

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Cambodian Health Sector

Background:

- Governments of Cambodia and Germany agreed to mainstream disability in cooperation activities (2011)
- Action Plan for the Inclusion (2013-2017) by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Cambodia and Germany ratified UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Cambodian Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2009)
- Estimation 1.5 million PWD = 10% of population
- Age 60+ = 8% of population and 12% of them PWD
- Main causes of disabilities: Acute and chronic diseases, congenital / birth condition and accidents
- Three-fold total cost for treatment and travel for PWD (10.30 US\$)

Barriers for persons with disabilities



Obj. Poor and vulnerable groups have more equitable access to health services of appropriate quality

Mainstreaming disability in Social Health Protection Programme (SHPP)

- **Health System Financing (HSF)**
 - Transport voucher scheme – pagodas/mosques
 - Barrier-free access to health facilities
 - Advocate for inclusion of PWD in social health & in voluntary insurance
- **Health Service Delivery (HSD)**
 - Sign boards & communication training
 - Screening tools and referral system
 - Training providers on disability rights
 - Support specialised services (ENT, physiotherapy, non-communicable diseases)
- **Health System Governance (HSG)**
 - DPO participation in annual health planning
 - DPO capacity development & cooperation
 - Awareness raising in community & local authority, including through dance– Epic Arts
 - Community forum & community feedback

Results

- MoH by-law for free health services for PWD
- Transportation voucher scheme available 12 of 25 provinces
- Inclusive questionnaires in ID poor program
- Barrier-free infrastructure at health facilities, incl. sanitation
- Providers became aware about disability rights and needed behavioural change
- PWD involved in client feedback to health facilities
- PWD raise their health needs during meetings
- PWD representatives participate in annual health planning

Lesson learned/Policy recommendation

- Health Strategic Plan (2016-2020) focuses on inclusion in vulnerable group support and non-communicable diseases,
- Integrated screening tool integrated in health services (MPA)
- Comprehensive interventions (demand and supply)
- Twin-track approach (inclusion disability into development project, support specific initiatives empowering PWD)
- Capacity development at all levels of society (communities, local authorities, DPO's staff, SHG) is crucial and essential for success.