**Bhutan: Piloting Inclusive Services for Disadvantaged Groups Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Piloting Inclusive Services for Disadvantaged Groups Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>57014-001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country / Economy</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Status</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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### Operational Priorities
- **OP1**: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities
- **OP2**: Accelerating progress in gender equality
- **OP3**: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability
- **OP4**: Making cities more livable
- **OP6**: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity

### Sector / Subsector
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Public sector management**
- **Gender equity theme**

### Description
The grant will be aligned with the following impact: equitable access to social services and employment improved (footnote 13). The envisaged outcome is access to quality health services and economic opportunities for people with disabilities, older people, and people with diverse SOGIESC improved. This aim will be pursued through three outputs.

- **Output 1.** Enabling environment for availing equitable access to employment opportunities and health services by project beneficiaries established.
- **Output 2.** CSO capacity in policy dialogue, advocacy, public financial management, program development and monitoring, and resource mobilization strengthened.
- **Output 3.** Multi-stakeholder support for the inclusion of people with disabilities, sexual and gender-diverse communities, and older persons increased.

### Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently assessed the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) situational context in South Asia and found that some groups are disadvantaged due to their social identities. They struggle to access opportunities and resources and are less likely to benefit from development investments. In response to this assessment and in line with ADB Strategy 2030, the South Asia Department developed a GESI Framework that focuses on women, older people, people with disabilities, disadvantaged ethnic groups and castes, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), income poor, and people in difficult geographic locations like remote rural, slum, and transient populations. Addressing gender inequality and social exclusion experienced by these disadvantaged groups requires boosting their contribution and visibility in business supply chains by developing their capabilities (individual and organizational), improving their access to basic public services (education, health, and skills training), and providing inclusive infrastructure and technologies, among others.

### Impact
Equitable access to social services and employment improved

### Outcome
Access to quality health services and economic opportunities disabilities, older people, and people with diverse SOGIESC improved.

### Outputs
Enabling environment for availing equitable access to employment opportunities and health services by project beneficiaries established.

### Geographical Location
Nation-wide

### Safeguard Categories

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<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
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### Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

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<th>Environmental Aspects</th>
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<tr>
<td>Involuntary Resettlement</td>
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<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
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### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

**During Project Design**

**During Project Implementation**

- **Responsible ADB Officer**: Tshering, Nidup
- **Responsible ADB Department**: South Asia Department
- **Responsible ADB Division**: Bhutan Resident Mission (BHRM)
- **Executing Agencies**: National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC)

### Timetable