

## Overview of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Introduction:

The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to providing a decent life for all its citizens and residents, taking into account the different needs of various groups, including people with disabilities. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that have acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol in the belief that all people are entitled to an independent, dignified, and equal life. Since its accession to the CRPD, Saudi Arabia has been committed to promoting, protecting, and ensuring the complete enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Today, persons with disabilities face numerous challenges that necessitate a strengthening of international cooperation between nations to guarantee their rights and effectively enhance their presence in societies. Several disability-related initiatives were included in the Kingdom's Vision 2030 programs to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, develop services provided to them, and provide them with means of prevention, care, and rehabilitation, demonstrating Saudi Arabia's interest in disability.

In Saudi Arabia, 7–10% of the population is estimated to have a disability, compared to a global estimate of more than 1 billion. There is no doubt that this percentage is governed by the circumstances and factors that led to its rise. Despite the challenges faced by people with disabilities, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains committed to its major role in empowering and supporting them in various fields, both locally and internationally. Saudi Arabia is aware of the significance of concerted efforts in addressing the common challenges posed by changes and their negative impacts.

### Legal Framework:

The "**Basic Law of Governance**", which includes constitutional principles and provisions, states in Article 26 that "the Kingdom shall protect human rights in accordance with Islamic law," which reinforces the concepts of justice and equality and prohibits all forms of discrimination, including disability. In addition to a number of other regulations and normative foundations that directly address disability-related issues or general regulations that contain provisions pertaining to persons with disabilities, the most important of which are:

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| 1 | The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, <b>promulgated</b> in accordance with <b>Royal Decree No. M/27 dated 2/11/1445 AH.</b> |
| 2 | The Organization of the Authority of People with Disability.  |
| 3 | The Basic Regulations of Rehabilitation Programs for Persons with Disabilities.   |

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| 4  | The National Policy to Promote the Equality of Opportunities and Treatment in Employment and Occupation in Saudi Arabia. |
| 5  | The Law on Protection from Abuse and its Implementing Regulations.   |
| 6  | Child Protection Law and its Implementing Regulations.   |
| 7  | Law on Proving Health Incapacity to Work.  |
| 8  | Administrative Instructions for Non-Governmental Centers for Disability Rehabilitation.                                  |
| 9  | Implementing Regulations for the Protection of Customer Rights – Civil Aviation.   |
| 10 | The Saudi Building Code.   |

These normative foundations include provisions granting persons with disabilities the right to the highest levels of health without discrimination based on disability, such as:

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| 1 | Health Law.   |
| 2 | Civil Service Law.  |
| 3 | Labor Law and Its Implementing Regulations.   |
| 4 | Law of Criminal Procedures.   |
| 5 | the Law of Procedure before Shari'ah Courts.  |
| 6 | Social Security Law.  |
| 7 | A guide to the articles of the labor law and the articles of its implementing regulations that clarifies the employment and work rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities "Tawafuq". |

The "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act" recently issued pursuant to Royal Decree No. (M/27) dated 02/11/1445 AH is a replacement for the "Disability Code" issued in 1421 AH. The purpose of the Act is to cover the various requirements of life and to be a basis that enables persons with disabilities to obtain their rights in various sectors, as well as to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their equal access to all services. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took into account the most recent international standards and best practices, most notably the CRPD. The Act incorporated fundamental disability-related principles, including accessibility, reasonable accommodation, and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability. In addition, the recognition of sign language as an official language and the definition of the term "person with disability."

### **Regional and International Conventions and Laws Concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has ratified and acceded to a number of international empowerment agreements for persons with disabilities, including:

- Accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol pursuant to Royal Decree No. M/28 dated 22/05/1429 AH corresponding to 2008 AD.
- Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled pursuant to Royal Decree No. M/109 dated 05/11/1439 AH corresponding to 2013 AD.
- Approval of the Unified Guiding Law (Regulation) for Empowering Persons with Disabilities in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. 212 dated 02/04/1442 AH corresponding to 2020 AD.

