

Development Account: 5th Tranche

Project AB

Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Statistics Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<u>Project Title:</u>	Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme
<u>Duration:</u>	Two and a half years (2007-2009)
<u>Location:</u>	Developing countries and countries in transition in ESCAP region.
<u>Executing Agency:</u>	Statistics Division, ESCAP
<u>Co-operating Agencies:</u>	DESA, the Washington Group, WHO, ECE, and SIAP
<u>National Counterpart Institutions:</u>	National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
<u>Funding from Development Account:</u>	US\$ 628,000
<u>Approved by the General Assembly:</u>	Sixtieth Session, A/60/6 (Sect. 34)

Despite recent efforts and progress, disability statistics in most countries in Asia and the Pacific remain severely underdeveloped. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BMF) calls for significant improvements in the availability, quality, comparability and policy relevance of disability statistics in the region. It is imperative to develop a unifying international approach for data collection through censuses and surveys, and to increase national political commitment and technical capacity to collect and disseminate better disability statistics.

Built upon the outcome of the previous ESCAP/WHO disability project conducted in 2004-06, this project aims to contribute directly to the improvement of disability statistics for formulating and evaluating national disability policies and programmes in support of the BMF in the region. It will combine development of standard measurements for disability data collection through pilot studies and analyses, with in-country advocacy workshops to raise awareness and commitment among a wide range of stakeholders, targeted training of statistical experts and health professionals to improve their technical capacity, country advisory services to support national data collection efforts, and the promotion of country-to-country cooperation and knowledge sharing.

The total budget of the project amounts to US\$628,000 and the project activities will be executed over the years 2007-2009. The project will be implemented by the Statistics Division of ESCAP in close collaboration with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and Division for Social Policy and Development of DESA, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, World Health Organization (WHO), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Budapest Initiative on Measurement of Health Status, and selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the region. The internal project partners within ESCAP are the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the Emerging Social Issues Division (ESID) and the Pacific Operation Centre. A Steering Committee will be set up to oversee the project design and implementation.

2. BACKGROUND, LINK TO MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND THE MDGS

2.1 Background

The Second Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012) will have its critical mid-point assessment in 2007. ESCAP member and associate member states will meet and assess the region's progress on implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF), and formulate strategies for the second half of the decade. The BMF rightfully recognizes that its goals cannot be achieved without better disability statistics. It acknowledges that a persistent lack of adequate information on the prevalence and needs of people with disabilities is the cause for the neglect of disability issues and inadequate development of national public policies.

Despite recent efforts and progress, disability statistics in most countries in the region remain severely underdeveloped. A small number of countries collect information on disability regularly through censuses or surveys. The limited disability data that currently exist often refer only to the most visible and severe forms of physical and mental impairment, thus grossly underestimate the prevalence of persons with disability. The international comparability of disability statistics in the region suffers from a wide variance of definitions, standards, and methodologies applied. In many countries, the technical capacity to collect, disseminate and analyze disability statistics is limited.

The BMF urges governments in the region to develop systems for disability data collection using the same standard for defining and classifying disability to allow inter-country comparison in the region (Strategy 8 and 9). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention),¹ the first human rights treaty of the 21st century adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006, mandates collection of disability data to enable States Parties to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention (Article 31). It also requires States Parties to comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

To improve the availability, quality, comparability and policy relevance of disability statistics in the region, it is imperative to develop a unifying approach that guides the data collection and technical capacity building initiatives. The WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), accepted globally as part of the United Nations family of social and economic classifications, provides such unifying framework. The ICF-based approach recognizes disability as a function of the interaction between personal attributes and the physical and social environments one lives in. It allows the collection of data on both the prevalence and the needs of persons with disabilities, and thus provides a common ground for organizing all information related to disability into a national disability information system.

In response to the direct call of BMF and the specific needs in the region, ESCAP, together with WHO and the support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, successfully developed and implemented a two-year (2004-2006) project on disability measurement and statistics. The project targeted a small group of interested countries and focused on raising awareness of the ICF approach in the region, contributing to developing standard data collection instruments for census and survey through pilot testing proposed disability question sets, establishing regional forums for training and knowledge sharing

¹ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/>.

through workshops, and producing the first Training Manual on Disability Statistics for use in wider technical capacity building activities.

ESCAP's work on disability measurement and statistics is part of its efforts to implement the action required to achieve the BMF targets, and to strengthen national capacity to produce better statistics. It is built on a clear mandate and unique role of ESCAP Statistics Division as a regional statistical office in facilitating the development and implementation of international statistical standards, particularly in strategic areas where there is urgent policy demand for better data while international standards are yet to be fully developed. This regional effort is therefore strongly linked to the current international initiatives in improving disability measurements and statistics.

