

Accessibility of key Public Space Assessment, September 2019

Approach:

IFTIN FOUNDATION with guidance from the CRPD expert and BUILD project of Creative Associates International, conducted a set of six questions to be responded to when conducting field visits. IFTIN also recruited 10 volunteers from PWD serving CSOs (8 men and 2 women), provided them with a brief of the field assessment (full questionnaire found below) approach and ensured that they understood the assessment tool that was drafted.

In line with the general purpose of the project, the political and social life of people with disabilities, **Iftin Foundation** conducted seven (7) day field assessment (**10th – 16th September**) at public service facilities in Mogadishu that made it possible an access for people with physical disabilities, especially where those with physical disabilities are able to access their services without the need for further assistance.

This assessment was data carried out from the field in details and findings obtained during the assessment period are as shown below tables.

We have managed to reach 13 public service provider locations.

Places visited, proportional numbers and percentages

NO	Public place categories	Number of Places	Percentage
1	Hotel	2	15.38%
2	Police Station	2	15.38%
3	District Commission	2	15.38%
4	Bank	2	15.38%
5	University	2	15.38%
6	Business Mall	1	7.7%
7	Hospital	1	7.7%
8	Telecommunication com.	1	7.7%
Total		13	100%

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Number of places reached and districts are located

No	Districts	Number
1	Waberi	4
2	Hodan	4
3	Wadajir	2
4	Howlwadag	2
5	Hamarweyne	1
Total		13

Below is a summary table of findings

Questions	YES (%)	NO (%)	St. Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
1. Do you believe that your space is fit to welcome persons with physical disability	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)				
2. Have you ever encountered a complaint from people with disabilities about accessibility in your place?	4 (30.7%)	9 (69.3%)				
3. Do you agree that facilities have to include access to persons with physical disability	0	0	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)	0	0
4. Does your organization/institution/company have any rules/procedures on how to treat people with disabilities?	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)				
5. To the best of your knowledge, are there laws/rules about accessing disability people in public spaces.	3 (23%)	10 (77%)				
6. To your knowledge, are there people with physical disabilities who were unable to reach your workplace/building due to lack of accessibility?	2 (15.4%)	11 (84.6%)				
Total	19 (29.2%)	46 (70.8%)	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)	0	0

The above table of the assessment found, that 29.2% public places provide service facilities suited their places an accessibility for the people with disabilities, while other 70.8% their services were inaccessible by the people with disabilities. In other side during the assessment also noted that 100% of the public space service providers have positive perception and humanity feeling people with disabilities to have accessible and comfortable facilities and services in the community but most of them don't have any knowledge about this issue of public service inclusivity.

This shows it would need more awareness raising about the disability issues and conduct more strategic advocacy, in order to increase social and community awareness of the disabilities and community inclusion rights.

NO	Space visited	Designed accessible	Natural accessible	Not Accessible
1	Police station	0	0	2
2	District commission	1	0	1
3	Hospital	1	0	0
4	Bank	1	0	1
5	Business mall	0	0	1
6	Hotel	0	1	1
7	University	0	0	2
8	Telecommunication	1	0	0
Total		4	1	8

The assessment found, that 4 public places provide service facilities suited their places an accessibility for the people with disabilities, one place was normally accessible without understanding for PWDs while other 8 out of 13 were inaccessible their service the people with disabilities.

No	Accessibility status	Number	Percentage
1	Designed accessible	4	30.8%
2	Naturally accessible	1	7.7%
3	Not accessible	8	61.5%
Total		13	100%

This table shows the number and percentage that people with disabilities have an accessible the number and percentage they are inaccessible.

Conclusions

Findings were discovered shows that 4 spaces out of the 13 selected places which equivalent 30.8% have accessible design for people with disabilities, and 1 place is naturally accessible without any deliberate design for serving of people with disabilities while other 8 places which equivalent 61.5% have no accessible service for People living with disabilities.

84.6% respondents from key public spaces visited responded that there is need to have access of people with disabilities for the facilities of public places by marked strongly agree and 15.4% respondents selected agreed in the assessment form provided while there is no anyone refused.

Recommendation

Based on the assessment findings shows that most key public spaces serving with community including people with disabilities have no access facilities for PWDs. Grant assumed similar results and hence proposed follow on activities to address these gaps in facilitating access to persons with physical disabilities to public spaces to encourage their public and political participation. As such, IFTIN with BUILD support will conduct the following interventions and activities to attempt at responding to these challenges. For the coming four months, IFTIN and BUILD will consider how key public places owners/managers to be aware for facilities accessibilities for physical disable people.

Additionally and funds permitting, IFTIN will consider the following interventions in the future;

1. To engage high level awareness programs for the public in order to bring the attention of the people that people with disabilities are active and great number of the community.
2. Spaces and buildings' plans should be included that people with disabilities particularly those physically disable to have access with the facilities provides by the places.
3. To have laws treat with the disable people by relevant bodies to secure the rights of the people with disabilities in Somalia in both accessibilities and participation of politics and the public life.
4. Based on the assessment, most of the respondent said they didn't received any complaint from people with disabilities about inaccessibility of their facilities where accessibility of their spaces is very low, thus people with physical disabilities required to double their efforts and share their service barriers with public space owners/managers.
5. Construction companies, owners and the local government are required to consider that this very serious business to keep the value of people with disabilities.