



Final Evaluation Report

Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model

Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)



Mekong Institute

123 Mittraphap Road, Muang,
Khon Kaen 40002, Thailand

May 2019

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	6
Disclaimer.....	7
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	8
Executive Summary.....	10
1. Overview	16
1.1. Introduction.....	16
1.2. Project Background.....	16
1.3. Objectives of the Final Evaluation	17
1.4. Evaluation Methodology.....	18
1.5. Ethical Consideration	21
1.6. Limitations of the Study.....	22
2. Findings of Final Evaluation	22
2.1. Cambodia.....	23
2.2. Lao PDR.....	37
2.3. Thailand.....	43
2.4. Myanmar	56
2.5. Philippines	67
2.6. Vietnam	79
2.7. Indonesia.....	91
2.8. Malaysia	104
3. Conclusion and Recommendations	117
4. Annexes	120
4.1 Annex 1: Overall Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework	120
4.2 Annex 2: List of Persons Interviewed	123
4.3 Annex 3: Data Collection Tools.....	127

Acknowledgement

It has been a great privilege working on the final evaluation of 'Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Community Model implemented by APCD in the selected ASEAN countries. We would like to express our utmost gratitude to APCD for entrusting us with this important assignment. Our special thanks are directed to the APCD's project staff in Thailand and project countries for general guidance, support and facilitation for the evaluation. Particular thanks and appreciation is directed towards all those who people took time out of their schedules and daily lives to provide inputs and share their knowledge and experience towards making this evaluation possible, including community members, project partners, DPOs, as well as national and local government officials and representatives.

Disclaimer

This report has been produced at the request of APCD and is based on analysis of available data and information collected during the evaluation by the independent and impartial consultants and is not necessarily representative of APCD or the project partner's positions. The consultants identify that they have no conflicts of interests with any aspect of the project, including APCD or any of its partners.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

APDC	Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute (Philippines)
BHA	Bahagian Hubungan Antarabangsa
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam
DA	Department of Agriculture (Philippines)
DAC	Disability Action Council (Cambodia)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DDPD	Department for Development of persons with Disabilities (Malaysia)
DEP	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand)
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment (Philippines)
DOLISA	Department of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam)
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation (Myanmar)
DOSMEP	Department of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (Lao PDR)
DPDDE	Department of Policy for Devotees, Disability, and Elderly (Lao PDR)
DPIC	Department of Planning and International Cooperation (Lao PDR)
DPO	Disabled People's Organization
DSW	Department of Social Welfare (Malaysia)
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development (Philippines)
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry (Philippines)
EEPD	Empowerment and Employment Promotion for Disability (Cambodia)
JAIF	Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPP	JICA Partnership Program
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LDPA	Lao Disabled People's Association
LDWDC	Lao Disabled Women's Development Centre
MI	Mekong Institute
MOA	Memorandum of agreement
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Lao PDR)

MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam)
MOLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (Lao PDR)
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs (Indonesia)
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (Cambodia)
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Rehabilitation (Myanmar)
MWFCD	Ministry of Women Family and Community Development
MWFCD	Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (Malaysia)
NCD	National Committee on Persons with Disabilities (Vietnam)
NCDA	National Council on Disability Affairs (Philippines)
NCIL	Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (Thailand)
NHE	Non-Handicapping Environments (Cambodia)
PA	Personal Assistant
PDAO	PWD Affairs Office
PPCIL	Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (Cambodia)
PWD	Person with disabilities
PWD	Person with Disabilities
SMTF	Shwe Minn Tha Foundation

Executive Summary

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) implemented the Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model, with financial assistance of USD 694,366 from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), from May 2017 to April 2019. The project aimed 1) to strengthen the collaboration between Japan, Thailand and other ASEAN member states on disability and ageing; 2) to develop disability-inclusive hometowns in the targeted communities of ASEAN and contribute towards addressing issues related to urbanization and ageing society; and 3) to enhance international recognition of the partnerships between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN member states as an effective approach in addressing challenges related to persons with disabilities, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups. The project covered selected target communities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and was being implemented in close collaboration with different stakeholders such as government, non-government organization, Disable People's Organizations (DPO), media, business, other relevant stakeholders, and the general community.

The final evaluation of the Hometown Improvement project was conducted during March-April 2019 by Mekong Institute (MI), an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), founded by six member countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), namely Cambodia, P.R. China (Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Mekong Institute implements and facilitates integrated human resource development (HRD), capacity building programs and development projects related to regional cooperation and integration.

Objectives of the final evaluation:

The study was conducted at the end of project implementation by APCD with following objectives:

1. Analyze the key changes and results (i.e. outputs, outcomes and impacts) that have happened for project interventions based on its objectives;
2. Analyze the applied process of project implementation, focusing on participation of the community;
3. Identify problems and limitations that have been encountered;
4. Identify the strengths and weakness of the project considering sustainability of the achieved results;
5. Identify lessons learnt from the implementation of this project and make recommendations for the implementation of future projects.

Methodology:

The study gathered data on key changes and results due to project interventions. Based on the understanding of the project and its objectives, the study aimed to deploy a mixed method research approach using both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to gather data from project beneficiary households, service providers, relevant local and national government officials, and other stakeholders in order to yield credible results and provide richer insights. However, considering the nature and scope of project intervention as well as the indicators of the project mentioned in the Logical Framework Matrix, the study was conducted applying qualitative methods only.

The study used the five evaluation criteria¹ from the Development Assistance Committee of the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC): Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. This final evaluation also considered ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Criteria and Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), Disability Inclusive Business (DIB), and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Approach in developing data collection tools for the evaluation of the project. The detail data collection tools are attached in **Annex 3**. The evaluation team conducted different methods of qualitative data collection i.e. Key Informant Interview (KII), Focused Group Discussion (FGD), Group Discussion (GD) and Case Study with project beneficiaries and various stakeholders in order to collect pertinent qualitative information and tried to validate and triangulate the collected information from different sources.

Summary of Findings:

Findings of the evaluations has been summarized following the DAC criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability.

Relevance:

APCD's Hometown Improvement project has worked mainly with community-based organizations to deliver its activities. Hence, this final evaluation has found that the project has contributed to the mission of APCD to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) through its Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach and Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach. The project also has contributed to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 that envisions to

¹ DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm/>

move towards a more inclusive community. The intervention of project has been found relevant to the policies, laws and acts of all governments of selected 8 ASEAN countries. Although, the selected countries already had their own policies and programs for supporting PWDs to participate in economic activities, still there was further need for capacity building of PWDs, government officials, Disable People Organizations (DPO), and private sectors. This project worked to fulfill that need. The project worked with relevant government ministries and departments for selecting communities and identifying their needs. Mostly, the national governments have played role in this selection process and recommended APCD to work with either community-based organizations run by PWDs or community-based rehabilitation centers.

Effectiveness:

Comparing project achievements to the intended results stated in the project log frame, it can be mentioned that the project has been moderately effective. Where some of the intended results were achieved, others could not be realized during one year of actual project implementation. It is noteworthy to mention that there was no monitoring mechanism in the project to measure the progress and short-term results, apart from the Midterm Review and Final Evaluation. There was no tracking of the progress of business performance, hence this final evaluation could not assess the status of the business run by PWDs or the community-based centers.

The project worked with relevant government ministries and departments for selecting communities and identifying their needs. Mostly, the national governments played role in this selection process and recommended APCD to work with either community-based organizations run by PWDs or community-based rehabilitation centers. After identifying the skill development needs for each of the communities, APCD organized capacity building training for PWDs, government officials, Disable People Organizations (DPO) and management staff of community-based rehabilitation centers. The training mainly focused on the development of disability inclusive business in the communities and was organized in 7 countries, except Lao PDR due to the absence of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Almost all DPOs and community-based disability inclusive centers have been successful in improving their products and business through applying the knowledge on branding, packaging and marketing gained from the training under Hometown Improvement project.

The project also contributed to develop inclusive business model for PWDs in the selected communities. Moreover, none of the countries had any guideline on how PWDs can be involved in suitable business and economic activities. Through organizing National Policy Workshop, the project facilitated to develop country specific national guideline in all counties, except Lao PDR

and Myanmar, for their hometown improvement. These guidelines will help the PWDs or the family members of the PWDs either starting or expand their business. Government or any other private or non-profit organizations also will be able to utilize the guideline to replicate the Hometown Improvement model and will be able to improvise and contextualize it as per their need. These guidelines have been good pillar for the future expansion of hometown improvement model in ASEN countries. However, the guidelines could be more coherent and holistic guiding documents for hometown improvement model. Moreover, the ASEAN level guidelines have not been finalized by the project within the period of this final evaluation.

Efficiency:

After awarded by JAIF in May 2017, the project struggled to start its implementation in the first year, except Vietnam. One of the important factors of this delay of implementation was due to changes in APCD Executive Director, Project Manager and the staff members of the project. The duration of the project was 2 years only. Having loss of almost a year, the project had to narrow down its focus from the wider coverage of the community level to the selection of established DPO or any other community-based rehabilitation center for PWDs to achieve some desired results within the remaining timeline. Apart from inclusion of PWDs, the Hometown Improvement project has not been able to involve the elderly, pregnant women, and other people from the communities- as anticipated by the design of the project.

The overall budget of the project was very limited considering its coverage and the budget was managed by APCD. The selected DPOs or community-based rehabilitation centers did plan or spend money by themselves. Within the limited budget of the project, apart from providing the training to the DPOs and community-based centers, APCD could not provide further support in cash or asset for their business development in any of the selected communities. This budget limitation has hindered the achievements the project. More follow-up trainings, technical assistance and financial supports for raw material and equipment were required to achieve the goal of Hometown Improvement.

Cooperation from government, DPO, and communities played important role in successful implementation and its achievement of the project. Without this cooperation, APCD would not be able to deliver all trainings, policy workshops and guideline development for hometown improvement in the selected countries.

Impact:

Since the actual project implementation in the targeted countries happened for one year or less than one year in most of the countries, it is early to expect any changes in term of poverty reduction among the targeted beneficiaries as defined in the general objective of the project. It is a longer-term impact measure that could not be evaluated during the project period. It was found that the baseline surveys also do not provide any suitable benchmark to measure the impact of project interventions. Even though the broader of concept of Hometown Improvement was somehow missed in project activities, the final evaluation noted that there have been some significant short term changes in some of the countries as a result of the Hometown improvement project which can be built on by the concerned stakeholders. The evaluation found that while some of the business models such as in Indonesia and Thailand have greater potentials and viability to contribute to poverty reduction in the targeted communities, business model in Vietnam could face greater challenges. In other countries including Cambodia and Malaysia the models have shown some initial gains. In Philippines, although the project has laid down strong foundation, profitability of the model is yet to be established. In Myanmar, lack of market could affect the initial project gains. It was observed that impact of the business models would depend on improving marketability and climate-resilience of the products.

Sustainability:

The final evaluation highlighted that in each of the countries there are different factors which could influence the sustainability of project activities and their benefits to the targeted beneficiaries. In almost all the countries the national or local governments have recognized the project activities as being relevant and expressed their desire to continue with the project activities beyond the project period. In some cases, such as Philippines the national and local governments have showed strong ownership for the project by endorsing it as flagship program for PWDs. All the Governments, except Lao PDR, have also developed guidelines on Hometown improvement which can be helpful in replication of the models to other communities. Moreover, DPOs in some of the countries such as Thailand and Malaysia have developed linkages with private companies and enterprises for marketing and sales of products. During the project, APCD was also able to strengthen and formalize its linkages with the relevant government departments and ministries in the project countries. And the project being part of regional platform, concerned government agencies and private sector could put more efforts to make it successful. All these factors are likely to contribute towards the sustainability of the project activities beyond project duration. However, the government partners had not yet

developed any sustainability or scale-up plan for the business model. Moreover, lack of market, inadequate capacities, vulnerabilities to climate conditions and lack of benefits to the targeted beneficiaries could also undermine the sustainability of project activities.

Key Recommendations:

A variety of recommendations were identified throughout the evaluation. Recommendations specific to each country have been covered in each country's section and general recommendations for the project have been given in the last section of the report. Some of the key recommendations are mentioned as below:

- The Hometown Improvement project has just founded a base for establishing hometown through disability-inclusive business model in intervened ASEAN countries, APCD should continue this initiative through proper collaboration with all relevant ministries and departments;
- APCD should ensure that hometown improvement guidelines are more coherent and holistic guiding documents for hometown improvement model;
- APCD should continue to advocate for the recognition of the guidelines by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies;
- Established regional platform need to be maintained and strengthened for expansion of hometown improvement concept in ASEAN region;
- APCD should facilitate with all relevant ministries and departments of the target countries for their concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for hometown improvement;
- APCD should further capacitate and advocate the government and DPO partners in understanding and adopting the holistic concept of 'Hometown Improvement' in the ongoing and future project related activities; in addition to PWDs, project activities should focus on other targeted beneficiaries as well.

1. Overview

1.1. Introduction

This report covers the objectives, process, findings and recommendations of final evaluation on APCD Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model. The project reached to the end of implementation in its second year and required a final evaluation to assess its achievements and non-achievements in against of its desired objectives from this project. The final evaluation has assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project. This report provides analysis of its findings from literature review and field visits during the evaluation and provides country-specific as well as overall recommendations for further implementation of this kind project in future.

1.2. Project Background

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) implemented the Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model, with financial assistance of USD 694,366 from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), from May 2017 to April 2019. The project was implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in collaboration with different stakeholders such as government, non-government organization, Disable People's Organizations (DPO), media, business, other relevant stakeholders, and the general community.

Based on knowledge and experiences of Japan, Thailand and other ASEAN countries, the project aimed to facilitate the development of barrier-free rural communities through empowering PWDs in the ASEAN region. The project had the following core objectives:

1. To strengthen the collaboration between, Japan, Thailand and other ASEAN member states on disability and ageing.
2. To develop disability-inclusive hometowns in the target communities of ASEAN and contribute towards addressing issues related to urbanization and ageing society.
3. To enhance international recognition of the partnerships between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN members states as an effective approach in addressing challenges related to persons with disabilities, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups.

To develop the inclusive hometown, the project aimed to apply three approaches a) Promoting disability-inclusive business including partnerships with the business sector, training and

capacity building of persons with disabilities, branding products by persons with disabilities, marketing and sales of products by persons with disabilities in partnership with business sector
b) Promoting disability-inclusive governance including passage and implementation of local policies on disability and allocation of necessary resources/budget; promoting employment or business run by persons with disabilities; providing incentives for businesses hiring persons with disabilities and c) Promoting accessibility in work places, public places, government offices, access to information and communication, access to transportation, etc.

The project also aimed to contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025, particularly in line with B. Inclusive 10: “In realizing the overarching goals of an ASEAN Community 2025, the ASCC is envisioned to move towards a more inclusive community. This would entail the promotion of equitable access to opportunities for ASEAN peoples, and the promotion and protection of human rights of women, children, youths, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, ethnic minority groups, and vulnerable and marginalized groups, throughout their life cycle, guided by a life-cycle approach and adhering to rights-based principles in the promotion of ASEAN policies and programmes in the ASCC Pillar”.

1.3. Objectives of the Final Evaluation

The final project evaluation was focused on the following broad objectives:

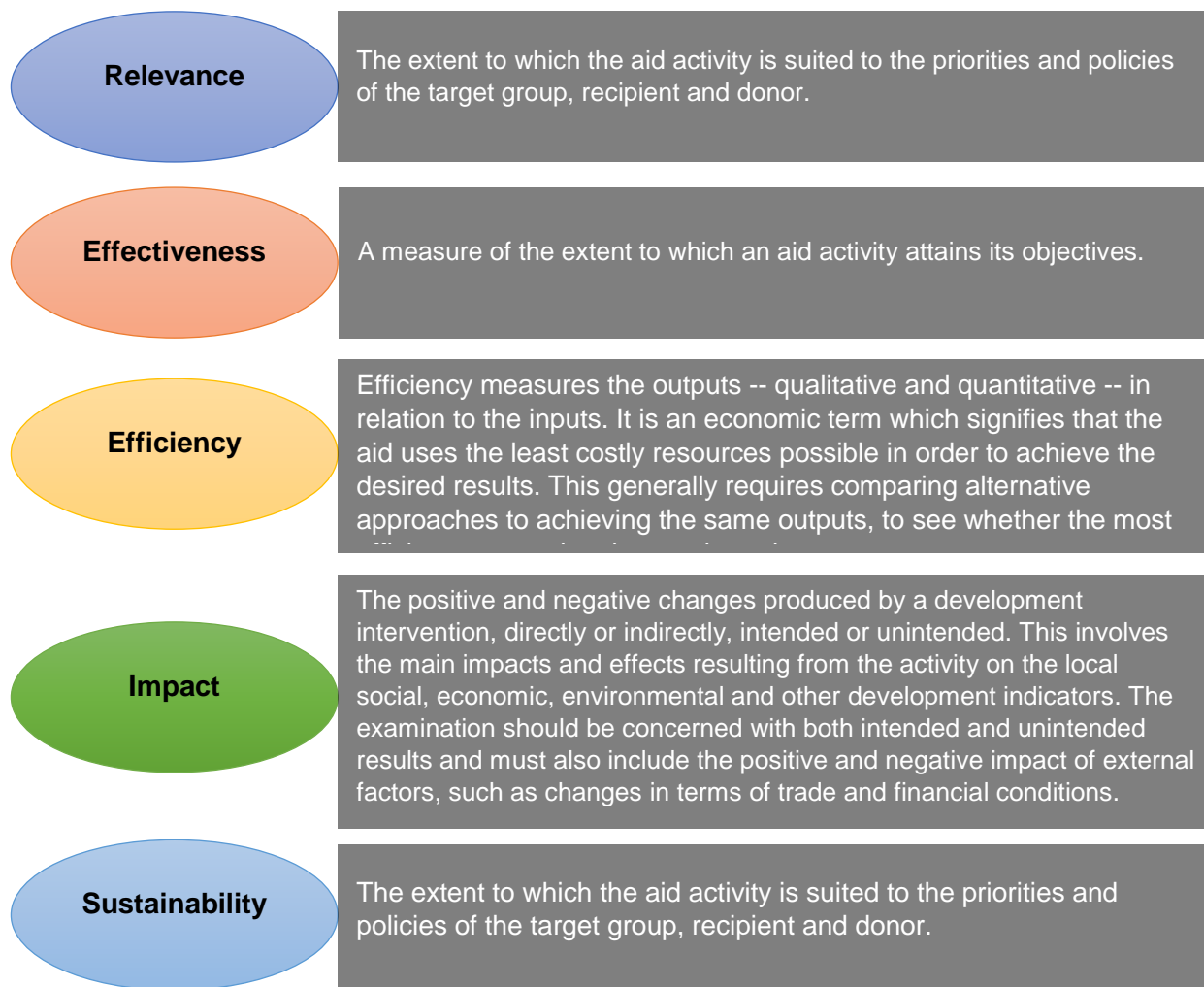
1. Analyze the key changes and results (i.e. outputs, outcomes and impacts) that have happened for project interventions based on its objectives;
2. Analyze the applied process of project implementation, focusing on participation of the community;
3. Identify problems and limitations that have been encountered;
4. Identify the strengths and weakness of the project considering sustainability of the achieved results;
5. Identify lessons learnt from the implementation of this project and make recommendations for the implementation of future projects.

