



ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY

"See the Person Not the Disability"



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF ONTENTS

ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY (ABS) PROFILE	5
The History of ABS:	5
The Vision of ABS:	5
The Mission of ABS:	5
Motto	5
MESSAGE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF ABS.....	6
MESSAGE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	8
INTRODUCTION	9
CLINICAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMME	10
Center Based Intervention	10
Home Based Intervention	10
Professional Development Online Training.....	10
Family Empowerment.....	11
Summer Program.....	15
OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAYS	16
World Down Syndrome Day.....	16
World Autism Awareness Day.....	16
World Cerebral Palsy Day	18
International Day of Persons with disabilities.....	20
PICTURE GALLERY.....	22
OTHER ACTIVITIES	26
Project Launch: Social Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan.....	26
Pick and Drop service.....	27
Volunteerism	27
Last Board Meeting.....	27
The national children's day of Bangladesh celebrated in ABS.....	27
Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO) visit	28
Visit from Bumthang schools	28
Offering butter lamps and prayers on Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck's Birthday on 4th June.....	28
Election of New Board of Trustees.....	28
Coping with struggles.....	29
Grooming young trainees	29
Officials from Loden Foundation	29
The Prime Minister's (PM) visits.....	29
Representative from 7 schools visit at ABS.....	30

Visit from Norway	30
Visit fro SELWA.....	31
Blessing from His Eminence Lam Namkhai Nyingpo	31
ABS Rimdro.....	31
Google Team visit	31
Observance of World Children’s Day	31
UNICEF PROJECT	32
Capacity building of families/caregivers of children with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders in the field of disability strengthened	32
Formed and strengthened support group for families/caregivers of children with disabilities	32
Orientation of Handbook for Parents and Caregivers of Children with and without Disabilities in Samtse, Trashiyangtse and Tsirang Dzongkhags.....	33
Procurement	33
HELVETAS PROJECT.....	34
ABS/BMZ/DAHW PROJECT	35
Induction workshop	35
Training of Trainers.....	36
Need based data collection.....	36
Empowering ECCD facilitators on social inclusion	36
Orientation to the BHU staff in the field of disability	36
Training on self-care and self-esteem for parents & caregivers of children with and without disabilities.....	37
Life skill development orientation for children with disabilities.....	37
2019 MILESTONE	38
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT	40
ABS Institutional Partners and Donors.....	43
WAY FORWARD.....	44
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	44
ABS NEEDS YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT	44
National Donors	44
International Donors.....	44
Volunteers	44
ABS GOVERNANCE	45



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

“See the Person Not the Disability”



*Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck
The Royal Patron of Ability Bhutan Society*

ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY (ABS) PROFILE

The History of ABS:

ABS is a Public Benefit Organization which was founded on the recognition that persons with moderate to severe disabilities, primarily children and their families have needs. ABS was registered with the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan (CSOA) under registration No. CSOA/PBO15 on the 10th of November 2011. The concept of ABS was inspired by the vision of a Just and Compassionate Society by His Majesty The Fifth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. ABS was inaugurated by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, The Royal Patron of ABS, on April 6th, 2012 as a project under the Kidu Foundation which was established by Their Majesties as an endowment for Royal projects.

The Vision of ABS:

Empowering individuals with disabilities to live independently and with dignity within Bhutanese Society.

Motto

“See The Person Not The Disability”

The Mission of ABS:

Enhancing the quality life of individuals with moderate to severe disabilities by:

1. *Advocating* and creating awareness of the rights of people with disabilities in Bhutanese society;
2. *Developing* core groups of dedicated, committed and trained social workers and care givers;
3. *Enhancing* family and caregiver skills to empower those with disabilities in their care; and
4. *Providing* direct interventions to enhance the capabilities of people with disabilities.

MESSAGE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF ABS

To,

1. **Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck,
The Queen of Bhutan,
The Royal Patron of Ability Bhutan Society,**
2. **Honourable Members of the Ability Bhutan Society,**
3. **Stakeholders &**
4. **Donors**

Most humbly, with due sense of reverence and gratitude, I wish to submit that I as the Third Chairperson of Board of Trustees of Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) I join the organization with great sense of pride and honour.

As the Chair, I have the honour and opportunity to serve under His Majesty the king's visionary guidance and leadership.

I would like to rededicate to serve under Her Majesty's Royal patronage and leadership. As a Chair, it is my immense pleasure to serve to cater to the various needs of children with moderate to severe disabilities. Most of the activities ABS carries out are invisible yet very tedious. Imagine in a society that is yet to accept the challenges of disability. Dealing with general children and human being and more so it is when someone has to be trained or helped to carry out regular daily human activities such as eating or washing or going to toilet and where places are not disability friendly and accessible for these persons to socialize or access basic public services such as education and healthcare.

Nonetheless as His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen have been continuous source of inspiration and guiding light to build hope for the organization like ABS. Among many Royal gestures, Royal patronage and welfare for persons with disabilities are precious welfare for persons with disabilities in Bhutan.

With fully functional intervention center in place, ABS has established service centers opened in five Dzongkhags with the "Inclusive Development for Persons with disabilities" in 2019. I personally hope ABS will be able to carry out its activities to provide right support services in many other places including public awareness and sensitization programs.

The monthly family empowerment program for parents, families and caregivers of children with disabilities will immensely equip them to deal with children on a daily basis.

The observation of international disability days that highlight and celebrate the potentials of persons with disabilities such as the observance of World Down syndrome Day, World Autism Day, World Cerebral palsy Day and International Day for persons with Disabilities have been able to bring awareness and direct intervention that are focused to individual needs which cannot be replaced.

I am hopeful that with The Royal Government of Bhutan approving National Policy for Persons with Disabilities will hugely benefit Bhutanese with Disabilities. It will also invite all stakeholders and agencies to holistically for the benefit of persons with disabilities in Bhutan.

As ABS continues to receive from GLRA India, a society registered in Tamil Nadu, India, The Rotary Club of Taichung Chung Shin, Taiwan, Shuchona Foundation Bangladesh, Bhutan Foundation, UNICEF Bhutan, International Partners, National Partners, Donors and Volunteers from Bhutan and abroad will continue further, we look forward for ABS to grow and fulfill the wishes of Their Majesties.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Her majesty The Gyaltsuen, Hon'ble Board of trustees, Staff of ABS, donors and well-wishers for all your guidance and support which has helped ABS provide right support to children with disabilities.

Finally, I would like to offer all our partners and supporters a very best of luck for your unwavering guidance and support.

I beg to remain,
Yours majesty's Most Obedient Servant



Karma Tshering
CHAIRPERSON

MESSAGE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) enjoyed another successful year in 2019. The key to that success was an emphasis on collaboration, not only across our staff, children, parents but also donors, our dedicated donors, volunteers and other institutions.

ABS management would like to extend our gratitude to esteemed Board of Trustees who resigned after the completion of their consecutive two-year term. Their farsighted guidance and support has helped ABS walk miles. The management also would like to welcome our new Board of Trustees who will continue to guide and build energy for ABS to further our vision and mission.

The society's 2019 achievements are too numerous to squeeze onto these pages, so I limit this message to the most significant activities from the past year.

We began the year with the enrolment of 27 children with moderate to severe diverse disabilities who needed early intervention at ABS center and six of them successfully enrolled in the mainstream school in the end of the year.

Under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen in the course of 8 years, ABS launched its extended programs and activities in five other Dzongkhags. With the launch of *Social Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan* ABS started its services for persons with disabilities in Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang Dzongkhags respectively.

ABS initiated and conducted all international disability days to sensitize and create awareness among the public on disabilities issues.

Furthermore, with the support from HELVETAS and UNICEF, ABS could successfully cover seven other Dzongkhags carrying out awareness on disabilities to build capacity among the local leaders, persons with disabilities, their parents and caregivers and all other relevant stakeholders to provide services for persons with disabilities.

To continue this positive trend, we need our members' involvement and support as always. In the fulfillment of ABS's missions, we invite our partners and supporters to join us in serving the citizens with disabilities with dignity. We also create a forum to attract new memberships to support the common goal.

On behalf of Ability Bhutan Society



Ugyen Wangchuk



INTRODUCTION

Children are the most precious gifts of all. What sometimes are taught by parents are sometimes is taught by the children. Their innocence reminds us of the world that they are yet to explore and a fright it develops within as to what may become of them if they are to fall the victims of us. We define a society but we leave the society to define our children. Children regardless of their gender, colour or their disability needs guidance.

Often people think that disability is a disease and is an embarrassment to the society. They sometimes forget that people with disabilities like any other people have the potential to utilize their abilities. A person does not have to be able to walk to sing, do not have to be able to talk to paint, see to be a researcher or hear to be an athlete. Disability is not a disease, but it is any condition of the body or mind that makes it difficult to do certain activities. Parents are sometimes too focused on their child, keeping a schedule on what to do and what not to, expecting quick progress and trying to make them perfect when they already are. In this process, they usually end up 'not living' and losing the days they could spend having fun together. Parents who have children with disabilities are more likely to fall into depression as per the research. Thus, it is equally important that parents/caregivers care for themselves in order to take care/guide their children.

