



Kiribati School & Center for Children with Special Needs
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**UPR Stakeholder's Report
For the Review of
Kiribati**

Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs (KSCCSN)

I. Introduction

- 1.** The Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs (KSCCSN), also known as the Special School, is the only school in Kiribati that caters for children with disabilities, from the preschool up to primary level. The school was established in 1991 as a non-government institution and relies on grants and donations from external agencies and contributions from parents to fund its operation.
- 2.** The KSCCSN is located in the capital of Kiribati – Tarawa. The school has registered more than 200 students with various disabilities, but due to difficulties faced by some students, total active students stands at 166. Each class holds on average number of 18 students per classroom, which is approximately 32 square meters in size. For active students only there are 92 males and 74 females.
- 3.** KSCCSN has a total of 46 teachers and auxiliary staff.

II. Key issues

- 4. Government assistance towards education for children and youth with disability.** KSCCSN appreciates the government’s effort to develop the National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021, which prioritizes quality education for children with disability. KSCCSN further commends the government’s contribution toward meeting the salaries of 12 senior teachers of KSCCSN for the past three years and appreciates its ongoing support in that regard.
- 5. Accessibility – School infrastructure:** Most of the classrooms which the students are currently using are in a very poor and old condition, which poses risk and danger for all the students, and does not provide a conducive learning environment for the students. The government has a school infrastructure project however, this does not include the KSCCSN School despite numerous requests in the past.
- 6.** The growing number of students with disability will also require more classrooms that can cater for the different impairments. This would also mean that additional land space is required for new buildings. The government has not responded to the request by KSCCSN to acquire government land to expand the school.
- 7.** The government has introduced an Inclusive Education Policy, which aims to get the students with disabilities to the mainstream schools, while the school buildings are not accessible for most children with disabilities.
- 8. Teachers training** – The government provides trainings for two KSCCSN teachers only every year, at the Kiribati Teachers College, which its program focuses only on teaching

students in the mainstream schools and a one year program for Teacher Assistants, who will be assisting only students with disabilities when transferred to mainstream schools.

9. To work for students with disabilities, certainly needs a person with professional skills and knowledge on Inclusive Education where obviously now, there is no one here specialized in the field of students with disabilities.

III. Recommendations.

10. KSCCSN recommends the government to increase its financial support to include more teachers from NGO run schools in its payroll.
11. KSCCSN urges the government to immediately make school infrastructure accessible for students with disabilities including, extending its school infrastructure project to cover schools for children with disabilities.
12. It is recommended that the government partner with KSCCSN to address the pressing issues for children with disabilities including expanding the KSCCSN to cater for increasing intake.
13. KSCCSN recommend the government to have a dedicated annual budget for the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy
14. KSCCSN recommends the government to offer scholarships for pre-service and in-service teachers to continue to build their capacity to provide quality teaching and education to children with disabilities.