1.4. Evaluation Methodology

1.4.1. Study Approach:

The study gathered data on key changes and results due to project interventions. Based on the understanding of the project and its objectives, the study aimed to deploy a mixed method research approach using both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to gather data from project beneficiary households, service providers, relevant local and national government officials, and other stakeholders in order to yield credible results and provide richer insights. However, considering the nature and scope of project intervention as well as the indicators of the project mentioned in the Logical Framework Matrix, the study was conducted applying qualitative methods using the five evaluation criteria² from the DAC/OECD (Development

Figure 1: DAC Criteria for Project Evaluation



² DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm/>

Assistance Committee of the Economic Cooperation and Development): Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability.

This final evaluation also considered ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Criteria and Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), Disability Inclusive Business (DIB), and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Approach in developing data collection tools for the evaluation of the project. The evaluation team applied different methods of qualitative data collection in order to collect pertinent qualitative information and tried to validate and triangulate the collected information from different sources.

1.4.2. Data Collection Methods and Tools:

The evaluation methodology and its instruments needed to be designed considering the main structure and features of the interventions and in line with the main objectives of the study. The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. Semi-structured tools including Evaluation Criteria and Guiding Questions (**Annex 3**) were developed for this study based on DAC Criteria for Evaluation, Project Logical Framework Matrix and Indicators, and APCD's Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Key Principles.

To collect the primary data from the target population, the study collected empirical information from the field through visiting intervened Disable People's Organizations and Community-based Rehabilitation Centers. The following data collection techniques were used with specific target respondents using Purposive Sampling method:

- i. Document Analysis:** This included a full range review of secondary documents and data as well as programmatic records, memoranda, policy documents, correspondence, developed national guidelines and various reports such as baseline report, capacity building training report, policy workshop report, field visit report, mid-term technical review report, and any other relevant documents.
- ii. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** The respondents for the FGDs will included PWDs (persons with disabilities), parents of PWDs from the communities, and staff of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs).
- iii. Case Study:** Some cases of PWDs and other beneficiaries were studied to understand the changes in direct beneficiary level.
- iv. Key Informant Interview (KII):** The respondents for the KIIs included, leaders of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), officials from both local and national government of the selected 8 countries and project staff.

v. Direct Observation: During field visit, the activities, actions, and behaviors of beneficiaries and groups; interpersonal interactions; and the status of project settings etc. were observed to understand their relationship with the project objectives and activities.

The following table shows the distribution of respondents in the visited 8 countries:

Table 1: Number of Persons Interviewed during Final Evaluation

Respondent Category	Data Collection Method	# of Events & Respondents	Name of Countries								Total
			Cambodia	Thailand	Vietnam	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Philippines	Malaysia	
PWD Beneficiaries	FGD	# of Events	1	2	1	1			1	1	7
		# of Respondents	2	5	1	19			1	3	31
	Site Observations	# of Events	1	1	1	1			1	1	6
PWD and elderly Beneficiaries	Case Study	# of Events	1		1				1	1	4
		# of Respondents	1		1				1	1	4
Staff of DPOs/ Community-based Rehabilitation Centers	KII, FGD	# of Events	1	2	1	1	1	1		1	8
		# of Respondents	3	5	1	2	1	1		7	20
Officials from Local Government	KII, FGD	# of Events	1	2		1			1		5
		# of Respondents	3	4		20			14		41
Officials from National Government	KII, FGD	# of Events	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	10
		# of Respondents	1	1	1	3	3	1	4	5	19
Representatives from SME Development Bank	KII	# of Events		1							1
		# of Respondents		3							3
APCD Project Field Staff	KII	# of Events		1	1	1		1	1	1	6
		# of Respondents		1	1	1		1	1	1	6
APCD Project Management Staff (central)	KII	# of Events		1							1
		# of Respondents		1							1
APCD Senior Management (ED/Director)	KII	# of Events		1							1
		# of Respondents		1							1
Total Events			7	15	5	26	4	3	10	9	79
Total Respondents			15	29	10	49	7	6	26	22	164

1.4.3. Evaluation Team

Mekong Institute (MI) worked as a consultant for the Final Evaluation of the Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability Inclusive Community Model. The 4-members evaluation team was comprised of a Team Leader and 3 Evaluators. The Team Leader Dr. Watcharas Leelawath provided overall guidance for the execution of the final evaluation as well as will reviewed to finalize the evaluation report. The Evaluators Mr. Mohammad Halimur Rahman, Mr. Dwight Jason M. Ronan and Mr. Nazir UI Haq jointly conducted the designing of the study, identification of study methods, development of tools, collection of data from the field, analysis of data, validation of findings and preparation of evaluation report.

1.4.4. Field Team and Schedule of Data Collection

The duration of the data collection for this final evaluation was March 27 - April 11, 2019. The schedule for data collection of the final evaluation of the project was following:

Table 2: Schedule for Data Collection during Final Evaluation

Date	Location	MI Staff	APCD Staff
March 27 - March 29	Cambodia	Mr. Mohammad Halimur Rahman	Mr. Panu Kanoksilapatham
March 28 - March 30	Lao PDR	Mr. Dwight Jason M. Ronan	Ms. Duangkamol Thongmung
March 31 - April 2	Thailand	Mr. Mohammad Halimur Rahman	Mr. Panu Kanoksilapatham
April 1 - April 3	Myanmar	Mr. Dwight Jason M. Ronan	Ms. Duangkamol Thongmung
April 2 - April 5	Vietnam	Mr. Mohammad Halimur Rahman	Mr. Tran Van Ninh
April 4 - April 6	Philippines	Mr. Dwight Jason M. Ronan	Mr. Panu Kanoksilapatham
April 7 - April 10	Indonesia	Mr. Mohammad Halimur Rahman	Ms. Duangkamol Thongmung
April 9 - April 11	Malaysia	Mr. Nazir UI Haq	Mr. Panu Kanoksilapatham

1.5. Ethical Consideration

During the course of this evaluation work, efforts were made to adhere to generally established ethical guidelines. The project evaluation was approved by the concerned government departments and ministries on the request of APCD. The evaluators sought approval of DPO leaders prior to the collection of any data from the targeted communities and CBRs. All

evaluation participants were informed of the purpose of the evaluation, how data would be used, the confidentiality of their individual information, and their right to not participate or respond to all or any specific question. Informed consent was asked for verbally before conducting FGDs or interviews and before taking pictures. Moreover, the processes and questions were identified to not pose any potential harm to PWDs or any other stakeholder.

1.6. Limitations of the Study

During the course of this evaluation, the evaluators faced a number of limitations that constrained the evaluation process. Some of them are listed as below, along with efforts undertaken by the evaluators to address them:

- Lack of aggregate, quantitative, baseline or end line data to enable the measurement of change over the course of the project in the targeted communities was one of the most significant limitations. This included lack of data on status of PWDs and elderly in the communities as well as performance of the business models. While there is some data or information available from which impact and outcomes can be measured, the data were not consistently collected. In order to address this, evaluation focused on use of qualitative methods to gather input from beneficiaries and stakeholders on their perceptions of the impact and outcomes.
- Limited time constrained the number of interviews and FGDs that could be conducted in each project site. The evaluators worked more closely with the field staff in each project sites to get maximum information and triangulate the information from other stakeholders.
- Since APCD staff served as the interpreters throughout all the field works in project sites, there is a possibility of research bias. However, the evaluators did not find any such influence. The evaluators also visited the CBRs, communities or markets to verify the information.

2. Findings of Final Evaluation

This section of the report provides country-specific background of the project, summary of findings, conclusion, recommendation, and progress of indicators in line with Logical Framework Matrix of the APCD Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model. Findings of the evaluations has been analyzed and summarized under each of the five DAC criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Conclusions and recommendations have been provided for each of the country separately, after description of the findings of the final evaluation for the country.

2.1. Cambodia

1. Background:

The goal of the Hometown Improvement project in Cambodia is to promote the social participation of PWDs through building model of their employment in processing and dissemination of agricultural products in and around Phnom Penh. In Cambodia, APCD worked with the Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (PPCIL) which was established in 2009 and is situated under Obek-Orm Commune of Phnom Penh City. With a view to promoting employment of disable persons in Cambodia, PPCIL worked with Familiar Co. Ltd., a Japanese company specialized on food processing. They jointly submitted a proposal and received fund from JICA Partnership Program (JPP) in 2014. Being a counterpart of that Japanese company, PPCIL implemented the Empowerment and Employment Promotion for Disability (EPPD) project from 2014-2017. Under EPPD project, PPCIL set up a bakery to produce cookies, cake and dried mangos. Moreover, through this project PPCIL established good working relationship with Ministry of Social Affairs and Disability Action Council (DAC) - representatives from these two government organizations were included in the Advisory Board of PPCIL. The government of Cambodia recognized PPCIL's bakery as a model that is run by disable persons and supported it through involving APCD's Hometown Improvement project in January 2018, after JICA ended its support in 2017.

2. Findings:

This section includes findings of the final evaluation of project implementation in Cambodia following the DAC evaluation criteria. Findings are reported in five sections including: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. For each of these sections, evidence has been collected from different sources as mentioned under the Methodology section of this report.

2.1 Relevance:

Since the inception of the Hometown Improvement project, APCD started working with the Disability Action Council (DAC) which is the national coordination and advisory mechanism on disability issues in Cambodia. DAC was established in July 2009 upon the promulgation of the Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The DAC works under the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). During this final evaluation, the representative from DAC mentioned that APCD was involved with DAC since 2012 for implementation of Non-Handicapping Environments (NHE) project. That project contributed to the development of the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018, increased

the overall accessibility of the people with disability through infrastructure development and improved the access to the market for the disable people. The NHE project ended in 2016. After end of the project, in 2017 APCD came in with the Hometown Improvement project and conducted a research, in collaboration with DAC, to find out the disable people having job and business. Except some indications in the project proposal, there was no “Tangible Criteria”, that was supposed to be developed under the project, to select the project beneficiary. However, based on the consultation of DAC and PPCIL, they selected PPCIL to make it as a model business for Hometown Improvement project.

The Deputy Secretary General of DAC mentioned that Hometown Improvement project is relevant with the Cambodian “Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” that mentions that the State would give due attention to promoting livelihoods for persons with disabilities and would take necessary measures to encourage the private sector and social organizations to participate in supporting persons with disabilities. Although the aim of the project³ was to improve disability-inclusive hometown for providing increased socio-economic opportunities for all people in the society including PWDs, the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups, selecting one Disable People’s Organization (DPO) named Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (PPCIL) as the direct beneficiary of Hometown Improvement project was still relevant considering that it could be established as a model disability-inclusive business for other communities in Phnom Penh.

Before the involvement of APCD project, PPCIL was already producing dry mangos, cookies and cakes. The Executive Directors of PPCIL mentioned that the product was not good in terms of quality, taste, packaging and the production and sales were too low. Based on the need of the DPO on improving the quality of their products and their business development, APCD organized a 2 day’s training workshop in May 2018 on “Product Quality Control and Marketing Management”. A Thai expert facilitated the training.

2.2 Effectiveness:

The main activity of APCD with PPCIL under Hometown Improvement Project was organizing the training on Product Quality Control and Marketing Management. 40 participants from PPCIL, other DPOs, DAC, Commune Offices, and officials from relevant government agencies attended the training. Among them, 10 participants were persons with disabilities (PWDs). From the training, the participants learned on quality of food, quality control in production, food safety,

³ ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal: Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability Inclusive Communities Model

good manufacturing practices, quality assurance, packaging, branding, logo, tagline, marketing, and sale strategy. According to the training report, out of 30 training participants who joined in post-training evaluation, 27 participants reported that the training contents were applicable to their work/community or country situation. After the training, APCD engaged another Thai expert in drafting their business plan in late 2018. The trainers also provided additional follow-up support on product development and marketing strategy.

Currently in the bakery, there are only 2 PWD staff who have been working since 2015. Previously there were 2 more PWDS working with PPCIL, but they already have left the organization. Since the training from the APCD in 2018, there has not been significant change in terms of production and selling of the bakery, hence no PWD has been recruited in last one year. PPCIL staff mentioned that the expense of the production is still much more than sale from the bakery.

PPCIL has mentioned that APCD supported only on capacity building of the staff, but it was not enough for increasing the production and profit of the bakery. During March 2017 to March 2018, the bakery had a total sale of \$1,770 with a net profit of \$442. Whereas, during April 2018 to February 2019 their total sale was \$2,504 with a net profit of \$500. That means net profit has increased around \$58 in a year. PPCIL felt the need for a new staff for marketing of their products but could not hire any with their limited profit from the sale. The profit of PPCIL has not been increased significantly and they have not been able recruit more PWDs so far.

The Hometown Improvement project aimed to conduct a baseline survey at the initial stages of the project to understand the current situation on disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the community. However, apart from the field visit by project staff, no structured baseline survey was conducted, and no information is available on the disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the selected communities, including Obek-Orm community where the DPO (PPCIL) is situated. Although the national statistics is available in the developed guideline for the Hometown Improvement, that information does not reflect the status at community or district level. Moreover, there has been no end-line survey in the community to assess before and after changes as a result of the project implementation. This final evaluation has not been able to observe any change in the community level.

As anticipated by the aim of project to involve not only the PWDs, but also the elderly, pregnant women, children and others from the community, that broad aim was not materialized through this training only. Neither PPCIL nor APCD is sure about the expansion of the benefits of the training through other participants and DPOs.

There was need for a National guideline on Disability-Inclusive Business. APCD organized a National Policy Workshop in January 2019 and facilitated to develop the Guideline on Employment, Business, and Entrepreneurship for Hometown Improvement in Cambodia. The government already has recognized the guideline developed under the project. Apart from the development of the guideline for hometown improvement, project aimed to collaborate with local governments as well as national governments to reflect the project activities in both local and national policies for the development of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. But government representative mentioned that their policy documents are already enough to promote disability inclusive business. However, this business concept has not been familiar yet in local government. PPCIL is situated at Obek-Orm Commune under Phnom Penh City. Two staff from the Commune office separately participated in the training and policy workshop organized by APCD. During interview, the Deputy Chief of the Commune office recalled her presence in the policy workshop in January 2019 and mentioned that she shared her experience and recommendations to finalize the Guideline of the Hometown Improvement project. Besides participating the workshop, she was not involved in any other activities of APCD project. Currently she has got some budget to provide financial support to PWDs, but she mentioned that they do not have scheme to promote Disability-Inclusive Business in her commune and she is not familiar with the concept of “Hometown Improvement”.

The ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 was the last biggest event of the Hometown Improvement project by APCD. From Cambodia, the representative from DAC presented the Guideline on Employment, Business, and Entrepreneurship for Hometown Improvement in Cambodia and representative from PPCIL presented their bakery business model in the forum. This forum created cross-learning opportunities on the business models by 8 selected communities, their experiences of project implementation, lessons learned, and best practices.

The project was supposed to establish an Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement consisting of high-ranking government officials and leaders of PWDs to lead the development of Guideline on Hometown Improvement and organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum. From the discussion with government representatives during this final evaluation, the presence and expected role of this Advisory Council was not clear to the evaluator. However, APCD project staff mentioned that the Deputy Secretary General of the Disability Action Council (DAC) and the Executive Director of PPCIL are the members of this Advisory Council.

2.3 Efficiency:

After awarded by JAIF in May 2017, the APCD Hometown Improvement project struggled to start its implementation in the first year. The project activities started after January 2018, when new Project Manager took over the project. Besides, there were changes in the position of Executive Director of APCD and other staff members of the project which ultimately delayed the project implementation.

The Hometown Improvement project has duration of 2 years only. Having loss of 1 year, the project had to narrow down its focus from the wider coverage of the community level to a smaller one to achieve some desired results within the remaining timeline. Through recommendation from Disability Action Council (DAC) of Cambodia, APCD selected PPCIL, a Disable People's Organization (DPO), which was not matured as a business organization at that time and still required support to improve.

As per project proposal, APCD was supposed to organize Capacity Building Training on "Disability and Ageing through Hometown Improvement" to empower local stakeholders including local officials, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other community members on how to do actual hometown improvements. These trainings were supposed to be actual hands-on work focusing hometown improvement and modification activities. But the project has been deviated from its main design of the training and delivered training on "Product Quality Control and Marketing Management" to the DPOs and government officials excluding the participation of elderly, pregnant women and other vulnerable members of the communities.

PPCIL received the required technical supports for improvement of their business through several trainings, after-event follow up support by trainers, preparing business plan, and supports for developing marketing strategy from the Thai experts recruited by APCD. As a result, all the staff of PPCIL, especially the Production Manager, have increased their skills and ability to produce. They also have increased their knowledge on how to do the marketing of the product and increase sales. Before the Production Manager received training from Japanese experts under EEPD project, but he could not understand the whole concept because of language barrier- the trainers hardly spoke in English. So, he could come up with an instruction document that listed down some production rules. Since APCD training was conducted in English language and translated in Khmer language during training- it has been very helpful for all of them to understand everything. So, after the training from APCD, he improvised that instruction document and added more rules with better clarification. Now, everyone follows the rules mentioned in the document. They have improved the production environment of the

bakery as well as sanitation facilities in the bakery utilizing the learning from the training. Also, they have improved their packaging and labelling and they have diversified their products. PPCIL has increased the salary of one of the PWD staff by 10 dollars, considering her performance after the training.

2.4 Impact:

The overall objective of the project was to reduce poverty among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities. However, this big goal is quite impossible to achieve after eleven months' implementation of the project after the training in May 2018. Although there are some early signs of impacts that might be triggered for bigger changes in the future.

After receiving the training by 14 staff of PPCIL, two of them improved their home business- one of them produce detergent for cleaning, the product already has been popular- now he focuses on improving his product applying the knowledge from the training. Another staff, who is a PWD, runs tailoring business in her house. She is also applying her knowledge to expand her business. Another PWD staff from DAC, who attended the APCD training, had handicraft business. After receiving the training, she has expanded her business and runs it near the coffee shop of PPCIL.

Before the training from APCD, PPCIL ran only the bakery. But from the idea of the APCD training, they have managed to open a new mobile coffee shop at Phnom Penh in March 2019, with financial assistance from a friend of the Executive Director of PPCIL. They are planning to recruit two more PWDs for the shop soon. They already have started selling coffee in the shop. PPCIL expects that they will earn more from this coffee shop. Beside this new coffee shop, they already have got a cookie shop where they sell their cookies and cakes. There is another coffee shop which is not owned by PPCIL but selling the products of PPCIL now. They also sell their products to tourists. These are ways they have found to increase their sale. They think that whenever they will gain the capacity to export their products in other countries and to export relevant goods for their production, Cambodian government might subsidize them through reducing taxes.

The development of the Guideline on Employment, Business, and Entrepreneurship for Hometown Improvement in Cambodia by the Disability Action Council (DAC) and its recognition by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) has been a great success of the project. Apart from that goal, the project also aimed to include its findings and achievements in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by

the government. There is no such evidence of this inclusion. Besides, as targeted by the project, there has not been any reflection in the policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly by the government.

Case Story: Dream for own Handicraft Business by Sitha

Ms. Sitha has been working in PPCIL from October 2016 and Ms. Kunthy from January 2018. Sitha lives in Thrunghmann village and Kunthy in Obek-Orm village; both villages are near to their office. Both are physically disable persons and participated in the APCD training on “Product Quality Control and Marketing Management” in May 2018. They can remember some contents of the training like product quality control, sanitation, hygiene practices, marketing (e.g. selling in fair), and techniques of reaching target customers.



Ms. Sitha (at middle) and Ms. Kunthy (at right)

Sitha thinks that the APCD project worked for empowerment and job promotion for the people with disabilities. The project encouraged for income generation through small businesses by PWDs. Sitha said that from the training, her knowledge has been increased on how to run and manage a business. Before the training, she used to do some tailoring in her house; from the marketing knowledge of the training, she has improved her home tailoring business. Besides, the training has triggered for establishing establish a souvenir shop where she would sell different types of handicrafts. She said that in Cambodia, handicrafts are not much seen in the market. She has got some skills to make handicrafts; she wants to capitalize her skill and the new knowledge to start the business. She has started to save some money for her business and hopes that she would be able to start her handicraft business one day.

