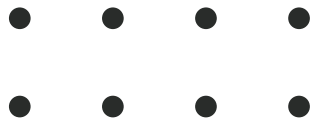


VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Information Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities in Cambodia



CONCEPT NOTE



Raffles
Hotel Le Royal,
Phnom Penh

BACKGROUND

As of March 2023, more than 1.3 billion people live with a disability which is approximately 16% of the world's population (WHO, 2023). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNCRPD affirm that persons with disabilities have the same rights and freedoms as everyone else, including the right to access information. Information is vital for people with disabilities to engage in public life or exercise their civil rights, and to make informed choices. However, persons with disabilities often encounter many persisting barriers in various aspects of their lives, such as education, economic, health, justice, and social protection that prevent them from fully participating in society. They are more likely to live in poverty and have lower educational attainment and employment opportunities.

UNESCO in collaboration with the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), has conducted a research study on information needs assessment to better understand the information needs of persons with disabilities and provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen existing systems and capacities of the involved stakeholders improve access to information for persons with disabilities.

The main objectives of the study are (1) to provide an overview of existing practices, legislations, and policies related to access to information to assess their strength and adequacy in response to the information needs of persons with disabilities, (2) to examine the current state of information accessibility among persons with disabilities with consideration of domains and levels of disabilities and barriers preventing them from accessing necessary information, and (3) to conduct a needs assessment on access to information for persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

As we reached the conclusion of this study, UNESCO is pleased to present its preliminary findings. It is also our great pleasure to convene the stakeholders to provide feedback on the findings and work together to discuss recommendations on how to make information more accessible to persons with disabilities.

This initiative is part of the UN Joint initiative "Accelerating Disability Rights in Cambodia", which is funded by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.





OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop includes:

- 1** To present and validate the research findings on the access to information for persons with disabilities
- 2** To consult and discuss the recommendations of the research study for different stakeholders.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Combining the research study results and shared perspectives by experts and policymakers, the workshop will generate agreed recommendations on the improvement of information access to persons with disabilities. The final study report will also be shared among involved stakeholders both in the public and private sectors. This is vital in helping to address multiple issues that persons with disabilities face in their societal engagement, particularly in access to information.

TARGETTED PARTICIPANTS

30 different stakeholders will be participating in the workshop, including representatives from relevant ministries, development and implementing partners, associations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are working on disability-related programs and information.

AGENDA



8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:35	Welcoming Remarks Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, UNESCO Representative to Cambodia
8:35 - 8:40	Opening Remarks Dr Eng Netra, Executive Director, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)
8:40 - 9:00	Group Photos and Coffee Break
9:00 - 9:45	Presentation of the study and Q&A Phoury Bun, Research Associate, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)
9:45 - 10:00	Refreshment
10:00 - 11:45	Group Discussion
11:45 - 12:00	Closing Remark H.E. Em Chan Makara , Secretary General, Disability Action Council (DAC)
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Reception and Network

*The organizer reserves the right to make changes to the event program.