## **Entities Concerned with Following Up on the Disability File in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

### **1. Human Rights Commission**

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) was established under the "Regulation of the Human Rights Commission" issued by Cabinet Resolution No. 207 dated 8/8/1426 AH. The HRC aims to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards in all fields, raise awareness of them, and contribute to ensuring their implementation in light of the provisions of Islamic Sharia. The HRC is a body competent to express opinion and provide advice on human rights issues. The HRC has legal personality and entire autonomy in carrying out the functions for which it was established and outlined in its organization. The HRC organization was amended by Cabinet Resolution No. 237 dated 6/5/1437 AH.

#### **Objectives:**

The Human Rights Commission aims, in accordance with Article 1 of its organization, to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards in all fields, to raise awareness of them, and to contribute to ensuring their implementation in light of the provisions of Islamic Sharia. It is a competent body for expressing opinion and providing advice on human rights issues.

#### **Duties and Specialties Related to Disability:**

1. The Human Rights Commission is a body competent to express opinion and provide advice on human rights issues, including the rights of persons with disabilities, according to its organization.
2. The Human Rights Commission follows up with government agencies to implement the relevant international human rights instruments to which the Kingdom has joined and to ensure that those entities take the necessary measures to implement them, including the CRPD.

3. It is the body responsible for supervising the development of Saudi Arabia's reports related to the agreement issued by virtue of Royal Decree No. M/28 and other fundamental human rights conventions to which Saudi Arabia is a party. A permanent committee has been formed in the HRC to develop draft reports that include in their membership all the parties concerned with those agreements, and it was given broad authority to carry out the tasks assigned to it by Noble Royal Decree No. 13084 dated 3/27/1436 AH.
4. The HRC develops an annual report on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia.
5. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the committees of the Council of the Human Rights Commission. It is concerned with issues pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities, including their rights to protection, personal safety, and not being subjected to exploitation, violence, and abuse.
6. The HRC visits all prisons and detention centers without permission from the competent authority.
7. The HRC cooperates with civil society organizations to ensure the achievement of its objectives.

#### **Notable Accomplishments in the Field of Human Rights:**

1. The HRC participated in examining a number of human rights-related regulations and projects alongside government agencies in Saudi Arabia.
2. The HRC has expressed its opinion on a number of regional and international human rights instruments in connection with the Kingdom's accession to them.
3. The majority of the HRC's initiatives and recommendations to promote and safeguard human rights in Saudi Arabia, including the rights of people with disabilities, have been implemented.
4. The HRC has addressed numerous complaints regarding human rights, including the rights of disabled individuals.
5. The HRC has visited numerous prisons, detention centers, care facilities, and other facilities to ensure compliance with human rights laws and regulations, as well as Saudi Arabia's related obligations.
6. The HRC includes people with disabilities in discussions regarding their rights, grants them membership in its council, and employs many of them.
7. The HRC regularly holds seminars, workshops, and training courses to enhance awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and build national capacities in this field.

#### **8. Authority of People with Disability:**

The Authority of People with Disability (APD) was established pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. 266, dated 27/5/1439 H. Its organization, in Article 3, states that the APD seeks to assume responsibility for the rights of all persons with disabilities and ensures that they obtain those rights. It also seeks to enhance the services provided to them by other entities, which assist them in obtaining the necessary care and rehabilitation; increases the level of prevention; takes the necessary measures in coordination and cooperation with the relevant authorities; and defines the roles of such authorities with regard to caring for persons with disabilities.

**Strategic Direction of the APD:****Vision**

Providing people with disabilities with a decent life and empowering them for full and effective participation in society.

**Values**

Participation, inclusion, empowerment, education, and innovation.

**Mission**

Organizing efforts and building a fully comprehensive institutional ecosystem to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities and empower their inclusion in society without discrimination.

**Pillars**

Building a national ecosystem, coordinating roles, developing the legislative and organizational structure, enhancing and integrating services, and achieving institutional excellence.

