



## ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/Inf.36  
16 March 2026

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Project and Programme Review Committee  
Thirty-seventh Meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 7-8 April 2026

### **PROPOSAL FOR BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES**



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regional Project Concept

Countries/Region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines
Project Title: Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia
Thematic Focal Area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
Implementing Entity: United Nations Development Programme
Executing Entities: UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub with support from UNDP Country Offices in 6 countries
AF Project ID:
IE Project ID: Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 19,965,000
Reviewer and contact person: UnaMay Gordon Co-reviewer(s): Alexandra Munoz
IE Contact Person:

Table with 2 columns: Technical Summary and content. Content includes: The project 'Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia' aims to enhance the resilience to climate change of persons with disabilities... Component 1: Capacity building for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Persons with Disabilities, and Governments to address climate change... Component 2: Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Infrastructure and last-mile services (USD 9,650,000) Component 3: Knowledge generation, codification and dissemination of lessons learned on reducing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change risks. (USD 3,361,417). Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 635,250 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 18,150,000 Implementing Fee: USD 1,815,000 Financing Requested: USD 19,965,000 The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 230,000.

	The initial technical review raises several issues, such as the misalignment between outcomes and outputs, lack of a comprehensive list of regional and national standards to comply with, lacking information regarding the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project, unclear articulation of the PFG's executing entities, insufficient justification for IE serving as EE, among others, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.
Date	February 13, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments February 13, 2026
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	<b>Yes.</b>  Countries ratified Kyoto Protocol as follows: Bangladesh (2001), Cambodia (2002), Indonesia (2004), Nepal (2005), Pakistan (2005), The Philippines (2003).  All 6 countries signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016.
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	<b>Yes.</b>  All 6 countries are vulnerable to climate change and there is increasing evidence of an upward trend in intensity and frequency of events in the region such as heatwaves, increased risk of floods, increased proportion of very intense cyclones, and droughts.
Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	<b>Yes.</b>  As per the Endorsement letter dated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> 6 January 2026</li> <li>• <b>Pakistan:</b> 9 January 2026</li> <li>• <b>Kingdom of Cambodia:</b> 2 January 2026</li> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> 30 December 2025</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> 1 January 2026</li> <li>• <b>The Philippines:</b> 9 January 2026</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than fifty (50) pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>The total number of pages is 39 in total.</p> <p><b>CAR1:</b> On page cover page the names of the UNDP Country Offices (COF) in 6 countries are not named. Please include the legal names of the 6 COF listing them on the cover page of the proposal.</p> <p><b>CR1:</b> Please amend the “<i>Error! Reference source not found</i>” messages in throughout the document</p> <p><b>CR2:</b> Please ensure throughout the document that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Tables have captions and are properly referenced.</li><li>(ii) Pages are numbered.</li></ul>
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	<p>3. Does the regional project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience, and do so providing added value through the regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b>  <b>However further information is required.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section A (pages 16-24), the CN outlines a set of concrete actions to assist 6 countries in addressing the effects of climate change and building resilience of the PWD through institutional strengthening, capacity building activities, use of EWS for PWD and facilitating more innovative solutions.</p> <p>It outlines the added value of the regional approach given the participating countries face comparable gaps in PWD despite having different development levels, landscapes, economic context. By pooling experiences and lessons, the project develops a transferable model that can support replication in other countries.</p> <p>The concept note includes a comprehensive Theory of Change (ToC), on page 14, but excludes a narrative. Further thought is needed on the assumptions and risks. For example, the incubation of innovations may take longer than anticipated, delaying the rollout of tools/technologies for PWD. This regional proposal contributes to Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning.</p> <p><b>CR3:</b> Please ensure the following in the ToC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Revise the assumptions and risks and update table accordingly.</li> <li>(ii) Include the main problem to address through this proposed project.</li> </ul> <p><b>CR4:</b> Please clarify how the call for proposals, in Output 2.1.2., will be managed.</p> <p><b>CR5:</b> Please clarify whether any regional agreements have already been arranged, including the six participating countries. In addition, please indicate whether any regional initiatives addressing the same main problem have been implemented previously. This will</p>
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		<p>help determine whether there are prior experience and lessons learned from working with all six participating countries.</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> Please revise and amend all project's outputs and outcomes, ensuring that Outputs are deliverables (e.g., trainings, studies), while outcomes are the longer-term changes (e.g., enhanced skills, enhanced technical analytics) resulting from those deliverables produced. For example, Project Output "<i>Enhanced Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework to promote disability-inclusiveness in climate disasters preparedness and response</i>", corresponds to an outcome rather than an output.</p> <p><b>CR7:</b> Please include the direct and indirect beneficiaries for each outcome of the proposed project.</p> <p><b>CR8:</b> While background about climate change impacting people with disabilities, please strengthen the adaptation rationale of the main objective and the outcomes, outputs, and activities by strengthening the linkage between climate change and people with disabilities.</p> <p><b>CR9:</b> Kindly explain whether the proposed interventions have been successfully implemented in other countries in the region. Otherwise, please include positive experiences addressing the proposed project's main problem in other locations, including pilot projects.</p>
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	<p>4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b>  <b>However further information is required.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section C (page 25), the proposal presents broad environmental, economic and social benefits, with a strong focus on PWD as a vulnerable group. Economic and environmental benefits are largely descriptive, and quantification of estimated benefits is lacking. For economic benefits, it is unclear how training translates to income generation/employment. Environmental benefits are not clearly articulated, with no reference to ecosystems or best practices related to improved environmental outcomes.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the project will target PWD. The project expects to target 1.673 million people and 22.3 indirectly as per page 16. Pages 10-11, paragraphs 27-32 outline a preliminary gender assessment of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).</p> <p><b>CR10:</b> Please provide quantitative estimates of the economic, social, and environmental benefits, accompanied by a brief explanation of the methodology used to calculate them. If precise figures are not available, please include proxy estimates.</p> <p><b>CR11:</b> Please also specify how many direct and indirect beneficiaries will be targeted, and, in particular, indicate the number of PWDs that will be positively impacted by the project.</p> <p><b>CR12:</b> Please provide information on the project's overall beneficiaries, including both direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, and identify the specific vulnerable groups (e.g., women, indigenous peoples) that will benefit from the project.</p> <p><b>CR13:</b> Please indicate whether there are any potential negative impacts or risks of maladaptation associated with the proposed project.</p> <p><b>CAR2:</b> Please ensure that the initial gender analysis or assessment helps to determine the different needs, capabilities, roles and</p>
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		<p>knowledge resources of women and men, and/or identify how changing gender dynamics might drive lasting change. It should include data and more comprehensive information for an analysis to each of the 6 countries, including gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project will operate.</p>
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	<p>5. Is the project / programme cost-effective and does the regional approach support cost-effectiveness?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b>  <b>However further information is required.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section D (page 26), the concept justifies the approach being taken to support PWD, noting preventative, disability-inclusive adaptation vs reactive disaster response and recovery. However, the alternative should be more clearly articulated. The regional approach is well-justified, as the concept will address an existing and shared baseline gap in disability inclusion in the participating countries and is expected to generate scalable regional public goods while strengthening institutional capacity. From a sustainability perspective, cost-effectiveness is demonstrated through avoided disaster losses, reduced recovery efforts and the shared regional public goods, thereby reducing the need for repeated standalone projects.</p> <p><b>CR14:</b> Please clarify the alternative approaches considered for PWD and briefly explain the reason why these are less cost-effective and sustainable. Kindly consider using a comparative table showing cost effectiveness of each measure vs the alternative option or BAU.</p> <p><b>CR15:</b> Please indicate that the project will be addressing an existing baseline gap in disability inclusion.</p> <p><b>CR16:</b> Please consider indicating the mechanisms/strategies through which the regional approach reduces duplication.</p> <p><b>CAR3:</b> Please provide a sound justification for the cost-effectiveness of the overall project and selected measures, from a sustainability point of view.</p> <p><b>CR17:</b> Kindly include the scope and approach to calculate the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project.</p>

	<p>6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments? If applicable, it is also possible to refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b>  <b>However further information is needed.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section E (pages 26-29), the project highlights international and regional strategies and instruments including the ASEAN Enabling Master plan 2025 which mainstreams the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Each participating country has an NDC, NAP and National Sustainability Strategy which are referred to in the proposal, although all may not directly reference to PWD. Additionally, all countries have with a policy or act related to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p><b>CR18:</b> Please clarify how the project is aligned to the priorities outlined in the national and regional policies.</p> <p><b>CAR4:</b> Kindly include the details of the identified plans and strategies in a table format, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Specific name of the plan/strategy and years of implementation,</li> <li>(ii) Main objective(s),</li> <li>(iii) Explain the relevance to the proposed project, including its alignment with the existing plan or strategy. A suggested structure could be: <i>'The proposed project is aligned with [Plan XX], under [Specific Action XX], contributing to [Outcome XX].'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>CR19:</b> Please ensure that the table listing is comprehensive and includes all relevant regional and national (for each of the 6 countries) plans and strategies related to adaptation, people with disabilities as well as sectoral plans.</p>
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	<p>7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section F (page 29) the proposal mentioned that activities will be aligned with laws, and structural investments will follow environmental and building codes. However, no list is provided to explain the standard/law/codes that exist in each country and how the project will remain compliant with each country's standards.</p> <p><b>CAR5:</b> Please provide a comprehensive list of national technical standards for which the project needs to comply with. For each regional/national standard please ensure that the following is highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>scope and relevance</b> should be described specifically.</li> <li>• How it <b>relates</b> to the proposed project, clearly identifying the outputs/activities that will require compliance with the identified</li> <li>• The <b>steps to be taken to ensure the project will comply</b> with the national standards [<i>e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), building codes, and any other sector-specific regulations</i>] are outlined. Also ensure the competent authority for the standard is referenced.</li> </ul>
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	<p>8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?</p>	<p><b>Unsure.</b></p> <p>The concept notes that consultations with governments in each of the project countries were conducted to take stock of ongoing projects, and confirm no duplication with other funding sources exist, However the proponent should consider any existing projects related to early warning systems and the lessons learned and potential synergies, despite having a different target audience.</p> <p><b>CAR6:</b> Kindly include a comprehensive table listing all national and regional projects that are or have been implemented in 6 participating countries and are related to the proposed project. For each, please include the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Project title and funding sources</li> <li>(ii) Main project interventions,</li> <li>(iii) Timeline and specific location within the country,</li> <li>(iv) Target population,</li> <li>(v) Implementing entity,</li> <li>(vi) Lessons learned (if applicable)</li> <li>(vii) Overlaps and synergies with the proposed project.</li> </ul> <p>Refer also to CR9 regarding whether positive experiences from other projects exist.</p> <p><b>CR20:</b> Please provide a clear justification for the lack of overlap (e.g. by indicating the distinct geographic locations and/or types of interventions) for each related project identified.</p>

	<p>9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b>  <b>However further information is needed.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section H (pages 29-30), the project has a dedicated component for knowledge management (Component 3 budgeted at ~US3.36M)) which supports knowledge sharing at the national and regional level. The project will share knowledge beyond the participating countries through workshops, utilising existing platforms such as the ASEAN disability forum. Additionally regional structures (e.g. ASEAN and South Asian Disability Forum SAARC) will also be important, as they provide well-established structures that will remain in place after the project ends. Component 3 will facilitate tracking lessons learned and best practices to enrich knowledge at all levels. This will support accelerating an understanding about what kinds of interventions work for the target group.</p> <p><b>CR21:</b> Please confirm whether the country focal point will act as the knowledge management person to ensure information is documented, including tracking experiences gained, to be shared with regional entities. If not, please clarify who will take this responsibility? Will there be a dedicated person to support this work?</p> <p><b>CR22:</b> Please ensure that the structure for knowledge management is well articulated specifically in Section H.</p> <p><b>CAR7:</b> Kindly clarify or include details to ensure the following information is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific activities for Learning and Knowledge Management of the proposed project.</li> <li>• The entity will be responsible for tracking the experiences gained, how this will be done, and when the tracking periodicity.</li> <li>• The process by which knowledge generated will be sustained after the project concludes.</li> <li>• The resources needed to sustain lessons learned after the project ends.</li> </ul>
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	<p>10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> <b>However further information is needed.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section I (pages 30-31), the project has undertaken recent consultation (late 2025) with stakeholders at the regional and country levels. The consultation process demonstrates an effort to engage national authorities and relevant partners; however, the depth and inclusiveness of consultations varied across countries. In some cases, consultations were limited in scope. For example, the meeting in Indonesia involved only the AF focal point and appears to not include engagement with other key stakeholders such as organisations representing PWD or gender-focused groups at the country level. While the consultation broadly aligns with the Fund’s ESP and Gender Policy, the concept would benefit from clearer articulation and documentation of the consultation process, including greater details of discussion and how vulnerable groups informed project design.</p> <p><b>CAR8:</b> Please prepare a table that provides a comprehensive list of the stakeholder consultations convened in each of the 6 countries. This may be placed in the Annex and referenced in Section I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The total number of attendees, disaggregated by sex, with background information to verify whether marginalized and vulnerable groups have been consulted. Please ensure the names of the stakeholders are also highlighted.</li> <li>ii. A summary of the subjects/issues discussed and any agreements reached.</li> <li>iii. Indicate how their interests have been incorporated in the project, including how gender and other vulnerable group considerations were addressed.</li> <li>iv. Clearly indicate participation of stakeholders with gender remit for each participating country</li> </ul>
	<p>11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section J (pages 31-33), the concept justifies the need for AF funding. However, it does not explicitly state whether or not additional funding from donors will be needed. If there is co-</p>

		<p>financing, note that the AF project should be able to deliver outcomes and outputs regardless of the success of the other projects.</p> <p><b>CR23:</b> Please clarify whether the proposed project will require funding from other sources. Additionally, please confirm that the project's results will be achieved solely using the AF resources.</p>
	<p>12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>As per Part III, reference is made to Fund Outputs and Indicators that do not exist (e.g. Output 3.3) and in some cases, re-worded.</p> <p><b>CAR9:</b> Please ensure that the Fund Output and Fund Output Indicator is based on the <a href="#">updated AF Results Framework</a>. Please review framework and use exact indicator wording as provided.</p> <p><b>CAR10:</b> Please ensure in Part III that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) All project's outputs and outcomes indicators are SMART.</li> <li>(ii) In Project Objectives(s) specific objectives should be provided. Complete the table using the format provided in the <a href="#">updated AF Results Framework</a>, and complete it following the instructions in the same document.</li> </ul>
	<p>13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section K (page 33), all key areas of sustainability (economic, social, environmental, and financial) are not adequately articulated. In previous sections reference is made to the use of the ASEAN platform to support knowledge sharing beyond the project. UNDP Accelerator Lab will also support but further details are needed. Will it be technical assistance and mobilisation of resources to support?</p> <p><b>CR24:</b> Kindly describe the arrangements required to ensure the sustainability of the project's benefits beyond its completion. This should include, but not be limited to, the regulatory, institutional, and financial resources needed to maintain outcomes. Please also</p>

		address the maintenance of infrastructure, strategy to be developed and implemented.
	14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>However, further information is needed.</p> <p>As per Part II, Section L (pages 33-35), the concept identified potential environmental and social impacts and risks against some 15 ESP principles. Additionally, the level of risk is not included in each principle. The screening process does not clearly articulate all potential direct, indirect, transboundary, and cumulative impacts and risks that could result from the proposed project/programme. This section of the proposal does not elaborate on the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project/programme will operate.</p> <p>A preliminary gender assessment- Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) can be found from pages 10-11. It relies heavily on qualitative narrative with limited country specific data regarding access to early warning livelihoods etc. Clearer articulation of gender roles needs opportunities would strengthen the assessment.</p> <p>The concept proposal does not state the category in which the screening process has classified the project/programme - (Category A, B or C). It also does not include a statement that the project will be aligned to AF's ESP.</p> <p><b>CAR11:</b> Please confirm that the screening process covers all potential direct, indirect, transboundary, and cumulative impacts and risks that could result from the proposed project/programme. In addition, please ensure the following in the Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicate whether the principle is rated as a 'no risk, low risk, medium risk or high risk'</li> <li>• Identify the magnitude of the risks and impacts. Risk should describe as: "There is a risk ...." and should be accompanied by mitigation plans – especially for Principle 1 and 6.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindly leave a check mark in the second column 'No further assessment required for compliance' if no further assessment, please leave column blank.</li> </ul> <p><b>CAR12:</b> Please note for the checklist that Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. For more information, please visit: <a href="#">AF's ESP guidance</a> and <a href="#">Environmental and Social Policy</a> .</p> <p><b>CAR13:</b> Please assess the project's classification. Though this is tentative, indicate whether the project would be classified as category A, B or C.</p> <p><b>CR25:</b> Please include the statement that the project will be aligned to AF policy.</p>
	<p>15. Does the project promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>As per Part II, Section B (pages 24-25), the project will contribute to developing, encouraging and accelerating new innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies while also scaling up the more viable solutions/technologies. The concept promotes new and innovative solutions, through its approach of targeting PWD in disaster preparedness and response (an area that has not been adequately addressed). Rather than solely relying on pre-defined technologies as defined in Table 1, the concept will also facilitate the use of calls for proposals for innovations, incubation support for promising innovations and private sector partnerships and investment to stimulate new solutions. Notably the effectiveness of this approach relies on having good and successful proposals that can be implemented within the project's timeframe.</p> <p><b>CR26:</b> Please clarify the reason for conducting a call for proposals if there are many examples of technologies which can be approved and scaled have been identified.</p> <p><b>CR27:</b> Please ensure the narrative also frames innovation as a process, delivery of innovation and inclusion. Please clarify how the solutions, whether newly incubated or adapted from existing systems, will be rolled out in practice. More specifically include the approximate timeline for incubation, piloting and deployment.</p>