The 2004-06 project succeeded in creating interest and momentum among target countries to incorporate the ICF approach into regular disability data collection. Statisticians and health professionals from around 20 countries in the region were exposed to the ICF approach, and a small group of national experts became important local resources for its wider implementation. Pilot tests provided a valuable pool of empirical evidence based on which further tests and analyses may be carried out to facilitate the formulation of regional recommendations and international standards. A training manual was produced and used in regional training course offered by SIAP². A number of core countries are currently preparing to include disability in the next census or disability surveys.

However, project participants expressed strong national needs for further promotion of the ICF approach, in particular among a wider range of national stakeholders including policy makers, and for building national technical capacity for its implementation. They stressed the urgency to fully develop regional guidelines and international standards for census and survey-based disability data collection, and requested targeted training, technical assistance and advisory services in designing and implementing ICF-based data collection as well as in analyzing and disseminating data on disability. They also recognized the importance of the upcoming 2010 census round as a critical source of better information on disability prevalence and as the basis for developing disability surveys to collect more detailed statistics on basic care needs, environmental constraints and participation in society of persons with disabilities, and urged ESCAP to promote and support national disability data collection through them.

Built on the momentum, and by addressing the continuing regional challenges, this project is designed to further promote the improvement of disability measurement and statistics by intensifying efforts to linking up to the ongoing global initiatives on promoting disability data collection through the upcoming censuses, and on developing standard survey-based data collection instrument.³ It will pursue, in close partnership with key international agencies and national statistical offices, a combination of activities to maximize its impact. These activities range from country pilot tests of standard question set, in-country advocacy workshops, targeted advisory services, to developing knowledge management tools and establishing regional network of national experts to facilitate country-to-country cooperation.

² First SIAP regional course on Disability and Health Statistics, Iran 2 - 6 December 2006.
http://www.unsiap.or.jp/completed_prog/complete_outreach.htm

³ The current work plan of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, reviewed and approved by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2007 – integrates some of ESCAP's proposed project activities, especially in the area of pilot study of survey-based extended question set and subsequent analyses.

2.2 Relationship to the Medium Term Plan and the MDGs

This project is linked directly to the Medium Term Plans of ESCAP Sub programme 2: Statistics, with particular reference to its national statistical capacity building component in the work programme. The expected achievements of the project will contribute towards ESCAP Sub programme 8: Social Development including persistent and emerging issues, especially its work programme on promoting the achievements towards the BMF targets.

The project is also linked to DESA Sub programme 3: Social policy and development. Its activities can be integrated directly into the work plan of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, as proposed at this year's UN Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2007/4). It also supports WHO's long-standing efforts to promote understanding and application of the ICF framework in collecting and disseminating better statistics on disability for developing and monitoring national disability policies and programmes.

The project is closely linked to ESCAP's work on promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region, particularly in poverty reduction and gender equality. According to a WHO's estimate, approximately 400 out of the world's 650 million persons with disability live in Asia and the Pacific. People with disabilities are often among the poorest, and poor women with disabilities often have to endure multiple burdens and severe discrimination. Better disability data helps increase the understanding of the relationship between disability, poverty and gender inequality, and promotes formulation and evaluation of appropriate public policies and programmes. The project also contributes directly to develop a unifying international approach for data collection through censuses and surveys, and to increase national political commitment and technical capacity to collect and disseminate better disability statistics. In this connection, this project will contribute to assist member States to give effect to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities which requires States Parties to comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

Through this project, ESCAP, as the lead agency, aims to fulfil the following regional and global mandates and action plans, including those related to the MDGs:

1) General Assembly (GA) 60/1, 2005 World Summit Outcome recognized "the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed full enjoyment of their rights" (para.129) and encourages "South-South cooperation" initiatives (para.40-42), reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.

2) General Assembly (GA) 61/106, 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Article 31: collection of disability data to enable States Parties to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

3) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2005/13 on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, recognized the increasing importance of the 2010 round of population and housing census for meeting data needs for the follow-up activities to the Millennium Summit.

4) ESCAP Resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific region in the 21st century (BMF), and ESCAP Resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005 entitled "Mid-point review of the implementation of the BMF," in which governments in this region emphasized the need to "strengthen national capacity in data collection and analysis concerning disability statistics to support policy formulation and programme implementation."

5) ESCAP Resolution 62/10 of April 2006, Strengthening Statistical Capacity in Asia and the Pacific, in which governments in the region requested that the Commission assist member and associate member states to develop their statistical systems, strengthen their capacity to collect, compile, process, analyze, disseminate and use official statistics, and to facilitate the development and implementation of international statistical standards in the region.

3. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

3.1 User Analysis

The primary beneficiaries of the project are National Statistical Office staff, health professionals involved in disability data collection and policy makers. These stakeholders will be both beneficiaries and partners of the project.