**Strategic Objectives:**

1. Empowering individuals with disabilities and encouraging their full and active participation in society.
2. Developing the legislative and regulatory ecosystem for individuals with disabilities to achieve integration.
3. Enhancing the services provided to individuals with disabilities.
4. Establishing and constructing the APD in accordance with best practices to ensure work efficiency and sustainability.

## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030:

The essence of the Saudi Arabia’s vision rests upon three fundamental pillars:

A Vibrant Society

A Thriving Economy

An Ambitious Nation

The vision has been translated into strategic objectives to facilitate effective implementation through vision realization programs that include many initiatives pertaining to individuals with disabilities, most notably:

- Human Capability Development Program
- National Transformation Program
- Pilgrim Experience Program
- Housing Program
- Quality of Life Program

The Authority of People with Disability (APD) was one of the initiatives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. It is the umbrella organization for all matters pertaining to persons with disabilities, with the goal of empowering them and granting them their full rights in cooperation with other entities to increase their participation in various development programs.

### The Most Significant Initiatives:

| Program                         | Initiative   | Description  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| National Transformation Program | The Establishment of the Authority of People with Disability (APD) | The APD was established in response to the need for an official entity that enhances the services provided to people with disabilities, protects their disability-related rights, and ensures they receive the necessary rehabilitation. Its primary responsibility is to define the roles of government agencies in a manner that contributes to the implementation of policies, strategies, and programs that attain the objectives of projects pertaining to individuals with disabilities. |
|                                 | The Launch of the “Mowaamah” Program                               | The "Mowaamah" program is one of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development's (HRSD) programs, and it was implemented as part of the kingdom's strategy to defend the rights of individuals with disabilities. It aims to accomplish the following:  |

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|  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowering individuals with disabilities to obtain suitable employment opportunities and providing them with all necessary facilities and tools for success.</li> <li>- Encouraging organizations in the private sector to provide suitable work environments for individuals with disabilities based on specific criteria and requirements that allow these organizations to obtain the required license to employ them. More than 2,000 organizations received the "Mowaamah" Certificate, including government agencies such as the Authority of People with Disability and the Human Rights Commission.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p>The Implementation of Action Programs in the National Strategy on People with Disabilities</p> | <p>The initiative aims to implement the outcomes of the National Strategy on People with Disabilities, which focuses on facilitating the employment of individuals with disabilities by amending labor regulations and laws, creating a database, and establishing and activating a national integrated disability registry in terms of medical, educational, social, and vocational evaluation. The objective is to track the number of disability cases by type and severity. It also focuses on developing and activating special programs to raise society's awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, raise awareness of persons with disabilities, and provide vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and stakeholders. In addition, it focuses on developing and activating work programs for persons with mental illnesses and persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as expanding employment services in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.</p> |
|  | <p>Judicial Services for People with Disabilities</p>   | <p>The initiative aims to reach beneficiaries with disabilities to serve them, direct them, respond to their questions, and better equip the judicial facilities to accommodate them. Direct communication with service providers must be made available through the use of the</p>  |

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|  |   | <p>application, and judicial facilities must be redesigned to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout their entire journey, whether electronically or in the judicial facilities.</p>   |
|  | <p>The Development of Long-Term Social Services for People with Disabilities</p>  | <p>The initiative aims to develop long-term social services for people with disabilities in a manner that is commensurate with their needs and does not conflict with the social services-related work of the social development sector. This includes the development of basic, organizational, and executive regulations and rules for social services programs for individuals with disabilities; the development of business models and operational manuals for service centers; the development of the infrastructure for providing services in accordance with the business model; and the training and qualification of cadres working in the field of providing social services.</p> |
|  | <p>Mobile Notarial Offices</p>  | <p>Through a mobile network of notaries operating in various parts of Saudi Arabia, the initiative seeks to offer beneficiaries documentation services wherever they may be. This initiative addresses the challenges posed by the incapacity of certain segments of society, including individuals with disabilities, the elderly, juveniles in social observation homes, and detainees, to acquire documentation services at the headquarters of notarial offices.</p>   |
|  | <p>The Modeling and Development of Day Care Services for People with Disabilities in Partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Private and Non-Profit Sectors</p> | <p>The initiative aims to provide an operational model based on international standards that achieves the provision of quality services to beneficiaries, develop regulations and rules of executive procedures, raise the technical and administrative level of the centers, involve the private and non-profit sectors in the development of beneficiaries, and automate procedures by creating a platform that serves them.</p>   |

