**Saudi Arabia's submission on the call for inputs on the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and flourish in their communities**[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **What are the primary principles and goals that govern the provision of services to people with disabilities in your State?**
2. **Have these principles and goals been modified to take explicit account of Article 19 of the CRPD on the right to live independently and be included in the community (e.g., personalization of services, personal and human support, assistive technology, accessible transport, access to housing, expansion of community-based services, emphasis on personal empowerment and choice).**
3. **Are these goals linked directly to broader policy imperatives to ensure people with disabilities can take meaningful advantage of being in the community – such as the opportunity for employment and education, access to health care, promotion of natural or unpaid supports or community assets available to citizens without disabilities? If so, how?**

1. The main role for provision of the necessary services to the persons with disabilities arises from Disability Welfare Law, as the article (2) thereof stated that the State shall guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to access prevention, care, and rehabilitation services. Further, Kingdom laws work together on some measures and facilities to live independently and be included in the community, including the following:

- Article (3) of the Disability Welfare Law included the importance of complying with the engineering and architectural conditions and specifications that meet the needs of persons with disabilities in rehabilitation, training, educational, and care and treatment facilities, and in public places and other locations intended to achieve the purposes of this Law, provided that the relevant agency issues the necessary implementing decisions.

- Preparing the public transportation means to enable persons with disabilities to move easily, securely and safely in order to ensure that they live independently.

- Provision of day and home care services in order to support persons with disabilities as well as enabling them to live with their families according to the Social Rehabilitation Regulations issued by Resolution No. (24) dated 28 January, 1980.

- Provision of prosthetic and assistive devices and dedicated cars to help and enable the persons with disabilities to live independently according to the high order No. (1/7852) on 16 April 2008.

- The Council of Ministers Resolution no. (76) dated 25 April 2004 included granting Persons with disabilities an exception to the age requirement of (18) years old in order to be able to apply for the housing grants. Furthermore, they were granted the priority in allocating the housing grants.

- The State bear the fees of the recruitment for exit and entry visas as well as issuance and renewal of Iqama of the driver, nurse and the domestic worker for the benefit of persons with disabilities according to the article (5) related to the equality and non-discrimination of the Council of Ministers Resolution no. (229) dated 14 June 2010.

- Devices and equipment designed for the persons with disabilities shall be exempted from customs duty according to the Royal Decree no. (37/M) dated 29 March 2000.

2. Kingdom provides persons with disabilities with the options of accommodation and subsistence in the social rehabilitation centers or living with their families. In case of choosing to live with their families, subsidies shall be provided to their guardian, according to the articles (23 &24) of the Basic Regulations of Rehabilitation Programs for Persons with Disabilities issued by Council of Ministers Resolution no. (34) dated 28 January 1980 which stated that the guardian of persons with disabilities who will not be accepted in the social rehabilitation centers or their guardian wish to take care of them shall be provided with annual subsidies according to the defined conditions and medical reports.

**B: Service Delivery**

1. **Who primarily deliversservices to people with disabilities (State, local government, private providers commissioned by the State, religious organizations, other, or a mix?). How do you see this mix changing if at all as a result of the UN CRPD in your country?**
2. **Who primarily *pays for* services to people with disabilities (State, local government, private providers commissioned by the State, religious organizations, other, or amix?). How do you see this mix changing if at all**
3. **Describe generally *how* community-based providers are paid for the services they deliver (e.g., through general grants, through per capita funding, based on specific services rendered, other means?). What changes, if any, are anticipated regarding the present payment methodology?**
4. **In what ways are principles and service goals communicated to the service system (e.g., in laws, service standards, staff training, funding incentives, means for compensating/penalizing service providers, and/or for assessing the quality of services?). Please describe.**
5. **What new services, including those to support families, have been added to the available service array to advance principles consistent with Article 19?**
6. **What practices, if any, have been adopted/encouraged to promote greater use of technology to personalize support to persons with disabilities (e.g., telehealth, remote monitoring, adaptive communication, artificial intelligence, etc.)?**
7. **In what ways are caregivers (e.g., family members, other informal caregivers) recognized and supported?**
8. **Do you have a policy of personalizing/tailoring services to individual needs? How is the policy implemented? (e.g., through individual planning requirements? etc.).**
9. **Describe how much control people with disabilities have regarding the services that they receive (e.g., choice of who provides support, choice of where they live and with whom they live, control over budgets).**
10. **In some disability support structures, service users or families have an allocated budget which is devolved so they have control over how the funds are used to purchase eligible disability supports. Do you have or anticipate a policy of devolving budgets to the service user? Describe.**
11. **If budgets are devolved to the user, what kinds of supports are available to assist them, how are the administrative tasks minimized and is the individual given wide discretion on how the funds are spent?**
12. **Have you adopted any positive “wealth accumulation strategies” (e.g., innovative trust funds) to complement social provision? Describe.**

