

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

## Evaluative review of the Development Account Project: Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme

### Final Report

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*This report contains the author's opinions and are not  
necessarily those of the commissioning agency*

## **Acknowledgments**

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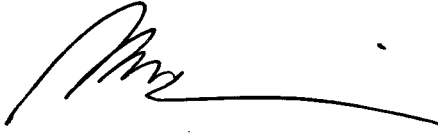
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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

BMF	Biwako Millennium Framework
EA	Expected Accomplishment
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ICF	International Classification on Functioning, Disability and Health
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
PMD	Programme Management Division
SDD	Social Development Division
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
WG	Washington Group
WHO	World Health Organisation

### MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

<b>Evaluative review of the Development Account Project: Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme</b>	
 <b>Signature</b>	 <b>Signature</b>
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<i>9-9-2010</i> <b>Date</b>	<i>9 SEPT. 2010</i> <b>Date</b>

#### GENERAL REMARKS BY MANAGEMENT

ESCAP's Statistics Division (SD) agrees with the main conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. SD would, in particular, like to highlight the conclusions: (a) that the project has gained an international reputation on its innovative approach towards the design of questions sets and (b) that the momentum generated by the project needs to be carried forward to reach the more ambitious goal of influencing national disability policy making throughout the region.

Most of the recommendations in the evaluation report are framed in terms of what might be improved during a possible extension of the project, although it was made clear to the evaluator that the project could not be extended. The specific responses below therefore reflect SD's position on each of the recommendations if and when funding can be obtained for a follow-up project.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review the results framework and adjust its objective to what it will realistically achieve by the end of the next three years, if extended;
2. Be more inclusive of other stakeholder categories, and develop national ownership of the process by having at least one regional workshop in each of the participating countries, as and if the conditions allow, and upon agreement from the project countries;

#### MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Agreed; will be done if new funding can be procured for a follow-up project.

During the project, one national workshop was held in each participating country. Project managers highly encouraged country counterparts to invite all stakeholders (DPOs, Ministries of Health and Social Development) to inform them about, and share with them the experience of the project. Due to the nature of the workshops (technical training), participation of these additional stakeholders was in most cases limited to the opening session.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Accept an increase in the number of participants with three additional countries, even if they are only observers during the first year to come up to speed with the core project countries;
4. Develop a communication and dissemination strategy, so that the importance of the process and the results are known outside of the small group of partners involved in the project – and eventually using a regional newsletter – taking examples on other regional projects, for example the UNIAP;
5. Have an exit strategy, so that when the project finishes the ownership and responsibility for the continuation will be gradually handed over to the participating countries, instead of having the project abruptly stop;
6. Consider a final project evaluation in light of the project document and results framework after the new phase has been completed.
7. It could be very desirable to gain more external exposure to promote a yearly international award for the country with the most outstanding track record in achieving progress towards the project objectives (thus not necessarily the most advanced in that field, but the one that has made the most positive change). The award could be to finance the attendance of an increased number of participants for the workshops, or specific training (e.g. on Q-notes or other) as requested, or some dimension of technical capacity development that would be appealing for all countries.
8. Consider posting publicly the current report in line with good evaluation practice, transparency and accountability criteria, and as a means to more widely disseminate evaluation practices.

## MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

In case of a follow-up project, this recommendation will be reflected in the project design.

As for point 3, in case of a follow-up project this recommendation will be included in the design.

This is one of the most useful recommendations and lessons learned. The project was quite successful in working closely with NSOs. However, further dissemination of project achievements would have been an invaluable asset to improve the participation of other stakeholders and to strengthen in-country advocacy efforts.

The handing over of the project to NSOs was actually achieved. It must be highlighted, however, that much of the continuation of the project at the country level depends on governments' willingness to collect data on disability.

On the other hand, it is recognized that the project should not stop abruptly for which the management will seek funding to provide continuance to the project and it will also support some follow activities through regular budget resources.

In case of a new project continues, this recommendation will be included in the project design, as this is common practice for every ESCAP project.

This recommendation can be considered in case a new project is put in place.

This evaluation will be posted at the disability statistics webpage [www.unescap.org/stat/disability/](http://www.unescap.org/stat/disability/) in December 2010 when the project concludes.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### *Background of the evaluation*

The current evaluation was commissioned by the ESCAP Statistics Division. It is meant to evaluate the UN Development Account Project, “Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and Regional Census Programme” implemented by ESCAP in cooperation with internal and external partners, including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, WHO and selected national statistical offices and experts. The project started in August 2007 and is coming to an end in December 2010, after having received a one-year extension.

### *Purpose and scope of the evaluation*

The main purpose of the evaluation is to: (a) assess the performance of the project; and (b) derive lessons from implementation to put forward recommendations for future interventions in the same area of work.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- (i) Assess the relevance and effectiveness of the project and the strategy used in its implementation, and
- (ii) Formulate concrete recommendations based on an overall assessment of the project and the lessons learned to inform future work in statistical capacity building projects.

### *Methodology*

In line with the TOR for the Project evaluation and after discussion and review of the evaluation scope with ESCAP staff, and based on the evaluation framework, four different methods have been used to collect data and information in order to appraise the performance of the project, its relevance, effectiveness and sustainability: documentary review and content analysis, face to face interviews, observation, and e-mail survey to selected respondents.

### *Main findings and conclusions*

The ESCAP Development account 5<sup>th</sup> Tranche Project AB – Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme has largely been successful in reaching two of its three Expected Accomplishments (EA).

The project has been particularly relevant and effective for EA 2, stated as “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”. Another specific contribution has been the achievement of EA 3, stated as “Increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics”:

The first anticipated result, EA 1, stated as “improved understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement by NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region”, has only been achieved at the NSO level. The project had an ambitious objective and did not necessarily have the resources to target all three stakeholder categories. While health professionals and policy makers did attend one workshop in Bangkok in 2008, this was only a one-off event and, while certainly showing a very positive response from the wider stakeholder categories of participants, it was not repeated and remains short of the critical mass necessary to reach all three target groups.

However the evaluation is able to confirm that improved understand of the ICF approach to disability measurement among the NSOs from the six participating countries has been achieved.

The project is currently entering its final phase, as the short-set of questions have been reviewed and practical research work has been undertaken, with most participating countries able to incorporate the short-set in the coming census work in the coming years. For the extended set of questions, and on the basis of the workshop in Bangkok and the presentation by the Washington Group and the project consultants, it appears that some additional work for certain domains is still required before the extended set of questions can be translated into operational modules for participating countries.

A specific mention must be made at the commitment of ESCAP to ensure that countries from Central Asia could participate, notably with Kazakhstan where translation into Russian has been necessary for all meetings held, and therefore entailed higher costs for the project. This proved a worthy investment as the project documents and meetings documents translated into Russian will be beneficial to other Central Asian countries interested in improving disability statistics in their countries.

It is also worth mentioning that the innovative exercise of conducting a cognitive test as part of this project has not only derived in enhancing countries’ technical expertise to collect data on disability, but it has also equipped NSOs’ staff with the necessary skills for effective questionnaire design in other areas of statistics.

