**Terms of Reference for mid-term evaluation of Project**

***P 6182 Empowering & Engaging People with Disabilities- Bhutan***

**Brief Description of the project**

Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) Thimphu is implementing a Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) project ‘**Empowering & Engaging People with Disabilities’** in three Dzongkhags viz. Samtse, Tsirang and Zhemgang from December 2021 to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities**.** The overall expected impact of the project is to the “Contribution of the development of an equal and inclusive communities”, who are marginalized on various fronts so that they will play an active role in the economic and social life of their families and communities. The project aims to ensure equal rights in the society and enable them to participate equally in the community through establishing bridge between the individuals, their families, local leaders, relevant stakeholders and the community. The project covers all the 5 domains of Community Based Rehabilitation (Health, Education, Social, Livelihood & Empowerment) guidelines issued by World Health Organization.

The project with a measurable objective that 1250 People with disabilities, their families and carers are aware of disability services and have access to health, rehabilitation and education services and participate in social reform and livelihood forums. and the sspecific objectives of the project are; (i) People with disabilities have improved access to quality rehabilitation services, (ii) Children with problems at the developmental milestones are identified, access to education is facilitated and they remain enrolled and attend school, and (iii) People with disabilities contribute to family income/livelihood through income generating activities. (iv) Sustainable advocacy mechanisms and effective networking with relevant government actors for disability are established. Cooperation with government improves systemic efficiency.

The project is being implemented by ABS Bhutan through the financial support of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ Germany) and German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (DAHW).

**Project Activities**

Following key activities were carried out by the project from the inception of the project

* Project launch at national level and consultation meeting with the Ministry of Health MoH (Ethics and Research Council) for the baseline study.
* Introductory training on CBID guidelines & project implementation methods for staff
* Advocacy meetings with district officials and Gewog leaders on project implementation.
* Training on methods of needs assessment for volunteers
* Baseline needs assessment /KAP study in 3 districts
* Production of a short film about disability (Discrimination & Stigma - Myths about past karma) and dissemination
* Training of Trainers on Disability Entrepreneurship Models, Marketing for Key Project Personnel
* Training for staff of the basic health unit and village health workers
* Initiation and referral of medical and physical rehabilitation services in both district hospitals and BHUs.
* Provision of assistive aids for the severely disabled
* Enrolment of CWDs for training with educational assistance
* Training for ECCD moderators
* Training for school teachers and special educational needs (SEN) coordinators
* Guidance for school leaders on inclusive education and accessibility
* Life skills development training for CWDs and caregivers
* Establishment of vocational training centres and seed capital support for trainees
* Formation of DPO at district level and nurturing talent for development of handmade materials.
* Mentoring meetings on livelihood security and income generation for entrepreneurs
* Sensitization of stakeholders / government officials on disability at district / sub-district level.
* Celebrating disability days IDPD/ Autism/ Down syndrome, CP - by involving ministries, district mayors, leaders of political sections, communities, students, raising awareness for monastery leaders.
* Organize a national disability conference to identify best practices in disability services.
* Design and development of communication materials (print, audio, video) and dissemination via media platforms in both English and local languages.
* Annual review meeting to assess the progress of the project

**Purpose & Scope**

The purpose of this mid-term evaluation is to review the overall activities of the project, in order to have an in-depth understanding of the activities that are supported by BMZ & DAHW and how the support has benefitted the persons with disabilities so far. The evaluation would further explore if there is a scope for positive and negative learning’s to bridge the intervention gaps. The evaluator shall also document the key lessons learnt, key challenges and make appropriate recommendations so that DAHW might use to improve the design and implementation for a possible mid-course correction of the project towards the betterment of those in need.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the evaluation are to:

* Assess the role and performance of ABS in terms of implementation the project in a quality manner especially the effectiveness towards delivering the planned results.
* Ascertain the overall achievements primarily among persons with disabilities, community and stake holders in general.
* Assess the project design in terms of its relevance, understand current situation of people with disabilities by comparing with baseline assessment & mid-term evaluation reports.
* Explore the value addition of the project, in delivering services.
* Examine the linkages with key stakeholders including government agencies.
* Analyze the challenges including the underlying factors beyond project control.
* Explore specialized areas/ services that require further strengthening based on identified needs/ gaps.
* Review adequacy of DAHW & BMZ support to the project.

**Key questions**

* What is the current disability situation in the project districts and what is the contribution of the project?
* How successful is the project in achieving its proposed target & objectives?
* Assess the effectiveness of the sensitization sessions/capacity building to stake holders & to the community. How far these sessions have contributed to the early identification & prevention of disabilities?
* Assess the effectiveness of the Referral services? Esp. for medical, aids & appliances, education, labor/employment etc.,
* Whether the capacity building activities of the project is effective? Highlight the achievements and the challenges.
  + Training to develop Self-esteem involving persons with disabilities, their family members and community
  + Assessment camps / life skill development camps
  + Observance of International days for persons with disabilities
* Staff- qualifications, activities, training status. Is human resource adequate and effectively utilised?
* Is timely submission of reports (technical & financial) to DAHW/ BMZ
* Budget of the project and its utilisation – How efficient and effective?
* Is DAHW’s guidance, supportive supervision effective and adequate?
* What is the status of the project’s networking with other NGOs, government departments and other stakeholders who provides services to persons with disabilities?
* What are the value additions this project brings into the community?
* What is the perceived change in the quality of life of the person with disabilities due to the project and to increase the impact of the project?
* What are the changes required in the design of the project?

**Deliverables**

* Appropriate sites visit (all 3 districts), desk reviews, meet the beneficiaries & stake holders including government officials.
* Comprehensive assessment report highlighting the project achievements and existing gaps with specific recommendations to improve the project’s effectiveness. Recommendations with specific suggestions to modify the project design and project activities are expected.
* Documentation of best practices & challenges.
* A formal presentation on the findings of the evaluation and share the soft copy with DAHW & ABS.

**Evaluation Schedule**

The evaluator or the consultancy will complete the evaluation in 15 days (including travel & report preparation) commencing from the beginning of April 2023 as per the following schedule;

* 1st day – Meeting at ABS office, Thimphu, Briefing the evaluation methodology with management and staff and desk review (reports/registers/materials)
* 2nd day – Travel to one district
* 3rd & 4th day – Meeting at District office, site visits including visiting beneficiaries, interview various stake holders & government department & verification of achievements
* 5th day – Travel to another district
* 6th & 7th day – Meeting at District office, site visits including visiting beneficiaries, interview various stake holders & government department & verification of achievements
* 8h day – Travel to another district
* 9th & 10th day – Meeting at District office, site visits including visiting beneficiaries, interview various stake holders & government department & verification of achievements
* 11th day – Return to Thimphu
* 12thday - De-briefing with ABS management & skype call with DAHW Asia officials
* 13th, 14th & 15th – Report preparation and submission

***Requirements:*** The applicant must have adequate experience in the social inclusion sector especially in CBID – Community based Inclusive Development and should be thorough in Bhutanese landscape and fluent in Bhutanese dialects/languages.

***For details please contact:***

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