

## **Joint Programme on Accelerating Disability Rights in Cambodia (ADRC)**

### **Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting (LPAC)**

**28 April 2022 at UNDP Cambodia LAD Conference Room and Zoom:**

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/89017478624?pwd=R0dWNURqTmhlaGZXejg5dkdCdFVCQT09>

---

#### **Participants who joined the meeting in person:**

1. Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Cambodia (Co-chair)
2. His Excellency EM Chan Makara, Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Secretary-General of Disability Action Council (Co-chair)
3. Ms. PHEA Sotheary, Deputy Secretary of General Secretariat Ministry of Economy and Finance
4. Ms. Alissar Chaker, UNDP Resident Representative
5. Ms. Claudia De La Fuente Barreda, Deputy Country Representative, OHCHR
6. Mr. Mey Samith, Executive Director, Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (PPCIL)
7. Ms. Mao Meas, Programme Analyst, UNDP
8. Mr. Sit Song, UNDP
9. Ms. Miriam Lang, OHCHR
10. Mr. Mikel Aguirre Idiaquez, UNESCO
11. Mr. Wei Yang, Advocacy and Communication Intern, UNDP
12. Mr. CHAN Chey Rith, Assistant of H.E EM Chan Makara
13. Mr. HEANG Pisal, Assistant of H.E EM Chan Makara

#### **Participants who joined the meeting online:**

1. Excellency Huy Suravuth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information
2. His Excellency KAO Imran, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information
3. His Excellency UN Samay, Ministry of Information
4. His Excellency THORNG Samon, Deputy Director General of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
5. Mr. KEO Rattana, National Employment Agency (NEA)
6. Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and Representative, UNESCO
7. Mr. Julien Magnat - Skills and Employability Specialist (Member), ILO
8. Ms. PEN Rany, Assistant Resident Representative-Programme, UNDP
9. Ms. BOU Amara, Programme Analyst, UNDP
10. Ms. Chikako Kodama, Governance Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP
11. Ms. SOU Socheata - DEY Programme Coordinator, ILO
12. Ms. HUN Sreynak, Programme Manager, People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAfID)
13. Ms. HOUN Sakphea, OHCHR
14. Mr. OEUNG Judy, UNRCO
15. Mr. REAM Rin, UNICEF

16. Ms. Lilibeth, Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA)
17. Ms. TAING Sopheap, TPO
18. Mr. CHHOR Bonnaraoth, CDPO
19. Mr. TOUCH Vuth, Project Coordinator, CDPO
20. Ms. SREY Sraspanha, Programme and Operations Associate, UNDP
21. Ms. NUON Chenda, Administration and Finance Assistant, UNDP
22. TY Samphors Vicheka, UNESCO

### **Objectives of the Meeting:**

1. To inform all partners of the joint programme, seek comments, feedback and guidance, discuss the potential risks in the implementation phase of the programme and reach a consensus from all stakeholders on the implementation of the joint programme;
2. To establish the Programme Steering Committee which is the governing structure of the joint programme and provides guidance and direction to ensure the successful implementation of the programme.

### **Agenda of the Meeting:**

1. Welcome Remarks
2. Presentation of the draft project document
3. Discussion and recommendations
4. Consensus and conclusion

### **Progress of the Meeting:**

#### **1. WELCOME REMARKS**

Ms. Pauline Tamesis, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cambodia, in her capacity as the co-chair of the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting (LPAC) meeting, conveyed appreciation to H.E Em Chan Makara, Secretary of State of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and Secretary General of Disability Action Council (DAC) as a co-chair in the meeting, and welcomed all the participants attending in person and online. She then outlined the programme's background, highlighting that the Accelerating Disability Rights in Cambodia (ADRC) is a joint programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the technical support from International Labour Organization (ILO), financially supported by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

The ADRC joint programme aims to enable structural change for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Cambodia and will focus on three outcomes as below.

- Enhanced capacity of national stakeholders, especially of key duty bearers and rights holders, to more effectively contribute towards the development of disability-inclusive policies and systems, as well as in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Reduced gaps between preconditions to CRPD implementation and development and humanitarian programs; and
- Mainstreamed disability inclusion in national development and humanitarian plans, budgets, programs and monitoring processes.

Lastly, Ms. Pauline Tamesis informed the participants that the objective of this meeting is to inform the partners of the approved joint programme and to receive guidance and feedback on the programme, its objectives, results and strategies, budget and potential risks to consider in the programme implementation. She explained that the meeting aimed to achieve consensus amongst the relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the joint programme document and to establish the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), which is the governing structure of the programme that provides strategic direction and guidance to ensure successful programme implementation.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME DOCUMENT**

Mr. Sit Song, Project Coordinator-Disability Inclusion, UNDP, started his presentation as follows.

