



CELEBRATION EVENT INTERNATIONAL WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

15 October 2024



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Executive Summary

Introduction

On . On 15 October 2024 highly organized celebration of world white cane safety day is held in Mogadishu by SDN Somali disability network local OPDs Consortium. the theme of this year 2024 is “ the need for pedestrian safety and respect for the rights of the people with visual disabilities in the world.” An international day celebrated every year in this day the world. To raise public outreach for the community understand the safety of the people using white can.

The white cane international day is symbol of accessibility tools for the movement of many people with visual impaired in the world wide. The day was given priority by the member of the visually impaired who use it in more. The white cane give the visual impaired people more support and trust in the day to day life movement and operations in the work places.

Overall objectives

Increase public understanding and accessibility in public spaces educate the public, celebrate the abilities of individuals with visual impairments, and promote a more inclusive community. enhance the safety and mobility and Showcasing their resilience and determination of the white cane user.

Event Activities

1. Organized a community walk and demonstrations where participants use white canes to experience the challenges and triumphs of navigating public spaces.
2. Brief and information sharing session for the mobility, orientation skills, and white cane usage, led by experienced instructors or rehabilitation specialists.
3. Invite speakers from advocacy public figures in the social media who are charismatics potential to reach their role many people using white cane

Event program

The event is supported by TOFI program with partner save the children international Somalia office. The event is held in public place where people made walk n the streets with. White cane and stickers supported by Somali public figures in the social media

This event has really gained the eyes of many people admired the way visual impaired are using the white cane with hands in the street. This really helps the people enjoy safe from the accidents in the public

Implementing partner

The program is implemented by SDN Somali Disability network local ODPs Consortium of 15 organizations working the disability inclusion advocacy in Somalia through mobilization the community, the disability people, donor and the government of Somalia organs with engaged of consultations the policy, strategies and legislation. With disability people led initiatives

Public figures and key speaker

In the event, SDN invited high profile people who may contribute the objectives of the day which was raising awareness to the people. The event was participated two prominent public figures in Somalia who made message to the public through media and speech in the event that can reach far places through social media they are well known.

In the event SDN give speech some of the participants who made key speech in the conference room. Addressed the background of the white cane. Some other persons comment the advantages and disadvantages of the white cane and finally the chairperson of the SDN made remarkable speech enforcing the theme of the year

The Conclusion

In the one day event made findings for the international day of white cane safety with number of problems caused by the white cane and the environment that can make risk to the people using it. The limited information of the public for the community and user of the white cane in Somalia. The treats that remains public and need removal

Similar the one of the event made compressive recommendation for the solution of the problems stated above in the findings. This can work very good it is implemented in the public. Increased awareness, implementation of advocacy, prevention of risk, and training the people advantages and disadvantages of the white cane stick in Somalia.



International
White Cane Day

15 OCTOBER 2024

TOGETHER FOR INCLUSION
(TOFI) PROJECT



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Introduction

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The white cane international day is symbol of accessibility tools for the movement of many people with visual impaired in the world wide. The day was given priority by the member of the visually impaired who use it in more. The white cane give the visual impaired people more support and trust in the day to day life movement and operations in the work places.

The white can safety day serves to educate the public about the capabilities of individuals with visual impairments and to promote their inclusion and accessibility in society. That enables the blind or visually impaired participation in the social private and public life. Notably, the white cane is not just a tool; it represents autonomy and the ability to navigate the world safely.

Events on this day often include community activities, demonstrations, and discussions aimed at fostering understanding and support for people with disabilities. It's an important opportunity to advocate for equal rights and to celebrate the achievements of those who navigate the world with the help of a white cane.

The story of the white cane started in the 1920s when a blind man named James Biggs, living in Bristol, England, painted his cane white after being struck by a vehicle. He wanted to make himself more visible to drivers. This idea caught on, and the white cane soon became a symbol of mobility and awareness for people with visual impairments.