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| Human<br>Capability<br>Development<br>Program | The Policy to Ensure Students<br>with Disabilities Access to<br>Education | The initiative aims to develop policies with the participation of the relevant authorities to accommodate students with disabilities in general, higher, vocational, and kindergarten education and to take their needs into account in all student-related legislation, regulations, and projects to ensure their access to education in their residence area.   |
|   | The Identification and<br>Classification of Students with<br>Disabilities | The strategy of the initiative is founded on enhancing and integrating services and improving the quality of services provided to people with disabilities. This initiative contributes to the achievement of the strategic objective of enhancing equal access to education in order to achieve the required integration of students with disabilities through the design and development of a knowledge framework to identify and classify all types of disabilities and detail their eligibility for the educational services provided to them by the educational system. The initiative aims to design a framework for identifying students with disabilities and categorizing them based on their disability type in order to develop specific requirements for their inclusion in general, higher, and vocational education following an assessment of the current situation and international benchmarking. In addition, the design, publication, and analysis of local questionnaire studies on individuals with disabilities, which are regarded as fundamental references and baselines for the study of awareness in the educational system. This will contribute to knowledge of the level of awareness among education personnel, the development of a standard framework for identifying and classifying students with disabilities in general, higher, and vocational education, and the formulation of a strategy for launching training campaigns and spreading awareness throughout the educational system. The initiative is expected to raise awareness among parents, teachers, and members of the |

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|  |   | <p>community regarding the numerous qualifying classifications and eligibility for educational services.</p>  |
|  | <p>The Inclusive Learning Journey in General Education for Students with Disabilities</p> | <p>The initiative aims to achieve a comprehensive learning journey methodology framework for students with disabilities, as well as access educational programs that support the comprehensive learning journey in less restrictive environments while increasing their enrollment rate in general education and enhancing educational outcomes for students with disabilities. It also aims to prepare training packages that support the concept of less restrictive environments, titled "The Comprehensive Training Package to Educate the School and Local Community in the Education of Students with Disabilities", with the training of educational and administrative cadres on the methodology of the comprehensive learning journey prepared for the</p> |

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|                            |  | project's launch. As a result of its application, the initiative is eager to assess the number of beneficiaries.  |
| Quality of Life Program    | The Development of the Paralympic Games for International Competition          | The initiative aims to promote the Paralympic Games in Saudi Arabia to enable males and females with disabilities to actively participate in sports. Only 900 athletes are enrolled with the Paralympic Committee, while Saudi Arabia is home to over 600,000 men and women with disabilities. The Paralympic Games will be promoted through the activation of priority sports federations, the assistance of sport clubs in national awareness activities, and the improvement of training quality. In addition, develop a strategic transformation plan to better equip sport clubs and facilities to satisfy the needs of elite athletes with disabilities.        |
|                            | The Development of Physical Activities in Universities, Particularly for Girls | This initiative aims to provide male and female university employees with a competitive and recreational sports environment in which to spend their free time by preparing and equipping 14 sports centers, establishing 12 new sports centers within universities, training specialists to work in these centers, rehabilitating male and female workers to assist persons with disabilities, coordinating awareness programs in sports activities for male and female university employees, participating in international sports events, and coordinating internal competitive and recreational sports and participations for male and female university students. |
| Pilgrim Experience Program | The Study of Comprehensive Access to the Great Mosque of Makkah                | The initiative aims to ensure that all Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, visitors, workers, and other individuals, regardless of whether they have permanent or temporary disabilities, are elderly, have different medical conditions, or have any other special circumstances, have equal access to all facilities and services without discrimination.  |
|                            | The Improving of the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities                 | The provision of elevators, waiting chairs, and restrooms that are designed for the requirements of the elderly and   |

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|  | Experience in the Courtyards of the Prophet’s Mosque | people with disabilities. In addition, facilitating access and providing an accessible experience based on their needs. |
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**Disability data in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:**

**Disability rates in Saudi Arabia**

In the most recent General Authority of Statistics census, there were 1,445,723 (7.1%) people with disabilities out of a total population of over 32 million.