- **Project background/rationale**

The UNPRPD publicly announced the grant for the Expression of Interest (EOI) in late 2020 and the UN Agencies applied for this grant with two supporting letters from DAC and the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization. The UN Agencies were successfully accepted by UNPRPD for the Inception Phase from February to September 2021. During the inception phase, the UN Agencies conducted a disability situation analysis and developed the COVID-19 Recovery Plan 2021-2023 which was aligned with the National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023 (NDSP2) for the DAC. Then the UN Agencies submitted the Programme Proposal, and the funding was successfully approved by UNPRPD on 04 March 2022. In terms of the rationale for the programme, persons with disabilities in Cambodia face many barriers and challenges: poverty and unsustainable livelihoods; stigma and discrimination; limited access to services, information, justice and education; inaccessibility of physical infrastructure etc. In addition, there is a lack of mainstreaming of disability into broader policies and plans due to the limited capacities of government officials, OPDs, local authorities, other service providers, and the business sector. Over the past recent years, COVID-19 has further exacerbated the above-mentioned challenges, particularly those related to the livelihoods of the persons with disabilities.

- **Strategy/Theory of Change**

The joint programme will extend the consultation process with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), Women with Disabilities Forums (WWDFs) and the DAC both on national and provincial levels, along with key line ministries responsible for the implementation of NDSP2 and the Amended Law on Disability. With the support from OHCHR, the project will promote the access to justice and legal aid services for persons with disabilities with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ); with the technical support from UNESCO, the project will strengthen the access to information of persons with disabilities, and access to

the vocational training and employment through the support from ILO. Finally, the project will enhance the capacity and participation of the government institutions, OPDs, WWDFs for the social protection services, Marraynoll-Deaf Development Program (DDP) to establish the deaf association, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) for mental services and Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC) for legal aid support.

Ms. Miriam Lang from OHCHR continued explaining the theory of change of the joint programme, which focuses on three levers of changes including capacity development, increased involvement and representation of rights holders and legislative reform. To ensure full participation of unrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, partnership with organizations currently assisting those groups was created with the aim of securing the better representation of those groups (specifically persons who are deaf or with hearing impairments). The capacity of duty-bearers, including relevant line ministries (DAC, MOSVY, Ministry of Labor and Vocation Training (MoLVT), National Employment Agency (NEA), MoJ and Ministry of Information) responsible for implementing social protection policies, access to information, skills development and employment and justice will be enhanced so as to provide better understanding of specific barriers facing persons with disabilities and increase the level of disability inclusiveness in the implementation of policies in these areas. Support will also be provided to the disability movement to enhance its capacity to undertake a more prominent role in coordination mechanisms (DACs), absorb and disseminate information and assist persons with disabilities in accessing services and justice. Legislative reform will be pursued through the support of drafting, enactment, and implementation of a new rights-based Disability Law which is in line with UNCRPD. The new law will represent a structural change which will hopefully represent the cornerstone for building a more rights-based and disability-inclusive society in Cambodia.

- **Result Framework**

The joint programme will work towards three outcomes:

- Enhanced capacity of national stakeholders, especially of key duty bearers and rights holders, to more effectively contribute towards the development of disability-inclusive policies and systems, as well as in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Reduced gaps between preconditions to CRPD implementation and development and humanitarian programs; and
- Mainstreamed disability inclusion in national development and humanitarian plans, budgets, programs and monitoring processes.

- **Nature of Joint Programme**

- Implementing Agencies: UNDP, OHCHR, UNESCO (ILO)
  - Programme Partners: DAC and MoSVY/DRA, MOJ, MOINFO, CDPO, DPOs, TPO and legal aid NGOs
  - Administrative Agent: UNDP
  - Modality of Programme: Direct Implementing Modality
  - Programme timeframe: 05 March 2022 to 31 December 2023
- **Programme Budget:** The total the programme budget is USD 626,419.82 which includes **\$26,419.82** carried over from the inception phase.