As the white cane gained recognition, it transformed from a simple tool into a powerful emblem of the ability and determination of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The cane not only helps with navigation but also signals to others that the user may need assistance, fostering a sense of community and support.

Over the years, White Cane Safety Day has been established to highlight these stories of resilience and to promote understanding and respect for the rights of people with visual impairments. The cane itself is a reminder that with the right tools and support, individuals can lead fulfilling, independent lives. The white cane support the individuals fully participate more in their communities, fostering interaction and reducing stigma around visual impairments

The white cane offers several important safety benefits for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The users detect obstacles, changes in terrain, and elevation differences, allowing for safer navigation in various environments. The white color of the cane makes it more visible to others, signaling that the user has a visual impairment. This awareness can lead to more considerate behavior from pedestrians and drivers.

Using a white cane allows individuals to travel confidently and independently, reducing reliance on others for navigation. The cane aids in recognizing landmarks and familiarizing oneself with different spaces, enhancing spatial awareness. Carrying a white cane can empower users to assert their need for assistance or accommodations in public spaces.

The Overall objectives

Increase public understanding and accessibility in public spaces educate the public, celebrate the abilities of individuals with visual impairments, and promote a more inclusive community. enhance the safety and mobility and Showcasing their resilience and determination of the white cane user.

The Specific objectives

- To educate the public about the significance of the white cane and its role in promoting independence for individuals who are blind or visually impaired
- Increase public understanding for the white cane safety through organized parade pedestrian in the public streets.
- To Foster a better understanding of the challenges faced by those with visual impairments, highlighting their capabilities and contributions to society.
- To encourage the development and enhancement of accessible environments, services, and policies to support the mobility and independence.
- To Promote safe practices for both cane users and the general public, including understanding how to assist or interact respectfully
- Recognize and celebrate the achievements of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, showcasing their skills and successes.
- To Provide information on how to interact respectfully with individuals using white canes, fostering a culture of awareness and support



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The Event Activities

Activity	Action	Verification
Awareness in the public	<p>Organized a community walk and demonstrations where participants use white canes to experience the challenges and triumphs of navigating public spaces.</p> <p>Publications create awareness posters or craft projects related to the theme of visibility and inclusion fixed in the public streets and transportation Bajaj and Minibuses public commuters</p>	<p>Number activity performed And strikers published</p>
White cane safety training session	<p>Brief and information sharing session for the mobility, orientation skills, and white cane usage, led by experienced instructors or rehabilitation specialists.</p> <p>Distribute informational materials about the white cane and resources available for individuals with visual impairments.</p>	<p>Number of persons participated and The presentations made</p>
Key Speaker gusts	<p>Invite speakers from advocacy public figures in the social media who are charismatics potential to reach their role many people using white cane</p> <p>The participants who made key speech about the day and the white cane. The people who made supporting speech in the event leaders from the civil society and members from the visual impaired.</p>	<p>The Public figures role. And the actors from the civil society</p>

The Event program Partner

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SDN consortium has number of organization, schools and instructions that serve the disability inclusion the education, humanitarian, health care, assistive technology, Paralympics and the protection of the children and women with disabilities in Somalia. Where there is a gap that need intervention and partner that invest the sector and area.

SDN has partnership with TOFI program the save children with SGA sub grant award very limited fund which hare mostly activity based that has one out come. Therefore, we call the donors the extension of the disability inclusion funds with partnership of the consortiums and individual ODP organization actively operation in the disability inclusion sector.