%47,8 females

%52,2 males

**Employment rates of individuals with disabilities who are able to work in Saudi Arabia:**

According to the most recent census for the year 2022 A.D., the rate is 12.4%.

**Pilgrims’ rates**

In its most recent census for the month of Ramadan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted approximately 20 million pilgrims, and it is preparing to host pilgrims from all over the world to perform Hajj. A significant proportion of whom will be individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

## Notable works and Achievements:

### Building an Integrated National System

- The National Strategy on People with Disabilities:

In order to achieve the goals and programs of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and the importance of providing a decent life for people with disabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to complement the efforts made in this regard, work has been done to prepare a national sectoral strategy for people with disabilities at the level of the Kingdom, which included a comprehensive assessment to ensure compatibility with developments and changes in local strategies and regulations and to ensure keeping abreast of developments in accordance with best practices with regard to disability. The strategy was also based on a participatory methodology through which the inputs of persons with disabilities and their families were utilized, and the main stakeholders and relevant authorities were involved in the design of a comprehensive national strategy that included the vision, mission, pillars, strategic objectives, key performance indicators, initiatives, and all relevant frameworks and work models such as the operational model, governance model, financing model, and communication and risk management plans that reflects the aspiration to provide a comprehensive and harmonious society that achieves a decent life for all persons with disabilities by ensuring that they obtain their rights and encouraging their active participation.

- National Disability Registry:

The project aims to develop a unified system for the national register of people with disabilities to enable the APD to collect information about people with disabilities and their families so that the record can serve as a reliable resource for other agencies that provide services to people with disabilities. The first phase of the registry is complete, and it is currently in the second phase, linking the registry to additional entities. A number of achievements have been accomplished up until the current phase, including:

Establishing a unified database for people with disabilities that contains information about their health, education, and occupation using the best data protection standards. The total number of registered individuals with disabilities has reached 655,548.

1. An inventory of data about the services provided to people with disabilities on one platform for the relevant authorities.

- The organization and participation in regional and international conferences, events, and seminars:

Saudi Arabia has participated in and organized many regional and international conferences, events, and seminars. The following is a summary of the most recent regional and international conferences and seminars on disability-related issues:

1. Participation in the meetings of the GCC countries aimed at developing and drafting the Unified Guiding Law (Regulation) for Empowering Persons with Disabilities in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf at the Gulf Summit held in the city of Al-Ula.
2. Participation in the annual Conference of the States Parties to the CRPD, held at the permanent headquarters of the United Nations in New York.
3. Participation in an exhibition of Arab inventions and innovations in the field of disability, as well as the Interactive Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
4. Participation in the first edition of a workshop on the classification of disability in the Arab countries, titled "Toward a Common Vision for the Classification of Disability".
5. Participation in the workshop, titled "Responding to the Needs of Persons with Disabilities in Crisis and Epidemics," held in Cairo, Egypt.
6. Participation in the second workshop of the Unified Arab Classification of Disability, in which Saudi Arabia shared its experience in the subject of comprehensive classification and evaluation, held in Doha, Qatar.
7. Participation in the dialogue workshop, titled "Empowering Persons with Disabilities in the Labor Market in the GCC Countries: Challenges and Opportunities," held in Muscat, Oman.
8. The hosting of the second training course for developing national reports for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
9. The hosting of the 6th International Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
10. The hosting of the 6th Gulf Theater Festival for Persons with Disabilities in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
11. The coordination of the International Tricycle Conference for Persons with Disabilities.

