



END OF PROJECT REPORT

Introduction

The purpose of this report – which is consistent with the UNDG Standard Progress Report format – is to provide information on the progress made by the project towards the realization of its stated objectives. In keeping with the UN system on-going efforts to strengthen result-orientation, the report should focus on systemic, structural transformation rather than process, highlighting how the different elements of the result chain described in the approved project document contributed to advance disability rights in keeping with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹

Reporting teams are encouraged to attach annexes containing additional relevant information (including assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published) and share videos, photographs or other multi-media materials illustrating the work and results of the project. It is recommended, however, that all annexes be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.

¹ The following definitions, which are based on the UN Development Group Harmonized RBM Terminology, were used in the “Template for Programme Proposals”, utilized by UN Country teams to develop the approved project documents:

- Impact: Positive and negative long-term effects on identifiable population groups produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. These effects can be economic, socio-cultural, institutional, environmental, technological or of other types.
- Outcome: The intended or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention’s outputs, usually requiring the collective effort of partners. Outcomes represent changes in development conditions which occur between the completion of outputs and the achievement of impact.
- Outputs: The products and services which result from the completion of activities within a development intervention.

1. Variations in impact and outcome indicators

Using the table format provided below, please provide information on the variations in impact and outcome indicators that took place during the implementation period.

Table 1. Variation in impact indicators

Impact
The rights of persons with disabilities, especially children and women with disabilities, are protected by legal and policy frameworks and decision and opinion makers in Tajikistan have enhanced awareness leading to increased realization of rights of persons with disabilities.

Impact Indicators

Indicator*	Start level (Beginning of the project implementation period)*	End level (End of the project implementation period)*
The CRPD is signed/ratified	It is not yet signed/ ratified	<p>A comprehensive analysis of disability issues was carried out providing case scenarios for joining, accessing or ratifying the CRPD. As a result, during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2016, the Government accepted the recommendations to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)².</p> <p>In 2017, Tajikistan adopted a UPR Action Plan, which includes three measures related to CRPD and its Optional Protocol. The complete package of documents for Tajikistan joining CRPD was sent out to the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan during the last quarter of 2017. The Presidential Decree regarding Tajikistan's joining CRPD is expected to be issued in early 2018 and the signing of the CRPD by Government should take place in the first quarter of 2018.</p>
The long-term National Development Strategy (2016-2030) and its action plan will address disability rights in a way that is consistent with the CRPD	The current national development strategy (2007-2015) does not include disability rights	<p>Unlike its predecessor, the new National Development Strategy (NDS, 2016-2030) reflects the issues of disability. The <i>NDS 2016-2030</i> developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) in line with the CRPD's principles was approved by the Government of Tajikistan on 1 October 2016 and endorsed by the Parliament on 1 December 2016 (Ref. 636).</p> <p>The <i>Mid-Term Development Strategy for 2016-2020</i> (MTDS) builds on NDS (2016-</p>

² [UPR May 2016/recommendations and pledges Tajikistan](#)

Indicator*	Start level (Beginning of the project implementation period)*	End level (End of the project implementation period)*
		2030) and was also developed taking into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities. The document was approved by the Government on 26 November 2016 and was endorsed by the Parliament on 28 December 2016 (Ref. 678). The issues and rights of persons with disabilities are incorporated throughout the NDS, MTDP and its action plan.

* Please provide sex disaggregation here.

Table 2. Variation in outcome indicators

(Add a table for each outcome in the approved project document)

Outcome 1
Barriers holding back the Government's signing/ratification of the CRPD are overcome through evidence-based advocacy and practical advice on implementation of the National Plan for Implementation of the UPR recommendations related to CRPD ratification process