ABS has been through a lot of journey meeting with children with disabilities, families, coming across their hardships and striving to empower them. Through all the activities that has been carried out in 2019, we hope that it has created a source of inspiration and motivation for all to support and empower people/children with disabilities.

ABS is proud to present our achievement in this annual report 2019.



CLINICAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Clinical Intervention is one of the core programs at ABS to assist children with disabilities to live independently with dignity. There are many stages to which children need care and proper guidance in order to adjust with the surrounding based on their difficulty. Thus, early identification is vital in order to have early intervention, so that the child has more chance to improve their skills. Children receive intervention in socialization, communication, Activities of Daily Living Skills, behavior management, sensory integration and school readiness.

Center Based Intervention

ABS functions as a resource center where children come on daily basis to avail the services. There are three classrooms categorized based on children's abilities. Moreover, parents are also trained and advised for the child's improvement. This year 27 children aged 2-19years benefited from the intervention.

Accomplishments

- ✓ Centre based intervention given to children aged from 2-19years - 27
- ✓ Children transited to ECCD centres –6
- ✓ Children transited to mainstream school – 6 (2 children under one month observation)



Social worker facilitating the class

- ✓ Social worker attended community initiative in inclusion training organized by Abled Disabled All People Together (ADAPT) in Mumbai- 1
- ✓ Social Worker attended "Sufficiency Economy to Sustainable and Disability Inclusive Development Training (AITC training)" in Thailand- 1

Home Based Intervention

For children with profound disabilities, the social workers provide home based services by visiting homes and teaching them activities of daily living (ADL) skills. In doing so, the parents and caregivers are trained simultaneously to cope up with the home environment. The main aim is to help in educating the child in the least restrictive environment.

Accomplishment

Home visit and provided necessary support to children with disabilities -5

Professional Development Online Training

Every child with disability has their own challenges and not all disabilities can respond to same intervention strategies. Although, every child with disabilities are different, there are common concerns that link parents together. These include getting appropriate care, promoting acceptance in the community and having accessible resources. With support from Mrs. Moira Boyle, Occupational Therapist, Social Workers of ABS has been participating in Australian Catholic University (ACU) Feeding Clinic telehealth sessions from 2018 to build their capacity in order to provide with an appropriate care/intervention that the child needs. The sessions consist of weekly video conference calls between ACU Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist and Social workers and clients of ABS. They are being trained on behavior modification/management, feeding, fine motor and gross motor, communication, child development, introduction to brain and nervous system, epilepsy and positioning. Furthermore, case stories are

presented, practical demonstrations are carried out and children are engaged in activities taught in their lessons. Social Workers consults with the expertise to keep themselves updated. Through capacity building of the Social Workers, they are equipped to work with children with diverse disabilities.

In 2020, the Social Workers will be trained in the following topics; intellectual disability, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, communication, learning disabilities and in-depth behavior modification.

Family Empowerment

Family Empowerment program is one of the clinical activities which provides platform for parents to come together and participate in activities. It is an opportunity for them to experience the reality of children with disabilities and have them realize to overcome the situation and be the agent of change in the society. But most importantly, their skills and knowledge are further developed through trainings and workshops. It is conducted during last Friday of every month with various activities.

Accomplishments

- ✓ Parents/caregivers attended a workshop to develop Action Plan on National Policy for Persons with Disabilities- 2
- ✓ All the parents/caregivers involved in all the international day's observation
- ✓ Most of the parents participated in the monthly family empowerment program

i. March

A total of 19 parents participated. The activity commenced with the story of rabbit and tortoise focusing on the morale of helping one another. Then it moved on session where parents experienced multiple emotions. Parents were journeyed out in the open air, had them enclosed in a dark room with disturbing pictures and moved them to a warmer room with serene music. Each activity was aimed at realizing of the life of children with disability. A parent expressed her emotion of how

these activities impacted in understanding the ground position of her child and how it made her emotional.



ii. April

Children were given some money before they entered the shop. As the children saw baskets full of fruits, vegetables and snacks, their smitten smile lingered, and their tummy grumbled. They knew they had to grab a bite or at least hold it, but the shopkeepers just wouldn't let them have it. Some cried, some ran over to the parents to ask for it and some simply stared. But they were simply not given. Then the parents were asked to let their child give the shopkeepers the money as per the prize given. The children gave the money and they had what they wanted. In the next round, they instantly gave the shopkeeper the money and pointed at the food they wanted. They knew, they had to pay to buy and to eat! It was a whole new experience for the children to understand the concepts of money and buying. Mrs. Jayashree, special educator and a volunteer at ABS with the help of social workers organized this activity and ended the day with much anticipation for next round.



iii. May

Around 60 viewers including children, parents and staff got the opportunity to share a family moment. Tickets were sponsored by Dasho Sangay Tsheltrim. Thank you Dasho!

Children galloped as they went inside the movie hall, anticipating to see the wonders of their imagination. Obscured to see the crowd, the uniform chairs, the big white screen with huge people popping out, the sound and the chattering of the mass; oh all the marvels they have witnessed in one day. As the lights faded and the darkness seeped in, children neared to their parents and sought for their comfort. Slowly their eyes were attached to the screen wondering what people were doing there while some pondered on whether it was a real one. On the right-side corner, a girl deeply drowned, widened her eyes and hardly blinked while she forgot to eat her chips. On the left side, a boy spoke to his mother pointing at the screen. At the back side, a father tried to get his son inside the hall but he couldn't. His son, stayed by the door and peeped in to see the movie. Few minutes later they were both inside but just by the door. The son was anxious to see the people and tried to avoid but his curiosity drove him nearer and in

the next couple of minutes, both settled down on a chair. In few seats away, a mother carried her child outside to calm her down from crying and came in few minutes later. Children were emerged in their imagination. Some children made some noises and some stood quiet. In few of the scenes, the parents covered their children's eyes to protect them from fright. It was a flabbergasting experience for all. Children didn't make much noise as expected nor did they misbehave. They were simply mesmerized.

The lights were turned on and once again witnessed the rushing crowd. Their smiles spoke their heart and parents were thankful for this opportunity. Passang Sherpa, a parent said, "I have never taken my son out for a movie thinking that he will not want to be inside the movie hall. I did have some trouble taking my son inside in the beginning but slowly he settled down and watched the movie till the end." When the movie ended, Passang's son pulled his hand and tried to take his father back inside the hall. Parents expressed that understanding the movie was not important for their children but having had the opportunity to watch it together with the rest and getting exposure was a very important experience for them.



Children with disabilities, their family members and staff in front of a movie theatre, Thimphu

iv. June

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” – Helen Keller. A total of 10 parents participated. Teamwork is the greatest strength one can have together for a common goal.

The smiles, the laughs and the energy they put in their team to win the rounds of activity filled the atmosphere. The few hours that they were engaged, it was nourishing to see them leave their worries, live in the moment and have fun together. While we talk about disabilities, we often forget that it is the families/caregivers that struggle the most. Like any parents, they do the best for their child and make sure they receive the best services. They often forget to take care of themselves while they stress so much on their child’s health. It is important to understand that by taking good care of themselves, they can take better care of their children. And by coming together as a team, they can achieve so much beyond their imagination.

v. July- Summer Vacation

Parents engaged in the following activities during the summer vacation.

Week 1

Stepping into the realm of crowds, markets, noises, cars and buildings together with their loved ones were more than children could ask for. Parents/family members took the initiative in completing their first task during the break. Most parents and their children gathered around Centenary Farmer’s Market, Thimphu and went for shopping. Children felt the textures of the vegetables, could witness the shapes in real, naming each as they recognized and interacting with the shopkeepers. A first-hand experience for parents to shop together with their children and other parents who share a common goal of inclusion.

Week 2

Parents/family members continued to encourage their children and engage them in the household activities. Children learned as they helped to clean, cook, wash, arrange and mingle with their loved ones. It is not that children with disabilities are restricted to do any activities, but it is us who limit their potentials. With just a little bit of support,



imagine what they could do, what they could achieve. To see the person and not the disability is one step everyone should take to eradicate the negativity and the sympathy. We do the best we can to achieve our goals and so do they. They are like any one of us, they are part of our society.

Week 3 & 4

Parents and children gathered in park and spent time playing games and other activities. Further, the last week of the month was well planned with parents going to Kichu Lhakhang, Paro and getting together for dinner later that night, relaxing and getting opportunity to hang out.