The project will also benefit a wider range of national and international users of data on disability, both within project countries and partner agencies and beyond. This broader influence will result from the wide applicability of the standards, methodologies and best practices promoted by the project, and from the usefulness of the resulting disability data collected according to international standards and disseminated for both national and international disability policy analyses, formulation and evaluation.

User groups connected to or influenced by the project

User groups of the project include

- National Statisticians and health professionals of the participating countries, who are responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data on disability. Through participation in the project, their understanding of the ICF-based approach for disability data collection will be increased and technical capacity for collecting, disseminating and analyzing disability data improved. National statisticians in project countries will also have the opportunity to contribute directly to the development of international standards and guidelines. Some of them may become members of a regional network of national experts, to be established under this project, to provide country-to-country technical support and contribute to knowledge sharing among countries in the region. They are the direct beneficiaries of all project activities.
- Policy makers, who need to rely on better data to formulate appropriate disability policies and programmes, assess impact and monitor change. They are both direct and indirect beneficiaries, involved in some of the project activities such as in-country advocacy workshops and in the use of the resulting data and analyses. Policy makers will benefit from new data that better reflect the daily life experience and needs of persons with disabilities. Inclusion of policy makers in census and survey planning will enhance their ownership of the data and increase their interests. Consequently, strengthened political will to address policy issues related to disability will lead policy makers to allocate more resources for the sustainable statistical development and data collections in this area.
- National, regional and international researchers, academics who use the resulting data for analyses and advocacy to promote proper policies and programmes. Organisations, such as Handicap International and Self Help Organizations, will also be project partners, playing a role in helping develop

better standard measurements and in advocating for better disability statistics. Successful implementation of the project will be mutually beneficial for all.

- International agencies that promote the development and adoption of international standards and methodologies, and produce internationally comparable data series based on national data. Through pilot study, continued research and knowledge sharing, a common understanding and an international measurement standard for disability data collection will be attained. Increased availability and comparable data on persons with disability will ensure inclusion of disability data in global and regional databases established and maintained by these agencies. Thus, they are both partners and indirect beneficiaries of the project.

Meeting the needs of users

Each group of users has distinct needs, which require that the project adopt an integrated approach to meet their needs.

- Policy makers, in general, need to better understand the importance of information on disability and use the data for evaluating situations, assessing needs, monitoring the changes and developing national plans and policies on disabilities. Their understanding will lead to increased government support for disability data collection and dissemination. This need has been repeatedly expressed by national statistical experts and health professional from countries in the region. To meet this need, this project will conduct in-country advocacy workshops in project countries on the ICF-based approach for national data collection, dissemination and use. Such in-country workshop will allow the project to reach a wider range of national stakeholders than through the usual type of regional workshops. The project will also seek opportunities through other regional forums, such as meetings organized under ESID's BMF project, to advocate for the importance of ICF-based data collection and dissemination among policy makers.
- National statistical experts require international guidelines and technical assistance in applying ICF-based approach in national data collection, dissemination and use. To improve national technical capacity in these areas, the project will devote resources on developing standard instrument for survey-based data collection on disability through pilot studies, promoting national data collection through the upcoming population censuses, providing technical guidelines and self-learning training materials, documenting best practices, and offering regional workshops for knowledge sharing and country advisory services.
- Researchers, academics, civil society, NGOs such as Disabled People Organizations and other public users are in need of timely and comparable statistics on disability and should have proper understanding of the data and its potential use. To meet their needs, the project will develop a web-based knowledge management tool for promoting the understanding and implementation of the ICF approach to disability data collection, dissemination and analysis. This web-based tool will compliment the training manual with additional instructive references, examples of best practices, and other advocacy and technical background materials. Moreover, an on-line forum on disability statistics and study will be revitalized and expanded through this project to include both national statisticians and health professionals.

