

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: RSGS

<b>TA No. and Name</b> 5956-REG: Identifying Disability Issues Related to Poverty Reduction			<b>Amount Approved:</b> \$300,000		
			<b>Revised Amount:</b> \$600,000		
<b>Executing Agency:</b> Asian Development Bank	<b>Source of Funding:</b> Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) Government of Finland		<b>TA Amount Undisbursed</b>  <b>\$190,116.03</b>	<b>TA Amount Utilized</b>  <b>\$409,883.97</b>	
<b>Date</b>			<b>Completion Date</b>		
<b>Approval</b> 28 November 2000	<b>Signing</b> 28 Nov. 2000	<b>Fielding of Consultants</b> 15 March 2002	<b>Original: 31/7/02</b>		<b>Actual: 30/9/04</b>
			<b>Closing Date</b>		
			<b>Original: 31/7/02</b>		<b>Actual: 21/7/05</b>
<b>Description</b>					
<p>According to UN estimates there are some 600 million people with disabilities worldwide, or 10% of the world population, with 400 million estimated to live in the Asia-Pacific region. When taking into consideration the impact on families, the lives and livelihood of over 800 million people are impacted or about 25% of the population. People with disabilities are poor because they are denied the access and opportunities most basic to human development - education, income, and employment. However, people with disabilities have the capacity to become productive citizens and positively contribute to the development of the Asia and Pacific region. Given that persons with disabilities represent around 10% of the population, the short term costs of education and integrating persons with disabilities would be surpassed by the long-term savings to families and societies.</p> <p>On October 1999, ADB organized a workshop on Disability and Development under RETA 5564. The workshop was co-financed by the ADB and the Government of Finland. Follow-up actions in respect to two main recommendations of the workshop were: (i) strengthening ADB's capacity to address the disability dimension in its operations; and (ii) strengthening the capacity of the DMCs to mainstream disability in their poverty reduction efforts.</p> <p>To achieve these recommendations, RETA 5956: Identifying Disability Issues Related to Poverty Reduction was proposed. On 28 November 2000, ADB approved it on a grant basis for a total cost of \$300,000 to assist ADB and DMCs in incorporating disability issues in poverty reduction strategy and programs in India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Subsequently, on April 2001, the Government of Finland agreed to provide co-financing for the RETA equivalent to \$300,000 with the condition of including one additional country, Sri Lanka.</p>					
<b>Objectives and Scope</b>					
<p>The objectives of the TA were to (i) familiarize the DMCs with ADB's overarching objective of poverty reduction and other related ADB policies to help address the vulnerability and poverty situation of disabled people; (ii) identify and analyze the DMCs' national policies, programs, projects, and initiatives concerning disabilities and poverty to be used as a basis for action plans; (iii) provide a forum for ADB, Government and disabled people's groups and organizations to identify and discuss disabled people's needs and concerns particularly those related to poverty; and (iv) develop a disability checklist for ADB.</p> <p>The TA supported several activities in the four selected DMCs. The first phase involved the development of background and issue papers to assess country experiences, and to analyze the connection between disability and poverty reduction. The background paper examined priority issues within each country to address the needs of disabled people. The paper was developed in consultation with key actors, including governments, international agencies, nongovernment organizations, representatives of disabled people, and relevant regional bodies in Asia, drawing on their experience and analysis. The paper was then discussed in national workshops in each DMC involving key stakeholders. Based on the findings, potential areas and modalities were identified for future ADB operational policy dialogues, macroeconomic and sector work, TAs, and loans in addressing disability issues.</p> <p>The second phase of the TA followed with the organization of a regional workshop involving key stakeholders from the DMCs. A synthesis overview report was prepared. Representatives of other international agencies were invited to share information during the workshop. Broader region wide concerns related to poverty reduction and disability issues were discussed.</p> <p>During the final phase of the TA, the consultant, drawing from the background paper and consultations with each DMC, reviewed ADB's existing policies, guidelines, and staff instructions, and prepared a background document: Disabled People and Development, and a Disability Brief: Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Disabled People, providing directions on the way to incorporate disability in country programming and projects.</p>					
<b>Evaluation of Inputs</b>					
<p>The TA utilized 8 p/months of international and 24 p/months of domestic consulting services as compared to the original estimation of 5 and 12 p/months respectively. The increase of manpower was caused mainly by including one new country, Sri Lanka, into the project. However, the additional cofinancing input from Finland doubled the budget which, at the end, exceeded the needs for additional activities by 32% causing large savings. The Executing Agency (EA) was satisfied with the provided inputs.</p> <p>The TA was formulated adequately. However, the implementation of the TA was delayed mainly due to the ADB reorganization in 2001, and because of difficulties in identifying the local EAs as well as the international firm for this kind of a very specialized task. Eventually the local EAs were identified: the Disability Action Council (Cambodia), the National Coordinating Committee on Disability (India), the National Council on the Welfare of Disabled (Philippines), and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Social Services (Sri Lanka). A suitable international firm, Foundation for International Training (FIT) from Canada, was identified and a contract was signed on 8 March 2002.</p> <p>The performance of ADB and the EAs were satisfactory once the initial difficulties were overcome. The TA, originated in former SOCD and transferred to RSPR, had to undergo slight implementation changes after the reorganization. It was considered prudent</p>					