Stepping into the lush greenery

A marvel of their imaginary

Seeing many of same kind

No one leaving behind

Stretching lips one can find

None folded in blind

Open to all, open within

A new venture to begin

Disability it may seem to other

But ability it is rather

Doing what they can is pleasure

Oh, a memory they would all treasure



Parents/caregivers and their children on a fashion walk

vi. August

“Jarim Dusa.... Jarim Dusa..... who’s that girl?; Jarim Dusa.... Jarim Dusa.... who’s that boy?” With the beat of each sound, excitement filled the hall, the crowd cheering and the children waving their hands up in the air. They walked on stage with their parents/caregivers besides, equally enjoying the moment. Children were all dressed up to showcase the garden theme, by which showered their beauty with their magnificent beam. The sight filled everyone’s eyes with delight! The first stage performance (fashion show) by the children of ABS at Changangkha Middle Secondary School. However, children were not only the one who had fun today but also parents who were engaged to a surprise Physical Training exercise.

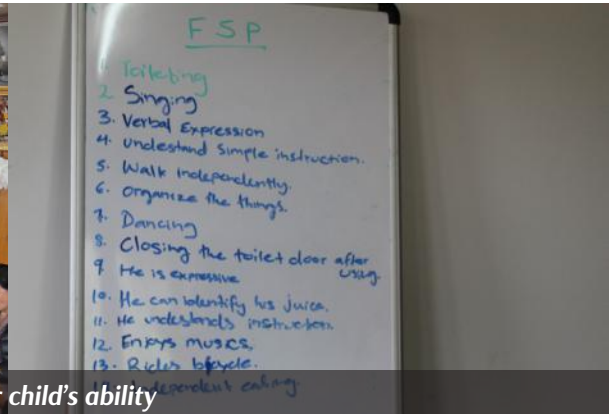
vii. September

In the month of September, parents were introduced to entrepreneurship and employment. Parents were divided into groups and were presented possible business topic each. They were asked to discuss about the ideas/strategies to proceed with their business and even advertise



Parents presenting on their product.

their products. These skills helped parents realize about the potential business that their children can start when they grow up. They were encouraged to explore the opportunities for their children so that they develop interests and find a dream to live in nearby future.



Parents listing out their child's ability

viii. October

Parents gathered for the last time to reflect on the activities carried out till date, striving to empower parents/caregivers by organizing various activities. Starting from blind folding activity, shopping game, fashion show to exposing them to entrepreneurship, all added to team work and growing within. Parents/caregivers were equally supportive in making family support program a successful one. At the end of the day, each parent was asked to reveal one thing that their child is able to do and is proud of. The list came flooding as parents said “singing, dancing, organizing things, eating, toileting...”

In the midst of focusing what our children cannot do, we often forget what they can do. Parents smiled as they realized their child's potential. Mrs. Jayasheree, volunteer of ABS who has been initiating the monthly activities ended successfully.

Summer Program

Everybody joined together to rejoice the mellow fruitfulness of the summer and relaxation they've

been longing for so long. A day for friendship and serenity before the summer vacation began. About 85 participants including children of ABS, children who had transited to Changangkha MSS, families, staff and volunteers of ABS were present.

The day started with the visit at Thangtong Dewachen Dupthop Nunnery and praying for the wellbeing of all sentient beings. Then the children were taken to explore at 'Takin Preserve', in Motithang. It was a wonder for them having some of the picture animals come alive. Excitement filled their heart and their eyes wearied, eager to see something more. All of them then moved to Ludrong Memorial Garden and had a walk through, appreciating the beauty of nature and the sight of a magnificent Tashichho Dzong across the river. With much exploration, all of them were ready to fill up their stomach. They were treated with delightful lunch at 'Bhutan Orchid Restaurant and Bar' sponsored by the proprietors of Gangtey Palace. It was again a fruitful experience to dine together away from home.



Parents/caregivers with their children and ABS staff at Ludrong Memorial Garden, Thimphu

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAYS

Every year, ABS joins the world to observe four international disability days to promote disability rights and empower their abilities.

World Down Syndrome Day

The World Down Syndrome Day was observed on 21st March in different locations including Thimphu, Chukha, Dagana, Sarpang, Punakha and Trashigang on the theme **“Leave No One Behind”** supported by Federal Ministry for Economic Corporation and Development (BMZ) and German Leprosy and TB Relief Association (DAHW).

The day was observed with various activities and games such as pulling tails, balloon popping, solving a puzzle and identifying & picking up vegetables facilitated by Ms. Jaishree and ABS staff in Thimphu at Centenary Park. Children, parents and staff of ABS marked the day by wearing different colored socks, putting on a yellow head band and wearing a significant yellow and blue colored dress code.



Children wearing different colored socks to mark the day at Thimphu



Parents and their children participating in an activity facilitated by Mrs. Jayashree at Thimphu

The Community Based Rehabilitation Team of ABS in five other Dzongkhags also observed the day in different schools; Chukha team observed at Lingden Primary School, Dagana team observed at Lhamoizingkha Middle Secondary School, Punakha team at Tshochasa Primary School, Sarpang team at Taraythang Primary school and Trashigang team collaborated with Draktsho Vocational Training Center for Special Children and Youth, Kanglung supported by students of Sherubtse College. The team had a successful venture in the observance of Down Syndrome Day by giving an awareness speech on Down Syndrome, distributing badges, sweets and interacting with the community. Moreover, Trashigang team with Draktsho Vocational Training Center for Special Children and Youth had a walk to the Draktsho center from the gate of Sherubtse College followed by games and cultural programs.

World Autism Awareness Day

ABS observed World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April 2019 with parents, children and teachers of Changangkha Middle Secondary School (CMSS) on the theme **“Assistive Technologies, Active Participation”**. Around 32 children and parents of ABS as well as CMSS, teachers and ABS staff participated. The program was conducted in different locations to create awareness to the general public commencing from Changangkha MSS, Buddha Point and to Memorial Chorten at night.

The importance of the message that was being delivered and the process of delivery were highlighted. It was stressed that the different types of languages spoken are not essential while communicating. A blindfold activity was also conducted with the students of CMSS to help them understand the challenges people with visual impairment face and their need for assistance. A short skit was performed on the Autism Spectrum Disorder to create awareness of the symptoms of children with autism and what parents and teachers are expected to do. The Principal of CMSS said that the skit was helpful in understanding the need of students with autism.

The activities further continued at Buddha Point where children actively participated in games and interactive activities. A recent research shows that 1 among 68 children come under Autism Spectrum Disorder, globally. In order to create awareness about autism in the community and to educate the public, ABS initiates activities every year outside of the ABS centre during the observance of Autism Awareness Day as well as other internationally observed days on disability.

Rinzin Pem, a grandmother of 5 years old Gizzle Phuntsho, said that she could not express her emotions through words after availing the services from ABS, “I have started to notice some improvement in her. She sometimes utters, “ala-la” when she is hurt physically and at times listens when she is told to stay in one place. This for me is a great achievement.” Gizzle is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and has been enrolled at ABS since 2018.

The evening program concluded with the “Light it Up Blue” at the Memorial Chorten. It was graced by His Excellency The Prime Minister, Dr. Lotay Tshering. The Prime Minister offered butter lamps and met with children and parents of ABS and CMSS, teachers and ABS staff. “Light it Up Blue” is a global campaign that sees thousands of iconic landmarks, cities and towns around the world turn blue on April 2nd to recognize World Autism Awareness Day.

The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) team of ABS in Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang also observed the day in different schools extending the awareness on autism. The local leaders, teachers and students joined in the event and helped reach to wider public.



Lighting up blue at Memorial Chorten in Thimphu



His Excellency the Prime Minister gracing the ‘light it up blue’ activity at Memorial Chorten, Thimphu



Hand printing by children with disabilities at Sarpang Dzongkhag

World Cerebral Palsy Day

All the ABS/BMZ/DAHW project Dzongkhags (Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang, Trashigang) and Thimphu observed World Cerebral Palsy on October 6 by engaging in various activities and sensitizing the public. Every individual had a touch of green to symbolize their support to people with cerebral palsy.

Chukha

CBID team, Chukha observed the day at Gedu town (0 point) sensitizing passersby and tying a ribbon around the wrist. Simultaneously the team raised a donation for Tandin Tshering, 12 years old boy with cerebral palsy whose parents are financially weak to meet the daily expenses of their family. With the amount raised, the Coordinator Ms. Tshering Zangmo and Two Assistant Coordinators Ms. Pema Yangki and Ms. Karma Om, Chukha bought a rice cooker and diapers for Tandin and the remaining



Tying a ribbon to mark the day



Sensitizing about disability at Gedu Hospital

balance was handed over to the parents to spend for the living expenses. Furthermore, the day

was also observed at the Gedu Hospital whereby the team engaged the patients by showing them motivational videos about disabilities as well as engaging the attendants in activities to sensitize about cerebral palsy. Lunch and refreshments were served to the staff and patients at the hospital.

