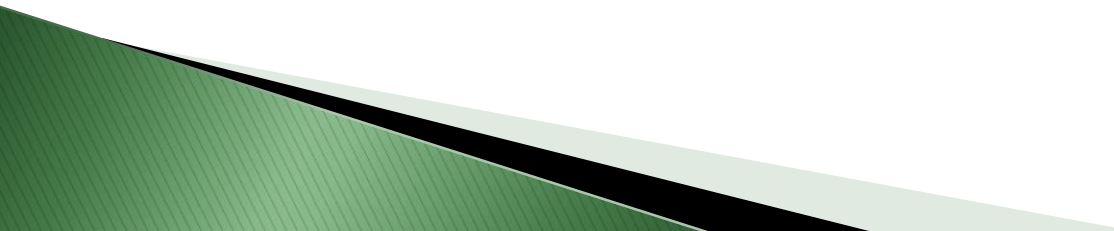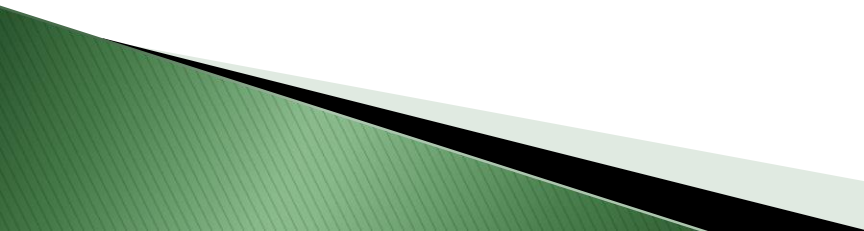## CAPACITY BUILDING OVERVIEW FROM DPO'S IN THE SOUTH

Paper presented by Mrs Rachel Kachaje, Deputy chairperson, Disabled Peoples International (DPI), Immediate Past Chairperson SAFOD, and Executive Board Member of Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA) at CCDRP Final Dissemination Conference held at Jeremy Bentham Room UCL on Monday 17th June 2013
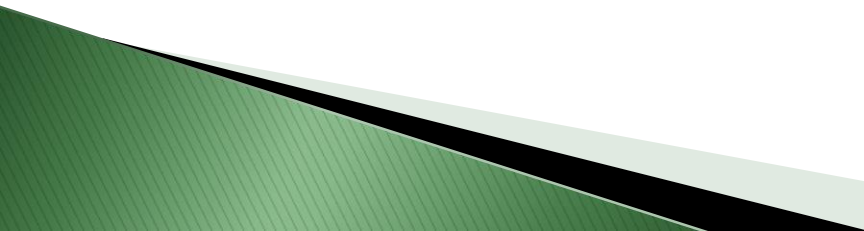Email ; rkachaje@yahoo.com

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background of the SAFOD Research Project
- Framework and Implementation Strategy
- Project highlights/status
- The working relationship and impact of SRP and CCDP Research program on disabled people
- Importance of DPO's and People with disabilities in research process
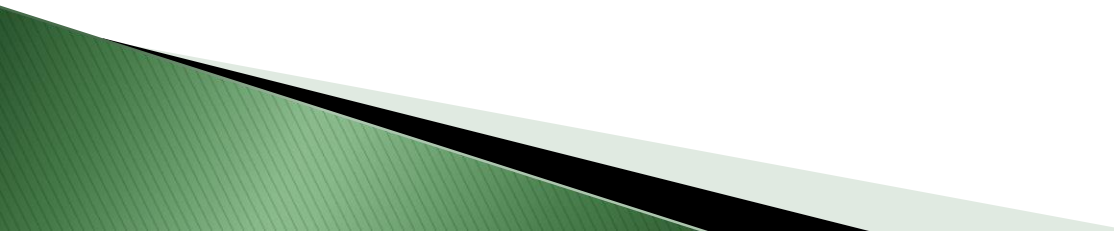- DPO Tool Kit on engaging in Research
- Conclusion

Background of the SRP

- Planning and Conceptualization was collaborative in all the 10 countries of Southern Africa
- The Purpose was to enable DPO's and people with disabilities to be on the driving seat in as far as disability and research are concerned
- To increase the organisational/operational capacity of SAFOD and its members to design, drive, own and use research to influence policy and practice promoting equality and poverty reduction
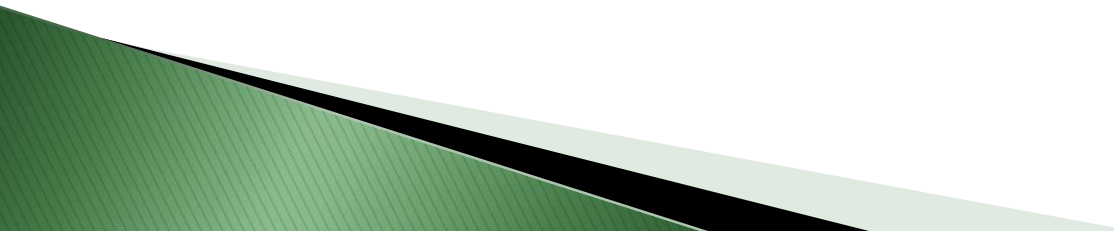
Framework and implementation strategy

