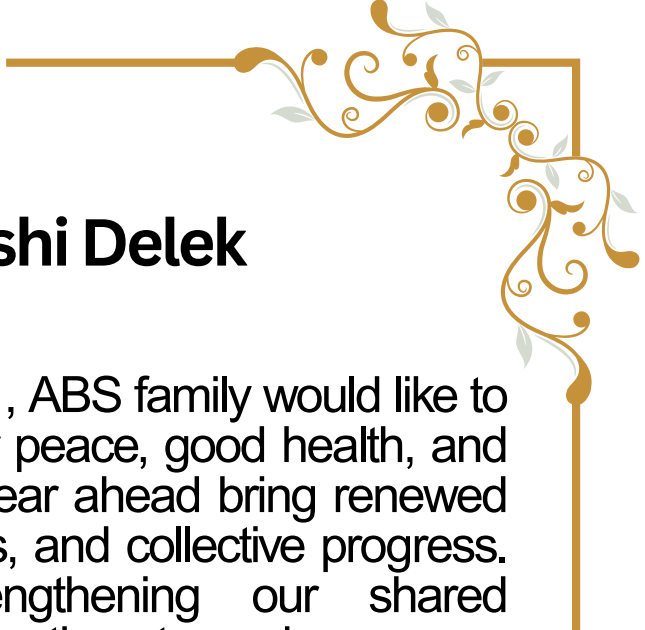


ANNUAL REPORT

“Reflecting on the content and milestones that shaped us in 2025”.

*“See the Person,
Not the Disability”*

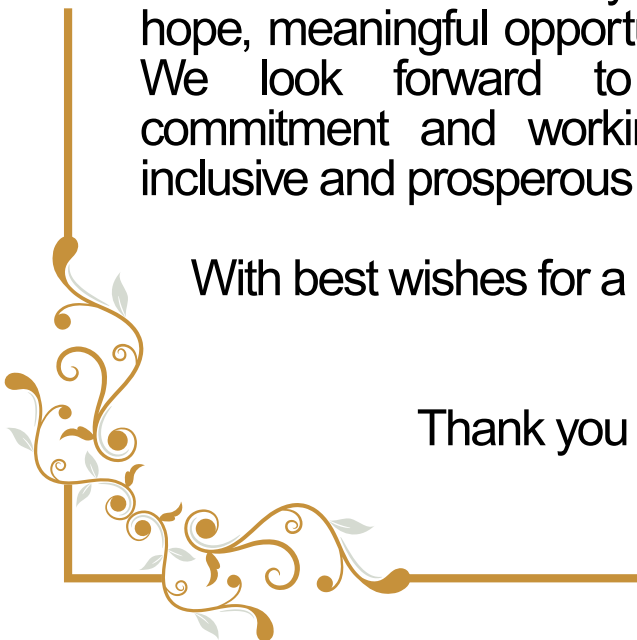


Losar Tashi Delek

As we welcome the year 2026 , ABS family would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for peace, good health, and continued success. May the year ahead bring renewed hope, meaningful opportunities, and collective progress. We look forward to strengthening our shared commitment and working together towards a more inclusive and prosperous future.

With best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Thank you for supporting us!



Editorial:

Kunzang N. Tshering, Executive Director

Pema Deki, HR/Communication Officer

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Published in January, 2026





THE ROYAL PATRON

Her Majesty, The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck,
The Queen of Bhutan

“Early experiences during our formative years are the foundations that
shapes us”- Her Majesty, The Gyaltsuen



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ཨ་བུ་ལྷན་ཁག་གུ་སྤྱི་ཚོགས། ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY

Message from Chairperson

To,

1. Her Majesty The Gyeltsuen,
Queen of Bhutan and The Royal Patron of ABS
2. Hon'ble Members, ABS Board of Trustees
3. Society's Members, Donors, Stakeholders & Well-wishers
4. Staff, Children , Parents, and Caregivers

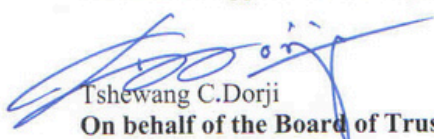


On behalf of the ABS Board of Trustees, I am honored to submit the Annual Report for the year 2025, marking the successful completion of the activities outlined in our annual calendar. The report includes the clean audit findings with no memos or follow-up actions required, reflecting the organization's integrity, accountability, and transparency in management of the Society.

With the support of Save the Children Bhutan and Invest for Children, an NGO based in Spain, ABS is now fully equipped with a sensory room and a resource center to enhance inclusive support services. In October 2025, ABS alongside 15 other CSOs received funding support from the Government of India, under its Project-tied Activities (Gol-PTA) to initiate disability inclusion across seven dzongkhags, enabling the Society to reach-out to more children with disabilities and their families. Further, the Society secured funding support from Save the Children to initiate early intervention services in Mongar over the next few years. Through these combined efforts, the Society reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that children with special needs, including their families, receive the care, support, and opportunities they deserve.

The latest National Health Survey (NHS) , 2023 reflecting 6.8% disability rate in Bhutan emphasizes the urgent need to strengthen and expand inclusive services, early interventions, accessible infrastructure, community awareness, and economic empowerment opportunities. The data reinforces the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders to ensure that children with disabilities are supported with accessible infrastructure, equal opportunities, and a barrier-free environment that enables them to participate fully and contribute towards social progress. ABS look forward to working together with its development partners and stakeholders in the coming years to advance these initiatives.

Finally, I would like to commend the management and staff of the Society for their collective efforts and dedication beyond their core responsibilities to enhance the lives and livelihoods of children with disabilities at all levels. Towards this, I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to our committed donors, standing members, and stakeholders for their steadfast support and contributions in advancing our mission to build an inclusive future. I am confident that they will continue to support the Society in the same spirit, if not more.


Tshewang C. Dorji
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

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Forward by Executive Director

Foremost, on behalf of the management & staff of Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year! Personally, I would also like to express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees, and my colleagues for the guidance & support rendered to me in performing my duties as per the mandate enshrined in the Articles of Association of the Society.

This report in nutshell is a reflection of our collective efforts towards the noble cause of ABS, with Her Majesty the Royal Patron of ABS at the helm. Together, we have lived the year 2025 beautifully, and as the year ends, we are proud to reflect on the meaningful progress we've achieved collectively in improving outcomes for our clients, primarily the children with disabilities aged 0 -18 years. The year has also been defined by a greater government - CSO collaboration, with historical launching of an inclusive social project funded by the Government of India under its Project-tied Activities (Gol-PTA) for the first time in the history of Bhutan - India friendship collaboration. Such initiative by the Royal Government to accord approval of Gol-PTA projects for the CSOs is not only aligned to the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities 2019, but also towards fulfilling Bhutan's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Bhutan ratified the convention in October 2023.

ABS as a public benefit organization (PBO) intends to pioneer in reshaping the landscape of the disability care industry in the country by making our services more accessible and affordable for all. We believe that the real growth begins with empathy, as it allow us to listen before we act, understand before we advise, and serve with intention rather than transitions, as every person who walks into ABS carries more than a prescription from the hospital. They carry concerns, hopes, and aspirations for their children. Recognizing this reality has shaped our approach towards early childhood intervention (ECI) services for children with the special needs.

Therefore, empathy has been our guiding philosophy, and a strategy for effective delivery of our services at all times. It is also our strength to build a truly inclusive & healthier intervention center of happiness for the children with disabilities (CwDs) in the land of compassion & GNH. We want to not only make our services accessible, inclusive, and equitable, but also resilient and sustainable. ABS as a service provider to the CwDs will continue offering a flying experiences, with a wide variety of wellness therapies, ranging from occupational to physio, speech to music, including Qigong traditional massages among others, with a full of small touches that go a long way. Introduction of these therapies at ABS in recent years, not only helped the parents to connect better with their children, and prepare them for transition into mainstream learning centers, but also to enhance their readiness to avail available services, both within & beyond ABS Center.