Outcome 1 Indicators

Indicator*	Start level (Beginning of the project implementation period)*	End level (End of the project implementation period)*
National Disability Action plan of the GWGCRPD for the ratification and subsequent implementation of the CRPD is adopted.	There is a draft plan of action of the Governmental Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (GWGCRPD) for the ratification process	As a follow-up to the 2 nd Cycle of UPR in 2016, the Government established a Working Group tasked to develop the UPR Action Plan. The Action Plan on implementation of UPR recommendations (UPR Action Plan) was adopted by the Government in June 2017. This Action Plan includes three measures for joining the CRPD. Once Tajikistan signs the CRPD, a Government Working Group will be formed to follow up on these measures for compliance of policies, institutions and public service delivery with CRPD requirements.
National Disability Strategy developed in line with CRPD	There is no comprehensive disability strategy of Tajikistan. The country is not fully addressing the rights of persons with disabilities that are in line with the CRPD and other international instruments.	The multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2020 (# 455 dated 28 October 2016) that is in line with the CRPD was approved and adopted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. All national and international disability partners are working in accordance with the Programme. More than 170,000 persons with disabilities (including women and children with disabilities) registered in Tajikistan will

Indicator*	Start level (Beginning of the project implementation period)*	End level (End of the project implementation period)*
		<p>benefit from the National Programme on Rehabilitation.</p> <p>The National Coordination Council on Health and Social Protection, chaired by the deputy Prime Minister, has been appointed to coordinate and monitor the multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan 2017-2020.</p>

Outcome 2

National, provincial, district decision and opinion makers' awareness and positive attitudes about needs, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities have increased with a focus on women and children with disabilities

Outcome 2 Indicator

Indicator	Start level* (beginning of the reporting period)	End level* (conclusion of the reporting period)
At least 20 percent of key decision and opinion makers have increased awareness on the abilities and rights of persons with disabilities	There is no baseline but qualitative studies indicated negative attitudes against persons with disabilities	Baseline data is available on the general population's perceptions about disability in Tajikistan. The baseline study conducted in 2016 on the Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Women and Children with Disabilities provides baseline values that will be measured over time. As of end December 2017, a media campaign on Disability Inclusion was designed and was pending approval from the Government.

Outcome 3

One district implements Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR³) principles targeting mainly children and women with disabilities to demonstrate the benefits of implementation of the principles of CRPD and a functional multi-sectoral approach to inclusive development for future scaling up

³ Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is a set of framework to make optimum use of local resources in order to address the broader needs of people with disabilities (PWD), ensuring their participation and inclusion in society. The CBR aims to strengthen community power for the inclusion of PWD in health, education, livelihood, social life and empowerment.

Outcome 3 Indicator

Indicator	Start level* (beginning of the reporting period)	End level* (conclusion of the reporting period)
<p>At least 300 women and children benefit from CBR services in a selected district</p>	<p>There are very few inclusive services in Tajikistan.</p>	<p>As of December 2017, 3,646 persons with disabilities (1,980 men / 1,666 women) in 28 districts benefited from CBR services delivered by NGOs (incl. Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities, DPOs, etc.) with Government funding. This total number of beneficiaries included 202 adults with disabilities (84 men / 118 women) and 3,444 children with disabilities (1,896 boys / 1,548 girls).</p> <p>Over the course of the three-year project, 6,290 persons with disabilities (3,376 men / 2,914 women) benefited from CBR services through public-private partnership.</p> <p>In addition, over the project lifetime 147 children with disabilities (75 boys / 72 girls) and their caregivers in Rasht district were assisted through CBR outreach services (i.e. physiotherapy, referral to specialised services, support to enrol in mainstream school or to apply for disability pension, etc.).</p> <p>Tajikistan CBR Network is in place and functional and serves as a coordinating forum on CBR for the country.</p> <p>The UNPRPD project had a positive influence on the Government funding for CBR, which increased from USD 495,000 in 2015 to USD 672,000 in 2017 and expected to increase to USD 830,000 in 2018.</p>

* Please provide sex disaggregation here.

2. Overall progress

Please describe the progress made during the project implementation period towards the realization of the project expected impact. Please make sure to capture, in your description, relevant shifts in capacity development. Please also comment, as appropriate, on the variations in impact indicators reported in Table 1.

Through the implementation of the UNPRPD project, significant progress has been made to pave the way for Tajikistan's accession to the CRPD. A comprehensive analysis of existing national legislation and policies was conducted and the *Analysis of the legal, economic and functional implications of Tajikistan joining the UN CRPD* was produced to inform the Government of Tajikistan's future decision.

Although to-date the CRPD has not been signed yet, the Government announced publicly that Tajikistan would join the CRPD. This announcement came in May 2016 after Tajikistan went through the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) where it supported the recommendations related to the ratification of the CRPD⁴. The Presidential decree regarding Tajikistan's joining the CRPD is under consideration and it is expected that the Government will sign the CRPD in the first quarter of 2018.