Dagana

CBID team Dagana observed the day at Gesarling Central School coinciding with their football open tournament. Before the match began, the team sensitized about cerebral palsy to the players and the audiences then tied ribbons around the arms marking their support for people with cerebral palsy. They also engaged Gesarling students in a three-legged race, experiencing the difficulties people with cerebral palsy face. Prizes were awarded to the winners and all the participants had a fruitful day.



Students of Gesarling Center School in a three-legged race



Prize awarding to the winners

Sarpang

CBID team Sarpang observed the day at Sarpang Central School. Presentation about cerebral palsy and community roles were presented by Dr. Tashi Dorji from Sarpang General Hospital to the teachers and students followed by activities such as buttoning the coat, writing with left hand, hand free biscuit eating competition. It was an energizing involvement and all the participants were entertained as well as sensitized about the difficulties people with cerebral palsy face.



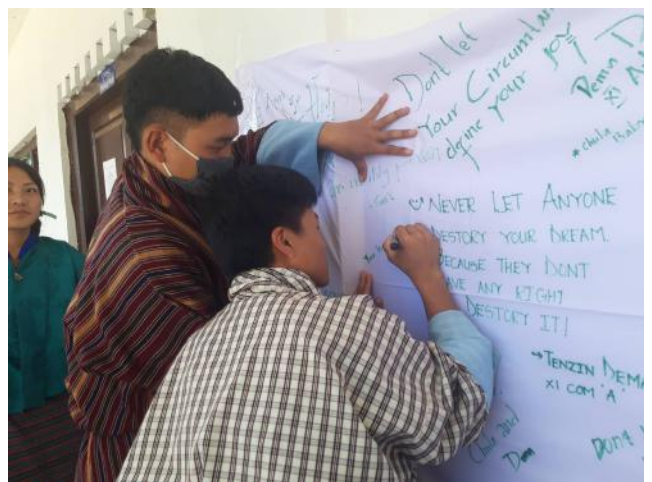
Students of Sarpang Central School observing the day

Trashigang

CBID team Trashigang observed at Kelki High School, Yonphu along with "The Blurred Normals", a young group of ambassadors from Sherubtse College. Activities such as three-legged race, buttoning coat, free hand biscuit eating competition and others were conducted. They also had the participants make an origami with the green colored paper symbolizing cerebral palsy as well as passing on their messages on the white cloth. The team expressed the difficulties people with cerebral palsy face and stressed the support they need.



Making creative origamis at Trashigang



The participants observing the day by writing their messages

Punakha & Thimphu

Children of ABS and Changangkha MSS were taken to Punakha for an exposure tour to observe the day. For many, it was their first time out of Thimphu and to Punakha, and the children were very excited to see the new scenarios. Parents were grateful for this journey with their children, to have this opportunity to spend some time with their children out of their homes. The day was collaborated with CBID team Punakha by visiting Chimmi Lhakhang and having a pot luck lunch at Zomlingthang with children with disabilities and their family members.



Pot luck at Zomlingthang, Punakha

International Day of Persons with disabilities

All the five project Dzongkhags teams and Thimphu were actively involved in observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by inviting local leaders, relevant stakeholders, people with disabilities and their families and conducting various activities. It commenced with a speech about disability and the importance of observing the day followed by cultural programs (dance) in between. Further, persons with disabilities' talent was presented in 5 project Dzongkhags aligning with this year's theme '**Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda**' as well as promote an understanding about disability issues and mobilize support for dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities. Certificates to all the PWDs/CWDs who participated were given to acknowledge and encourage their participation. ABS, Thimphu joined with SELWA to observe the day at Ecological Park whereby the works of ABS was presented in a stall.

Signature pledge on the canvas was also conducted in the five project Dzongkhags as well as in Thimphu starting with the chief guests, local leaders, relevant stakeholders, persons with disabilities & families. They pledged to work towards the goal of social inclusion and passed on the message to encourage PWDs participation in the community.

Art competition on the theme "Accessibility, a major barrier to inclusion" was organized among the students of Royal University of Bhutan and the result was announced on 3rd December to observe the day. Through the visual representations this year, we aimed to create a wider understanding about disability in the Bhutanese Society and contribute for a social cause.

Panel discussion on the International Disability Day was aired in the national television Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) by inviting relevant stakeholders. The discussions were covered in both English and Dzongkha and also broadcast in BBS Radio.



His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Bhutan visiting ABS stall at Thimphu



Being in the shoes of person with visual impairment at Trashigang



Showcasing people with disability's talent at Sarpang



A boy with disability singing at Dagana



Pledge signing at Chukha



Signature Pledge at Punakha

PICTURE GALLERY









OTHER ACTIVITIES

Project Launch: Social Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan

On 20th January, the project on “Social Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan” covering five Dzongkhags namely Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang was launched by ABS in collaboration with Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHW) at Hotel Taj Tashi. The event was graced by the Honourable Health Minister Dechen Wangmo. Her Excellency shared about the concern of public health and thanked the development partners and all CSOs representing persons with disability and health workers for the selfless efforts and support in trying to address issues of disability in the country. Mr. Vivek Srivastava from BMZ/DAHW, Germany shared about the project being the first stepping step by implementing in five districts which is intended to cover entire Bhutan ultimately. The event then

forwarded to the Executive Director, Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk giving an overview of the project. He highlighted on project’s objectives, activities and the financial status; 85% of the project cost is to bear by BMZ/DAHW and 15% by ABS which comes to around Nu.6000000. The concern and challenges in meeting the project cost was shared by the Executive Director. Ms. Beda Giri, founder and technical advisor of ABS gave a vote of thanks after the cultural program by Royal Academy of Performing Arts group. The day concluded with a photo session and High Tea.



Mrs. Beda Giri, founder and Technical Advisor giving vote of thanks



Group photo outside Hotel Taj Tashi

Pick and Drop service

Ability Bhutan Society received one unit of Toyota High Roof Bus in 2018 as a donation by the Rotary Club of Taichung Chung Shin, Taiwan to be operated for the children with disabilities and their family members. The bus has come in very handy to provide pick and drop services to parents who have difficulty in transportation to come during events as well as to avail intervention services at the center on a daily basis.



Children and parents of ABS availing bus service

Volunteerism

Mrs. Kaushila Nirola, a parent of 7 years old boy with autism volunteers to give an hourly Qigong Massage to the children of ABS twice in a week on Tuesday and Thursday from 4 – 5 pm. She had been giving this massage to her son that observed improvement. Currently her son studies at Changangkha Middle Secondary School. Parents of children with disability shared their positive feedback on massage therapy provided by Mrs. Kaushila in improving their child in terms of reducing constipation and better sleep.



Mrs. Kaushila Nirola, a parent giving Qigong massage

Last Board Meeting

The 31st Board meeting being the last convention for the current members of the Board of Trustees, the Chairperson thanked all esteemed board members for their hard work and contribution. Furthermore, Mrs. Beda Giri, Technical Advisor and the Founder of ABS formally resigned from ABS nevertheless she will continue to work as a Technical Advisor to the ABS/BMZ/DAHW project.



The last board meeting with ABS staff

The national children's day of Bangladesh celebrated in ABS

Ability Bhutan Society with the Embassy of Bangladesh in Thimphu celebrated the national children's day of Bangladesh today on 17th March 2019 at ABS, which is also the Birth Anniversary of their Father of Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The event was graced by The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bhutan His Excellency Jishnu Roy Choudhury



Observation of Children's Day of Bangladesh at ABS

Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO) visit



An official from BTO presenting on toilet varieties for children with disabilities

A team from Bhutan Toilet Organization visited ABS and presented on a toilet option for children with disabilities to the staff of ABS and parents/ family members. Thank you for your time and effort in creating awareness.

Visit from Bumthang schools



Teachers from Bumthang schools exploring ABS park

On 29th May 2019, Deputy Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer, Bumthang along with nine teachers from 9 different schools from Bumthang escorted by Mrs. Chimi Lhamo, teacher from Changangkha MSS came for a field visit at ABS. They observed the classes, interacted with children and explored the surroundings. A brief presentation about ABS and the ongoing programmes was presented and assisted to their inquiries.

Offering butter lamps and prayers on Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck's Birthday on 4th June



Offering prayers on Her Majesty TheGyaltsuen's birthday at Dechenphu Lhakhang, Thimphu

ABS family visited Dechenphu Lhakhang to offer prayers on Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck's birth anniversary. It was a joyful occasion as parents and children lit the butter lamp and celebrated together.

Election of New Board of Trustees



Election of 3rd Board of Trustees at Hotel Phuntshopelri

Ability Bhutan Society conducted the election of the 3rd Board of Trustees on 14th June 2019 at Hotel Phuntshopelri at 6:30pm. As per the article of association of Ability Bhutan Society, Article 5, Section1, Clause i states that *"The Board shall comprise of four to seven members consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Member Secretary, Treasurer and such other trustees, elected by the members from among the interested, committed and capable members of the Society"*

The registered members recorded in ABS are the Standing Instruction (SI) members, donors,

development partners, parents and staff however most of the voters who were present during the election were parents, staff and some of the development partners. A total of 58 voters were present.

