

AGENDA CHIKHA

Compendium of Action



May 2025

BACKGROUND

Agenda Chihka is a joint initiative to advance disability inclusion in Bhutan. It was launched on 14 November 2024 in Thimphu, in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Euphelma Choden Wangchuck.

The objective of Agenda Chikha is to accelerate the achievement of the vision of the Royal Government of Bhutan that persons with disabilities are empowered to live in an inclusive society. It is grounded in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan to implement the Policy. It is also squarely focused on the findings of the seminal report of the National Council of Bhutan on the situation facing persons with disabilities in 2024.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Compendium of Action is to provide a full perspective on what all Agenda Chikha members are planning to undertake in 2025-26. A particular focus is given to the second half of 2025 before the next Agenda Chikha Steering Committee meeting in December 2025.

The Compendium of Action also provides an opportunity to put forward new ideas and projects that do not yet have funding. The aim is to provide a forum where new ideas can be heard and to support all proposed initiatives to be aligned and complementary.

SUMMARY

| | Leads | Funding | Timeframe |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Empowering Lives | | | |
| UNV-National UNV Assignments for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan for four (4) persons with disability. Creating workforce opportunities for persons with disabilities in the United Nations system. | UNV; UN RCO; UNFPA; FAO; UNDP | 70,471 USD | Dec 2024 - Dec 2026 |
| DPoB- Social Care and Community Inclusion Plus (SCCI Plus) initiative, focused on community-based support for persons with disabilities. | DPOB; RSSC; PCE | - | Oct 2024 onwards |
| WFP- BRECSA Project: Social Inclusion through quotas and targeted interventions for PWDs. | WFP; MoAL | 2.6 million USD | Ongoing |
| Wangsel Institute- Basic BhSL and Early Intervention Training for ECCD Facilitators and DEOs to Include D/HH Children in ECCD Centres. | Wangsel Institute; ECCD- MoESD | 82,295 USD | April 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Access to Future-Oriented Skills and Inclusive Livelihoods Opportunities. | UNDP; MoICE | - | 2025 onward |
| UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups, expanding legal aid and pro bono services. | UNDP | 25,000 USD | 2025 onward |
| UNDP- Empowering vulnerable groups to access economic rights audits. | UNDP | 25,000 USD | 2025 onward |
| Draktsho- Vocational Training and Employment Outreach for Youth with Disabilities. | Draktsho | 3,200 USD | March 2025- Dec. 2025 |
| UNFPA-Enhancing Educator Preparedness to Deliver Inclusive CSE in Eastern Schools through ToT Rollout and Curriculum Adaptation. | UNFPA | 35,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| RSCS- Establishment of a Senior Citizens' Centre in Thimphu. | RSCS; ADB | - | 2025 onwards |
| RSCS- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day sensitization program highlighting the growing risk of abuse faced by senior citizens due to changing family structures. | RSCS; UN Agencies; MoH, CSOs; RBP; MoHA, Youth groups; local government | - | June 15, 2025 |

Empowering Lives

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------|-----------------|
| FAO- Training smallholder farmers and individuals with disabilities to produce export-quality mushrooms. | FAO | - | 2025 Ongoing |
| UNICEF- Supply of essential items for children and adolescents with disabilities (Draktsho). | UNICEF; Draktso | 12,000 USD | - |
| UNICEF- Pilot accessible digital textbook in 3 schools. | UNICEF | 90,000 USD | - |
| UNICEF- Support inclusive education in Dratshang. | UNICEF | 15,000 USD | - |
| UNICEF- Training of six deaf instructors on sign language pedagogy. | UNICEF; ECCD & SEN Division | 12,000 USD | - |
| ABS- Continued education, daily life-skills training for children with disabilities. | ABS; Save the Children country office; local government; community leaders | - | - |
| ABS- Social entrepreneurship venture for institutional sustainability. | ABS; RGoB; UN; potential donors; development partners; and local community | - | 2025 ongoing |
| ABS- Tourism for persons with disabilities (t4All). | ABS; RGoB; UN; potential donors; development partners; ABTO | - | 2025 ongoing |
| FAO- One Child–One Egg Initiative (OCOE). | FAO; MoESD (DEP); MoAL (BFDA, PPD,DoL); BLDCL | 2,000,000 USD | 2025 ongoing |
| FAO- Supporting PWD women in Lhuntse by providing home based weaving job. | FAO; MOICE | 2,000 USD | - |