2.5 Sustainability:

The representative from DAC mentioned that they will continue supporting PPCIL in technical aspect and will help them in finding new source for financial assistance. Cambodia government currently has “One Village One Product” movement, where he plans to include PPCIL’s product and will encourage them to exhibit their product in the exhibition organized for the whole country by the Cambodian government. However, he emphasized that PPCIL themselves need to work for their sustainability. Already their capacity has been increased through APCD on improving their quality of products and expanding their business; what is important now is to increase their production. Although he mentioned that PPCIL’s product quality has been improved already. He suggested that PPCIL need to learn from other companies who have been successful in business.

Although JAIF has ended its support, the Familiar company is continuing its support to PPCIL with financial aid and 100% cost of the bakery is covered from that fund until now. However, Japanese company is going to end their supporting to PPCIL in 2019. That means- by this year PPCIL needs to gain the financial capacity to run the whole business by their own - which looks quite challenging. They will try to get more financial support from APCD or any other organizations to continue their business, since they have not been able to self-sufficient yet.

The representative from PPCIL mentioned that the project has empowered them to work for improvement and expansion of their business that ultimately will lead them towards the sustainability of their business. Also, the project not only linked them with APCD, but also at regional level with ASEAN countries. It has opened the learning opportunities for them and know the best practices from other countries. Although he thinks that they have not been able to create enough networking in Cambodia so far, so he wants to expand their network and plans to be member of social enterprises, SMEs, associations so that they can promote their products and expand the business.

The Deputy Director General of DAC mentioned that they have plan to modify and extend the scope of the guideline from project level to national level. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation already has approved to change it as national guideline. He expects that in future the disable persons or the members of family of the disable persons who wants to start business or expand the existing business might be benefitted from using this guideline.

PPCIL has been working hard to expand their business and recruit more PWDs from different communities in their organization. PPCIL wants to establish their business as a model in the district level, so that more than 70 villages under the district could be encouraged from their success and might start business following their model that ultimately will reduce the poverty in the communities, especially among the PWDs.

3. Conclusion:

Overall the achievement of the project has been impressive in terms of real duration of the project implementation. Moving from community focus to DPO focus was perhaps essential to achieve some of its expected results at community level. However, there has not been any significant change in the production and profit of the DPO that can attributed as the result of the training. The development of the Guideline on Employment, Business, and Entrepreneurship for Hometown Improvement in Cambodia by the Disability Action Council (DAC) and its recognition by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) has been the biggest success of the project. The duration of the project was too small to have any bigger impact from the intervention of the project.

4. Recommendations:

Considering the objectives and the expected results of the project mentioned in the project proposal and based on the learning from the field visit and discussing with different stakeholder, the evaluator recommends the followings:

- APCD should involve local government in developing appropriate model for hometown improvement for specific communities and designing project activities;
- The Disability Action Council (DAC) should work closely with the local government i.e. Commune Offices to establish disability inclusive business model by PWDs in the communities;
- PPCIL should analyze their business performance i.e. production, expenditures, sale, income, and profit periodically;
- PPCIL should try to increase their net profit following their business plan within 2019; otherwise their sustainability will be at great risk, when JAIF will stop their finding at the end of 2019;
- Both APCD and the Disability Action Council (DAC) should continue working together for the implementation of developed Guideline for Hometown Improvement;

- APCD should facilitate DAC for a concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for Hometown Improvement in Cambodia.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework:

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN CAMBODIA	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN CAMBODIA	REMARKS
governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.		
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	Yes	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	APCD conducted field visit field at the beginning and considers it as baseline; no structured baseline survey was conducted and there was no endline survey, except the final evolution.
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN CAMBODIA	REMARKS
Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.		
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	Data not available	Baseline data not available, as well as no data available regarding total number of PWDs having benefit from the project.
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	Yes	Thai experts were involved.
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No Data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Cambodia



Interview with Deputy Secretary General, DAC



After Interview with Deputy Chief of Obek-Orm Commune Office



FGD with DPO staff



Interview with Obek-Orm staff Commune Office

2.2. Lao PDR

1. Background:

In Lao PDR, APCD selected the Lao Disabled Women's Development Center (LDWDC) as a possible local partner based on recommendation of Department of Policy for Devotees, Disability, and Elderly (DPDDE) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW). LDWDC was recommended based on its work in providing vocational training and promotion of sustainable income for PWDs. A training of trainers for skills improvement on product design was chosen as the focus area for the Project's capacity building component and training was expected to be conducted in July 2018. However, the proposed training was cancelled due to the absence of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between APCD and Lao government. As per Prime Minister's Decree on International Non-government Organizations (No. 1064), international organizations working in Lao PDR are required to formally apply for government approval before implementing any initiatives on the ground. In the absence of MOA, APCD could not conduct any of the project activities. By the time of final project evaluation, MOA between APCD and Laos's government was still pending approval. With regard to the Guideline on Hometown Improvement, the Thai version was sent to DPDDE for reference but no significant progress was achieved. Moreover, the Lao government was not able to send any representative to take part in the Advisory Council meeting during the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Findings:

Although project activities could not be conducted in Lao PDR, evaluation team still got an opportunity to interact with relevant government representatives from Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Lao Disabled People's Association during the project final evaluation. It was found that DPDDE is familiar with APCD's work in the region and considered the collaborative work between Japan and ASEAN as important and relevant, especially to the PWDs in ASEAN. According to Mr. Khomphonh, Deputy Director General of DPDDE, the hometown improvement was aligned with the government priorities and initiatives and would have been a valuable addition.

It was also shared by the interviewee that Law on Disability has been developed and submitted to parliament for review and approval. Moreover, a national decree on PWDs in Lao PDR was developed mostly based on APCD's experience in the country. It was also shared that Lao Government is also working in a JAIF-funded Project for Creating Non-Handicapping Environments in Rural Communities in ASEAN, which paved the way for barrier-free rural communities including improving accessibility to markets and other public spaces.

It was also learnt that DPDDE recently launched the National Accessibility Guideline in February 2019. Contents of this guideline were adopted from materials provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Humanity & Inclusion, CBM International, and Japan International Cooperation Agency and in consultation with LDPA.

The interviewees also provided a few suggestions for future projects by APCD. It was proposed by government representatives to involve the relevant departments in the project design phase in future activities to provide suggestions especially related to Lao regulations. It was also suggested to organize a national workshop involving concerned national agencies to understand the project scope as well as for local governments to understand the level of commitment needed and possible on-the-ground activities. The key informants also suggested APCD to explore the possibility of organizing a structured learning visit for related national agencies and partner disabled persons' organizations to Thailand to learn more about Thai policies and initiatives in improving accessibility and promoting disability-inclusive businesses.

3. Conclusion:

APCD could not initiate project activities in Lao PDR due to changes in government regulations related to working of international organizations in the country. However, it was established that the project would have been relevant to the needs of PWDs and aligned with the government priorities and initiatives. With the MOA between APCD and Lao Government expected to be completed this year, APCD will be able to continue its work in Lao PDR with Government support. If APCD decides to continue working on the hometown improvement project, it will also provide an opportunity to further improvise on project strategies based on lessons learnt from other countries.

4. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework:

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAO PDR	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive		

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAO PDR	REMARKS
hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	No	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	No	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by	No	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAO PDR	REMARKS
the governments in the ASEAN region.		
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	No	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	No	
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	No	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	No	
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Lao PDR



FGD with staff of Department of Policy for Devotees, Disability, and Elderly, MOLSW



FGD with staff of Department of Planning and International Cooperation, MOLSW

2.3. Thailand

1. Background:

The work for PWDs started in Nakhon Pathom Province since 1995. Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (NCIL) is a foundation of a self-group of persons with physical and severe disabilities. The foundation is situated in Mueang Nakhon Pathom and was established in 2002 leading the Independent Living movement with the aim of improving the quality of life disable persons. Initially the organization focused on peer counselling for PWDs, but in time they realized that only the peer counseling was not enough for the People with Disability (PWD) and felt necessity of creating job opportunity and income generation for PWDs. So, they started producing and selling fertilizer as a way of earning source of disable persons. APCD supported NCIL for its capacity building from 2002 to 2006, at the beginning of Independent Living movement. They have not worked together in the middle until APCD came again with the Hometown Improvement project in December 2017. APCD found out that NCIL requires support for developing products, packaging and branding, hence extends its supporting hands to NCIL through Hometown Improvement project.

2. Findings:

This section includes findings of the final evaluation of project implementation in Thailand following the DAC evaluation criteria. Findings are reported in five sections including: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. For each of these sections, evidence has been collected from different sources as mentioned under the Methodology section of this report.

2.1 Relevance:

The Government of Thailand has been patronizing the Independent Living movement by the organizations of People with Disabilities (PWDs) since 2002, when the Thailand Council for Independent Living Center project was initiated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the Office of the Disabled Rehabilitation Committee under The Department of Public Welfare. APCD was also involved for the capacity building pf NCIL for their independent living up to 2006. So, it was quite relevant for APCD to further support the movement though developing business for a Disable People Organization (DPO)- the Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (NCIL) to become a Hometown Improvement model in Thailand. However, except some indications in the project proposal, there was no “Tangible Criteria”, that was supposed to be developed under the project, to select the project beneficiary.

The Deputy Director General of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) mentioned that the Hometown Improvement project was relevant and in line with Thailand's "Persons with Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act (2017)" that ensures the promotion and development of the quality of life of the disable persons through employing them in suitable positions by the employers and owner of businesses. She also mentioned about the relevance of the project with the "5th National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2021)" that visions- persons with disabilities would have access to real rights with independent living in their suitable living society towards inclusive society. The Department promotes Disability-Inclusive Business through collaboration with Disable People's Organization (DPO) and organizes orientation and training for capacity building of PWDs; hence APCD's capacity building initiative to develop the business for PWDs is relevant.

Although the aim of the project⁴ was to improve disability-inclusive hometown for providing increased socio-economic opportunities for all people in the society including PWDs, the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups, selecting one Disable People's Organization (DPO) named Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (PPCIL) as the main beneficiary of Hometown Improvement project was still relevant considering that the Center will be established as a model business firm run by the disable people and will encourage other disable people of the communities for starting business. The NCIL is networked with other 7 sub-groups (DPOs), having 4-5 members in each group, in the district and works as hub of their business. However, as it aimed- the project did not focus on the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups.

The founder of NCIL learned about raising earthworms and making soil from a training at Kasetsart University, Thailand in 2012. NCIL started producing the organic fertilizer i.e. Vermicompost from earthworm casting in 2012 and has been selling the fertilizer with brand name "Farm D". Cactus farming was new addition for them in recent years. He said that they still required improvement of their products in terms of packaging, branding and marketing. APCD recognized the need of NCIL for its business development and organized a 2 day's training workshop in June 2018 on "Packaging Design and Value Added for Cactus Farming". The Accountant of NCIL mentioned that from the training they learned about packaging, branding, logo and painting on the cactus pot.

⁴ ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal: Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability Inclusive Communities Model

2.2 Effectiveness:

The main activity of APCD with NCIL under Hometown Improvement Project was organizing the training on Packaging Design and Value Added for Cactus Farming. As per project report, 48 participants from NPCIL, other DPOs, and officials from relevant government agencies attended the training. NCIL mentioned that in the training 25 participants were the persons with disabilities (PWDs)- 3 PWDS were from NCIL and the rest 22 were from other 7 DPOs. 5 personal assistants (PAs) of the PWDs also participated in the training. From the training, the participants learned on packaging, branding, logo, marketing, and sale strategy.

NCIL produces Vermicompost fertilized and grows Cactus in their premises. After receiving the training from APCD, NCIL has improved the packaging for the fertilizers. Previously they used plastic bag with rubber and used colorful label which was not attractive for marketing. They came to know about the importance of the packaging from the training. Now their products with new packaging has been able to draw more attraction to his customers in the market. Besides, they have designed new logo for their products. Currently NCIL does not have machine for packaging, so they outsource this packaging service. They are planning to buy a packaging machine soon; they already have taken loan of 180,000 Baht from SME Bank recently for 7 years' period. Their interest of their loan will be only 3%, whereas in another banks- loan is usually 6% to 7%. APCD made the linkage with NCIL and SME Bank at the end of 2018. Although, it is to mention that this loan product is not special for PWDs, this interest rate is same for other entrepreneurs from the local communities in Thailand, since the representatives of SME Bank informed that they have not developed any loan product for PWDs yet. However, because of the linkage- it was easier for NCIL to get the loan. Besides, SME Bank is supporting NCIL with their Facebook page and videos of the products of NCIL for its marketing.

From the training, NCIL also learned about painting the Cactus pot and developing the packaging for Cactus. But this packaging is expensive- so they have not started packaging for Cactus yet.

NCIL used to sell their products in Thai Watsadu shop, ASTV Channel shop and though online. They also sell both fertilizer and cactus in the premises. After the training, they have utilized their marketing knowledge to catch the attraction of the Global House and they are selling their products there. Usually the big chunk of production of fertilizer occurs in the NCIL, but they also collect the production from 2 other sub-groups (DPOs) from their network. They usually aggregate total production and do the packaging and selling together. The remaining 5 sub-groups of the network produce fertilizer in little amount and sell those in open market.

Previously NCIL used to produce 12 Tons of fertilizer per year. During Mid-term Technical Review in September 2018, NCIP analyzed their marketing strategy and came up with a new business plan for their organization. They targeted to produce fertilizer 18 Tons/year. But so far, according to their calculation, they are producing in a capacity of 16 Tons per year. The President and Founder of NCIL claimed that their sale has been increased two-fold after the training. But he could not provide exact information of the net profit from the sale. They do not have this record keeping and analysis of the total production, sale and profit. Currently in NCIL, there are only 3 PWD staff who have been working for the project from its beginning. Since the training from the APCD in June 2018, no more PWD has been recruited in last one year.

NCIL has made their organization as a learning center for PWDs, general people, students for different levels and government officials. They teach people how to produce Vermicompost and how to raise Cactus. NCIL charges 500 Baht for each of the non-PWD learners for this teaching, but for the PWDs- it is free. However, they have not included their learning from APCD training contents of packaging and value addition in their teaching curriculum. NCIL thinks that the 30 training participants of PWDS and their PAs from NCIL and other DPOs are the direct participants of the project, but they do not see any indirect participants of the training organized by APCD.

The Hometown Improvement project aimed to conduct a baseline survey at the initial stages of the project to understand the current situation on disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the community. However, apart from the field visit by project staff, no structured baseline survey was conducted, and no information is available on the disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the selected communities of Nakhon Pathom. Although the national statistics is available in the developed guideline for the Hometown Improvement, that information does not reflect the status at community or provincial level. This final evaluation has not been able to observe any change in the community level. As anticipated by the aim of project to involve not only the PWDs, but also the elderly, pregnant women, children and others from the community, that broad aim has not been materialized through the training only.

There was need for a National guideline to promote Disability-Inclusive Business in Thailand. APCD organized a National Policy Workshop in February 2019 and facilitated to develop the Guideline on Hometown Improvement for Persons with Disabilities by Thailand. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Thailand already has recognized the guideline developed under the project. Apart from the development of the guideline for hometown improvement, the APCD project aimed to collaborate with local governments as well as national

governments to reflect the project activities in both local and national policies for the development of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. However, there was no further initiative from the project to reflect its findings and recommendations in government policies. The government representatives mentioned that Thailand's policy and 5-year national plan are already enough to promote disability inclusive business by PWDs in the community level.

The Chief Administrator of the Bo Phlap Municipality under Nakhon Pathom Province mentioned that NCIL has separated themselves from the mainstream association of disable persons and trying to be independent totally. He thinks it would be better for NCIL, if they are networked with other groups of the District; they also would be able to sell more through the help of those groups. He also mentioned that NCIL could get loan of maximum 100,000 Baht without any interest through submitting proposal.

The Supervisor of the Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Province thinks that NCIL has been producing with high standard and has been able to increase the volume and value of their production. He mentioned that they have individual loan provision of maximum 120,000 Baht, some of the PWDs linked with NCIL already has taken the loan for their business. But none of the staff of NCIL has taken the loan. However, he is not familiar with the concept of "Hometown Improvement".

The ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 was the last biggest event of the Hometown Improvement project by APCD. The representative from DEP presented the Hometown Improvement model and Policy recommendation for Disability Inclusive Agribusiness in Thailand. This forum created cross-learning opportunities on the business models by 8 selected communities, their experiences of project implementation, lessons learned, and best practices.

The project was supposed to establish an Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement consisting of high-ranking government officials and leaders of PWDs to lead the development of Guideline on Hometown Improvement and organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum. From the discussion with government representatives during this final evaluation, the presence and expected role of this Advisory Council was not clear to the evaluator. However, APCD project staff mentioned that a Specialist from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), who worked closely with this APCD project and currently has been promoted as a Deputy Director General for another government Department, is the member of this Advisory Council.

2.3 Efficiency:

After awarded by JAIF in May 2017, the APCD Hometown Improvement project struggled to start its implementation in the first year. The project got motion after January 2018, when new Project Manager took over the project. Besides, there were changes in the position of Executive Director of APCD and other staff members of the project which ultimately delayed the project implementation.

The Hometown Improvement project has got duration of 2 years only. Having loss of 1 year and to achieve some desired results within the remaining timeline, the project had to narrow down its focus from the wider coverage of the community level to a smaller one of selecting one DPO focusing improvement of their business.

As per project proposal, APCD was supposed to organize Capacity Building Training on “Disability and Ageing through Hometown Improvement” to empower local stakeholders including local officials, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other community members on how to do actual hometown improvements. These trainings were supposed to be actual hands-on work focusing hometown improvement and modification activities. But the project has been deviated from its main design of the training and delivered training on “Packaging Design and Value Added for Cactus Farming” to the DPOs and government officials excluding the participation of elderly, pregnant women and other vulnerable members of the communities.

There has some collaboration between NCIL and Social Development Office at Nakhon Pathom. Last year during March to September, the Social Development Office organized training on Vermicompost producing and Cactus farming. So, they paid NCIL for hosting the training in NCIL center.

2.4 Impact:

The Hometown Improvement project has been implemented in Nakhon Pathom only for 10 months counting from the training it delivered in June 2018. Hence, it is not possible to measure the impact of the project right now. NCIL mentioned that after involvement getting support from of APCD’s Hometown Improvement project, their production and sale have been increased almost double. NCIL already has taken loan from SME Development Bank for purchasing packaging machine and they will buy it soon. That machine eventually will decrease their cost of production (since they outsource this service from outside currently) and will increase their profit. Although, NCIL has not been able to recruit more PWDs so far in last one year, it is assumed that they will be able to employ more PWDs from the communities in near future.

Hence, the overall objective of the project to reduce poverty among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities is expected to reach some time in future.

The President of NCIL thinks that the concept of “Hometown Improvement” was synonymous to their “Independent Living”, because the project has created opportunity to earn more money by PWDs through development of the business. Currently, PWDs of NCIL are not only independent, but also contributing to their families. Besides, NCIL has become learning center for the PWDs and other people from the communities. Lots of people come here to learn on Vermicompost producing and Cactus farming, hence they come to know about the project on Hometown Improvement through disability inclusive business by PWDs; this is spreading the concept of the project to the wider communities.

The development of the Guideline on Hometown Improvement for Persons with Disabilities by Thailand and its recognition by the Ministry has been a great success of the project. The government of Thailand plans to incorporate the Hometown Improvement concept in its next 5-year plan, that would bring greater impacts to the PWDs and other members in the wider communities throughout the country.

