MAPPING OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Regional consultation
September 22nd 2.00-4.00 pm India time

Background

Latest data from Asia and the Pacific (UN, 2021) confirmed that persons with disabilities including children, and their households are more exposed to poverty and to other vulnerabilities and inequalities.

In line with the CRPD, inclusive social protection for adults and children with disabilities include all social protection schemes which persons with disabilities may be eligible for alongside other population groups, such as child grants or social assistance benefits as well as disability benefits (both in cash and kind) and disability-specific community support and care services; which together provide income security as well as coverage of health care and disability related costs across the life cycle in ways that promote participation, inclusion and gender equality.

Yet, current social protection coverage of persons with disabilities remains limited in South Asia with only a few countries providing coverage to them either through mainstream or disability specific benefits. Only 6.8 per cent of persons with severe disabilities receive disability benefits, as compared to the global and Asia-Pacific averages of 33.5 per cent and 21.6 per cent respectively.

As shown by the 2020 Report reflecting South Asian OPDs perspective, the low coverage and adequacy of existing cash transfer schemes and support services limited considerably the capacity of governments to provide targeted social protection support to persons with disabilities in response to covid 19 crisis.

To provide a common and evidence-based platform for multistakeholder conversations on the expansion of social protection for inclusion of persons with disabilities, UNICEF and the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia have jointly commissioned a regional mapping of cash transfers and publicly funded support services for children and adults with disabilities in South Asia.

In support of the ongoing national data collection, the International Disability Alliance, UNICEF and ESCAP are organizing a consultation with representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities from South Asia to inform this mapping exercise on the 22nd of September at 2 to 4 pm India time.

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1 Disability-specific support services include the provision of personal assistance; communication support (sign language interpreters; alternative and augmentative communication); mobility support (assistive technology or service animals); and living arrangement services (for securing housing and household help), as defined within A/HRC/34/58.

The **objective of the consultation** is two-fold:

- Confirming correctness of information gathered by the consultants carrying the mapping and highlighting missing or erroneous elements
- Providing contextualized perspective and key asks of organizations of persons with disabilities to inform analysis and recommendations

The initial draft mapping will be shared prior to the meeting to allow time for OPDs to review information pertaining to their countries.

The consultation will be by invitation only to ensure optimum exchange and OPD representative invited will represent the diversity of persons with disabilities (disability groups, gender, age...).

**Agenda:**

- 2.00-2.10 pm: Opening and introduction: IDA-UNICEF-ESCAP
- 2.10-2.20 pm: CRPD standards and social protection: IDA
- 2.20-2.35 pm: Regional overview: Team of Development Pathways
- 2.35-3.20 pm: Country working groups
  - Review of comments on country data
  - Sharing OPDs’ perspective and key asks
- 3.20-3.50 pm: Country feedback on key asks (5mn each country)
- 3.50-4.00 pm: Conclusion

The consultation will be online with sign language interpretation provided by the international disability alliance.