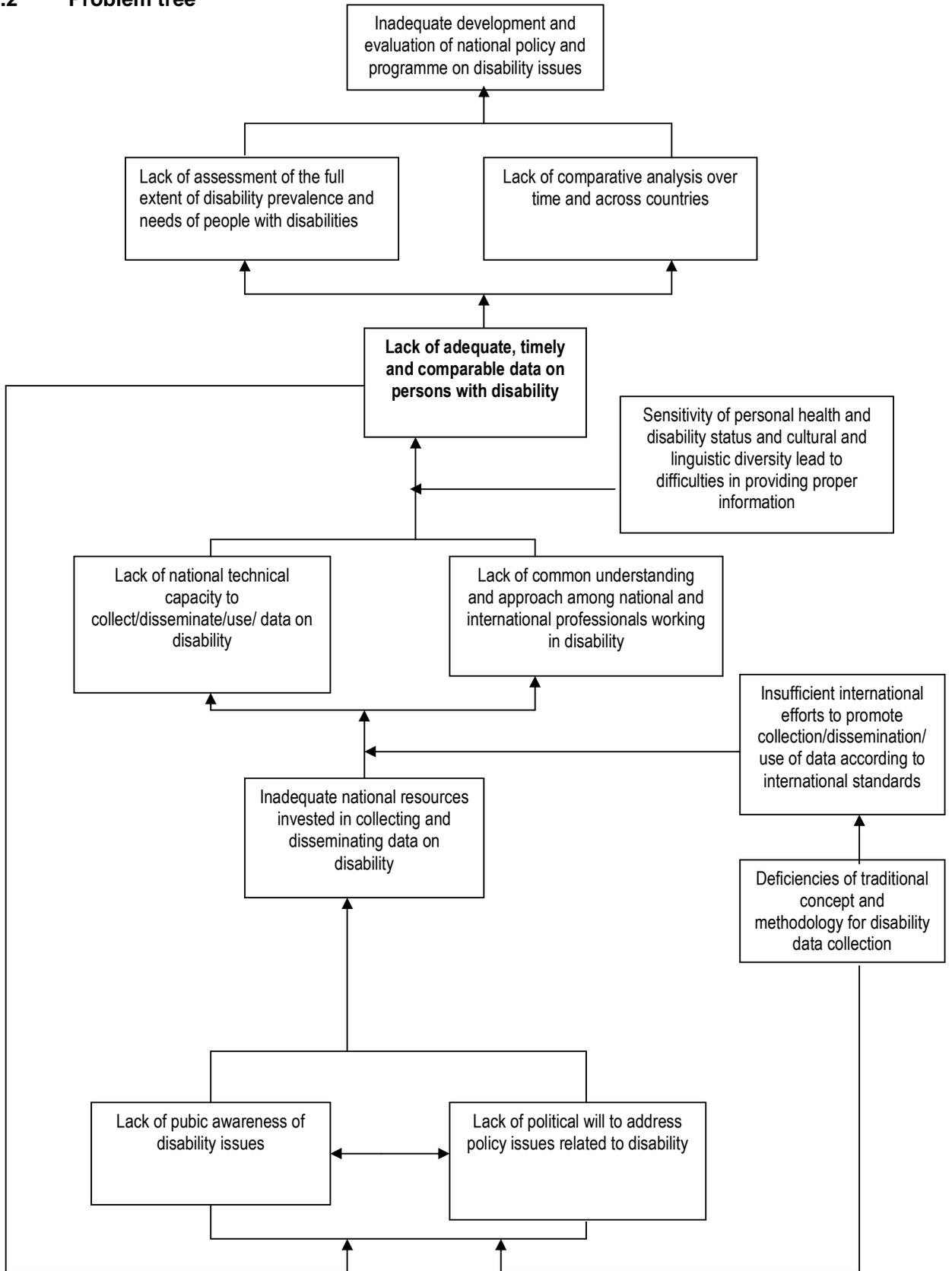
Sustainability as a result of the project implementation

The outcome of the project for the participating countries will be an improved national disability information system, which will provide the necessary disability statistics for formulating and evaluating evidence-based national disability policies and programmes to integrate persons with disabilities into society. With improved national technical capacity, participating countries will be able to produce relevant and comparable disability data more regularly, which in turn will increase the ability of governments to monitor progress towards national and the BMF targets. Benefiting from international standards to be developed under the project and increased understanding of the benefit of ICF-based data, countries will be more willing to continue disability data collection and dissemination on a sustainable basis after the completion of the project.