| | Leads | Funding | Timeframe |
|---|---|------------|--------------|
| Lifting our game | | | |
| UNDP- Piloting Disability Equality and Reasonable Accommodation in a Rural District. | UNDP; RCSC; DPoB | 40,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Accessibility Audits of Public Facilities and Training for OPDs. | UNDP; JSWC; RCSC; DPoB | 11,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UN RCO- Disability equality training; improved access to disability inclusion resources. | UNRCO; UNFPA; DPoB | 5,000 USD | 2024 - 2027 |
| UNICEF- Training DEOs, principals, and EMIS focal on inclusive/special education EMIS. | UNICEF; MoESD (ECCD & SEN) | - | - |
| UNICEF- Action research on teaching strategies for deaf and hard of hearing learners. | UNICEF; MoESD (ECCD & SEN) | 7,000 USD | - |
| UNICEF- Assessment of schools with SEN on inclusive education standards. | UNICEF; MoESD (ECCD & SEN) | 20,000 USD | - |
| Changing Mindsets | | | |
| UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups. Training Justice Service Providers on Inclusive Justice. | UNDP; JSWC; LAC | 28,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNFPA- Strengthening sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people with disabilities. | UNFPA; AHP/SHD/ RMNHP/ ASHP; NCWC, MoESD, RENEW | 20,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNICEF- Community engagement for demand creation on Disability Inclusion (policies, programmes). | UNICEF; DPOs | 10,000 USD | - |
| Building knowledge | | | |
| Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (OCASC)- Building Disability Data Systems and Strengthening Coordination Mechanism. | OCASC; MoH; MoESD; NSB; CSOs | - | - |
| UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups Institutional Support for UNCRPD and National Disability Policy Implementation. | UNDP; LAC; Bar Council; Justice Sector Agencies (CO NIM) | 15,000 USD | 2025 onwards |

Building knowledge

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| UNDP- Strengthening Justice Sector Collaboration and Coordination. | UNDP | 11,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Legal Advocacy and Awareness Through Street Law Programs. | UNDP | 20,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Development and Dissemination of Inclusive Advocacy Materials. | UNDP | 10,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Sensitization of Project Stakeholders. | UNDP; JSWC | 25,000 USD | 2025 onwards |
| ESCAP- Capacity building on disability data and statistics. | ESCAP; SIAP | - | 2025 onwards |
| UNDP- Piloting Disability Equality and Reasonable Accommodation in Rural District (Dagana). | UNDP | 20,000 USD | Dec. 2024 onwards |
| FAO- Introducing and training students of Wangsel Institute for the Deaf on the SDG Card Game. | FAO | - | May 2025 |
| ABS- Enhancing disability inclusion nation-wide, primarily focused on children with disabilities through continued education, training and awareness campaigns throughout the 13th FYP period. | ABS; RGoB; UN | - | 2025 |
| ABS- Conduct base line survey for children with disabilities, especially for children under 5 years nationwide. | ABS, RGoB; UN; Local Government | - | July - Dec. 2025 |
| UNICEF- Orientation programme on National Disability Policy and UNCRPD. | UNICEF; DPOs | 15,000 USD | - |
| FAO-Inclusive Skills Training Initiative. | FAO; MOICE; Stroke Foundation | 5000 USD | - |
| FAO- Visibility on Disability inclusion in Agrifood system. | FAO | - | - |
| MOH- Using digital solutions to strengthen access to assistive technology in Bhutan (TAP Hearing Field Test). | MOH; WHO | 100,000 USD | June 2025-September 2027 |

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Empowering Lives

UNV- National UNV Assignments for Persons with Disabilities in Bhutan

Dec 2024 to Dec 2025

National Policy 9. Economic Security

70,471 USD (Nu. 5,944,228.85)

The UNV Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is providing full funding for four (4) national UNV assignments for persons living with disability in Bhutan. These assignments are for one year each (starting December 2024), with the expectation that host entities will extend the contract beyond the first year.