to avoid separate inception missions to all four countries. Instead, RSPR arranged for the following: (i) at inception, all consultants were called at ADB Headquarters (4-7 April 2002), and briefed thoroughly; detailed plans for the provincial and national workshops and outlines of the reports were drafted; (ii) The Team Leader went to all countries to ensure Government's commitment at inception stage (Philippines, 1-7 April; Cambodia, 11-12 April; India 13-17 April; Sri Lanka, 18-21 April); (iii) FIT Project Manager, did a first review mission to the Philippines and Sri Lanka (7-21 June 2002) to coincide with the Provincial Workshops; and (iv) RSPR kept close contact with the Team Leader and FIT (by electronic mail and phone).

The TA faced a difficult challenge when the Team Leader, Mr. Henry Enns passed away on 14 August 2002 while on ADB mission, which along with the expanded TA scope accounted for the increasing implementation time from the originally estimated 18 months to the actual 56 months. Mr. Enn's work was committed and exemplary and his tragic demise was a loss to the disability cause. To fill in the vacant post, FIT was able to quickly recruit and mobilize a suitable new Team Leader, Dr. Lorna Edmonds. The performance of the international firm was satisfactory (PER Foundation for International Training, 16/08/2005).

### **Evaluation of Outputs**

Generally, in all four countries, the TA targets set in the TOR were met: (i) provincial and national workshops; (ii) recommendations of actions at the provincial level; and (iii) country based reports, recommendations and strategies. At the regional level – (i) regional workshop on 2-4 October 2002 at ADB HQ; (ii) recommendations for action to include disability in ADB activities; (iii) background document, with checklist, on disability and development; and (iv) disability brief with guidelines for meeting the needs of disabled people in ADB operations.

As the region prepared to close the first Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled persons, it was important to review progress and look forward to the work that lies ahead. The TA made an important contribution to both. By identifying and analyzing current disability policy frameworks and assessing country experience in addressing the linkage between disability and poverty, the TA produced comprehensive documentation of progress in this area. Through its emphasis on action research and multi-stakeholder participation, the project also provided an opportunity for people with disability, their governments and the international community to engage in a dialogue. The recommendations that emerged will assist the national governments and regional bodies as they move forward toward building a framework for social development that ensures access and opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.

The EAs were satisfied with the outputs. The country study reports that emerged from the TA are rich in detail and experience, and have been used by all stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of the links between disability and poverty, of the role of legal frameworks and policy approaches, and of the opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration within governments and civil society. Country reports have been also useful for ADB operations in concerned countries, especially for the preparation and updating CSPs.

The regional workshop held in Manila promoted this vision and contributed to building a regional knowledge base in the area of poverty and disability. The recommendations that emerged from that workshop have served as an important guide as key actors move toward the development of regional approaches addressing disability issues.

Finally, the TA has strengthened ADB's own knowledge and understanding of disability issues related to poverty reduction. As a regional leader in the promotion of inclusive social development, ADB is singularly placed to provide credibility to this agenda and promote viable and effective program approaches. The two disability publications<sup>1</sup>, developed during the last two years of the TA implementation, are important operational tools to assist ADB realize the objective of ensuring that disability issues are addressed in its programming and lending activities.

### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The TA has been assessed as successful.

### **Major Lessons Learned**

The implementation of the TA was delayed owing to the change in its scope, and due to elaborations of the two final publications. However, the additional funding from the Government of Finland and the expansion of coverage to include Sri Lanka have considerably contributed to the output of the TA. Moreover, the TA's significant participatory effort is one of the most comprehensive. The country reports, background documents, and disability brief incorporated analyses beginning with provincial workshops, national workshop, and collecting information from case studies. The process was viewed to be important as it created awareness and commitment for involvement from all stakeholders as well as providing a basis for follow-up action.

### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

There are no immediate stand-alone follow-up activities planned within RSDD, as a further development of a strategy to ensure disability mainstreaming is currently not envisaged. The disability publications prepared under the project provide tools to integrate disability in country programs and projects. It is expected that this will contribute to increased interventions on disability by the operational departments. There are several ways to include disability in development interventions, e.g. (i) disability specific projects; (ii) disability-relevant projects; and (iii) disability mainstreaming. Disability specific projects are most suitable to advance the knowledge and the awareness on disability and development. Priority areas for study are: the development of more effective and reliable quality information on disability; the development of community based services, and the preparation of instructions for universal/inclusive design approaches for projects with an infrastructure component. Close collaboration is required with DMCs, disability organizations and major international organizations such as UN-ESCAP and World Bank. The needs of disabled people can increasingly be addressed by adding components or subcomponents in other projects. Some sectors, such as education, health and social protection are most suitable for this, as well as projects with an infrastructure component.

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2005. *Disability Brief. Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Disabled People*. Manila. Edmonds, L.J. 2005. *Disabled People and Development*. Poverty and Social Development Papers. Manila: ADB.