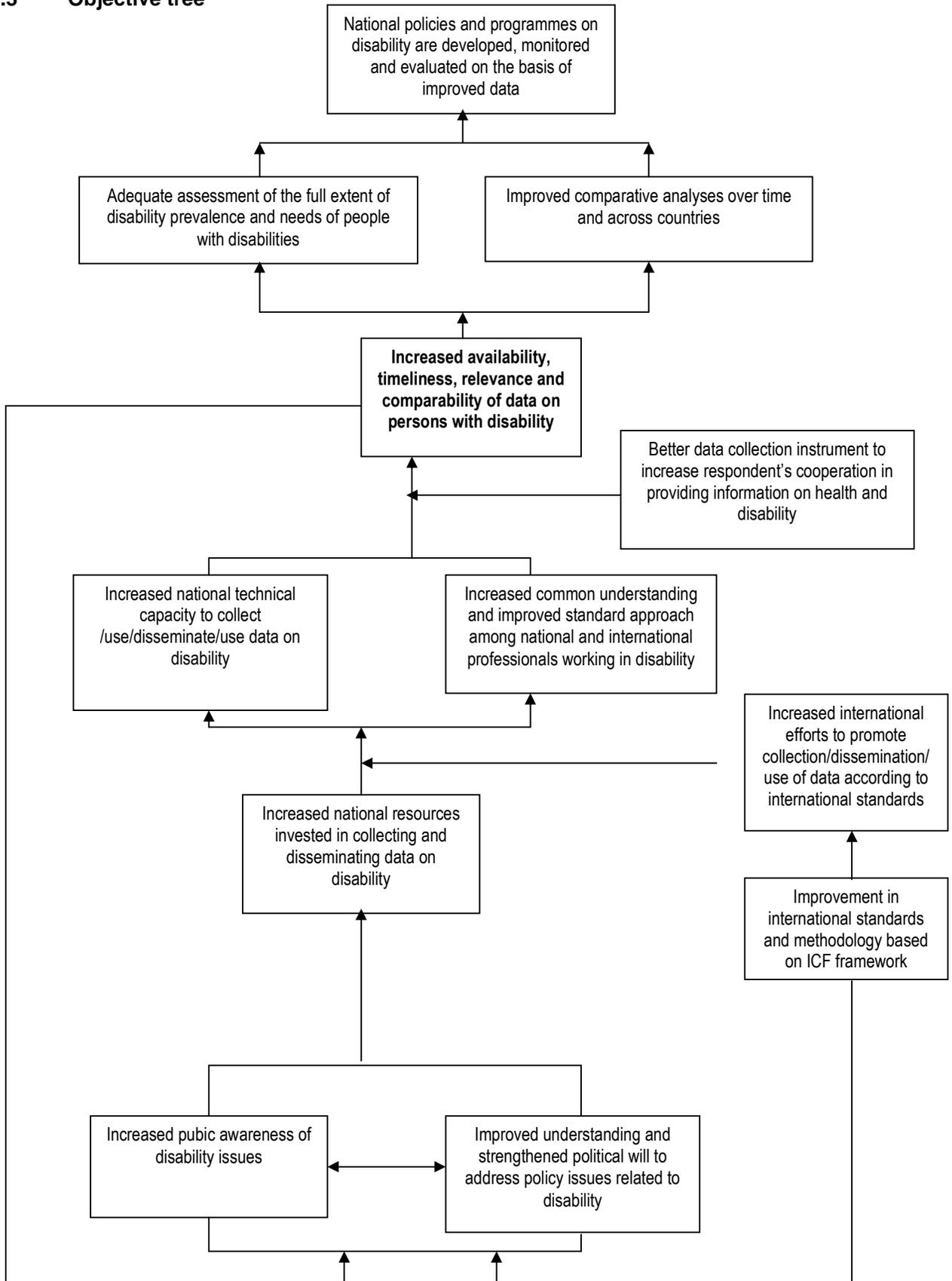
Non-project participating countries in this region will also benefit from the project implementation. It is expected that the project will act as a catalyser for the adoption of the ICF-based approach for disability data collection in more countries, thereby contributing to the “snowball” effect on the improvement of disability statistics in the region. Not only the web-based knowledge management tool will be useful to all countries, but the regional network of national experts from participating countries, including women and persons with disability, will be established through this project to facilitate knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among countries in the region.

This project will rely on existing regional cooperation and partnership with leading partner agencies, including the WHO, the Washington Group, SIAP, DESA and some NSOs (such as Australia and the Philippines), and new partnership with the Budapest Initiative on Measurement of Health Status. While these partners will provide critical technical guidance and inputs into the project design and implementation, the project outputs will, in turn, provide feedback into the continuing process of international methodological development in the field. The project objective and activities are consistent with the on-going efforts by the partner agencies, so a continuity or expansion of the project activities beyond the current phase is highly probably.

3.2 Problem tree



3.3 Objective tree



4. OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STRATEGY

4.1 Overall objective

Target countries have integrated ICF-based data collection on disability into their regular national statistical systems, thereby improving availability, quality and comparability of disability statistics to support policy formulation and promote implementation of the BMF.

4.2 Expected accomplishments

The implementation of the project is expected to result in:

1. Improved understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement by NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region.
2. Increased national technical capacity for collecting disability statistics in accordance with ICF standards and regional guidelines for national censuses and surveys, which also reflect gender concerns.
3. Increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics.

4.3 Activities

The project will achieve its expected accomplishments through an integrated approach by combining development of standard measurement tools for disability data, collection, pilot studies and analyses, with in-country advocacy workshops to raise awareness and commitment among a wider range of stakeholders, targeted training of statistical experts and health professionals to improve their technical capacity, country advisory services to support national data collection efforts, and the promotion of country-to-country cooperation and knowledge sharing. These activities are designed to address the needs of countries in the region, expressed explicitly at regional workshops or other forums organized under the previous ESCAP/WHO project. The central effort of the current project will, to the extent possible, focus on developing standard measurement for collecting disability data through surveys, including post-census surveys.