With timely financial and technical contribution of UNPRPD, a comprehensive analysis of disability issues⁵ was carried out. The outcomes of this work was used to ensure that the *National Development Strategy 2016-2030*⁶ (NDS) and the *Mid-Term Development Strategy for 2016-2020*⁷ (MTDS) endorsed by the Government in 2016 take due consideration of the issues and rights of persons with disabilities.

The multi-sectoral *National Programme on Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities 2017-2020*⁸ was adopted in 2016 (resolution number 455 dated 28 October 2016), which is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁹. The National Programme is the first normative document on disability issues since the independence of the country in 1991 and addresses the rights of persons with disabilities in the spheres of health, rehabilitation, education, livelihood, social protection, culture, accessibility, justice, etc. The multi-sectoral National Programme provides a long-term vision and a road map on the rights of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan up to 2020.

The community-based rehabilitation (CBR) approach has been fully adopted in Tajikistan. In 28 out of 68 districts of the country, CBR projects are being implemented by the MOHSP in partnership with local civil society organisations (NGOs, DPOs and Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities) through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Through the project, 52 stakeholders had their capacity on Communication for Development enhanced. These stakeholders included men (7) and women (3) with disabilities, who represented DPOs (16), Associations of Parents with Disabilities (9), NGOs, Government, and media. This pool of trained stakeholders will be used in the second phase of the project to implement the future awareness raising interventions.

Out of the two impact indicators, one was already met as the project came to completion on 31 December 2017. The Government did not sign the CRPD despite its commitment to do so by December 2017 as reflected in its UPR Plan of Action. This unexpected delay was apparently due to some inaccuracies in the documentation prepared for the signing procedure. The signing of CRPD is now expected in the first quarter of 2018.

3. Progress towards specific outcomes

Please describe the progress made during the project implementation period towards the realization of each of the outcomes envisaged in the approved project document. To the extent that is possible, clearly outline the link between

⁴ [UPR Recommendations 2016](#)

⁵ "Analysis of Legal, Economic and Functional Implications of Tajikistan Joining the CRPD", 2015

⁶ NDS was approved by the Government on 1 October 2016 and endorsed by Parliament on 1 December 2016 (Ref. 636).

⁷ MTDS was approved by the Government on 26 November 2016 and endorsed by Parliament on 28 December 2016 (Ref. 678).

⁸ [Tajikistan National Programme on Rehabilitation](#) of People with Disabilities 2017-2020

⁹ United Nations (2007). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, G.A. Res. 61/106 (2007)

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/convtexte.htm>

the outputs delivered by the project and the described outcome-related progress. Please also comment, as appropriate, on the variations in outcome indicators reported in Table 2.

Outcome 1 (lead agency: UNDP and WHO)

Signing/ ratification of the CRPD

Barriers holding back the Government's signing/ratification of the CRPD are overcome through evidence-based advocacy and practical advice on implementation of the National Plan for Implementation of the UPR recommendations related to CRPD ratification process

Key steps have been taken to lay the ground for the future ratification of the CRPD. The Government decision to sign the CRPD is now expected in the first quarter 2018.

At the outset of the project, the Government requested a more comprehensive analysis of the legal system and of the cost implications of the CRPD ratification was needed for the Government Working Group on CRPD (GWGCRPD) to plan concrete actions towards joining CRPD. In addition, the country did not have a comprehensive strategy to address the rights of persons with disabilities, which made it difficult for the country to fully address and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD and other international instruments. Recommendations for strengthening the GWGCRPD Action Plan were developed with UNDP's technical support and submitted to the Head of GWGCRPD on 15 June 2015 to guide the work of GWGCRPD.

As part of the UNPRPD project, UNDP assisted the Government in analysing the national legal system and in generating evidence on the cost implications of the country becoming a signatory to the CRPD. Starting from May 2015, the Government, with technical assistance from UNDP, conducted consultations with the ministries and state agencies and conducted focus-group discussions in Dushanbe, the capital city, and four regional centres. As a result, the *Analysis of legal, economic and functional implications related to Tajikistan joining the CRPD* was developed.