		<p><b>CR28:</b> Please briefly clarify the type of arrangements that will be in place for partners to help with disability inclusive solutions.</p>
Resource Availability	<p>1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the regional projects/programmes?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>The requested funding of USD19,965,000 is within the cap of USD 30,000,000 for regional projects.</p>
	<p>2. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>The IE fee is 10% (USD 1,815,000) and the EE fee is 3.5% (USD635,250). However, in this scenario UNDP is the implementing Entity while the UNDP Regional Hub and Country Offices will be the EE. In addition to this note the figures are rounded to a whole number.</p> <p>There is a discrepancy between the numbers. Figures in Part III Table page 36-37 do not correlate to figures in Table on pages 15-16. The PFG request is of the correct size (USD 230,000) as the project supports 6 countries.</p> <p><b>CAR14:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please note that as per the Decision B.38/42, the IE is required to “provide justifications to demonstrate its advantages compared to other entities, agencies or organizations that could provide the selected execution services, particularly for the execution of activities at national or subnational level” when requesting above 1.5% for the IE which is serving as EE. Therefore, the justification that <b>UNDP</b> has implemented a “Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)is not deemed sufficient to warrant an increase particularly since what is described as described as DIM reads like regular supervision that IEs are required to perform. Please ensure that the re-submission complies with the Board decision.</li> <li>2. Further the LOEs for two countries Bangladesh and Nepal indicate that their agencies will also be serving as EEs.</li> </ol>

		<p>This is not currently reflected on the project cover. Please address.</p> <p>3. Finally, the LOEs do not justify the request for UNDP to serve as EE, neither do they request it. The LOEs only indicate that UNDP will serve as EE. This is also required as per Decision B.18/30 as follows “provide written evidence that execution services by the Implementing Entities on an exceptional basis has been requested by the recipient countries, involving designated authorities in the process, and providing rationale for such a request. The responsibility for these services shall be stipulated, their budget estimated in the fully developed project/programme document and covered by the execution costs budget of the project/programme.” Please ensure that the re-submission complies with the Board decision.</p> <p><b>CAR15:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please clarify whether UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub with support from UNDP Country Offices in 6 countries will be the Executing Entities of the PFG Request.</li> <li>2. Please amend the PFG total amount request. This should be \$210,000. Please utilize the PFG calculator to ensure that the PFG calculation is accurate. <a href="#">PFG Amount Calculator</a> (EXCEL)</li> </ol> <p><b>CR31:</b> Please ensure that the figures in Table on pages 36-37 are the same Table on pages 15-16.</p> <p><b>CR32:</b> Please revise and amend accordingly the proposed start and end dates of the PFG request.</p>
Eligibility of IE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?</li> </ol>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>United Nations Development Programme is an accredited Implementing Entity.</p> <p><b>Accreditation expiration date:</b> 11 October 2029.</p>

Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management at the regional and national level, including coordination arrangements within countries and among them? Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?	n/a at concept stage
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund? Proponents are encouraged to refer to the Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy, for details.	n/a at concept stage
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	n/a at concept stage
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage



## CONCEPT NOTE FOR REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

### PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

**Title of Project/Programme:** Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia

**Countries:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines

**Thematic Focal Area<sup>1</sup>:** Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

**Type of Implementing Entity:** Multilateral Implementing Entity

**Implementing Entity:** United Nations Development Programme

**Executing Entities:** UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub with support from UNDP Country Offices in 6 countries.

**Amount of Financing Requested:** 19,965,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Project Formulation Grant Request:** Yes  No

**Amount of Requested financing for PFG:** US \$ 230,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries:** Yes  No

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>*

**Stage of Submission:**

- This proposal has been submitted before including at a different stage (pre-concept, concept)
- This is the first submission ever of the proposal at any stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 9/1/2018

**Please note that the Concept note proposal document should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.**

<sup>1</sup> Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION .....	1
Project/Programme Background and Context:.....	3
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## Project/Programme Background and Context:

### Introduction

1. Persons with disabilities in Asia-Pacific, estimated to account for 700 million people<sup>2</sup>, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, in particular climate disasters, which have been increasingly prevalent in the region over the last three decades. However, their specific needs for effective preparation and response to climate change-induced disasters are insufficiently taken into consideration, as a result of exclusion from climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes<sup>3</sup>. This project will increase the resilience of persons with disabilities to adapt to climate change by improving their capacity and creating an enabling environment for their preparedness and response to climate change-induced disasters. By targeting 7 countries with different levels of disability-inclusiveness and disaster preparedness and response, the project will widen and diversify the knowledge base on best practices and challenges to make DRR disability-inclusive and create a knowledge sharing environment.

### Climate Impacts in the region

2. In Asia, climate change has had serious impacts on communities, adversely impacting key productive sectors and put at risk an increasing number of people. Persons with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change-induced disasters, particularly where rapid onset events exacerbate their lack of preparedness and response. This section will present the climate impacts to which this group are the most vulnerable to and the associated forecasts.

3. According to the 2024 Asia-Pacific disaster report, over the past decade, the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events has significantly increased, indicating that climate change is exacerbating the occurrence and impact of heatwaves, floods, tropical cyclones, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and droughts<sup>4</sup>. This is confirmed in the IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment report, indicating that there is increasing evidence of an upwards trend in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events in Asia<sup>5</sup>:

- More frequent and extreme heatwaves: Heatwaves have become a practical threat across Asia in recent decades, associated with extreme humidity<sup>6</sup>. These humid-heat extremes pose severe risks to human health, reducing the human body's ability to regulate temperature and increasing the chance for heat-related illnesses<sup>7</sup>. It also results in significant economic losses by decreasing working hours and productivity<sup>8</sup>. In cities alone, the IPCC estimates that 940 million to 1.1 billion people in South and South-East Asia could be affected by extreme heat lasting more than 30 days per year. The wet-bulb temperature, a measure of heat stress, is likely to approach critical health thresholds in West and South Asia under the RCP4.5 scenario, and in East Asia, under the RCP8.5 scenario<sup>9</sup>. In 2024, Asia's average temperature was about 1.04°C above the 1991-2020 average, and it is warming nearly twice as fast as the global average<sup>10</sup>. That year, according to news reports, Bangladesh experienced a severe heatwave with temperatures reaching around 43.8°C, Cambodia observed temperatures exceeding 43°C. This trend was also observed in previous and following years, with the closing of half of the schools in the Philippines in March 2025 due to the heat index reaching danger levels.

Increased risk of floods: Heavy precipitation intensifying and becoming more frequent in South and Southeast Asia<sup>11</sup> causes increased risk of floods in monsoon regions<sup>12</sup>. In particular, land precipitations have been increasing in East, Southeast and South Asia during monsoon season, mainly due to increasing moisture convergence caused by

<sup>2</sup>The figure was calculated as 15 per cent of the estimated regional population at mid-year 2021 by ESCAP. World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, World Report on Disability (Geneva, 2011); ESCAP, "2021 ESCAP population data sheet", manual (Bangkok, 2021).

<sup>3</sup>"Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032", UNESCAP, 2022 [Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032](#)

<sup>4</sup>"Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023" UNESCAP, 2023 [Seizing the moment : targeting transformative disaster risk resilience | ESCAP](#)

<sup>5</sup>IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report – Chapter 10 Asia", IPCC, 2022 [Chapter 10: Asia | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

<sup>6</sup> Kyaw AK, Hamed MM, Kamruzzaman M, Shahid S (2023) Spatiotemporal changes in population exposure to heat stress in South Asia. Sustain Cities Soc 93:104544. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2023.104544>

<sup>7</sup> Buzan JR, Huber M (2020) Moist heat stress on a hotter Earth. Annu Rev Earth Planet Sci 48:623–655. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-earth-053018-060100>

<sup>8</sup> Parsons LA, Masuda YJ, Kroeger T, Shindell D, Wolff NH, Spector JT (2022) Global labor loss due to humid heat exposure underestimated for outdoor workers. Environ Res Lett 17:014050. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac3dae>

<sup>9</sup> "IPCC AR6 – Chapter 10", IPCC, 2022

<sup>10</sup> "State of the Climate in Asia 2024", WMO, 2025 [State of the Climate in Asia 2024 \(WMO-No. 1373\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> Seneviratne, et al., 2021: Weather and Climate Extreme Events in a Changing Climate.

<sup>12</sup> Oppenheimer, et al., 2019: Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low-Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities.

higher temperature<sup>13</sup>. The IPCC reports that extreme rainfalls (>100mm per day) have been increasing in South and East Asia, and there is high confidence that this trend will continue. Cities are particularly at risk, with high population density and important economies exposed, with about 932 million people at high risk of flooding in Asian cities.

In addition, future warming is expected to further increase rain-on-snow events that can cause snowmelt flooding during winter<sup>14</sup>, affecting hydropower and resulting in river flooding, avalanches and landslides. This is projected for the Mekong River basin, where flood risks are likely to be exacerbated due to extremely high-flow events<sup>15</sup>, with up to 14% increase in annual mean runoff (RCP8.5). Under RCP8.5 (Global Warming Level of 4°C), Asia is expected to experience an economic impact of US\$241 billion due to river flooding, while under RCP4.5, climate-induced flood loads and reservoir water level change may lead to dam failure<sup>16</sup>. Climate change-induced floods have already caused significant damages in the countries targeted by the project. Pakistan has been the hardest hit, with the 2022 monsoon floods, impacting approximately 33 million people, causing over 1,700 deaths and resulting in damages exceeding US\$30 billion<sup>17</sup>. Bangladesh has experienced its worst flood in 2022 impacting 7.2 million people, with damage itself estimated at USD 722 million<sup>18</sup>. In Nepal, in 2024, three days of heavy rain in the Kathmandu Valley (>700mm in some areas), caused the Bagmati river to overflow, leading to 215 deaths<sup>19</sup>.

- Increased proportion of very intense tropical cyclones (Category 4-5) under higher levels of global warming: Rapid Intensification in offshore areas (within 400km of the coastline) have tripled between 1980 to 2020, likely caused by global ocean warming<sup>20</sup>. The increase in rapid intensification make the accurate and timely forecasting particularly challenging. Besides, Tropical Cyclones are expected to be associated with increased precipitation rates and will likely be exacerbated by sea level rise in coastal areas<sup>21</sup>, doubling their destructive power<sup>22</sup>. The Asia Pacific Climate Report reports that between 1979 to 2016, the duration of cyclones in East and Southeast Asia grew by 2–9 hours after making landfall, and they traveled around 100 kilometers further inland<sup>23</sup>. Asia's coastal area is also the most exposed region to sea level rise and storm surges, causing an increasing risk of coastal flooding, with significant impacts in highly populated areas. Losses and damages caused by coastal floods are expected to be medium (25–50% sector/population affected) under RCP4.5 and high (>50% sector/population affected) under RCP8.5, relative to reported baselines, in East Asia and South Asia<sup>24</sup>.

The Asia-Pacific region is particularly struck by frequent and intense Tropical Cyclones. The extremely severe cyclone Mocha (winds up to 250 km/h) in May 2023, causing 120 landslides, affected Cox's Bazar area<sup>25</sup> with about 250,000 in need of food and shelter and caused the evacuation of 750,000 people ahead of the storm<sup>26</sup>. In 2024, the Philippines was hit by exceptionally strong cyclones, with 6 typhoons in a month, bringing torrential rains and winds with speeds up to 185 km/h, leaving 892,000 people in need of immediate assistance, 200,000 houses damaged and over 21,000 destroyed<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> "IPCC AR6 – Chapter 10", IPCC, 2022

<sup>14</sup> "Rain-on-Snow events in Japan as projected by a large ensemble of regional climate simulations", Ohba, M. and H. Kawase, 2020

<sup>15</sup> « Mekong River flow and hydrological extremes under climate change" Hoang, L.P., et al., 2016

<sup>16</sup> "IPCC AR6 – Chapter 4", IPCC, 2022

<sup>17</sup> "Pakistan floods 2022 – Post-Disaster Needs Assessment", Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, 2022 [Pakistan-Floods-2022-PDNA-Main-Report.pdf](#)

<sup>18</sup> "Community-led Housing Recovery Needs Assessment: North and North-eastern Flood 2022: Bangladesh", UNDP, 2022

<https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/publications/community-led-housing-recovery-needs-assessment-north-and-north-eastern-flood-2022-bangladesh>

<sup>19</sup> "Nepal: Hundreds killed as 'unprecedented' flash floods strike capital Kathmandu", UN News, 2024 [Nepal: Hundreds killed as 'unprecedented' flash floods strike capital Kathmandu | UN News](#)

<sup>20</sup> « Recent increases in tropical cyclone rapid intensification events in global offshore regions" Li, Y., Tang, Y., Wang, S. et al. 2023 [Recent increases in tropical cyclone rapid intensification events in global offshore regions | Nature Communications](#)

<sup>21</sup> "Climate change is probably increasing the intensity of tropical cyclones", Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, 2021 [Climate change is probably increasing the intensity of tropical cyclones – Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory](#)

<sup>22</sup> "Asia-Pacific Climate report 2024", ADB, 2024 [Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024: Catalyzing Finance and Policy Solutions](#)

<sup>23</sup> "Changing Impacts of Tropical Cyclones on East and Southeast Asian Inland Regions in the Past and a Globally Warmed Future Climate", Chen J., et al., 2021 [Frontiers | Changing Impacts of Tropical Cyclones on East and Southeast Asian Inland Regions in the Past and a Globally Warmed Future Climate](#)

<sup>24</sup> "IPCC AR6 – Chapter 10", IPCC, 2022

<sup>25</sup> "Cyclone Mocha Response - Situation Report », IOM, 2024 [cyclone-mocha-response-situation-report.pdf](#)

<sup>26</sup> "Cyclone Mocha leaves 'trail of devastation' in Myanmar", UN News, 2023 [Cyclone Mocha leaves 'trail of devastation' in Myanmar | UN News](#)

<sup>27</sup> "Time for solidarity: Typhoon relief efforts in the Philippines", UNDCO Philippines, 2024

- GLOFs are having increasingly adverse impacts due to climate change across High Mountain Asia. Accelerated glacier shrinkage due to the increase in temperatures led to the increase in areas of glacier lakes during the past decades and the increased risk of GLOFs<sup>28</sup>. The GLOFs frequency has increased since 1980, with intensified activity in the China-Nepal border area over the past decade<sup>29</sup>. In High Mountain Areas, glacier ice is projected to decrease by  $49 \pm 7\%$  (RCP4.5) and  $64 \pm 5\%$  (RCP8.5) by 2100, with increased runoff until the 2050s and intensity and frequency of extreme discharges very likely to increase towards the end of the century. Nepal and Pakistan are particularly impacted. A catastrophic GLOF occurred in the Mount Everest region of Nepal in August 2024, destroying critical bridges and hydropower infrastructure; a school, a hospital clinic, and about 40 homes in Thame<sup>30</sup>. In Pakistan, it is estimated that about 2 million people are exposed, due in part to the proximity of populations with glacial lakes<sup>31</sup>. In addition, over 7,000 glaciers in the North of Pakistan are retreating and projections suggest up to 80% of glacier volume could be lost by 2100 under high emissions, increasing the risk of GLOF.
  - Increased risk of droughts in the arid and semi-arid regions of South Asia and in cities will have important impacts on health and economies. According to the IPCC, there is high confidence that global warming will cause increased drought conditions by the end of this century. By the late 21st century, under RCP6.0, the global land area in extreme-to-exceptional terrestrial water storage drought is projected to increase from 3% to 7%<sup>32</sup>. The IPCC AR6 reports that cities such as Karachi (Pakistan), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Manila (the Philippines) face important drought-related economic losses and mortality<sup>33,34</sup>.
4. More specifically, at the national level, climate impacts include the following:
- Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations of the world ranking 13<sup>th</sup> as the most vulnerable country to climate change impacts considering both slow onset and rapid climatic occurrences<sup>35</sup>. Bangladesh is particularly impacted by temperature rise, an increase in frequency and intensity of cyclones, sea level rise, erratic and extensive precipitations, floods and droughts<sup>36</sup>.
  - Cambodia: Climate change poses serious risks to Cambodia's livelihoods and ecosystems. As stated in the NDC 3.0 submitted in 2025, Cambodia is increasingly affected by increasing temperatures, more frequent and intense extreme weather events (floods, droughts) and rising sea levels. Projections indicate that without substantial adaptation and mitigation efforts, Cambodia could face a GDP loss of approximately 9.8% by 2050 due to Climate Change<sup>37</sup>. According to the INFORM Risk Index, Cambodia ranks as the fourth most flood exposed country globally. Flash flooding, driven by extreme rainfall during tropical cyclones and the monsoon and typhoon seasons, presents a persistent threat.
  - Indonesia: Due to climate change, temperatures in Indonesia are expected to continue increasing, at an accelerated pace, driven by the cumulative effects of GHG accumulation and regional land-surface changes, with an estimated increase of 2.5-3°C by 2100<sup>38</sup>, with heat stresses such as those experienced in the 2010s becoming a new normal. Indonesia is expected to see an amplification of extreme rainfall events and prolonged dry seasons<sup>39</sup>. Climate