DPoB- Social Care and Community Inclusion Plus (SCCI Plus) Initiative

October 2024 onwards

National Policy 17. Policy and Planning

Funding TBC

The SCCI Plus initiative, launched on October 13, 2024, by the Disabled People's Organization of Bhutan (DPOB) and Royal Society for Senior Citizens (RSSC), provides social services for homebound persons with severe disabilities and senior citizens. The project addresses the critical need for community-based support, particularly for individuals unable to access public services due to their condition. The initiative focuses on delivering tailored care through a structured support network involving trained caregivers and community volunteers. Partners include RSSC and Paro College of Education.

WFP- BRECSA Project: Social Inclusion through Direct Targeting

Ongoing

National Policy 9. Economic Security

2.6 million USD (Nu. 219,310,000)

The BRECSA project has adopted a multi-dimension targeting approach to select the project beneficiaries of 12,074 households. The project is using direct targeting to ensure social inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups like women-headed households and, persons with disabilities through setting quotas, including specific budget allocations to ensure outreach. The project will support them through different interventions.

Wangsel Institute for the Deaf- Training ECCD Facilitators and Dzongkha Education Officers (DEOs) in Bhutanese Sign Language (BhSL) for the Inclusion of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Children in ECCD Centres Across Bhutan's Dzongkhags

April 2025 onwards

National Policies 7. Education & 10. Caregivers, Families and Communities.

82,295 USD (Nu. 6,935,850)

Wangsel Institute for the Deaf aims to address the critical issue of delayed first language acquisition among deaf children through early intervention. This initiative will equip ECCD facilitators across Bhutan's 20 districts with the necessary skills to use Bhutanese Sign Language (BhSL) to support D/HH children in inclusive learning environments. The project includes two phases: Phase 1 involves developing a training package, and Phase 2 will train 592 facilitators across three regions. The overall goal is to ensure that deaf children can develop strong cognitive, language, and social skills from an early age by providing access to BhSL in educational settings.

Funding breakdown for the two phases are as follows:

Phase 1 (Training Development): Nu. 228,000

Phase 2 (Training Rollout): Nu. 6,707,850

UNDP- Access to Future-Oriented Skills and Inclusive Livelihoods Opportunities

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

Funding TBC

This activity focuses on enhancing access to future-oriented skills and fostering inclusive livelihood opportunities. It emphasizes innovative development solutions, particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, and women. Sub-activities under this include an innovation challenge for young entrepreneurs aimed at scaling up agribusiness ventures and promoting digital inclusion among youth-led SMEs. Partners include MoICE.

UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups Expanding Legal Aid and Pro Bono Services

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

25,000 USD (Nu. 2,108,750)

Expand legal aid and pro bono services, including mobile legal aid services, to reach remote communities.

UNDP- Empowering Vulnerable Groups to Access Economic Rights Audits

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

25,000 USD (Nu. 2,108,750)

Empowering and capacitating vulnerable groups (women, youth, Persons with Disabilities) to promote and access economic rights.

Draktsho Vocational Training and Employment Outreach for Youth with Disabilities

March 2025- December 2025

National Policy 7. Education

3,200 USD (Nu. 2,700,00)

Draktsho is committed to empowering children and youth with disabilities by providing them with vocational training and employment opportunities. Through its outreach program, Draktsho aims to expand its efforts, offering specialized training to more individuals, enabling them to acquire valuable skills and improve their chances of employment.

UNFPA- Empowering Gender and SEN educators to deliver inclusive CSE.

2024- Completed

National Policy 7. Education

20,000 USD (Nu. 1,694,044)

Enhance preparedness and skills to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education integrated curriculum in school for Gender educators and SEN Educators. Partners include the Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

UNFPA- Inclusive SRHR Services for Persons with Disabilities, LGBT+ & Elderly Preconception Care

2024- Completed

National Policy 17. Policy and Planning

3000 USD (Nu. 254,107)

Implementation of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights packages for Persons with disabilities, LGBT+ and elderly preconception care packages scale up. Partners include the Ministry of Health.

UNFPA- Enhancing Educator Preparedness to Deliver Inclusive CSE in Eastern Schools through ToT Rollout and Curriculum Adaptation

2025 Onwards

National Policy 7. Education

35,000 USD (Nu. 2,964,577)

Enhance educator preparedness and skills to implement the CSE-integrated curriculum in schools across four eastern districts through the revision and rollout of the CSE ToT package, with a focus on inclusive approaches for learners with disabilities.

RSCS- Establishment of a Senior Citizens' Centre in Thimphu

2025

National Policy 10. Caregivers, Families and Communities.