The findings and recommendations of the analysis were disseminated to the key stakeholders in cities and regions of the country. The Government, in cooperation with UNDP and several DPOs, conducted roundtables from June to November 2015. Some 210 people participated in the national and regional roundtables (96 women, 74 persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities). As an outcome of the roundtables, all participants accepted to make an appeal to the Government to "urge all interested parties to take the necessary steps to complete the process leading to the signing of the CRPD by the end of 2015".

National Programme on Rehabilitation

The multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation, which was drafted in close engagement with DPOs, Coalition of Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities, national and international development partners and submitted in 2015 by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MOHSPP) was reviewed by the Parliament and the Presidential Executive Office (PEO) in 2016. Intensive technical support was provided by the project in drafting, reviewing and finalizing the document in consultation with different ministries, state agencies and committees (including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Education and Science; Labour, Migration and Employment; Finance; Economic Development and Trade; Justice; Transport; State agency of Social Protection; Statistics; Committee of Architecture and Construction; Youth, Sport and Tourism; Women and Family Affairs; Office of the Ombudsman, etc.) along with national and international NGOs, United Nations agencies, development partners, donor agencies, Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities and disabled people's organisations. In total, approximately 110 different organisations within the country participated in the drafting and review process. Eventually, the National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020) was approved and adopted (resolution no. 455) on 28 October 2016 by the President as the head of Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Government has appointed the National Coordination Council on Health and Social Protection to monitor the multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation. The Coordination Council includes ministers and in-charges of the 23

ministries, state agencies and committees in Tajikistan and is headed by the deputy Prime Minister. The project is working with the Government to make the Coordination Council inclusive of civil society organisations including Disabled People's Organisations.

To further build leadership and management capacity of the Government to effectively implement the National Programme on Rehabilitation, a two-week course on Leadership, Management and Governance was conducted in April, 2017. The two-week course covered 125 participants from MOHSPP, Institute of Public Administration and local non-governmental organisations involved in the implementation of the National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan. The training helped to ensure that the management practice of disability stakeholders in Tajikistan is aligned with the aims and objectives of the National Programme on Rehabilitation, to monitor the progress of implementing teams, and to support building leadership and management capacity.

Technical support was provided to MOHSPP to translate the National Programme into English and to print the document (including in Braille) to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders. Support was also provided to MOHSPP, as the lead ministry for implementing the National Programme, to launch the programme in January 2017 in the presence of a wide range of stakeholders (203 participants – 91 women / 112 men). The national implementation review meeting on the National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan 2017-2020 was conducted in October 2017. The meeting was organized by MOHSPP, and attended by donor agencies, UN agencies, I/NGOs and DPOs (49 participants - 21 women / 28 men). The aim of the meeting was to assess the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the National Programme against set indicators during the first year of implementation, and to review activities and challenges. The progress and challenges of the first year were then shared during the 6th joint MOHSPP and development partners' annual national review and planning forum, attended by all the ministries, agencies and committees as well as representatives from Parliament and PEO, donor agencies, UN agencies, I/NGOs and DPOs in November 2017. Based on the findings of the review meetings and inputs from regional and district authorities, MOHSPP is drafting the annual progress report for its submission to the National Coordination Council on Health and Social Protection and the PEO.

More than 170,000 persons with disabilities (including women and children with disabilities) registered in Tajikistan will benefit from the recently approved National Programme on Rehabilitation. The project contributed significantly through the development of a normative framework that addresses the policy gaps on disability that existed in Tajikistan at the onset of the UNPRPD project.

Outcome 2 (lead agency: UNICEF)

National, provincial, district decision and opinion makers' awareness and positive attitudes about needs, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities have increased with a focus on women and children with disabilities

