

## STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FACT SHEET

### Rehabilitation Workstream



#### Project Brief

In December 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the Global Report on Equity in Health for Persons with Disabilities. This report analyses drivers of systemic health inequities for persons with disability and recommends actions to address them. Barriers persons with disabilities face in attaining better health exist beyond as well as within the health sector. These challenges include all forms of access to health services across the continuum of care, ranging from health promotion messaging and interventions through health services that meet all the needs of individuals throughout their lives to low availability of various rehabilitation services.

Globally, one in three people need rehabilitation at some point in their lives. Despite rehabilitation's effectiveness in improving physical and mental functioning and well-being and in preventing complications related to acute and chronic conditions, there remains a large unmet need for rehabilitative services, coupled with low investment and awareness. WHO's Rehabilitation 2030 initiative highlights the importance of strengthening health systems to provide rehabilitation as an essential part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as part of the ACCESS 2 program, supports a role within the WHO Cambodia Representative Office, with a focus on health equity for persons with disabilities and strengthening rehabilitation in health systems. This role will crucially contribute to WHO Cambodia's convening role and policy and planning assistance towards health equity for people with disabilities and the strengthening of rehabilitation including through:

1. Support the development, implementation monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry of Health's strategic plans, policies and action plans on disability in the health sector
2. Assessments and strategies to facilitate the integration and strengthening of rehabilitation in health systems and scaled-up access to assistive technologies including evidence and technical advice on options for rehabilitation financing
3. Ensuring disability inclusion and consideration of rehabilitation in other key policies, packages, guidelines and actions towards Universal Health Coverage in Cambodia

WHO Cambodia will collaboratively work with other partners in these efforts including those within the ACCESS 2 consortium as well as leverage WHO global, regional and national technical resources, expertise and support.

### Project Outcomes

1. Recruitment and high performance of a Cambodian national expert in disability and rehabilitation that supports relevant quality technical advice that WHO provides to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia
2. An updated situation and systems assessment of needs for and access to rehabilitation services and assistive technology in Cambodia is available as evidence to inform policy, planning and advocacy
3. Greater disability inclusion and rehabilitation integration in national health sector strategies, plans, guidelines, and service packages and provision in Cambodia
4. A disability-in-the-health-sector strategy and policy is developed, implemented, and monitored and evaluated towards health equity for people with disabilities in Cambodia
5. Greater representation of rehabilitation and disability inclusion in Cambodia health system monitoring frameworks and mechanisms
6. Specific considerations on protection of health of persons with disabilities integrated into health emergency preparedness and response plans and evaluations

### Key Activities

1. Provide technical support including assessments and analyses to inform policies, strategies, action plans and guidelines to progress equity in health for persons with disabilities, to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems, and enable greater access to assistive technology in Cambodia
2. Support the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of strategies and action plans to progress equity in health for persons with disabilities, strengthen rehabilitation in health systems, and enable greater access to assistive technology in Cambodia
3. Integration of disability inclusion, and considerations on rehabilitation and assistive technology access into broader health sector strategies, policies, plans, and resilient systems strengthening towards UHC that WHO provides support to nationally and sub-nationally including, particularly, as part of primary health care and health emergency preparedness and response
4. Collaborate and engage closely with other development partners and key stakeholders in relevant sectors in Cambodia (including donors, NGOs, representative bodies, private sector and research organizations)

### Beneficiaries

Ultimate beneficiaries are persons with disabilities in Cambodia and people needing and receiving rehabilitation services and assistive technologies for improved health, functioning and well-being.

### Geographic Location

Cambodia

### Project Partners

1. Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and the General Secretariat of the National Social protection Council
2. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)

3. Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in Cambodia including the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation (CDPO) and Persons with Disabilities Foundation (PWDF)
4. Other UN agencies including UNFPA, UNDP, and UNICEF
5. Other development partners including non-government, civil society organisations and academic organisations

#### Duration

From June 2024 to December 2027

#### Contacts

WHO Country Office  
Ms Tomoko ONODA  
Tel: (855) 23 216 610  
Email: [onodat@who.int](mailto:onodat@who.int)

ACCESS 2 Program  
Dr Chou Vivath, Disability and Rehabilitation Lead  
Tel: (855) 12 915 674  
Email: [vivath.chou@access2cambodia.org](mailto:vivath.chou@access2cambodia.org)

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