If Bhutan is powering her next generation of leaders with holistic approach, ABS will endeavor to complement her efforts with plans & strategies towards integration and inclusion of the persons with disabilities (PwDs) to ensure that no-one is left behind. Further, through network & partnerships of our self-advocates nation-wide, we will continue to amplify the voices of the PwDs and their caregivers in shaping the national & local policies, and plans towards improving their access to services, that matter the most for them to thrive. Believing that the community is stronger when all voices are heard, we will continue listening to their concerns & expressions, and accordingly plan to expand and advance our services to further promote well-being & happiness of the community living with the PwDs, across the nation through continued education, advocacy, and awareness campaigns with humility.

With great appreciations for being part of us to live the year 2025 beautifully. Thank You!



Kunzang N. Tshering

For and on behalf of ABS Management

Ability Bhutan Society

Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) is a public benefit organization founded on the recognition that people with moderate to severe disabilities, primarily children and their families, have special needs. It was registered with the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan (CSOA) under registration no: CSOA/PBO-15 on 10th November 2011. The concept of ABS was inspired by the vision of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, “of a compassionate and just society”. It was inaugurated by Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the Royal Patron of ABS, on April 6, 2012, as a project under the Kidu Foundation, a novel initiative of Their Majesties as an endowment for the Royal Projects.



The greatest strength of ABS today is the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty, the Queen of Bhutan, who takes a deep and active interest in the cause of ABS and social service ventures, focused on the health and well-being of children with disabilities (CWDs), inclusive of their parents & caregivers in the land of compassion and GNH.

Vision

See the Person, Not the Disability through investment in children’s abilities for an inclusive future, and a shared prosperity.

Mission

Translate the Vision into Actions and envision transformative solutions aimed at meeting the needs of ABS beneficiaries, primarily Children with Disabilities (CWDs), towards inclusive growth & development through targeted interventions, continued education, training, advocacy, and awareness campaigns. ABS will integrate to grow and innovate to prosper.

Our Governance

THE ROYAL PATRON

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck,
The Queen of Bhutan

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Tshewang C Dorji

Secretary, MoESD
CHAIRPERSON

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Executive Director, Selwa
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Director, Bhutan Foundation
Trustee

Mr. Nyendo

Principal/Specialist, Changangkha MSS
Trustee

Aum Tshering Chenzom

Parent of a children with disability
Parent's Representative

Mr. Kunzang N. Tshering

Executive Director
Member Secretary

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Kunzang N. Tshering

Executive Director

Mr. Namgay Dorji

Program/Project Manager

Mr. Sangay Rinchen

Accounts Officer

Ms. Pema Deki

HR/Communication Officer

Ms. Namgay Om

Senior Social Worker

Ms.Yeshi Wangmo

Social Worker

Ms. Sumitra Darjee

Social Worker

Ms. Rinchen Lhamo

Social Worker

Mr.Passang

Driver

Staffs of 2025



From left to right , Ms. Leanna Schoch, Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Mr. Namgay Dorji, Ms. Namgay Om, Mr. Kuenzang N Tshering, Ms. Sumitra Darjee, Mr. Pasang, Ms. Yeshi Wangmo and Ms. Pema Deki.

Volunteers



Ms. Leanna Jamilal Schoch
Long-term Volunteer



Mrs. Ying Bing Qian
Long-term Volunteer



Mrs. Eleanor Schoch-Prater
Short-Term Volunteer



Dr. Deepika Jain
Short-Term Volunteer

2025

ABS is one of 16 CSOs to receive a grant from the Government of India under its Project-Tied Activities (Gol-PTA) through the Royal Government of Bhutan for the first time. ABS received a sum of Nu. 5.3 million towards disability inclusion programs.

2024

December marked the successful completion of the 2nd Phase, 3 years ABS-BMZ/DAHWA Project supported by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in collaboration with German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHWA), Germany.

2022

The 2nd Phase ABS-BMZ/DAHWA Project, "Engaging and Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan," has been launched in Samtse, Tsirang, and Zhemgang supported by BMZ in collaboration with DAHWA, Germany. It represented the largest disability-related program ever undertaken by ABS in its 15 years journey towards serving the PWDs nation wide.

2021

A Handbook on Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), developed with UNICEF's support was launched during the National Disability Seminar co-organized by ABS, Bhutan Foundation, and Perkins International on 3rd December, 2021.

2020

ABS hosted the first ever National Conference on Disability in Bhutan on 1-2 December as a part of ABS/BMZ/DAHWA project supported by BMZ, Germany in collaboration with DAHWA.

2019

The project "Social Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan" was launched in five Dzongkhags i.e Chukha, Dagana, Punakha, Sarpang, and Trashigang in with the funding support from Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in collaboration with German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHWA/GLRA).

2018

Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, Royal Patron of ABS launched the Handbook for Families and Caregivers of children with and without disabilities, developed by ABS with UNICEF.

2017

ABS co-hosted the first International Conference on Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disorder from April 19-21, graced by Her Majesty, the Queen of Bhutan, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, and Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay.

2016

- *His Majesty The King of Bhutan awarded the National Order of Merit (Gold) to ABS on 17th December 2016, during the 116th National Day celebration of Bhutan held in Trongsa.*
- Her Majesty, the Queen of Bhutan unveiled the Wheelchair Accessibility Adaptation of Centenary Park in Thimphu.

2012

Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the Queen of Bhutan, formally inaugurated the Center on 12th April.

2011

ABS registered as a Public Benefit Organization (PBO) with the Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA) of Bhutan, under its registration no CSOA/PBO-15.

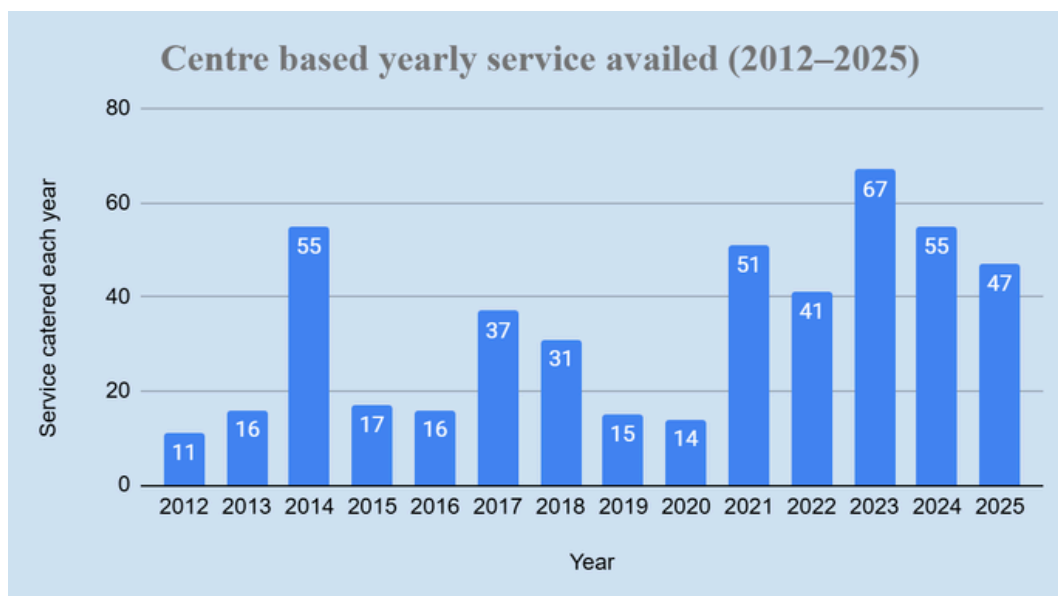
2007

A group of working parents of Children with Disabilities came together to organize themselves to work towards improving wellbeing of their children through collective efforts. This noble initiative led to formation of ABS in 2011 and registered as a civil society organization (CSO) in Bhutan.