There were eleven nominees among which the candidates who secured the six highest votes were elected. Moreover, additional member from the parent representatives which secured the highest vote during the formal voting by the parents in April, was appointed as Board member. Ms. Saldon Lhamu, Her Majesty’s secretariat shall continue to serve as Board of Trustees. Thus, a total of eight members will function as the Board of Trustees.

Coping with struggles



Dr. Karin, Clinical Psychologist and Dr. Ugyen Dem, Psychiatric from JDWNRH visited Ability Bhutan Society on 27th June to talk with the parents about how to cope up with their struggles.

Grooming young trainees



Distributed awareness posters to the young trainees

Two ECCD facilitators and six trainees were accompanied by the CEO of Bhutan Institute of Training and Development to ABS to observe the sessions, interact with children and staff on 15th August 2019.

Officials from Loden Foundation



Officials from Loden Foundation sharing about possible business grants

Two officials from Loden Foundation visited ABS on 20th August to share about their services to the parents of ABS. The official shared that they are looking into the possibility of getting different grant for parents of children with disabilities however they encouraged to submit business proposals and compete among others.

The Prime Minister’s (PM) visits



His Excellency the PM meeting ABS staff

His Excellency Prime Minister of Bhutan visited ABS on 06/09/2019 and interacted with the staff of ABS.

Representative from 7 schools visit at ABS

A total of 22 teachers from different schools across the country escorted by two teachers from Changangkha Middle Secondary school visited ABS as part of exchange program on 26th September 2019. Teachers had a good interactive session with children and social workers, exchanging knowledge about the classroom intervention strategies at ABS. They visited classrooms and observed the

sessions as well as had a tour around the campus to see how the children are engaged. Posters and handbooks were distributed to the respective schools at the end.

Teachers from Tang Central School, Bumthang, Tshangkha Central School, Trongsa, Damphu LSS Tsirang, Kamji CS Chukha, Yangchengatshel MSS Thimphu, Drugyel LSS Paro and Wangsel Institute for the Deaf, Paro comprised the team.



Teachers from various schools with ABS staff

Visit from Norway

Dr. Solveig Kolaas, Psychiatrist and Ms. Anne Kippenes, Special Need teacher and music therapist from Norway visited ABS for three days meeting with parents and children and promoting music for healthy life. They presented on the pre-linguistic skills such as joint attention, imitation and turn taking that must be taught to the children so that they learn to communicate.

It is vital that children experience reality. Just like how a tree needs strong rooting for the fruit to bear, similarly a child needs enough attention and proper intervention to have results. Patience is one of the skills that one needs with children

with disabilities. It may look weird finding a person who talks with a baby, making faces and noises however, a child needs to be communicated even if there is no response so that a child can feel love, affection and have experience to learn language.



Officials from Norway presenting on music therapy

Visit from SELWA



ABS staff with officials from Selwa

Ms. Peldon Tshering, Executive Director and official from SELWA along with Mr. Tamiki Nakashima, Director for Bussi-En Group's Bhutan Office, Bussi-En International Social Welfare Organization visited ABS and had an interactive discussions about services of ABS and for future collaboration.

Blessing from His Eminence Lam Namkhai Nyingpo



ABS staff, volunteers and parents with His Eminence

On November 8, prior to the ABS annual rimdro, it was an honour to receive blessings from His Eminence Lam Namkhai Nyingpo for the wellbeing of all children with disabilities and their families.

ABS Rimdro



ABS annual rimdro

ABS annual rimdro was conducted on 10th November at ABS Office. It ended successfully owing to the massive coordination and organization by the parents and staff.

Google Team visit



ABS staff with officials from Google

A team from Google visited ABS to discuss on possible fundraising campaigns.

Observance of World Children's Day



ABS joined with other stakeholders to celebrate World Children's Day at YDF supported by UNICEF on 20th November 2019.

UNICEF PROJECT

ABS with both financial and technical support from UNICEF has been able to carry out the following activities extensively and reach at the grass root level.

Capacity building of families/caregivers of children with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders in the field of disability strengthened

Various trainings and workshops on disability (both theory and practical) were conducted in Tsirang (Rangthaling, Serigithang & Tsholingkhar), Zhemgang (Nangkor & Trong) and Samtse (Norbugang, Namgyachoeling & Yoeseltse) Dzongkhags. There were 273 participants (M-166, F-107) altogether from 3 Dzongkhags. The workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Jayasheree, Special Educator from India and Ms. Beda Giri, Pediatric Physiotherapist and also by the Social Workers who have practical experience in supporting children with disabilities and their families. The facilitators touched on the topics such as sensory activities, early intervention, social inclusion and nutrition. All the activities were aimed at understanding the difficulties people with disabilities go through and how as a family/caregiver should support them with patience and seek necessary interventions.



Participants in a yoga pose, experiencing the difficulty people with disabilities face

It was observed that the general awareness about disability in the community and among the families/caregivers was very limited. They also believed in past Karma and that the disability is the result of one's own conduct in the past life. Moreover, environmental barriers and the

economic background of the families were some of the challenges not being able to participate in the workshop. Nevertheless, a sensitization and consultation workshop aimed to create general awareness about disabilities in the community.

The participants not only included families/caregivers of children with disabilities but also relevant stakeholders who play a vital role in the lives of children with disabilities like ECCD facilitators, teachers, BHU staff and Local Leaders.

Formed and strengthened support group for families/caregivers of children with disabilities

ABS further extended the support group for families/caregivers of children with disabilities in Mongar, Pemagatshel and Trongsa Dzongkhag. Sensitization and consultation workshops were conducted to build the capacity of participants and create general awareness about disabilities in the community. The support group does not just consist of families/caregivers of children with disabilities but have relevant stakeholders who play a vital role in the lives of children with disabilities. They are staff from the hospital (physiotherapy & nutrition unit), ECCD facilitators SEN Coordinators and schoolteachers. In total, there were around 133 (M-53, F-80) participants.

Social network forum for Family Support Group was created and parent focal persons were appointed in the respective Dzongkhags for further follow up and correspondence.



Group activity

Orientation of Handbook for Parents and Caregivers of Children with and without Disabilities in Samtse, Trashiyangtse and Tsirang Dzongkhags



123 participants attended the program from Yalang, Ramjar, Toetsho, Khamdang & Jamkhar in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag among which 19 people with disabilities were present.

Soon after, the team visited Tsirang covering Doonglagang, Barshong, Gosarling, Semjong & Pungtenchhu Gewogs. A total of 220 participants attended the program among which 68 people with disabilities were present.

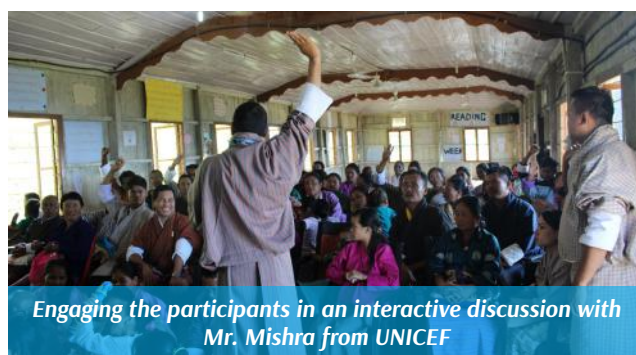
The team then went to Samtse covering Denchukha, Tading, Sangacholing, Pemaling & Norgaygang Gewogs. A total of 251 participants attended the program among which 14 people with disabilities were present.

Dega Nath Dungel, 40, a caregiver realized that his 5 year old Nephew was having cerebral Palsy when he did not walk when other children in his village did so at his age.

They realized that other children of his age were attending ECCD classes while he was still at home. The family members were worried about his life as they thought there was no future for him. Through this program supported by UNICEF, ABS was able

to instill knowledge about the opportunity of enrolling him in a school where Special Education Need program is included. The importance of having support within the family was shared so that the child receives the best services to make use of his abilities.

A total of 594 participants attended the program in Samtse, Trashiyangtse and Tsirang Dzongkhags.



Procurement

With the funding support from UNICEF, ABS procured early intervention toys and outdoor play equipment. The equipment will provide ample opportunities for children at ABS for more participation in play and learn different skills.

