

Inception Report

1. Country Data

1-1 General Information

1. Total Land Area: 160 SQKM Land, 22,806 SQKM Water
2. Capital City: Belmopan
3. Total Population: 279,457
4. Ethnic Groups: Mestizo, Garifuna, Maya, Ketchi, Creole, Hindu, Chinese etc.
5. Language: English, Spanish, Creole etc.
6. Religion: Catholic, Presbyterian, Jehova Witness

1-2 Disability Related Information

1. Definition/classification of disabilities:
Disability is a restriction or inability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being, mostly result of an impairment.
2. Population of persons with disability:
(Type of disability age, cause, gender)
Population census 2000 - number of people with disability 13,744.
Children 2907 (48% Males, 52% Females)
Visual Impairment, problems moving around, problems moving parts of the body, hearing difficulties, speaking difficulties, problems gripping, holding, learning difficulties, problems with personal care, behavioral problems.
3. Major laws and regulations concern with persons with disability.
Special education policies must be included within the national education, rule 2000. In the constitution of Belize Statute 6-1 Chapter 4 states that all "persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law." Families and children's Act Amendment 2000 Chapter 173 Part II-8 states that children with disabilities must be assessed as early as possible and offered appropriate treatment, and also offered equal opportunities to education.
4. Financial assistance for persons with disabilities, if any
NONE
5. Disability related organizations and their activities
Appendix C, Appendix D, Appendix E

2. Description of your organization

2-1 General Information

1. Name of your organization
CARE
2. Type of organization
Non-Governmental
3. Background, mission, vision, activities, organization chart.

CARE began in 2002 , when the Belize Council for the Visual Impaired (BCVI) initiated a pilot project in the Toledo District. In the first six months, in Toledo, 50 children were identified as having a physical disability. Then in 2003 started services in the Belize and Cayo Districts and continued to work in Toledo. In 2004 services were started in the Orange Walk and Corozal Districts. In 2005 CARE Belize completed the Situational Analysis of the Disabled in Belize, that was funded by UNICEF. Then assisted BCVI in gathering focus groups of the disabled in each district with the result of A National Policy for the Disabled, being introduced and accepted into the GOB legislative cabinet. At close of 2005 the agency was providing Community Based Rehabilitation CBR services to over 110 children in 5 of six districts.

The mission of CARE Belize is to rehabilitate children ages 0-6 and to classify their types of disabilities. To teach awareness about disabilities through educational programs; to try and prevent disabilities from occurring.

The vision of CARE Belize is to reach out and help children with disabilities 0-6 in all over Belize.

Activities: They have a carpentry project (to build low tech and low cost adaptive aids).

They have a wheelchair distribution and every year disability week is celebrated in May.

4. Staff and volunteers number, paid, non-paid, with or without disabilities, type of disabilities)
5. Registered Members for 2005 is a 110 children.
6. Financial sources of your organization
Foreign donations, local donations, Government of Belize, Others
7. Weakness and strength
Brochure Attached

2-2 Your activities in your organization

1. Your job title
Volunteer
2. Describe the details of activities that you are responsible for.
I give talks on disability, sharing my experience.
3. Explain why and when you started working in this organization.
I started working when my family and I needed to assist Sister Beverly Hoffman. This started when the services of CARE began in Orange Walk Town.
4. Explain problems or difficulties you face in your activities and how you can solve them.
Problem – Finance, transportation
Solution- Learn to write out proposals for funding and acquiring funds
5. State your opinion on how to improve your activities or your organization and why.
I would improve my activities in the organization by training. In this training I would learn to advocate, prepare proposals and understand how other people cope with disabilities in there country.
6. Describe what kind of role you would like to take in this process and how.
I would like to be prepared to answer questions and to give better information about people with disability. This can only be done by being trained in leadership skills.

3 Describe any other working experience with persons with disabilities that you have other than in above mentioned organization.

I worked for 1 year and 3 months at the Special Needs Program under the Red Cross of Belize. I worked with persons with different kinds of disabilities.

Personal Experience

June 4th 1987 was graduation day. I walked up to receive my diploma with excitement and big plans for the future. In August same year I began attending my tertiary level education then on October 9th 1987 I had a fatal accident. The motor vehicle overturned causing two of my cousins to die and leaving me paralyzed waist down; a paraplegic.

I stayed in the hospital for three months with hopes that if I went to the United States I would return walking. In January 1988 I managed to go to the US. Reality set in when all the tests and cat scan were taken; my spine was crushed and out of place and my spinal cord destroyed.

I came back home and more devastating it was to realize that my country wasn't prepared for people with disabilities. Moreover society saw us as a burden. I chose to survive my tragedy and overcome all obstacles and with the blessings of God I will continue to strive. I give thanks that he granted me a wonderful family; fill with love for one another.

Persons with disability in my country:

These people don't have access to many places, no proper transportation or rehabilitation center. No leisure activities or organized sports. They don't have equal employment opportunities.