While the specific design and concrete implementation plan will be established during the proposed Project Preparatory Phase, the proposed activities are as follows:

Under the expected accomplishment (EA) 1

Advocacy for ICF approach among a wide range of stakeholders

A1.1 Conduct six (6) in-country advocacy workshops in project countries, i.e., those who will conduct pilot test of proposed survey question set (see activities under EA 2), on the ICF and its implementation for disability data collection and analysis. These workshops will include a broad range of stakeholders, national statisticians, health professionals, policy makers and other relevant data user groups. These workshops may be organized in connection with advisory missions by project consultants in preparation of pilot tests (see

activities on pilot tests and country advisory services) and/or in-country training requested by countries.

Promoting disability data collection through the upcoming censuses

A1.2 Organize a small-scale regional workshop on the current UN global recommendations on census-based disability data collection and dissemination. This activity will help promote the integration of disability in the upcoming 2010 round of census, which provides a critical opportunity to obtain better data on disability prevalence and a necessary basis for conducting disability surveys, including post-census surveys. Participating countries will be those who plan to include or are considering to include disability topic in the next census, identified through an upcoming survey of national census plans, to be conducted by ESCAP Statistics Division under the Regional Census Programme.

Developing knowledge management tools

A1.3 Develop and disseminate an interactive CD-ROM version of the ESCAP/WHO Disability Statistics Training Manual produced under the earlier project. The CD-ROM version will facilitate training and will be accessible for persons with disabilities.

A1.4 Develop a web-based knowledge management tool to promote the understanding and implementation of ICF-based disability measurement development, and data collection and dissemination. This web-based tool will compliment the training manual with additional instructive references, examples of best practices, and other project background materials. It may also include on-line discussions on specific technical issues among regional and international experts to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Under the expected accomplishment (EA) 2

Developing survey-based standard measurement

A2.1 Develop an extended set of questions for survey-based data collection on disability, to be tested and refined through country pilot studies in the region to formulate an empirical basis for establishing international recommendations on standard survey instrument for disability data collections. The objective is to develop survey-based standard instruments that offer practical solution to facilitate national efforts to include disability data collection in regular statistical data collection activities. The development of the question set will be integrated into the work plan of the Washington Group as approved at this year's UN Statistical Commission.

A2.2 Develop standard protocols for country pilot tests on the proposed survey-based question set (including technical guidelines for survey preparations and sampling requirements) and subsequent data analyses plan.

A2.3 Organize one pre-pilot test regional workshop with participants from the project countries to establish a collective understanding of the objectives and guidelines for pilot testing. The workshop will provide an opportunity for project countries to discuss with ESCAP and other project partners relevant technical and logistic issues – either common or country-specific – to ensure successful implementation of country pilot studies.

A2.4 Conduct pilot tests of the proposed survey-based extended set of questions on disability in 6 ESCAP member countries, including at least one Central Asian country and one Pacific Island country. Pilot tests are to be designed to ensure that, to the extent possible, the relationship between gender and disability is covered.

A2.5 Produce joint analyses by key project partners of pilot test results to refine the proposed survey-based extended question set and formulate a basis for establishing

international recommendations. The joint analysis will be conducted in cooperation with project countries to make it an opportunity for further national technical capacity building on disability data collection and analyses. The project partners will seek to publish the results from the joint analyses in a leading international journal or at relevant open forums to inform national and international discussions on improving disability measurement.

A2.6 Conduct one post-pilot study workshop to review pilot test results and refine the proposed survey-based standard instrument for disability data collection. The workshop will include project countries and other interested countries in the region, thereby extending the opportunity of knowledge-sharing and technical capacity building among a wider range of countries in the region.

Under the expected accomplishment (EA) 3

Establishing a regional network of experts

A3.1 Establish a regional network of national experts on ICF-based approach to disability data collection and dissemination to facilitate country-to-country technical cooperation. This pool of experts, who were trained either under the previous ESCAP/WHO project or through the various activities of the current project, could serve as the resource person for country advisory services or other country capacity building activities on disability statistics in the region.

Providing country advisory service

A3.2 Advisory missions to provide assistance to countries with data collection design in accordance with ICF standards and conduct pilot study data analysis; where possible, advisory missions will also be conducted on occasions of in-country training workshops for a wide range of stakeholders to complement SIAP sub-regional training courses. Advisory missions are determined by needs as specifically expressed by countries and will particularly target those with upcoming population censuses or disability-related surveys. Advisors who conduct missions should have sufficient knowledge of relevant gender issues.