### *Recommendations*

While participating countries continue to advance in the field of the ICF and the work of the Washington Group progresses and uses the achievements of the current project to expand to other regions and replicate some of the learning obtained, it is necessary for ESCAP to consider an extension of the project for at least an additional five year period if it wants to attain the overall project objective of “National disability policies and programmes, following the BMF and other international development goals, are developed, implemented and monitored on the basis of improved disability statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region”.



Several aspects of the project need a different time frame, with support for at least three years in order to continue to provide participants with a forum where regional interactions and exchange can take place and continue to provide specific technical assistance to NSO professionals until the extended set can be included as modules in the participating countries (although it is important to highlight that the extended question set will not be included until NSO have the financial resources to conduct such a survey). In addition the project should ensure that the linkages and a proactive strategy for targeting and communication is established to encompass the other two stakeholder groups: health professionals and policy makers.

A wider steering committee is required if health professionals and policy makers are to be active participants in a continuation of the project, and as the ultimate aim is that improved disability statistics must contribute to better informed and improved policy making in participating countries, it may be necessary to establish more formal links with other ESCAP divisions in order to support this process. In particular, while support to the NSOs should continue within the current system with site visits from the ESCAP Statistics Divisions to interested countries and stakeholders, there is a need for a wider framework to capitalise on the work achieved to date and develop the linkages for health professionals and policy makers, something that could be done as part of a wider programme provided appropriate funding is found and as a response to requests from member states.

The key issue is for the project to have a product and concrete examples of application where the use of the improved statistics based on ICF in participating countries have been able to generate and inform policy making, something the final project report is expected to partially cover, at least providing examples on how to make use of such estimates to inform policy making. In order to do so it may be necessary to place the continuation of the project for another three to five years depending on the revised objectives and maybe under a regional programme that could be led by the Social Development Division (SDD) of ESCAP, as this more ambitious goal requires behaviour change amongst policy makers and health professional, which in the evaluator's experience requires at least a 5 year time-frame to obtain results at both national and international levels.

In any case despite a conceptual framework somewhat overly ambitious regarding its stakeholder groups, the project has performed well with limited resources and has developed strong support and ownership among the participating project countries and partners.

## I. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the evaluation and the topic being evaluated

The ESCAP Statistics Division is implementing the UN Development Account Project, "Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and Regional Census Programme" in cooperation with internal and external partners, including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, WHO and selected national statistical offices and experts.

Building upon the outcome of the previous ESCAP/WHO project on disability statistics (2004-2006), this project seeks to further contribute to the development of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) based international standards for disability data collection, and to improve national technical capacity in integrating ICF-based disability data collection into regular national statistical systems, thereby improving availability, quality and comparability of disability statistics to support policy formulation and promote the implementation of the BMF in Asia and the Pacific.

The design and implementation of the project was overseen by a Steering Committee, composed of all key project partners. A Project Task Team of national statistical experts and disability data users was set up to coordinate the development and implementation of specific activities, particularly (1) the development of standard survey question sets; (2) the design and conduction of pilot tests; and (3) the pilot-test study plans as well as the subsequent joint data analyses.

An evaluation has been commissioned to appraise the performance of the project to date and identify lessons as it nears completion on December 2010.

### 1.2 Purpose, objectives and outputs of the evaluation

The main purpose of the evaluation is to: (a) assess the performance of the project; and (b) derive lessons from implementation to put forward recommendations for future interventions in the same area of work.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- (iii) Assess the relevance and effectiveness of the project and the strategy used in its implementation, and
- (iv) Formulate concrete recommendations based on an overall assessment of the project and the lessons learned to inform future work in statistical capacity building projects.

The evaluator has: (i) developed an evaluation framework; (ii) developed a peer review questionnaire for semi-structured interviews; (iii) developed a questionnaire survey to obtain feedback by e-mail from the wider stakeholder community, (iv) attended the workshop in Bangkok for NSOs from 6 to 9 July 2010, and (v) produced the present report.

### 1.3 Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation scope has been discussed with ESCAP and defined in the evaluation framework hereunder:

## EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

### ESCAP STATISTICS DIVISION DISABILITY MEASUREMENT PROJECT

Criteria	Key Question	Sub-Questions	Indicators	Source of information	Methods	Assumptions
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much was the project relevant to participating countries?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it relevant in improving disability statistics data collection mechanisms in participating countries?</li> <li>• Do the participating countries find the activities of the project useful for enhancing national capacity?</li> <li>• To what extent has the project adjusted to the changing needs or priorities of participating countries?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and rating of countries indicating confirming relevance</li> <li>• # and rating of countries indicating activities were useful</li> <li>• Level of flexibility as indicated by participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSOs at workshop</li> <li>• Progress reports</li> <li>• Selected stakeholders (purposeful sampling of key informants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire</li> <li>• Documentary review</li> <li>• E-mail survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSO availability for interview</li> <li>• E-mail responses from selected survey stakeholders</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent has the project been supporting your country in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective was ESCAP in guiding and supporting your country during project implementation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of countries confirming positive rating</li> <li>• Change in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project reports</li> <li>• NSOs at workshop</li> <li>• Pre and post-training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data gathered from baseline regarding the level of</li> </ul>

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Key Question</b>	<b>Sub-Questions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Source of information</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	<p>implementation of the project in order to achieve the three specific objectives of:</p> <p>a) improved understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement by NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region;</p> <p>b) increased national technical capacity for collecting disability statistics in accordance with ICF standards;</p> <p>c) increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective was ESCAP's collaboration in terms of enhancing your capacity?</li> <li>• How effective was the project in contributing to giving shape to a methodology which can be globally beneficial?</li> </ul>	<p>knowledge or awareness on disability statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of joint activities undertaken</li> </ul>	<p>questionnaires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected stakeholders (purposeful sampling of key informants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before/After survey comparison</li> <li>• E-mail survey</li> <li>• Documentary review</li> </ul>	<p>knowledge or awareness of participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of reports</li> <li>• Willingness to participate</li> <li>• Survey response</li> </ul>

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Key Question</b>	<b>Sub-Questions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Source of information</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the likelihood that the use of questions on disability in census and all surveys will be sustained within the participating countries?</li> <li>• What is the likelihood that the use of cognitive testing methodology in other areas will be sustained in participating countries?</li> <li>• Is there a need for a continuation of the project and if so, in what format?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How receptive are participating countries to incorporate the new methodologies?</li> <li>• What is missing from the project that would need to be pursued in the future?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of countries confirming use of the questions and methodology</li> <li>• # of stakeholders and countries recommending a follow-up</li> <li>• Format and purpose of any future intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSOs</li> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• ESCAP staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ownership of participating countries in the process</li> <li>• Willingness of participating countries to apply the knowledge and tools</li> <li>• Survey response</li> </ul>



## II. Methodology

### 2.1 Description of the methodology

The evaluation used different manners to obtain data and information: documentary review (content analysis), face to face interviews, e-mail survey to a selected sample of primary users not present at the workshop, and observation. Follow-up telephone conversations were held with two Steering Committee members. Major findings have been triangulated to ensure validity and credibility.