Funding TBC

Recognizing the valuable knowledge, experience, and cultural heritage of senior citizens, a dedicated Senior Citizens' Centre is being established in Thimphu. Inspired by His Majesty the King's vision and the formation of the Royal Society for Senior Citizens, the Centre aims to provide a daily meeting space where seniors can connect, share ideas, and continue contributing to the nation. The Centre will serve as a hub for lectures, talks, and workshops for seniors, youth, and the public, promoting intergenerational learning. It will offer opportunities for socializing, learning new skills, peer education, and income-generating activities. Facilities for physical exercise, mental well-being, and spiritual growth will also be available. To support its sustainability, the Centre plans to generate income through a conference hall, cafeteria, and cultural events. Partners include ADB.

RSCS- Elder Abuse Awareness

15 June 2025

National Policy 7. Education

Funding TBC

To mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, we plan to organize a sensitization program highlighting the growing risk of abuse faced by senior citizens due to changing family structures. The event aims to promote respect and care for older adults, with participation from key stakeholders. If possible, it will be held in a Gewog to reach grassroots communities and will be covered by national TV to maximize outreach. Partners include UN Agencies, MOH, COSs. RBP and MOHA, Youth groups, Local Government.

FAO- Training smallholder farmers and individuals with disabilities to produce export-quality mushrooms

2025 ongoing

National Policy 7. Education & 9. Economic Security

Funding TBC

2025 ongoing

National Policy 7. Education & 9. Economic Security

Funding TBC

UNICEF- Essential Items for CWDs (Draktsho)

Timeframe

National Policy 20. Human Resource and Capacity Development

12,000 USD (Nu. 1,025,604)

Supply of essential items for children and adolescents with disabilities. Partners include Draktsho.

UNICEF- Pilot accessible digital textbook in 3 schools

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education

90,000 USD (Nu. 7,692,859)

Pilot accessible digital textbook in Muenslling, Wangsel and Changangkha.

UNICEF- Support inclusive education in Dratshang

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education

15,000 USD (Nu. 1,282,005)

Support Inclusive Education in Dratshang focusing on Children and adolescents with Disabilities. (TA).

UNICEF- Training of six deaf instructors on sign language pedagogy

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education & 9. Economic Security

12,000 USD (Nu. 1,025,604)

Training of six Deaf Instructors on Sign Language Teaching pedagogy in Bangkok. Partners include ECCD and SEN Division.

ABS- Continued education, daily life-skills training for children with disabilities

2025

National Policy 7. Education & 9. Economic Security

Funding TBC

Enhancing disability inclusion nationwide, primarily focused on children with disabilities through continued education, training and awareness campaigns throughout the 13th FYP period. Partners include Save the Children country office, local government and community leaders.

ABS- Social entrepreneurship venture for institutional sustainability

2025

National Policy 7. Education & 20. Human Resource and Capacity Development

Funding TBC

Druk Play World, an inclusive play space, both indoor & outdoor for children with diverse abilities to play and learn, including a toy top, organic restaurant, and parent's room for meetings, training, counselling, and health check-ups. Partners include Royal Government of Bhutan, UN agencies, potential donors, development partners, and local community.

ABS- Tourism for persons with disabilities (t4All)

2025

National Policy 20. Human Resource and Capacity Development

Funding TBC

Develop inclusive tourism for all through creation of accessible hotels, homestays, transportation system, public spaces and parks to facilitate and welcome the persona with mild to severe disabilities from all over the world to visit Bhutan and enjoy the Bhutanese hospitality. Partners include Royal Government of Bhutan, UN agencies, potential donors, development partners, and ABTO.

One child-One Egg Initiative (OCOIE)

2025 Ongoing

National Policy 20. Human Resource and Capacity Development

2,000,000 USD (Nu. 168,560,00)

The initiative was jointly launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan and Hon'ble Director General of FAO on 4 February 2025. The initiative currently supports 345 schools under the school feeding program. The initiative is for 2 years and will end by December 2026. The initiative covers 1) Draktsho East

80 students 2) Wangsel Institute 93 students 3) Khaling Munselling Institute 21 students. Partners include Ministry of Education and Skills Development (DEP), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (BFDA, PPD, DoL) and Bhutan Livestock and Development Corporation Limited.