<sup>28</sup> "IPCC AR-6 – Chapter 10" IPCC, 2022

<sup>29</sup> "Enhanced glacial lake activity threatens numerous communities and infrastructure in the Third Pole", Zhang T. et al., 2025 <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10716169/?utm>

<sup>30</sup> "Brief Communication: Multisource Remote Sensing Detects Growing 1 Himalayan Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Hazards", Sonam F. Sherpa, et al, 2025, <https://egusphere.copernicus.org/preprints/2025/egusphere-2025-133/egusphere-2025-133.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> "Glacial lake outburst floods threaten millions globally", Taylor C., 2023 [Glacial lake outburst floods threaten millions globally | Nature Communications](#)

<sup>32</sup> "IPCC AR-6 – Chapter 4", IPCC, 2022

<sup>33</sup> "Adapting to urban flooding: a case of two cities in South Asia", Pervin, I. A., et al., 2020

<sup>34</sup> "Risks of Exposure and Vulnerability to Natural Disasters at the City Level: A Global Overview" Gu, D., P. Gerland, F. Pelletier and B. Cohen, 2015

<sup>35</sup> "Climate Risk Index 2026", Germanwatch, 2025 [CRI 26 full report.pdf](#)

<sup>36</sup> "Bangladesh, a country diagnostics", Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance, 2023 [CRFSA Country Diagnostics Bangladesh June 2023.pdf](#)

<sup>37</sup> NCSA and MEF (2019). Addressing climate change impacts on Economic Growth in Cambodia

<sup>38</sup> "National Adaptation Plan (NAP)", Republic of Indonesia, 2025 – based on online data from the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency of Indonesia (BMKG), 2025

<sup>39</sup> "National Adaptation Plan (NAP)", Republic of Indonesia, 2025 – based on online data from the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency of Indonesia (BMKG), 2022

disasters are expected to be more frequent and more intense, including extremely high temperatures surpassing physiological tolerance thresholds, landslides and storm surges during monsoonal periods.

- Nepal: According to Nepal's NDC 3.0, submitted in 2025, Nepal is experiencing climate change-induced loss and damage from extreme events such as floods, landslides, GLOFs, droughts, wildfires and heatwaves. In 2024, extreme rainfalls triggered floods and landslides, causing 249 deaths, 178 injuries and the displacement of 11,000 households. The likelihood of such an event has increased by about 70% due to climate change<sup>40</sup>. According to the Climate Risk Index, Nepal ranks 10th in the world as a country most affected by climate hazards.<sup>41</sup>
- Pakistan is among the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world, ranking fifteen in the Global Climate Risk Index 2026 over the period 1995-2024<sup>42</sup>. The climate is highly variable, with fluctuations in rainfall leading to recurring droughts and floods. This variability is increasingly influenced by the effects of climate change. Average temperatures have increased at an alarming rate, while rainfall patterns have become erratic. Flooding is a persistent threat, droughts are becoming more frequent, and the country is also experiencing heatwaves more regularly, with record-breaking temperatures<sup>43</sup>. For instance, in 2015, an intense heatwave led to over 1,200 deaths in Karachi, and in 2022 the city of Jacobabad saw temperatures above 50°C, endangering vulnerable populations. Major cities like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Islamabad face growing challenges from extreme heat, urban flooding, and pollution. Heatwaves are magnified in urban areas due to the heat island effect, and dense cities in southern Pakistan regularly experience summer heat indices well above 45°C, straining public health and energy systems. In addition, Pakistan's coast is forecasted to rise by 30–80 cm by 2100, which, combined with stronger cyclones and storm surges, is eroding the coastline and swallowing land. An estimated 100 acres of coastal land are lost to the sea each day in the Indus Delta due to erosion and saltwater intrusion. The 2022 floods alone caused an estimated \$30 billion in damages and economic losses, equivalent to 8% of Pakistan's GDP, and sharply setting back development gains.
- The Philippines is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. Ranked 1st on the World Risk Index consecutively from 2022 to 2025, the country is continuously exposed to often catastrophic extreme weather events, such as devastating tropical cyclones. Most areas of the country and 74% of the population are at risk of climate-induced disasters<sup>44</sup>

### **Vulnerability to Climate Change of Persons with Disabilities**

5. Climate change, by increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters will particularly affect persons with disabilities, who are frequently the most affected by climate change-induced disasters as pointed out in the “Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters - 2023”<sup>45</sup>. The survey identifies a significant lack of inclusion and preparedness of persons with disabilities in the DRR processes, in particular their inclusion in the formulation and access to DRR plans at the community, subnational and national levels, thereby reducing their resilience to climate change. In addition, in South East and East Asia in 2019, cyclones, floods and typhoons triggered internal displacement of 9.6 million people, sometimes leaving persons with disabilities behind, facing increasing vulnerability due to the lack of functioning infrastructure and the loss of their community.

6. The consequences of the poor inclusion of persons with disabilities in preparedness were striking during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many persons with disabilities and their families have been particularly affected by movement restrictions, physical distancing requirements and prioritization of certain health services – affecting their access to

<sup>40</sup> “Nepal NDC 3.0”, Government of Nepal, 2025 <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-05/Nepal%20NDC3.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> “Nepal Disaster Resilience Second DPC with Cat DDO”, World Bank, 2024

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099511210252413915>

<sup>42</sup> “Climate Risk Index 2026”, Germanwatch, 2025 [CRI 26 full report.pdf](#)

<sup>43</sup> “Pakistan Third National Communication”, Government of Pakistan, 2025

<sup>44</sup> “NAP Philippines”, Government of the Philippines, 2024

<sup>45</sup> “Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters”, UNDRR, 2023 [GLOBAL SURVEY REPORT ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS 2023](#)

critical services to health and functioning<sup>46</sup> and leading to a largely higher mortality rate<sup>47</sup>. Since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress in reducing these inequalities has been insufficient, ensuring persons with disabilities continue to experience insufficiently adapted response mechanisms.

7. This reflects that, in spite of efforts over the last three decades to champion disability-inclusive development and disability rights across the region, insufficient progress has been reported, in particular with regards to climate change adaptation. The Mid-Term review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework reports progress in terms of disability-inclusive disaster recovery, collection and utilization of data and risk information and management to better understand disaster risk. However, it reports significant gaps:

- Disability inclusion continues to be under resourced and underprioritized;
- Despite some increase in supportive policies and legislation for disability-inclusive DRR, implementation remains slow, uneven and is often driven by non-state actors with short-term funding.
- The participation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in DRR is frequently curtailed by limited resources and support from other DRR stakeholders, and the perception of persons with disabilities as “vulnerable”, rather than as contributing stakeholders, persists.
- National climate policies and plans make limited reference to disability.

8. In addition, the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change often intersects with other discriminations based on socio-economic status, gender, age, ethnic group, religion, etc. Women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to climate change-induced disasters as they are less likely to be involved in decision-making processes and have a more limited access to ICT<sup>48</sup>. In addition, certain groups of persons with disabilities, such as persons with psychosocial disabilities living in institutions, face heightened difficulty in responding to climate disasters, being sometimes shackled, left behind or receiving inappropriate support if they reach shelters<sup>49</sup>.

### Persons with Disabilities in CCA/DRR planning and policies

9. In consideration of these limitations and gaps, a 2022 UNESCAP study, targeting Governments and CSOs, reported access to knowledge, information and communication; work and employment; and disability statistics as priorities to better include persons with disabilities for the period 2023-2030<sup>50</sup>. This study informs the **Jakarta declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities**, which renews the regional commitment to the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (**Incheon Strategy**), providing a clear framework for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in particular under Goal 7 “Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management”.

10. More broadly, at the global and regional levels, a number of conventions highlight the importance of including the needs of persons with disabilities, and the Asia-Pacific region is making progress in this regard:

- Article 11 of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) requests the 191 parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including natural disasters. It also provides an official definition for persons with disabilities: “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.
- The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** requests governments to engage with Persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards for DRR.
- The **ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025** mainstreams the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- The **Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion** (2025) commits to advance progress towards the full implementation of the CRPD as well as disability-inclusive international development cooperation and humanitarian action.

<sup>46</sup> “Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities”, WHO, 2022 [Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities](#)

<sup>47</sup> “UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development”, UNDESA, 2024 [UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2024](#)

<sup>48</sup> [UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2024](#)

<sup>49</sup> “People with Psychosocial Disabilities in Disaster Events”, CBM, 2022 [People with Psychosocial Disabilities in Disaster Events | CBM Global](#)

<sup>50</sup> “A Three-Decade Journey towards Inclusion”, UNESCAP, 2022 [ESCAP2022-RP-three-decade-journey-towards-inclusion.pdf](#)

- In 2021, WHO Member States adopted “**The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities**” stressing the need for member countries to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their full right to health, with mention to the occurrence of natural disasters;
- Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy links directly to the **UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on Climate Action**. SDG Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 also take into account the needs of persons with disabilities. In particular: the SDG Goal 4 ensures inclusive and equitable quality education for all, including persons with disabilities, by promoting accessible learning environments; SDG Goal 10 focuses on reducing inequality within and among countries, which includes empowering persons with disabilities and promoting their social, economic, and political inclusion, and; SDG Goal 11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and sustainable, addressing accessibility issues for persons with disabilities.
- In July 2019, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a **resolution on climate change and the rights of persons with disabilities**<sup>51</sup>. The resolution calls on governments to adopt a disability-inclusive approach when taking action to address climate change.

11. At the country level, while there is an increasing number of separate national action plans addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change and disasters, most guiding policies and plans on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction fail to mention disability-inclusion, or only under “vulnerable populations”, including in NDCs and NAPs. This exclusion from key plans and policies prevent a streamlined approach to disability-inclusion in CCA and DRR planning. A list of relevant national plans and policies is available under “project Components and Financing”, section E.

12. In addition, climate reference studies and reports, such as the IPCC reports and the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, still fail to take full consideration of persons with disabilities and group them under vulnerable people, along with other distinct groups (usually women, children, Indigenous people and poorest communities). In addition, most documents and surveys which do take into account the needs of persons with disabilities, do not distinguish between the different types of disabilities, and/or different countries or agencies have different understanding of disabilities, limiting the relevance and comparability of data and interventions.

### **National Economic, Social, Development and Environmental context**

13. Against this background, UNDP will work with six countries highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and with Government commitment to integrate persons with disabilities in their policies, plans and programming. The project will be implemented in a various range of locations, including coastal areas, riverine areas, urban areas and mountainous areas. It should be noted that, while the interventions will be mainly led at the national level, most of the areas in the region share vulnerabilities to climate change, and the same climate change-induced disasters is often transboundary, as was the case with the 2025 floods impacting Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar. The proposed sites will be confirmed during project formulation, based on the collected information on the situation of persons with disabilities and the existence of adequate infrastructure for climate information. The following paragraphs describe the national economic, social, development and environmental contexts in which this project will operate:

#### **Bangladesh**

14. Bangladesh is a low-lying deltaic country in South Asia bordered by India, Myanmar, and the Bay of Bengal. It is part of the Ganges Brahmaputra-Meghna basin, with 79% of its land being alluvial floodplains. It is a Least Developed Country, with a population of 170 million people, of which 60% live in rural areas and 24% below the poverty line. According to the Washington Group on disability statistics module, 7,14% of the population have at least one functional difficulty<sup>52</sup>.

15. The project will be implemented in the extremely vulnerable coastal areas of Khulna, Chattogram, and Cox’s Bazaar. These districts are highly at risk of climate change and disasters, in particular cyclones, tidal surge, salinity

<sup>51</sup> Human Rights Council. Forty-first session, 24 June–12 July 2019. Agenda item 3. “Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.”

[https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting\\_resources/hrc41\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_disability.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/hrc41_climate_change_and_disability.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> “National Survey on Persons with disabilities (NSPD), Government of Bangladesh, 2021

intrusion, increasing temperature, flooding, landslide, and flash floods with high prevalence of disability<sup>53</sup>. It is estimated that 35,000 people will directly benefit from the project and about 700,000 indirectly.

### **Cambodia**

16. Cambodia's economy is increasingly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks, yet national adaptation and risk-reduction strategies often overlook the specific needs of persons with disabilities. The country faces rising floods, droughts, and saline intrusion, resulting in over 900,000 disaster-related displacements since 2008 and economic losses of up to 10 % of GDP from events such as the 2015 floods<sup>54</sup>. Climate shocks distort key economic sectors, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, impacting rural livelihoods and contributing to cascading macroeconomic crises, including disease outbreaks and financial instability<sup>55</sup>. Although Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024–2033 and other frameworks mention “vulnerable and marginalized” groups, they do not explicitly mainstream disability inclusion in local implementation or resource allocation<sup>56</sup>. According to the 2024 Cambodian Inter-Censal Population Survey (using the Washington Short Set questionnaire), 10.4% of the population aged five years and above have some form of disability. Among them, 57.6% are women, 42.4% are men, and 60.1% live in rural areas<sup>57</sup>. According to the Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey conducted in 2023, persons with disabilities show higher rates of poverty (28%) and therefore an increased vulnerability to climate disasters.

17. Persons with disabilities in rural areas face heightened challenges due to higher disability rates that increase exposure to climate-related hazards. This combination results in lower incomes and living standards, severely limiting their ability to adapt and build resilience to climate change. Despite growing global commitments to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR), persons with disabilities in Cambodia remain largely invisible in disaster planning and decision-making. This exclusion is even more pronounced for women with disabilities, who face intersecting barriers of gender, disability, and poverty, barriers that disasters intensify. Women with disabilities are disproportionately affected by disasters and have the least access to institutional support during preparedness, response, and recovery phases<sup>58</sup>. In Cambodia, early warning systems are not tailored to their needs, leaving them highly vulnerable during disasters.<sup>16</sup> It is recognized that disadvantaged households are the most at risk, including persons with disabilities.

18. The project will target 70 villages in 5 provinces located near the Tonle Sap Lake and Mekong River, where they are affected by annual floods from the lake and river. It is estimated that 10,000 persons with disabilities will directly benefit from the project and about 3,000,000 people indirectly.

### **Indonesia**

19. The largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is a diverse archipelago nation of more than 600 distinct ethnic groups, with a population of 285.7 million in 2025, making it the fourth most populous nation. As of March 2025, Indonesia's official poverty rate stands at 8.47%, with rural poverty at 11.03% and urban at 6.73%, while 24.45% remain vulnerable to falling into poverty<sup>59</sup>. Based on the 2020 Long Form Population Census, following the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning methodology, 6.42% of the population experience a mild-to-severe disability<sup>60</sup>, with mobility and vision difficulties most common among older adults.

20. Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, and East Nusa Tenggara Provinces were selected based on the prevalence of persons with disabilities, climate change impact, disaster risk and vulnerability. The three selected provinces are most

<sup>53</sup> “National Survey on Persons with Disabilities” (NSPD), 2021, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

<sup>54</sup> “Country Fact Sheet – Cambodia” IOM, 2023 [https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1671/files/documents/2024-06/cambodia-snapshot-final\\_updated.pdf](https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1671/files/documents/2024-06/cambodia-snapshot-final_updated.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> “The Potential Cascading Impacts of Climate Change in Cambodia”, The World Bank Group, 2024 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5a49ff13-5476-44c9-8b7d-8ca24290b909/content>

<sup>56</sup> “Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024 – 2033”, Department of Climate Change, MoE, 2025 <https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/resources/document/cambodia-climate-change-strategic-plan-2024-2033>

<sup>57</sup> “Kingdom of Cambodia. Final Report. Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey 2024” National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning. January 2025

<sup>58</sup> “Disaster experiences of women with disabilities: Barriers and opportunities for disability inclusive disaster risk reduction in Cambodia.” Gartrell A, Calgaro E, Goddard G, Saorath N. 2020

<sup>59</sup> “Overview - The World Bank In Indonesia”, World Bank, 2025. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/indonesia/overview#1>

<sup>60</sup> “Portrait of Persons with Disabilities in Indonesia”, UNFPA, 2022

susceptible to high intensity disasters (such as strong winds and floods) and disasters with highest impacts (such as flood and drought). It is estimated that 1 million people will directly benefit from the project and about 13 million indirectly.