Through the project, a solid foundation was laid to help raise awareness on issues of disabilities and to promote positive attitudes about adults and children with disabilities. The *Baseline Study on Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Children and Women with Disabilities* conducted in 2016 brought to light the misconceptions that prevail in Tajikistan about people with disabilities and the dominant feeling of pity towards this segment of the population. The evidence generated was used to develop a Communication for Social Change (C4SC) Strategy that "is designed to strengthen individual and collective capacities (at household, community and institutional levels) to promote a socially inclusive environment that is responsive to the needs and rights of all citizens, especially children with disabilities." The project also contributed to the mobilisation and capacity enhancement of a wide range of stakeholders, including adults and children with disabilities, Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities and DPOs, etc., around the preparations of a nationwide evidence-based awareness raising campaign on disability inclusion, which will be launched in early 2018. This first media campaign to be rolled out over a period of six months will be followed by annual mini campaigns focusing on more specific issues related to disability. A Reference Group consisting of representatives of Government, civil society organisations and UN agencies, including men and women with disabilities, was set up to guide and facilitate the implementation of the C4SC Strategy. Through the project, basic

capacity on C4D was created among a range of stakeholders (men (7) and women (3) with disabilities representing DPOs (16), Associations of Parents with Disabilities (9), NGOs, Government, and media), which will be strengthened in the future and used to support the expansion of C4D interventions.

Through continued engagement with national level government officials using various platforms (e.g. Steering Committee meetings, Reference Group meetings, training workshops), the project was able to influence positively the perceptions about persons with disabilities among these officials. These represent the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, and the Committee on Religious Affairs and Regulation of National Traditions and Rituals.

The end line study on Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Children and Women with Disabilities planned in late 2018 or early 2019 will enable the measurement of progress in changing prevailing perceptions about disability.

Outcome 3 (Contributing agency: WHO, UNICEF and UNDP)

One district implements Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR¹⁰) principles targeting mainly children and women with disabilities to demonstrate the benefits of implementation of the principles of CRPD and a functional multi-sectoral approach to inclusive development for future scaling up.

Considerable progress has been made during the project implementation period towards the advancement of CBR in Tajikistan. A major contribution of the project was the development of a sustainable national Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model that is owned by the Government and implemented in partnership with local CSOs (i.e. NGOs, DPOs and Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities) through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Within this PPP arrangement, local NGOs receive funds from the Government to provide CBR services and the State Agency on Social Protection of the Population monitors the implementation. Prior to the UNPRPD project, CBR interventions were implemented in four districts of Tajikistan with financial support from international NGOs only. With technical support from the project, the MOHSPP initiated CBR PPP mechanism in 15 districts in 2015, which was further expanded to 20 districts in 2016 and to 28 districts in 2017. This represents a significant expansion from a baseline of four districts prior to the start of the project. The CBR projects will be further expanded to 35 districts in 2018. The UNPRPD project had a positive influence on the Government funding for CBR, which increased from USD 495,000 in 2015 to USD 672,000 in 2017 and to USD 830,000 in 2018.

The project also supported consensus building among a wide range of stakeholders – UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and Government - to adopt a common vision on CBR and to establish and strengthen a CBR coordination mechanism, namely the Tajikistan CBR Network, which is chaired by Government and co-chaired by two representatives of a DPO and a local NGO. Over the course of the three-year project implementation, this has been a major achievement with CBR Network membership having increased from seven international organisations to 50 organisations representing Government, DPOs, Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities, local NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies. The partners implementing the project have actively supported this process and contributed to the above result.

A few more actions have proved pivotal in enhancing the quality of CBR. This involved strengthening the capacity of CBR organisations involved in the implementation and management of CBR projects. This included CBR workers and managers training in 2015 and 2017. In total, 232 CBR workers and managers (164 women / 68 men) across the country were trained in the project life cycle.

Furthermore, a delegation from Tajikistan consisting of Government, I/NGOs and UN agencies participated in the Third Asia-Pacific CBR Congress in Japan in September 2015 and the Second CBR World Congress in September 2016. In both conferences, Tajikistan's experience was recognized as a good practice where the Government played a leading role in

¹⁰ Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is a set of framework to make optimum use of local resources in order to address the broader needs of people with disabilities (PWD), ensuring their participation and inclusion in society. The CBR aims to strengthen community power for the inclusion of PWD in health, education, livelihood, social life and empowerment.

expanding CBR through PPP. In addition, Tajikistan was also selected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific CBR Network.

To further strengthen CBR in Tajikistan, the draft of the Standards and Specifications on CBR in Tajikistan is currently being finalized by the national CBR Network and MOHSPP in order to harmonize CBR implementation in the districts, as well as its monitoring and evaluation.