2.5 Sustainability:

Recently, NCIL have communicated with HomePro for selling their products. HomePro already accepted the packaging for Vermicompost offered by NCIL, but they have suggested to improve other 2 other products i.e. Cactus soil and Normal soil. However, they are considering the Vermicompost to include in their shop. NCIL will emphasize to improve the packaging of the mentioned 2 products, applying the knowledge of the training from APCD. They also, will try to expand the market for their products. SME Bank is planning to support NCIL through collaboration with Thailand Post for using their online application, delivery service and marketing of their products.

The Deputy Director General of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) mentioned that they have plan to incorporate the concept of Hometown Improvement from the developed guideline in the next five-year plan i.e. in 6th National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2022-2026)”. She mentioned that currently they have individual loan provision for PWDs or their family members of maximum 120,000 Baht without any interest for doing business. They are planning to change this individual loan provision to group loan for the benefit of PWDs to run in a group. The department also will promote suitable jobs for PWDs in the Social Enterprises. She mentioned that the products of

NCIL i.e. Cactus and Vermicompost are already in good quality and they are doing business well and it will sustain. Only the major concern she has is that the President of NCIL has severe disability and has got cancer. So, in future, when there will require new leadership for NCIL as well as to contribute to the community- they might face huge difficulties to replace the position.

The Supervisor of the Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Province thinks that NCIL will survive, but he is worried about the expansion of their business. According to him, NCIL still requires more capacity building. He said that probably his office might help NCIL with some required training in future. He also mentioned that he can help the members of NCIL with the loan from his office, even can help with the proposal writing to get the loan, if NCIL comes to them with suitable idea. In addition, he mentioned that his office is working to ensure universal design of infrastructure and buildings (i.e. ramps) in sub-district level for greater accessibility of the PWDs.

3. Conclusion:

The Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (NCIL) has been working for the financial independence of the PWDs in Nakhon Pathom for seventeen years. Selecting this organization for further development of its business and making it as a model for Hometown Improvement was quite appropriate. The duration of the project was too small to have any bigger impact from the intervention of the project. The project delivered its best within a very short period and NCIL already has improved its products and expanded its business within the intervention period of APCD. The development of the Guideline on Hometown Improvement and the commitment of the Government of Thailand to incorporate the concept in their next 5-year plan has been the biggest success of the project.

4. Recommendations:

Considering the objectives and the expected results of the project mentioned in the project proposal and based on the learning from the field visit and discussing with different stakeholder, the evaluator recommends the following for future implementation of this kind of project:

- APCD should encourage SME Development Bank to develop customized loan products for the PWDs with more decreased rate of interest;
- NCIL should try to develop proposal and seek for loan from either provincial and local government offices of Nakhon Pathom;

- APCD should involve local government in developing appropriate model for hometown improvement for specific communities and designing project activities, and collaborate with them for ensuring their support to NCIL;
- NCIL should have proper record keeping system and periodically should analyze their business performance i.e. production, expenditures, sale, income, and profit;
- PPCIL should try to increase their net profit following their business plan within 2019; otherwise their sustainability will be at great risk, when JAIF will stop their finding at the end of 2019;
- Both APCD and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) should continue working together for the implementation of developed Guideline for Hometown Improvement;
- APCD should facilitate DEP for a concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for Hometown Improvement in Thailand.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework:

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN THAILAND	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups,	No	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN THAILAND	REMARKS
including persons with disabilities and the elderly		
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	Yes	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	APCD staff conducted field visit field at the beginning and consider it as baseline; no structured baseline survey was conducted and there was no endline survey, except

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN THAILAND	REMARKS
		the final evaluation.
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	Data not available	Baseline data not available, as well as no data available regarding total number of PWDs having benefit from the project activities.
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	Yes	Thai experts were involved
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No Data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Thailand



Interview with Supervisor of the Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Province



FGD with the staff of Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (NCIL)



Interview with the President of Nakhon Pathom Center for Independent Living (NCIL)



After FGD with Srisathong PWD Group in Nakhon Pathom

2.4. Myanmar

1. Background:

In Myanmar, APCD's Hometown improvement project focused on improving Community Disability Inclusive business in Patheingyi Township in Myanmar's Delta Region, centered in fresh mushroom production and processing. A local DPO, Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (SMTF) was selected as a local partner by Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MSWRR), based on their experience of working with the foundation for a long time on PWD-related projects. SMTF has also worked in projects funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and United Nations Children's Fund, among others. In addition, founder and president of SMTF, Mr. Myat Thu Winn, is a successful businessman with physical disability. Mushroom production and processing was chosen both by SMTF and DOR as the focus area for the capacity building component of the project. The project organized capacity building workshop on postharvest handling and processing of mushroom in May 2018 and a follow-up training on fresh mushroom cultivation and spawn culturing techniques in August 2018. The workshops were facilitated by Thai experts. These workshops were attended by 30 participants, with 17 participants having different types of disabilities

The National Workshop on Policy and Development was held in December 2018 involving key national agencies and partner organizations. The English and Myanmar version of the National Guideline on Hometown Improvement is still under government review. Director General of DOR served as a member of the Advisory Council for Myanmar during the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Findings:

This section presents findings from the final evaluation of the project according to DAC criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. For each of these criteria, evaluation focused on the strength and weaknesses of the project which have been linked to the recommendation in the last section of the report.

2.1 Relevance:

The key informants from Government departments and SMTF regarded Hometown Improvement project to be relevant to the Government's priorities as well as to the need of PWDs. According to Mr. Swan Yi Ya, DOR Director for Vulnerable Groups, the project is relevant to Myanmar's national priorities on disability affairs, especially in reducing rural poverty. He related that 70 percent of PWDs in rural areas are considered poor. He further noted that the Myanmar government has diligently worked on mainstreaming PWD rights both through policy

and grassroots interventions. He cited that the government is working on adopting a national strategy plan on disabilities through the recently established National Committee on PWDs.

The project activities were also found relevant by the participants who attended the capacity building workshop. Based on the post workshop evaluation, all the participants agreed that contents of the workshop were relevant to their work or community situation.

Production of fresh mushroom was initiated by the president of SMTF. He also supported a group of PWDs in production of fresh mushroom for their own consumption. With the Hometown improvement project, it was considered as a good opportunity to improve capacities in production, post-harvest and processing techniques for the PWDs but also to expand business by selling products to the local community. The project activities were also considered important for improving employability of PWDs.

Although the project did not have any specific components for promoting accessibility for PWDs as envisioned in the project document, APCD still supported SMTF in improving physical accessibility for the PWDs by helping in the construction of concrete floor in the mushroom farm making it convenient for the PWDs to work without any hindrance.

Similar to other countries, project activities in Myanmar did not include other targeted beneficiaries such as elderly and other members of the community specified in the project document. The idea of 'hometown improvement' was overlooked in all project activities in Myanmar.

2.2 Effectiveness:

Comparing project achievements to the intended outcomes stated in the project log frame, it can be mentioned that the project has been moderately effective. Some of the desired results could not be realized during one year of actual project implementation. This section of the report presents performance of the project in terms of intended results and the different factors which influenced them.

The main activity under the project, capacity building workshop is regarded to be effective based on the post workshop evaluation survey. All of the 17 participants who responded to the post workshop survey reported that they gained new knowledge and skills by participating in the workshop. The respondents also agreed that the knowledge and skills were applicable to their work or community situations. However, following the training, adoption rate among the participants was only 30%, with 10 individuals including 5 PWDs continuing their involvement in mushroom production.

Since the training in May 2018, project activities in Myanmar have resulted in some significant achievements, as documented by APCD's project officer.

- There has been an increase in employment of PWDs. Currently the farm employs 12 individuals including 7 PWDs.
- The farm has increased production of mushroom bag. The group initially produced 1,000 mushroom bags per month. This has increased to 4,000–5,000 mushroom bags/month (about 200 mushroom bags per day).
- Production of fleshy mushroom has also increased significantly, from 1.5 kg/day in the first month to 10 kg/day currently.
- With the increased in production and sales, PWDS have also been sharing the benefits as their salaries have increased from MMK 2,000/day to MMK 3,000/day.

It was found that SMTF also worked toward improving the physical accessibility of the mushroom farm. Concrete floors were constructed to improve access and promote proper hygiene and sanitation based on feedback from experts. The SMTF completed this activity through a co-funding arrangement with APCD.

Where noticeable progress has been observed in the mushroom farm, scale of production is still considered to be small. And with the output used mostly for self-consumption or sold within the community, earning from the farm has been still low. According to the president of SMTF, while they have yet to reach breakeven point, the SMTF is still satisfied that they can provide an alternative source of income and livelihood for PWDs in the community.

According to the key informants, one of the major challenges in the project is the marketability of the mushroom in Patheingyi Township. At the moment, SMTF has no direct market for their mushroom except for those consumed by SMTF members and nearby communities. SMTF is interested in strengthening the market viability of the mushroom by developing/adopting a sustainable business model with the assistance of APCD.

Another issue that can be pointed out is the lack of experience, knowledge, and skills among SMTF's team on mushroom production. It was highlighted in the interviews that the chosen livelihood intervention is relatively new to the beneficiaries. Furthermore, another barrier is the project site's vulnerability to strong storms during the rainy season and strong heat during the dry season. As pointed out by Thai experts and local authorities, mushroom production is season and location specific. Success on propagating mushroom spores requires both technical expertise and experience. Proper coordination with local agri-extension officers would have helped dealing with some of the issues related to mushroom production.

In the absence of proper baseline data on PWDs in the targeted community, it is difficult to estimate the ratio of PWDs having increased access to livelihood opportunities as a result of Hometown Improvement project. As mentioned above, at the moment only seven PWDs are involved in the project activities.

In terms of policy changes as desired in the project document, no evidence was found of the project activities being reflected in the local or national policies. However, it was found that the recently established National Committee on PWDs is aiming to draft a national strategy plan on disability. And according to Mr. Swan Yi Ya, their experience with APCD (not only through the Hometown Project) will be helpful in shaping the said policy. In the local level, LOC that was signed between MSWRR and APCD is expected to serve as a guiding document for the local government agencies in Patheingyi to continue to provide assistance to PWDs. Among the agencies involved are the regional social welfare and agriculture offices in the Ayeyarwady Region.

2.3 Efficiency:

As with other countries, project activities in Myanmar were not delivered as plan in the first year which affected the overall efficiency of the project. Although the project formally started in May 2017, activities in Myanmar could not be started until March 2018. Project activities suffered delays due to changes in APCD including hiring of new Executive Director and new project manager. However, APCD managed to complete all the project activities within the project duration.

Capacity building workshop on mushroom post-harvest and food processing techniques was attended by thirty participants including 15 PWDs. Following the training, only 10 individuals (5 PWDs and 5 non-PWDs) continued working with SMTF's mushroom production activities. Low adoption rate among target beneficiaries was attributed to the fact the knowledge and skills on mushroom production and processing is relatively new and complex, especially for the PWD-beneficiaries. And they could not be expected to learn all the techniques in a short training period of two days.

It was found that SMTF efficiently acted on expert's feedback during the project duration. Following feedback from the experts, SMTF constructed concrete floor in the mushroom farm in order to promote sanitary conditions in the farm. In the process, it also improved the physical accessibility of all types of persons with disabilities.

Based on the interviews and document reviews it was found that no feasibility analysis was done on the marketability of the mushroom and its by-products. At the same time, there was no

proper coordination with local offices of the Department of the Agriculture, which would have provided appropriate agro-extension support to the activities.

2.4 Impact:

Since it has been only a year of project implementation, it is a bit early to expect any changes in term of poverty reduction among the targeted beneficiaries. Secondly, the baseline survey does not provide any suitable benchmark to measure the impact of project interventions. As of now, the disability-inclusive mushroom business is yet to reach break-even point and the scale of production is considered to be very small. The increase in yield and income is minute to have any significant contributions in improving rural poverty in the community.

A few significant achievements were made during one year of project implementation which could help in realizing the project objectives in long-term. SMTF has improved physical accessibility of mushroom farm by constructing concrete floor and arranging transportation for persons with disabilities who have strong willingness to work and who have difficulties to come and work at the farm every day. As a result seven PWDs are employed in the farm and work conveniently. SMTF has also been successful in garnering support of the Australian embassy in Myanmar to scale-up the model in four other townships.

Another significant achievement under the project has been drafting of the LOC, which formalized the inter-agency cooperation on disability issues in Myanmar. According to Mr. Swan Yi Ya, this has led to closer collaboration among agencies especially in forming the National Committee for PWDs, whose primary role is to review current status and formulate national policies and programs.

However, one important factor which can undermine impact of the project is the lack of initiatives to establish marketability of the mushrooms. With the mushroom being used mostly for self-consumption, it could not serve a reliable source of income and livelihood. Another factor which could affect success of the project is the vulnerability of the current township to strong storms during the rainy season and strong heat during the dry season. Without proper plan to counter these, it will be very difficult to realize project objectives.

2.5 Sustainability:

There are a number of factors which can influence the continuity of project activities and their benefits to the targeted beneficiaries. SMTF, as DPO partner of APCD, has vast experience of working on disability issues in Myanmar and has established itself as a leading DPO in the country. The mushroom production business model was also selected based on

recommendation of SMTF. As a result, SMTF has higher sense of ownership towards the business model and is likely to support continuation of the business model beyond project period. In fact, SMTF has been able to receive support of Australian embassy in Myanmar to scale up the model in four other townships, showing their commitment to continuation and scale-up of the business model. In addition, SMTF enjoys close relationship with DOR and may easily get support of government for its activities.

On the other hand, there are a number of factors which may undermine sustainability of project activities or their benefits to the PWDs. Mushroom production is a relatively new technology for the PWDs. Capacity building workshop by APCD was carried out over two days but it might not have been enough for transferring all technologies to the beneficiaries. There is lack of experience, knowledge, and skills among SMTF's team on mushroom production. This may lead to drop-out of PWDs and other individuals from the business. Another key concern for project's sustainability is the lack of market demand. There is no guarantee whether the products produced in the farm would actually be sold beyond local market or neighboring community. In addition, the current project site, Pathein Township, is vulnerable to natural disasters, due to strong storms during the rainy season and strong heat during the dry season. As a result, it may not be very compatible for mushroom farming. These risks to the success and sustainability of project activities need to be considered while scaling-up the business model to other townships in Myanmar so that the model become truly disability-inclusive and contribute towards poverty reduction among PWDs and other individuals.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, although the idea of hometown improvement was not fully incorporated into project activities, the implemented activities were still relevant to the need of PWDs in Myanmar. Project activities suffered delay in the first year of implementation, but all the activities were completed during the project period. The project was effective in delivering new knowledge and techniques of Mushroom farming to PWDs and other individuals, enhancing their employability and promoting physical access in the mushroom farm. However, a number of factors including lack of market, disaster-vulnerability of the location and lack of experience in the new technology may undermine the sustainability and impact of project activities.

5. Recommendations:

Based on the final evaluation of the project, there are some recommendations for APCD and other stakeholders to consider if they continue with the project activities in future.

- Capacities of the PWDs and other individuals in mushroom farming should be further strengthened, so that they continue with mushroom production and increase their productivity.
- Market viability of mushroom should be strengthened by developing/adopting a sustainable business model.
- While scaling-up the business model to other townships, risk analysis in terms of disaster vulnerability and marketability should be carried out.
- SMTF should establish proper coordination with the Agricultural department to get support of the local agro-extension workers in mushroom production.
- APCD can further capacitate and advocate the local partners in understanding and adopting the concept of 'Hometown Improvement' in the ongoing and future activities.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework:

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MYANMAR	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the	No	No changes observed in policies yet

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MYANMAR	REMARKS
elderly		
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	No changes observed in policies yet
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	Yes	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all	Yes*	Baseline only (but not

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MYANMAR	REMARKS
the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.		complete baseline information)
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	Data not available	Baseline data not available, 5 PWDs involved in project activities at the moment
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	Yes	Thai experts were involved.
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No Data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Myanmar



Interview with the Director, of Department of Rehabilitation, MSWRR



Interview with the President of Shwe Minn Tha Foundation

2.5. Philippines

1. Background:

In Philippines, Barangay 177 in Caloocan City was identified as the project site for Hometown Improvement project by APCD in consultation with National Council of Disability Affairs (NCDA). Barangay 177 was selected since there is an existing community gardening initiative involving 11 persons with disabilities (PWDs) and senior citizens. More importantly, Barangay 177 has PWD Affairs Office (PDAO) in the village. Barangay 177 was among the first villages in the country to establishment this unit which is mandated in the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. Barangay 177 is the third largest villages in Caloocan City with around 1,028 PWDs currently reside in. The various cases in the village range from physical to learning disabilities, as well as stroke-induced disabilities. Based on discussion with all the stakeholders, APCD decided to work on sustainable urban micro-gardening and the development of a community-based cooperative as the main project intervention.

Under the project, APCD conducted two days capacity building workshop on urban gardening and establishing an agri-cooperative, facilitated by two local experts from Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI). The workshop was attended by about 28 participants (with 11 PWDs). The basics of urban gardening, postharvest handling of fresh vegetables, and development of a community-based cooperative were among the topics covered in the two-day workshop. Follow up training on business plan development was conducted by NCDA in October 2018.

NCDA also organized Consultative Workshop on Policies and Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Business in January 2019. A total of 44 participants from key national and local government agencies and project partners attended the one-day event. Representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) also participated in the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Findings:

This section presents findings from the project activities in Philippines based on their Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Data collected during the evaluation has been analyzed from reference of the project proposal as being the main document. Based on the findings, evaluators have also provided recommendations for improving project activities in future.

2.1. Relevance:

Based on interviews with the different stakeholders, it can be confirmed that the hometown Improvement project was relevant to the needs of the selected community and in-line with government's initiatives for village disability-inclusive program for livelihood. Barangay 177 had recently established PWD Affairs Office (PDAO) in accordance with the Magna Carta of Disabled Persons, formally known as Republic Act 7277. This law requires local government units in the Philippines to establish a dedicated office that would "oversee the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs and projects for and with PWDs, in partnership with the concerned government agencies and private entities". In Barangay 177, the PDAO office works under the village's Committee on Health. Furthermore, the village council passed an official resolution adopting the Hometown Improvement project as its flagship program for PWDs in the community.

The project activities were also deemed very relevant to the targeted community as they were already involved in growing backyard organic vegetables for household consumption. The project would help them to meet not only their household consumption requirements but also serve as a mean for potential income. It was also identified that some housing estates have unused lands which could be used for gardening.

Project activities were also found relevant by the participants who attended capacity building workshop as more than 80% of the respondents agreed that the knowledge and skills shared in the workshop were relevant and applicable.

It was observed that the project involved elderly and youth in addition to PWDs in the project activities, contributing to the idea to 'Hometown Improvement' to some extent.

2.2. Effectiveness:

Comparing project achievements to the intended results stated in the project log frame, it can be mentioned that the project has been moderately effective. Where some of the intended results were achieved, others could not be realized during one year of actual project implementation. And that is somehow related to the consistency of project activities to the intended objectives as well. However, there were some significant achievements which have been covered in this section.

The capacity building workshop on urban gardening and establishing agri-cooperative and business plan development were deemed as effective according to the feedback of workshop participants as more than 80% of the respondents shared that workshop contributed to increase

their knowledge and skills on urban gardening and business development. Following the training, the project engaged around 25 PWDs in addition to others in growing vegetables such as moringa, eggplant, tomato, cabbage, and okra, in plots taken from landowners, free of costs. The first round of harvest was unsuccessful due to a typhoon that affected the area and other operational setbacks (stray animals, unfertile soil, sloping landscape of farm, etc.). The remaining yield after eight weeks was distributed to PWD-beneficiaries for their own consumption.