Specific evaluation methods included:

- 1) Documentary review and content analysis of all relevant documents related to the project and submitted by the ESCAP Statistics Division including project documents, technical papers, progress reports, workshop reports and evaluation, country reports, project report., etc.<sup>1</sup>;
- 2) Interviews with the ESCAP Statistics Division staff, as regards to a possible continuation of the project, review of the monitoring information regarding the project logical framework for all three Expected Accomplishments: EA 1 (improved understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement by NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region), EA 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 concern), and EA3 (increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics), including the relevant target indicators; and interviews with ESCAP Programme Management Division and Social Development Division for strategic positioning and contextualising of the organisation.
- 3) Individual interviews with the NSOs from the six partner countries attending the workshop in Bangkok from 6 to 9 July 2010;
- 4) Observation of participants during group work sessions during the workshop
- 5) E-mail survey to selected key informants from participating countries

Since only NSOs were present at the workshop, an e-mail survey was undertaken in order to reach other primary users (e.g. Disabled People Organisations, selected researchers, academics, civil society and NGOs, policy makers or others) after discussion and agreement with the ESCAP staff and NSO inputs regarding the sample composition and size. Given timing and costs constraints the sample included five key informants from the Project Steering Committee and four identified key informants selected by each project country up to a total of 29 survey respondents

The documentary review has taken place in June 2010, and individual interviews with selected ESCAP staff and NSOs have taken place from 5 to 10 July 2010 in Bangkok.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the bibliographical annex for details

The evaluation scope follows the terms of reference and uses the three evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness and sustainability in order to appraise the project design, performance to date and formulate recommendations and lessons and good practices in order to inform future work in statistical capacity building projects.

The evaluation also follows the UNEG evaluation standards, and those of the recently published ESCAP M&E guidelines.

Key questions have been asked to the participating NSO from the six pilot countries based on an interview protocol to ensure comparability and consistency across the interviews during the workshop session on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, on a country rotation basis of 45 minutes interview time starting at 13h30. A general group discussion was held the following day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 on the main issues and lessons identified during the one on one interviews, for approximately two hours.

For the e-mail survey to the identified sample of respondents a questionnaire was designed including closed and open-ended questions. Respondents were given ten calendar days to return the survey form and the deadline was extended until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

## 2.2 Constraints and limitations

Given budget limitations for the evaluation it is not feasible to conduct interviews with the wider stakeholder group in each country. Since in the workshop in Bangkok only NSOs were present, it was agreed that the evaluator would develop and undertake an e-mail survey to gather feedback from the broader constituency of the stakeholders involved. This includes the members of the project Steering Committee (SC) as well as representatives from the participating countries who are not NSOs. In total 29 key informants in addition to participating NSOs at the workshop were contacted through an e-mail survey.



### III. Findings

The project design contains a specific result framework which is articulated as follows:

<i>Overall objective</i>	<b>National disability policies and programmes, following the BMF and other international development goals, are developed, implemented and monitored on the basis of improved disability statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region</b>
Expected Accomplishment 1 (EA 1)	Improved understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement by NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region
Indicators	Increased number of participating NSOs using ICF standards and regional guidelines in national censuses and surveys, compared to non-participating countries at least 80% of workshop participants indicate to have increased knowledge and understanding, through pre- and post-workshop surveys
Expected Accomplishment 2 (EA 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.
Indicators	Increased number of NSOs providing disability indicators for policy making and analysis Increased number of countries that are developing or improving national disability information systems in line with international recommendations developed from this project.
Expected Accomplishment 3 (EA 3)	Increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics
	Increased number of South-South cooperation in developing or improving national disability information systems facilitated by this project Increased number of country-to-country exchanges of experience and cooperation efforts in the field of disability statistics and implementation of the ICF.

Based on the annual development account progress reports submitted by ESCAP Statistics Division, the project has largely met and exceeded (e.g. EA1 indicator 1.2 has an 86% result) the indicators as described in the results framework above, with the exception of EA2, indicator 1. where the information is “Not applicable at this time” which suggest that the target has not been reached yet,. For EA3 indicator 2, only qualitative information is available with no quantitative indication.

The evaluation has used the different sources of information to triangulate and explore further the achievements and objectives of the project. From the

combination of methods that included interviews with participating NSOs, e-mail survey, documentary review and observation, the evaluation comes to a differentiated analysis of the results, structured along the following lines:

### **Project design**

There are some flaws in the structure of the results framework that does not link the indicators of EA1 to the actual results as stated in EA1. While indicators focus on NSOs, the EA includes a wider community of stakeholders consisting of NSOs, health professionals and policy makers in the region.

The evaluation recognises that efforts were made to encompass all of the above stakeholders, as stems clearly from the successful results of the “Regional Workshop on Promoting Disability Data Collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses”, which took place in April 2008 and including participation of health and disability professionals and DPOs, in addition to senior statisticians, from 26 different countries. This clearly raised awareness and sparked a discussion on the use and interest of disability statistics. However this was a one-time event and was not replicated during the rest of the project life and there has been no critical mass built among the wider stakeholder community (e.g. in participating countries there is not yet a behaviour change from the policy makers and health professionals to incorporate the new approach to disability statistics). Consequently there is a gap between the intent to include health and disability professionals and policy makers in the project design, and the project activities themselves. There is no doubt that the indicators have been achieved and even exceeded, but this applies to NSOs and not to the entire range of stakeholders as mentioned in the RF.

Furthermore, in the evaluator’s experience, a behaviour change process requires a longer time frame than the actual project life, to be able to implement and appraise results of sustained advocacy, international and in-country efforts.

The second EA is largely accomplished as stated in the RF. Again, however, the formulation of the specific indicators relate to a different unit of analysis, as they refer to policy making and improving national disability information systems, whereas the EA statement is focused on national technical capacity for collecting disability statistics in according to ICF. The survey results indicate that 68% of respondents considered the project to have increased much or very much national technical capacity, versus 13% that considered it only increased it a little. Observation during the workshop and interviews with participating NSOs at the workshop confirmed that their technical capacity had been enhanced by the project.

The specific part regarding gender in the EA statement is subject to interpretation, and needs clarification. RF statements should be clear and explicit and not subject to interpretation. The question about how much gender concerns have been integrated into the project is a difficult one which was understood differently by respondents and interviewees. For example it was not clear if this meant that gender was a criteria for selecting participants, or during the pilot testing, that enumerators were

to be largely women. Therefore it is recommended to avoid ambiguous statements in a RF and possibly provide a clear guidance when and where necessary. For the purpose of the present analysis, the “extent to which gender concerns have been addressed” has been understood as the approach used to obtaining data for men and women during the pilot testing phase for participating countries, while for project SC members the question was understood as how much gender was mainstreamed into the project and its activities.