- **Management and coordination arrangements**

Mr. Mikel Aguirre Idiaquez from UNESCO explained that the overall coordination (administration and reporting) of the joint programme will be carried out by UNDP as the lead agency. In addition, on technical and programmatic levels there will be a technical coordination group consisting of focal points of participating UN agencies (UNDP, OHCHR and UNESCO), ILO and the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) which will meet regularly to share progress, lessons learnt and key challenges to be addressed at the technical level. The technical coordination group will ensure complementarity, sequencing and synergy of activities between partners and provide inputs or recommended actions as appropriate. The joint programme will work closely with partners such as MoSVY/DAC-SG, MoJ, Ministry of Information (MinIFO), Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), NEA, CDPO, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC), TPO, and Maryknoll Organization (DDP).

Mikel emphasized that the joint programme will be governed by a **Programme Steering Committee (PSC)**. It is proposed that the Programme Steering Committee will be jointly chaired by the UNRC Office and the MoSVY representative (on a rotational basis) while one representative from the government partner; the heads of the four UN agencies (UNDP, ILO, OHCHR, UNESCO); and two representatives of CDPO/DPOs (at least one should be female) will be the members of the Programme Steering committee.

The Programme Steering Committee will:

- Provide strategic guidance for coherent and coordinated project implementation.
- Approve the project annual work plan and budget and approve the allocation of funds.
- Review progress mid-year and approve annual progress reports, including progress against set targets. The PSC will review annual consolidated narrative progress reports and annual consolidated financial reports based on narrative and financial submissions from the participating UN agencies.
- Ensure the highest level of fiduciary accountability and closely monitor the risks and issues during project implementation
- Review evaluations of the programme, if any,

The PSC will meet at least twice a year to review programme implementation progress, risks and issues, approve work plan or budget revision and make decision. Below is the organizational structure of the PSC.

Secretary of State of MoSVY	Co-chairs
UN Resident Coordinator	
One representative from Ministry of Economy and Finance	Members
UNDP Resident Representative (or their designated nominee)	
OHCHR Representative (or their designated nominee)	
UNESCO Country Representative (or their designated nominee)	
ILO Country Representative (or their designated nominee)	
Two Representatives of CDPO/DPOs (at least one should be female)	

- **Risk management and mitigation**

Two risks have been foreseen during the implementation of the joint programme:

- Epidemiological situation with COVID-19 worsened and new restrictions on movements are imposed
- The enactment of the new Disability Law is postponed or cancelled

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

In terms of monitoring, the programme will undertake regular monitoring of implementation by reviewing the results framework and designing a monitoring plan to track progress, and ensure that the challenges and issues are addressed on time. The programme team will produce a monitoring report, progress report (mid-year report) and annual report of the joint programme.

The programme will support an independent mid-term evaluation of the NDSP2 which will identify good practices, shortcomings and opportunities for improvement of the plan as well as provide useful guidance for all stakeholders (government, OPDS, Development partners, UN, NGOs etc.) for the development of NDSP3 or revision/extension of NDSP2 (whatever option is chosen). In the last quarter of the year 2, independent consultants will carry out a final evaluation, which will include a lessons learned section so as to inform project stakeholders and UNPRPD of the level of success of the initiative in achieving intended results and to identify opportunities for further actions and areas for improvement.

The programme aims to contribute to policy development and implementation through the identification and documentation of sustainable solutions, drawing from lessons learned and promoting and scaling up of good practices aimed at enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

### 3. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After the presentation of the joint programme, Ms. Pauline Tamesis, the co-chair of the LPAC meeting opened the floor to the LPAC members for comments/suggestions and questions. Below was the summary of comments and clarification raised by co-chairs and LPAC members.

- **Programme budget plan**

Ms. Pauline Tamesis advised the programme team to explain a little bit about the budget breakdown as the Staff and Personnel Costs were high compared to the few outcomes.

**Response:** Ms. Mao Meas, a Programme Analyst, UNDP, explained that the staff and personnel costs were high because it included the cost of a technical assistant (consultant) as in the case of OHCHR.

Ms. Alissar Chaker added that the joint programme's budget was only \$600,000, UNDP has subsidized the resources to support this joint programme as they wished to see the outcomes of the joint programmes realized for the persons with disabilities. Alissar suggested that as the joint programme focused on three levels of changes including legal reforms, access to public services and protection of persons with disabilities, before providing the seed fund to the implementing partner, we should consider how they can provide the outcomes to those changes to support persons with disabilities. Ms. Claudia de la Fuente

added that, unlike other agencies, OHCHR administrative rules required consultants to be included as personnel costs (and not as activities funding), and also added that the Office contributed some of its own resources to the outcomes, in addition to funding from UNPRPD.

Ms. Pauline Tamesis highlighted that this is a technical assistance programme which relies on expert inputs from staff and consultants of participating agencies. Thus, there is a possibility to capture the contribution to the outcomes rather than stand alone on expenditures, it will have a better representation of how the money is spent.