HELVETAS PROJECT

With support from Helvetas, ABS conducted capacity building of families and caregivers of children with and without disabilities in all the 42 Gewogs of Trashiyangtse, Samdrupjongkhar, Zhemgang and Samtse. Till date ABS has conducted the following trainings/programs

- i. Training on disability related intervention strategies in Trashiyangtse and Samdrupjongkhar Gewogs- 685 participants (M-324, F-361)
- ii. Sensitization on the rights of children with disabilities in Trashiyangtse and Samdrupjongkhar- 505 participants (M-292, F-212)
- iii. Consultation meeting in Trashiyangtse, Samdrupjongkhar & Zhemgang Dzongkhags (Samtse yet to cover)- 70 officials (M-53, F-17)
- iv. Community awareness in 4 Dzongkhags- 328 participants (M-151, F-177)
- v. Formation of Self Help Group in 4 Dzongkhags- 251 participants (M-124, F-127)

It was presented not only through verbal communication but activities in the form of short drama by the facilitators, participation

from the audience, video clips and real-life experience sharing were presented to them to grasp their attention and have them understand the difficulty of diverse disabilities. In that way, people experienced the reality of being in person with disability's position and have a change in perception. A woman who has epilepsy stood outside the meeting hall and did not mingle with a crowd. When she was asked to join the group, she resisted saying that she doesn't want to spread her 'disease' to others. It was an intimidating situation as the villagers simply mocked at her and was not included in the public gatherings. Nevertheless, it was an opportunity to advocate about epilepsy and stressing out that it is not contagious. She was made to join with others in the meeting hall and attended the whole session.



Consultation meeting at Trashigang Dzongkhag



Group photo at Boomdeling Gewog, Trashigang

ABS/BMZ/DAHW PROJECT

Project Title: “Social Inclusive Development for People with Disabilities in Bhutan.”

Project Goal: Contribution to the development of an equal and inclusive society in **Chhukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang.**

Project period: 37 months (1st of December, 2018 – 31st of December 2021.

Objectives

- i. Promote Early Intervention and Improve the Quality of Life
- ii. Efforts for Capacity Building of Grass Root Stake Holders
- iii. Improving the Self-esteem of Person with Disabilities, Families and Caregivers, Reduce Stigma and Discrimination.
- iv. Look for ways for the sustainability of the Project economically, ecologically, socially and structurally

Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) in collaboration with Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany and German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHW) India has started a pilot project on “**Social Inclusive Development for People with Disabilities in Bhutan**” to identify the situation and number of people with disabilities especially women & children which will promote social inclusion at all levels namely **Health, Education, Livelihood and Empowerment.**

The target group of the project is approximately **7750** people with disabilities in these Dzongkhags. Among them 1240 (16%) are children, 2712 (35%) women and 3798 (49%) men. Approximately 300 basic social workers, 340 employees of the Center for the Early Detection of Disabilities and 100 Religious leaders will be trained. Further there are still 2440 indirect beneficiaries from the project. To achieve the targets and equally ensuring sustainability of the activities, the project is involving and collaborating with all relevant

government institutions and non-government organizations at the Dzongkhag and national level. In addition, the project also will capacitate knowledge on disability to:

- i. Grass-root community health workers;
- ii. Early Childhood Care and Development center facilitators;
- iii. Teachers;
- iv. Parents /care givers on self-care awareness;
- v. Local Government leaders; and
- vi. Religious leaders.

Activities

Induction workshop



Project staff in an induction training at ABS, Thimphu

Mr. Shibu George, Head Project Partnership & CBID, GLRA India conducted an induction training on “Equal and Inclusive Society” to the Project team of Head Office and Dzongkhag Coordinators of five Dzongkhags from 23/01/2019 to 25/01/2019. The team were made aware about the upcoming project activities and the expectations behind each activity in order to reach to grassroots level as well as questionnaires for the need-based data collection and project implementation.

On the other hand, Mr. Venkateswaran, Head Finance, German Leprosy & TB Relief Association (GLRA, India) conducted training on an accounting system of DAHW/BMZ and maintaining WINPACCS accountant system to the Accounts Officer of ABS.

Training of Trainers

The training of trainers on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) and its guidelines was facilitated by Mr. Prakash Raj Wagle, Social Advisor, GLRA, Asia for five days from 25/03/2019 to 29/03/2019 to the project headquarter staff and five district coordinators. The training was customized to facilitate participants to be able to implement the project activities once they go back to their field.

Need based data collection



Need based data collection



Mr. Prakash Raj Wagle, Social Advisor demonstrating do's and don'ts while assisting people with disabilities



Travelling to the villages to collect data

Initially the enumerators along with district coordinators collected primary data/record of persons with disabilities from the Basic Health Units (BHU) and started with data collection reaching out to every doorstep. In between they came across many persons with disabilities who were not listed in BHUs. The team took around three months to complete the data collection.

Empowering ECCD facilitators on social inclusion

The workshop targeted in empowering ECCD facilitators on social inclusion. It was a successful program having engaged the participants through activities and enriching discussions. Around 93 participants including the Chief DEO, ECCD facilitators, monks, teachers, students of Draktsho and Sherubtse college from all 5 Dzongkhags participated in the workshop.



ECCD facilitator's training at Punakha

Orientation to the BHU staff in the field of disability

124 Basic Health Unit Staff including the Dzongkhag Health Officer, Assistant Dzongkhag Health Officer from Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang participated in the orientation with support from Dzongkhag Health Sector. Through the capacity building of BHU staff, they are in a position to fulfill the basic health care needs of the people with disabilities and encourage the parents/caregivers in early interventions.



Orientation to the BHU staff at Chukha

Training on self-care and self-esteem for parents & caregivers of children with and without disabilities

Around 640 parents/caregivers of children with and without disabilities from all the five Dzongkhags participated in the training. The parents and caregivers were briefed on disability, causes and preventions and common types of disability in Bhutan followed by detail discussion on developmental milestones (1-6 years) and red flags.

Life skill development orientation for children with disabilities



Project Official, Chukha providing training on self-care and self-esteem



Physiotherapist facilitating the life skill development orientation at Trashigang

A total of 46 children with disabilities from five Dzongkhags received life skill development orientation with their parents/caregivers.

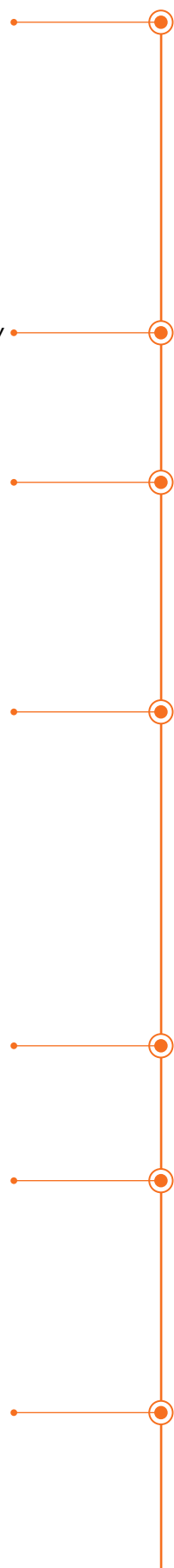
Many parents/caregivers who have children with disabilities are often observed to be left inattentive and because of it cause further panner to child's health both mentally and physically. It is seen vital that through early identification and intervention, the child receive the need-based services and

support, with the rights that he carries. Through this orientation, it was able to engage the parents/caregivers and the children in an effective discourse. The orientation was facilitated by Physiotherapist in the respective Dzongkhags with the help of CBID team. The training mainly focused on topics such as motor development and communications, social and emotional skills, self-awareness, managing, socialization and counselling. Initially, the children had a thorough check up and functional assessment form was filled. Based on the child's diagnosis, some of the home-based interventions were made aware for the parents to carry out so that the child could work towards improving his/her condition. This way, the parents were encouraged to manage time in making their child independent and supporting their abilities. Individual goals of children are also set and has been planned to review the goals every once a week.



Life skill orientation at Dagana

2019 MILESTONE

- 
- January**
- Training on 'Community Initiative in Inclusion' in Mumbai attended by Mrs. Pema Yuden, Social Worker for a period of 3 months
 - Ms. Sonam Choetsho, Program/Communication Officer attended Strategic Communication Training in Thimphu organized by Bhutan Media and Communication Institute
 - ABS/BMZ/DAHW project on "Social Inclusive Development of People with Disabilities" was launched in Hotel Taj Tashi
- February**
- Mr. Chajay Rinzin, Social Worker attended National Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme organized by SNV in Wangdue from 25th February to 5th March.
- March**
- The last Board meeting was held at ABS office with the resignation of Technical Advisor and completion of most of Board member's term
 - World Down Syndrome Day was observed on 21st March in Thimphu, Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang and Trashigang on the theme "Leave No One Behind"
 - Need based data collection started in five project Dzongkhags
- April**
- World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 2nd April with Changangkha MSS in Thimphu as well as other five project Dzongkhags. His Excellency The Prime Minister, Dr. Lotay Tshering graced the evening program by lighting up blue at the Memoria Chorten.
 - Mr. Chado Rinchen, Parent and Mr. Passang Sherpa, Parent attended workshop to develop Action Plan on National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in Paro from 15th April to 18th April.
 - Annual General Meeting was conducted at Hotel Phuntsho Pelri on 29th April
- May**
- Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk, Executive Director attended the Third cycle of Bhutan's Universal Periodic Review meeting at Geneva in Switzerland from 3rd May to 13th May.
- June**
- ABS family visited Dechenphu Lhakhang to offer prayers on Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck's Birth Anniversary on 4th June.
 - Election of new Board of Trustees was held at Hotel Phuntsho Pelri on 14th June
 - Around 93 participants participated in Early Childhood Care and Development training in five project Dzongkhags.
- August**
- Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk, Executive Director, Mrs. Bishnu Maya Gurung, Social Worker and Mrs. Pema Yuden, Social Worker attended sensitization workshop on Disability Equality Training (DET) in Paro from 12th August to 16th August
 - 124 Basic Health Unit Staff oriented in the field of disability in five project Dzongkhags