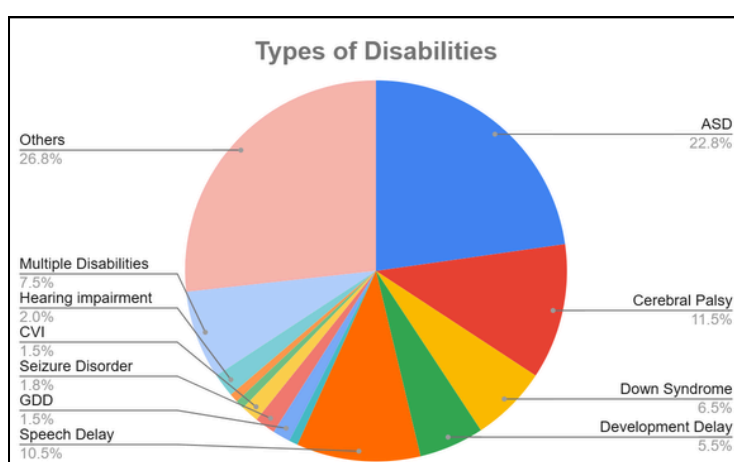
Diversity of Disability and Coverage

Since 2012, Ability Bhutan Society has been a place for children with disabilities to access need-based early intervention services, getting equal opportunities to learn, grow, and participate within the community they live in. In its 15 years of continued service to the children with moderate to severe disabilities, **473** children with physical and intellectual disabilities, including speech, visual, hearing impairments, and multiple developmental delays have availed the services on a regular basis.



Over the years, ABS strengthened its capacity to support children with diverse needs, and experienced growth in outreach, whereby children, including their parents and caregivers have benefited from early interventions, therapies, educational programs, and parental support services, demonstrating the organization's consistent commitment towards improving their lives & livelihoods for their growth and balanced development.

In terms of disability prevalence, children with Autism Spectrum Disorder make up the largest group, followed by children with cerebral palsy and speech delay. Irrespective of the size or severity of disabilities, the Society has been providing early childhood intervention services across all types of disabilities, empowering them with daily life-skills, based on their specific needs as mandated.



By separating service coverage by both year and disability type, ABS can track progress, identify gaps, and ensure that programs are responsive to the unique needs of every child.

Program and Projects

Program 1: Early Intervention Services : Core mandate of ABS

As we continue to strengthen the Early Intervention Services for children, this year we have **47** children availing specialized support to ensure their optimal growth and development. These services included individualized therapy, activities of daily living, family support programs focused on various disability conditions.

The establishment of a Sensory Room and a Resource Room this reporting year has further enhanced our ability to provide targeted and engaging interventions. Through these services, children gained opportunities to improve their skills, independence, and participation in daily activities, while caregivers were empowered with knowledge and strategies to support their children at home.

This year, we reinforced its core mandate of fostering inclusive development, ensuring that children with disabilities have better access to the care, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Intervention Milestones

473

Children with Disabilities (CWDs) availed early intervention services at ABS center since 2012.

140+

Children with disabilities have transited to ECCD centers, schools and vocational institutes between 2012-2025.

47

(31 Male and 16 Female) Children received early intervention services in 2025.

17

(9 Male and 8 Female) Children transited to School in 2025 alone.

“Early intervention is not just support-it is the timely investment that empowers a child to thrive, grow, and succeed.”

Program Highlights

- Ever since the introduction of Music Therapy in 2022, music sessions have been held every Friday, and there has been a remarkable improvement in children's speech and language development. The sessions have enhanced children's focus, attention, and concentration towards learning, while also strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills. Beyond academics, the program has boosted confidence, self-esteem, and social interaction, and has positively influenced children's behaviors and emotions. This initiative was introduced by Ms. Anne Kippens, a Music Therapist from Norway with support from the Progresso Foundation a charity organization based in Norway. We are deeply grateful for the continued support from Ms. Anne and the Progresso Foundation.



Music ToT sessions for social workers conducted every Friday.

- Since 2024, social workers at ABS have been participating in online professional development courses on disability and early intervention conducted by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) every Friday. Four of our social workers are certified caregivers to practice caregiving professionally. We are also grateful for the continuous support from ACU, which has greatly strengthened our capacity to provide quality services.
- With the continuous support of Mrs. Boyle Moira, a private Occupational Therapist and long-term supporter of ABS from Australia, and True Foundation based in Australia, our staff have had the opportunity to avail continued education and need-based training to enhance their knowledge & skills throughout the year including this year's training on sexuality and disability, which is important to ensure inclusion in all aspects of their lives.
- Dr. Deepika Jain, along with Mrs. Shetal S. Shah, a Speech and Language Therapist, and Dr. Vidhi Dishant Shah, an Occupational Therapist from India, made a follow-up visit to ABS and conducted one-on-one consultations, providing individualized intervention feedback and strategies for each child to support their specific needs.
- Every end of the month, ABS observes a Zero Waste Day, supported actively by parents to promote environmental awareness and sustainable waste management among children and the community.
- The year 2025 has been very fortunate for ABS Family to have two active long term volunteers Ms. Ying Bing Qian from Hongkong who helps our social workers with the daily intervention services and Ms. Leanna Jamilal Schoch from Switzerland, a Physiotherapist supporting children with mobility issues.
- We have also been able to restart our home-based intervention for children with severe disabilities, who are unable to visit to the centre.

Testimonials

"With time, his energy has channeled into structured activities, and over time, he started responding more calmly during sessions. Sonam's speech has improved drastically since he had no spoken words; he has now progressed to speaking clearly and communicating his needs with confidence.

Mrs. Nim Dem

Sonam Kuenzang Palden's Aunt.

"Mahira gradually began to feel safe and learned to trust the process and the people around her. Today, Mahira participates in her therapy sessions without needing her mother by her side, showing wonderful levels of cooperation and confidence. This transformation is a powerful milestone for her emotional development and independence.

Mrs. Bisham Sharma, Mahira's Mother.



"Through the continuous guidance of the ABS team, along with structured therapy and personalized support, Tashi has made meaningful progress. Today, she can sit calmly and attentively during therapy time, allowing her to participate more fully in her activities and learning routines. This improvement has brought confidence to our family and renewed hope for her continued development".

Ms. Tshering Yangdon, Tashi's Mother.

"Aayan has made remarkable progress. He is well-socialized, and engages happily with peers. One of his biggest achievements has been overcoming his fear of outdoor spaces, he can now play confidently in outdoor playgrounds, an important milestone in his physical and social development".

Mr. Ram Kumar Darjee , Aayan Darjee's Father

"Ever since Tashi Pelkee Wangmo joined ABS, we have witnessed a remarkable change in her growth and behaviour. Tashi, who is on the Autism Spectrum Disorder, initially had great difficulty with sitting tolerance and was often very hyperactive during sessions. Through the continuous intervention at ABS , Tashi has made meaningful progress. Today, she can sit calmly and attentively during therapy time, allowing her to participate more fully in her activities and learning routines including her daily activities at home . This improvement has brought confidence to for us and renewed hope for her continued development. Her journey is a beautiful reminder that with the right support, every child can blossom."

Ms. Kinley Wagmo, Tashi's Mother

Program II: Summer Camp, 2025

On 28th June 2025, we organized a visit to the iconic Dungkar Dzong in Paro, as a part of our long-awaited Summer Camp for the year. All of us, including children and their families were very excited to visit the Dzong, as it was the first visit for all of us, and moreover, the management of Dungkar Estate, not only extended us a warm welcome, and the guided tour of the Dzong, but also graciously hosted the luncheon for the day. This vibrant full-day event at Dungkar Dzong welcomed children with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and ABS staff to a joyful day filled with connections and creativities, making the year 2025 Summer Program an extraordinary and memorable day for all.

A Truly Inclusive Environment:

The accessible settings, including ramps and play areas ensured that all children could move freely and participate fully. This aligns with universal design principles of inclusivity aimed at removing physical barriers and promote equal access for everyone, so as to leave no-one behind.



Parent engagement program.



