Agenda Item 5
Discussion on COVID-19 and Persons with Disabilities
Overview of situation of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

Update on ESCAP Project “Protecting and empowering persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”
COVID-19 Pandemic & Disability Inclusion

- Difficulties in accessing disability- or COVID-related healthcare services
  - Poor health outcomes and high COVID-19 mortality rates
- Social distancing, lockdown and quarantine measures
  - Disruptions to support services and informal networks
- Socio-economic consequences of the pandemic
  - Reduced ability to meet basic livelihood needs

Measures taken by Asia-Pacific governments

- Participation and partnerships with persons with disabilities and OPDs
- Continued access to goods and services
- Information in accessible formats
- Inclusive medical and quarantine policies and processes
- Social protection and employment support
- Well-being of those living in institutions and facilities

Socio-economic consequences of the pandemic
- Reduced ability to meet basic livelihood needs
- Disruptions to support services and informal networks
- Poor health outcomes and high COVID-19 mortality rates

COVID-19 Pandemic & Disability Inclusion
ESCAP COVID-19 Project – Web Page

Dedicated web page hosted on the ESCAP “Make the Right Real” portal
https://www.maketherightreal.net/covid-19

- Disability-inclusive COVID-19 government responses
- Disability-related COVID-19 resources
ESCAP COVID-19 Project – Web Page

Mongolia

Government responses

Mainstreaming of disability inclusion, participation, and partnerships

- [9 May 2020] Mongolia has conducted a COVID-19 outbreak drill to practice social distancing, street sanitization and distribution of food rations to older persons and persons with disabilities.

- [23 December 2020] The Cabinet has announced the importance of improving inclusive digital education and has made it compulsory for all teaching majors to complete a course on working with children with disabilities.

Medical and quarantine policies and processes

- [4 March 2021] The Ministry of Health has noted that the next groups to be prioritized in the vaccine roll-out would include persons with disabilities.

Social protection and employment support

- [6 May 2020] Social welfare pensions and allowances have been increased from MNT 188,000 to 288,000 MNT, reaching a total of 62,600 people that include persons with disabilities.

- [6 August 2020] The monthly allowance of MNT 100,000 for children with disabilities who need permanent care would be granted until the end of the year.

- [3 December 2020] The UNFPA has collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to distribute 400 dignity kits to persons with disabilities.

Resources

Discover useful resources on the topic of COVID-19 and disability inclusion.

Download all resources in XLS

Refine by

Resource Type
- Guide
- Plan
- Policy Brief
- Report
- Resource Page
- Statement
- Video
- Webinar

Organization Type
- CSO
- Government
- Others
- UN

Accessible Format
- Accessible File (PDF/ DOC/ EPUB)
- Audio
- Easy Read
- International Sign Language
- Other Sign Languages
- Website with Accessibility Options

Keywords
- Caregiver
- Communication and Accessible Information
- Data
- Education
- Employment and Livelihoods
- Gender
- Health and Well-being

Institutions and Facilities
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Intersectoralities
- Mental Health
- Participation
- Physical Disabilities
- Post-COVID-19 Recovery
ESCAP COVID-19 Project – Pilot Initiatives

**Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability**
- Enhanced capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities to lead healthy, food-secure and independent lives during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

**Centre for Disability in Development, Bangladesh**
- Increased availability of multi-tier inclusive mental health services at the community level
- Strengthened capacity of OPDs and CSOs to provide inclusive community-based mental health services

**National Council for the Blind, Malaysia**
- Strengthened technical capacity of persons with disabilities in digital accessibility and ICT skills, strategic advocacy and gender-disability intersectionalities
- Enhanced evidence base of the situation of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and their access to ICT
ESCAP COVID-19 Project – Pilot Initiatives

Samarthyam, India

- Strengthened capacity of OPDs and government agencies to advocate for disability rights and disability inclusion at the district level
- Enhanced institutional capacities, mechanisms and processes for OPDs and government agencies to conduct accessibility audits at the district level
- Increased participation of women with disabilities in district-level mainstream community networks and OPDs

Zhumadian Disabled Persons’ Federation, China

- Improved tracking of the socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities to rapidly identify and support those at risk of falling back into poverty
- Strengthened vocational skills of persons with disabilities to improve their employment and livelihood opportunities
- Established self-help and support networks to promote the sustained employment and livelihoods of persons with disabilities
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