As regards to the third EA, the statement of achievement has clearly been reached by the project, as evidenced by the knowledge gains and sharing during the multiple regional workshops held. Nonetheless again the indicators do not necessarily specifically reflect the outcome statement. Because the process of improving disability statistics is a recent one, there is no baseline of the South-South cooperation in developing or improving national disability information systems, so the project has no clear source of evidence for this indicator (EA3 indicator 1). Although the annual project monitoring report responds by filling a narrative with some figures, this does not in reality fulfil the role of the expected performance indicator. The second indicator is not yet applicable at this time, which indicates work in progress. Yet since the project is finishing by the end of 2010 and has no funds for this component, the success of country-to-country exchange of experiences and cooperation efforts will depend on funds available from each participating country, so it is unclear to what extent this will be achieved. Noteworthy that at the workshop in Bangkok in July 2010 already some study visits are being planned amongst participating countries which are not financed by the ESCAP project.

In general terms the choice of indicators for the achievements may not be the most relevant to support the expected results. Nonetheless the indicators for EA3 are more ambitious than the outcome statement itself, which is to increase knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members, something which has clearly been achieved through the combination of regional workshops, in-country support visits by ESCAP staff, and the development and pilot testing of the questionnaires in each of the participating countries, not counting the presentations made by some of the participating countries in other regional forum. For the evaluator therefore the results have been achieved as this degree of interaction did not exist prior to the project although the indicators do not necessarily adequately reflect the results.

Finally, when one looks at the overall project objective, there is a disconnect between the essential focus of the current project, which is to support the collection of evidence-based and credible disability statistics, with the much more ambitious objective of “National disability policies and programmes, following the BMF and other international development goals, are developed, implemented and monitored on the basis of improved disability statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region”. For the evaluator, this unit of results requires a comprehensive programme and certainly cannot be achieved by a single project over such a short time-frame. The project design is therefore overly ambitious between its stated development objective and what can actually be achieved with its very limited means.

## **Project results**

In line with the TOR, the three main evaluation criteria are:

- a) relevance,
- b) effectiveness
- c) sustainability

### **Relevance**

There is no doubt that the project was highly relevant to the needs of the countries, and that it proved very timely. All sources of evidence converge on these two aspects, and the survey had 94% of respondents consider the project to have been both relevant or very relevant and timely or very timely (and most respondents are from participating countries), while in the interviews with NSOs at the workshop 67% indicated the project to be very relevant and 100% of NSOs indicated the project remains relevant today.

The project strategy itself seems to have shifted somewhat during the course of implementation. This project is a follow-up to a previous project, and from a telephone conversation with a Steering Committee member it appears that strategic options that were taken by the project that have affected the participation of some of the stakeholders as more emphasis was placed on WG methodology in detriment of the WHO approach. In practice the project has focussed more on the support to NSOs from participating countries than on the wider stakeholder category, although understandably so as the project is implemented by the ESCAP Statistics Division, for whom NSOs are the main stakeholders.

Much of the focus of the efforts has been on developing the methodology and pilot testing in participating countries, and the short set of questions is already finalised and will be used by at least two participating countries while the extended set requires additional work and further research as was mentioned at the Bangkok July 2010 workshop. Capacity development is attributed to the project given the specific nature of the activities undertaken, but not to the level of policy changes – yet. A proof of this is found in the NSO interviews with 100% of N/A (Not applicable) to this question, and all interviewees indicating “not yet” for an answer, while the survey results indicate that 31% of respondents consider it to have had little or very little contribution, versus 26% who thought it had contributed much or very much.

### **Effectiveness**

The project has been quite effective overall in terms of developing a new methodology for providing credible and evidence based information on disability, with a different focus from the previous approach which basically included only two questions on disability in the different countries censuses : “Are your disabled” and “what is your disability” was the commonly used approach to disability. Disability is complex and requires a multi-dimensional process to be correctly apprehended, instead of using single indicator methodologies. This project and the partnerships

with WHO and WG have succeeded clearly in changing the approach to and understanding of disability, by correctly addressing the different complexity levels of disability through a differentiated approach using specific methodologies.

At the same time because the extended set has not been completed yet<sup>2</sup> and since the participating countries are just starting to use the short set of questions in the upcoming censuses, there is no statistical evidence at this time that can be used to inform the discussion on disability or disability policies. This should be the focus of the continuation of the project, which may take a different shape altogether given the growing interest in this field and the results from this project which have been presented in a number of other initiatives and is the fore-runner of the newer initiatives such as the Granada Group and the Budapest Initiative.

There is a certain amount of technical discussions on the type of approach to the questions that the evaluator is not able to comment on, not being a subject matter expert. Different partners in the project have different methodologies, particularly WHO and the WG, and the ESCAP project seems to be more closely associated with the WG methodology. However the differences between WG and WHO approaches are not clear to the evaluator, although from the limited information gathered from phone interviews it appears that WHO may globally have a more holistic approach to disability. However the evaluator is not able to judge in general which method is most suited to the project, although due note has been taken that some of the extended set questions require further research and that at this time, there is still no clear indications on how the information will be coded and used for statistical purposes, as work remains focused on information collection and is only gradually working on information analysis (e.g. the workshop in Bangkok on 6-9 July 2010 was essentially addressing the cognitive testing and information analysis). Therefore the evaluator's concern is when will there be an evidence-based product that can be used by the remaining countries of the region, as the project is ending in December 2010 and it is unclear for the evaluator how much time will be needed to be able to finalise the extended question set.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, it is unclear how many countries might be able to use such a set, since already two of the participating countries indicated some political, institutional and financial limitations that would not allow them to apply the extended set in the near future.

As regards to the ESCAP performance, there has been a key role for ESCAP to act as convener and facilitator for the project, while most of the subject matter expertise was, according to telephone interviews with a SC member, found in the WG and WHO contributions. ESCAP itself has according to all interviewees (NSOs and SC members) played a major role in making the connection and interactions between the participating countries, and has accepted the challenge of including one country

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<sup>2</sup> Comment from ESCAP SD : "It must be said that the WG is responsible for developing international standards and so far only Asia (ESCAP) and Europe (Budapest Initiative) have done so. Hence, the work is not completed because there needs to be more testing for certain domains, but also because other regions need to test these questions to truly develop international standards"

<sup>3</sup> Comment from ESCAP SD : "It does not only depend on ESCAP or the WG, but on other regions also testing this question set as to be adopted as international standards."

where systematic translation into one of the United Nations languages, Russian, was necessary in all workshops. This is a witness to the commitment and responsiveness of ESCAP to its members. Furthermore, interviews and survey results indicate a high appreciation for the work of ESCAP. For example, the survey results indicate that ESCAP support to project countries was effective or very effective for 75% of respondents, with 19% N/A<sup>4</sup>.

The evaluation can therefore judge that the support and commitment of ESCAP to the project countries has been good and equally highly valued by the participating countries, while many other countries have expressed their interest in joining this project and process. The more specific effectiveness questions from the evaluation TOR were included in the survey and NSO interview protocol. ESCAP's good standing is also matched by high appreciation as evidenced in the survey results on the work of the partner agencies, particularly WG and WHO.

In terms of project activities, all the activities have been undertaken and the remaining challenge is to tease out the difficulties of the extended set of questions so that modules can be made available to any interested countries.