Summer Program participants at Dungkar Dzong, Paro.

Activities That Engaged & Energized:

- Engagement & Inclusive games for the parents - children & staff with a choice of evening refreshment menu displayed within the serene environment of Dungkar Dzong, enough to refresh & refill all of us and return home with full satisfaction, and happy smiles on everyone's faces.

These adaptive approaches reflect best practices in inclusive camps focusing on physical, functional, and social inclusion so each child can thrive alongside peers.



Family having quality time with children.

Community & Caregiver Connection:

Our event also provided a meaningful space for parents and staff to gather, share experiences, and connect one another better. Creating these connections is essential for both family well-being and the children's ongoing development.

Why It's Important :

Inclusive camps like this don't just offer a day of fun. They build confidence, foster social bonds, and empower children by creating environments where every voice is heard and ability is valued. They transform a simple outing into an experience of empowerment.

Heartfelt Appreciation:

A special thanks goes to Dungkar Estate Management for hosting our Summer Camp 2025, and to IMTRAT for providing transportation. Your support made this day, not just possible but unforgettable. We celebrated the moments of joy, pride, and togetherness from this inspiring day, all because of your support.

Program III: Establishment of Sensory and Resource room

This year, we established a well-equipped Sensory Room and Resource Corner at the ABS Centre with the objective of creating an inclusive and enabling environment for children with disabilities.

I. By the end of the year 2025, we could establish a sensory room that can provide



Our newly established sensory room.

a safe, calming and stimulating space designed to support children's sensory processing, emotional regulation, and developmental needs. The room is equipped with multi-sensory learning materials such as tactile panels, weighted equipment, soft lighting, auditory tools, and visual aids to enhance children's sensory experiences and promote their cognitive, emotional, and physical development.

Most of the children who come to ABS are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and these differences often impact the efficiency of intervention services as well as the overall development and learning of children with ASD. Recognizing this, the establishment of a standard sensory room has been strongly recommended by professionals both within and outside the country, as it contributes to the efficient and effective delivery of Early Childhood Interventions (ECI) in alignment with the ECI Handbook developed by ABS with support from the UNICEF Country Office.

II. Attached to the Sensory Room, ABS has also set up a Resource Room that houses



The newly established Resource Room.

specialized teaching and learning materials to support individualized interventions and therapy sessions. It also serves as a comprehensive collection of resources needed for the children. It is equipped with a variety of sensory and therapy materials, toys, books, and other resources designed to stimulate learning, enhance engagement, and address diverse developmental needs.

This space provides valuable support for parents, caregivers, and staffs in designing and implementing structured activities and interventions tailored to each child's unique needs.

The establishment of the Sensory and Resource Room was possible through the generous support of Save the Children, Bhutan and Invest for Children, a charity foundation based in Spain. ABS extends its heartfelt gratitude to the above institutions, through which the Society is positioned to enhance its capacity to deliver quality early intervention and right-based therapy services.

Program IV: Observance of International Days of Disabilities

As part of our continuous advocacy and awareness initiatives, we join the global community every year in observing the following international days of the persons with disabilities (PwDs), aimed at promoting disability inclusion garner social support to promote understanding, empathy, and respect towards PwDs, while reaffirming our commitment to uphold their rights and dignity through community engagement, and inclusive celebrations.

I. World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March

In 2025, World Down Syndrome Day was observed in collaboration with Dechenchholing Higher Secondary School and Sherabgatshel Primary School, under the global theme *“Improve Our Support Systems.”* Both schools, known for their inclusive Special Educational Needs (SEN) programs, played a vital role in promoting awareness and inclusion.



Observation of World Down Syndrome Day at Sherabgatshel Primary School, Dechenchholing.

The event began with speeches by the school principal and ABS Executive Director, highlighting the importance of family and community support in building inclusive environments. Participants also viewed ABS's documentary *“Breaking Disability Myth,”* which emphasized the early intervention, importance of community support. Interactive games and discussions involving parents, teachers, and children further strengthened engagement and collaboration.

II. World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) on 2nd April

The WAAD 2025 was observed under its theme *“Advancing Neurodiversity and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”* The day's activities brought together children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), their parents, caregivers, staffs and well-wishers to raise awareness, celebrate differences, and promote inclusion.

In the evening, as in the past, we organized a 'Light-it-up Blue' of the Memorial Chhorten in Thimphu, symbolizing support for individuals with Autism and advocating for broader community recognition of neurodiversity. The event underscored the importance of inclusive practices & encouraged the community to celebrate and embrace the strengths and abilities of every people with autism. This annual event draws special public attention and served as a visual reminder of the significance of the day recognizing the special needs of the children with autism.



Light-it-up Blue of The Memorial Chhorten or Stupa, strategically located at the centre of Thimphu city.

III. World Cerebral Palsy Day on 6th October



Observation of World Cerebral Palsy Day at ABS Center.

The world cerebral palsy (CP) day 2025 was observed at the ABS center, under the global theme *“Unique and United,”* to celebrate the individuality and resilience of persons/children with CP, and create greater awareness among the parents, caregivers, supporters and the stakeholders alike. The session focused on enhancing understanding of cerebral palsy (CP), identifying its signs and symptoms, and emphasizing the importance of early intervention, care and reflections on the significance of the day.

The event also brought together children, staff and families in interactive session that fostered inclusion, participation, and mutual support. Through such observances, the Society continues to reaffirm its commitment towards the disability inclusion, acceptance, and creating equal opportunities for the persons with cerebral palsy.

IV. International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3rd December, 2025

We joined the global community to observe the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025, along the theme *“Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress”* by reaffirming our commitment in promoting inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities across Bhutan. The observance highlighted the strength, resilience, and contributions of children/persons with disabilities, while emphasizing that inclusion is a shared responsibility of communities, institutions, and stakeholders for advancing social progress. Observance of the key international disability days has provided an opportunity to acknowledge the vital role played by the parents, caregivers, families, donors, stakeholders and the community at large towards building an inclusive future for a shared prosperity. These annual events help us renew our resolve to collaborate and work together for the wellbeing and happiness of the persons with disabilities, and achieve the 2030 agenda of *leaving no-one behind*.



Observation of International Day of Persons with Disabilities at ABS Center.

Program V: Ongoing Projects

Project 1. Empowering children with disabilities, including their families and caregivers in Thimphu and Zhemgang Dzongkhag funded by Save the Children, Bhutan.



Disability Assessment and life skill development training in Zhemgang.

Beginning January 2025, a project funded by Save the Children was initiated in Thimphu & Zhemgang dzongkhag, aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of children with disabilities, including their parents/families/caregivers and the community at large.

Through this project, ABS could establish a well equipped sensory room for children availing early interventions at the ABS Centre. The sensory room is now being operated to provide a safe, calming, and stimulating space, designed to support children's sensory processing, emotional regulation, and developmental needs.

We are already seeing improvement in the children in every aspect of their areas such as sensory processing, emotional regulation, focus, communication, physical and cognitive development, confidence, and social interaction. The sensory room continues to support social workers in delivering effective and individualized interventions.

Additionally, this project enabled us to conduct assessments of children with severe disabilities, by physiotherapists and audiologists to provide much-needed support services to those in remote villages of Zhemgang, who previously had not much access to such support services.



Disability assessment and life skill development training in Kagtong village, Zhemgang.

Following these assessments, need-based assistive devices suitable for each child was provided to support their daily activities, mobility, communication, and overall development, ensuring that they have the necessary tools to facilitate their participation in public space to the best of their abilities.

Project 2: Enhancing lives of children with disabilities funded by the Government of India, Project-Tied Activities (Gol-PTA).

In October 2025, received a Gol-PTA grant of Nu.5.3 million through the Royal Government of Bhutan for the first time in history of Gol-PTA project implementation in the country. This project will benefit the children with disabilities and their families across eight selected dzongkhags i.e. Lhuentse, Pemagatshel, Samtse, Thimphu, Tsirang, Tashitangtse, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang, where high prevalence of disabilities are higher and the reach out by the service provider is minimal. This program will serve children aged 0–18 years with diagnosed or suspected disabilities to receive referrals services school enrollment, vocational training , including capacity building of the parents, caregivers , public health officials and SEN teachers.