	46 children with disabilities received life skill orientation in five project Dzongkhags
September	<p>His Excellency Prime Minister visited ABS and interacted with the staff on 6th September.</p> <p>Mr. Chajay Rinzin, Social Worker attended training on Sufficiency Economy to Sustainable and Disability Inclusive Development Training in Thailand from 15th September to 30th September</p> <p>Around 640 parents/caregivers of children with and without disabilities received training on self-care and self-esteem in five project Dzongkhags</p>
October	<p>World Cerebral Palsy Day was observed on 6th October conducting various activities in five project Dzongkhags and Thimphu.</p> <p>273 families/caregivers of children with disabilities from Tsirang, Zhemgang and Samtse received capacity building training in disability supported by UNICEF.</p> <p>Support group was formed in Mongar, Pemagatshel and Trongsa with support from UNICEF.</p> <p>A total of 594 parents/caregivers received orientation of “Handbook for parents/caregivers of children with and without disabilities” in Samtse, Trashiyangtse and Tsirang Dzongkhags supported by UNICEF</p>
November	<p>Children, parents and staff of ABS received blessings from His Eminence Lam Namkhai Nyingpo on 8th November.</p> <p>Conducted annual rimdro on 10th November</p> <p>Mr. Sangay Rinchen, Accounts Officer attended Accounts and Auditing Training at IMS, Thimphu from 11th November to 15th November.</p> <p>Mrs. Sonam Choetsho, Program/Communication Officer and Mrs. Pema Yuden, Social Worker attended a workshop to develop C4D materials for disability advocacy organized by Ministry of Education in Phuntsholing from 22nd November to 24th November.</p>
December	<p>International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on 3rd December with art competition among the students of Royal University of Bhutan, panel discussions, signature pledge and showcasing talents of children/people with disabilities in the project Dzongkhags.</p> <p>685 participants on disability related intervention strategies in Trashiyangtse and Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhags & 505 parents and caregivers of children with and without disabilities were sensitized on the rights of children with disabilities supported by Helvetas.</p>

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ABS present the audited account of ABS for the fiscal year July 1st to June 30th 2019

It has an income of Nu. 22,209,862.85 and expenditure of Nu. 18,676,460.56 with the fund balance in the Bank Nu. 3,533,402.29.

The income was in the form of aids/donations by individual donors and organization both within and outside the country in the form of pledge, membership, donation, projects and fundraising events in support of various programme.



རྒྱལ་ཁབ་མཐོ་རྒྱུ་མཐོ་འཇུག་ལྷན་ཁག་།

ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY
Bhutan Integrity House



RAA/(OSA-07)/AR-ABS/2020/ 813

Dated: 16/04/20

✓ The Executive Director
Ability Bhutan Society
Thimphu

Subject: _ Financial Audit Report of the Ability Bhutan Society, Thimphu for the period 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Sir,

Enclosed herewith, please find the audited **financial statements and auditors' report thereon** in respect of the Ability Bhutan Society [ABS], Thimphu for the financial year ended 30 June 2019. The audit was conducted as required under the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018, and in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs).

Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements


As may be noted from the auditors' report, the financial statements are prepared by the ABS, Thimphu, in all material respects, in accordance with Financial Rules and Regulations 2016. Accordingly, the RAA has expressed unmodified (unqualified) opinion on the financial statements.

Achievements

The RAA has noted achievements made by the Ability Bhutan Society during the period under audit, which are detailed in **Annexure B** of this report.

The RAA acknowledges the kind co-operation and assistance extended to audit team by the officials of the **Ability Bhutan Society, Thimphu** which facilitated the timely completion of the audit

Yours sincerely,


(Karma Jambayyang)
Assistant Auditor General
Corporation & Financial Institutions Division

Copy to:

- 1) The Member Secretary, Civil Society Organization Authority, Thimphu for kind information.
- 2) The AAG, PP & AARD, RAA Thimphu
- 3) The AAG, FUCD, RAA, Thimphu

Ability Bhutan Society				
Receipt and Payment Statement				
(For the period ending 30th June(2019))				
Sl.#	Group/Broad Head of Accounts	Schedules	Receipts(Nu)	Payments(Nu)
1	Opening Balance	1	1,846,555.65	
	a. Cash		-	
	b. Bank		1,846,555.65	
	T Bank Ltd.		1,687,112.43	
	BOBL		75,246.33	
	BNBL		46,421.89	
	DPNBL		37,775.00	
2	Revenue	2	3,819,704.34	
	a. Operating Revenue		1,173,329.15	
	b. Non Operating revenue		2,646,375.19	
3	Grants:	3	-	
	a. Cash		-	
	b. In-Kind		-	
4	Donation	4	3,853,294.00	
	a. Cash		1,284,159.00	
	b. In-Kind		2,569,135.00	
5	Program and Project supports	5	11,267,198.36	
	a. Cash		11,267,198.36	
	b. In-Kind		-	
6	Expenditure	6		14,684,215.06
	a. Operating			2,544,980.22
	b. Non-Operating			2,694,234.72
	c. Program and Project			9,445,000.12
	Excess of income collected over expense disbursed			-
7	Other Cash transaction	7	1,423,110.50	3,992,245.50
	Principal Payments of Loan			-
	Restricted Fund		-	-
	Bank Loan Received		-	-
	Asset Acquisition			2,569,135.00
	Statutory Recoveries /Remittances		409,110.50	409,110.50
	Advance Adjustments		1,014,000.00	1,014,000.00
	Net Others cash transaction		-	-
	Excess of cash receipts over (Under) disbursement for the year		-	-
8	Closing Balance:	8		3,533,402.29
	a. Cash			-
	b. Bank			3,533,402.29
	T Bank Ltd.			970,484.16
	BOBL			425,009.33
	BNBL			97,283.80
	DPNBL			40,625.00
	Fixed Deposit			2,000,000.00
	Total		22,209,862.85	22,209,862.85

Prepared By:

Sangay Rinchen
Accounts Officer

Accounts Officer
Ability Bhutan Society



Approved By

Ugyen Wangchuk
Executive Doirector

Ugyen Wangchuk
Executive Director
Ability Bhutan Society
Thimphu : Bhutan

Ability Bhutan Society						
Statement of Comprehensive Financial Position						
(For the year 2018 & 2019)						
			2018		2019	
SL#	Group/Broad Head of Accounts	Schedules	Receipts(Nu)	Payments(Nu)	Receipts(Nu)	Payments(Nu)
1	Opening Balance	1	2,043,849.12		1,846,555.65	
	a. Cash		84.63		-	
	b. Bank		2,043,764.49		1,846,555.65	
	T Bank Ltd.		1,853,001.27		1,687,112.43	
	BOBL		123,617.33		75,246.33	
	BNBL		29,870.89		46,421.89	
	DPNBL		37,275.00		37,775.00	
2	Revenue	2	4,765,349.00		3,819,704.34	
	a. Operating Revenue		599,918.54		1,173,329.15	
	b. Non Operating revenue		4,165,430.46		2,646,375.19	
3	Grants:	3	-		-	
	a. Cash		-		-	
	b. In-Kind		-		-	
4	Donation	4	2,683,860.42		3,853,294.00	
	a. Cash		2,683,860.42		1,284,159.00	
	b. In-Kind		-		2,569,135.00	
5	Program and Project supports	5	1,862,638.36		11,267,198.36	
	a. Cash		1,862,638.36		11,267,198.36	
	b. In-Kind		-		-	
6	Expenditure	6		4,983,613.99		14,684,215.06
	a. Operating			2,250,760.20		2,544,980.22
	b. Non-Operating			2,732,853.79		2,694,234.72
	c. Program and Project			-		9,445,000.12
	Excess of income collected over expense disbursed			-		-
7	Other Cash transaction	7	337,274.00	337,274.00	1,423,110.50	3,992,245.50
	Principal Payments of Loan		-			-
	Restricted Fund		-		-	-
	Bank Loan Received		-		-	-
	Asset Acquisition		-			2,569,135.00
	Statutory Recoveries /Remittances		337,274.00		409,110.50	409,110.50
	Advance Adjustments		-		1,014,000.00	1,014,000.00
	Net Others cash transaction		-		-	-
	Excess of cash receipts over (Under) disbursement for the year		-		-	-
8	Closing Balance:	8		6,372,082.91		3,533,402.29
	a. Cash			1,119.28		-
	b. Bank			6,370,963.63		3,533,402.29
	T Bank Ltd.			2,711,520.41		970,484.16
	BOBL			75,246.33		425,009.33
	BNBL			46,421.89		97,283.80
	DPNBL			37,775.00		40,625.00
	Fixed Deposit			3,500,000.00		2,000,000.00
	Total		11,692,970.90	11,692,970.90	22,209,862.85	22,209,862.85