## **Developing the Legislative and Regulatory Structure Pertaining to Disability**

### **1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act:**

The "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act" issued pursuant to Royal Decree No. (M/27) dated 02/11/1445 AH was designed in accordance with international best practices in the field of rights and regulations. The Act consists of five chapters that cover all educational, health, functional, financial, and other fields, including the right to access to physical and non-physical environments, as well as cultural, sports, entertainment, and other fields such as Hajj and Umrah, mosque services, and transportation. The Act demonstrates Saudi Arabia's compliance with its international obligations under the CRPD by recognizing the fundamental principles of persons with disabilities, such as non-discrimination on the basis of disability, equal opportunities, the incorporation of governmental and non-governmental policies, activities, programs, plans, governmental and non-governmental designs, and the right to access information. It also includes the adoption of sign language as an official language.

## 2. The National Policy to Promote the Equality of Opportunities and Treatment in Employment and Occupation in Saudi Arabia:

The policy was approved pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. 416 dated 17/06/1444 AH. This demonstrates Saudi Arabia’s commitment to the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment in employment and occupation. The policy was founded on two primary pillars: the state’s protection of human rights in accordance with Islamic law and the facilitation of job opportunities for everyone who is capable of working. The national policy includes a set of objectives, most notably: develop regulations and policies that explicitly define and prevent discrimination and promote equal treatment in employment and occupation; and establish procedures, programs, and initiatives to enable groups with fewer employment opportunities, such as individuals with disabilities, to access and remain in the labor market.

## 3. Emergency Evacuation Guide for Persons with Disabilities:

This guide was published with the aim of raising the interest of all sectors in maintaining security and safety for all employees and visitors, providing safe evacuation methods for persons with disabilities, implementing security and safety procedures, raising the level of prevention, and taking the necessary precautions. This guide has been circulated to all government sectors for application in accordance with the included standards.

### Enhancement and Integration of Services

- **Health:**

The National Committee for Medical Rehabilitation was established to draft the necessary legislation for the practice of medical rehabilitation services as well as to provide suggestions, studies, and scientific and technical advice regarding medical rehabilitation in its various specializations. It must achieve a number of tasks, including:

Current state analysis.

Revision and proposal of amendments to legislation and regulations related to scientific and medical rehabilitation.

Development of national health policies and standards and the proposal of procedural and technical rules in the field of medical rehabilitation.

Development of the health aspect of the national disability registry.

Proposal of health programs and projects for medical rehabilitation after being studied by the committee.

Funding of research programs and the establishment of research priorities in the field of medical rehabilitation.

- **Education:**

1. Enhancing the services provided to students with disabilities and ensuring their equal access to the necessary education. The goal is to increase the empowerment of people with disabilities in various training programs by increasing their acceptance and adapting to electronic and urban environments. In addition, better equip halls and facilities in accordance with the requirements, provide access for trainees with disabilities, provide data and information on persons with disabilities in government agencies, and design training programs for persons with disabilities in various regions of Saudi Arabia, all while supporting the field of research and consulting studies.
2. Establishing an interactive training center using the latest technologies that allow trainees to touch and view the required content to be fully trained in all directions thanks to the modern technology provided by the project, which facilitates the training process for what the labor market demands.

- **Economic Empowerment and Employment:**

1. The training and employment of individuals with disabilities project was launched, and it aims to design and provide training packages for employment-focused training programs.
2. The "Shadow Assistant" platform was launched, and it contributes to enabling people with disabilities to integrate into the labor market. To this end, the program will provide people with disabilities with supportive assistants to help them acclimate to their work environments and coworkers through awareness, education, and support.
3. The coordination of "Tamkeen" exhibitions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which aims to empower individuals with disabilities in the labor market and encourage establishments and business sectors to provide them with suitable work environments through appropriate training and work opportunities that ensure their independence and integration into society. Over 600 employment opportunities were made available at these exhibitions, which were attended by over 50 significant companies.