The project aims to promote social inclusion of children with disabilities, their families and caregivers by facilitating their access to basic health, education, and other livelihoods provided by the public service providers in the country, including government and the organization of the persons with disabilities (OPDs).



Home-vist for children in Phobjikha & other villages, Wangduephodrang.



Life skill development training for children and caregiver in Phobjikha, Wangduephodrang.

Project 3: Partnership for Quality Inclusive Early Childhood Development & Access to Basic Education funded by SDF and SC Korea through Save the Children Bhutan .

This project will be implemented in Mongar dzongkhag in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), Dzongkhag Administration and the Local Governance, with focus on Quality Inclusive Early Childhood Development & Access to Basic Education.

Through this project, we intend to reach-out to 917 beneficiaries, targeting children, parents, caregivers, stakeholders, and decision-makers at both Dzongkhag and Gewog levels. The overarching goal is to improve access to inclusive and quality education for children with all abilities under Mongar Dzongkhag. The project also aims to improve access by addressing key infrastructure barriers to inclusive schools & ECCD centers by upgradation of physical infrastructures, such as ramps, accessible toilets, railings and signage.



Consultation meeting with Partners and Donors, Thimphu.

Through this project, ABS will also focus on strengthening collaboration and building the capacity of parent support groups, communities and other stakeholders to improve community outreach and deliver effective support services. An advocacy and awareness campaigns will be co-designed and implemented to enhance awareness, better understanding of the special needs of the persons with disabilities, reduce stigma, promote inclusive attitudes, and encourage the continued education of out-of-school children with disabilities. Through coordinated efforts, the project will ensure sustainable, timely and rights-based support for children with disabilities across all gewogs with focus to education and health care services.

Project 4: Five year disability support project funded by Invest for Children, Charity foundation in Spain.

The Invest for Children project aims to promote the social inclusion and empowerment of children with disabilities and their families by enhancing their access to essential services, such as health, education, employment and livelihoods. The project targets 3 far-east districts of Lhuentse, Mongar and Trashiyangtse, identified based on the need of ABS interventions at the community level. Children with disabilities and their families often face multiple barriers especially accessing basic social rights, which increases their vulnerability to poverty and social exclusion. Recognizing that disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty, the project focuses on fostering inclusive development by strengthening the support system among service providers and building capacity of the communities. The project seeks to engage & empower the children with disabilities and their caregivers with daily life-skills & support systems for inclusion in mainstream development processes. To achieve the project's objectives, various activities will be implemented across the above three districts, starting with stakeholder coordination meetings held at district on the project implementation strategies and to strengthen local coordination at gewog level. Following this, we will develop format for data collection and circulate to the concerned Dzongkhag and Gewog officials to collect basic data on PWDs with focus on children to learn and understand the status of the children with disabilities. This baseline data will help us procure the assistive devices based on the need and the ability to reap the benefit of the devices issued.



Sensitization on disability inclusion for public at Tsankhar Gewog centre in Autsho, Lhuentse.

Our intervention will focus on referral of children for medical and physical check-ups and rehabilitation services in collaboration with public health centers and local leaders. In addition, home-based intervention services for children with severe disabilities will be planned in consultation with district hospitals and local leaders, ensuring that no child is left behind in accessing developmental support. Life skills development training programs will be organized for children with disabilities and their caregivers to strengthen their confidence and capacity to participate in daily life activities. Sensitization programs for the stakeholders and public officials at district and sub-district levels will be conducted to raise awareness on disability and inclusion, encouraging a more supportive and responsive environment for persons with disabilities.



Participants taking part in experiencing disability in Kurtoe Gewog, Lhuentse.

“Bringing communities together to create a more inclusive, supportive, and empowering environment for everyone”.

Impacts : Transforming lives

I. Impact of ABS/BMZ/DAHW project

The project “Engaging & Empowering Persons with Disabilities” achieved substantial and measurable impact across the three target districts by improving access to services, strengthening livelihoods, and fostering inclusive community systems.

At the individual and household level, the project directly reached 2,747 persons with disabilities, significantly exceeding the initial target of 1,250. A total of 1,813 persons with disabilities accessed health and rehabilitation services, including assessments conducted through district hospitals, BHUs, and outreach clinics. Additionally, 189 persons received assistive devices, while many others benefited through complementary government support, resulting in improved mobility, independence, and daily functioning. 1,537 persons with disabilities and caregivers were trained in self-care and basic living skills, contributing to better home-based care and reduced health risks.

In the education sector, the project facilitated inclusive education for children with disabilities by supporting 72 children enrolled in schools and institutes, improving school accessibility in 9 educational facilities, and strengthening stakeholder capacity. A total of 130 teachers, 78 ECCD facilitators, 30 school heads, and 238 parents and teachers were sensitized and trained on inclusive education and early identification of disabilities. These interventions contributed to improved school retention and a more enabling learning environment for children with disabilities.



Students from Mendrelgang P.S. Tsirang receiving dress and school stationaries from ABS/BMZ/DAHW project.

In terms of economic empowerment, the project strengthened livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities through vocational skills training and entrepreneurship support. 74 persons with disabilities were trained in tailoring and weaving, with 98.6% receiving start-up capital to establish micro-enterprises. Overall, 236 persons with disabilities were engaged in income-generating activities through agricultural self-sufficiency, individual or group ventures, and community-run micro-enterprises, leading to increased household income and economic resilience.

At the community level, the project promoted inclusive governance and advocacy by establishing 3 district-level Self-Help Group (SHG) representing 32 villages. These platforms enabled persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making, advocate for their rights, and engage with local authorities. Furthermore, 927 stakeholders including district officials, health workers, teachers, religious leaders, CSOs, and community members were sensitized on inclusive development, while large-scale awareness initiatives reached more than 10,000 people through disability observance events and public campaigns.

Overall, the project has contributed to improved quality of life, increased social participation, and strengthened institutional responsiveness for persons with disabilities in the three districts. By embedding inclusive practices within local government systems, community structures, and service delivery mechanisms, the project has laid a strong foundation for sustained impact beyond the project period, supporting Bhutan's commitments to disability inclusion and long-term social transformation.

II.Children's journey through early interventions

A). Story of Kinley Phuntsho-Through a Grandmother's Eyes.

4- year-and 5-month-old Kinley has been with ABS for the past two years. Currently, he is under full care of his loving grandmother, who is his constant source of strength and support. Kinley was diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), a condition that affects how the brain processes visual information. This impacted his ability to interact with the world around him, limiting his daily living skills, communication, and motor development.



Kinley Phuntsho during an out-door play.

We first noticed something unusual with Kinley's vision when he was just a few months old. He wouldn't focus on faces or respond to objects in front of him. When we took him to the hospital for a check-up, that's when we learned about the Cortical Visual Impairment, and further assessments later revealed that he also had developmental delays, such as poor head control and limited speech," recalls Kinley's grandmother.

"During one of our visits to JDWNRH, a nurse told me about Ability Bhutan Society. I immediately reached out and was so grateful when he was enrolled in their Early Intervention Service.

In the beginning, progress was slow and challenging. "I often carried him to the Centre because he couldn't walk or even sit for longer period. He didn't play with any toys, and at times, I doubted if things would ever change. But I kept faith, remembering stories of other children who improved through intervention sessions at ABS," she shares. That faith was not misplaced. Over time, Kinley began responding to sessions, developing sitting tolerance, engaging with toys, and interacting with peers.

Today, Kinley can walk independently, and even "We first noticed something unusual with Kinley's vision when he was just a few months old. He wouldn't focus on faces or respond to objects in front of him. When we took him to the hospital for a check-up, that's when we learned about the *Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)*, and further assessments later revealed that he also had developmental delays, such as poor head control and limited speech," recalls Kinley's grandmother. "During one of our visits to JDWNRH, a nurse told me about Ability Bhutan Society. I immediately reached out and was so grateful when he was enrolled.