Training on business development was also considered to be useful by the participants. Following the training, a business plan was drafted by the project team, in accordance with recommendations of partner agencies including the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). However, the first business plan they drafted was not approved for funding by the DOLE. A major reason for the rejection was that the scale of production is small and the projected income was too low.

It is worth-mentioning here that Government agencies from the national and local levels and from different sectors were actively involved in the project design and implementation and significantly contributed in effective implementation of project activities. One of the significant achievements of the project was endorsement of the village council who passed an official resolution adopting the Hometown Improvement project as its flagship program for PWDs in the community. Another proof of local government's commitment is facilitating the signing of Memorandums of Agreements (MOA) with private landowners for farm sites used in the project. Through the village's Solid Waste Management Department, four MOAs were signed to formally allow the project team to temporarily use idle land plots for the urban gardens without any fee.

There were some efforts to engage the private sector in this project. As explained during the field interviews, the local government and project team contacted SM Supermarket Store to consider the project as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative. However, this public-private partnership eventually didn't prosper since the scale of vegetable production from the urban gardens will not be enough to meet the demand, especially since the initiative is still in its pilot stage.

Without proper baseline data and in the absence of data related to PWDs and elderly, it is difficult to quantify project achievements. Based on the available data, in total 1225 PWDs are registered with PDAO. During the pilot phase, only 25 PWDs were involved in project activities. And project has not yet contributed to improving livelihood of the targeted population. As noted by the Executive Director of NCDA, pilot project was more focused on providing an opportunity

for PWDs in the community to go out of their houses, actively participate in community events, and “break the myth that they will be a burden to their families”.

It was also found that the project activities have not yet been reflected in national or local policies for PWDs and the elderly as expected in the project document.

2.3. Efficiency:

As noted in the midterm review report, project activities for the first year suffered delays due to changes in APCD. The project commenced in May 2017 but the first capacity building workshop in Philippines was conducted in August 2018. However, the project activities were completed within the project duration due to strong multi-agency coordination and cooperation. In Philippines, the project primarily involved national and local government units as its main collaborators. In a more significant development, the ‘Hometown improvement’ project was officially adopted as flagship program by the village council, further ensuring efficiency of the project activities in the second year.

The capacity building workshops were attended by 28 participants including 11 PWDs. By the time of final evaluation, about 25 PWDs were involved in the project. In total 1225 PWDs are registered with PDAO. Other sectors, including village officials and volunteers have been providing support for some specific tasks or as part-time farm caretakers. The project initially covered two small vegetable plots (480 m² and 240 m²). Overtime, two other idle lots were also converted into urban gardens, increasing the aggregated farm size to 2,320 m².

It was noted that the project involved relevant stakeholders in the policy development workshop, both from public and private sector. The workshop was attended by forty-four (44) participants from various government agencies namely Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education, Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) and City Government of Caloocan; Non-Government Organizations working on employment and livelihood programs for persons with disabilities, Project Implementation Team (PIT) and Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Barangay 177 of Caloocan City. Based on the workshop, guidelines were developed which summarized salient project achievements and key learning in the community garden initiative in Barangay 177, in addition to highlighting the current disability status in the Philippines as well as existing enabling policies and programs.

Efficiency of project implementation in Philippines can also be established by the fact that a separate workshop was conducted for business plan development, with main purpose of guiding Project implementation and developing sustainability plan of the project.

Case Story: Empowering PWDs as Change Agents

“It feels good to be able to contribute to my community.”

This was how Denis Ortiz summed up his sentiments as he shared his work leading the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) of Caloocan City’s Barangay 177.

As the PDAO head of one of the largest *barangays* (villages) in Metro Manila, Denis leads a team primarily tasked to design and implement PWD-related activities in Barangay 177. One of their major activities is identifying the PWDs in their community and making sure they are registered so that they can be issued an ID



that would enable them to receive discounts to basic supplies and services. More than that, their team also makes sure that local government funds are allocated to PWD-related projects in their village. The local PDAO regularly organizes a general assembly for all PWDs in the village, so that they can be consulted and engaged in different community activities.

Through his work as local PDAO head, Denis was selected to serve as the APCD Project Field Officer in the Philippines for the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Project. For Denis, the project serves as a good mechanism to further engage PWDs in his community. “Before, most PWDs in my community are not too enthusiastic in participating in community events and would often just like to stay at home,” he shared. Through the Project, more members of the community, including PWDs, the elderly, and youth, have been engaged in taking care of the community vegetable gardens.

According to Denis, one of the reasons why he is so active and committed in his work is because he wants to show his community—PWDs and non-PWDs alike—that beyond his physical disability, people like him can be productive members of the society. The father of four

further explained that his work as the head of Barangay PDAO is fulfilling since he is able to help his fellow PWDs and provide a proactive voice for the differently-abled members of his community. He emphasized that this is very important especially in shaping local policies and programs. "There are more than 1,000 PWDs in my community. We need someone who will be able to voice out our concerns and make sure that our rights and privileges as PWDs are protected," he explained.

2.4. Impact:

With less than one year of project implementation, it won't be rational to expect that the project contributes to poverty reduction among PWDs and elderly in the targeted communities. The first harvest was affected by Typhoon and there were no significant contributions in increasing the income of PWD-beneficiaries in the community. All respondents in field interviewed were not able to provide exact details on changes in income or net gains from the community gardens. However, with the continuity of project activities and commitment of the involved stakeholders, it could happen in long term. The project has laid down strong foundation for community gardens and the local and national government partners have taken ownership of the model and provided necessary endorsement and backing. To Ms. Zubiaga, the goal of the pilot project was more focused on providing an opportunity for PWDs in the community to go out of their houses, actively participate in community events, and "break the myth that they will be a burden to their families".

As envisioned, formation of cooperative would be helpful in involving the targeted community more effectively and increase the sense of ownership among the community as well. Secondly, engagement with commercial markets will provide reliable market- access for the produces from the community gardens and may be helpful in getting support for promoting community gardens to other areas as well.

2.5. Sustainability:

Considering the project implementation in Philippines and involvement of different stakeholders, it is highly likely that project activities will sustain beyond the project period in the targeted community. There are a number of factors which could ensure sustainability of project activities. The foremost being the commitment showed by the national and local governments. As mentioned earlier, Hometown improvement project has been ratified as the flagship PWD program by the village council and are likely to take up ownership of the community gardening initiatives beyond the project period. The local government has shown its commitment by

facilitating signing of four MOAs with private landowners to use idle land plots for urban gardens without any fee. According to the Chairperson of Barangay 177, her village will continue to work on the community gardens even beyond the project duration and scope. She explained that the village resolution has formalized the initiative as part of the priority projects of the village government for PWDs. She also related that she has asked members of the village council to implement similar or supporting activities and submit a budget proposal to village or city councils. These proposals may also be submitted to national government agencies or other organizations for funding support.

Executive Director of NCDA related that they hope to replicate and scale up the Barangay 177 pilot project to other villages in the country. At the same time, she also wished to expand the current activities in the pilot site and strengthen the capacity of the group to grow vegetables in a larger scale. However, no specific plan had been developed by NCDA for scale-up to other communities by the time of final project evaluation.

Sustainability of the project's main activity of urban community gardening would also be influenced by the tangible benefits including it generates for the targeted beneficiaries including PWDs and elderly, including increase in income. During the project duration, as mentioned earlier, the first harvest was affected by Typhoon.

Another factor which could influence the sustainability of the project is the sense of ownership among the targeted beneficiaries. While the national and local governments have demonstrated strong sense of ownership and commitment, it could not be ascertained whether the intended beneficiaries have same level of understanding and commitment towards the project.

3. Conclusion:

Although the project activities were not fully consistent with the intended objectives of the Project, activities in Philippines were still relevant to the needs of the community and in line with the government initiatives. The project started late, but with the support of national and local government project activities were completed within project duration. Although the project laid down strong foundation for community gardens, it could be deemed moderately effective as some of the intended results were not realized during the project duration. The project has received strong support, commitment and ownership of the local and national government due to which the project activities are likely to continue beyond project duration and may show impact in the future.

4. Recommendations:

Based on the final evaluation of the project, the evaluators have the following recommendations to enhance the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project.

- Since the local and national governments have owned the business model and made it their own, APCD may continue to work closely with them so that the objectives of the project are realized in near future.
- As the project in the pilot phase focused on disability inclusive business, APCD may also familiarize local partners on the holistic concept of Hometown Improvement and encourage involvement of elderly and other disadvantaged groups in the project activities.
- The national and local government should make a plan for scale-up of project activities to other villages in Philippines.
- The idea and viability of cooperative can be further discussed by the relevant stakeholders in Philippines. This could be one way to enhance sense of ownership among the targeted beneficiaries and other interest groups regarding the initiative.
- Other government departments such as Department of Agriculture should be involved in the project to provide technical assistances to the beneficiaries on community gardening.
- The local government should develop a mechanism to conduct cost-benefit analysis of the community gardening on seasonal basis to develop a strong business case for the initiative.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework:

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHILIPPINES	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHILIPPINES	REMARKS
the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project		
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	No policy change, but the local govt. has endorsed the project as flagship program for PWDs in the community.
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	Yes	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the		

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHILIPPINES	REMARKS
Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	Baseline only but not with complete information.
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	2%	out of 1225 PWDs, 25 have been involved in project activities so far
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	No	Local experts were involved
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No Data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Philippines



FGD with representatives of NCDA and DSWD



FGD with Barangay 177 officials.



Visit to community gardens with Barangay 177 representatives



Interview with Training Officer of the Agricultural Training Institute

2.6. Vietnam

1. Background:

Bamboo Dana Company Limited (Công Ty TNHH Danatre) people was established at 2012 in Hai Chau district, Da Nang city, Vietnam. It is a Disable People's Organization (DPO) run by visually impaired persons. The owner and Chairperson of the Members' Council of Bamboo Dana Company Limited is and also the Vice President of Da Nang Blind Association is a visually impaired person. Before APCD came in, Bamboo Dana company used to produce chopstick, toothpick, and barbeque stick from bamboo. The office of the company is also an advocacy center for manufacturing selling bamboo products and stationaries. Since their establishment, the company was looking for some donors for developing their business. In 2017, APCD came with Hometown Improvement project and made coordination with the Department of International Cooperation and the Department of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA).

2. Findings:

This section includes findings of the final evaluation of project implementation in Vietnam following the DAC evaluation criteria. Findings are reported in five sections including: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. For each of these sections, evidence has been collected from different sources as mentioned under the Methodology section of this report.

2.1 Relevance:

To regulate the rights and duties of persons with disabilities and to ensure the responsibility of the State, families and society towards person with disabilities (PWDs), the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam promulgated the National Law on Persons with Disability in 2010. For implementation of the law, in 2012 the government approved National Action Plan 2012-2020 with a view to support the PWDs to fully utilize their capacity to meet their needs; to create favorable conditions for PWDs to participate in all aspects of life; and to contribute their best to the society. In 2015, the government established the Vietnam National Committee on Disability to assist the Prime Minister in giving directions to and coordinating among related ministries. Government agencies and localities in disability support activities. And, in 2016 the Vietnam government approved the Implementation Plan on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

During the discussion in final evaluation of the Hometown Improvement project, the Deputy Chief of the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities (NCD) talked about all of the above-mentioned laws and decisions by Vietnam government and recognized that working for the people with disabilities by APCD was quite relevant and in line with the actions by Vietnam government. However, she mentioned that APCD did not communicate with this National Committee from the beginning. Rather APCD worked with the Department of International Cooperation under MOLISA. According to her opinion, it was relevant to work that department, since they do not work for disabled persons. The International Cooperation has transferred the responsibility to the National Committee to look after the APCD project in September 2018. Hence, she also does not know about the selection process of the DPO. She also does not know if any “Tangible Criteria” was set for the selection of the DPO- Bamboo Dana Company. Moreover, she does not have an idea on the “Hometown Improvement” concept by APCD.

During the interview, APCD Field Officer of Vietnam mentioned that the previous Executive Director of APCD came to know the owner of the Bamboo Dana company from another Japan-funded project implemented in Da Nang. In his visit to the factory of Bamboo Dana, he got the idea of producing fertilizer from waste materials of bamboo powder. So, when APCD started the implementation of Hometown Improvement project, they chose this Bamboo Dana company as its beneficiary and they sought for the approval of Vietnam government to work with the company. According to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Bamboo Dana Company Limited and APCD, the company was chosen to become a good model of PWDs for developing products out of bamboo and to explore the development of new products such as transforming bamboo waste to soil improvement substances made from fermented bamboo residue.

Although the aim of the project⁵ was to improve disability-inclusive hometown for providing increased socio-economic opportunities for all people in the society including PWDs, the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups, selecting one Disabled People’s Organization (DPO) - Bamboo Dana as the main beneficiary of Hometown Improvement project was still relevant considering that the company will be established as a model business firm run by the disabled people and will encourage other disabled people of the communities for starting business. However, as it aimed- the project did not focus on the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups.

⁵ ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal: Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability Inclusive Communities Model

In August 2017, APCD involved 2 Japanese experts to conduct 2 day's training on "Agricultural Use of Dried Bamboo Powder and Skewer". The trainers explained the scientific process of carbon circulation in farming that effects the quality and quantity of harvest crops. They also taught the workshop participants how the bamboo fertilizer can improve the soil and be friendly to the environment due to no chemical agents.

2.2 Effectiveness:

The main activity of APCD with Bamboo dana under Hometown Improvement Project was organizing the training on how to make best use of bamboo. As per project reported, total 41 participants from Bamboo Dana, farmers, other DPOs from 7 districts (including Blind association in Da Nang), government officials from DOLISA and MOLISA attended the training. During interview with a farmer who participated in the training, he recalled that around 25 PWDs with physical or visual impairment participated in the training. From the training, the participants learned the experience of Japan on their agricultural use of bamboo as dried bamboo power or bamboo skewer.

The report on Technical Review and Midterm Evaluation stated that the trial-error experiment of fermented dry bamboo waste fertilizer carried out in seven batches (20/8/2017 to 26/12/2017) by Bamboo Dana company delayed the implementation of project plan. The Project Officer informed that although the company has been successful in the fermentation process, they have not yet got the approval from the Department of Agriculture; the fertilizer needs to go through testing for its usefulness in the soil and its environment friendliness of the fertilizer before selling the fertilizer in the market. So, still the company is giving the fertilizer to 10 farmers free since early 2018. This is to mention that none of these 10 farmers are PWD. Even the company needs to spend money for fine grinding of the bamboo powder from another factory. So, the investment of money and labor for fermentation of bamboo powder has not made any return yet. The representative of Bamboo Dana mentioned that they have not been able to sell any amount of fertilizer from the beginning of their production and they have not been able to recruit any more PWDs so far.

The Hometown Improvement project aimed to conduct a baseline survey at the initial stages of the project to understand the current situation on disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the community. However, apart from the field visit by project staff, no structured baseline survey was conducted, and no information is available on the disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the selected communities of Da Nang city. Although the national statistics is available in the developed guideline for the Hometown Improvement, that

information does not reflect the baseline status of the community. Hence, this final evaluation has not been able to observe any change in the community level. As anticipated by the aim of project to involve not only the PWDs, but also the elderly, pregnant women, children and others from the community, that broad aim has not been materialized through the training only.

After taking over the responsibility of APCD project by the National Committee on Persons with Disability (NCD) in September 2018, the main activity led by the APCD was the signing of MoU between the NCD and APCD and the signing process ended in February 2018. This MoU has been a very legal ground for APCD to further work on disability issues in Vietnam for the period of 2019-2022.

Although there were laws and national action plan in Vietnam, the representative of the National Committee thinks that there was a need for a detail guideline to analyze the current status of disability, challenges and probable solutions to mitigate the challenges. APCD organized a National Policy Workshop in February 2019 and facilitated to develop the national Guideline for Hometown Improvement for PWDs. Although the Committee has not named the document as national guideline, rather they mentioned it as “The Situation Report on Implementing Works on Persons with Disabilities”. MOLISA already has recognized the guideline developed under the project. Apart from the development of the guideline for hometown improvement, project aimed to collaborate with local governments as well as national governments to reflect the project activities in both local and national policies for the development of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. However, there was no further initiative from the project to reflect its findings and recommendations in government policies.

The ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 was the last biggest event of the Hometown Improvement project by APCD. The representative from the Department of Social Assistance under MOLISA in Vietnam presented on current situation, rights and policies for people with disability In Vietnam. They also talked about their way forward to improve the situation for PWDs. This forum created cross-learning opportunities on the business models by 8 selected communities, their experiences of project implementation, lessons learned, and best practices.

The project was supposed to establish an Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement consisting of high-ranking government officials and leaders of PWDs to lead the of Guideline on Hometown Improvement and organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum. From the discussion with government representatives during this final evaluation, the presence and expected role of this Advisory Council was not clear to the evaluator.

2.3 Efficiency:

The Deputy Chief of the National Committee on Persons with Disability (NCD) clearly mentioned that APCD should have communicated with this Committee for implementation of this Hometown Improvement project. She mentioned that the Department of International Cooperation does not have expertise to work on disability issues. She mentioned that if APCD could work with NCD from the beginning, they could help APCD to choose appropriate and contextual model for the communities and could test the model for its effectiveness- since currently they are implementing many models for PWDs in Vietnam. From its involvement with APCD project since September 2018, they have not been able to contribute to the model that already had been implemented in Da Nang.

As per project proposal, APCD was supposed to organize Capacity Building Training on “Disability and Ageing through Hometown Improvement” to empower local stakeholders including local officials, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other community members on how to do actual hometown improvements. These trainings were supposed to be actual hands-on work focusing hometown improvement and modification activities. But the project has been deviated from its main design of the training and delivered training on “Agricultural Use of Dried Bamboo Powder and Skewer” to the DPOs and government officials excluding the participation of elderly, pregnant women and other vulnerable members of the communities.

2.4 Impact:

Although the project started its implemented in Vietnam at the beginning of the project at mid-2017 and the training was conducted in August 2017, it took a lot of time for Bamboo Dana Company to apply the knowledge of the training for experimentation of making fertilizer from the fermentation of bamboo powder. And, although they have been successful to produce the fertilizer in 2018, they have not yet got approval from the relevant government department of Vietnam. Hence, this is not possible at this point of time to measure the impact of the intervention of the project Besides, it is not possible to attribute the intervention of the projects fulfilling the overall objective of the project was to reduce poverty among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities.

However, one of the aims of selecting the waste of bamboo for producing fertilizer was to decrease environment pollution, which has been achieved by the initiative of the project. Before they started producing this fertilizer, they used to burn the residues of bamboo- after their production of chopstick, toothpick and other products in their factory. This burning created huge

environmental pollution. Although Bamboo Dana company still burns the residues for heating the big chunks of raw bamboo, the amount of burning has been reduced due to utilization of the residues in making fertilizer.

The development of the national guideline on the current status of disability, challenges and probable solutions to mitigate the challenges and the recognition of the guideline by the MOLISA has been a great success of the project. This guideline might help the Vietnam government to take more initiatives to establish disability inclusive business models in the communities.