Joining hands with other stakeholders in promoting CBR in Tajikistan, UNICEF provided assistance at home to 147 children with disabilities (75 boys / 72 girls) and their caregivers living in eight jamoats in underserved Rasht district. Outreach services included basic physiotherapy, referral to specialised services, counselling to caregivers, and advice on how to enrol children in mainstream school and to apply for disability pension.

The contribution of the project to the above-mentioned achievements in promoting CBR in Tajikistan was primarily in the form of policy influencing and technical guidance to Government and civil society organisations. These results are an indication of the “soft power” that the project has gained over the past three years. The project also enabled the three partnering UN agencies to work closer together. This collaboration was positive in advocating jointly, and through the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), with Government for Tajikistan to join the CRPD. The UNPRPD project was identified by the RC as a “flagship” project in the UNDAF annual reporting in 2017. The project was also presented during the UNDESA international training workshop on disability organised in November 2017 in Dushanbe.

4. Other results

Please describe in this section:

- **Spin-off effects.** Positive results generated by the project which were not anticipated in the project document result chain.

For the first time in Tajikistan, the President referred to the rights of persons with disabilities and the need to develop programmes and services for persons with disabilities in his annual speech to the Parliament in 2015 and again in 2016¹¹. The presidential statement is an indication that the Government is progressively placing disability issues at the forefront of its agenda.

During the 6th joint MOHSPP and development partners’ annual national review and planning forum held in November 2017, disability and rehabilitation were added as themes on the review agenda. A representative from the Global Alliance on Vaccination and Immunization (GAVI) Headquarters attended the national forum on behalf of GAVI and mentioned that this was the first time that GAVI had seen such emphasis on disability in an ex-Soviet Union country, and that GAVI will ensure that reaching children with disabilities is added as a specific indicator in their current regional financial support to the region (incl. Tajikistan).

- **Participation and partnership-building.** How the project has contributed to promote the participation of persons with disabilities and partnership-building across key constituencies.

The project contributed to increased capacity and willingness of the Government to collaborate with persons with disabilities and organisations representing them (i.e. DPOs, Coalition of Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities) in the formulation of the National Programme on Rehabilitation. This was evident in the development of the multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation, which involved proactive engagement with DPOs. The National Programme development process required MOHSPP to report on its consultation with DPOs to the Government. This

¹¹ [Presidential Address 2015 Tajikistan](#); [Presidential Address 2016 Tajikistan](#); [Presidential Address 2016 \(b\) Tajikistan](#)

was the first time that MOHSPP had to report to Government on its engagement with DPOs and had the opportunity to implement the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’. The consultation process involving proactive engagement with DPOs led to the planning and development of an informed policy document and the building of knowledge of DPOs on rights, tools and procedures for developing a policy document. The consultation process allowed DPOs to access and actively participate in decision-making platforms and ensured accountability in planning a policy document.

- **UN system-wide coherence.** How the project has contributed to greater UN inter-agency collaboration in the area of disability rights in the country.

UNICEF, UNDP and WHO have collaborated to strengthen coordination and synergy on disability issues. Issues of disability have been incorporated in the UNDAF for 2016-2020. The new UN Resident Coordinator is a strong advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and is willing to advance the CRPD agenda in Tajikistan. In a number of high-level events and during bilateral meetings with Ministers and senior Government officials, the new UN RC has advocated for Tajikistan to join the CRPD (e.g. 1 December 2017 during the celebration of the International Disability Day, the official letter from RC to the Government of RT)¹².

- **Knowledge creation.** How the project has contributed to generating new knowledge on how best to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of the UN system operational activities. Please also describe in this section any unique expertise and products developed by the project that could be used to support other countries in a south-south cooperation framework.

Topic	Web-link
Situational analysis on disability inclusion (English and Russian)	Situational analysis-state-of-rehabilitation-in Tajikistan
Posters (English and Russian) on the goals of rehabilitation	Posters on self-care and mobility-functional independence and social participation education-and-work-2014
Multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities 2017-2020 (Russian and Tajik)	Multi-sectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities
Baseline Study on Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Children and Women with Disabilities	Baseline Study Report
Comprehensive analysis of legal, economic and functional implications of Tajikistan’s joining the UN CRPD	 <p>Tajikistan + CRPD Analysis final report</p>

¹² Please see also the UN RC’s statement devoted to the International Disability Day

- **Leveraging effect.** Any catalytic effect that the project had in terms of mobilizing additional resources from the government, other parts the UN systems, the international community or other partners.