Supporting PWD women in Lhuntse by providing home based weaving job

Timeframe

National Policy 9. Economic Security

2000 USD (Nu. 168,560)

MOICE in Collaboration with FAO is working on improving the livelihood of women artisans in rural community through Ethical Fashion for Fragile Ecosystem Initiative. Partners include MOICE.

Lifting our game

Enhancing capacities of national and subnational institutions through public sector innovation and strengthened data ecosystem, to deliver high-quality public and social services

Piloting Disability Equality and Reasonable Accommodation in a Rural District

2025

National Policy 23. Institutional Arrangement

40,000 USD (Nu. 3,374,000)

This pilot project seeks to accelerate disability equality and implement reasonable accommodations in one of Bhutan's rural districts. Partners include RCSC and DPoB

Accessibility Audits of Public Facilities and Training for OPDs

2025

National Policy 23. Institutional Arrangement

11,000 USD (Nu. 927,850)

This activity involves conducting accessibility audits of public facilities and services, including courts and legal infrastructures, in two districts. It also includes training OPDs to perform these audits, thereby building local capacity. Partners include JSWC, RCSC, and DPOB.

UN RCO- Disability equality training; improved access to disability inclusion resources

2024 - 2027

National Policy 10. Caregivers, Families and Communities 21

NGOs/CSOs/Disabled People's Organisations

5,000 USD (Nu. 421,400)

The UN RCO facilitates disability equality training for UN staff, personnel, and leadership, as well as social media influencers, long-term agreement (LTA) holders, and security personnel. These efforts aim to strengthen awareness, understanding, and capacity on disability inclusion across all levels of engagement. Partners include UNFPA and DPoB.

UNICEF- Training DEOs, principals, and EMIS focal on inclusive/special education EMIS

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education & 10. Caregivers, Families and Communities

Funding TBC

Training DEOS, Principals and EMIS focals of inclusive schools on Inclusive and Special Education EMIS. Partners include MoESD (ECCD/SEN Division).

UNICEF- Action research on teaching strategies for deaf and hard of hearing learners

Timeframe

National Policy 17. Policy and Planning

7000 USD (Nu. 598,333)

Conducting Action Research on Effective Teaching Strategies for Learners with Deafness and Hard of Hearing Procurement of materials. Partners include MoESD (ECCD and SEN Division).

UNICEF- Assessment of schools with SEN on inclusive education standards

Timeframe

National Policy 23. Institutional Arrangement

20,000 (Nu. 1,709,524)

Assessment of 10 existing schools with SEN Programme/Inclusive Schools on Inclusive Education Standards. Partners include MoESD (ECCD and SEN Division).

Changing mindsets

UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups Training Justice Service Providers on Inclusive Justice

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

28,000 USD (Nu. 2,361,800)

This activity involves training justice service providers, including those in civil society organizations, on inclusive justice systems. The training covers topics like disability and gender equality, empathy skills, and effective knowledge sharing to foster inclusive practices in the justice sector. Partners include JSW Law, Legal Aid Center (LAC).

UNFPA – Strengthening sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people with disabilities

2025

National Policy 8. Health

20,000 USD (Nu. 1,687,000)

Strengthened adolescent and youth-responsive sexual and reproductive health information and services including for young people with disabilities and individuals with diverse SOGIESC. Partners include Adolescent Health Program (AHP)/School Health Department (SHD)/Reproductive, Maternal and Neonatal Health Program (RMNHP)/Adolescent and School Health Program (ASHP); NCWC, MoESD, RENEW.

UNICEF- Community engagement on disability inclusion

Timeframe

National Policy 10. Caregivers, Families and Communities

10,000 USD (Nu. 854,762)

Community Engagement for demand creation on Disability Inclusion (policies, programmes). Partners include DPOs.

Building knowledge

Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (OCASC)- Building Disability Data Systems and Strengthening Coordination Mechanism

Ongoing

National Policy 22. Data and Information

Funding TBC

This planned activity involves: 1. Building disability data systems and 2. Strengthening Coordination Mechanism. The partners for this activity are the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), National Statistics Bureau (NSB), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

UNDP- Enhanced access to justice including for people with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups. Institutional Support for UNCRPD and National Disability Policy Implementation

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

15,000 USD (Nu. 1,265,250)

This activity focuses on strengthening institutional capacities to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Bhutan's National Disability. Partners include LAC, Bar Council, Justice Sector Agencies (CO NIM)

UNDP- Strengthening Justice Sector Collaboration and Coordination

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

11,000 USD (Nu. 927,850)

Strengthen coordination and collaboration of Justice Sector Institutions, including with CSOs.