- **Programme strategy and targeting**

Mr. Rin Ream from UNICEF suggested that although UNICEF decided not to participate in this joint programme, UNICEF is willing to join and provide technical support to the joint programme during the implementation phase if/where possible.

**Response:** Ms. Pauline Tamesis welcomed other UN agencies to join the technical team to provide the technical support during the programme implementation to increase synergies and joint actions beyond the programme.

Lilibeth from the Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA) expressed her satisfaction and shared that CAMFERA has been supporting the labour sector members for the improvement and enhancement. Although CAMFEBA was not mentioned in the implementing partners, we were willing to participate in the joint programme to promote access to employment for persons with disabilities because we have been working with many employers.

**Response:** Mr. Julien Magnat from ILO confirmed ILO will work with three partners (CAMFEBA, TVET and NEA) to improve the capacity of the public and private institutions to provide skills and jobs for persons with disabilities that include the garment and hotel sectors as a pilot.

- **PSC process and governance**

Ms. Pauline Tamesis raised that the project period is tentatively 22 months, and the PSC is supposed to meet twice a year. Having four meetings of PSC might be a bit much, so she suggested considering this LPAC meeting as the first PSC meeting. Further, she suggested to hold PSC meeting once a year to reduce the transaction costs. In this regard, the work plan to be developed followign this initial LPAC meeting can be circulated, reviewed and approved electronically.

Ms. Alissar Chaker, Resident Representative of UNDP, strongly supported Pauline's request for one meeting per year for the PSC for transparency, reduction of transaction cost and decision-making. Then in the meantime, the project can manage the work plan and programme document and ask for the approval from the PSC by email so that they can kick-off the implementation phase.

#### **4. CONSENSUS AND CONCLUSION**

Before concluding the meeting, Ms. Pauline Tamesis invited MoSVY Secretary of State, H.E Em Chan Makara to deliver his closing remarks. H.E. Em Chan Makara expressed appreciation for the presentation of the joint programme, and full support for the joint programme initiative. He was very grateful that the UN joint programme focuses on Cambodian persons with disabilities, amending the national disability law, NDSP implementation and monitoring and supporting the livelihoods of persons with disabilities after the



COVID-19 pandemic, which are of importance and relevance to Cambodia's reality. He clarified that the Royal Government of Cambodia has so far ratified the CRPD and is working on a new Law on the promotion and the protection of persons with disabilities. He expressed hope to see the law translate into action to make a difference in the livelihood of the persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

Ms. Pauline Tamesis acknowledged the support and collaboration of H.E EM Chan Makara on the ADRC programme through his remarks. She noted that the meeting had reached consensus and concluded as below.

- This LPAC meeting is considered as the first PSC meeting, approved all programme documents and will follow up on the detailed work plan and budget plan by virtual means, to be submitted by the programme team.
- The composition of the PSC is comprised of the persons in the table below. One representative from the Ministry of Economy and Finance will be nominated in the next two weeks.

<b>Composition of PSC</b>	<b>Function</b>
<b>H.E. EM Chan Makara</b> , Secretary of State of MoSVY	Co-chairs
<b>Ms. Pauline Tamesis</b> , UN Resident Coordinator	
One representative from Ministry of Economy and Finance (to be nominated)	Members
<b>Ms. Alissar Chaker</b> , UNDP Resident Representative	
<b>Ms. Roueida El Hage</b> , Representative, OHCHR	
<b>Mr. Sardar Umar Alam</b> , Head of Office and Representative of UNESCO	
<b>Mr. Julien Magnat</b> , ILO Skills and Employability Specialist (Member)	
<b>Ms. HUN Sreynak</b> , Programme Manager, People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAfID)	
<b>Mr. MEY Samith</b> , Executive Director, Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (PPCIL)	

#### **Actions to be taken:**

- The project team will share the minutes by 10 May 2022.
- The project team will follow up with MEF for the nominee to be a member of the PSC.
- The project team will submit the revised programme documents, detailed work plan and budget plan for the endorsement from the PSC.



Date: 23 May 2022

Approved by



---

**H.E EM Chan Makara**

Secretary of State of MoSVY

Co-Chair of PSC

Date: 23 May 2022

Approved by




---

**Ms. Pauline Tamesis**

UN Resident Coordinator

Co-Chair of PSC

Prepared by

DocuSigned by:  
  
674D9D6258BA40E...

---

**Mr. Sit Song**

Project Coordinator