The question regarding gender equality was understood differently by NSOs and survey respondents<sup>5</sup>, but by and large there is a consensus that gender concerns were integrated into the activities and project results, although to a varying degree.

As regards to the development of national technical capacity, two thirds of survey respondents (68%) and of NSOs (66%) consider it has been developed much or very much.

There is also a consensus on the need to continue the project, with 100% of NSOs and survey respondents recommending a continuation of the project. The question is to determine what the continuation of the project should be like and its scope and time-frame given that there are different options and expectation from the different stakeholders, in addition to the critical issue of where to secure additional funding<sup>6</sup>.

Another accomplishment of the project has been in facilitating standardisation of terminology, criteria and definitions, with NSOs giving full marks and survey respondents 68% of positive responses.

Similarly a majority of survey respondents and 100% of NSOs interviewed indicated that the project was effective in contribution to a methodology which could be globally beneficial.

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<sup>4</sup> Many of the N/A (not applicable) are because some of those filling out the survey were not directly involved in the project and/or workshops given the different stakeholder categories of respondents

<sup>5</sup> Please see the first paragraph of page 15 for an explanation

<sup>6</sup> Comment from ESCAP SD : "ESCAP has tried to look for funding, but unfortunately, disability and in particular disability statistics are not high on the donors' agenda. Thus, it is not that ESCAP has overlooked this issue, but rather that there seems not to be sources of funding."

Finally the project has played an important role in improving respondents' understanding of the ICF approach, with 69% of survey respondents giving a much or very much rating, and 83% among NSOs.

It is much less clear how far the project has been able to inform project countries' policy priorities: although 62% of survey respondents have given a positive response, only one third of NSOs have given a positive response, with two thirds of N/A.

Similarly it is too soon to claim any incidence on national policy making, as 100% of NSOs have given an "N/A" response with the indication "not yet – but the potential exists". Therefore the conclusion is that the time-frame to reach the decision making levels is too short and the project itself may not have a strong incidence on national policy and programme making, unless a specifically targeted extension is foreseen.

In summary, the project has been highly effective in tackling and taking forward a complex and difficult process of moving from the traditional and simple approach to disability, to a much more comprehensive approach based on stronger methodological tools which should allow in the near future the collection of credible and useful disability statistics – but it has no capacity to influence higher level decision makers and policy makers at this stage.

### **Sustainability**

As the project comes to an end the issue of sustainability is on everyone's mind. However an assessment of the sustainability of the project depends on what is supposed to be sustainable.

As far as the inclusion of questions on disability in census and surveys, 56% of survey respondents consider it sustainable, versus 19% who do not, and 66% of the NSOs consider it sustainable, versus 17% who do not. Linked to the sustainability component is the question of budgets and resources being allocated for data collection, and two NSOs have expressed their concern that modules have to be kept simple enough not to be cut or discarded either because of their complexity or given the added costs.

While 69% of survey respondents indicate that some approach and commitment to take forward the project outcomes are being taken, the question is too ambiguous and vague and does not clearly relate to any sort of formal process. Responses given therefore are not on target and may not be taken at face value, so that this question's results have not been used as credible evidence.

What appears to be clear is that the various processes that run in conjunction and in parallel with this project, namely the WG initiative, the Granada initiative, the Budapest Initiative, the work of WHO on the ICF and their other projects, will all continue and feed on the achievements of the current ESCAP project.

Unfortunately ESCAP seems to be the only project that does not have a clear sustainability component, as it has not been able to attract additional funding for a continuation of the project to date despite looking – unsuccessfully – for funding. This is now a major concern expressed by all parties involved in the project.

#### **IV. Conclusions**

The project results are the interpretation by the evaluator of the different methods of information collection and evidence in order to place an informed judgement. The contents are thus based on the resulting analysis rather than a single dimensional view of the project.

The project is largely a success on the technical and capacity development side. Strong regional dynamics have been created with the participating countries and a reference group consisting of these countries now exists. A new approach with an experimental methodology is widening the field of disability from its traditional narrow view, and the pilot testing and cognitive testing have provided participating countries with a strong technical basis to contribute to the collection of improved, consistent and reliable disability statistics. However it is still work in progress for a number of results, and the finalisation of the extended set of questions, and the linkages with the policy making levels are still questions that need to find answers. In consideration of the resources placed into this project, the evaluator confirms that the project has performed very well despite an initially overly ambitious objective that has not been able to be fully reached at this stage, in part because disability may not always be at the top of the agenda in all countries.

The project has shown to be stronger on developing the technical elements but less so in terms of external visibility, on its marketing and fund-raising capacity and on the linkages with the higher level goals of policy making. At the same time, this can be understood since the actual products (census results that incorporate the new questions) are not yet available.

Another phase of the project is warranted in order to finalise the work in progress and link into the higher level goals.

However in terms of enhancing the statistical work programme of project countries or policy priorities, and as evidenced by the survey results, the project remains at an incipient phase and is unlikely to exert any real influence until concrete evidence is generated from the censuses and surveys using the new methodology<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Note from ESCAP SD :“ ESCAP does not have nor provides financial resources to pay for censuses or surveys. It is up to countries to do so”



## V. Recommendations

The continuation of the project depends very much on the interest of ESCAP members states given the lack of available financial resources; there are various options that can be explored, from the least-cost combination to the more ambitious goal of influencing national policy making through the provision of credible and sound disability statistics, with any sort of intermediate combination depending on the resources that can be made available for a continuation of the project.

In the views of the evaluator, the project has gained international reputation and has strong marks as one of the first of its kind. However ESCAP does not seem to have capitalised on its strengths and the project is coming to an end and dying from its own success as demands from other countries are growing but no additional funds are available for pursue the activities.

A continuation of the project also depends on the vision for the next phase of the project, and whether the Statistics Division will continue to lead the process or whether they are willing to be part of a larger programme. The evaluator does not know the structure of ESCAP in detail, but from discussion with the PMD and the SDD it appears that SDD has the mandate to work on the disability with partners in the social sector and at the policy making level. It could therefore be interesting for this project to focus on the technical dimension and consolidate the achievements between countries in the region and in finalising the extended set, while developing the regional technical resource base that can provide support to member countries.