Case Story: Pioneer of Testing Fermented Dry Bamboo Waste Fertilizer



Mixture of bamboo fertilizer and biomass



Green vegetables from the mixed fertilizer

60 years old farmer Mr. Nguyen Huu Loi lives in Camne village of Hoa Vang district under Da Nang city. He is still very active in his farming. He participated in the training workshop on “Agricultural Use of Dried Bamboo Powder and Skewer” organized by APCD in August 2017. He still has the training materials in his collection. He mentioned that he has been getting the bamboo fertilizer free from Bamboo Dana Company since September 2017. He gets 2 sacks of fertilizer in every 3 months, amounting 100 Kgs. But he uses only 10% of bamboo fertilizer directly to his land. The rest 90% of the fertilizer he mixes with biomass, ferments it and gets a new kind of organic fertilizer that is much more effective for soil. He explained that when he uses only bamboo fertilizer, the recovery of soil is quicker and due to strong smell from the bamboo fertilizer, it keeps away some insects; but the vegetables look less green. However, when he mixes the bamboo fertilizer with biomass, the mixture ensures more Nitrogen in the soil and make makes the leaves and vegetable greener and tastier.

Mr. Loi is one of the 10 farmers who get free bamboo fertilizer from Bamboo Dana Company. The company is going to end their free products from April 2019. However, Mr. Loi still wants to continue using the fertilizer and wants to buy it from the company after the free trial. He wants to help people with disabilities. He knows that if he buys the fertilizer, the profit will go to the blind PWDs who work in the company.

2.5 Sustainability:

The Director of Bamboo Dana mentioned that the last free fertilizer pack for the farmers went in March 2019 and they are going to end this free product from now on. They have plan to sell the fertilizer in 50% discount up to June 2019. After that there will not be any promotion. He said that the 10 farmers who got the free fertilizer already has got the benefit and agreed to buy the fertilizer. He mentioned that total cost of their produced fertilizer is 2,000-2,500 VND per KG. And the average price of fertilizer in the market is 3,500 VND per KG. So, they are planning to fix the price of fertilizer below 3,500 VND, so that they still can get net profit of 1,000-1,500 VND.

However, after discussion with a farmer and the Field Officer of Vietnam, the evaluator understood that the fertilizer produced by Bamboo Dana from the bamboo powder cannot be used as a substitute of other fertilizer, since it is produced from dried bamboo powder and does not have any organic element. Hence, it can only be used as a supplementary product which can be mixed with any other organic fertilizer to make it more effective for the soil. Hence, the usage of the fertilizer by potential farmers and having its market looks quite challenging. Most importantly, after the success of the fermentation- it has been more than one year and still the company has not got the approval from the relevant government departments to sell it in the market. So, the result of the training provided by APCD looks quite dim until now.

However, as mentioned before, the MoU between the NCD and APCD for working on disability issues for the period of 2019-2022 is the biggest achievement of this project that will keep open the door of future intervention by APCD. Besides, the developed Guideline for hometown Improvement will really help the government of Vietnam to focus on different challenges for the PWDs and to take action based on the recommended probable solutions of the problems.

3. Conclusion:

Considering the agenda of the Vietnam government for the people with disabilities and selecting the Bamboo Da Nana that is an organization run by visually impaired persons, was relevant in terms of Hometown improvement for PWDs. However, the selection the business development

through producing fertilizer from waste materials of dried bamboo powder probably was wrong selection by the project. However, the MoU and the Guideline under this Hometown Improvement project has created better opportunity for further work on disability issues in future.

4. Recommendations:

Considering the objectives and the expected results of the project mentioned in the project proposal and based on the learning from the field visit and discussing with different stakeholder, the evaluator recommends the followings:

- APCD should identify appropriate national body that is responsible for providing support in implementing project in order to promotes disability inclusive business by PWDs in the communities;
- APCD should involve the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities (NCD) as well as local government from the Department of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) in designing project activities and developing appropriate model for hometown improvement for specific communities;
- Bamboo Dana Company should communicate with relevant government department and pursue to get approval to sell their fertilizer in the market as soon as possible;
- Bamboo Dana Company should have proper marketing and business plan to popularize the fermented dry bamboo fertilizer in Da Nang.
- Both APCD and the National Committee on Persons with Disability (NCD) should continue working together for the implementation of developed Guideline for Hometown Improvement;
- APCD should facilitate NCD for a concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for Hometown Improvement in Vietnam.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIETNAM	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIETNAM	REMARKS
international development agencies.		
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	APCD conducted field visit field at the beginning and consider it as baseline; no structured baseline survey was conducted and there was no endline survey, except the final evaluation.
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in	Data not available	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIETNAM	REMARKS
their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.		
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	No	Japanese experts were involved
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No data available	

2.7. Indonesia

1. Background:

The Kampung Peduli (Shelter Workshop) program is a part of the outreach activities under the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Workshops are in 13 Regencies (i.e. districts) of Central Java and East Java provinces of Indonesia. In 2015 the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disability, under the Ministry of Social Affairs, initiated this innovative community-based disability inclusive program to empower the persons with intellectual disabilities living in rural areas. In the Workshops, the majority of the PWDs are intellectual disable persons who produce Splash Batik. In July 2018, APCD selected one of those Shelter Workshops, which is situated in Simbatan Village of Nguntoronadi District under Magetan Regency of Central Java, as the disability inclusive community model for the Hometown Improvement project.

2. Findings:

This section includes findings of the final evaluation of project implementation in Indonesia following the DAC evaluation criteria. Findings are reported in five sections including: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. For each of these sections, evidence has been collected from different sources as mentioned under the Methodology section of this report.

2.1 Relevance:

The Director of the Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities Directorate, MoSA mentioned that the initiative of Hometown Improvement project was relevant and in line with Indonesian Policy on Social Rehabilitation that promotes the social functioning, self-reliance and economically independent living by disable persons. He also mentioned the Indonesia's "Law number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Persons with Disabilities" that ensures rights of PWDs to work and become entrepreneurs. The Law also declares on providing the opportunity for PWDs to participate in employability skills training at Government, Regional Governments and/or private employment training institutions. When APCD communicated in July 2018, the Directorate consulted with the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disability that is based in Temanggung Regency and recommended APCD to work with the Shelter Workshop in Magetan Regency. The selection process was completed in a week. Although, there was no specific "Tangible Criteria" for the selection of the community, the disability inclusive business of the existing Shelter Workshop was main consideration for this selection for Hometown Improvement project. Besides, another important consideration was

that the Shelter Workshop in Magetan Regency has the highest number of intellectual disable persons. When the government established this Shelter Workshop in 2015, they choose the members as productive age of 15-40 years, having potential work for producing, having intellectual disability, gender of either male or female, and have capacity to come to the Shelter Workshop for their house. So, the choosing these PWDs as project beneficiary was relevant as per the criteria mentioned in the proposal of Hometown Improvement project.

Although the aim of the project was to improve disability-inclusive hometown for providing increased socio-economic opportunities for all people in the society including PWDs, the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups, selecting one Shelter Workshop as the main beneficiary of Hometown Improvement project was still relevant considering that it will be established as a model business center run by the disable people and will encourage other disable people of the communities for starting business. However, as it aimed- the project did not focus on the elderly, women, children, and other disadvantaged groups.

The National Rehabilitation Center assessed the need of the selected Shelter Workshop center in Simbatan Village. The National Rehabilitation Center handed over this center to the Social Office of Magetan Regency under the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2017, when they finish the piloting intervention and the center became graduated. However, the center was facing challenges in Batik business on how to compete with other producers in the market. So, they identified the need for the skill development on designing and marketing for Batik production in the center. In August 2018, APCD organized training for the selected center on “Design and Marketing Management for People with Disabilities”. An expert from Indonesia, who is famous in Indonesia for her social entrepreneurship program, was involved by APCD for this training.

2.2 Effectiveness:

The main activity of APCD with The Kampung Peduli (Shelter Workshop) under Hometown Improvement Project was organizing the training on designing and marketing. As per project report, 40 representatives of persons with intellectual disabilities from 13 districts in Central Java and East Java Provinces, social workers and government officials from relevant departments participated in the training. Among the training participants, 2 intellectually disable persons from the selected Workshop of the Magetan Regency attended the training. According to the training report, out of 35 training participants who joined in post-training evaluation, 34 participants reported that the training contents were applicable to their work/community or country situation. The training participants came to know about “One Village One Product” concept through the training.

The Hometown Improvement project conducted a baseline survey at August 2018, just after the training was conducted, to understand the current situation on disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the selected community. It was not that much structured to get the detail status of the community. And, it could have been more effective, if the baseline was conducted at the initial stage of the project for designing and planning the potential intervention of the project. Although, some specific community level baseline information Simbatan Village are available in the developed guideline, there was no end-line study and this final evaluation has not been able to observe any change in the community level following the baseline data.

After the training, the Shelter Workshop has been able improve the quality of their products with better design and packaging; the products have been more innovative and diversified with attractive color, pattern. Attractive pictures are being used for marketing of the products. Previously traditional marketing approach was followed visiting door-to-door and person to person, now the center is using new marketing channels using Radio and utilizing online platforms like Facebook, Instagram, etc. Besides, there has been improvement in the center in terms of human resource development, management, accounting, and dealing orders from the customers.

The demand of the Batik has been increased recently. Before APCD came in, there were only 14 PWDs (out of initially identified 65 PWDs from the community in 2015) working in the center, but now the number of the active members has been increased from to 21 PWDs and sometimes it goes to 29. However, the existing PWD members of the Shelter Workshop cannot fulfill the total demand of the market currently, hence the Shelter Workshop already has employed some other general people from the communities for production. This is contributing to the fulfillment of the aim of the project to involve not only the PWDs, but also the elderly, pregnant women, children and others from the community. The rest of the PWDs among in the community are mostly physically and visually impaired. So, they work at home; the PWDs with physical disability are involved in sewing, making bag, wallets and sandal, whereas the visually impaired people make doormats.

Previously the PWDs produced Splash Batik twice in a week only, but now the production goes on throughout the whole week. The minimum wage of people in Magetan Regency is 500,000 Indonesian Rupiah per month, and before the training from APCD- the PWDs earned from 50,000 to 70,000 Rupiah per month. But after the training the production and sale has been and the PWDs of the Shelter Workshop are currently earning from 150,000 to maximum 750,000 Indonesian Rupiah per month as mentioned by both national and local government

representatives. The income figures are also reported in the developed guideline on hometown improvement. However, the evaluator could not collect detail data on production, sales, income and profit from the Batik business of the Shelter Workshop and there is no monitoring data available to APCD.

Considering the need for detail guideline on disability inclusive business, APCD organized a National Policy Workshop in February 2019 and facilitated to develop the Guideline on Hometown Improvement for Persons with Disabilities by Thailand. The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia already has recognized the guideline developed under the project. They Ministry thinks that this guideline can be used for scale-up of this project in other Regencies and can be very helpful for any other similar projects in future. However, they consider the document as Hometown Improvement guideline, but not as a national guideline. Apart from the development of the guideline for hometown improvement, the APCD project aimed to collaborate with local governments as well as national governments to reflect the project activities in both local and national policies for the development of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. However, there was no further initiative from the project to reflect its findings and recommendations in government policies. The government representatives mentioned that their policy and laws are already enough to promote disability inclusive business by PWDs in the community level.

The ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum held in March 2019 was the last biggest event of the Hometown Improvement project by APCD. The representative from the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disability presented the Indonesian Hometown Improvement model in the forum. This forum created cross-learning opportunities on the business models by 8 selected communities, their experiences of project implementation, lessons learned, and best practices.

The project was supposed to establish an Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement consisting of high-ranking government officials and leaders of PWDs to lead the development of Guideline on Hometown Improvement and organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum. From the discussion with government representatives during this final evaluation, the representatives from the Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities mentioned that they are not familiar with the concept Advisory Council in Hometown Improvement project; and the presence and expected role of this Advisory Council was not clear to the evaluator. However, the Directorate led the development of the guideline for hometown improvement.

2.3 Efficiency:

After awarded by JAIF in May 2017, the APCD Hometown Improvement project struggled to start its implementation in the first year. The project got motion after January 2018, when new Project Manager took over the project. Besides, there were changes in the position of Executive Director of APCD and other staff members of the project which ultimately delayed the project implementation.

The Hometown Improvement project has got duration of 2 years only. Having loss of 1 year and to achieve some desired results within the remaining timeline, the project had to narrow down its focus from the wider coverage of the community level to a smaller one of selecting one Shelter Workshop focusing improvement of their business.

As per project proposal, APCD was supposed to organize Capacity Building Training on “Disability and Ageing through Hometown Improvement” to empower local stakeholders including local officials, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other community members on how to do actual hometown improvements. These trainings were supposed to be actual hands-on work focusing hometown improvement and modification activities. But the project has been deviated from its main design of the training and delivered training on Design and Marketing Management to the PWDs working at the Shelter Workshops and the relevant government officials excluding the participation of elderly, pregnant women and other vulnerable members of the communities. However, having felt its importance, the Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities is replicating the same training to the other communities of several Regencies utilizing same trainer involved by APCD.

The representatives from the Directorate mentioned that Indonesian budget is usually prepared 1 year before its implementation. When APCD came after approval of their annual budget with a very short duration of time and smaller budget for the project, it was very difficult for the Directorate to accommodate the cost of the per diem and additional transportation cost of the participants from different Regencies. According to the Indonesian policy, if participants are invited in any event- they are supposed to get accommodation, per diem and transportation cost. But the per diem cost was not covered by APCD project and the cost of transport allowance was lower than Indonesian standard. They Directorate recommended either APCD should have come before their annual budget approval or they should have options to accommodate the need.

The training from the APCD was organized at the city- Solo in Magetan Regency, but the trainer did not go the village level where Shelter Workshops are situated. The government representatives mentioned that although there was further online support from the trainer, there should have been some follow-up and monitoring support from the expert at the village level after the training.

Moreover, there was need for involving of technical support from experts for developing Marketing Strategy and Business Plan which could contribute more for expansion of business and successful replication of the model in other Shelter Workshops, as mentioned by the Head of National Rehabilitation Center.

2.4 Impact:

The overall goal of the project for poverty reduction at community level could not be possible to address within 8 months of implementation of the project, after the training conducted in August 2018. However, the project has contributed to increase the production at the center as well as increase in the income by the PWDs from the communities,

To promote the Batik made by PWDs and to establish their Splash Batik as local Batik, in January 2019 the Head of Magetan Regency issued official letter for compulsory wearing of official dress made of Batik at Thursday and Friday of each week. Due to this decision from the government, sale of Batik cloth already has been increased. The local government representatives mentioned that the APCD project has influenced this decision making by the Head of the Regency though capacity development of the Shelter Workshop and its improved production. There are around 10,000 staff in Magetan Regency. It is expected that this decision from the Head of Regency will boost the Batik business by PWDs in the communities and will increase their income significantly. The government representative mentioned that some other Regencies are also following this new practice by Magetan Regency. This is a great achievement of the project.

The representatives from the governments and the members of the Shelter Workshop Committee mentioned that the persons with disabilities in the selected community of hometown improvement project are more confident now. There is no stigma in the community towards the unproductiveness of the disable persons. The community now believes that PWDs can have job, earn money and contribute to the family. The PWDs are not burden to the families anymore and getting more respects from the other members of the community.

2.5 Sustainability:

The Ministry of Social Affairs has some grant provision for individuals up to 5,000,000 Indonesian Rupiah for economic and business activities. They ministry will continue its support to provide the grants to the PWDs of the Shelter Workshops through providing this grant from the local government offices. This is to mention that it is just a one-time grant.

The representative from the Office of Community Empowerment of Magetan Regency confirmed that there is no reason that the Shelter Workshop will stop in this stage. Although the PWDs in this center has been skilled on some areas and still they need more skill development. Hence, her office will collaborate more with the Social Office and will organize training on different aspects for further skill development of PWDs. The presentative also mentioned that if village can assess the need of the PWDs, they help in better way for capacity building. She also promised to help the Shelter Workshop for promotion of the Batik.

The government of Indonesia has realized that there is need to scale up of the Hometown Improvement project with coverage to all types of PWDs, not only the people with intellectual disabilities. Also, there should be other products considered for the business model and different marketing strategies need to be applied. They plan to use the developed guideline as supporting document of their policies and want to scale-up the APCD model for Hometown Improvement. Currently, the National Rehabilitation Center currently has 13 Shelter Workshops in 13 Regencies under 3 Provinces (East Java, Central Java and Special Region of Yogyakarta) of Indonesia and have plan to start 4 new workshops in 2019. They want to replicate the model of the Hometown Improvement project in all Shelter Workshops gradually. Besides, the Directorate of the Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities already has been using the contents of the training from APCD in their trainings for the business skill development of PWDs in different parts of Indonesia.

3. Conclusion:

The Kampung Peduli (Shelter Workshop) program is one of the successful disability inclusive model of Indonesia government. Hence, selecting of the Shelter Workshop in Magetan Regency for further development of its business through capacity building training on Design and Marketing Management for People with Disabilities was quite in line with project's objectives. But the duration of the project was too small to have any bigger impact. The project could deliver its best within a very short period and the Shelter Workshop already has improved its products and expanded its business within the intervention period of APCD. The development of

the Guideline on Hometown Improvement and the commitment of the Directorate of Social Rehabilitation to scale-up the project intervention as Hometown Improvement for the Persons with Disabilities has been the biggest success of the project.

4. Recommendations:

- Considering the objectives and the expected results of the project mentioned in the project proposal and based on the learning from the field visit and discussing with different stakeholder, the evaluator recommends the followings:
- APCD should work with the National Rehabilitation Center more extensively to design the appropriate model for hometown improvement for specific communities, since that government organization is responsible for the improvement of the Shelter Workshops;
- The Village should assess further need of the PWDs and communicate with the Office of Community Empowerment of Magetan Regency to organize further training for skill development of PWDs;
- APCD should plan to involve the trainer/expert to provide support at village level and extend the support to post-training monitoring and follow-up;
- APCD should support the Shelter Workshop for to develop of Marketing Strategy and Business Plan for expansion and sustainability of the disability inclusive business;
- APCD should have flexibility in their budget to cover all costs for the participants following the practice of Indonesian government, other APCD should plan early for budget allocation by MoSA for their additional support to the project;
- In assistance from APCD, the Shelter Workshop should organize showcasing of the products of PWDs in suitable places;
- The project should cover other types of disable persons- apart from only intellectually disabled people and more other products need to include in the project for more coverage of PWDs in the communities;
- Shelter workshop should have proper mechanism to measure the business performance of in terms of production, sales, income and net profit.
- Both APCD and the Directorate of the Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities should continue working together for the implementation of the developed Guideline for Hometown Improvement;
- APCD should facilitate the Directorate for a concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for Hometown Improvement in Indonesia.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDONESIA	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries,	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDONESIA	REMARKS
civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.		
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	No	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	Baseline only
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	32%	Out of 65 PWDs identified in the community in 2015, 21 have been involved in project activities
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by	Yes	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDONESIA	REMARKS
the Project		
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	Yes	Indonesian experts were involved
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Indonesia



FGD with staff from the Directorate of the Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, MoSA



FGD with the staff from the local government of Magetan Regency



FGD with the PWDs in Shelter Workshop



FGD with parents of PWDs in Shelter Workshop

2.8. Malaysia

1. Background:

In Malaysia, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Semenyih, locally known as PDK Semenyih was selected as the targeted community for the ASEAN Hometown Improvement project. CBR Semenyih is located in Selangor state, around 40 KMs away from Kuala Lumpur. There are around 85 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) registered with CBR Semenyih and on average 20 of them attend the CBR in working days. The CBR is looked after by a supervisors assisted by trainers and committee members from the local community. The center has good facilities for the rehabilitation of PWDs and has been involved in entrepreneurial activities involving PWDs such as producing cookies and handicraft products and that made it a suitable location for the Hometown Improvement project.