### **Nepal**

21. Nepal is a mountainous country and one of Least Developed Country located in the Himalaya between India and China in South Asia. As of 2021, about 33.83% of the population lived in rural areas, and about 20.27% of its population living below the poverty line according to a survey conducted by the Government in 2021<sup>61</sup>.

22. The project will be implemented in the Mahottari district, along the Jhanghaha River Basin, which is highly vulnerable to flood hazard and disaster risks. It is estimated that 19,100 people will directly benefit from the project and about 600,000 indirectly.

### **Pakistan**

23. Pakistan has an estimated 241.47 million people and an average annual growth rate of 2.55%, making it the fifth-most populous country in the world. As of 2023, 37.2% of the population is estimated to live below the poverty line. The Census 2023 findings show 3.1% report disability, while 9.64% experience functional limitations, with disparities by gender, rural-urban residence, and province<sup>62</sup>. Its diverse geography, with glacial highlands, fertile plains, vast deserts and coastal areas, exposes the country to a range of climate-related risks. Pakistan faces economic challenges on multiple fronts, including high inflation, escalating debt and a persistent trade deficit. The economy relies heavily on climate-sensitive sectors, making it highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, which cause substantial losses.

24. The project targets four districts in Pakistan, based on the geographical locations, disasters' vulnerability (heatwaves, floods, landslides, Cyclones and Coastal Storm Surges, GLOF) and presence of persons with disabilities: Karachi, Sindh; Gilgit, Gilgit – Baltistan; and Rawalpindi, Punjab. It is estimated that 20,000 people will directly benefit from the project and about 1 million indirectly.

### **The Philippines**

25. The Philippines is an archipelago composed of 7,641 islands within three major island groups: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Based on the 2024 Census of Population conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the national population is 112,729,484. It is estimated that 18.1% are living below the poverty threshold, and 13.2% were considered poor<sup>63</sup>. Based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing Special Release on Functional Difficulty, 8.7% of the population has a disability<sup>64</sup> and this increases to 6,8% for poor households, showcasing an exacerbated vulnerability of persons with disabilities<sup>65</sup>.

26. The project targets the National Capital Region; Region III, Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Region V (Bicol Region); Region VIII (Eastern Visayas Region). These were selected based on high prevalence of persons with disabilities, climate vulnerability, and active DPO presence. It is estimated that 8,000 people will directly benefit from the project and about 4 million indirectly.

## **Preliminary Gender Assessment: Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)**

27. Persons with disabilities face intersectional discrimination that may be based on a combination of variables including gender, age, ethnicity and class. Women with disabilities face different, and often more, challenges than men. In the programme countries, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) (2023) ranks between 86 in the Philippines, to Pakistan ranking 145 out of 174 countries, showing a significant disparity in gender inequality. Across the region employment is a challenge for women and men with disabilities. Structural and legislative changes are needed to enable women with

<sup>61</sup> "Census 2021" Government of Nepal, 2021 [Census Nepal 2021](#)

<sup>62</sup> "Census 2023", Government of Pakistan, 2023

<sup>63</sup> "2024 Census of Population", PSA, 2024.

<sup>64</sup> "2020 Census of Population and Housing Special Release on Functional Difficulty", PSA, 2020

<sup>65</sup> Survey conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, 2011

disabilities to gain and maintain decent employment in the region, thereby increasing their vulnerability. Similarly, the Gender Development Index (GDI) (2023), defined as the ratio of female to male HDI, is calculated for 184 countries, and also shows great disparity across the region, with values of 0.838 for Pakistan compared to Philippines' 0.984.

28. These inequalities are reflected in Pakistan for instance, where women and transgender persons with disabilities may still face a range of challenges that can affect their access to essential services. Women with disabilities can encounter difficulties in obtaining health care, education, and national identity documents, which may limit their access to social protection and disaster-related assistance. Transgender persons with disabilities may also experience barriers in exercising their civil and political rights and in accessing public services. Although efforts have been made to improve inclusion, continued support is needed to ensure that these groups are able to participate fully and equitably. In Cambodia, research on the impact of flood and drought on women with disabilities confirmed that the perception of marginalization from women with disabilities in daily life are replicated in the country's CCA and DRR policies, programs, and efforts across preparedness, response and recovery<sup>66</sup>. More country-specific situations will be assessed under the Gender assessment and action plan to be conducted during the project proposal.

29. Considering these differences, Early warning systems must not only be disability inclusive, but gender-responsive. This demands the engagement of stakeholders from different women's OPDs as well as other relevant organizations/networks who can provide inputs on the specific needs and challenges of women with disabilities. For instance, research on vulnerability, resilience and gender stress the importance of social capital for resilience in communities, with women often having different networks than men for information sharing. Types of technologies used must also be considered from a gender perspective as well as type of disability. While many people have smartphones, persons with disabilities may often face financial constraints, and some women may not be able to afford cell phones, prioritizing food instead (as in the case of Cambodia). This may differ greatly from urban to rural areas and from country to country.

30. While the impacts of climate change affect all sectors and countries, climate change and its impacts are not gender neutral. Inequitable institutions, laws, policies, practices, and norms together with unequal power dynamics at all levels – from household to community to national level - increase the likelihood that poor households, particularly women and girls, bear disproportionate burdens of climate-related impacts.<sup>67</sup>

31. There are limited studies on the prevalence and experiences of violence for women with disabilities in developing country settings, including the Asia Pacific Region. However, some small-scale studies point to a high prevalence of violence, with a greater risk of all forms of violence compared to women without disabilities in their homes, communities, and institutions. Women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities were particularly vulnerable to physical and sexual violence and women with disabilities were less likely to access support, refuge or legal redress than their peers without disabilities.<sup>68</sup>

32. However, there has been some success in developing more socially-inclusive disaster risk reduction local and national plans, where women's organizations and ODPs have lobbied for change. Nevertheless, sensitization and support mechanisms would also help raise the voice of these organizations and groups as would an obligation for state actors to consult them and include their representatives in the decision-making bodies at all levels.<sup>69</sup>

## **Problems the project will address**

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<sup>66</sup> "Disability and disasters: Empowering people and building resilience to risk. Women with disabilities experience of disasters in rural Cambodia" Gartrell, A., et al., 2017.

<sup>67</sup> UNFCCC. 2018. Differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men; the integration of gender considerations in climate policies, plans and actions; and progress in enhancing gender balance in national climate delegations. Synthesis report of the Secretariat Doc. # FCCC/SBI/2019/INF.8

<sup>68</sup> Astbury, J. and Walji, F. 2013. Triple Jeopardy: Gender-based violence and human rights violations experienced by women with disabilities in Cambodia. AusAid Research Working Paper 1, January 2013.

<sup>69</sup> UNISDR. N.d. Issues of Vulnerability with Specific Reference to Gender in the Asia-Pacific: Post - 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Consultations.

33. Considering the increasing vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change-induced disasters, it is critical to raise awareness, build the knowledge on disability inclusion for relevant stakeholders and ensure the last-mile delivery of climate risk information and early warnings to persons with disabilities. The project aims at empowering persons with disabilities including women with disabilities and enhancing their capacities in effectively coping with climate change induced disasters. This will be conducted both at the institutional and grass root level, through strengthening institutional capacities and policies related to disability, enhancing disaster early warning, provision of disability compatible assistive technology and raising awareness about climate change.

34. To improve the resilience of persons with disabilities including women with disabilities to climate change-induced disasters, the following barriers need to be addressed:

- Lack of data on the impacts of climate change-induced disasters, with information disaggregated by disability type: Under-reported, inaccurate and inconsistent pre-disaster baseline data on persons with disabilities (e.g. numbers, location, types) lays a weak foundation for the analysis and mapping to be used for the implementation of effective preparedness and response measures. Another challenge is that the limited information available is often conflicting or not comparable geographically or at different collection time, due to varying collection methods.
- Inadequate mechanisms to ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs in the design, implementation, and monitoring of DRR plans at the national, sub-national and local levels: persons with disabilities and OPDs are excluded from government policy, planning and consultation processes around climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Policies and documents generally do not mention persons with disabilities, or only under the heading of “vulnerable populations,” which generally includes women, indigenous populations, and the elderly. OPDs and persons with disabilities may also not have the required knowledge and information on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures including awareness of climate risks, climate change adaptation policy frameworks, or the tools and evidence necessary to advocate for their needs.
- Insufficient support to persons with disabilities for the development of a personal preparedness plan for disasters: according to a UNDRR survey in 2023, 84% of persons with disabilities do not have a personal preparedness plan, showing a significant decrease since 2013 (71%). These plans provide persons with disabilities with the understanding of DRR and clear strategies for the response to disasters. These plans cover evacuation planning, including ensuring access to shelters, understanding evacuation routes, having an emergency kit or grab bag, and emergency supplies, attending DRR trainings, participating in evacuation drills, accessing disaster information from the news and mobile apps, and receiving information from authorities.
- Current climate information services and early warning systems are not available in accessible formats to meet the needs of the different types of disabilities for preparedness and response to climate disasters, and critical public infrastructures and services are not designed to the needs of persons with disabilities, in particular shelters, public schools or health facilities are not accessible to persons with different disabilities - whether through physical fittings, psychological assistance or through appropriate signage. Despite progress in enhancing early warning systems for climate and extreme weather events, vulnerable groups of people with disabilities have not entirely benefited from these advancements. In spite of sparse evidence, it is widely stated that the mortality rate in the case of natural disasters can be two-to-four times higher for persons with disabilities, due to the difficulty to escape, or take shelter from, physical hazards during a disaster, and to access DRR activities before, during and after a disaster. Investments in both upstream and downstream EWS were designed with insufficient participation and needs assessments from persons with disabilities and OPDs.
- Private sector companies (in telecommunications or technology) do not perceive investment in disability-inclusive services and products as financially viable and consequently do not invest in this area: even if grassroots entrepreneurs or small-scale start-ups devise innovative solutions, it is difficult to scale up those services at a level which can make them profitable, owing to limited financing available for them. Given the

increasing mobile, smartphone, and data services penetration across the participating countries, there is an opportunity to pilot innovative solutions in partnership with technology providers and grassroots start-ups to demonstrate the potential for their eventual adoption and business sustainability.

- Poor disability expertise in leadership roles for disability inclusion: While there are now dedicated leadership roles for disability inclusion in governance structures, personnel with disability expertise are often not assigned to these roles. OPDs are key institutional stakeholders in providing this expertise but are often not consulted or engaged in the design of regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks.

## **Project/Programme Objectives:**

35. The objective of the project is to enhance the resilience to climate change of persons with disabilities in the participating countries, by engaging and integrating them in DRR and CCA decision-making and giving them access to climate disaster preparedness and response technologies and innovative tools that respond to their needs.

36. The project will provide tangible adaptation benefits to persons with disabilities including women with disabilities by building capacity of individuals to advocate for their CCA needs; building capacity of governments to respond effectively and appropriately to the risks persons with disabilities face; and providing technological solutions to improve the quality of their response to extreme climate events.

37. The regional approach will enable knowledge sharing on best practices and challenges to a disability-inclusive DRR and, when relevant, work with regional stakeholders to promote joint and collaborative inter-country approaches for the preparedness and response to transboundary climate change-induced disasters.

38. The Project Theory of Change is available below.

<p><b>OBJECTIVE</b></p>	<p><b>Enhance the resilience to climate change of persons with disabilities in the participating countries, by engaging and integrating them in DRR and CCA decision-making and giving them access to climate disaster preparedness, response technologies and innovative tools that respond to their needs</b></p>						
<p><b>COMPONENTS</b></p>	<p>Capacity building for OPDs, Persons with Disabilities, and Governments to address climate change, and enhance the inclusiveness of institutional frameworks</p>		<p>Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Infrastructure and last-mile services</p>		<p>Knowledge generation, codification and dissemination of lessons learned on reducing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change risks</p>		
<p><b>OUTCOMES</b></p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: Regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management are disability-inclusive</p>		<p>Outcome 1.2: Improved capacity of OPDs to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation policies</p>		<p>Outcome 2.1: Improved early warning systems for climate events, recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities</p>		<p>Outcome 3.1: Enhanced regional knowledge sharing systems capturing lessons learned</p>
<p><b>PROJECT OUTPUTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Improved disaggregated data on persons with disabilities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures</li> <li>ii. Enhanced Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework to promote disability-inclusiveness in climate disasters preparedness and response</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Improved capacity of persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to participate in policy making bodies on climate change</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the dissemination of, and response to, climate disasters EW adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities</li> <li>ii. Incubation and acceleration of innovative solutions for EW and disaster response for persons with disabilities with potential public and private partnerships</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Development of training modules for CCA and DRR practitioners and government officials on the inclusion of specific needs of persons with disabilities</li> <li>ii. Regional knowledge-sharing by persons with disabilities and relevant community-based organizations for disability-inclusiveness in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction</li> </ul>
<p><b>BARRIERS, RISKS</b></p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> Lack of data on the impacts of CC-induced disasters, with information disaggregated by disability type</p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> Inadequate mechanisms for inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs in DRR plans</p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> Insufficient support to persons with disabilities for the development of personal preparedness plan for disasters</p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> Climate information services and early warning systems are not available and accessible to persons with disabilities</p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> The Private Sector does not invest in persons with disabilities-adapted climate information</p>	<p><b>Barrier</b> Leadership roles for disability inclusion in governance structures are usually filled by personnel lacking disability expertise</p>	<p><b>Risk</b> Social perceptions of persons with disabilities prevent the successful application of the project activities for persons with disabilities inclusion</p>
<p><b>ASSUMPTIONS</b></p>	<p>OPDs are functional at the national and local levels Persons with disabilities are interested in taking part in decision-making for CCA and DRR</p>						

## PROJECT/PROGRAMME COMPONENTS AND FINANCING:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
1. Capacity building for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Persons with Disabilities, and Governments to address climate change, and enhance the inclusiveness of institutional frameworks	1.1 Regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management are disability-inclusive.	Output 1.1.1 Improved disaggregated data on persons with disabilities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.  Output 1.1.2 Enhanced Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework to promote disability-inclusiveness in climate disasters preparedness and response	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan	US\$ 4,503,333
	1.2 Improved capacity of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation policies	Output 1.2.1 Improved capacity of persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to participate in policy making bodies on climate change		
2. Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Infrastructure and last-mile services	2.1 Improved early warning systems for climate event, recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities	Output 2.1.1 Introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the dissemination of, and response to, climate disasters early warnings adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities  Output 2.1.2 Incubation and acceleration of innovative solutions for early warnings and disaster responses for persons with disabilities with potential public and private partnerships.	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan	US\$ 9,650,000
3. Knowledge generation, codification and dissemination of lessons learned on reducing the	3.1 Enhanced regional knowledge sharing systems capturing lessons learned.	Output 3.1.1 Development of training modules for CCA and DRR practitioners and government officials on the inclusion of	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia,	US\$ 3,361,417

vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change risks.		specific needs of persons with disabilities  Output.3.1.2 Regional knowledge-sharing by persons with disabilities and relevant community-based organizations for disability-inclusiveness in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction	Philippines, Pakistan	
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				US\$ 635,250
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				US\$ 18,150,000
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				US\$ 1,815,000
<b>Amount of Financing Requested</b>				<b>US\$ 19,965,000</b>

### Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	July 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	Dec 2029
Project/Programme Closing	June 2032
Terminal Evaluation	March 2032

## PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

**A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities, how these activities would contribute to climate resilience, and how they would build added value through the regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects would contribute to the overall increase in resilience.**

40. The project will aim to strengthen the resilience of persons with disabilities in six countries of Asia to the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, in particular Tropical Cyclones, floods, heatwaves and droughts. The project will support persons with disabilities integration through three components presented in more detail below, with an emphasis on the value addition of the regional approach. It is expected that 1,673,000 people will directly benefit from the project and 22,300,000 indirectly. The regional approach is particularly relevant as countries in Asia-Pacific are advancing at different pace towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their policies, planning and programming, as per the Incheon Strategy, and collaboration and knowledge exchange will be a key enabler for an accelerated progress and creating an environment for innovative approaches. The components and adaptation activities, along with their potential for collaboration, are presented in the paragraphs below.

*Component 1: Capacity building for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Persons with Disabilities, and Governments to address climate change, and enhance the inclusiveness of institutional frameworks:*

**Outcome 1.1: Regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management are disability-inclusive.**

**Output.1.1.1 Improved disaggregated data on persons with disabilities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.**

41. Expected output result:

- At least one platform/database in each participant country provide data on persons with disability, disaggregated by type of disability, age group, location, socio-economic status and gender (total: 6 platforms/databases).