UNDP- Legal Advocacy and Awareness Through Street Law Programs.

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

20,000 USD (Nu. 1,687,000)

This activity includes conducting legal advocacy and awareness campaigns for communities in six districts. It targets local government leaders, CSOs, and communities.

UNDP- Development and Dissemination of Inclusive Advocacy Materials

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

10,000 USD (Nu. 843,500)

This activity focuses on creating inclusive advocacy materials that highlight issues related to access to justice and legal rights. The materials will be disseminated through diverse communication mediums to ensure widespread accessibility and impact.

UNDP- Sensitization of Project Stakeholders

2025

National Policy 11. Protection and Access to Justice

25,000 USD (Nu. 2,108,750)

This activity focuses on sensitization of the project stakeholders including CSOs on the project, UN mechanisms, UPR, International conventions, and legal frameworks. Partners include JSWC.

ESCAP- Capacity building on disability data and statistics

2025

National Policy 22. Data and Information

Funding TBC

Capacity building/evidence-based implementation and monitoring. Partners include SIAP (Statistics Institute for Asia and the Pacific).

UNDP- Piloting Disability Equality and Reasonable Accommodation in Rural District (Dagana)

December 2024

National Policy 23. Institutional Arrangement

Funding 20,000 USD (Nu. 1,685,509)

Carried out Baseline assessment and Action planning workshop in December 2024, involving LG, Service providers, persons with disabilities and caregivers of Dagana. Provided Disability Equality Training to the participants. Identified Dagapela District Hospital as a project site to enhance Accessibility and Reasonable accommodation after the physical accessibility auditing during the workshop.

FAO- Introducing and training students of Wangsel Institute for the Deaf on the SDG Card Game

May 2025

National Policy 7. Education

Funding TBC

Students at Wangsel Institute for the Deaf were trained on the SDG Card Game to promote inclusive learning and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals through an interactive and accessible approach.

ABS- Enhancing disability inclusion nation-wide

2025

National Policy 7. Education

Funding TBC

Enhancing disability inclusion nation-wide, primarily focused on children with disabilities through continued education, training and awareness campaigns throughout the 13th FYP period. Partners include Royal government of Bhutan, and UN.

ABS- Conduct base line survey for children with disabilities

July to December 2025 National Policy 22. Data and Information

Funding TBC

Conduct base line survey for children with disabilities, especially for children under 5 years nationwide.

The survey in 3 districts in the east will be carried out between July to December 2025. Partners include Royal government of Bhutan, UN, and Local Government.

UNICEF Orientation on Disability Policy & UNCRPD

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education

15,000 USD

Orientation programme on National Disability Policy and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Partner includes The Disabled People's Organization.

Inclusive Skills Training Initiative

Timeframe

National Policy 7. Education & 9. Economic Security

5000 USD (Nu. 421,400)

Skills training or capacity development initiatives focused on promoting the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, implemented in collaboration with a relevant stakeholder working on disability inclusion. Partners include MOICE and Stroke Foundation.

FAO Visibility on Disability inclusion in Agrifood system

Timeframe

National Policy 20. Human Resource and Capacity Development

Feature story on disability inclusion implementation in FAO.

MOH Using digital solutions to strengthen access to assistive technology in Bhutan (TAP Hearing Field Test) Timeframe

June 2025- September 2027

National Policy 15. Information, Communication and Technology

100,000 USD (Nu. 8,428,000)

The project activities will be structured according to the WHO-GATE 5P framework, focusing on Policy, Products, Provision, Personnel, and People. Under the policy component, the project will identify and address policy gaps, align with Bhutan's primary healthcare and digital health strategies, and conduct a landscape analysis on the need for assistive technology.

For products, the initiative will review the Bhutan Priority Assistive Products List (APL) and integrate assistive technology into the national supply system to enhance procurement, distribution, and monitoring.

The provision aspect will involve developing an expanded service delivery model that defines roles in identifying, referring, and providing assistive products, and integrating these services into Bhutan's electronic Patient Information System (ePIS) for broader accessibility.

On the personnel front, the project will establish an Assistive Technology Skills Lab at JDWNRH/KGUMSB, incorporate TAP into the pre-service curriculum for health and physiotherapy assistants, and train existing allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, eye and ENT technicians.