Through the intense advocacy conducted during its implementation, it is believed that the project has had few catalytic effects. One of them is the decision of Government to enter into public-private partnerships for the provision of services by local NGOs mostly for the rehabilitation of adults and children with disabilities using day care centres. It has to be noted that the Budget Support Framework of the European Union (EU) for Tajikistan includes targets related to the provision of non-institutional services to persons with disabilities. In other words, the UNPRPD project and the EU programme are mutually reinforcing in promoting CBR interventions in Tajikistan and in leveraging government funding.

In addition, the National Programme on Rehabilitation is contributing to coordinating resource mobilization for Tajikistan through coordinated development of projects amongst development partners and Government to achieve the objectives of the National Programme.

5. Life stories and testimonies

Please provide in this one or more life stories or direct testimonies to illustrate the results described in sections 2-4. To the extent that is possible, reporting teams are encouraged to share photo, video and other materials to accompany the stories described in this section.

Testimony 1¹³

“On behalf of 80 000 people with disabilities from 50 member organizations of the National Association of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those involved in the development and adoption of the National Programme on Rehabilitation,” states Mr Asadullo Zikrihudoev, Chairman of the National Association of Disabled People of Tajikistan.

“The Programme is a big step forward and we are confident that it will improve the health of people with disabilities, as well as support their education, employment and self-esteem for full inclusion in society.”

Testimony 2¹⁴

“The National Programme on Rehabilitation (2017–2020) aims to create an enabling environment with equal opportunities for all,” says Dr Saida Umarzoda, First Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan. “WHO’s support (through the UNPRPD project) in involving diverse disability and development stakeholders has made a significant contribution to shaping the National Programme to better meet the needs of its users.”

Testimony 3¹⁵

At the college where I study, we have children with a range of disabilities,” mentions Firdavs. “But the attitude towards students who have hearing impairments is the worst. The teachers think that since we cannot hear, we are stupid. Yet, they do not provide us with sign language interpretation to make it easier for us to learn.” In April 2017, Firdavs attended a six-day production workshop to kick off planning for the first social change campaign. The workshop brought together children and adults with disabilities, representatives from organisations for people with disabilities and other

¹³ A web news on how the Tajikistan National Programme on Rehabilitation contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tajikistan is available at [link](#)

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ A Human Interest Story was developed during the project to highlight the positive effects that inclusion and engagement with children with disabilities has had on the life of one adolescent boy- [link](#)

civil society organisations, and media to develop a series of campaign prototype materials, ranging from TV and radio spots, animations, children’s books, posters, and even apps for smartphones and tablets.

“Everything in the workshop was accessible. I did not feel like a stranger there. Everyone was smiling at each other, sign language interpretation was provided and I immediately felt that I belonged,” said Firdavs. “The videos shown in the workshop were a true eye-opener for me. I saw so many opportunities that people with disabilities around the world have, including those who are deaf. I realised that having a disability should not stop me from being a full member of society.” It was the first time Firdavs attended an event of this type – he even ended up featuring in one of the videos produced during the workshop. By the end of the fifth day, everybody was convinced that Firdavs had the ‘right stuff’ to become a future advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

“I walked out of the workshop a different person,” recalls Firdavs. “I knew we should stand up for our rights, but I did not know how – this workshop taught me what is possible and I am ready to take action. At my college, I started to teach basic signs to my classmates to improve our communication. I feel braver now to approach my teachers and ask them to find other ways to share class materials with me, if sign language interpretation is not available. At home, I think I need to teach my younger sister more signs to help her as well.”

Firdavs, 18, is the eldest child in his family and has three younger siblings. Like his younger sister, he was born deaf. This time – for the first time – Firdavs spoke up and his father listened.

Testimony 4

A newspaper’s article also describes the “eye-opener” experience of a journalist, Amon Mardonov who participated in the media production workshop held (through the UNPRPD project) in April 2017 to design prototype materials for the awareness raising campaign on disability inclusion [link](#). In his words, “... one day my attitude changed towards those with disabilities. My profession as a journalist allows me to always meet different people and ask them about different things. This happened during a six-day training for talented people “Communication for social change”, which was organized by UNICEF in Tajikistan. It was attended by journalists, video producers and photographers, animators and painters, graphic designers, musicians, actors and other representatives of art as well as youths and adults with disabilities, who have participated in the process of the development of the video materials and radio programmes, posters, cartoons, illustrated books for kids with disabilities and other communication materials.... I realized that in order to change our attitude towards people with disabilities from feeling sorry to accepting them as equals, we just need to communicate with them more.”