The Speakers of the Event

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Public Figures

- 1- Public figure Mr. Atosh one of the top social media public figures in Somalia with hundreds thousands followers, who is well-known in the public for awareness and entertainments. Handing white cane stick to participate the parade in the pedestrian waving hand with white cane stick said: this another day, different from more, the stick you see is another one unlike Afgoye beating stick, its white cane that has red and white strips symbol for protection, assistive technology for the visual impaired people. These are smart people youth groups in front and my side walking in parade, talking to the commuters raising hand white cane, giving message if you see white cane stick with strips there is visual impaired person take attention. Finally visual impaired girls are most beautiful girls among the girls and talented with extra ordinary satisfaction in the life.
- 2- Public figure Mr. Kaptan Bara one of the top social media public figures in Somalia with over one million followers, well know the games and competition program for public figures. Said: this another level that I cannot mention in words. This in my hand is white cane unique stick with trips white and red. Take message for people with visual impaired if you are pedestrian, commuter driver, sales persons for shop and attendant of service providers. I promise to take care of the message in my team through my platform. I will host visual impaired to participate my program the changeless of the day. I knowledge that white cane is more than stick we normal see handing some of the people. Its assistive technology and symbol for visual impaired people.

The key Sleepers

- 1- **Key Speaker** Mr. Hassan Ibrahim told the media the white cane helps him access day to day life and operation. The movement to the places he want the markets, the mosque and the villages. He said its unforgettable twins this help us to pass the public road where some time drivers don't understand the symbol white cane stick stand for. I recommend massive outreach for the drivers who are driving in public the streets to learn the white cane. The awareness of the white cane stick we made today makes meaningful. The parade in the public streets to speak to the drivers of the cars both private and public including the commuter's busses and Bajaj Motor cycle two major number using the roads. I thanks both SDN implementing agency and the partner the save children the donors of the program.
- 2- Key Speaker Mss. Farhiye Mohamed Mohamud the deputy chairperson of the UDHAN a graduate from university who is visual impaired young we are very much happy to use the white cane stick. This helps as well in the public and do our work in the day to day every day. Graduate from university says the white

cane is an asset and life saving for the visual impaired people. Without it we are limited and restricted in the environment.

The white cane stick help us protection from the risk and danger surrounding us in the walk. The visual impaired people depend on by detecting sound through ears and contact made by the white cane. Most of the youth in Mogadishu use its. But there is gap in the far regular where people don't use it. There is lack of awareness. In the urban massive awareness for the white cane made possible to reach many people.

Mss. Hawa Abdirahman Hassan the Deputy Chairperson of SODYA Somalia Disability Youth Association. She Said , as visual impaired person the white cane tick safety day is great day in the world. I am very much happy to celebrate in my home town Mogadishu Somalia. The interest of today is we made parade in streets and made speech to the divers and the people in the public streets for the advantages of the white cane stick.

- 3- **Key Speaker** Mr. Abdullahi Hussein Osman the chairperson of the SDN Somali disability network the implement organization I am really very glad to host and organize such this large event for the visual impaired youth both male and female We thanks the partner supported us the event through TOFI program. We expected more support to make more than this one day celebration

White cane is small stick with white and red strips used by persons or persons who may have visually impairment. This is assistive technology that made reduced the barriers and the limitation of the visually impaired movement for their day to day operation. The day came from 1921 when James Biggs photographer got accident that damaged his sigh invented stick he painted with strips white and red. To get protection from the risk of the public traffic in the streets which worked him.

The advantages of the white cane stick is more than we the non-visual impaired can estimate. A key alliance, twin and relentless guide service. We acknowledge the number persons with visually impaired doing their personal work and day to day operation in the world with support of the white cane. In Somalia the number of visual imparted person participating the education, employment and social work in the country is increasing day after day



The Advantages of White Cane Using

The white cane stick can help users navigate their environment by detecting obstacles, changes in terrain, and uneven surfaces around the areas walking indoor and outdoor to protect themselves from the risk identified or alerted by the white cane.

With the aid of a white cane, users can move more confidently and independently, reducing reliance on others for assistance. Without dependent of human or animals to accompany. It gives them privileges and privacy to travel or walk in the public and private places as pedestrian.

The cane alerts users to potential hazards, such as curbs, steps, and low-hanging objects, helping to prevent accidents. In an area where there are civil engineering works or where there are blocks in the streets that visual impaired cannot see easily without the white cane using

Users can develop a better sense of their surroundings, improving spatial awareness and orientation. Depending on human hearing or white cane stick sensory AI supporting the person's access information message from surrounding areas. This helps the person take response of any alert identified.