42. This output will build on the experiences of Bangladesh which conducted in 2022 a national survey on persons with disabilities. The surveys followed the Washington Group methodology, which promotes and coordinates international cooperation in generating statistics on disability suitable for censuses and national surveys, in order to provide basic information on disability that is comparable worldwide.

43. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), along with key ministries and agencies, will play a key role in collecting the relevant data and will receive training on data collection methodologies and analysis. They will also be consulted and engaged to review and facilitate the integration of persons with disabilities within relevant national policies and data systems, including GIS. Based on the gaps identified, the project will apply relevant information and communication technologies (ICT) for collection and analysis of data. The project will also explore partnerships to utilize existing cloud-based solutions for the storage and analysis of data, whether from public or private climate risk and vulnerability database systems. During the proposal formulation, a stocktaking of existing tools for collection, organization and management of data to assess risk and exposure of household, infrastructure and production areas to natural hazards will be conducted. This output will explore the potential for replication of these tools to other countries.

Indicative activities will include:

- Assess data gaps in key policies on disabilities;
- Train OPDs, key ministries and agencies on data collection for the integration of data in legal and regulatory frameworks (output 1.2);
- Conduct data collection and studies on location, numbers and types of persons with disabilities;
- Integrate data on persons with disabilities into existing GIS maps/databases;
- Introduce methodologies to integrate disabilities in national disaster data collection and management systems;
- Conduct initial vulnerability assessments of persons with disabilities;
- Conduct analysis on the impacts of climate disasters on the different types of disabilities.

***Output 1.1.2 Enhanced Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework to promote disability-inclusiveness in climate disasters preparedness and response.***

44. Expected output result:

- At least two guiding CCA/DRR policies/regulations in each participant country address the needs of persons with disabilities (total:12 policies/regulations).

45. Under Output 1.1.2, regulations and statutory amendments will be introduced to mandate assistance to persons with disabilities during times of climate disasters, and guidelines to make climate disaster shelters accessible for persons with disabilities will be developed and introduced. Disaster risk reduction plans, disaster preparedness plans, and climate change adaptation strategies will be revised to include persons with disabilities. National and regional OPDs will be closely engaged to ensure that persons with disabilities' concerns are effectively addressed before, during and after climate extreme events.

46. National, regional and local decision-making bodies for climate change and DRR will be identified during proposal formulation, to enable the participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs during implementation. Trainings and workshops will be held for governments at the different levels to understand the importance of the inclusion of disability concerns and relevant stakeholders in DRR planning and to provide them with the tools and good practices for their effective inclusion.

47. Countries will be supported to design guidelines for government agencies and international organizations to ensure that climate disaster infrastructure incorporate accessibility for persons with disabilities in their design.

48. Indicative activities will include:

- Assess the disability inclusiveness of existing climate change and DRR policies and identify gaps;
- Formulate regulations and statutory amendments for the inclusion of disability into climate change and DRR policies, laws and planning;
- Train government officials, OPDs and NGOs on disability inclusiveness in climate change and DRR;
- Formulate guidelines for the disability-inclusiveness of disaster response and recovery measures, including infrastructure ;
- Identify areas for participation and advocacy of persons with disabilities and OPDs in decision-making for CCA/DRR.

**Outcome 1.2: Improved capacity of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation policies.**

***Output 1.2.1: Improved capacity of persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to participate in policy making bodies on climate change.***

49. Expected output result:

- At least one decision making-body for CCA/DRR in each targeted province and at the national levels in the six countries engage OPDs (total: 26 decision-making bodies)

50. Training workshops on climate change, climate change adaptation, and DRR will be conducted for OPDs to improve OPDs understanding of climate change and DRR, including global, regional and national policies, so they can advocate for, and work with governments on the inclusion of persons with disabilities into national, regional and local climate change adaptation plans and policies. OPDs will be trained to engage with authorities at the sub-national level for the implementation of the plans and application of the policies, ensuring persons with disabilities effectively benefit at the community level.

51. Currently, a wide range of technologies are applied or tested for the last-mile dissemination of Early Warnings, taking into account digital penetration, response preparedness, infrastructure available, languages, etc. However, persons with disabilities remain largely excluded from these options and their vulnerability to the increased occurrence and intensity of climate disasters is exacerbated, thereby widening the gap with the rest of their community. The project will conduct a stocktaking of practices in the target countries that are successfully sharing climate information in disability-inclusive formats, covering different types of disabilities. Best practices will be replicated to ensure persons with disabilities and OPDs have access to this information and have an enhanced and updated access to climate information, thereby supporting their effective engagement in planning and programming for DRR at the local, regional and national levels.

52. Indicative activities will include:

- Train OPDs (i) on climate change impacts in the country and targeted regions, (ii) on decision-making bodies and processes for climate change and (iii) on supporting sub-national authorities to effectively implement disability-inclusive plans and policies;
- Advocate for the inclusion of OPDs and persons with disabilities in policy-making bodies;
- Train local authorities and relevant local stakeholders involved in CCA and DRR on the implementation of plans and the application of policies that are disability-inclusive;
- Produce climate change information in braille, audio, local sign languages and other disability accessible formats.

*Component 2: Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Infrastructure and last-mile services*

53. Over the last decade, the six targeted countries have made efforts to improve their Early Warning Infrastructure, with multiple national and multi-country projects and initiatives increasing the capacity to forecast, plan for and respond to disasters. This includes the recently approved multi-country EW4All GCF project, covering Cambodia, as well as national efforts strengthening the EWS for climate disasters such as with the National

Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) in Pakistan, the Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project (BWCSR) or the GCF project in Nepal supporting hazard monitoring and early warning generation for GLOF. However, there has been limited progress for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the preparedness and response to climate disasters. Their specific needs remain misunderstood or unaddressed and they are sometimes left behind when disasters occur. This component will build on the experience of the programme countries in building EWS, ICT and other appropriate technologies for the dissemination of climate information and warnings and promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and OPDs in the forecast, planning and response to disasters.

54. Close cooperation with national weather services and other climate information providers, including from the private sector, will be key for the implementation of this outcome. The project will build on the experience of these stakeholders and the proposed solutions under outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 will be embedded into existing processes and platforms.

**Outcome 2.1: Improved early warning systems for climate events, recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities.**

**Output 2.1.1: Introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the dissemination of, and response to, climate disasters early warnings adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.**

55. Expected output result:

- At least 1 early warning system per country is enhanced for the last-mile dissemination to persons with disabilities, with the introduction of disability-inclusive technologies to address the needs of person with disabilities in preparing and responding to climate change-induced disasters (Total: 6 EWS)

56. Based on the countries’ successful experiences in disseminating Early Warnings, in particular for tropical cyclones and floods, the project will review the relevance of the technologies to persons with disabilities and/or how they can be adapted to the specific needs of the different disability types. This will reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate hazards by providing them accessible warnings with adapted response mechanisms.

57. This output will provide persons with disabilities with appropriate technology to receive early warnings so they can better prepare to climate disasters and enhance their response capacity. The early warning information will be disseminated in a range of accessible formats depending on the type of disability and provide information on the nature and magnitude of the disaster as well as local response options, in alignment with the planning and preparation activities conducted under component 1.

58. The project will build on the experience from the six countries in EW as well as broader communication strategies that are adapted to persons with disabilities. When possible, the project will use existing platforms to streamline the dissemination of information, directly integrating specific designs and solutions adapted to persons with disabilities. During the project formulation stage, further consultations and research will be conducted to identify best practices, in the programme countries and globally, and assess their relevance to the regional and local context. A first stocktake of solutions was conducted in 2020, in consultation with persons with disabilities and OPDs, and is summarized in table 1. During the project formulation, this list will be updated based on new consultations with relevant stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, OPDs, governments and service providers.

**Table 1: Proposed interventions, identified in the 2020 stakeholder’s engagement, for the provision of climate information and early warning systems to persons with disabilities**

TECHNOLOGY/ EWS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive Voice Response (IVR)</li> <li>• Microsoft’s Persons with disabilities-focused AI initiatives e.g. Microsoft Translator</li> <li>• Helpicto - application that turns voice commands into Microsoft Custom Speech Service (CSS), a customized speech recognition service,</li> <li>• Soundscape creates rich spatial information about one’s surroundings</li> <li>• Seeing AI &amp; auto alt-text features which help narrate the world for people who are blind or low vision.</li> <li>• Online transportation hub for safe transit during disaster risk and climate event</li> <li>• Pilot an early warning system (EWS) with sound and visual signs.</li> <li>• 1294 EWS system Automated CAP (Common Alerting Protocol)</li> </ul>

<p><b>ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND ALERT SYSTEMS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor alarm system for people with hearing disability</li> <li>• Captioning and sign language interpretation</li> <li>• Audio description</li> <li>• Outdoor alert and warning: e.g. Telegrafia a.</li> <li>• J-Alert: disaster warning technology in Japan</li> <li>• Song Saeng: Calling Device for the Deaf</li> <li>• VISIONNEAR</li> <li>• iSonar: An Obstacle Warning Device for the Blind</li> <li>• Landslide warning Thai App YOUPIN</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Emergency helplines</li> <li>• Improved cellular services to provide weather and climate advisory services in multiple formats.</li> <li>• Interactive Voice Response helpline menu.</li> <li>• Web based Social media. platforms Social Networking sites</li> <li>• Meta Crisis Response</li> <li>• Google SOS Alert</li> <li>• Google Crisis Response</li> <li>• Voice message board</li> </ul>

59. Indicative activities will include:

- Finalize and validate, through participatory methods, the appropriate solutions for last mile services to persons with disabilities;
- Train persons with disabilities and OPDs on the use of the new solutions;
- In cooperation with weather services and relevant ICT providers, introduce identified disability-inclusive technologies and solutions into existing early warning systems;

***Output 2.1.2: Incubation and acceleration of innovative solutions for early warnings and disaster response for persons with disabilities with potential public and private partnerships***

60. Expected output result:

- At least three disability-inclusive innovative solutions per country are developed and rolled out (total: 18 innovative solutions)

61. This output will support the incubation of locally-led innovative solutions supporting persons with disabilities in receiving early warnings and disaster response. The project will issue calls for proposals at the national level to identify the most promising innovations, with a focus on proposals submitted by persons with disabilities, OPDs and caregivers, as well as women and youth.

62. In addition, the project will support preparedness investments which address the needs of persons with disabilities. The call for proposals will also identify preparedness solutions to improve access to shelters or transportation for persons with restricted mobility, introduce clear signage (visual or audio) to evacuation areas/shelters for persons with sensory impairments, psychosocial support during and after a disaster, etc.

63. The output will also support the acceleration of innovative solutions and potential partnership with private sector organizations, to be identified during the project formulation stage. These technologies will be supported for scale-up and replication, including by engaging private sector organizations to increase the outreach and facilitate the commercialization of the solutions.

64. Some examples of technologies which can be improved and scaled up for last mile services are:

- ConnectHear in Pakistan, automatically converts text alerts into sign-language video and distributes via WhatsApp and other channels so Deaf users receive life-saving warnings in their sign language.
- City-level visual beacon EWS for Deaf communities in Muntinlupa City, Philippines. The system provides color-coded LED beacons and visual alerts across the city to signal hazard type and required action.
- Wireless Alarm System in buildings for the Deaf. This system has been developed by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin in Thailand. This is a sensor device that can detect fire, motion and gas leak in the building and turns the detection into

vibration alarm for the deaf. This can be adapted to provide information through an early warning system for persons that are hearing impaired.

- Visionear is a pair of glasses developed by a group of university students to 'see' by detecting symbols on barcode, bank notes, colors and light and transform the information detected into real-time audio system through ear plug. This can be used when attached to mobile phones, where barcodes with climate information can be via mobile phones and thus allow those who are vision impaired to receive critical information.
- AI-powered early-warning systems under the EW4All initiative, using AI to improve detection, automate message tailoring and (in some pilots) produce accessible outputs (captioning, simplified messages).
- Social media is rapidly being utilized as a channel for exchange of information and early warning system technologies and a tool to mobilize and coordinate people. From unified hashtags to maps of immediate needs and crowdsourcing are already examples of the cluster system using aggregated social media data. Social Networking sites such as Meta can also act as warning system. Information technology and social media will thus play a key role in the deployment of last mile services and the countries have identified several technologies and services from the key companies, Meta, Google and Microsoft.
- Google SOS Alert is a feature in Google Search and Maps that activate during major natural, manmade, or humanitarian disasters. People can use Search to learn more about a crisis. People can also use Maps to find out more about a crisis, SOS Alerts provide live updates about what's going on in the area, as well as direct access to emergency resources, such as hotline numbers. SOS Alert also comes with Public Alerts to help local and public authorities communicate emergency messages specifically related to official weather, public safety, and earthquake alerts. This system can also be explored and adjusted to the needs of persons with disabilities to provide climate information and to reduce risk.
- Countries have identified text to speech applications to provide critical information to person with disabilities. Text to speech is one assistive technology using speech synthesis is text-to speech programs. In text-to-speech (TTS) programs, files are copied into a program and then are spoken by the computer. This available commercially and can be used in many languages to provide climate information. Such applications can be installed on smart phone, tablets and computers.

65. UNDP will use its experience from the UNDP Partnerships and Innovation Programme to bring together the owners of these innovative technologies and the private sector, including large social media companies such as Meta and major information technology companies such as Google. These partnerships will support the development of the disability-inclusive solutions providing last mile services, and the scale-up at national or regional level.

66. Indicative activities include:

- Issue calls for proposals to provide grants for the development of disability-inclusive innovative solutions;
- Identify and test promising technologies;
- Support incubation labs and innovative start-ups in the programme countries;
- Identify opportunities for partnerships with the private sector and initiate engagement;
- In collaboration with the private sector, develop and deploy technologies and assistive devices;
- Scale-up appropriate technologies.

*Component 3: Knowledge generation, codification and dissemination of lessons learned on reducing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change risks.*

### **Outcome 3.1: Enhanced regional knowledge sharing systems capturing lessons learned**

67. Under this outcome, the regional approach of the project will offer an adequate platform for effective knowledge sharing. The six countries will be supported to continuously share experience and jointly reflect on the successes and challenges of persons with disabilities inclusivity in climate disaster preparedness and response. This sharing will enable the collection of well-informed and diversified experiences, providing a structured framework for the scale-up of the approach beyond the intervention areas and countries.

68. This component will facilitate exchange and development of solutions and innovations addressing disability inclusion in DRR and CCA and translate them into effective knowledge management platforms to enhance the capacity of DRR and CCA officials and policy makers to achieve more disability-inclusive practices. It will ensure that regional stakeholders and partners have access to consistent and comparable information on disability inclusive DRR

and CCA tools and lessons learned throughout the project that can be used beyond the life of the project and applied to different contexts. Through knowledge management, local, regional and international stakeholders will be connected so the key learning and experiences can be shared.

69. The project will rely on existing regional platforms such as the ASEAN and South Asian Disability Forum to communicate and share on knowledge and lessons learned from the project. At the project level, a exchange platform will be set-up between the project stakeholders to share and support each other on disability-inclusiveness in CCA and DRR.

***Output 3.1.1: Development of training modules for CCA and DRR practitioners and government officials on the inclusion of specific needs of persons with disabilities***

70. Expected output result:

- 5 training modules are designed and shared across the project countries ((i) on the introduction of disability in key CCA/DRR frameworks (lessons learned from component 1), (ii) on the adoption of technologies for the improvement of EWS (lessons learned from output 2.1.1), (iii) on the introduction of innovative solution for the preparedness and response to climate disasters of persons with disabilities (lessons learned from output 2.1.2), (iv) on the use of roadmaps, tools and checklists to assess and monitor the level of inclusivity of persons with disabilities, including data collection, (v) on the collection and dissemination of lessons learned for disability-inclusive CCA and DRR.

71. Under this output, the project will generate training manuals and tools targeted at government officials on disability-specific considerations for CCA and DRR, building on the experience from components 1 and 2. The training modules will be shared with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region as well as globally for the scale-up of the measures. The training will be targeted at both ministries and agencies in charge of DRR, CCA, as well as ministries and agencies in charge of Health and disability-inclusion. This will, in turn, promote the inclusion of CCA/DRR in policies and priorities on disability-inclusiveness.

72. The trainings will include lessons learned from component 1, with (i) recommendations on data collection, aligned with broadly used methodologies such as from the Washington Group, (ii) effective ways to introduce disability-inclusive considerations in legal and institutional frameworks, and (iii) good practices for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and OPDs in planning, policies and programming. Technical training modules will also be produced to educate DRR and CCA duty bearers on the needs of persons with disabilities, disability-related laws and how to effectively collaborate with OPDs and community support organizations. This output will strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries by providing them with best practices and lessons learnt, including on designing roadmaps, tools and checklists to assess and monitor the level of inclusivity of persons with disabilities and to increase accountability and ownership of the government to promote disability-inclusive CCA & DRR. These trainings will be conducted across the project countries, and ensure a unique approach to data collection and disability inclusiveness, enabling the comparison of results and knowledge at the regional level.