It will also explore digital mentoring mechanisms to support clinical practice. Lastly, under the people component, the project will enhance access to assistive technology through improved digital tracking of use and effectiveness and set up systems for collecting user feedback to inform future product selection and procurement planning.

Partners include WHO, Department of Clinical Services, National Medical Services, and Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Empowering Lives

DPoB Nationwide Expansion of SCCI Plus Initiative

National Policy 17. Policy and Planning

4,800 USD (Nu. 404,880)

The proposed nationwide expansion of SCCI Plus aims to enhance the quality of life for homebound persons with disabilities, ensure social inclusion, and empower families with resources to provide appropriate care. This initiative supports Bhutan's commitment to the UNCRPD, promoting inclusive policy and service delivery. Funded by DPOB, it seeks to overcome resource limitations and drive social change. Proposed partners include RSSC and Paro NIE.

UNV Enhancing Outreach for Persons with Disabilities to Engage as UN Volunteers

Timeframe TBD

National Policy 9. Economic Security

Funding TBC

UNV would work closely with the Disabled Persons Organization of Bhutan (DPO) and the De-suung for better outreach of persons with disability to become UN Volunteers and joint analysis on how the requirements of UN and qualifications of PWD applying can matched.

Draktsho Vocational Training and Employment Outreach for Youth with Disabilities

2025

National Policy 7. Education

3,200 USD (Nu. 2,700,00)

Draktsho aims to equip youth and children with disabilities with vocational skills such as weaving, tailoring, carpentry, and basket weaving. These programs are designed to keep participants engaged while enhancing their abilities, ultimately improving their chances of securing future employment opportunities. By providing hands-on training, Draktsho helps build confidence and practical skills, empowering individuals to become more self-sufficient and integrated into the workforce.

Lifting our game

ABS Participation in the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation (APDSF) Games 2026

2026

National Policy 18. Political Participation

Funding TBC

Participation in the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation (APDSF) Games 2026, tentatively scheduled to be held in Chennai, India, from 29th to 31st January 2026. This event aims to celebrate the abilities and achievements of individuals with Down syndrome across our region and promote inclusivity through sports and friendship. Partners include RGoB, Agenda Chikha and potential donors.

Participation in the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Digital Transformation and the Future of Work for Persons with Disabilities

2025

National Policy 15. Information, Communication and Technology

Funding TBC

Participation in the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Digital Transformation and the Future of Work for Persons with Disabilities, scheduled on 2 June 2025 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. Partners include Royal government of Bhutan, Agenda Chikha, UN-ESCAP and potential donors. ABS as a member has been invited to participate in this important forum.

The objective of the forum as follows:

1. Enhancing awareness of the challenges and opportunities for digital inclusion of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
 2. Highlighting achievements, good practices, innovative approaches and lessons learned among stakeholders working to realize digital inclusion of persons with disabilities.
 3. Facilitating dialogue among decision-makers, public and private-sector actors, ICT experts, development partners, and representatives of persons with disabilities, including youth, to chart the way forward in disability-inclusive digitization across the region.
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Building knowledge

Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (OCASC)- Strengthening Disability-Related Data for Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Timeframe

National Policy 22. Data and Information

Funding TBC

The proposed initiative aims to strengthen disability related data for evidence-based decision making, especially plans and programs focusing on persons with disabilities. The partners for this proposed activity are the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), National Statistics Bureau (NSB), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

ESCAP Strengthening Capacity for Disability Data and SDG Reporting in Asia and the Pacific

2025

National Policy 22. Data and Information

Funding TBC

The training's overall objective is to strengthen regional and national capacities of member States to regularly produce reliable, timely and comparable disability data and statistics for use in formulating and evaluating evidence-based policies as well as reporting on disability-related SDG goals and targets and Incheon Strategy indicators. Partners include SIAP (Statistics Institute for Asia and the Pacific).

ABS Education and awareness programs in Wangduephrodang

2025

National Policy 7. Education

Funding TBC

Education and awareness programs in Wangdiphodrang on high prevalence and understanding of disabilities, referral systems and inclusion as soon as possible.

As per the latest national health survey, Wangdi District has the highest prevalence of disabilities among 20 regions in Bhutan. Partners include RGoB, Agenda Chikha, LG and potential donors.