: The white cane signals to others that the user may have a visual impairment, which can foster understanding and patience in social situations. Where people can take reaction for the person to welcome him/her or support to prevent accident in the public streets and densely populated markets and institutions like schools, hospitals, markets and bus stations.

Using a cane can help users learn and improve their navigation skills, including the ability to identify landmarks and routes. With sensory marks around area by smart white canes. Or intensify by manual with hitting the stick on the surface of the material.

With improved mobility and independence, many users experience a boost in confidence, allowing them to participate more fully in social and community activities. Their adaptation for the white cane using trained skills and natural gained talent which differ one another

The white cane can serve as a tool to advocate for accessibility, prompting businesses and public spaces to consider the needs of people with visual impairments. Work in the public and private employers and participate community gathering equal us the other people without visual implements.

The Disadvantages of the White Can Use

The white cane stick can only detect obstacles within a certain range, which may not be sufficient to identify hazards that are farther away. This shows that the persons is not safe from some of the risk associated in front of the visual impaired persons in the indoor and outdoor.

Users may face fatigue or discomfort during extended use, especially if the cane is not properly sized or if the user has limited upper body strength. This shows professional persons should help the selection of appropriate white cane stick for the persons interested to use.

Some environments, like crowded places or areas with a lot of noise, can make it difficult for users to navigate effectively, even with a white cane stick. The densely populated places may cause a lot of sound that district the hearing sensory of the persons using the white cane.

There can be a stigma associated with using a white cane, leading to negative perceptions from others or feelings of embarrassment for the user. Some of the visual impaired are not satisfied the accessibility of white cane in the hand as movement aiding. In the other hand some of the people may think unseals persons in the society.

The white Canes can wear out or break, requiring regular maintenance and potentially incurring costs for replacement. In may areas fragile materials are produced and exported and imported in the nations. This is aimed only for commercial propose that may cause risk to the dealers of the service.

The cane primarily provides tactile feedback and may not convey other important information about the environment, such as changes in lighting or color. The sensory of the white cane can be limited to identify light or signals in the nearby areas.

Effective use of a white cane often requires training, which may not be accessible to everyone. Lack of training can lead to ineffective navigation. Amy people using the white can choose their choice without training and guide of the this may cause danger to the person depending something strange with him/her.

In some areas, canes can be seen as valuable items, making them potential targets for theft. Everything that associated with coast is valuable and risk of stealing. The thief can try to stole it from the persons. Most of the user may not understand the emotion of the person approaching negative or positive.



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The Findings in the Event

- Many participants report a greater understanding of the challenges faced by individuals who are blind or visually impaired, along with the significance of the white cane.
- Events that involve local organizations, schools, and community members tend to foster stronger relationships and networks focused on accessibility and inclusion.
- High attendance at workshops and demonstrations indicates a strong interest in learning about mobility techniques and effective ways to support individuals with visual impairments.
- Many attendees express a desire to advocate for improved accessibility in public spaces and transportation after learning about existing barriers.
- Participants often provide feedback on which activities were most impactful, helping organizers improve future events and tailor them to community needs.

The Recommendation

- Conduct community education programs to inform the public about the importance of the white cane and how to interact respectfully with cane users.
- Implement campaigns to educate drivers about sharing the road with visually impaired pedestrians, emphasizing the need for vigilance.
- Increase access to orientation and mobility training programs to help cane users develop their skills and confidence in navigating various environments.
- Expand access to resources and support networks for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, including helplines and community organizations.
- Promote universal design principles in urban planning to create environments that are inherently accessible for all users.
- Encourage the development and accessibility of assistive technologies that can complement the white cane, such as GPS devices and smart mobility aids.
- Create emergency response plans that consider the needs of visually impaired individuals during disasters or public emergencies.
- Provide access to counseling and mental health resources to address anxiety and stress related to mobility challenges.