Kinley Phuntsho during intervention session .

He now utters simple words like "bye," "ma'am," and "no." These may sound like small steps, but for Kinley and his family, they are monumental milestones. Kinley's progress has been remarkable," shares a social worker. "He has achieved significant improvement in both his gross and fine motor skills. From crying throughout the sessions to now actively participating and enjoying playtime, Kinley's journey truly reflects the power of early intervention and persistence."

Kinley's story is a powerful reminder that with the right support, every child can grow, learn, and thrive at their own pace, in their own beautiful way.

B. Story of Kiba Ghalley - Mother's Courage, Child's New Beginning.

Kiba Galley, the first reported case of DiGeorge Syndrome in Bhutan, entered the world earlier than expected. When Kiba was born preterm through a C-section, the young mother remembers the day as a moment filled with fear and hope. The baby arrived swollen and fragile, needing an oxygen concentrator for almost six months before she could breathe on her own. Slowly, the family began to feel a small sense of stability, but their challenges were far from over.

By the time her daughter turned two, she was still unable to walk. Doctors advised multiple tests, and the mother carried the weight of uncertainty every single day. Yet, she held firmly to her faith and reminded herself that every problem has a solution, even if it arrives slowly. "A mother's courage is the best thing in a child's life," she says. "Believing in god and hoping for the best is sometimes all you can do."

Hurtful remarks from others added to her burden. "Forget about the medical challenges, people even called me the mother of a 'small mouth daughter'," she recalls softly. "But I chose to focus on my child, not on what others said."



Kiba Ghalley during an out-door play.

Her turning point came when a friend-of-a-friend told her about ABS. She said, when she walked in to ABS office with her 3-year old daughter, and perhaps with fear, but happy to learn that she was not alone. Through regular intervention sessions and guidance from social workers, she began to understand her daughter in ways she hadn't been able to before. "I learned so much about her from the social workers. I didn't even know many of those things even as a mother".

The family and ABS team worked closely together, exchanging videos of classroom activities and home intervention practices to ensure no milestone, no matter how small, was overlooked. "Slowly, my daughter started gaining strength, balance, and confidence. Today, she can walk on her own and even helps me at home," she said.

Mother and daughter now learn side by side. "I am learning, and she is learning," the mother shared with pride. "Being at ABS taught me that it's not only about my child. Helping each other matters. Seeing other parents and working with them made me realize that you are never alone." "She also speaks with gratitude about the support ecosystem around children with disabilities in Bhutan. "We are blessed with many services. It's up to us how we seek opportunities and make the best use of them."

Kiba's journey is still unfolding, but it is a journey built on resilience, faith, and a mother's unwavering courage proof that with the right support, hope grows into possibility.

C. Empowering a Child with Autism: A Father's Perspective

"For children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), understanding everyday social interactions can be extremely challenging. As a father, I have experienced these challenges very closely through my son, Drolgyen. Like many children on the autism spectrum, he was non-verbal, had no eye contact, zero sitting tolerance, extreme hyperactivity, sleep disturbances, and was completely fearless. At that stage of his life, even the simplest routines were difficult, and communication felt almost impossible. As parents, we were constantly worried about his future and unsure how best to support him.

Before joining any structured intervention, Drolgyen struggled to express his needs or emotions. He could not sit in one place even for a moment, and his hyperactivity often left him restless and exhausted. Nights were particularly difficult due to his sleeping disorder, which affected the entire family. As a father, it was painful to see my child struggle, especially when I did not know how to help him in the right way.



Drolgyen Wangchuk during one-to-one session.

By following the activities and routines shared by the ABS, I gradually started noticing positive changes. Drolgyen began responding to instructions and could repeat simple words. Over time, he started speaking meaningful words such as *apa* and *ama*, *nang na* (give me), *sho* (come), *jogay* (let's go), *toh nang* (give me food), *chhu nang* (give me water), *bye-bye*, and *see you*. For many families, these words may seem ordinary, but for us, each word represents a milestone and a moment of joy.

Our journey began to change after Drolgyen was enrolled at the Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) and then to Inclusive ECCD Centre, Changangkha. From the very beginning, the social workers welcomed us with understanding and patience. They not only worked with my son but also empowered me as a parent by teaching practical strategies and activities that I could continue at home. With their guidance, I learned that consistency, patience, and belief were key to supporting my child's development.



Drolgyen with father in out-door play area.

Another significant improvement was his sitting tolerance. Unlike before, Drolgyen can now sit with us for a few minutes and participate in simple activities. To help reduce his hyperactivity, I followed the intervention advice by engaging him in gym ball exercises such as jumping and deep pressure activities. These exercises helped him regulate his energy levels and remain calmer for longer periods. Seeing these, its small but steady improvements strengthened my confidence as a father and encouraged me to remain committed to his progress.

Despite these positive changes, eye contact continues to be our greatest challenge. Progress has been slow in this area, and there are days when it feels discouraging. However, through continuous encouragement from the ABS team, I have learned to celebrate every small step and remain hopeful. I now understand that each child's development is unique and that progress takes time.

As a father, this journey has taught me patience, resilience, and unconditional love. I have learned that with the right support, guidance, and belief, children with autism can develop skills in their own way and at their own pace.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the social workers at Ability Bhutan Society and the facilitators of inclusive ECCD Centre for their unwavering support, dedication, and compassion towards my son. Your willingness to guide us, your patience in answering our questions, and your belief in my child have left a lasting impact on our family. Your passion and commitment continue to inspire parents like me to move forward with hope and determination.

I will always remain grateful for your support. Please continue to inspire and uplift families like ours."

Contributed by : Pema Chedup, Dolgyen's Father

D. From a Volunteer's Perspective: Strength in Small Steps - Building Abilities Together, and Touching lives- *one child at a time.*

During my visits to Bhutan as a tourist in 2024, I had the opportunity to visit Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), through which I was deeply touched by the organization's compassionate services and its mission to empower children with disabilities. Inspired by their motto to "See the Person, not the Disability". I discussed with the management of the Society on my intention to return to Bhutan, as a volunteer to contribute towards the noble cause of ABS.

Accordingly, I did return to Bhutan towards the end of July 2025. I was warmly welcomed by the management and staff of ABS to begin my year-long volunteering journey as a physiotherapist from Switzerland.



My role mainly involved providing therapeutic exercise sessions to children with diverse needs and guiding their parents & caregivers. Each session lasts around 30–45 minutes and includes both the child and the parent. Having parents/caregivers actively participate is highly beneficial as it allows me to demonstrate exercises and techniques they can continue at home and respond to their questions directly. It is heartwarming to see how motivated and dedicated the parents are to learning ways to support their children's development.

Therapeutic exercise session for children at ABS Centre.

For children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), I introduced a specialised Qigong Massage therapy, a gentle technique developed specifically for children with autism. The core idea behind this therapy is to train parents to perform it at home, giving them a simple yet powerful tool to help their children daily. The impact has been truly inspiring. Families have reported noticeable improvements: better sleep, reduced hyperactivity, calmer behaviour, and progress in speech development. Some parents shared that their children, who once resisted nail cutting due to sensory sensitivities, now freely give their hands. It is a small act for many but deeply meaningful changes that make daily life easier.