- **Social Protection and the Family:**

1. The establishment of the "Social Activities for the Beneficiaries of Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers" project, which aims to design and implement a variety of social activities and teach appropriate participation behaviors. In addition, rehabilitate those included in comprehensive rehabilitation centers by visiting rehabilitation centers in different regions to assess their current state. With the participation of three houses of expertise in the United States and Finland, as well as the local house of expertise, self-development training programs for the center's employees have been designed to prepare the cadres responsible for implementing social activities within the rehabilitation centers at the regional level to ensure sustainability.
2. Accessibility:

The training of airport employees in Saudi Arabia with the aim of enhancing and integrating services and achieving strategic goals to improve the quality of services provided to people with disabilities.

- **The Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Sports:**

1. Evaluation and adapting the information and skills included in the training programs of the Saudi Special Olympics Federation, including the badminton training package, the bocce training package, and the bowling training package.
2. Supporting individuals with disabilities in the field of sports in order to improve the quality of services by conducting more than 19 research studies aimed at assisting individuals with disabilities to overcome obstacles and attain full empowerment in society without discrimination. In Detroit, the Saudi national football team earned the gold medal at the Special Olympics.

## Awareness and Education

### 1. Purple Saturday

It is one of the community initiatives introduced by the Authority of People with Disability and the Ministry of Commerce to promote the integration of individuals with disabilities into Saudi society in alignment with the objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

#### Objectives

- Promoting societal and service provider awareness of the requirements of individuals with disabilities.
- Providing individuals with disabilities with special privileges in multiple areas.
- Assisting the private sector to comprehend the needs of individuals with disabilities.
- Encourage the societal integration and participation of individuals with disabilities.

#### Target Groups

This initiative is not restricted to individuals with disabilities, nor is citizenship status a requirement.

- Individuals with disabilities.
- Families of individuals with disabilities.
- Residents and citizens.

#### Timeline

The Purple Saturday initiative is held on the last Saturday of July of each Gregorian year.

#### Features

- Purple Saturday occurs on the weekend, a time when there are fewer public social events and when significant events frequently correspond with other days, such as Black Friday, White Friday, and Green Friday.
- Purple Saturday occurs in the middle of the Gregorian year, and it does not conflict with other disability-related international days.

- Purple was selected as an equal mixture of the colors red and blue, which symbolize the various categories and abilities of individuals with disabilities.

### Media

In order to direct the media content, unify the visual identity, and support stores and service providers, basic media principles for the initiative were identified and provided to all partners as follows:

1. Creating a unified visual identity, which is represented in designing the initiative logo and drafting the user guide.
2. Creating a unified research identity, which is represented in the verbal chant and the interactive hashtag.

### Purple Saturday Statistics in 2022

| Publications            | Purple Saturday Hashtag   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| + 5,7 M                 | + 500 K                   |
| Views                   | Tweets                    |
| + 133 K                 | 17 M                      |
| Clicks                  | Views                     |
| <b>Reaction</b>         |                           |
| 516                     | 3000                      |
| Stores and Participants | Sales Points and Branches |

### The Future of Purple Saturday

Based on the success of the two previous editions of the initiative, the Authority of People with Disability in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intends to expand the international participation in the initiative's third edition in 2023 AD to include the GCC countries, Arab League countries, and the international community, respectively.

## 2. International Days

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was keen to activate international and local disability-related days and their accompanying events.

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| International Day of Persons with Disabilities | International White Cane Day | World Autism Awareness Day          |
| International Children’s Day                   | World Arabic Language Day    | International Day of Sign Languages |
| World Polio Day                                | Saudi National Day           | World Sight Day                     |
| Human Rights Day                               | World Braille Day            | International Day of Education      |
| World Hearing Day                              | World Multiple Sclerosis Day | World Civil Defence Day             |

## 3. Awareness Campaigns:

### Shadow Assistant:

A program that assists individuals with disabilities by creating appropriate work environments.

### Official Term:

An awareness campaign to define and confirm the use of the unified Arabic term for persons with disabilities.

