

Afri Disability Development and Solutions (ADDS) in Tanzania

Afri Disability Development and Solutions (ADDS) is a Tanzanian disability-led, non-government organization (NGO). In September 2020 five Tanzanians with disabilities and experience working with people with disabilities locally and internationally noted the tremendous negative effect that the COVID-19 pandemic had on many societies globally and in response they founded ADDS.

Afri Disability Development and Solutions (ADDS) believes that addressing the core barriers towards an inclusive society, unlock the potential of rights and justice of people with disabilities.

Increasing the knowledge, tools, training and resources for people with disabilities will allow them to influence decision and policy. In alignment with GADRA, ADDS believes in self-help, rather than charity and hand-outs. When possible, they work with existing networks and establish partnerships. Because sustainable, long-term initiatives are what are needed, the work of ADDS is planned, conducted, managed and evaluated by community constituents with disabilities. The organization includes persons with disabilities at all levels of the organization, from advisory positions to staffing governance, enabling programming to be grounded in the reality of persons with disabilities, and centered on learning and engaged participation.

Together we sustain in development.

There are 4.5 million Tanzanians living with a disability with an average annual growth rate of 2.7%. People with disabilities are often among the poorest and most marginalized in society.

Disability has a significant impact on health, employment, and education.

More than half of children with disabilities do not attend school and illiteracy among Tanzanians with a disability is 48%, compared to 25% for people without a disability. This seriously hinders social and economic development. The exclusion of people with disabilities from the workplace, either through discrimination or inaccessible work environments, costs Tanzania \$480 million every year - 3.76% of the country's GDP. People with disabilities often live in severe poverty due to the challenge of securing a steady income amid widespread exclusion. With only 3.1% receiving income from paid employment, households headed by persons with disabilities experience greater levels of poverty. ADDS works on many fronts to alleviate the obstacles, improve quality of life and empower people with disabilities to fulfill their potential.

ADDS can be better understood through their objectives to:

- provide good governance, training disciplines and public awareness in our society.
- support to reduce poverty through self-help, capacity building, information, lobbying and sensitization.
- utilize diverse forms of media and reduce discrimination against people with disabilities.
- enhance the safety, justice, quality of life and spirit of individuals.
- lead to obtain funds and property as beneficially or to invest, develop, accumulate, and disburse funds and property to and for the objects of ADDS. And for the benefit of non-profit organizations that work without gaining profits.

As an NGO in a country lacking robust disability inclusion processes and priorities ADDS is always pursuing funding to

support programs. Adding disaster response efforts to their work increases the critical funding need. Funds are needed for all facets of operations to continue assisting the community, emergency and disaster relief, and development of disability inclusive training provided by people with disabilities, and training local sign language interpreters. In addition, ADDS needs all our support in lobbying and advocacy, development of policies and strategic plans, working with media and promoting the organization, information technology and resources. With over 40,000 NGOs competing for resources from the local and private sector, Afri Disability Development and Solutions (ADDS) needs our help to continue their mission. GADRA is actively engaged with ADDS and we invite you to join us!