For children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) and other physical challenges, I tailor therapy sessions to their individual needs, focusing on activities that can be incorporated into daily routines. Alongside sessions at the Centre, I began home visits for children with CP, realizing the tremendous benefit of supporting families in their own environment. These visits allow me to adjust assistive devices for better fit and usability, ensuring children benefit more fully. I also provide guidance on positioning, feeding, and mobility to improve comfort and independence. Feeding, in particular, has been a major concern for many parents. To strengthen my support, I reached out to a speech therapist colleague in Switzerland, with whom I had worked for three years. Through shared videos and virtual discussions, we were able to provide practical recommendations that helped improve feeding and swallowing for several children.

a) Story of Change: Sonam Dorji (Male, 7 years): A child with Cerebral Palsy

Before starting the therapy, Sonam spent most of his time lying on his back at home. His wheelchair was poorly fitted and rarely used, and he often experienced constipation due to limited mobility and difficulty in chewing. During my first home visit, I adjusted his wheelchair and demonstrated exercises for his parents. Gradually, Sonam began sitting in his wheelchair for 30 minutes to an hour each day, an important step for improving lung function and reducing the risk of pneumonia.

Later, he began using a standing frame. This is an even better training for the cardiovascular and pulmonary system and helps against contractions in the legs. Also, it is important to make the bones stronger and of course it's good training for the muscles. We also worked closely on improving his feeding and swallowing. With input from my colleague, a speech therapist in my home country Switzerland, Sonam now rarely chokes and has better digestion. At the ABS Centre, we continue to work on his mobility, teaching him to roll, to his side, hold his head up during tummy time, and sit with greater balance. We have even started exploring communication devices to express his needs. Sonam takes great joy in therapy and shows his disappointment when sessions end, which I believe reflects how empowering these moments are for him. His parents are grateful to the ABS team and proud of his progress, celebrating every small achievement as a big step forward when working together.



Home-visit for children with severe disabilities by Ms Leanna.



Engaging parents during play time at sonam's home.

b). Story of Change: Rigwang Gatsho Tenzin (Male, 6 years), a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)



Qigong massage therapy for children by ms. Leanna.

In mid-August 2025, I began Qigong massage therapy with Rigwang Gatsho and trained his father to perform the massage daily at home. Once a week, I had joint sessions with Gatsho and his father. Within a few weeks, his father observed remarkable improvements. Rigwang had become calmer and showed fewer behavioural challenges. Today, he is attending a regular school and he is doing very well.

While the academic work can still be challenging at times, his behavior, concentration, and language have improved greatly. His father proudly shared that Rigwang no longer teases other children or makes disruptive vocal sounds in class. The massage has become part of their evening routine. Rigwang feels so relaxed after every massage that he sometimes falls asleep during the session and also sleeps soundly through the night. His progress reflects the incredible impact that parent-led therapies and consistent family involvement can have.

In addition to Centre-based therapy and home visits, I also join ABS outreach programs to rural districts. Together with the team, we assess the needs of children who have little or no access to therapy, identify appropriate assistive devices, and demonstrate simple exercises their families can continue after our visit.

“This volunteer journey with ABS has been deeply fulfilling. Every session, every home visit, and every smile from a child or parent reminds me of the power of small steps and continuous effort. What started as a simple volunteering experience has turned into a life-changing chapter, one that has shown me the profound strength, resilience, and love that families of children with disabilities embody every single day.”

E. Fighter’s Spirit - Lives of Children with disabilities in remote villages of Bhutan

“At the beginning of October 2025, during our assessment camp in Zhemgang, it was both fascinating and humbling to see how children live in such remote areas. I now truly understand why so many families with children with disabilities travel all the way to Thimphu to access services and support. I want to share the story of two siblings, a 17-year-old sister and her 13-year-old brother, who attend school in a small, remote village about an hour by car from Panbang in Zhemgang. The family originally lived even further away, where there is no school at all. Determined that their children receive an education despite their disabilities, the parents relocated to this small village, building a very basic and temporary hut. They plan to live there until the children move to a boarding school in Panbang next March.

Both siblings are diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy affecting their muscle tone, making standing and walking difficult due to weak muscles and poor coordination. They often fall without support. Their hut is not an ideal environment for walking, particularly near the entrance, which is cluttered and uneven, making it a real hazard. Assessing the children and their living environment, it was clear that finding suitable assistive devices would be extremely challenging. A wheelchair or walkers with wheels or without wheels would not be practical due to the uneven terrain around the hut, and the road leading to school.



Siblings with unimaginable courage to live in a small village without accessibility in Zhemgang.

After observing and listening to their voices, we learned that the older sister already used axillary crutches outdoors, which helped her reduce the risk of frequent fall. Accordingly, we decided that axilla crutches were the best option for outdoor mobility for both siblings. When we provided one for them to try, they initially found it unfriendly and were a bit skeptical, but with time and practice, they are expected to adapt and become more comfortable with use.

For the brother, crutches will also be provided to prevent serious injury from falls. He initially showed resistance to use an assistive device, wanting to do everything independently, but over time it is expected that he too will experience the benefits and safety. During the assessment, the audiologist noted that both children have significant hearing loss due to a genetic condition. Because they had adapted so well over the years, the hearing loss had gone largely unnoticed and had been misattributed to learning difficulties. The audiologist fitted them with hearing aids, which will greatly enhance their ability to engage at school and in their daily life. What struck me the most was how remarkably resilient these siblings are. Despite never having received therapy or professional guidance earlier, they have adapted to their challenges with courage and determination. They receive strong support from their family and peers. Their friends arrive early each day to help them get to school on time, demonstrating the community's care and solidarity. These children make the best of the resources available to them and embody a true fighter's spirit, facing every challenges with strength, perseverance, and hope.



The elder sister showing how she uses the axillary crutches in and around her house.

“These children make the best of the resources available to them and embody a true fighter’s spirit, facing every challenge with strength, perseverance, and hope”- a true fighter spirit.

Contributed by : Leanna Jamilah Schoch , a volunteer

Taking of Agenda Chika Forward

Since the inception of Agenda Chikha in 2024, a national platform to strengthen coordinated action for disability inclusion in Bhutan, the initiative has provided a critical foundation for collaboration among key stakeholders. Taking forward the agenda's vision, ABS has been actively engaged from the outset and participated in all its consultative meeting . The 2nd meeting held in Dagana Dzongkhag was particularly impactful, as local leaders demonstrated strong ownership to take immediate practical steps toward inclusion, such as relocating the Gup's office to the ground floor and initiating the construction of footpaths and ramps to improve accessibility.

Building on this momentum, the 3rd consultative meeting was convened in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag, coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The meeting venue was strategically selected as the Dzongkhag has the highest disability prevalence rate in the country with 13.3 percent as per the National Health Survey . During this meeting, ABS presented a social enterprise proposal to build an 'Inclusive Play World', and engaged stakeholders in discussions on its potential to transform the play ecosystem in Bhutan with universal design by promoting inclusive, accessible, and developmentally appropriate play opportunities for children with disabilities. The dialogue underscored the role of inclusive play world as a catalyst for social inclusion, learning, and over all well-being of the PwDs.



Hosting of Prayer flags to commemorate the International Day for Person with Disabilities (IDPD) during the Agenda Chikha Meeting , Wangduephodrang on 3-4th December, 2025.

Looking Ahead, through the Agenda Chikha mission, ABS hopes to see strengthened coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, local leaders, and communities, leading to practical, scalable, and sustainable actions for disability inclusion. The mission to create a platform that not only shapes inclusive policies but also translates commitments into tangible improvements in accessibility, inclusive services, and equal participation across all walks of life. ABS remains committed to contributing towards Agenda Chikha initiative to ensure that persons with disabilities are meaningfully included, empowered, and well represented in Bhutan's development journey.

“Agenda Chikha represents our shared hope where inclusion is not an aspiration but a lived reality, and our collective commitment to turning intent into meaningful action for persons with disabilities in Bhutan .”

