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## Terms of Reference

### Situational analysis of persons with autism in Cambodia

#### About us

With more than 30 years of experience, Cowater International is Canada's global leader in management consulting services specializing in international development. Cowater International is managing the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS) Program. ACCESS is an Australian Government initiative to improve the sustainability, quality and inclusiveness of services for persons with disabilities and for women affected by gender-based violence (GBV) in Cambodia.

ACCESS reflects Australia's strong commitment to supporting human rights, gender equality and disability-inclusive development in our region. ACCESS works in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia to support the implementation of the National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP) and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW).

#### Background

##### Disability Prevalence

Globally, **disability prevalence** represents 15% among general population or one in seven<sup>1</sup>. However, this prevalence is varying from one study to another, such as the 2014 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS) for the first-time using Washington Groups Short Set (WGSS) questions identified 9.5% of disability prevalence among population five years and over, and the recent 2019 national Census that used WGSS questions for the first time too identified prevalence of disability of 4.9% among the same group. Furthermore, according to a 2012 report by WHO, children with mental or intellectual disability are 4.6 times more at-risk for sexual violence. In addition, persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Available data shows that people with disabilities are far more likely to contract the illness and die once diagnosed.<sup>2</sup>

The most recent national Census 2019 identified disability prevalence at 4.9% among population of five years-old and over. Seeing difficulty is the highest at 3.5%, and remembering, self-care and communication difficulties represented

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<sup>1</sup> Disability World Report, WHO and World Bank, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics. 2021. Updated estimates of coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths by disability status, England: 24 January to 20 November 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbydisabilitystatusenglandandwales/24januaryto20november2020>

2.7%, 2.3% and 2.3% respectively. Disability prevalence increase along the age group from 1.4% among population aged five to 14 years to 25.6% among 60 years and over<sup>3</sup>.

### **Autism in Cambodia**

Although there has been improvement in the data collected on disability through national surveys and the census in Cambodia, **specific information related to children and adult with autism** remains very limited.

The limited data on autism that is available is: from the Centre for Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH)<sup>4</sup>, which diagnoses three to five children with Autism every day. The same source of information said that most parents first seek out traditional healers and monks to treat their children with intellectual impairment. This is likely to result in under reporting of situation of autism.

**Support services for children with autism** remain very limited. In addition to CCAMH, a few more public and NGOs facilities provide some support. These include Hand of Hope Community (HHC), Rabbit school, PHACHID<sup>5</sup>.

### **Access to Services**

In general, **access to support services for persons with disabilities** is challenged by several barriers that include the financial barriers, limited knowledge and skills of health staff and discriminatory attitudes toward persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities and their family having poor knowledge of where to seek appropriate services, sociocultural negative beliefs and attitudes associated with disability, long distances to health facilities, lack of appropriate transport options and inaccessibility of health facilities.<sup>6</sup> Very little is known about the specific barriers that people with autism and their families experience in accessing services.

### **Legal and Policy Framework**

**Cambodia's Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** requires the government to protect the rights and freedom of persons with disabilities, to prevent, reduce and eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, and to provide them with appropriate rehabilitation services in order to ensure their full and equal participation in society.

Under the leadership and coordination of Disability Action Council (DAC), new disability law currently in process of being developed that will more clearly articulate the rights of people with disabilities and responsibilities of public and private legal entities as duty bearers to satisfy these rights in line with the Government of Cambodia's commitment to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

To contribute to the implementation of the above law as well as other legal

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<sup>3</sup> National population Census, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia, 2019

<sup>4</sup> Centre for Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH) is one of the program of Caritas (an international organization), currently located in Takhmao Referral Hospital, in Kandal province, Cambodia.

<sup>5</sup> Rebecca Moss, May 2015

<sup>6</sup> Barriers to and Facilitators of Health Services for People with Disabilities in Cambodia - CBM and Nossal Institute, Nov2012

instruments, the Secretary General of DAC (DAC-SG) has requested for support to conduct an assessment of the situation of persons with autism in Cambodia aiming to provide clear evidence for further policies and programs formulation.

### The objectives of this consultancy

1. To undertake an assessment and analysis of the support services available to persons with autism;
2. To analyse the situation of persons with autism in accessing support services, that may include facilitators, barriers and challenges; and
3. To make recommendations for on options to strengthen support services, including but not limited to education, rehabilitation and vocational skills training.

### Scope of Role

The consultancy will report to the assigned DAC-SG focal person in close coordination with ACCESS Disability Lead.

### The selected consultant(s) will:

- Liaise and coordinate with DAC-SG and ACCESS, starting by a kick-off meeting and to plan the work and at each stage of the consultancy
- Provide inception report that should include proposed structure of the report, methodologies and clear timeframe and incorporate feedback from DAC-SG, ACCESS and other relevant counterparts.
- Conduct a document review on autism from Cambodia, regional and wider global publications and material
- Complete Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) including people with autism, family members and caregivers, service providers and policy makers
- Analyse data and prepare detailed report including documentation of work carried out and finding as well as recommendations for future interventions.
- Present the key findings to relevant stakeholders
- Finalize report including all stakeholders feedback and submit to DAC-SG and ACCESS.

### Timeline

This assignment is for an estimated 30 to 35 days. The accurate level of effort and corresponding budget can be readjusted based on the approval of inception report. Tentative timeline is as follows:

No	Task Description and estimated level of effort	Time Frame				
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	Preliminary review of relevant documents regarding situation of persons with Autism, locally and globally (5 days)					
2	Submission, review and agreed on inception report (3 days)					

3	Data collection and data analysis (10 to 15 days)					
4	Develop first draft report, consultation, feedback and consolidation (8 days)					
5	Present the results of finding to relevant DAC-SG, ACCESS and stakeholders (2days)					
6	Final report and submit (2days)					

### Deliverables

- Inception report including an updated timeline; proposed report structure, detailed methodology; draft data collection tools; proposed list of relevant stakeholders; main responsibilities of team members (for the case of consultancy team)
- First draft report and consolidation of results from consultations and feedback from stakeholders
- A final report developed in consultation with and incorporating feedback from DAC-SG, ACCESS team, and key stakeholders
- A presentation of key findings (power point)
- Share soft copies of all relevant documents collected from this assignment including KII/FGD and consultation workshops notes.

### Qualifications and Experience Required

This opportunity is available for an individual or a group of consultants, organisations (local or international) with the following of experience and skills.

#### Minimum Experience and Skills

- Demonstrated experience in research and with strong experience in disability and more specifically in autism and related impairments including psycho-social and learning disabilities. In addition, the team may bring knowledge in the area of work within the region and globally
- Experience preparing succinct and clear reporting in English
- At least five years experiences working in disability and more specifically with persons with autism and their family member
- Good facilitation and communication skill with variety of stakeholder, including with government counterparts

#### How to apply:

Please send your recent soft-copy CV (a maximum of 3-5 pages) and a brief technical and financial proposal describing your approaches to this assignment, including example of one to two recent assignments to [jobs@accesscambodia.org](mailto:jobs@accesscambodia.org) by **30 April, 2021**.

Cowater International Inc. promotes equal opportunities for all. We welcome and encourage applications from **women and from persons with disabilities**. Candidates are encouraged to apply (via email only) before the closing date provided as applications will be assessed as they are received. Only applicants shortlisted for interview will be contacted.