At the very least the project should continue at least three years to finalise the extended set (in order to see what questions/modules might be included in the next census round in participating countries) and provide further technical support to project countries, while being much more inclusive of other stakeholders on similar processes (WHO, policy makers, health officials, in-country development of DPOs and building a national critical mass of partners viewing disability according to the ICF approach in each participating country). The specific recommendations are as follows:

1. Review the results framework and adjust its objective to what it will realistically achieve by the end of the next three years, if extended;
2. Review the indicators that will be used to appraise progress and ensure they are linked and flow logically from the EA statement; (it should be clear that indicators should be a measure of essential aspects of the outcome statement. For example for EA3, a more adequate indicator could have been 1.1 number of regional workshops with the participating countries sharing and exchanging information on their activities.)
3. Be more inclusive of other stakeholder categories, and develop national ownership of the process by having at least one regional workshop in each of the participating countries, as and if the conditions allow, and upon agreement from the project countries;

4. Accept an increase in the number of participants with three additional countries, even if they are only observers during the first year to come up to speed with the core project countries;
5. Develop a communication and dissemination strategy, so that the importance of the process and the results are known outside of the small group of partners involved in the project – and eventually using a regional newsletter – taking examples on other regional projects, for example the UNIAP;
6. Have an exit strategy, so that when the project finishes the ownership and responsibility for the continuation will be gradually handed over to the participating countries, instead of having the project abruptly stop;
7. Consider a final project evaluation in light of the project document and results framework after the new phase has been completed.
8. It could be very desirable to gain more external exposure to promote a yearly international award for the country with the most outstanding track record in achieving progress towards the project objectives (thus not necessarily the most advanced in that field, but the one that has made the most positive change). The award could be to finance the attendance of an increased number of participants for the workshops, or specific training (e.g. on Q-notes or other) as requested, or some dimension of technical capacity development that would be appealing for all countries.
9. Consider posting publicly the current report in line with good evaluation practice, transparency and accountability criteria, and as a means to more widely disseminate evaluation practices.

Much of what has been accomplished under the project will continue both within countries but also through the WG and other initiatives and the work of WHO, but it would be a loss of positive dynamics and an untimely withdrawal if the project could not continue to provide its service in the future to consolidate the achievements and ensure that at least the next round of censuses which incorporate the short set can be analysed and the finalisation of the extended set is achieved, while linking more closely with other stakeholders in line with the project's overall objective.

## **ESCAP Disability Statistics project evaluation**

### **Annex : list of documents consulted by the evaluation**

1. Project AB, Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme, Statistics Division, ESCAP, August 2007
2. Project Steering Committee minutes from September 2007 to February 2008 (6 meetings)
3. Project Steering Committee minutes from May 2008 and November 2008
4. Letter of Agreement, Philippines, 23 Feb. 2009, and annex I 10 March 2009
5. Letter of Agreement, Sri Lanka, 23 Feb. 2009 and annex I 23 Feb. 2009
6. Letter of Agreement 2009-0003, Cambodia, 10 March 2009
7. Letter of Agreement 2009-0006, Mongolia, 10 March 2009
8. Letter of Agreement 2009-0013, Maldives, 23 March 2009
9. Annual Development Account Progress Report, January – December 2008
10. Annual Development Account Progress Report, January – December 2009
11. Annual Development Account Progress Report, October 2008 – November 2009
12. Development Account extension request until December 2010, undated
13. Workshop evaluation report, April 2008
14. Workshop evaluation report, February 2009
15. Workshop evaluation report, December 2009
16. Mission and country visit reports, 16 missions to various countries including participating countries, Geneva, Washington, by Andres Montes, Kenneth Black, Margie Schneider from October 2007 until March 2010
17. Field test notes, Cambodia, August 2009
18. Field test notes, Kazakhstan, September 2009
19. Field test notes, Maldives, July 2009
20. Field test notes, Mongolia, undated
21. Field test notes, Philippines, August 2009
22. Field test notes, Sri Lanka, July 2009
23. Cognitive interview protocol, 5 March 2009
24. ESCAP-WG extended question set, 8 July 2009
25. ESCAP/WHO/WG quality assurance guidelines, June 2009
26. ESCAP/WHO/WG Guide to administration and question by question specification, Pilot test, 2009
27. ESCAP country report outline, undated
28. Cambodia field test report, December 2009
29. Kazakhstan field test report, undated
30. Maldives Pilot test field report 2009
31. Mongolia Pilot test field report 2009
32. Philippines pilot test field report 2009
33. Sri Lanka pilot test field report 2009
34. ESCAP M&E guidelines
35. ESCAP conclusions of the 8-10 December 2009 workshop in Bangkok
36. BMF document

**Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the  
Development Account Project:**

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

Prepared by:  
Statistics Division

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the evaluation**

The ESCAP Statistics Division is implementing the UN Development Account Project, “Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and Regional Census Programme” in cooperation with internal and external partners, including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, WHO and selected national statistical offices and experts. Building upon the outcome of the previous ESCAP/WHO project on disability statistics (2004-2006), this project seeks to further contribute to the development of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) based international standards for disability data collection, and to improve national technical capacity in integrating ICF-based disability data collection into regular national statistical systems, thereby improving availability, quality and comparability of disability statistics to support policy formulation and promote the implementation of the BMF in Asia and the Pacific.

The design and implementation of the project was overseen by a Steering Committee, composed of all key project partners. A Project Task Team of national statistical experts and disability data users was set up to coordinate the development and implementation of specific activities, particularly (1) the development of standard survey question sets; (2) the design and conduction of pilot tests; and (3) the pilot-test study plans as well as the subsequent joint data analyses.

### **1.2 Purpose, objectives and deliverables**

The main purpose of the evaluation is to: (a) assess the performance of the project; and (b) derive lessons from implementation to put forward recommendations for future interventions in the same area of work.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- (i) Assess the relevance and effectiveness of the project and the strategy used in its implementation, and
- (ii) Formulate concrete recommendations based on an overall assessment of the project and the lessons learned to inform future work in statistical capacity building projects.

The evaluation will be undertaken by an external consultant. The Statistics Division will be responsible for contracting the evaluator and managing the evaluation with support from the Programme Management Division. A Reference Group consisting of ESCAP staff members from the Statistics Division and the Programme Management Division will be established to provide technical advice and to build internal ownership.

The evaluator is expected to (i) develop an evaluation framework; (ii) develop a peer review questionnaire; and (iii) produce an evaluation report including a set of action-oriented recommendations. The tentative outline for the report is attached as an Annex

The draft evaluation report, including findings and recommendations, will be shared with the Reference Group prior to finalization. The final report, which will include a management response from the Director of the Statistics Division of ESCAP, will be made available in accordance with ESCAP's evaluation dissemination policy.

## **1.3 Scope**

The evaluation will cover the project duration from 2007-2010, involving all project countries: Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines and Sri Lanka in which the WG/ESCAP extended question set for surveys on disability were piloted.

The following main indicative evaluation criteria and evaluation questions will be addressed:

### **Relevance**

- (i) To what extent did the project activities meet the needs of the project countries?
- (ii) To what extent did the project strategy, process and activities adequately enhance the capacities of the project countries in their statistical work programme, their policy priorities, and also variations in terminology, criteria and definitions?
- (iii) How relevant and timely was the project to project countries in the context of improving their disability statistics data collection mechanisms?

### **Effectiveness**

- (iv) To what extent were ESCAP and its implementing partners effective in guiding and supporting the participating countries in the implementation of this project in their respective countries?
- (v) How effective was ESCAP's collaboration with its internal and external partners including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, WHO and selected national statistical offices and experts?
- (vi) To what extent of the project activities were the countries able to deliver? If some activities were not delivered, what were the main barriers to accomplishing these activities?
- (vii) To what extent was the project effective in contributing to giving shape to a methodology which can be globally beneficial?
- (viii) To what extent were the combination of trainings organized, advisory services provided, and technical papers beneficial in enhancing the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) in implementing such surveys, handling data collection, and analysis? To what extent of these combined modalities contributed towards the development of international standards and recommendations in this area of work?
- (ix) To what extent was gender equality reflected in the activities and results?