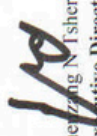
Audited Financial Statement

ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 JULY 2024 to 30 JUNE 2025

RECEIPTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (NU)		PAYMENTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (NU)	
		2024-2025	2023-2024			2024-2025	2023-2024
Opening Balance		248,933.26	1,409,874.49	Expenditure		7,013,512.81	6,702,092.23
Cash in Hand	1	-		Program Expenditure	4	2,041,934.78	2,763,716.76
Cash at Bank		248,933.26	1,409,874.49	Administration Expenditure	5	4,971,578.03	3,938,375.47
Fund Received		10,585,438.01	8,541,151.00				
Donation & Contribution		2,605,340.66	1,509,784.38	Fixed Deposit	6	1,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
Program Fund		5,937,705.96	3,153,525.72				
Income from Fund Raising	2	875,975.00	552,400.00	Advance & Adjustment	3	570,000.00	
Interest Earned		132,374.14	112,860.68				
Fixed Deposit Matured		1,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	Closing Balance		2,500,858.46	248,933.26
Other Income		34,042.25	212,580.22	Cash in Hand	7	-	
				Cash at Bank		2,500,858.46	248,933.26
Advance & Adjustment	3	250,000.00					
TOTAL		11,084,371.27	9,951,025.49	TOTAL		11,084,371.27	9,951,025.49


(Namyay Dorji)
Project Manager




(Kuezzang N. Tshering)
Executive Director

Executive Director
Ability Bhutan Society
Thimphu, Bhutan




(Rosy Chettri)
Partner

Institutional Partners

NATIONAL PARTNERS

- Office of the Cabinet Affairs and strategic Coordination (OCAS)
- Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA) of Bhutan
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Ministry of Education & Skills Development (MoESD)
- National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC)
- Samtse Dzongkhag Administration
- Tsirang Dzongkhag Administration
- Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration
- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Nazhoen Lamtoen
- RENEW
- Bhutan Centre for Media & Democracy (BCMD)
- Bhutan National Bank Limited (BNB)
- Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan Limited (RICBL)
- Druk Holding Investment (DHI)

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Bhutan Foundation
- Switzerland Society for Bhutan (SSB)
- Project DANTAK
- Indian Military Training Team (IMTART)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- German Leprosy and Relief Association (DAHW/GLRA), India
- Hope 108, UK
- HELVETAS Bhutan
- Invest for Child, Spain.
- Opening Your Heart to Bhutan
- Perkins International, USA
- Progreso Foundation, Norway
- Save the Children , Bhutan
- UNDP Bhutan
- UNICEF Bhutan
- Autism speaks, New York, USA
- Human Asia, Seoul, South Korea
- Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation (APDSF), Chennai, India.

Pledged Members

A. INDIVIDUALS

Premium Lifetime Members

Her Royal Highness Ashi Kezang Wangmo Wangchuck

Ms. Shaneen Nilofer, Former Country Representative UNICEF

Gold Lifetime Member

Aum Phub Zam, Yarkay Group of Companies

Sliver Lifetime Member

Ms. Nancy Strickland, Former Head of Bhutan Canada Foundation

Dedicated Lifetime Member/Supporters

- Aum Sangay Zam, Former Secretary of Ministry of Education
- Mr. Man Bahadur Ghaley, Former National Director of Save the Children Bhutan
- Mr. Pema N. Nadik, CEO, Bhutan Airlines
- Mr. Tshering Wangchuk, Former MD of Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS)
- Mr. Tamiki Nakashima, Bussi-En Bhutan Office
- Ms. Pushpa Chhetri, Bhutan Media and Communications Institute
- Mr. Dechen Dorji, Former Country Director of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Bhutan
- Mr. Karma L Dorji, Proprietor Pelkhil School, Thimphu
- Dr. Kunzang Getshen, ABS Co-Founder, Eye Specialist, JDWNRH
- Dr. Mahrukh Getshen, ABS Co-Founder, JDWNRH, Thimphu
- Madam Dekyi Pennjore, Dhejung Honda, Babesa, Thimphu

B. ORGANIZATIONAL

- Sunshine School, Thimphu, Dedicated Lifetime Member
- Bhutan Foundation, Dedicated Lifetime Member

C. STANDING INSTRUCTION MEMBERS

- Currently we have 193 generous Standing Instruction (SI) Members.

Ways To Give

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.

- T Bank Ltd. Acc. No.770219354
- Bank of Bhutan Acc. No.: 100921109
- Bhutan National Bank: 640222021
- Druk PNB Acc. No.: 110210009621

INTERNATIONAL DONORS

TBANK

Correspondent Bank :

Intermediary Bank for online transfer option:
State Bank of India,
460 Park Avenue, New York, USA.
Swift Code: SBINUS33XXX
Routing No.026009140

Beneficiary Bank Name: T Bank Limited
Beneficiary Bank Account Number:
77608355520001 (USA A/C)
Swift Code: TBBTBTBTXXX
Beneficiary Name: Ability Bhutan Society
Beneficiary's Account No. 770219354
Beneficiary Address: PO Box 1715, Thimphu,
Bhutan

BANK OF BHUTAN

Account holder: Ability Bhutan Society (ABS)
Account number: 100921109
Name of Bank: Bank of Bhutan
Branch: Thimphu, Main Branch, Bhutan
SWIFT Code: BHUBBTBT

Additional Instructions: Routing through
Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.,
GMBH, Frankfurt Main. SWIFT –
SCBLDEFX



“Your support helps ABS empower children with disabilities to reach their full potential and live with dignity. Together, we can improve their quality of life and make their dreams a reality”

Way forward- Focus on Agenda 2030

- Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) aspires to achieve 90% enrollment of the children with disabilities - aged 3 to 6, in Lhuentse, Mongar and Tashiyangtse, including Thimthrom, in collaboration with Dzongkhag, Gewog, Thromde Education Sector, SEN Schools, ECCD and Vocational Centers by 2030, so as to leave no-one is behind in the above disability inclusion project sites;
- The Society aspires to enhance its endowment fund from the current threshold of Nu.3 m to Nu.5 m by the end of 2030 for its sustainability & prosperity, by way of venturing into a viable social enterprise initiatives, such as a special tourism for the persons with disabilities (t4PwDs), an Inclusive Play World that provides safe, and accessible play spaces for children of all abilities, and through effective fundraising campaigns;
- The entity intends to engage with the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) meaningfully, and explore possibility of collaboration with the investors towards establishing a world-class early intervention center at GMC in the nearest future
- The entity also intends to invest the interest accrued from the endowment fund (FD account) towards creation of a dedicated reserved fund for staff gratuity and post retirement benefits;
- Over the next 3-5 years, ABS will implement the disability inclusion projects, supported by Invest for Children, a Charity based in Spain, Save the Children Bhutan, and the Government of India-funded Project Tied Activities (Gol-PTA), across 9 targeted Dzongkhags of Lhuentse, Mongar, Pemagatshel, Samtse, Thimphu, Tsirang, Tashiyangtse, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang;
- Through implementation of the above projects, the Society intends to build the institutional capacity, including training of staff for effective delivery of its services, and also to strengthen the government's basic data-base on the persons with disabilities within the project sites, with special focus on the children below the age of 5 years;
- As its core mandate, ABS will continue improving the quality of early childhood intervention (ECI) services at its center in Thimphu for the children with disabilities, including the capacity building of their parents and caregivers in parenting & care-giving;
- The Society with support of its Board of Trustees and other stakeholders will continue its drive towards resource mobilization, collaborations and networking for sustainability of the institution, enhance its reach-outs, and to expand its center-based services beyond Thimphu;
- ABS as a Civil Society Organization (CSO) will continue building its network & collaborate with other relevant CSOs and INGOs, both within and abroad to advance its mission of enhancing the quality of life & livelihood of the persons with disabilities (PwDs);
- As a core member of Bhutan-UN Agenda Chikha initiative, as well as the implementing agency for disability inclusion projects in the country, ABS would like to re-dedicate its strong commitment to support and complement the UN SDG agenda towards a shared global prosperity and the Royal Government's efforts for building an inclusive future.



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ABILITY BHUTAN SOCIETY

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Be kind, it's always possible !

**Thank You for being part of ABS journey towards
achieving the 2030 agenda of
'Leave No-One Behind'.**

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“We value every child”

Thank you

Currently located at Upper Motithang, Thimphu. We welcome you to visit us between 9.00pm - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

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