ABS Institutional Partners and Donors

International Partners

- Bhutan Foundation;
- Bussi-En Group, Social Welfare Organization;
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany;
- German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHWA), India;
- HELVETAS Bhutan
- Japan Overseas Cooperation Association (JOCA);
- Save The Children Bhutan;
- Shama Foundation;
- SNV Bhutan;
- Sound Ways, Singapore;
- Shuchona Foundation;
- UNICEF Bhutan;
- Wheelchair of Hope
- World Health Organization

National Partners

- Bhutan Toilet Organization
- Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan;
- Disabled Persons Association of Bhutan;
- Draktsho Vocational Training Center for Special Children and Youth;
- Election Commission of Bhutan;
- Gross National Happiness Commission;
- Kidu Foundation;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Education;
- Ministry of Labour and Human Resources
- Ministry of Works and Human Settlement;
- National Commission for Women and Children;
- Nazhoen Lamtoen;
- Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women;
- Royal Bhutan Police;
- Thimphu Thromde;

Donors

- Aum Tshering Pem
- Dr. Patanjani Dev Narayan
- Aum Deki Rabgye
- Azhi Jessla
- Phakchok Rinpoche & Sangha
- Sound Pictures
- Francoise Dommaret
- Ms. Choden Dorji
- Mr. Bhawana Kafley
- Ashi Khendun Dorji
- Dasho Karma Penjor
- Mr. Karma Wangchuk
- Tseyring Namgyel
- Mr. Pema Tshering (CEO T Bank Ltd.)
- M/s. Bhutan Home Stay
- Mr. Anand Acharya
- Col. Sonam Gyeltshen
- Mr. Peter
- M/s. BCMD
- Azhi Tessla
- Dasho Tobgye S. Dorkji
- Mrs. Genzing Zam
- Mrs. Khandu Om Dorji
- Mrs. Chukie Om Dorji
- Mrs. Sonam Choden
- Unique Rise & Drukgyel Holidays
- Mr. Chado Rinchen
- Unique Rise & Drukgyel Holidays
- Ashi Khendun Dorji
- Mr. Tashi Lhamo
- Dasho Bhab Thinley
- Parents Representatives, ABS
- Universal Genuine Parts
- Mrs. Dekyi Penjore
- Mrs. Karma Tsheten
- M/s. Kids Stop
- Ms. Sonam Yangzom
- Mr. Lilawati Chhetri
- Mr. Kinley Phyntsho
- Mrs. Phurbu
- T Bank Ltd.
- BoB Thimphu
- Embassy of Bangladesh
- Rinson Construction
- All Standing Instruction (SI) Members

WAY FORWARD

We hope to strengthen by extending our services to other Dzongkhags as well as reinforcing the existing facilities and have more support programme.

- i. Continue to work on ABS/BMZ/DAHAW project targeting various stakeholders.
- ii. Continue to work on Helvetas project to build capacity of parents/caregivers of children with and without disabilities
- iii. Network and collaborate with relevant stakeholders including government agencies, international development organizations, private/corporate sectors and civil society organizations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABS would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individual donors both international and national, Civil Society Organization Authority, stakeholders, partners, volunteers, Standing Instruction members and all our supporters for the support that we have received. This will go a long way to achieve our vision to have children with disabilities to live independently with dignity.

ABS NEEDS YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT

ABS sustain its efforts in providing much needed services to children with disabilities and their families by the invaluable support of the community and individuals. This assistance is vital in empowering children with disabilities to reach their highest potential. Your support and generosity can help us achieve our mission.

National Donors

Cash/Cheque may be handed over directly at the ABS office in Thimphu (or) Cash/Cheque may be wired into the ABS bank account with the T Bank Ltd., Account No. 77777005865003

International Donors

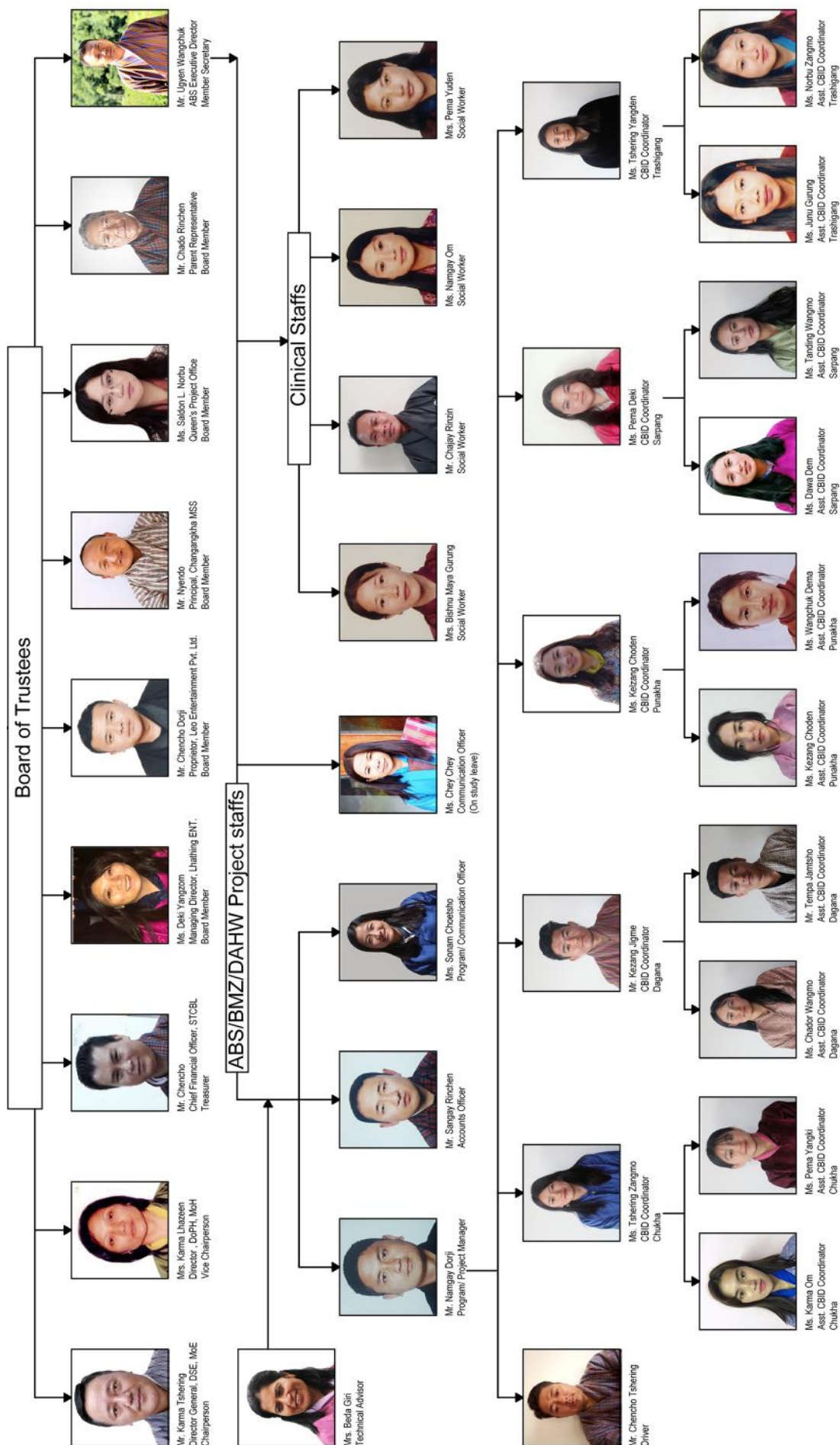
State Bank of India, New York
460 Park Avenue, New York 10022, USA
Swift Code: SBINUS33XXX
Routing No. 026009140

Account No. 77777005865003
Ability Bhutan Society, T Bank Limited (or)
Intermediary Bank in India: Axis Bank Ltd.,
Siliguri Branch, West Bengal, India

IFSC Code: UTIB0000035
Beneficiary name and address:
T bank Ltd., TCC, Complex, Thimphu
Account No. 910020017480903

Volunteers

Anyone interested to volunteer can intern for a minimum of 3 months.
Contact at +975 2340747
Email: info@absbhutan.org



ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY

Near DHI Office, Upper Motithang
Post Box # 1715, Thimphu, Bhutan
Tel/Fax: +975 2340747

Email: info@absbhutan.org | Facebook: Ability Bhutan Society
www.absbhutan.org

Design & Printed at Rainbow Prints

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

