Regional Consultation on Facilitating Innovative Action on Disability-inclusive and Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific

5 and 6 May 2022
10:00 to 13:00 hours (GMT+7, Virtual)
Bangkok, Thailand
Session 3

Day: 1

Presentation topic: Ways that COVID-19 has impacted persons with disabilities, the challenges of DiDRR implementation in the backdrop of the pandemic, and ways forward.

Presenter name: Mr Wong Yoon Loong
Executive Director
National Council for the Blind, Malaysia (NCBM)
1st Question:

• Malaysia is relatively safe from natural disaster except for occasional flooding due to monsoon and weak tremors.
• Not much work in the direction of Disability Inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) until Covid-19 Pandemic.

Steps undertaken by NCBM:

➢ Advocate for access to information.
  - Under the NCBM/ESCAP Project on Protecting and Empowering Persons With Disabilities in the Context Of Covid-19, the following training programmes were organised:
    i) Digital Access Training
    ii) Accessible Publishing
    iii) Gender Disability Intersectionality
    iv) Strategic Advocacy Training.

Women and girls with disabilities were included in these training.
1st Question:

Steps undertaken by NCBM (Continue):

- Encourage health personnel to provide support to PWDs despite the need for physical distancing using the DET Manual developed by the Ministry Of Health, Malaysia.

- Disseminate contact information of all Social Welfare Officers at district levels to PWDs where they can request for assistance.

- Regular discussion with government officials to improve SOPs.
2nd Question

Values of Disability Inclusive DiDRR

✓ Personnel of DiDRR are aware on how to assist PWDs.
✓ PWDs know that they will receive the services no matter where they live which reduces emotional stress.
✓ ODPs are involved in planning, designing and training at the national, state and district levels of DRR.
✓ Based on the survey on the impact of Covid-19 to PWDs especially women and girls with disabilities, 66% respondents reported an increase in the use of internet. Using accessible ICT to disseminate information to PWDs
✓ Gender intersectionality especially the needs of women and girls with disabilities should be given consideration as 80% as compared to 87% men and boys with disabilities have access to internet and devices that can connect to the internet.
✓ Provide DET for all DiDRR related personnel.
Thank you very much