

Cambodia: Social Inclusion of Persons with Disability

The Cambodian government has made a commitment to addressing this by responding to the global agenda on persons with disabilities. The country ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012, adopted the Incheon Strategy in 2013 and has been one of the first to develop a comprehensive national strategy on disability, recognising the equal rights of people with disabilities. Led by the Disability Action Council (DAC), a quasi-government organisation, the National Strategic Disability Plan (NDSP) was launched in 2014. The DAC is responsible for coordination across actors supporting disability, though the line ministries remain the mandated service providers, supplemented by many NGOs.

The project involved engagement of a group of international policy partners and the in-country partners in Cambodia. The international policy partners (see list in Appendix 3) were engaged to support and monitor the progress of policy assessment carried out by the national implementing team and the working group. International partners provided support for different components, coinciding with their area of expertise (i.e. data issues, macro and micro level assessment methodologies).

The in-country partners, led by the Disability Action Council as the National Implementing Partner, including a steering committee consisting of key DAC members and other organizations involved in supporting the disability sector, participated in a series of capacity building exercise that worked through the process of analyzing social inclusion in the NDSP. As the National Implementing Partner, the DAC facilitated and coordinated the work throughout the project, and acted as the main interlocutor for the international partners. Appendix 2 provides a working list of the steering committee members.

The collaborative effort of the national stakeholders and international partners worked through a series of exercise (common to the pilot exercise in Malaysia and Timor-Leste). This framework for project implementation consisted of 5 stages:

A Preparation stage in which the steering committee was established.

[*Policy Initiation Workshop*](#) in October 2016. The aim of this workshop was to introduce the project to a wide range of disability stakeholders and provide capacity building on the need for strengthening social inclusion in policy processes.

The *Policy assessment and revision stage* took place over a period of three months (October-December 2016) during which the steering committee and the international partners engaged in the policy assessment process through a series of training workshops:

- Mid-term visit on the Analytical Framework for Inclusive Policy Design (October 2016).
- Mid-term visit on the EquiFrame and EquiPP methodologies (December 2016).

The [*Conclusion Workshop/National Policy Dialogue*](#) at which the main results of the policy revision process were presented to a broad audience of stakeholders and discussed (January 2017).

The *Follow-up* or post-project phase will focus on scaling-up, systematizing, disseminating project outputs and results, and will happen after the conclusion of the preliminary project.