### Yashil Tariqak Campaign (ease their way):

A December 3rd-launched awareness campaign for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

### Evacuation Plan Campaign:

An awareness campaign supporting the launch of the Emergency Evacuation Guide for Persons with Disabilities.

### My Right to Travel:

An awareness campaign was launched in conjunction with a training workshop for airport employees.

### Rahn Al'ishara Campaign (serve the nation):

An awareness campaign on the 92nd Saudi National Day, highlighting the participation of individuals with disabilities in nation-building.

#### 4. Field-Based Events:

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| <p><b>Evacuation Guide Event:</b></p> <p>The purpose of this event is to introduce the Emergency Evacuation Guide for People with Disabilities.</p>   | <p><b>Eda’ah Forums:</b></p> <p>The purpose of Eda’ah awareness forums is to educate individuals with disabilities and society to enable active and comprehensive participation.</p>   |
| <p><b>“Liqaat” (HRDF):</b></p> <p>The purpose of the "Liqaat" job fair is to raise awareness of the empowerment of individuals with disabilities in the labor sector to attain job stability and cognitive growth.</p>  | <p><b>International Conference on Disability &amp; Rehabilitation:</b></p> <p>Hosting the Sixth International Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation, which features the participation of more than 90 scientific papers presented by researchers specializing in disability from over 30 countries around the world.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children's Day</b></p> <p>Children's Day takes place on International Children's Day and aims to enhance protection and care efforts for children and their families, as well as distribute educational materials about childhood disabilities.</p> |  |

#### 5. Non-Field Events:

Coordination of a series of digital accessibility workshops on tools for adapting digital content for individuals with sensory, visual, and auditory disabilities for a number of entities. These workshops aim to transfer knowledge and adapt the educational and awareness content published by these entities to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

### Disability-Related Guides:

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Accessibility Guide in Land Transportation                                | Accessibility Guide in the Built Environment                 | The Simplified Guide to Comprehensive Accessibility Standards in Facilities               | Accessibility Guide in Marine Transportation           | Accessibility Guide for Tourists Destinations and Accommodation Sectors |
| Etiquette and Rules Guide for Communicating with People with Disabilities |  | Emergency Evacuation Guide for Persons with Disabilities                                  |  |   |
| Accommodations for People with Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI)           | Accommodations for Persons with Speech and Language Disorder | Accommodations for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis  | Accommodations for Persons with Chronic Kidney Disease | Accommodations for Persons with Deafness and Hearing loss               |
| Accommodations for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder                  | Accommodations for Persons with Epilepsy                     | Accommodations for Persons with Blindness and Visual Impairment                           | Accommodations for Persons with Down Syndrome          | Accommodations for Persons with Spinal Injury                           |
| Accommodations for Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)        | Accommodations for Persons with Schizophrenia                | Accommodations for Persons with Depression  | Accommodations for Persons with Diabetes               | Accommodations for Persons with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)     |
| Accommodations for Persons with Anxiety Disorder                          | Accommodations for People with Asthma                        | Accommodations for People with Back Problems  | Accommodations for People with Cancer                  | Accommodations for People with Agoraphobia                              |
| Accommodations for People with Dwarfism                                   |  | Accommodations for People with Hepatitis  |  | Accommodations for People with Dyslexia                                 |
| Disability Disclosure Guidelines and Etiquette                            |  | Instructions for Services Provided to Persons with Disabilities in Financial Institutions |  |   |

## **Conclusion:**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has crowned its efforts with the international community in adapting its goals to achieve unique successes with focused directions and clear objectives, ultimately leading to the realization of Saudi Arabia's vision in general and with regard to people with disabilities in particular.

Different regulations, initiatives, and programs were developed to increase institutional and societal awareness and create a comprehensive and harmonious society for people with disabilities.

The Authority of People with Disability derives its strength and direction from wise leadership that pays great attention to persons with disabilities and provides all the necessary resources and tools to create an inclusive and harmonious society. The APD is committed to moving forward towards its goals, which are compatible with the Kingdom's ambitious vision and will be achieved by the determination of the Kingdom, its institutions, and its individuals.