Protecting & Empowering Persons with Disabilities in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Implementation Partners

Direct Action

Technical ICT Training

Overall Support & Technical Guidance
OVERALL MALAYSIAN PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Facilitate disability-inclusive digitalization in the context of COVID-19 in Malaysia

COVID-19 pandemic

New normal: rapid digitalization of society

1. Empower persons with disabilities to adapt more effectively.
OVERALL MALAYSIAN PROJECT OBJECTIVE
EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

A: Persons with disabilities

Strengthened technical capability
(digital accessibility, gender-disability intersectionalities & strategic advocacy)
EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

B: Government of Malaysia & OPDs

Strengthened institutional capability
(prepare for Malaysia’s accession to the Marrakech Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled)
PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

• Facilitate knowledge & skills growth: digital accessibility & social transformation

• Policy research survey by & of persons with disabilities
PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP
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Training Focus

A. Digital Accessibility Training

Digital Economy, Niche Market

2. Accessible ePublishing.
PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

Training Focus

B. Training for Social Transformation

Gender-sensitive, Disability-inclusive Digital Society

1. Gender-Disability Intersectionalities.
2. Strategic Advocacy.
PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

Training Methodology

• Sharing by experts with disabilities
• Research
• Online demonstration of problem solving
PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP

Training Methodology

• Learning by doing
  ✓ Cross-disability group assignments
  ✓ Individual study & work
    (practical exercises)
  ✓ Deliver presentations
CHALLENGES TACKLED IN COVID-19 CONDITIONS

- Participants’ skills level varied widely
CHALLENGES TACKLED IN COVID-19 CONDITIONS

• Internet connectivity, coverage & data plans: limitations
CHALLENGES TACKLED IN COVID-19 CONDITIONS

• Disability culture: ableism internalized
PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Digital Accessibility

Audits of 4 government websites:

1. “Boleh!” Group
Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

2. “Disabled Action Party” Group
Election Commission of Malaysia
<https://www.spr.gov.my/>

3. “We are One” Group
Companies Commission of Malaysia
<https://www.ssm.com.my/Pages/Home.aspx>

4. “Be Together” Group
Public Service Commission (SPA)
<https://www.spa.gov.my/spa/>
PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Digital Accessibility

• Marrakesh Treaty accession:
  NCBM/PwDs consulted

• Copyright Act 1987: Amendment
PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OUTCOMES

Digital Accessibility

• Evidence base for strengthening policy making
PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Social Transformation

Gender-Disability Intersectionalities

Draft inputs (women & girls with disabilities) for amendment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2008
PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OUTCOMES

Social Transformation

- Cross-disability
  - Better mutual understanding
  - Solidarity
  - Strategic alliance
Thanks You All!