3. Subsidies provided by Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development (MHRSD) is an important source of the social care which individuals and their families in need. MHRSD provides financial subsidies, through the Department of Financial Support in MHRSD that is responsible for disbursing the subsidies, to the persons with disabilities or their families In this context, many decisions that include disbursing subsidies to some categories of the persons with disabilities were issued, examples of which are the following:

- Issuance of the Basic Regulations of Rehabilitation Programs for persons with disabilities upon the Council of Ministers Resolution no. (34) dated 28 January 1980 which stated that the guardian of persons with disabilities who will not be accepted in the social rehabilitation centers or their guardian wish to take care of them shall be provided with annual subsidies according to the defined conditions and medical reports.

- Issuance of the Council of Ministers Resolution no. (88) dated 17 May 2005, which included providing the social rehabilitation centers which give partial care for persons with disabilities during specific period with annual subsidies for each accepted case, provided that the subsidies shall not exceed the half of annual subsidies amount determined to the guardian of persons with disabilities as aforementioned.

- Issuance of the high order No. (7/1285/m) on 31 January1989 and No. (1/7852) on 19 May 2005, which stated that the Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development to modify the disabled cars, to enable them to drive with their hands instead of feet, in addition to providing chairs for disabled persons in need.

4. Both financial and in-kind subsidies for persons with disabilities to provide them with adequate standard of living can be divided as follows:

- Financial subsidies: a royal order issued on 27 December 2007 to increase the subsidies provided to persons with disabilities and their families taking care of them in their houses, by 100%.

- Distribution of qualified rehabilitation devices for persons with disabilities who live outside the social rehabilitation centers at a rate of three to four devices such as: wheelchairs, beds, crutches, air mattresses and others.

- All persons with severe disabilities are being admitted in the social rehabilitation centers where they are provided with accommodation services such as subsistence, health, social and rehabilitation services and others, if their families are unable to take care of them at their homes.

- Providing the professional rehabilitation services to the trainable cases according to the article (14) of the basic rules of the rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities.

- The social rehabilitation centers host the persons with disabilities for (4-5) hours during day time from every day to provide them with appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation programs like (physical therapy, speech and language therapy, special education programs and social and recreational programs) in order to enhance their efficiency.

- Lunching the home rehabilitation serves, which is provide the persons with severe or intermediate disabilities, and unable to visit the social rehabilitation centers or the hospitals. It includes training for both the persons with disabilities and their families.

**C. Monitoring and Oversight**

1. **Describe the types of data you collect on people with disabilities receiving services (e.g., numbers of service users, types of disability, service utilization, costs per person, quality of life outcomes, health outcomes, incidence of abuse, neglect and exploitation). Are these data gathered and reported in aggregate only or may it be disaggregated per person?**
2. **How do you enforce standards as they apply to service delivery providers (law, standards, incentives)? What do these standards focus on in the main? How are they measured?**
3. **Do your compliance rules make it possible to disqualify those providers in breach of the standards from competing for future State support?**

5. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia works on establishing databases to help measuring the progress achieved in improving and protecting human rights. This includes fulfillment of the Kingdom’s commitments under the human rights conventions to which Saudi Arabia is a party, including Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It should be noted that Human Rights Commission is the entity responsible for following-up on the implementation of the human rights conventions, by the government authorities, to which the Kingdom is a party. Furthermore, it coordinates with the General Authority for Statistics and other entities to perform the roles entrusted to each entity in relation with gathering, analysis and publishing data related to the human rights and facilitating access to them through surveys and administrative records in a systematic scientific methodology. It should be noted that work is currently underway to build human rights indexes including the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level, in participation of all relevant entities.