73. The trainings will also cover the lessons learned from component 2 and sensitize beneficiaries on available solutions for preparedness of persons with disabilities and response strategies, including practical considerations such as the design of mechanisms compatible with assistive devices and aid to persons with disabilities. Concrete examples showcasing the innovative solutions supported under component 2 will also provide opportunities for the scale-up of these solutions in the different countries of the project.

74. Lessons learned, and good practices will be documented and shared with other countries in the region. Regional bodies such as the ASEAN Disability Forum and South Asian Disability Forum will be key platforms for hosting and disseminating this knowledge to member countries across the region. The project will leverage its regional coverage to accelerate knowledge production and dissemination as well as exchange lessons and knowledge and harmonized technical assistance for further replication. The project will also engage with key regional and global actors in disability inclusion, DRR and CCA (including the International Disability Alliance). The project will also explore partnerships with stakeholders from the Anticipate, Absorb and Reshape (A2R) Initiative to tap into existing knowledge sharing platforms.

75. Exposure visits and exchange learning at both national and international events will provide a space for government, communities, including persons with disabilities, and CSOs to share and learn from each other and provide possible solutions and new ideas for scaling up and improve knowledge among them. OPDs and government authorities will be capacitated to develop and document lessons learnt and good practices to be shared with policy makers at the regional level, in order to promote disability-inclusive CCA&DRR.

76. All knowledge products, outputs and documented experiences of inclusionary best practice (as well as the challenges related to process and implementation) generated across the life of the project will be shared during CCA/DRR events with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and globally to encourage peer learning and collaboration on disability-inclusive DRR and CCA. These include training modules, technical reports (including vulnerability and capacity assessments), technical guidance, regulatory and policy advice and reforms, planning and outreach materials

77. Indicative activities include:

- Collect lessons learned and best practices from the activities conducted under outcomes 1 and 2;
- Design training modules for Government officials on disability-inclusion in climate disaster preparation and response;
- Train government officials at the regional level, through regional and global platforms, to collect and disseminate lessons learned for disability-inclusive CCA and DRR;
- Conduct knowledge-sharing activities at regional and global events on CCA/DRR;
- Organize exchange visits.

***Output.3.1.2: Regional knowledge-sharing by persons with disabilities and relevant community-based organizations for disability-inclusiveness in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction***

78. Expected output result:

- One knowledge sharing platform is set up, with the e-library regularly updated, and an active participation of users.

79. Technical training workshops will also be held at the regional and global levels for OPDs and other community-based organizations on climate change and its impacts, along with disaster risk reduction on preparedness for climate related disasters, and specific measures and tools for persons with disabilities. These workshops will also cover the use of solutions supported under Component 2. Training manuals and documents will be designed and shared regionally and globally to encourage peer learning and sharing.

80. To enhance regional knowledge sharing, an online platform will be developed to facilitate the sharing of information with disabled people's organizations, government authorities (supporting CCA/DRR as well as disability-inclusiveness) and persons with disabilities. Through this component there will be training to enhance the advocacy skills of OPDs and allow them to work together to promote disability issues as it relates to climate change.

81. Under this output, an assessment of the technologies and innovative solutions developed under component 2 will be conducted, in partnership with evaluation labs in engineering colleges and universities, such as D-Lab at MIT. Key issues to be addressed will relate to how effective these early warning systems are in providing persons with disabilities with the relevant information and data, how these systems could be improved, and how those technologies and mechanism can be replicated in other countries and regions. This information will be shared via UNDP networks and platforms to other OPDs so that they can benefit from the outputs of the project.

82. All knowledge products, generated within the project including technical reports, technological guidance, regulatory and policy, planning and outreach materials will be available on-line, and all project knowledge products and documents will be collected and archived on a disability friendly knowledge platform. This platform will be set-up for the project stakeholders to share and support each other on disability-inclusiveness in CCA and DRR, as well as CCA/DRR into disability-inclusiveness policies and priorities. It will include an e-library and a communication channel for direct interactions between the stakeholders, enabling the different stakeholders in the 6 countries to exchange on challenges and opportunities encountered and seek support as needed.

83. Most disasters, such as tropical cyclones, riverine floods and heatwaves, affect multiple countries simultaneously. Where transboundary disaster management practices exist, the project will support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in existing strategies. When they exist, the project will support disability-inclusiveness for joint climate information services, interoperable EWS standards, and synchronized preparedness across borders. The project will organize workshops with regional organizations such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre, and engage with other regional/global actors, including the ADB, UNESCAP or the World Bank, to promote the disability-inclusiveness of existing regional disaster management strategies.

84. Indicative activities include:

- Collect lessons learned and best practices from the activities conducted under outcomes 1 and 2;
- Conduct an assessment of the technologies and innovative solutions developed under component 2;
- Design training modules for OPDs and persons with disabilities on CCA and DRR;
- Design training modules for OPDs on advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities in decision making for CCA and DRR;
- Conduct trainings at the regional level, through regional and global platforms;
- Generate knowledge products on the technologies and innovative solutions developed under component 2;
- Set-up a regional platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between project stakeholders in the targeted countries; Organize exchange visits.
- Take stock of existing regional strategies for transboundary disasters;
- Organize exchange workshops to promote the disability-inclusiveness of transboundary disaster management ;

## **B. Describe how the project /programme would promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms.**

85. By focusing on persons with disabilities, the project offers an innovative approach to disaster preparedness and response. To date, most of the systems in place in the six targeted countries do not take persons with disabilities into account, from the collection of data to the accessibility of facilities during disasters. During project formulation and implementation, the teams will continuously assess the situation of disability-inclusiveness in each country for disaster preparedness and response and support the introduction of inclusive and adapted practices, taking into account the different types of disabilities.

86. In addition, under component 2, the project will support the development of cutting-edge technologies by providing technical and financial support to selected initiatives, as well as facilitating partnerships with the private sector for further investment and access to a wider audience. Working with IT and social media companies, such as Google and Meta, will allow state of the art and pioneering solutions to be applied to enhance the adaptive capacity of person with disabilities. The table of proposed technologies under output 2.1.2 demonstrates the potential for the introduction of innovative technologies for early warnings and climate information, reaching the last mile for persons with disabilities.

87. Component 2 will also support the incubation of promising innovative ideas by working with incubation labs and directly supporting start-ups, technically and financially. Partners such as innovation labs in universities and the private sector will be engaged to support innovative companies, including by widening their network and learning from peers. A list of innovative solutions to be supported by the project is available under output 2.1.2 and serves as an indication of the variety of solutions that can be developed at the local and national level to support the integration of persons with disabilities in CCA and DRR. The call for proposals will be an essential tool to encourage innovation, with a focus on solutions submitted by persons with disabilities and women, while the support to establish partnerships and an enabling environment

88. Finally, in a global context where the importance of adopting disability-inclusive approaches is increasingly recognized and significant progress on the access and dissemination of climate information are realized, the project

will provide a timely regional overview of the inclusion of persons with disabilities and promote replication of new inclusive approach, beyond the countries of intervention.

**C. Describe how the project/programme would provide economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme would avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

Economic Benefit

89. persons with disabilities are extremely vulnerable to climate disasters, and the impacts and losses are reported to be higher for persons with disabilities. Thus, investments in last mile disaster risk reduction solutions and innovative technologies will reduce losses for persons with disabilities resulting from climate disasters, as it will reduce their vulnerability and will allow them to prepare more effectively from climate change impacts. Higher preparedness also reduces the costs of recovery following climate disasters for governments, regional organizations and OPDs.

90. In addition, many persons with disabilities lose their source of income and property, as a result of climate change disasters. The training of persons with disabilities and OPDs on issues related to climate change and its impacts will allow them to take effective action and enhance their economic resilience in an environment where the climate is changing. The training of persons with disabilities on climate change issues may also incentivize them to look at alternative livelihoods as a result of the changing climate.

Social Benefit

91. Despite significant regional efforts over the last three decades to better include persons with disabilities, they still face challenges exercising their social, civil and political rights, attending quality schools and accessing employment. The project will have considerable social benefits, by empowering persons with disabilities and enhancing their capacities in effectively coping with climate change induced disasters. This will be achieved at the institutional and grass root levels, through strengthening institutional capacities and policies for persons with disabilities, enhancing targeted early warning, provision of disability adapted assistive technology and awareness raising about climate change. In doing so, the project will assist with the removal of barriers for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in CCA and DRR.

92. The project will also work with women-specific disabled people's organizations in the participant countries to ensure women with disabilities play an important role in governing and decision making, and can speak out about their needs and possible solutions. The activities under component 2, supporting start-ups and innovative business owners, will prioritize women-led structures. Besides, under component 1 and 3, capacity-building activities will aim for a 50% representation by women.

Environmental Benefits

93. The focus on improved data and institutional frameworks for CCA and DRR, as well as last mile early warning systems will provide environmental benefits by leading to better planning and management of environmental resources so as to reduce vulnerability. Indirectly the project will allow institutions in their pursuit to reduce vulnerability to climate change of persons with disabilities to manage and protect relevant ecosystems and environmentally critical areas.

94. The sensitization of persons with disabilities and OPDs on climate change will improve the knowledge of these groups on environmentally harmful practices, and the link between these practices and the vulnerability they are experiencing. This might lead to an expanded advocacy from OPDs for more environmentally sound practices at national and local level decision-making as well as the adoption of respectful practices in the daily life and livelihoods of persons with disabilities.

**D. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme and explain how the regional approach would support cost-effectiveness.**

95. By improving early warning systems and enhancing adaptive capacity of persons with disabilities, the project supports disaster risk reduction, offering a higher cost-effectiveness than reactive measures to climate disasters, which usually result in important losses of lives and properties. In 2022, over 140 disasters struck the Asia-Pacific region, leading to over 7,500 deaths, affecting over 64 million people and causing economic damage estimated at US\$ 57 billion<sup>70</sup>.

96. Persons with disabilities are often more affected than other groups, and besides physical and psychological impacts, along with the loss of regular property, disasters can cause the loss or damage to their assistive equipment or medication as well as increase their disability<sup>71</sup>. Equipment and medication can be difficult to procure and very costly in some areas, in particular remote areas where access to health facilities are limited. This loss can in turn impact persons with disabilities's livelihoods as they depend on these equipment and medication for their daily life and may not be able to reach their place of employment, communicate, read, deal with stress and anxiety, etc. Better integrating this group in natural disaster preparedness and response will reduce the risk of loss of critical equipment and medication and thereby the risk of adding an economic burden on persons with disabilities and the communities and agencies that support them, making this initiative highly cost-effective.

97. The regional approach presents cost-effectiveness compared to multiple single-country projects, by building a knowledge base in six countries with comparable gaps in the inclusion of persons with disabilities but with varied development levels, landscapes, economies, etc. This pool of experiences will provide a comprehensive framework for replication in a wide range of countries, beyond the six programme countries, and the knowledge sharing planned under component 3 will aim to facilitate this upscaling. This South-South cooperation will ensure harmonization and replication of cost-effective information and communication tools and technologies, through pooling of technical expertise and advisory support, and facilitating the systematic exchange of risk information, lessons learnt and experience.

98. In addition, the project will be managed by a single project coordination unit, with focal points in each country. This management arrangement will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience between the project countries and ensure lessons learned are applied across the entire project. When needed, joint expertise will be procured for activities in multiple countries, thereby promoting the alignment of approaches between countries and the comparability of results.

**E. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist. If applicable, please refer to relevant regional plans and strategies where they exist.**

99. At the global and regional levels the project is consistent with:

- Article 11 of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) requests the 191 parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including natural disasters. It also provides an official definition for PwD: "those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".
- The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** requests governments to engage with Persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards for DRR.
- The **ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025** mainstreams the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

<sup>70</sup> "Asia-Pacific disaster report 2023", UNESCAP, 2023 [Seizing the Moment: Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023](#)

<sup>71</sup> "Typhoon Haiyan one year on: disability, poverty and participation in the Philippines" D. Cobley, 2015

- The **Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion (2025)** commits to advance progress towards the full implementation of the CRPD as well as disability-inclusive international development cooperation and humanitarian action.
- In 2021, WHO Member States adopted “**The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities**” stressing the need for member countries to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their full right to health, with mention to the occurrence of natural disasters;
- Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy links directly to the **UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on Climate Action**. SDG Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 also take into account the needs of persons with disabilities.
- In July 2019, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a **resolution on climate change and the rights of people with disabilities**<sup>72</sup>. The resolution calls on governments to adopt a disability-inclusive approach when taking action to address climate change

100. At the national level, each of the six targeted countries has developed sustainable development strategies targeting: (i) the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society; (ii) DRR and CCA strategies such as the NAP, NAPA, NDC, National communications or DRR policies, aligned with the Sendai Framework. All the countries have ratified the Paris Agreement. However, these strategies have distinct mandates and few have cross-cutting considerations or make mention of the other. For instance, only Bangladesh covers extensively persons with disabilities in its NAP, while the other countries make few or no references, and only as a vulnerable group, along with women and youth. The same applies to NDCs, where only Cambodia makes a strong emphasis on persons with disabilities, with a dedicated section on cross-cutting issues and the integration of persons with disabilities in its list of measures.

101. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the strategies and policies relevant to the project for each country:

Bangladesh	
Rights of persons with disabilities	Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act (2013) Social Protection Framework for Persons with disabilities (draft)
DRR and CCA strategies	National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050) ; Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); National Plan for Disaster Management (2021-2025) Environment and Climate-Resilient Sustainable Development (Vision 2021); 8th Five Year Plan (2020-2025) of Bangladesh; Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP); Cyclone shelter construction, Maintenance and Management Policy (2011); National Early Action Protocol for Cyclone in Bangladesh (2024)
Cross-cutting	National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050)
Cambodia	
Rights of persons with disabilities	Ratification of UNCRPD and the signing of the Marrakesh Treaty; National legal framework on disability rights; Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women; Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (National Disability Law); Adoption of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities; National Disability Strategic Plan
DRR and CCA strategies	Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0; National Communications that prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups; Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2024–2033; National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2028); National Action Plan Process; Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028
Cross-cutting	National Disability Strategic Plan 2024-2028; Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0

<sup>72</sup> Human Rights Council. Forty-first session, 24 June–12 July 2019. Agenda item 3. “Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.”

[https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting\\_resources/hrc41\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_disability.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/hrc41_climate_change_and_disability.pdf)

Indonesia	
Rights of persons with disabilities	National Action Plan on Human Right 2015 – 2019; National Action Plan for Disabled Persons;
DRR and CCA strategies	Pembangunan Berketahanan Iklim (PBI)/Climate Resilient Development (CRD) Policy (2020-2045); Second Nationally Determined Contributions (2025); National Adaptation Plan (2026-2030) Third National Communications; Law No. 32 Year 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management; Vulnerability Index Data Information System (2015).
Cross-cutting	Rencana Aksi Nasional Gender dan Perubahan Iklim (RAN-GPI) / Gender and Climate Change National Action Plan (2024-2030)
Nepal	
Rights of persons with disabilities	Constitution of Nepal, 2072 (2015) — including Article 18 (“Right to Equality”), and Article 43 (“Right to Social Security”) ; Act Relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2074 (2017) ; National Policy on Persons with Disabilities, 2023; The draft 10-year national action plan for persons with disabilities (for 2020/21–2029/30).
DRR and CCA strategies	National Policy and Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management 2018-2030 Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Framework 2025 Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017, National Climate Change Policy 2019 National Adaptation Plan (2021-2050), 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 2025 Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation ( First Amendment ) 2024
Cross-cutting	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, 2024 Strategic Action Plan for Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion ( GEDSI) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management , 2024
Philippines	
Rights of persons with disabilities	National Constitution (1987); Magna Carta of Disabled Persons (1992, amended in 2006) <sup>73</sup> ; Accessibility Law; Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) Act (2009) Filipino Sign Language Act (2018)
DRR and CCA strategies	Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2010); Climate Change Act (2009); National Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2028); People’s survival Fund (2012); National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) 2020–2030; Nationally Determined Contribution (2021) National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050
Cross-cutting	Mentions to persons with disabilities in the Philippines Development Plan 2023-2028 Magna Carta of Women (2009) Philippine Social Protection Plan 2023–2028 Inclusive Education Act (2022)
Pakistan	
Rights of persons with disabilities	Disabled Persons (Employment & Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981; National Policy for Disabled Persons (2002); Provinces have legislative competence over social welfare, and each enacts its own disability rights law <sup>74</sup> ; National Policy Guidelines On Vulnerable Groups in Disaster 2014; National Policy on Persons with Disabilities, 2023.
DRR and CCA strategies	National Disaster Management Act, 2010; National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2013);

<sup>73</sup> “DiDRR country brief, Philippines”, K. Velmonte, R. Doron, 2024

<sup>74</sup> Syed, J. (2025). Disability and Inclusion in Pakistan: Prevalence, Policies, and Barriers. SAAM Working Paper Series 250901. South Asian Academy of Management.