- Was in two dimensions
  - i) Training in research in order to build knowledge skills and confidence
  - ii) Building elements of sustainability and continuity
  - iii) Outsourcing research agendas e.g. cycle one which had 5 pilot projects
  - iv) Implementation strategy : TAB, Lead Research Partner, Training Participants and Research Consultants

Project Highlights/status

- People with Disabilities influencing of research agenda
- Training of people with disabilities – basic research
- Involvement of trainees in SRP supported research
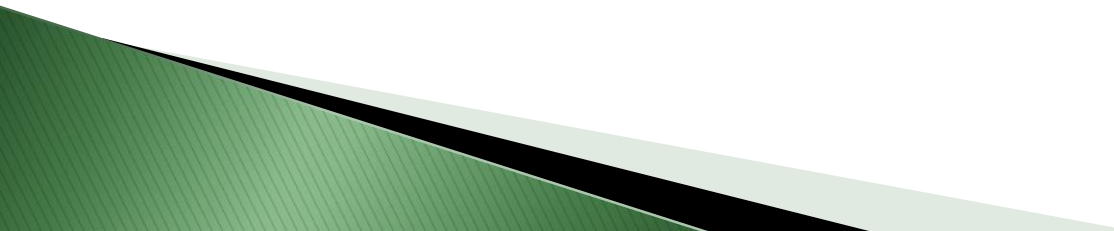- Involvement of SRP trainees in research outside the SRP
- Accreditation of trainees

Project highlights contd

- Understanding of Value of research in DPO work – share a bit on my experience.
- Investing in establishing research structure
- Participation of SRP trainees at AFRINEAD symposiums

The working relationship and impact of CCDP and SRP on the disabled people

- The working relationship of CCDP and SAFOD was based on the principle of mutual respect and equity.

- Professor Nora Groce, Director of the CCDRP was a member of SAFOD's Technical Advisory Group, and Shuaib Chalkin, Director of SRP and Rachel Kachaje, then the SAFOD chairperson and SRP TAB chairperson were serving on the CCDRP CAG.

- Prof Groce and Dr M Kett attended a SAFOD research meeting in Cape Town in Dec 2009, which was a useful basis for discussions on common synergies and research expertise.
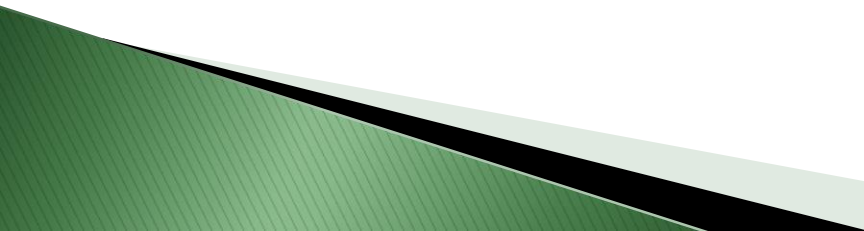
The working relationship and impact of CCDP and SRP on disabled people

- Strategy papers and research outputs were shared between the two programmes for comment and expert input.
- In general, the CCDRP experience has inspired positive changes in view on how DPOs should take forward inclusive development and particularly   in SAFOD member countries with its various partners including research institutions and donor partners.

Importance of engaging DPO'S in research processes

- Involvement of disabled people improves their knowledge base regarding such issues as membership constituency, best practices on advocacy work and campaign activities
- They also provide evidence base for dpo day to day activity.
- What is most important to DPOs is that these capacity building efforts are in line with the general provisions of the UNCRPD. It is also a step in the right direction. More still needs to be done as the need is great.
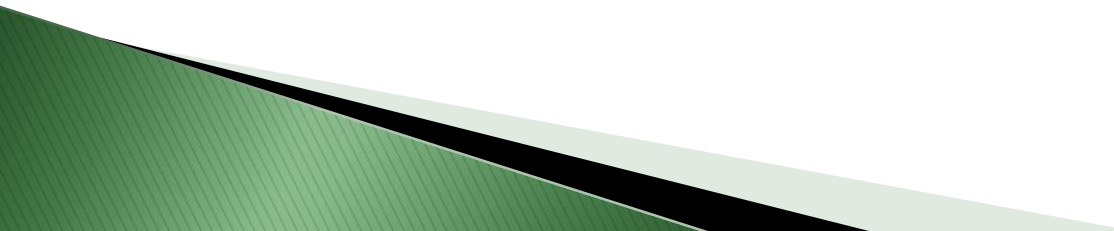
Importance of engaging DPO'S in research processes