For the Home town Improvement project, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD), Department for Development of Persons with Disabilities (DDPD) served as the main focal point. In consultation with DDPD and the CBR, APCD intervened to promote community disability inclusive business by developing capacities of CBR Semenyih's trainers, PWDs, committee members and representatives of government in branding and marketing management for bakery and handicraft products. Moreover, national policy workshop was also organized and relevant stakeholders were tasked to develop national guideline for Hometown improvement. Representatives from the government and CBR also participated in the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum.

It was found that project activities in Malaysia were initiated very late, with the first activity conducted in October 2018. All the activities were completed within six months and it had repercussions on project achievements which have been covered under the Findings component.

2. Findings:

This section includes findings from the final evaluation of project implementation in Malaysia following the DAC evaluation criteria. Findings are reported in five sections including: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and sustainability. For each of these sections, evidence has been collected from different sources as mentioned under the Methodology section of the report.

2.1 Relevance:

As identified by the government officials, CBR Semenyih staff and CBR committee members, the project was relevant to the need of the CBR Semenyih and very much aligned with

government's priorities and initiatives related to PWDs. The government of Malaysia has been undertaking different initiatives for promoting Disability inclusive business including disabled business support assistance scheme, branding products produced by PWDs (ProWell) and Economic Empowerment program. Project activities under the APCD's project were deemed as significant for the promotion of disability inclusive business by addressing the need for value creation for CBR products through designing, branding and marketing. According to the government officials, this model is relevant and could be replicated to other CBRs as well. And the income generated from the improved branding and marketing could be used to support CBR activities since the grant provided by the government is not substantial. The government officials also considered national policy workshop to be significant as it generated important discussion on the current PWDs Act 2008. As shared by the official they have identified certain areas of the PWDs Act which could be improved.

Relevance of the workshop was also acknowledged by the participants of workshop on branding and marketing management, which included PWDs, CBR trainers, Committee members of CBR and government officials. Out of 20 participants who responded to the post-event evaluation survey, all the respondents agreed that the training contents were relevant and applicable to their work or community needs. CBR Semenyih has been producing different products including bakery and handicrafts and was even selected as product champ in 2016. As acknowledged by the CBR trainers and committee members, quality and packaging of the products previously followed were not good enough to attract buyers in an open market. The project enlightened them how to improve their products and make profits out of them by improving the packaging and branding of the products and by carrying out effective marketing.

However, based on the discussion, interviews and document reviews, it can be inferred that the concept of 'Hometown improvement' was not fully incorporated in the project activities in Malaysia. In the community level, the project activities were focused on the CBR which is attended by PWDs only. Other members of the community, such as elderly people and other marginalized groups were not involved in the project activities. According to the project document, in addition to PWDs, elderly, pregnant women and children should have been primary beneficiaries of the project. It was also noticed that where the project document has significantly emphasized on the need of accessibility in the targeted communities, the project did not have any specific activity to contribute to this end. Based on the discussion with committee members and trainers, it was found that accessibility is one of the barriers for PWDs to attend the CBR as there is no public transport service to facilitate pick and drop PWDs in the center. If

parents are busy, then PWDs cannot make it to the center. That is one of the main reason that only 20 PWDs make it to the center on regular basis even though 85 are registered with the center.

Considering objectives of the project, designed activities and manner of implementation do not seem to be well correlated with the intended results. And this was the case with project activities in other countries as well.

2.2 Effectiveness:

This section provides a summary and analysis of the outputs delivered by the project, based on the available data sets specific to project effectiveness. It also reviews the overall quality and achievement of the projects intended objective. Under the project, the main activity conducted in the targeted community was the capacity building workshop for branding and marketing management for bakery and handicraft products produced by CBR Semenyih. According to the feedback of participants who attended the training it was effective as all of them agreed that they gained new knowledge and skills by participating in the workshop. The participants expressed that they learned about making new products and increased their knowledge on branding and marketing. Following the training, CBR had started involving 10 selected PWDs in bakery and handicrafts activities in more structured way. As verified by the evaluators during visit to the CBR Semenyih, based on learning from the training, CBR Semenyih significantly improved its product quality, packaging and branding. Creative packaging was designed in collaboration with National Arts and Heritage Academy and a new logo from the handprints of the PWDs was developed giving the products unique identity. Moreover, the trainers have started using local ingredients from the community for the bakeries and the handicrafts products are more attractive as compared to before. In terms of marketing, before attending the workshop, CBR used to sell the products in the community or sometimes in the public library and they would sell based on demand from the community only. Following the training, CBR's committee members and trainers started displaying their products in different markets including two petrol stations and two shops in a big shopping mall named Metro Kajang plaza. CBR Semenyih has developed good relations with the representatives of Metro Kajang Plaza and petrol pumps and they are likely to extend their support to the CBR in future as well. It was found that the Metro Kajang Plaza was also going to sponsor an award event planned by CBR Semenyih in the premise of the mall. The manager of shopping mall was proud of his association with the CBR and had allowed display of products in the mall free of cost. The CBR committee members and trainers were taking lead of the marketing activities. As suggested by

the shopping mall's manager, CBR Semenyih can develop posters to make their products more visible, which can increase the sales as well. However, the handicrafts product is not yet being marketed.

In terms of sales, the CBR has recorded increased in sales of bakery products since November 2018. According to the CBR records, total revenue from sales of bakery since November was around 740 USD whereas expenditures counted for 582 USD, generating earning of around 158 USD. With the marketing in the shopping mall and petrol pump started recently, earnings are likely to go up in future. However, there was no record of sales of other products such as handicrafts and butterfly pea produced in CBR Semenyih.

By the time the final evaluation was conducted, the project activities had not been reflected in government polices at the national or local level yet. Discussion with the government officials showed that the project had generated some ideas for improving the PWDs Act 2008 which could be enacted in future. As expressed by the Director of DDPD, learning from the project, DDPD can better manage the grants it provides to the CBR such as developing proper plans for utilizing the grants in some productive activities.

Where accomplishments of the project activities within a short span of time are noticeable, there were some shortcomings which might have affected project achievements to some extent. It was highlighted by some participants of the capacity building workshop that translation from Thai to Malay language during the workshop was not good enough due to which some of the participants did not get complete knowledge delivered in the training. Another concern shared by project staff and government officials was that the trainers working in the CBR do not have adequate technical capacities to deal with different types of disabilities and hence transferring the knowledge of cookies and handicrafts to other PWDs would be challenging. That is why only 10 PWDs were involved in the bakery and handicraft activities at the moment. On the day of visit, the evaluator observed the PWDs helping with bakeries and handicrafts, contributing in small tasks in amusing yet organized manner.

As noted above, other potential beneficiaries such as elderly, pregnant women and others were not involved in the project activities at any level. Hence the project activities did not incorporate the concept of 'Hometown improvement' completely.

2.3 Efficiency:

In Malaysia, as noted in the mid-term review report and also verified with the project staff, the project activities suffered delay in the first year of the project, due to changes in APCD and the

project team. APCD established formal contact with MWFC in August 2018 after new Executive Director was hired and new project team came on board. The capacity building workshop in the selected community was organized in October 2018, more than a year after the project formally started. APCD managed to complete all the activities within a short span of six months due to interest and commitment showed by DDPD. To complete the activities within short time, the project took the following steps: 1) an existing Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBR) or 'Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti' (PDK), based in Seminyih was selected. The center has been operational since 1996 and providing rehabilitation services, vocational training and other activities. 2) The project leveraged on the on-going activities of the CBR related to bakery and handicrafts which were aimed at rehabilitation of the PWDs. Following discussion with the CBR and DDPD, APCD decided to work in Branding and marketing management of the bakery and handicrafts product with an objective of promoting Community based inclusive business.

As noted in the progress reports, the capacity building workshop on Branding and Marketing management was attended by 36 participants including 10 PWDs, 9 trainers of CBR, 11 DDPD officers and 6 participants from local government and CBR committee. It was observed that after the workshop, only 10 PWDs were being involved in culinary and handicraft activities whereas the total number of PWDs registered in the center is 85. According to CBR trainers, other PWDs could not be involved in the bakery and craft activities due to diverse nature of their disabilities. It was also shared by project staff that the trainers were not skilled enough to coach PWDs with disabilities of diverse nature.

As the project activities were completed within six months, it was acknowledged by the stakeholders including representatives from the national government and project staff that quality of all the activities might not have been completely ensured and that some activities could not have been completed in the same manner as envisioned in the project document. For instance, only one workshop of two days was organized in the CBR with focus on branding, packaging and marketing. And where branding and packaging of products were improved, marketing of the product had recently been started in organized way. With more time, other activities could also have been organized. Secondly, with the delay in project activities, it was also difficult for different stakeholders to observe the early tangible benefits of the project. Although, government officials and CBR committee members appreciated the improvements in branding, packaging and marketing due to the capacity building workshop, tangible benefits in terms of increased sales and earnings would have provided strong basis for future plans by the CBR and national government.

Based on discussion with community members and key informants, inclusion of elderly and other community members in the CBR would be highly beneficial for the whole community. They would have also learnt new skills and become contributing part of the community. Secondly, it would have contributed to improve the motivation level of PWDs as they feel more encouraged to see other people in the center. At the same time it would also have contributed to improve attitude of other community members towards PWDs. Interview with parents of the PWDs revealed that their children face negative attitudes from community members which serve as a barrier to their full participation in the community life. And finally, it would have led to the fulfillment of project's objectives of hometown improvement in effective way.

2.4 Impact:

Considering that the project in Malaysia has been implemented only for six months, it is too early to establish impact of the project. In order to realize the project objective of poverty reduction among PWDs and elderly in the rural communities, there are some early achievements from the project which should be built on while doing a number of additional supporting activities which have been covered under the recommendation section of the report.

CBR Seminyih has successfully applied the knowledge and skills learnt from the training on branding and packaging whereas proper marketing plan needs to be set in place. In addition, committee members are highly motivated and have been able to develop good linkages in the potential markets for sales of cookies produced in the CBR. These are likely to aid in the products being profitable for the CBR in long term and contribute to poverty reduction among the PWDs.

According to the project staff and parents of the PWDs, one of the significant contributions of APCD project was to increase the motivation level of the PWDs and their parents. Visit from APCD staff, government officials and technical experts gave huge boost to the PWDs, who have started to attend the CBR more regularly since the capacity building workshop. According to them, participation of the children in the CBR activities has increased their self-confidence and happiness. However, it was observed that not all parents are aware about their children progress. Some parents only drop or pick their children from the center but do not participate in CBR's activities and their interaction with the children is also low.

Learning from CBR Seminyih, capacity building in product development, branding and packaging can also be replicated in other CBRs in order to promote disability inclusive business. However, as envisaged in the project document, project activities should be inclusive of other

members of the community such as elderly in order to make the concept of 'hometown improvement' a reality.

Case Story: Learning to Change with Inclusion

Every day, from Monday to Friday, after assembly and breakfast in the CBR Semenyih, Nor Hazeerah along with few other children, goes to a room which is reserved for baking cookies. She washes her hands with soap, wears the white apron and plastic gloves with the help of a trainer and starts filling the cooking cup with blended ingredients prepared by the culinary trainer. As she goes on filling the cups, she looks happier with a certain sense of achievement. Over time, she has figured out the right amount to fill in each cup. This is something new she has been doing in the CBR for the last few months and seems to enjoy.

Nor Hazeerah, a 24 years old girl with a learning disability, has been attending CBR Semeyih for the last four years. Her mother, Nor Faizah, regularly drops and picks her up from the center. Being a member of CBR committee, she also visits the center often. According to her, Nor Hazeerah used to be very shy and reluctant to attend the center regularly. In the center she would sometimes get into fight with other PWDs and it was difficult for the trainers to control them. Following training from APCD under the Hometown improvement project, CBR's trainers have been involving Nor Hazeerah along with nine other PWDs in making cookies and handicraft products in more structured way.



Her mother is surprised to see some positive changes in Nor Hazeerah over the last few months. She has started attending the center more happily and regularly and wants to go to the center even on off days. While she used to be shy before, she appears more confident now. According to Nor Faizah, she is happy to find out that her daughter can do some productive work such as making cookies following hygiene practices and has gained a lot of self-confidence. She expressed that whenever she makes cookies at home, she would engage her daughter for help, something that she used to avoid before. While Nor Faizah is happy with her daughter's development in the CBR, she laments that accessibility and attitude of people in the

community are still big barriers for her daughter and others with disabilities to participate fully in the community.

2.5 Sustainability:

Based on discussion with the committee members and trainers of CBR Seminyih, it was found that they acknowledged and understood the benefits of project activities and they are likely to continue them in future. CBR Seminyih was already producing different products and the workshop visibly contributed to improve development and visibility of their products, the CBR is highly likely to continue with the new branding, packing and marketing activities. Secondly, since the committee members of the CBR are mostly from the community and parents of the PWDs, they have direct interest in supporting the improved practices and activities in the CBR which could benefit the PWDs.

It was also observed that the national government also provides grants to the CBR which helps to support its operations and other activities. And with the earnings from sale of cookies being re-invested in the packaging and marketing activities, the CBR is expected not to face any financial constraints to continue the activities. However, there is a need of proper financial record keeping for better managing resources and calculating earnings.

With the CBR Seminyih being the representative pilot case in the regional-level project, the national government also took the project activities more seriously and completed all the project activities within short span of time. Association of APCD with the CBR and concerned government department will further contribute to sustain project activities and realize project's objectives. Moreover, working as part of regional platform will further motivate the concerned government agencies and private sector to continue the project activities and build on them.

At the time of the final evaluation, the national or local government did not have any concrete plan for replication of the project activities to other CBRs. In fact, the government needs to fully embrace the concept of 'Hometown improvement' and extend their focus to the whole community beyond the CBR centers. Moreover, proper guidelines need to be developed which serves as a blueprint for replication of hometown improvement projects in other communities.

3. Conclusion:

In conclusion, where the project activities were relevant to government's priorities and responsive to the needs of CBR for promoting disability inclusive business, the concept of hometown improvement was not incorporated in holistic manner. The project activities suffer delays which affected efficiency and effectiveness of project activities. However, the project still

showed some promising results due to the commitment and motivation of all the stakeholders, which can be built on and scaled-up to other communities in Malaysia.

4. Recommendations:

As the project activities in Malaysia lead to strengthening the cooperation among different stakeholders, including government, CBR and APCD, it can be used as an opportunity to further build on the achievements of the project. Based on the project evaluation, there are a few recommendations for realizing the objective of disability-inclusive hometown.

- In order to fully incorporate the concept of hometown improvement, parents of all PWDs, community elders and other members of the community should be involved in the CBR's activities. APCD may also familiarize local partners on the holistic concept of Hometown Improvement.
- CBR should encourage participation of other PWDs in the culinary and handicraft activities and attendance of other registered PWDs in the CBR Semenyih.
- CBR trainers should be further trained in pedagogy and dealing with different types of disabilities. Moreover, CBR supervisors/trainers should be trained in financial record keeping which will provide required information on the benefits of the disability-inclusive businesses.
- Accessibility should be promoted for the PWDs and elderly in the community and for their involvement in the CBR's activities.
- Government officials should embrace the whole idea of hometown improvement and make necessary arrangements for its replication to other CBRs as well.
- The role and participation of local government in the hometown improvement project should be emphasized. In addition, the other stakeholders including local or national NGOs should also be taken on board.

5. Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MALAYSIA	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction		
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	Data Not available	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MALAYSIA	REMARKS
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown		
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	Yes	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	No	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.		
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.	Yes	
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	Yes	
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by	No	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENTS IN MALAYSIA	REMARKS
the governments in the ASEAN region.		
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.		
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	Yes*	No standard criteria
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities in all the target countries for data collection.	Yes*	Baseline only, but without complete information
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	NA	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	Yes	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	12%	Out of 85 PWDs registered, 10 have been involved in project activities
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.		
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	Yes	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	Yes	Thai experts were involved
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.	No Data available	

Pictures during Final Evaluation in Malaysia



FGD with DDPD officials



FGD with CBR trainers and Committee members



Interview with Parents of PWDs



Visit to Market where products are displayed



Observation of PWDs' activities



Observation of PWDs' Activities

3. Conclusion and Recommendations

The APCD Project for ASEAN Hometown Improvement through Disability-Inclusive Communities Model is not only relevant with ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025, but also with the policies, laws and acts all governments of selected 8 countries. The common activity of the project for the selected countries was capacity building training for the PWDs, relevant government officials, DPO staff and the members of community-based centers for PWDs. The training mainly focused on the development of disability inclusive business in the communities and was organized in seven countries, except Lao PDR due to the absence of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The capacity building initiative falls under the first approach of the APCD project implementation through “Promoting disability-inclusive business”; the other 2 approaches- “Promoting disability-inclusive governance” and “Promoting accessibility” could not be addressed through this project.

After awarded by JAIF in May 2017, the project struggled to start its implementation in the first year, except Vietnam. One of the important factors of this delay of implementation was due to changes in APCD Executive Director, Project Manager and the staff members of the project. Having loss of almost a year, the project had to narrow down its focus from the wider coverage of the community level to the selection of established DPO or any other community-based rehabilitation center for PWDs to achieve some desired results within the remaining timeline. Apart from inclusion of PWDs, the Hometown Improvement project has not been able to involve the elderly, pregnant women, and other people from the communities- as anticipated by the design of the project.

However, the project has shown some impressive results within a very short period of its implementation. Almost all DPOs and community-based disability inclusive centers have been successful in improving their products and business through applying the knowledge on branding, packaging and marketing gained from the training under Hometown Improvement project. As per the goal of the project, its impact should be reflected in poverty reduction of among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities; but this requires a long time to occur and could not be visible within the short-term implementation of project. However, there has been early sign of impacts in the selected DPOs and disability inclusive business centers, such as increased production and sale, expansion of business, employment of new PWD staff etc.

The biggest achievement of the project has been the development of Guideline on Hometown Improvement for Persons with Disabilities and its recognition by all relevant Ministries and department of the intervened 6 countries, except Myanmar and Lao PDR. These developed guidelines have been recognized as a supplement to the existing policies and laws by the governments; whereas Cambodia government already has approved the guideline to modify it to be the national guideline. In future, these guidelines will help the PWDs or the family members of the PWDs either starting or expand their business. Government or any other private or non-profit organizations also will be able to utilize the guideline to replicate the Hometown Improvement model and will be able to improvise and contextualize it as per their need. These guidelines have been good pillar for the future expansion of hometown improvement model in ASEAN countries. However, the ASEAN level guidelines have not been finalized by the project within the period of this final evaluation. The regional network created through ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum has been another significant achievement of the project and the platform might play significant role in establishing hometown improvement model in the ASEAN countries in future.

Country specific recommendations are provided in the sections of summary findings for the countries. The following are the overall recommendations from the final evaluation to APCD and its stakeholders for towards the hometown improvement in ASEAN region:

1. The Hometown Improvement project has just founded a base for establishing hometown through disability-inclusive business model in intervened ASEAN countries, APCD should continue this initiative through proper collaboration with all relevant ministries and departments;
2. APCD should ensure that hometown improvement guidelines are more coherent and holistic guiding documents for hometown improvement model;
3. APCD should continue to advocate for the recognition of the guidelines by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies;
4. Established regional platform need to be maintained and strengthened for expansion of hometown improvement concept in ASEAN region;
5. APCD should facilitate with all relevant ministries and departments of the intervened countries for their concrete plan to scale-up the disability inclusive business model for hometown improvement;

6. APCD should further capacitate and advocate the government and DPO partners in understanding and adopting the holistic concept of 'Hometown Improvement' in the ongoing and future project related activities; in addition to PWDs, project activities should focus on other targeted beneficiaries as well;
7. APCD should build capacity of the project DPOs and community-based centers on record keeping, accounting, business performance measuring;
8. APCD should establish proper monitoring mechanism from the beginning of the project and should follow the Logical Framework in achieving their expected results;
9. Baseline information should be collected on the current situation on disability, accessibility, and other relevant aspects of the selected community at the initial stage of the project;
10. The quantitative target for all the indicators of the expected results mentioned in Logical Framework of the project should be set at the beginning of the project; and structured baseline and endline survey should be conducted to compare the results;
11. Market feasibility of the product for disability inclusive business should be analyzed, before the production and there should be more than one product for diversification of the business;
12. In case of agricultural products, climate resilience mechanism should be included in the business model;
13. Participation of the PWDs and other community members should be ensured from the in the project for the ultimate benefits of the whole communities.