**Sustainability**

- (x) Is the proposed data collection methodology sustainable at the national level? What are the limitations or barriers in countries which may prevent sustainability?
- (xi) What approaches were taken to ensure support and commitment from project and non-project countries, partners, and other stakeholders to take forward the project outcomes?
- (xii) To what extent did ESCAP collaborate with other international organizations, including UN Country Teams or UN regional commissions to ensure sustainability?



## **2. METHODOLOGY**

This chapter describes the evaluation methodology and limitations of the evaluation.

### **2.1 Methodology**

The evaluation will follow the ESCAP evaluation norms and standards set out in ESCAP's M&E System, accessible through: <http://www.unescap.org/pmd/m-e-escap.asp>. The evaluation will cover the following:

- (i) A desk review of documents including project documents, technical papers, progress reports, workshop reports and evaluation, country reports, project report, etc.;
- (ii) Mission to ESCAP, and act as facilitator during a half-a-day peer review session to evaluate the project during a workshop on the analysis of the cognitive and pilot test results, to be held on 6-8 July 2010 in Bangkok.
- (iii) Conduct face-to-face interviews with NSO focal points and other stakeholders, partner agencies and experts;
- (iv) Phone interviews with selected Heads of NSOs, other focal points from NSOs, and other project partners and stakeholders if required.

### **2.2 Limitations**

- Face-to-face interaction with NSO focal points will take place during the workshop on the analysis of the cognitive and pilot test results, to be held on 6-8 July 2010 in Bangkok. Since only one half-a-day session is available for the peer review, the consultant should interact with NSO focal points during breaks and/or between workshop sessions. Other NSO members and stakeholders could be reached by phone if needed.

### 3. TIME REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINES

This chapter provides the timeframe of the evaluation.

#### 3.1 Time Requirements

<b>Evaluation Element</b>	<b>Tentative Timing</b>
Desk study of background documents, preparation for the Regional Workshop	5 days
Participate in the Regional Workshop in Bangkok, conduct interviews with the project countries and partners, facilitate peer review session	3 days
Follow up calls to relevant stakeholders (project countries, consultants and partner organizations)	2 days
Drafting of report	8 days
Finalization of report and presentation of final findings to ESCAP	7 days
Additional corrections/modifications to be made to the report based on ESCAP comments	5 days
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30 days</b>

#### 3.2 Timelines

<b>TASK</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>WHEN (insert date)</b>
Desk Review	Evaluator	June 2010
Develop an Evaluation Framework	Evaluator in consultation with Project Team	June 2010
Develop a peer review questionnaire	Evaluator in consultation with Project Team	July 2010
Facilitate peer review session and one-on-one consultation with project countries' coordinators	Evaluator + relevant stakeholders	July 2010
Follow up calls to project countries	Evaluator	July 2010
Draft Report	Evaluator	July 2010
Comments on draft report	SD + reference group	July 2010
Final draft	Evaluator	July 2010
Report dissemination	SD and PMD	July 2010

## ANNEXES

### Annex I. Contents of the Evaluation Report

Suggested report outline:

CONTENT	PAGES (estimate)	COMMENTS
Title page	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title, date of publication</li> <li>Names of the evaluators</li> <li>Name of ESCAP or division that commissioned the evaluation, web page address where report can be found electronically</li> </ul>
Acknowledgments	1	Prepared by the evaluation team
Table of contents	1	List of chapters, sections and annexes
List of acronyms	1-2	In alphabetical order; these are written out in full the first time they are used in the report
Executive summary	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background of the evaluation (one paragraph)</li> <li>Purpose and scope (one paragraph)</li> <li>Methodology (one paragraph)</li> <li>Main conclusions (one-sentence conclusions with brief explanation if needed)</li> <li>Recommendations (one-sentence recommendations with brief explanation if needed)</li> <li>Other comments or concluding sentence</li> </ul>
1. Introduction	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Background of the evaluation and the topic being evaluated</li> <li>1.2 Purpose, objectives and outputs</li> <li>1.3 Scope (including evaluation questions)</li> </ul>
2. Methodology	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Description of methodology: activities, timeframe, changes compared to TOR, and reasons for selecting sample reports, countries, sites, case studies, and interviewees as a representation of the topic being evaluated</li> <li>2.2 Limitations: limitations of the methodology and scope and problems encountered</li> </ul>
3. Findings	Varying length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 General: supporting information for the performance assessment and other assessment, if required</li> <li>3.2 Performance assessment: assessment against relevant evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability)</li> <li>3.3 Other assessment: assessment against relevant additional criteria (gender, rights-based approach, environmental sustainability, ESCAP priority countries and “one UN”)</li> </ul>
4. Conclusions	1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main conclusions, both positive and negative, of the evaluation that follow logically from the findings</li> <li>Ratings table with ratings for standard evaluation and additional criteria and a brief justification (optional)</li> </ul>
5. Recommendations	1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations based on the conclusions, which can be addressed to ESCAP management, ESCAP staff, donors and other relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>

<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>PAGES (estimate)</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Annexes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I. Management response (to be completed by ESCAP management)</li><li>• II. Terms of reference</li><li>• III. List of documents reviewed</li><li>• IV. List of interviewees</li><li>• Other annexes as required (e.g. schedule of work undertaken by the evaluators, reports of meetings, interview summaries, questionnaires)</li></ul>

## **Annex II. Quality criteria used to review Evaluation Reports**

The draft and final draft evaluation reports will be assessed against the quality criteria listed below.

	<b>Quality Check</b>	<b>Description</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The report meets the scope, purpose and objectives of the evaluation as stated in the TOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report is tailored to the information needs of ESCAP and/or other entities that commissioned the evaluation</li> <li>• The report does not deviate from the scope outlined in the TOR</li> <li>• The report can be used by ESCAP for the intended purpose as stated in the TOR</li> <li>• The objectives, as outlined in the TOR have been met, including: the assessment against relevant performance criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, etc.) is complete, i.e. evaluation questions under each criterion have been answered</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The report is structured logically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report follows the table of contents outlined in the TOR and includes the relevant annexes</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The evaluation methodology and its application are explained transparently and clearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evaluation methodology is clearly explained and has been applied throughout the evaluation process</li> <li>• Amendments to the methodology compared to what was proposed in the TOR have been clearly explained</li> <li>• The limitations of the evaluation methodology, including problems encountered during the conduct of the evaluation, and their implications for the validity of the findings and conclusions have been clearly explained</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The findings and conclusions are credible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant qualitative and/or quantitative sources of information have been considered</li> <li>• Analysis is done rigorously: triangulation is employed (cross-checking of findings against other relevant sources); cause-and-effect relationships are explained</li> <li>• Findings are adequately substantiated, balanced and reliable</li> <li>• The relative contributions of stakeholders to the results are explained</li> <li>• Limitations are explained</li> <li>• The conclusions derive from the findings and are clear</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The recommendations are useful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommendations are clear and follow logically from the conclusions</li> <li>• The recommendations are impartial</li> <li>• Recommendations are realistic, concrete and actionable within a reasonable timeframe</li> <li>• Recommendations for ESCAP should be clearly within the mandate of ESCAP</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The report is well written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The executive summary is brief but highlights the key findings, conclusions and recommendations</li> <li>• The report uses consistent grammar and spelling (in accordance with UN rules)</li> <li>• Main messages are clearly distinguished from the text</li> <li>• The report is written in good English and is easy to read</li> <li>• The subject of evaluation (programme, project, other) is clearly described including its logic model or results chain</li> <li>• The stakeholders of the programme or project are clearly identified</li> </ul>