- The SRP programme was timely, relevant and countries in the region began to reflect on how to respond to the ratification of the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disability.
- This created more openings for PWD to engage with decision makers under the rights created by the UN Convention on rights of PWD and also the MDGs
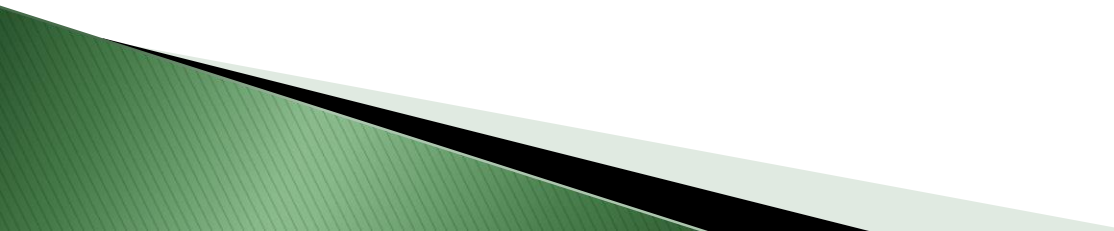
Importance of engaging DPO'S in research processes

- SRP had the potential to be useful to key players: in the disability movement; decision makers (government, other research institutions, donors etc.). It is the first time that PWD have been part of setting the research agenda.
- The capacity building component is a good example of developing sustainable collaboration in tackling issues of disability, poverty and development. The expected sharing of best practices through the internship programme has potential to strengthen involvement of DPOs in research work.

DPO Tool Kit on engaging in Research

- The development of the DPO Tool Kit is timely and welcome
- It will help in building the capacity of DPO's and the individual disabled people on how to conduct and use research in their programs, conduct campaign and advocacy targeted and focused activities
- This tool kit is a well coordinated campaign that will help DPO's and people with disabilities to successfully influence positive policy changes and use of resources more effectively
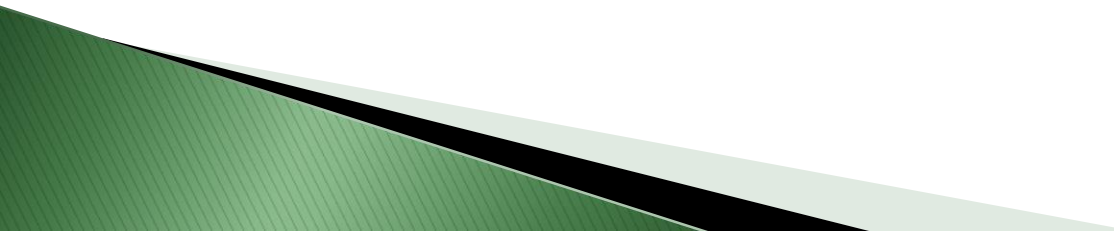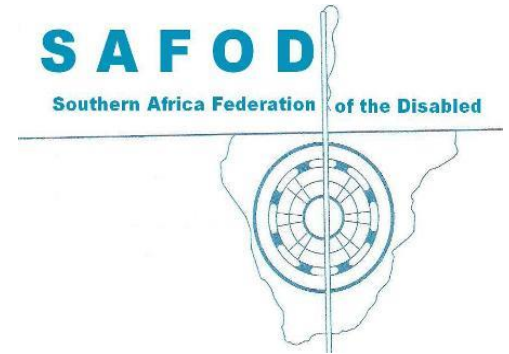
DPO Tool Kit on engaging in Research

- Most important part of the tool kit is that it focuses on what comes before and after such research is done
- DPO's being able to define research that they need to further their campaign and advocacy activities
- How to use the research findings to inform decision making activities for an inclusive development agenda

conclusion

- In conclusion, I would like to thank first and foremost DFID for funding SRP and CCDP which has been in my opinion very successful and all the members of staff who have been very supportive since its inception and to the end.

- I would also like to thank Prof Nora Groce, and all her colleagues in CCDP. Who have also been very instrumental and helpful in the success of the two research programs

conclusion

- I would like to recommend that this program should continue as it has generated a lot of research agendas

- May I at this point request DFID to consider the continuation of these research program.

- May I also take this opportunity to request other donor partners to emulate what DFID has done in these projects.

THANK YOU