6. Challenges and unforeseen events

Please describe in this section any major challenges or unforeseen events emerging during the project implementation period and the impact they had on project implementation. Please also describe that measures that were taken by the project to respond to these events, including revisions of the original project document.

During the second cycle of UPR held in 2016, the Government accepted recommendations to join the CRPD. As a follow-up, in June 2017, the Government adopted a National Action Plan to implement UPR recommendations, which includes three measures related to CRPD. Preparations were made for the signing of the CRPD and in November 2017, a complete package of documents for joining CRPD was submitted to the Government.

Despite the above positive steps, the Presidential Decree regarding Tajikistan’s joining the CRPD is still under the review of the Government. In spite of efforts to seek clarity from the Government on the timeline for signing the CRPD, no clear deadline was given. In light of this, the three partner UN agencies have decided to involve actively the new UN Resident Coordinator to do high-level advocacy for achieving the impact result of the project. As a result, the MOHSPP sent an additional request to the PEO to accelerate the review of the package for joining the CRPD in January 2018.

The launch of the awareness raising campaign planned to coincide with the International Disability Day in December 2017 could not take place due to inadequate ownership on the part of the MOHSPP. Despite repeated efforts to engage with the Department of Social Protection in the MOHSPP and attempts to leverage the support and influence of the Chair of the UNPRPD Steering Committee, it was not possible to obtain the approval of the Minister. New avenues to engage with high-level Government decision-makers are being explored, which include the national Commission on Child Rights chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. By placing the awareness raising efforts at a higher level in the Government structure, it is hoped that the various ministries, beyond the MOHSPP, will develop a sense of shared responsibility towards promoting and protecting the rights of adults and children with disabilities.

The project Steering Committee (SC) established in 2015 met regularly throughout the project lifetime, although the quarterly frequency of meetings was not strictly followed. The SC is chaired by the MOHSPP and its members represent the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, the Ministry of Finance, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, and three DPOs and persons with disabilities. Among the roles that the SC members were expected to play was leveraging support and influence for the project implementation from their respective institutions. This did not happen sufficiently probably because the SC members are mid-level technical officials. Phase 2 of the project will provide the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness of the SC and possibly review its leadership and composition in light of the results that will be pursued in 2018-2019.

7. Project follow-up

Please provide an overview of initiatives planned by various stakeholders in order to follow up on activities initiated by the project. Kindly make sure to cover at least the following stakeholders: relevant parts of Government, organizations of persons with disabilities, UN system, and other development partners operating in the country.

Within Phase 2 of the project in 2018-2019, the three partner UN agencies will continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including women, adolescents and children with disabilities, through legal reform for alignment with the CRPD; support to monitoring the implementation of the National Programme on Rehabilitation involving actively persons with disabilities and DPOs; and continued awareness raising to promote disability inclusion.

Building on the comprehensive analysis carried out during Phase 1, UNDP will undertake a review of the selected legislative documents in a participatory manner taking into account the diversity of the experiences of disability by persons with different types of disability and gender. The review will guide the formulation of recommendations for compliance with CRPD requirements, including on gender sensitive and gender equality specific aspects. Using other resources, UNDP will also continue providing legal aid to persons with disabilities via the state run network of Legal Aid Centres currently operating in Tajikistan.

Using other resources, UNICEF will scale up the awareness raising efforts initiated within the project. In addition, it will provide technical and financial assistance to the Ombudsman for Child Rights to implement its approved Strategy for 2018-2020 that focuses on "Access to Education for Children with Disabilities". This will imply advocacy with policy and decision makers and monitoring of the situation of children with disabilities in schools. The Ministry of Education and Science will also be supported to refine its concept of Inclusive Education to ensure that children with disabilities have access to mainstream schools rather than specialised schools. Capacity development among teachers and other school personnel and development of resources will also be pursued.

