTICLES OF THE CRPD

The experience of the Consultation Framework of the municipality of Oussouye is in line with Article 29 of the CRPD on the participation of people with disabilities in public life. It also relates to Article 27 on employment.

AN EXAMPLE OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

Through the creation of the Consultation Framework, the municipality ensures the participation of people with disabilities and their organizations. The problems faced by people with disabilities are treated in the same way as those of other citizens. They are taken into account in the planning of the activities of the municipal council.

Some aspects to be improved would include the promoting of the project and of the products research into market opportunities.

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There are a dozen of us - all women - working in this basketry unit. We produce hand-made bags, baskets, and mats. We use willow leaves. We are waiting for the construction of our headquarters to expand and diversify our business. Our biggest problem is the marketing of our products because tourists are becoming increasingly rare in the region. The mayor and Handicap International are our key partners; they support us in several fields such as the design and implementation of microprojects, not to mention the training seminars.