4. Annexes

4.1 Annex 1: Overall Progress of Indicators vis-à-vis Logical Framework

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	REMARKS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Challenges arising from urbanization and ageing population in the ASEAN region is tackled by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction			
Degree of poverty reduction among persons with disabilities and the elderly in rural communities	No target was set	Not measurable	No available data
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ASEAN connectivity and a wider regional connectivity are enhanced to narrow the development gap in the region through the improvement of disability-inclusive hometown			
Model barrier-free communities are identified in the selected ASEAN countries based on the standards set by the project	8	8	
The local governments in all the target communities reflect the Project activities in their local policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	8	0	
The national governments in all the target countries reflect the Project activities in their national policies on disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly	8	0	
Output 1: Collaboration between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States on policies related to disability and ageing is strengthened further.			
The Advisory Council on Hometown Improvement in the ASEAN region is networked to organize the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum in collaboration with the governments of	1	1	

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	REMARKS
Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States.			
The Guideline on Hometown Improvement at the national and ASEAN level is developed and recognized widely by key stakeholders such as the ASEAN Secretariat, government ministries, civil society organizations including DPOs, and international development agencies.	8 at National level, 2 at ASEAN level	6	Guidelines not developed in Lao PDR, whereas in Myanmar- not yet finalized; also in ASEAN level- not yet finalized
Findings and achievements in the Project are included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population developed by the governments in the ASEAN region.	8	0	
Output 2: Disability-inclusive hometown are identified in CLMV, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups have better access in their communities.			
Tangible criteria are developed for the identification of “disability-inclusive hometown” in the ASEAN context.	1	1	Criteria in the project proposal was followed, no standard criteria developed
Baseline and endline survey is conducted in all the target communities	8	7	Baseline only with

RESULTS AND INDICATORS	TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	REMARKS
in all the target countries for data collection.			limited focus
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in CLMV are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	4	4	
Four disability-inclusive hometowns in Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines and Thailand are identified based on the criteria developed by the Project.	4	4	
More than 70% of PWDs and the elderly in all the target communities recognize better access in their hometown including increased access to livelihood opportunities.	No target was set	Not measurable	Not sufficient data
Output 3: The recognition about partnership between Japan, Thailand, and other ASEAN Member States is enhanced internationally.			
Eight practices recognized through the ASEAN Hometown Improvement Forum organized by the Project	8	7	
All the target communities receive support provided by Japanese and/or Thai experts	8	6	Local experts involved in Philippines
Media coverage in relation to the Project is provided in all the target countries.		No data available	

4.2 Annex 2: List of Persons Interviewed

Sl. No.	Name	Position/Department/Ministry	Country
1	Dr. Neth Un	Deputy Secretary General, Disability Action Council (DAC)	Cambodia
2	Ms. Ou Sinat	Deputy Chief, Obek-Orm Commune	Cambodia
3	Mr. Nhoung Somnag	Commune Counselor, Obek-Orm Commune	Cambodia
4	Mr. You Channa	Deputy of Police, Obek-Orm Commune	Cambodia
5	Mr. Mey Samith	Executive Director, PPCIL	Cambodia
6	Mr. Lay Sokea	Assistant, Executive Director, PPCIL	Cambodia
7	Mr. Sorn Samakk	Production Manager, PPCIL	Cambodia
8	Ms. Sitha	PWD Staff, PPCIL	Cambodia
9	Ms. Kunthy	PWD Staff, PPCIL	Cambodia
10	Mr. Rachmat Koesnadi	Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, MoSA	Indonesia
11	Ms. Ema Widiati	Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, MoSA	Indonesia
12	Ms. Santi Utami Dewi	Communication Staff, Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, MoSA	Indonesia
13	Ms. Muhardjani	Head of Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	Indonesia
14	Representatives	Office of Cooperative and Small, Medium Enterprise, Office of Industry and Trade, Office of Community Empowerment and Social Welfare Section of Government Regency	Indonesia
15	Representatives	Shelter Workshop Committee	Indonesia
16	Ms. Elizabeth Diana Perwita Sari	Project Field Officer	Indonesia
17	Ms. Umme	Parent of PWD	Indonesia
18	Mr. Reyanto	Parent of PWD	Indonesia
19	Mr. Sisavath Khomphonh	Deputy Director General, Department of Policy for Devotees, Disability, and Elderly, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	Lao PDR
20	Ms. Vilayphone Xaysongkham	Technical Officer, Department of Policy for Devotees, Disability, and Elderly, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	Lao PDR
21	Mr. Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat	Deputy Director General, Planning and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	Lao PDR
22	Mr. Thongchanh Duangmalalay	Director, Lao Disabled People's Association	Lao PDR

Sl. No.	Name	Position/Department/Ministry	Country
23	Ms. Chong Chai Yun	Assistant Secretary, ASEAN Unit Ministry of Women Family and Community Development (MWFCD)	Malaysia
24	Sivaneswaran a/L Ramachandran	Principal Assistant Secretary, ASEAN Unit, Ministry of Women Family and Community Development (MWFCD)	Malaysia
25	Zaini Bin Osman	Ministry of Women Family and Community Development (MWFCD)	Malaysia
26	Norani Saruyi	Supervisor, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
27	Dato' Maria Benard Sinsoi	Department of Development for Persons with disabilities, (MWFCD)	Malaysia
28	Dr. Lee Kede Cheong	Field Project Officer, APCD	Malaysia
29	Muhammad Nazri	Chairman, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
30	Nor Faizah	Parent of PWD/Committee memembr	Malaysia
31	Zaliha Bint Omar	Officer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
32	Rafidah Mohd Noorain	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
33	Nur Afiqah Binti Azhar	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
34	Suraiyah	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
35	Noor Humaimah	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
36	Nur Azah	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
37	Mohd Nizam	Trainer, CBR Semenyih	Malaysia
38	Asma Yasir	Parent of PWD	Malaysia
39	Hamida	Parent of PWD	Malaysia
40	Mr. Swan Yi Ya	Director, Vulnerable Groups, Department of Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement	Myanmar
41	Mr. Myat Thu Winn	President, Shwe Minn Tha Foundation	Myanmar
42	Ms. Thin Thin Htet	Field Project Officer, ASEAN Hometown Improvement Project-Myanmar	Myanmar
43	Ms. Myrla Sedenio	National Council on Disability Affairs	Philippines
44	Representative	Department of Social Welfare and Development	Philippines
45	Mr. Mark Nello Alvarez	Trainer, Agricultural Training Institute, Department of Agriculture	Philippines
46	Ms. Dolores Pacho-Assistio	Chairperson, Barangay 177	Philippines

Sl. No.	Name	Position/Department/Ministry	Country
47	Mr. Denis Ortiz	Field Project Officer, ASEAN Hometown Improvement Project-Philippines	Philippines
48	Mr. Emmanuel Garcia	Consultant, Barangay 177	Philippines
49	Mr. Ric Domingo	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
50	Mr. Rogelio Tabayag	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
51	Mr. Ato Derrada	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
52	Ms. Milagros Chua	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
53	Ms. Chona Modolid	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
54	Ms. Consuelo Reyes	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
55	Ms. Antonette Villarosa	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
56	Ms. Irene Magno	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
57	Mr. Dominador Borce	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
58	Ms. Rosalie Gan	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
59	Ms. Renato Adriano	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
60	Mr. Jun Acosta	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
61	Mr. Tito dela Cruz	Staff, Barangay 177	Philippines
62	Ms. Anira Thinon	Deputy Director General, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP)	Thailand
63	Mr. Utit Boonchuay	Supervisor, Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Provincial	Thailand
64	Ms. Waraporn Sripan	Director, Disability Services Center (DSC), Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Provincial	Thailand
65	Ms. Somsri Mohaphon	Social Worker, Social Development and Human Security Office of Nakhon Pathom Provincial	Thailand
66	Mr. Patrawas Wongkittisophon	Chief Administrator, Bo Phlap Municipality, Nakhon Pathom Province	Thailand
67	Mr. Teerawat Sripathansawad	President, NCIL	Thailand
68	Ms. Sasiwan Prasopsuk	Accountant, NCIL	Thailand
69	Mr. Adsak Papornchai	Secretary of NCIL and President of Srisathong PWD Group	Thailand
70	Mr. Aekapol Chantra	Secretary, Srisathong PWD Group	Thailand

Sl. No.	Name	Position/Department/Ministry	Country
71	Mr. Piroon Laismit	Executive Director, APCD	Thailand
72	Ms. Ms. Jitkasem Tantasiri	Project Manager, Hometown Improvement Project, APCD	Thailand
73	Mr. Chaiyawat Chantanayingyong	Assistant Director, SME Development Bank	Thailand
74	Ms. Thitaporn Rojjanakit	Manager, SME Development Bank	Thailand
75	Mr. Satakhun Thangoen	Assistant Manager, SME Development Bank	Thailand
76	Ms. Dinh Thi Thuy	Deputy Chief Office, National Committee on Persons with Disabilities (NCD)	Vietnam
77	Mr. Tran Ngoc Quan	Director, Bamboo Dana Company Limited	Vietnam
78	Mr. Ngyyen Huu Loi	Beneficiary Farmer	Vietnam
79	Ms. Ny Ny	Project Field Officer	Vietnam

4.3 Annex 3: Data Collection Tools

4. 3.1 Data Collection Tool for Project Beneficiaries and Community Members

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
Relevance	1	ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS?
		<i>The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor.</i>
	1.1	What specific community needs the project contributed to address for your community?
	1.2	Did you participate in the identification of those community needs?
	1.3	How the project contributed to address your community needs?
	1.4	Do you think the training and/or other activities from project was important for you and other PWDS, elderly and other community people to contribute to their livelihood opportunities, income generation and poverty reduction? If yes, how?
Effectiveness	2	ARE OBJECTIVES BEING ACHIEVED?
		<i>A measure of the extent to which an activity attains its objectives (outcomes) i.e. activity to output's to objectives.</i>
	2.1	Number of beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) reached through project interventions? (Direct/Indirect beneficiaries)
	2.2	Number of targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) developed their capacity and skills Number and type of businesses developed by the targeted beneficiaries and/or selected communities
	2.3	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
	2.4	Did the project promote participation of all targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) in the community? If yes, how?
	2.5	Did the project contribute to address barriers for effective participation of PWDS and elderly people in the community?
Efficiency	3	WAS IT WORTH IT?
		<i>Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative -- in relation to the inputs.</i>
	3.1	Were the activities of the project delivered as per plan?
	3.2	Did you receive technical knowhow provided by APCD and governments?
	3.3	Are deliverables achieved on time?

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
Impact	4	ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT BEYOND OUR OBJECTIVES? <i>The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.</i>
	4.1	What real difference has the project brought to the beneficiaries?
	4.2	% of poor/extreme poor decreased in the communities
	4.3	Average income increased per beneficiary
	4.4	Number of targeted people (PWDs and elderly etc.) employed
	4.5	What are the positive and negative, intended and unintended effects?
Sustainability	5	WILL IT CONTINUE WITHOUT US? <i>Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.</i>
	5.1	What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project interventions?
	5.2	To what extent will activities, results, effects and benefits be expected to continue after APCD intervention ends?
	5.3	How self-supported is the local partner/beneficiary? To what extent was local leadership and ownership strengthened?
	5.4	Did the project consider and address social and cultural factors/concerns from the communities during project implementation?
	5.5	Did the project promote coordination and cooperation with relevant government departments and private sector actors?
	5.6	Are local partners committed financially and with human resources to the objectives of the project?
	5.7	Are the activities financially sustainable beyond the life of the project?

4.3.2 Data Collection Tool for DPOs and Private Sectors

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
Relevance	1	ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS?
		<i>The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor.</i>
	1.1	What specific community needs the project contributed to address for the selected community?
	1.2	How the project contributed to address your community needs?
	1.4	Do you think the training and/or other activities from project was important the PWDs, elderly and other community people to contribute to their livelihood opportunities, income generation and poverty reduction? If yes, how?
Effectiveness	2	ARE OBJECTIVES BEING ACHIEVED?
		<i>A measure of the extent to which an activity attains its objectives (outcomes) i.e. activity to output's to objectives.</i>
	2.1	Number of beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) reached through project interventions? (Direct/Indirect beneficiaries)
	2.2	Number of targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) developed their capacity and skills Number and type of businesses developed by the targeted beneficiaries and/or selected communities
	2.3	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the project objectives?
	2.4	Did the project promote participation of all targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) in the community? If yes, how?
	2.5	Did the project contribute to address barriers for effective participation of PWDs and elderly people in the community?
Efficiency	3	WAS IT WORTH IT?
		<i>Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative - in relation to the inputs.</i>
	3.1	Were the activities of the project delivered as per plan?
	3.2	Did the project beneficiaries receive technical knowhow provided by APCD and governments?
	3.3	Were the project deliverables achieved on time?
Impact	4	ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT BEYOND OUR OBJECTIVES?
		<i>The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.</i>
	4.1	What real difference has the project brought to the beneficiaries?

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
	4.2	% of poor/extreme poor decreased in the communities
	4.3	Average income increased per beneficiary
	4.4	Number of targeted people (PWDs and elderly etc.) employed
	4.5	What are the positive and negative, intended and unintended effects?
Sustainability	5	WILL IT CONTINUE WITHOUT US?
		<i>Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.</i>
	5.1	What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project interventions?
	5.2	To what extent will activities, results, effects and benefits be expected to continue after APCD intervention ends?
	5.3	How self-supported is the local partner/beneficiary? To what extent was local leadership and ownership strengthened?
	5.4	Did the project consider and address social and cultural factors/concerns from the communities during project implementation?
	5.5	Did the project promote coordination and cooperation with relevant government departments and private sector actors?
	5.6	Are local partners committed financially and with human resources to the objectives of the project?
	5.7	Are the activities financially sustainable beyond the life of the project?

4.3.3 Data Collection Tool for APCD Project Staff and Senior Management

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
Relevance	1	ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS?
		<i>The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor.</i>
	1.1	What specific community needs the project contributed to address for your selected community?
	1.2	Did you participate in the identification of those community needs?
	1.3	How the project contributed to address your community needs?
	1.4	Do you think the training and/or other activities from project was important for PWDs, elderly and other community people to contribute to their livelihood opportunities, income generation and poverty reduction? If yes, how?
Effectiveness	2	ARE OBJECTIVES BEING ACHIEVED?
		<i>A measure of the extent to which an aid activity attains its objectives (outcomes) i.e. activity to output's to objectives.</i>
	2.1	Number of beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) reached through project interventions? (Direct/Indirect beneficiaries)
	2.2	Number of targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) developed their capacity and skills Number and type of businesses developed by the targeted beneficiaries and/or selected communities
	2.3	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
	2.4	Did the project promote participation of all targeted beneficiaries (PWDS, elderly and others) in the community? If yes, how?
	2.5	Did the project contribute to address barriers for effective participation of PWDs and elderly people in the community?
Efficiency	3	WAS IT WORTH IT?
		<i>Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative - - in relation to the inputs.</i>
	3.1	Were the activities of the project delivered as per plan?
	3.2	Was the budget supported by the project for delivering activities enough?
	3.3	Were deliverables/activities achieved on time and in budget?
	3.4	Were the activities cost-efficient (cost per beneficiaries)?
	3.5	Were objectives achieved on time?
	3.6	Was the program/project implemented in the most efficient way

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
		compared to alternatives?
	3.7	Was the relationship between input resources and results achieved appropriate and justifiable?
	3.8	Are there alternatives for achieving the same results with less inputs/funds?
	3.9	Do you think that all stakeholders were involved in the decision-making process from the selection of community to delivery of services by the project?
Impact	4	ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT BEYOND OUR OBJECTIVES? <i>The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.</i>
	4.1	What real difference has the project brought to the beneficiaries?
	4.2	% of poor/extreme poor decreased in the communities
	4.3	Average income increased per beneficiary
	4.4	Number of targeted people (PWDs and elderly etc.) employed
	4.5	What are the positive and negative, intended and unintended effects?
	Sustainability	5
5.1		What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project interventions?
5.2		To what extent will activities, results, effects and benefits be expected to continue after APCD intervention ends?
5.3		How self-supported is the local partner/beneficiary? To what extent was local leadership and ownership strengthened?
5.4		Did the project consider and address social and cultural factors/concerns from the communities during project implementation?
5.5		Did the project promote coordination and cooperation with relevant government departments and private sector actors?
5.6		Are local partners committed financially and with human resources to the objectives of the project?
5.7		Are the activities financially sustainable beyond the life of the project?

4.3.4 Data Collection Tool for Government Officials and Council Members

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
Relevance	1	ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS?
		<i>The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor.</i>
	1.1	Do you know about the "Tangible criteria" that were developed by the project for the identification of "disability-inclusive hometown"?
	1.2	Was the community for the project selected according to the Tangible criteria?
	1.3	How important is the intervention for the targeted people for the project and to what extent does it address their needs and interests?
	1.4	To what extent does the project intervention relevant with government policies on PWDs, elderly, and other disadvantaged people of the community?
	1.5	What specific policy change needs were advocated by the Hometown Improvement project?
Effectiveness	2	ARE OBJECTIVES BEING ACHIEVED?
		<i>A measure of the extent to which an activity attains its objectives (outcomes) i.e. activity to output's to objectives.</i>
	2.1	If you are a member of the Advisory Council, how have you contributed to achieve the goal of the project?
	2.2	Have any of the findings and achievement of the project been included in the national policies related to disability and ageing population?
	2.3	What specific policy changes (in national level/local) have been reflected due to the advocacy by the Hometown Improvement project?
	2.4	Have you developed any guideline on Hometown Improvement for disability and ageing population? If yes, when? Is there any contribution of the project in the development of the guideline?
	2.5	Do you think that the project could successfully address the needs of the targeted groups in the selected community?
	2.6	What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
Efficiency	3	WAS IT WORTH IT?
		<i>Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative -- in relation to the inputs.</i>
	3.1	Were objectives of the project achieved on time?

Criteria	Sl. No.	Guiding Questions
	3.2	Was the project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?
	3.3	Are there alternatives for achieving the same results with less inputs/funds?
	3.4	Do you think that all stakeholders were involved in the decision-making process from the selection of community to delivery of services by the project?
Impact	4	ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT BEYOND OUR OBJECTIVES? <i>The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.</i>
	4.1	What real difference has the project brought to the beneficiaries?
	4.2	Do you think the project has contributed to increase livelihood opportunities, income generation and poverty reduction of PWDs, elderly and other community? If yes, how?
	4.3	What are the positive and negative, intended and unintended effects?
	5	WILL IT CONTINUE WITHOUT US? <i>Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.</i>
Sustainability	5.1	To what extent will activities, results, effects and benefits be expected to continue after APCD intervention ends?
	5.2	Did the project promote coordination and cooperation with relevant government departments and private sector actors?
	5.3	Are local partners committed financially and with human resources to the objectives of the project?
	5.4	Are the activities financially sustainable beyond the life of the project?