D**. Re-Shaping the Market/Challenges and Opportunities**

1. **Describe the major challenges you face in endeavoring to reform your system of services and supports for people with disabilities. Barriers might include workforce shortages, inadequate resources, lack of knowledge and training, weak infrastructure, and/ history of institutionalization.**
2. **How is the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath reshaping the service delivery market? Explain in terms of changes in service expectations among service recipients and regarding impacts on the services available.**
3. **Do you pro-actively seek out new kinds of service providers with new business models that emphasize person-centered practices?**
4. **Do you encourage service providers to adopt a ‘business and human rights approach’ to their endeavours?**
5. **How do you incentivize innovative person-centered new providers to enter the market? Describe.**
6. **Do minimum wage laws apply in this sector? Is there a career advancement structure for workers in the sector?**

6. Work opportunities are available for all without any form of discrimination, including persons with disabilities. As article (1) of the Civil Services Law emphasized that efficiency is the basic criteria for selecting the applicants to any vacancy. It also acts as a general principle applied to all employees without exception to any specific category and the main standard is the commitment of employees, including persons with disabilities, to the tasks and duties of the job specified by law. MHRSD is keen to validate the sound of procedures in the line with the regulatory rules through cooperation with the governmental authorities to properly implement the laws and regulations that regulate the relationship between the employee and its employer as well as exercising the supervisory role to ensure that. MHRSD also promotes and develops the employee’s awareness of their rights via publishing the brochures and work instructions online and holding introductory workshops for the specialists in government authorities to raise their efficiency. Within its structural organization, MHRSD has a competent department receives and studies the employee grievances in order to ensure the integrity of procedures issued in their regard and that they benefit from all the rights assigned to them by law.

7. Article (28) of the Labor Law stated that Each employer employing twenty- five workers or more where the nature of his work allows recruitment of the professionally disabled shall employ a number of disabled that represents at least 4% of the total number of his workers whether through nomination by the employment units or otherwise, and he shall send to the competent labor office a list of the jobs and posts occupied by the professionally rehabilitated disabled persons and their wages. In 2008, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development issued many decisions to incentivize the entities of private sector to provide job opportunities to the persons with disabilities according to their capabilities. Additionally, it issued a decision in 2012 on calculating monthly wages and special categories, in Nitaqat program, including the persons with disabilities able to work.

8. Several measures are taken in order to promote job opportunities for persons with disabilities including:

- Compatibility program (Tawafuq) in which comprehensive employment channels seek to incorporate the workforce of persons with disabilities to work in the private sector. Further, work is under way to enhance the services and lunch defined employment channels for persons with cognitive or mental disabilities including persons with autism via an initiative to expand vocational training and employment empowerment.

- Incentive rewards are disbursed for the persons with disabilities who train in the vocational social rehabilitation centers and enroll them in specific vocational diplomas.

- Lunching “Mowaamah” initiative that aims to create appropriate business environment for the persons with disabilities via facilitating the issuance of certificates related to the companies comply with criteria of employing persons with disabilities. More than 900 establishments are registered in the portal to obtain the certificate, among which 150 establishment got the certificate to date.

- Obligating employers who employ persons with disabilities to provide all means and facilities for employees of this category.

9. Paragraph (11) of Article (10) of Implementing Regulations of Labor Law stated that the establishment recruiting persons with disability shall maintain the place-based requirements and explanatory services. Paragraph (12) of the same article included that the work inspectors shall, upon paying an inspection visit for establishments, examine the persons-with-disability number, work nature, arrangement types and explanatory services.

10. King Salman Center for Disability Research provides advisory services to the Human Resources Development Fund regarding the project entitled “preparing the measures of assessment of work capacity: a systematic methodology to match the capabilities and potentials of persons with disabilities with the vacancies in the local market”. HRDF includes work standards of persons with auditory, visual or physical disabilities. It also holds workshops to train the employees on the work requirements of persons with disabilities as well as preparing workplaces and how to deal with them. King Salman Center for Disability Research also provided many commercial chambers and private entities with the comprehensive access standards in order to prepare the workplaces to receive the persons with disabilities applicants for vacancies.

11. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had taken several measures which contributed combat Covid-19 pandemic through two parallel paths: limiting the spread of the virus, providing high-quality healthcare to the infected individuals and addressing its implications. The measures taken by the Kingdom relied on Human Rights –based approach. This appears clearly in focusing on the principle of equality and non-discrimination and actual application of the human rights’ interdependence and indivisibility, stipulated in 1993 Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, via protecting and fulfilling the other rights impacted by Covid-19.

12. In 15 December 2020, Saudi Ministry of Health announced the opening registration for all citizens and residents in order to obtain Covid-19 vaccination. Free Registration was performed through approved online applications “Sehhaty and Tawakkalna” all over the Kingdom, which allow to all persons to book an appointment for obtaining the vaccine without discrimination between the citizen and resident.

13. The Covid-19 vaccine reached 52,000,000 doses by 60/10/2022, via more than 587 social rehabilitation centers in all regions and governorates. Vaccines were also given to those residing in social rehabilitation centers and persons with disabilities in coordination with the authorities concerned with social affairs.

14. A Royal order issued on 30 March 2020, which stated to provide free health care to all persons infected or likely to be infected with the Covid-19 whether they are citizens, residents and violators of the residency law.

**E: Process of Reform**

1. **What lessons have been learned to build momentum, while minimizing resistance, for systems change consistent with Article 19?**
2. **Did you have an initiative to re-imagine services that includes service users (e.g., have you commissioned a Task Force?).**
3. **In what ways do you solicit the input of people with disabilities and family members in policy making, program oversight, strategic planning, etc. (e.g., national advisory councils, regional/local forums, surveys, webinars, etc.).**
4. **What are the two or three strategic objectives you have to enhance the quality, availability, and effectiveness of services to people with disabilities in your state?**

15. Many measures were taken to improve and protect the rights of persons with disabilities such as: establishing the Authority for People with Disabilities in 2018 in order to ensure that they obtain their rights related to disabilities and enhancing the services provided by the government authorities and issuance of the High Order to approve the guidelines of the Comprehensive Access Program in order to prepare the built environment with the aim of enabling the persons with disabilities to live independently and flourish in their communities. Additionally, these measures include establishment of the King Salman Center for Disability Research which is considered a leading center in the fields of scientific research on issues of disability, its causes and means of avoiding and treating them. Further, they also contain founding of King Salman Award for Disability Research, which improve the services and care provided to them, and commitment with the principles stipulated by the convention of persons with disabilities rights including comprehensive access, appropriate facilitation measures and flourish persons with disabilities in the communities and others.

16. MHRSD also seek to activate the programs to integrate persons with disabilities, benefited from the comprehensive social rehabilitation centers, with their families, and overcome all challenges to integrate them in the community via lunching awareness campaigns and holding rehabilitation workshops for the families. MHRSD lunched media awareness campaign called 'Makani Baynakum' targeting 3852 families. It is one of the measures that aim to facilitate enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community.

18. Regarding to the Right of Education field, there are many governmental institutes for various disabilities including different school levels. In addition, all students with disabilities who are "educable" are accepted. Further, educational and rehabilitation services are provided to categories were not included before such as students with learning difficulties, autism, multiple disabilities, speech and language disorders and health and physics disabilities. Ministry of Education partially integrated the students with disabilities in the specialized classes annexed to the general education schools or fully in the classes with their peers while ensuring that they receive the necessary educational support and rehabilitation services, allowing them to advance with their peers in various classrooms. Prosthetic devices such as audio-visual aids and wheelchairs are also provided free of charge, and textbooks are printed in Braille and audio-recorded. In addition to providing educational supplies for the blind, modifying and adapting textbooks approved in general education to suit the abilities of deaf students, and using sign language to communicate with them.

19. Regarding to the right to work, MHRSD lunched “Tawafuq” which aim to employ the Saudi persons with disabilities, and provide an appropriate environment for them. Further, it encourages private sector entities to employ them. (See paragraph 6)

20. We believe that the issuance of the laws and regulations that consistent with the CRPD, establishing and developing the national mechanisms and intensifying awareness campaigns represent the optimal ways to fulfill the obligations stipulated in Article 19.

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/disability/srdisability/cfi-re-imagining-hrc52/2022-08-12/CFI-SRDisabilities-Re-Imagining-Services-hrc52.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)