	National Climate Change Policy (2012); Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014- 2030); Pakistan Climate Change Act, 2017; National Disaster Response Plan (2019); National Disaster Management Plan (2012-2022); National DRR Policy (2013); Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (2022); Monsoon Preparedness and Response National Action Plan 2022
Cross-cutting	National Policy Guidelines on Vulnerable Groups in Disasters (2014); National Policy on Persons with Disabilities, 2023

**F. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

102. During the project formulation and implementation, the teams will closely work with national governments to ensure the project meets environmental and social standards. All the activities will be designed in alignment with the laws and policies that set standards for persons with disabilities and vulnerable people in general, as listed under section E above. In addition, if any structural investment is conducted under the innovative solutions supported in component 2, environmental and building codes will be followed. Laws on data privacy will also be followed for the activities related to data management (component 1) and in the development of digital solutions collecting data from persons with disabilities and OPDs (component 2).

103. Section L below provides evidence of the alignment of the project with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social policies. The risks will be further described during the project formulation, and continuously monitored by the project team during project implementation.

104. In addition, a pre-social and environmental safeguards screening has been conducted during the concept note formulation, with support from UNDP’s safeguard expert, concluding that although some contextual risks exist due to the high exposure of PWD to climate hazards and pre-existing inequalities in the project countries, these risks are not project-induced. The project does not generate new environmental or social harm and all project-related risks are readily mitigable through standard UNDP instruments that will be deployed during proposal formulation (Environmental and Social Management Framework, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Free Prior and Informed Consent where required).

**G. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.**

105. Consultations with Governments in each of the project countries were conducted to take stock of ongoing projects, and confirm no duplication with other funding sources exist. Currently, CCA and DRR projects, in particular strengthening EWS, are ongoing in all the project countries, but fail to address the specific needs of persons with different disabilities. The project will build on these results and infrastructure to expand preparedness and response for persons with disabilities. The Government and partner agencies have all demonstrated interest in the project and proposed areas of collaboration with ongoing and planned projects, as reflected in this concept note. Section I below lists these consultations.

106. During project formulation, a more in-depth assessment of the development environment will be conducted, to identify opportunities to build on the results or activities of relevant projects, in particular projects supporting EWS and access to climate information, with the aim to introduce disability inclusiveness in the activities. If the assessment identifies risks for duplication, the project design will be adjusted to ensure activities under both initiatives are complementary.

**H. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.**

107. The activities in the six countries of the project will be managed by a regional project coordination unit, with country support of a focal point. These management arrangements will enable learning and knowledge

sharing between the six project countries, building on the successful practices and challenges faced in each country. This will be particularly relevant for activities such as data collection under component 1, where alignment in the methodologies will be key for the success of the project and the comparability of the data in the long term.

108. In addition, component 3 is entirely dedicated to learning, knowledge management and the dissemination of lessons learned. The results and lessons learned from the development and implementation of innovative solutions developed under component 2 will be assessed and the results will be shared during workshops, through the establishment of a knowledge platform and the generation of knowledge products (output 3.1.2.).

109. These products will also be shared as parts of the trainings conducted under output 3.1.1. and 3.1.2., where government officials and OPD representatives will be trained to replicate the good practices from the project. Under these outputs, manuals will be designed to reflect the lessons learned from the project, in particular with regards to the disability inclusion in DRR and CCA planning and policies, including through the engagement in the formulation process. These manuals will build on the lessons learned collected in the six countries of the project, therefore offering a comprehensive knowledge product, covering a diverse range of countries, with different contexts. This diversity of climates, status of persons with disabilities, level of development, governmental structure, etc. mean that the manuals will be relevant to a large number of countries and local governments. The project will therefore strive to share this knowledge beyond the project countries, by inviting countries from the region or globally to participate to the workshops that will be conducted, including through existing platforms such as the ASEAN disability forum.

110. Finally, the regional approach will enable the institutional memory and sustainability of the knowledge. Regional coordination will act as a repository of knowledge and practices, which will be particularly relevant when countries face government turnover or shifting priorities. The regional structure will preserve the project's history and can re-engage countries, supporting long-term sustainability. The sharing of the manuals and other knowledge products at the regional level, including beyond the project countries will also ensure this institutional memory. Working with existing regional structures such as the ASEAN and SAARC will also be important, as they provide well-established structures that will remain in place after the project ends.

111. Additional details are available in section A.

**I. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project/programme preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

112. The formulation of this project started in 2019, and, as part of the proposal writing, extensive consultations were conducted with government officials, OPDs, persons with disabilities including women with disabilities, care-givers and other stakeholders. During the formulation of this concept note, the national coordinating entities were consulted to confirm the objective of the project was still relevant and OPDs were consulted in a number of the project countries. Potential partners for the project, such as Humanity and Inclusion (HI) and OPDs, were also consulted to start exploring areas of collaboration. Different experts within UNDP, at the regional and country levels were also involved in the revision process, including gender experts, safeguards experts and procurement specialist.

The list of stakeholders consulted in 2025 is available below:

- Regional:
  - o During a regional Portfolio Expansion Workshop held in UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub in September 2025 UNDP country offices and the UNDP Regional Bureau gathered to discuss the initiation of the project revision and update since the reaccreditation to the AF and reconfirmed the individual countries' commitment to the project. The strategy and timeline were discussed and agreed.
  - o Internal UNDP experts were consulted as part of a pre-investment screening committee of the project (October 2025), with the participation of safeguards specialists, a gender expert, a procurement specialist and representatives of the UNDP country offices and the Bangkok Regional Hub.

- An online meeting with Humanity & Inclusion (HI) was organized (November 2025) to share knowledge and experience on disability inclusion in the project countries and discuss potential for partnership during the project formulation or implementation.
- Bangladesh:
  - Meeting with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (October 2025): The ministry confirmed their interest in the project and their availability to review the Concept Note when available.
- Cambodia:
  - The Disability Action Council–Secretariat General (DAC-SG) held a meeting with His Excellency Sambath Ung, Secretary General of the Disability Action Council to request a review of the AF regional project and to seek support for issuing a Letter of Endorsement (LoE).
  - Meeting with 4 OPDs and 2 Women with Disabilities Forum Organizations to gather input on key areas for the Inclusive Climate Change Proposal. It was suggested to strengthen disability inclusion and address needs of women with disabilities in CCA and DRR.
- Indonesia:
  - Informal discussion with the Directorate of Climate Change Adaptation, Ministry of Environment - AF focal point (October 2025): update on the reactivation of the AF regional project. Positive feedback received and will be continued with a thorough discussion (note: focused until November 2025 was the finalization of Indonesia’s NAP document for submission in COP30).
- Nepal:
  - Ministry of Forests and Environment - the UNFCCC Focal Point / AF Focal Point Mr Suman Subedi (October 2025): MoFE confirmed it has no objection to give the endorsement letter once the project is approved by the implementing agency (NDRRMA).
  - Department of Hydrology and Meteorology Officials (October 2025): discussions were held about the components of the project related to DHM, particularly upgrading the existing hydro-met stations or Installing new stations for end to end EWS in Jangaha Khola Watershed. DHM is leading Pillar 2 of EW4ALL Initiative while UNDP is serving as Co-lead of Pillar 2. The proposed project will bring synergy with other projects being implemented jointly by UNDP and DHM such as GCF funded Project as well as SOFF programme.
  - Chief Executive of NDRRMA, Mr Dinesh Bhatta, and other officials (October 2025): The activities for the Adaptation Fund were discussed. The Chief Executive requested to keep activities on the Search & Rescue and Evacuation Equipment, Communication & Alerting Tools, and link with the GLOF GCF project. The NDRRMA has no objection for the Adaptation Fund project and will be partnering with UNDP to implement the project effectively once the project is approved.
- Pakistan:
  - Consultation with the National Disaster Management Authority (October 2025): the meeting confirmed the scope of the project and discussed potential changes to take into account the progress in EWS coverage and existing platforms (NEOC, EWS mobile application)
- The Philippines:
  - Consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (September 2025): Discussed with DENR to revisit the AF disability proposal, reconfirm Government interest, and discuss options for strengthening government ownership.
  - GEDSI x NDC Regional Consultations (September 2025): Regional consultations with GEDSI stakeholders (including persons with disabilities) as part of the NDC updating process. The sessions provided a venue to validate key gaps, priorities and needed interventions on disability-inclusive and gender-responsive climate action – validating and informing proposed interventions of the AF disability project.

**J. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.**

**Component 1 - Capacity building for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Persons with Disabilities, and Governments to address climate change, and enhance the inclusiveness of institutional frameworks**

***Baseline Scenario (without AF Resources)***

113. Under the baseline scenario, the inconsistency of data on the numbers, types and location of persons with disabilities will continue to impede and prevent the implementation of effective adaptation measures. OPDs and persons with disabilities understanding of climate change and its impacts will remain limited, excluding them from the

policy making process, and thus their concerns and issues related to adaptation and disaster risk management will not be addressed. Overall, governments in the participant countries will not have incorporated the concerns of persons with disabilities into CCA and DRR policies.

#### **Adaptation additionality (With AF Resources):**

114. The project will collect disability data in each country, including the type of disabilities, their location and the vulnerability to climate disasters. The data will be used to put effective adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies in place in each country, hence enhancing the adaptive capacity of one of the most vulnerable groups.

115. The adaptive capacity of persons with disabilities and OPDs will also be directly enhanced through accessible trainings on climate change and adaptation issues, thus allowing persons with disabilities and OPDs to more effectively articulate their concerns and needs into government policies when engaged. Their engagement in decision-making will also be supported by the project, including by making meetings more accessible.

#### **Component 2 - Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Infrastructure and last-mile services.**

##### ***Baseline Scenario (without AF Resources)***

116. Existing early warning systems in the participant countries are not inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities as they do not incorporate their specific needs, and persons with disabilities are not effectively included in the response to climate disasters. Most EWS rely on communication means such as websites, social media platforms, television or radio advertisements for issuing disaster warnings/alerts, or public service messages through print media. Televised messages are usually not accompanied with sign language translation, alerts/advisories on websites are usually not compatible with voice-based accessibility technology due to lack of optical character recognition, or inability of targeted population to read or recognize Latin alphabet in SMS warnings. Response mechanisms and infrastructure are also failing to be inclusive, with most shelters lacking adapted access for displacement disabilities or with adequate support for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

##### ***Additionality (With AF Resources):***

117. Adaptation fund resources will be used to put technologies in place that will allow persons with disabilities to access EWS to enhance their adaptive capacity. Inclusive dissemination systems for early warnings will be put in place for last mile services targeting persons with disabilities including women with disabilities. A consultative design process will be applied to identify technologies adapted to the different types of disabilities. AF resources will be used to support cutting-edge technologies in early warning systems targeting persons with disabilities including women with disabilities and enhancing their access to accessible climate information. The project will work with the private sector and social media platforms to design and facilitate the dissemination of early warning. In addition, innovative solutions will be identified and supported by the project for the response of persons with disabilities to climate disasters, improving their safe evacuation or accessibility to shelters.

#### **Component 3 - Knowledge generation, codification and dissemination of lessons learned on reducing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate change risks.**

##### ***Baseline Scenario (without AF Resources):***

118. Without AF resources, countries participating in the project will not be able to exchange resources or knowledge, have policy dialogues and engage in strategic partnerships to support the development of regional capacities for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in preparation and response to climate disasters. While cooperation exists on the disability inclusion at the regional level, as well as global cooperation for the improvement of EWS, there is a serious gap in adopting a cross-cutting approach.

**Additionality (With AF Resources):**

119. With the AF resources there will be the production of training manuals and specific tools to assist countries in training officials on issues related to disability in the context of climate change adaptation. Training modules and manuals will be developed and shared with other countries in the Asia Pacific region, including by organizing online and in-person workshops or establishing online platforms to share knowledge and lessons learned. Help with practical issues such as the incorporation of design to ensure compatibility with assistive devices, and aid for persons with disabilities will be included.

120. An assessment of the innovative technologies and solutions supported under component 2 will facilitate the uptake of these adaptive solutions for persons with disabilities beyond the project sites and countries, including through forums such as ASEAN forums.

121. In addition, the project will propose strategies for a better coordination of efforts for disaster preparedness and response between the different project countries when they face the same vulnerability. This will allow both for national efforts to be more efficient, as well as international relief aid to be better channeled where it is the most needed.

**K. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.**

122. Sustainability is an integral part of the project design and of each component. Component 1 aims at having reliable disability data collection methods at the national level for integration in relevant policies and planning. By using this data, promoting the engagement of OPDs and persons with disabilities in the formulation and decision-making processes and training them in DRR and CCA, the project aims to make DRR and CCA inclusive in the long-term.

123. Under component 2, the project will work with the private sector to scale up and replicate innovative solutions for the preparation and response to disasters for persons with disabilities. The involvement of units like UNDP’s Accelerator Lab will also participate to the sustainability of the activities, by building on their experience working with start-ups and supporting them beyond the project lifetime.

124. The aim of component 3 directly participates to the sustainability of the project, by ensuring the lessons learned and knowledge are adequately captured and disseminated (i) between the six project countries to adjust their interventions during the project and ensure they are effective and relevant after the project ends, and (ii) beyond the project target countries, to support the adoption of disability inclusive approaches in policies and programming.

**L. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.**

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>	X	
<i>Access and Equity</i>		<p>During climate disasters, response measures might entail that persons with disabilities are unable to access basic health services they rely on as they are being evacuated or health facilities are damaged or destroyed.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Site-specific stakeholder engagement plan, including FPIC, will be prepared in each country.</p> <p><u>Management measures:</u> Personal response plans for persons with disabilities will ensure existing inequities are reduced during climate disasters. In addition, the technologies and innovative</p>

		solutions will aim to provide mitigation measures to this risk by developing innovative response mechanisms specifically targeted at persons with disabilities.
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>		<p>While the project targets persons with disabilities including women with disabilities, their family members, groups with compounding risks such as extreme poverty or living in isolated areas, are further at risk and could be excluded from the project, including from training and receiving technologies.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Site-specific stakeholder engagement plan, including FPIC, will be prepared in each country.  <u>Management measures:</u> OPDs and persons with disabilities will be involved in the project formulation and implementation and will be engaged in decision-making process during implementation phase, and sensitized on advocating the needs of the most vulnerable individuals.</p>
<i>Human Rights</i>		<p>Considering the project directly targets persons with disabilities, if not adequately understood, the rights of persons with disabilities might be adversely impacted. This might be particularly sensitive in the case of evacuation prior to or following climate disasters.</p> <p><u>Management measures:</u> During project implementation, all planning activities will be conducted in close consultation with OPDs, persons with disabilities, their family members, persons with disabilities and caregivers, including through the conduct of FPIC as needed. Evacuation plans will be carefully designed to be the most inclusive to persons with disabilities and assist in returning to their houses/villages once the area is safe from disaster impacts.</p>
<i>Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment</i>		<p>Existing discriminations against women in the project sites could inadvertently be perpetuated by the project.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> A Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be conducted</p>
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>	X	
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>		<p>In some of the pilot sites there may be indigenous communities, including persons with disabilities. The project could therefore impact indigenous people, as potential recipients of training, or beneficiaries of innovative solutions for disability inclusion.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> As needed, the project will engage with indigenous communities during stakeholder consultations. Free prior informed consent will be applied.</p>
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>		<p>The development of evacuation plan and disability inclusion solutions might lead to the displacement of persons with disabilities to safe areas. One of the main response strategy in the case of climate disaster, is the safe evacuation of persons at risk prior and after the event. Persons with disabilities can be particularly affected by displacement, causing increased stress and anxiety, as well as the loss of bearings and assistive equipment. Government staff supporting the evacuation are often not qualified to take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities.</p> <p><u>Management measures:</u> During project implementation, all planning activities will be conducted in close consultation with OPDs, persons with disabilities and caregivers. Evacuation plan will be carefully designed to be the most inclusive to persons with disabilities and assist in returning to their houses/villages once the area is safe from disaster impacts.</p>
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	X	
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	X	
<i>Climate Change</i>	X	

<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	X	
<i>Public Health</i>		
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>	X	
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>	X	

## PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
To enhance the resilience to climate change of persons with disabilities in the participating countries, by engaging and integrating them in DRR and CCA decision-making and giving them access to climate disaster preparedness and response technologies and innovative tools that respond to their needs	Total number of beneficiaries, disaggregated by disability and gender, that are more resilient to climate change and climate-related disasters <i>(1,673,000 direct beneficiaries and 22,300,000 indirect beneficiaries by project end)</i>  # of EWS enhanced with the introduction of disability-inclusive technologies to address the needs of person with disabilities in preparing and responding to climate change-induced disasters <i>(At least 6: one per country)</i>	Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	Core Indicator #1: <i>Number of beneficiaries</i>  <i>[1,673,000 direct beneficiaries and 22,300,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50% women and 100% are persons with disabilities]</i>  Core Indicator #2: Early warning systems established or improved  <i>[6 EWS]</i>	16,335,000
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Improved data regulatory, legal and institutional frameworks, to better manage climate change risks, such as droughts, floods, cyclones, and improved disaster risk reduction measures for persons with disabilities	Indicator 1.1 Number of platform/database in each participant country provide data on persons with disability, disaggregated by type of disability, age group, location, socio-economic status and gender. <i>(6 platforms/databases)</i>	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	Indicator 2.1.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience  <i>[# of institutions, disaggregated by scale and sector]</i>	2,200,000
	Indicator 1.2 No. of guiding CCA/DRR policies/regulations in each participant country address the needs of persons with disabilities <i>(12 policies/regulations)</i>	Output 7.1: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	Core Indicator 7.1.1: Policies, strategies, and/or plans developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk considerations  <i>[# of policies, strategies, and/or plans, disaggregated by scale]</i>	
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)

Improved capacity of Disabled People's Organizations to include persons with disabilities specific issues in climate change adaptation policies	Indicator 1.3: # of decision making-bodies for CCA/DRR in each targeted province and at the national levels in the six countries engage OPDs <i>(26 decision-making bodies)</i>	Output 3.3: Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	Indicator 3.3.1: Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed, and/or implemented  <i>[# of local institutions and/or communities]</i>	2,000,000
<b>Project Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Project Outcome Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Fund Output</b>	<b>Fund Output Indicator</b>	<b>Grant Amount (USD)</b>
Introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the diffusion of, and responses to, early warnings of impending extreme events, geared towards the special needs of persons with disabilities.	Indicator 2.1: # of EWS enhanced with the introduction of disability-inclusive technologies to address the needs of person with disabilities in preparing and responding to climate change-induced disasters <i>(6 EWS)</i>	Output 1.2: Targeted population groups covered by warning and advisory services for climate-related hazards and threats	Indicator 1.2.2: People covered by new or improved early warning systems  <i>[# of people, disaggregated by gender]</i>	9,000,000
	Indicator 2.2: # of disability-inclusive innovative solutions per country are developed and rolled out <i>(18 innovative solutions)</i>	Output 8.1: Innovations identified and piloted that collectively enhance local innovation capacity and contribute to the development of local, national and regional adaptation innovation ecosystems	Indicator 8.1.2: Innovations piloted that demonstrate local innovation participation and/or local innovation benefit  <i>[# of innovations]</i>	
<b>Project Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Project Outcome Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Fund Output</b>	<b>Fund Output Indicator</b>	<b>Grant Amount (USD)</b>
Enhanced knowledge sharing systems that capture the lessons from implementing measures.	Indicator 3.1: # of training modules are designed and shared across the project countries <i>(5 training modules)</i>  Indicator 3.2: # of knowledge sharing platform is set up, with the e-library regularly updated, and an active participation of users <i>(1 sharing platform)</i>	Output 8.2: Innovations identified and piloted which build the adaptation innovation evidence-base and institutional capacity	Indicator 8.2.1: Innovation-focused knowledge products disseminated and/or learning events facilitated that support and enable innovation capacity at a local, national, and/or regional level  <i>[# of knowledge products disseminated and/or learning events facilitated)</i>	3,135,000

## PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

- A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government<sup>75</sup>** *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letters with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

Dr. Farhina Ahmed Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bangladesh	Date: 6 January 2026
Chuop Paris Secretary of State Ministry of Environment Cambodia	Date: 2 January 2026
Ary Sudijanto Deputy Minister for Climate Change and Carbon Governance Indonesia	Date: 30 December 2025
Suman Subedi Under Secretary Adaptation Section, Ministry of Forests and Environment Nepal	Date: 1 January 2026
Dr. Mazhar Hayat Secondary Focal Point for AF Pakistan Pakistan	Date: 9 January 2026
Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Secretary Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines	Date: 9 January 2026

<sup>75</sup> Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

**B. Implementing Entity certification** *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (.....list here.....) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

*Name & Signature Implementing Entity Coordinator*

DocuSigned by:  
  
4EEADA5A5FE9433...

*Nancy Bennet  
Executive Coordinator,  
Vertical Fund Programme Support, Oversight and Compliance Hub  
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support  
United Nations Development Programme*

Date: 13 January 2026 | Tel. and email: nancy.bennet@undp.org

Project Contact Person: Aishath Azza, Regional Technical Specialist

Tel. And Email: aishath.azza@undp.org



**Secretary**  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and  
Climate Change  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000

No. 22.00.0000.011.26.177

Date: 06 .01.2026

**Letter of Endorsement**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka - 1000  
[www.moefcc.gov.bd](http://www.moefcc.gov.bd)

To: The Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: [Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org](mailto:Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org)  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement of the project on **Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia Pacific Region.**

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Bangladesh, I hereby confirm that the above regional project is in accordance with the Government of Bangladesh's priorities for implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of climate change in Bangladesh.

Therefore, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented and executed by the UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

Sincerely,

Dr. Farhina Ahmed  
Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**

**Ministry of Environment**

N<sup>o</sup> : 04 / 0126 MoE

Phnom Penh, 2 Jan 2026

To: The Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

**Subject:** Endorsement for Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Cambodia, I confirm that the above regional project is in accordance with the government's national disability strategic plan 2024-2028 priorities and Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Cambodia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project/programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UNDP and executed by UNDP. *JA*

Sincerely Yours,  
For Minister



**Chuop Paris**  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Environment  
and AF Designated Authority



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT/  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DEPUTY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON GOVERNANCE

Plaza Kuningan, South Tower 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, H. R. Rasuna Said St., Karet Kuningan, South Jakarta 12920

website : <https://kemenlh.go.id/> e-mail : [tudirektoratadaptasi@gmail.com](mailto:tudirektoratadaptasi@gmail.com)

Our Ref. : *B. 291/H/PAI. 4.1/12/2025*

Jakarta, December 2025

Subject : Endorsement to concept note of the regional project "Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia"

To: The Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: [Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org](mailto:Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org)  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

In my capacity as the National Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Indonesia, I am writing to you regarding the Concept Note entitled "***Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia.***" The Concept Note has been reviewed, and I confirm that the proposed project is aligned with relevant national policies and frameworks on climate change adaptation in Indonesia, including strengthening inclusive disaster risk reduction and enhancing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project/programme proposal for submission to the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UNDP and executed by UNDP.

Thank you for your attention and further cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Ary Sudijanto  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change and Carbon Governance  
As National Designated Authority  
for Adaptation Fund Indonesia



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Forests and Environment  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu

P.O. Box No. 3987  
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu

Ref. No. 210

Date: January 1, 2026

To: The Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for regional project concept note on Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Nepal, I confirm that the above regional project concept note is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Nepal

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project/programme will be implemented by UNDP and executed jointly by the Government of Nepal and UNDP.

Sincerely,

Suman Subedi  
Primary Contact Point, Adaptation Fund  
Under Secretary, Adaptation Section  
Ministry of Forests and Environment  
Email: s\_subedi2003@yahoo.com  
[Suman.subedi@nepal.gov.np](mailto:Suman.subedi@nepal.gov.np)

Phone: +92-51-9245529



*Deputy Secretary (CC)*

D.O No. 1(36)/BRPWD/2025/SO CC  
**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
Ministry of Climate Change  
& Environmental Coordination  
(LG&RD Complex, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad)  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Islamabad, the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026*

To:  
Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
1818 H Street NW  
MNS N7-700  
Washington D.C, 20433  
United States of America  
Email:secretariat@adaptation-fund.org

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE CONCEPT NOTE OF "BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA"**

In my capacity as the Secondary Focal Point for the Pakistan's Designated Entity to the Adaptation Fund, I confirm that the subject concept note of the regional project is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce and manage adverse impacts of and risks posed by climate change in Pakistan.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be executed and implemented by the UNDP.

**Dr. Mazhar Hayat**  
(Secondary Focal Point for AF Pakistan)

**Copy for information to:**

- i. PS to Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- ii. Additional Secretary-II, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- iii. Sr. Joint Secretary (CC), Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- iv. Joint Secretary (CF), Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- v. Ms. Van Nguyen Deputy Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, Islamabad with reference to your letter No: 6879 dated 12 December 2025 (*copy attached*).



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



JAN 09 2026

**MR. MIKKO OLLIKAINEN**

Head, Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Washington, D.C., USA

Subject: Endorsement for "Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia"

Dear Mr. Ollikainen:

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Philippines, I confirm that the project entitled "Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia" is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Philippines.

In this regard, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be executed and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

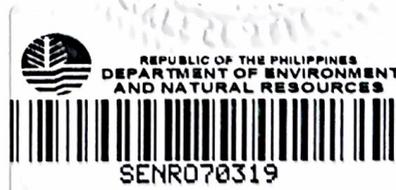
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA**

Secretary

and Primary Contact Point of the Philippines  
as National Designated Authority - Adaptation Fund



Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100, Philippines  
[www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph)





2 January 2026

**Subject: Implementation and Management Arrangements for the Regional Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia”, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines and Thailand (UNDP 10455)**

Dear Mr. Ollikainen,

We refer to the regional project proposal submitted by UNDP to the Adaptation Fund Board titled “Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia.”

This project will be carried out by UNDP using its Direct Implementation Modality, which is a preferred modality for regional initiatives involving multiple beneficiary countries and requiring strong coordination and leadership. The UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) will lead the implementation, with support from seven UNDP Country Offices across the participating nations.

A regional coordination mechanism will be set up, including a Regional Steering Committee and a Regional Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will be based at the Bangkok Regional Hub, backed by UNDP Country Offices in each country to maintain communication with national governments and beneficiaries. All beneficiary governments—Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, and Thailand—agree on this approach. The PMU will receive technical guidance, including advice on gender mainstreaming and safeguards, from the Adaptation Fund AFCIA Global Programme Team.

Project execution spans seven countries, each with different capacities among governments and organizations serving persons with disabilities. Due to the complexity and scope of this multi-country regional project, UNDP BRH and Country Offices will lead project delivery.

A Project Execution Cost (PEC) of 3.5% is therefore necessary to ensure the effective delivery of the regional project. This will cover 20% cost of the Regional Project Manager and Regional Project Associate, cost for UNDP operational support services including procurement, HR, and administrative support for the BRH and country offices, general operating expenses, travel, and workshops.

The Regional Project Manager, supported by the Project Associate will oversee the entire initiative: preparing reports and evaluations, leading supervision missions, organizing regional steering committee meetings, and ensuring compliance with audit and fiduciary requirements. These responsibilities are vital for maintaining quality, transparency, and accountability, as well as ensuring timely collaboration between the BRH, the PMU, the seven Country Offices, and beneficiaries. The requested resources reflect the scale of management needed to achieve the project’s objectives and adaptation outcomes.

These project management resources are crucial for delivering effective regional execution, managing knowledge, and achieving the regional and national adaptation benefits envisioned by the Adaptation Fund project.

Mr. Mikko Ollikainen  
Head, Adaptation Fund  
Washington, D.C.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
4EEAD45A5FE9433...

Nancy Bennet  
Executive Coordinator,  
Vertical Funds Programme Support  
Oversight and Compliance Hub  
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)  
Global Policy Network



## Annex 1: Revised PFG Submission Form<sup>1</sup>

### Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

**Submission Date:**

**Adaptation Fund Project ID:**

**Country/ies:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines

**Title of Project/Programme:** Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with Climate Change in Asia

**Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE):** MIE

**Implementing Entity:** UNDP

**Executing Entity/ies:** UNDP

### A. Project Preparation Timeframe

<b>Start date of PFG</b>	April 2026
<b>Completion date of PFG</b>	October 2026

### B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note <sup>2</sup>
Inception workshop	Inception workshop report	US\$ 11,000	Room rental: US\$1,000  Travel costs: US\$10,000
Prepare baseline report for each country against the interventions proposed and indicators/targets aimed	6 baseline reports	US\$ 18,000	National expert: US\$ 3,000/country
Conduct detailed stakeholders' consultations at	6 stakeholders consultation reports, following	US\$ 54,000	National experts: US\$ 7,500/country

<sup>1</sup> As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

the local level, with persons with disabilities, caregivers, local communities and indigenous populations.	FPIC for the engagement with Indigenous Populations		Travel expenses: US\$ 1,500/country
Conduct an analysis of the legal and regulatory framework for disability-inclusion in CCA and DRR	An analysis of the legal and regulatory framework for disability-inclusion in CCA and DRR	US\$ 12,000	International expert: US\$ 12,000
Conduct an assessment on innovation opportunities	An assessment on innovation opportunities	US\$ 12,000	International expert: US\$ 12,000
Drafting of the project document and required annexes	A project document following AF template	US\$ 71,000	International expert: US\$ 66,000  Travel expenses: US\$ 5,000
Conduct an Environmental and Social Management Framework	Environmental and Social Management Framework	US\$ 12,000	International expert: US\$ 12,000
Conduct a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) assessment and action plan	GEDSI action plan	US\$ 6,000	International expert: US\$ 6,000
Validation workshop	Validation workshop report	US\$ 11,000	Room rental: US\$ 1,000  Travel costs: US\$ 10,000
IE fees	Oversight costs of UNDP Regional Bureau and Country Offices for the project formulation	US\$ 23,000	10% of total budget
<b>Total Project Formulation Grant</b>		US\$ 230,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

<b>List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>
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<p>Prepare baseline report for each country against the interventions proposed and indicators/targets aimed</p>	<p>A national consultant will be recruited in each country to review the baseline on CCA/DRR and the inclusion of persons with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Relevant national Geographic, Economic, Social, and Environmental context – including observed and projected climate change and its impacts on persons with disabilities;</li> <li>(ii) Regulatory and programming framework;</li> <li>(iii) On-going and planned projects;</li> <li>(iv) Key stakeholders at the national and local levels;</li> <li>(v) Potential partnerships;</li> <li>(vi) Barriers to the project objective.</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct detailed stakeholders’ consultations at the local level, with persons with disabilities, caregivers, local communities and indigenous populations.</p>	<p>Based on the results of the baseline studies and consultations with the international experts for the alignment in data collection methodologies (in particular for the ESME, GEDSI assessment, FPIC), conduct stakeholders consultations in the different project sites. The consultations will focus on persons with disabilities and caregivers, including considerations on gender and for indigenous people. The consultations will also support the formulation of a gap analysis for OPDs.</p>
<p>Conduct an analysis of the legal and regulatory framework for disability-inclusion in CCA and DRR</p>	<p>An expert will be recruited to review and assess the inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning and policies and the engagement of persons with disabilities and OPDs in decision making.</p> <p>S/he will support national consultants to suggest project- and country-level activities for capacity building of OPDs and authorities and guidance for disability inclusion in plans and policies, in line with the project outputs.</p> <p>The expert will provide guidance to the national consultants for data collection during stakeholders consultations.</p>
<p>Conduct an assessment on innovation opportunities</p>	<p>An expert will be recruited to review the innovation environment in the six countries of the project and identify gaps and opportunities for the introduction of solutions for preparedness and response of persons with disabilities to climate disasters.</p> <p>S/he will map existing technologies in the project countries that could be supported for development and scale-up and potential partnership with well-established public and private sector organizations.</p> <p>S/he will identify existing innovations in the region and globally and which ones could be replicated in the project countries based on the innovation environment assessment.</p> <p>The expert will provide guidance to the national consultants for data collection during stakeholders consultations.</p>

Drafting of the project document and required annexes	Using results from the baseline reports and stakeholder analysis, write a project document following AF template, taking into account AF priorities and UNDP's requirements.
Conduct an Environmental and Social Management Framework	An Environmental and social management Framework will be conducted following AF's and UNDP's social and environmental safeguards policies. Considering the focus of the project on persons with disabilities, the ESMF will ensure inequalities are not involuntarily reinforced, in particular during disasters, when evacuation are required. In targeted communities where indigenous people live, the ESMF will include an FPIC. Due to the excessive costs of traveling to each of the six countries, the safeguards expert will provide guidance to the national consultants for data collection during stakeholders consultations.
Conduct a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) assessment and action plan	The GEDSI will study the intersectional inequalities women and persons with disabilities experience and propose an action plan to reduce inequalities. Due to the excessive costs of traveling to each of the six countries, the gender expert will provide guidance to the national consultants for data collection during stakeholders consultations.
Validation workshops	Validation workshops will be organized at the national level, engaging persons with disabilities and OPDs to ensure their buy-in for the project outcomes and activities. An additional regional validation workshop will be organize and gather representatives from each country. The regional workshop will also be an opportunity to initiate the regional cooperation on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

**Implementing Entity**

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Nancy Bennet		13 January 2026	Aishath Azza		aishath.azza@undp.org