4.4 Strategy for project implementation

The over strategy of the project will build upon lessons learned from the previous ESCAP/WHO 2004-06 project on "Improvement of Disability Statistics and Measurement in Support of the BMF" led by the Statistics Division of ESCAP. Due to the strong policy relevance for the region, the previous project made a strong and positive impression on the process of developing member countries' national statistical systems through close collaboration with ESCAP's internal partner of Emerging Social Issues Division. The project was implemented successfully through an integrated approach, combining pilot studies and regional recommendations with advocacy, training, and country advisory services. It was also clearly shown that close collaboration on methodological issues with international partners was an imperative component to ESCAP's overall strategy. This international partnerships need to be expanded and strengthened.

The project implementation will be guided by the following specific strategies.

Focus on developing survey-based standard measurement. While the project is designed to pursue a combination of activities, ranging from advocacy to knowledge management, based on the country needs in the region, its core resources will be devoted to the development of standard measurement for collection of disability data through surveys. This strategy reflects the current focus of the ongoing global initiatives and extends naturally from the emphasis of the 2004-06 ESCAP/WHO project on census-based questions. The

extended set of survey-based question will be based on the ongoing global initiatives, including the question sets tested in the previous ESCAP/WHO project and the short census question set promoted by the Washington Group. In accordance with the ICF, the extended set should capture disability as a universal and multi-dimensional experience by eliciting data about functioning levels in multiple life areas. This will allow more adequate identification of the prevalence and needs of people with disabilities.

Rely on close partnership. The project activities will be designed and implemented through close partnership between ESCAP and other international and national partners, including DESA, the Washington Group, WHO, the Budapest Initiative on Measurement of Health Status and ECE and selected national statistical offices in the region, and with ESCAP internal partners, mainly the Emerging Social Issues Division (ESID) and SIAP⁴. Through the earlier ESCAP/WHO disability project, ESCAP has established strong cooperation with many of these partners. Our common vision and complementary technical capacity provides a solid basis for the successful implementation of the current project.

From project preparatory phase to active implementation. The initial five months of the project will be devoted to a Project Preparatory Phase, during which a detailed project design and implementation plan will be mapped out with the assistance of a wider group of leading experts. The preparatory phase is essential for key international partners and national experts to jointly develop a proper set of standard instrument (and related technical guidelines) to be pilot tested and refined through the project, and to collaborate effectively on the other main project activities.

From target group to “spill-over” effect. The target group of the project are project countries undertaking pilot test of the proposed survey-based standard instrument, selected on the basis of expressed country interest and technical “readiness.” These countries will benefit from the full range of proposed project activities, including in-country advocacy, technical support through advisory services and regional workshops for project planning and knowledge sharing. However, the project will reach wider influence through three main mechanisms: (1) the participation of countries beyond the project countries in regional workshops, such as the workshop on census data collection and the post-pilot study workshop; (2) access to the web-based knowledge management tool and interactive training manual; and (3) the potential use of the regional network of national experts, trained through the project, for country-to-country technical cooperation. In identifying project countries and other participating countries, special attention will be given to ESCAP priority countries, including those in the Pacific region and from Central Asia.

Promote country-to-country technical cooperation. A regional network of national experts on ICF-based disability data collection – trained through the earlier ESCAP/WHO disability project and the current project – will be established through this project. Through this network of national experts, the project aims to promote country-to-country technical corporations, especially South-South corporations, to expand the knowledge base in the region and improve national technical capacity for ICF-based disability data collection through efficient use of local expertise.

⁴ The ICF-based training activities in the region (sub-regional or in-country) will be managed and implemented by SIAP, therefore not included in this project.

4.5 Relationship with other projects

The current project is an integral part of ESCAP's wider effort to promote the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action for the Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012). Its precedent, the 2004-06 joint ESCAP/WHO disability project, was born directly out of the call of BMF, and itself is closely linked to the Japan-funded on-going project "Towards the Regional Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action for the Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012)," led by the ESID. It will continue to be guided by the policy framework of the ESID project and aim to directly support the ESID project through both close collaboration on the preparation for regional meetings on monitoring and implementation of the BMF and the expected impact of the project on improving disability statistics in the region.

There will also be further collaboration with ECE in its efforts to strengthening national statistical capacity in producing health statistics, including disability statistics, among Central Asian countries. Currently, ECE is implementing a Development Account project on strengthening statistical capacity among member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to monitor demographic, social and economic progress toward the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Beneficiary countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and partially Afghanistan. The project focuses on three statistical areas – population and social conditions, health status of the population and economic development. In this connection, ECE has already collaborated with the Statistics Division of ESCAP in conducting a training workshop on disability statistics for SPECA countries in December 2006. At this workshop it was agreed that, based on expressed country interest, this current project would include as least one SPECA country in the pilot study and, to the extent possible, include other countries in the planned regional workshops. Another workshop on health statistics is scheduled to take place in November 2007 which will include follow-up discussions on disability statistics and provide an opportunity to identify a project country from the region for this project. Moreover, ECE Statistics Division has strong experience in disability measurement research and lends itself nicely as one of the key partners for the current project.

The Washington Group, in its current work plan approved by the UN Statistical Commission in March this year, clearly identified ESCAP as a partner in joint research and work on developing survey-based standard instrument. Its shift of focus from census to survey-based measurement development and plan to increase involvement in training and dissemination activities are consistent with this proposed project. As a project partner for the earlier ESCAP/WHO project, ESCAP and the Washington Group have developed stronger collaboration over time, and are both committed to work together to promote the development of international standards through the current project.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project will adopt the following complementary measures for monitoring progress and evaluating impact.

Monitoring

While ESCAP will be the lead agency in managing the project implementation, a small Steering Committee overseeing the overall project design and implementation would be set up. The Committee would include representatives from DESA, WHO, the Washington Group, ECE, the Budapest Initiative and a selected number of NSO experts. In addition to

occasional face-to-face meetings, the Committee will primarily communicate through email or teleconference for periodic project updates, and discussions and decisions on issues related to project operation and possible adjustments.

ESCAP will prepare regular updates and submit to the Steering Committee for review and discussion. These updates will draw the attention of the Steering Committee to any emerging issues to be addressed and/or the need for project adjustments, and request decisions from the Committee for subsequent actions.

Evaluation

During the Project Preparatory Phase, a more detailed evaluation plan will be developed. Currently we propose that the expected achievements of the project be verified with simple indicators, as described in the Simplified Logical Framework. According to the type of project activity, specific information will be collected for project evaluation. For example,

- Workshop evaluation questionnaires will be used for assessing the impact of the advocacy/training workshops. Pre-workshop and post-workshop surveys will be carried out, using the questionnaire with specific questions on the contents of the workshops in order to evaluate whether a significant increase in knowledge of participants achieved or not.
- Survey of national statistical activities and publications through questionnaires or review of national statistical reports will be carried out to determine the impact of the activities in pilot studies, advocacy and advisory services. Comparison analysis between project countries and non-project countries will be carried out in this regard.
- Country reports of participating pilot countries will be used to assess the quality of the specific project activity.
- Website access log will be used to evaluate the usefulness and extent of outreach of the knowledge management tool.

An overall substantive project evaluation is set to take place at the end of the project period. An amount of USD 10,000 of international consultant fee is allocated for this purpose.

6. EXTERNAL FACTORS

The project is expected to achieve its objectives on the assumption that national governments, institutions and local authorities give sufficient priority to disability issues and are willing to provide the necessary support for statistical activities on disability.

It is also assumed that (i) the interest of targeted beneficiaries in issues related to disability is sustained; (2) regional and international technical support for country project activities remains adequate; (3) project activities are in line with level of statistical development and national statistical priorities; 4) project participating countries are committed to carry out designed activities; 5) governments and NSOs are willing to share information and country experiences with other countries and regional and international partners; and 6) appropriate national statistical staff are nominated for participating in project activities and retained in the system to implement planned project activities and to provide sustainable technical capacity in national statistical offices.

7. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Statistics Division of ESCAP will be the lead agency responsible for the management of the project, overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of key project partners and national experts. ESID will be the internal collaborating partner, providing policy guidance for the project and updates on the data needs related to the BMF. It will also be invited to provide direct inputs in the design of advocacy workshops and in the relevant regional workshops proposed under this project to address disability issues from social policy perspective.

Other internal partners include SIAP, who is responsible for developing and implementing relevant sub-regional and national training programme on disability statistics.

The Statistics Division of ESCAP will implement the project in close partnership and collaboration with external partners, including DESA (Statistics Divisions and Division for Social Policy and Development), WHO, the Washington Group, ECE, the Budapest Initiative and selected NSOs on designing and implementing the whole range of project activities. Experts from these partner agencies will provide technical inputs and serve as resource persons.

Project assistant/consultants will be hired to provide specific support for the implementation of various project activities, including: (1) designing survey-based standard question set; (2) designing pilot study protocols; (3) conducting pilot studies in project countries; (4) developing pilot study analysis plans and carrying out joint research; (5) designing and conducting in-country advocacy workshops; (6) assisting with regional workshops and follow-up activities; (7) providing advisory services to countries; (8) creating an interactive CD-ROM version of the Disability Statistics Training Manual, and (9) assisting in developing the web-based knowledge management tool.

Other potential partners and resources include international NGOs, such as the Handicap-International, who is designing and implementing disability data collection in selected countries (e.g., Afghanistan and Cambodia) in this region.

ECE has long involvement in the measurement work on disability and is ESCAP's partner in technical cooperation projects for SPECA countries. This project provides an opportunity for further collaboration with ECE to implement the project activities in SPECA countries. Moreover, there will also be possible collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and ESCAP's Pacific Operation Centre in Suva, Fiji on project implementation in the Pacific region.