## **Annex : interview list**

### **NSOs:**

- Cambodia  
Mr. Chan Lay, Deputy Director of Department, NIS  
Mr. Mao Po, Deputy Director, NIS
  
- Kazakhstan (through translation)  
Ms. Maira Amirkhanova, Head, Social Statistics Division, Departemnt of Social and Demographical Statistics, Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics  
Ms. Zhanna Gabitova, Expert on Social Statistics Division
  
- Maldives  
Ms Maimoona Aboobakur, Director, Ministry of Health and Family  
Ms Loona Abdull Hakeem, Senior Statistical Officer, Department of National Planning
  
- Mongolia  
Ms Tserenkhand Bideriya, Head, Dta Processing and Technology Department, NSO  
Ms. Uranbileg Byambatsogt, Officer, Population and Housing Census Bureau, NSO
  
- Philippines  
Ms Paula Monina G. Collado, Deputy Administrator, NSO  
Ms. Maribelle Baluyot, Statistician IV, NSO
  
- Sri Lanka  
Mr. W. L. D. P. de Goonatileke, Senior Statistician, Department of Census and Statistics, Statistics Division  
Ms. Indumathie Bandara, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Department of Census and Statistics

### **ESCAP:**

- Ms. Imae Mojado, Statistical Assistant and evaluation manager, SD  
Mr. Darryl Miller, Project Staff, Statistical Development and Analysis Section, SD  
Mr. Jan Smit, Regional Adviser on Statistics, SD  
Ms. Marguerite Schneider, Project Consultant, SD  
Mr. Kenneth Black, Project Consultant, SD  
Phone interviews with :  
Ms. Haishan Fu, Chief, Statistics Division  
Mr. Andres Montes, Statistician, Statistical Development and Analysis Section, SD
- Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division  
Ms Aiko Akiyama, Social Affairs Officer, SDD  
Mr. Chistian Stoff, Associated Statistician, Statistical information services section, SDD
- Ms. Keiko Kimura, Chief, Programme Planning Budget and Evaluation Section, Programme Management Division  
Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, Programme evaluation Officer, Programme Management Division

**Washington Group :**

Ms Kristen Miller, Survey Methodologist, NCHS, Maryland  
Ms. Stephanie Wilson, Survey Methodologist, NCHS, Maryland

Project Steering Committee members by telephone:  
Ms Jennifer Madans, Associate Director for Science, NCHS, Maryland  
Mr. Nenad Kostanjsek, Technical Officer, WHO, Geneva

Note : average interview time 50 minutes

## **ESCAP DISABILITY PROJECT EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY RESULTS**

**Undertaken by : Christian Bugnion, Subur Consulting S.L.**

**Report date : 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010**

*The contents of the report only reflect the author's views and not necessarily those of the commissioning agency*



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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CS	Steering Committee
DPO	Disabled Persons Organisation
ESCAP	Economic and Social XX for Asia and the Pacific
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOH	Ministry of Health
NSO	National Statistics Office
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
N/A	Not applicable or No answer
PCS	Project Steering Committee
UN	United Nations
WG	Washington Group
WHO	World Health Organisation

## I. Introduction

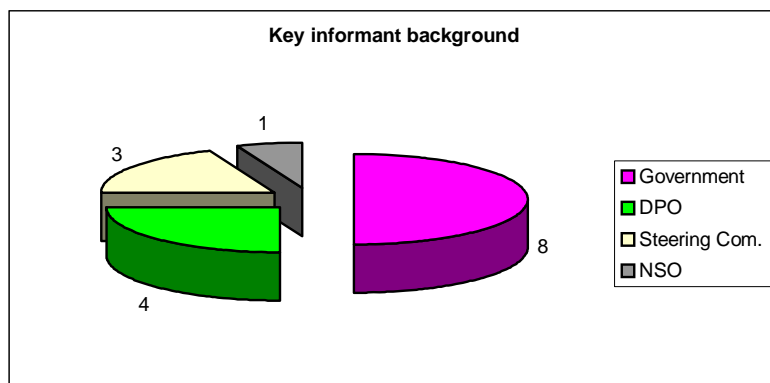
ESCAP Statistics Division has commissioned an external and independent evaluation of the Development Account Project : Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme. As mentioned in the inception report, the evaluation has used a multi-method approach including an e-mail questionnaire survey to key informants from participating countries and the Project Steering Committee. The questionnaire was sent to 29 key informants, five PSC members and four members for each of the six participating countries, bringing the total to 29. The questionnaire comprises 23 questions, 22 of them close-ended questions with the possibility of adding narrative information. At the end of the questionnaires respondents were asked to provide comments and/or suggestions. The questionnaire is attached as an annex. Given time constraints it was not tested.

**The response rate as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 has been 55% with 16 questionnaires returned.** (n=16).

Half of key respondents were women, and half were men (8 women, 8 men).

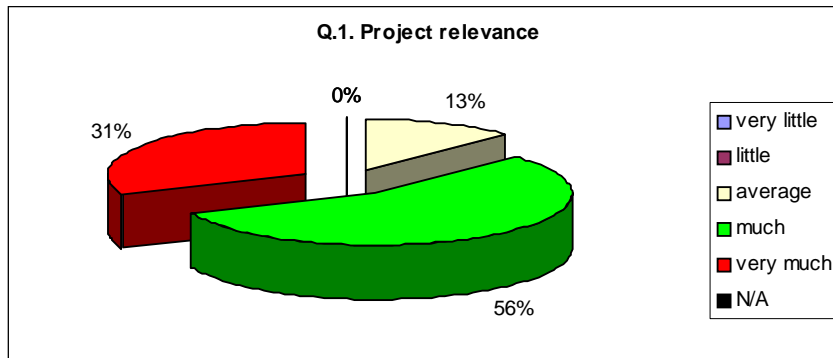
## II. Findings

The majority of key respondents belonged to government ministries and services, followed by DPOs and Steering Committee members. One respondent was from an NSO and was included although the target of the survey was essentially the different government services and DPOs in participating countries. Follow-up telephone interviews were done with two Steering Committee members, and one additional member was interviewed face to face as she was present at the workshop in Bangkok 6-9 July 2010.



All participating countries provided answers from at least two key informants, except for Cambodia and the Philippines which provided three respondents (in the case of the Philippines one respondent was a Project Steering Committee member).

**Question 1: How much does this project meet the needs of participating countries towards an improved national disability information system?**

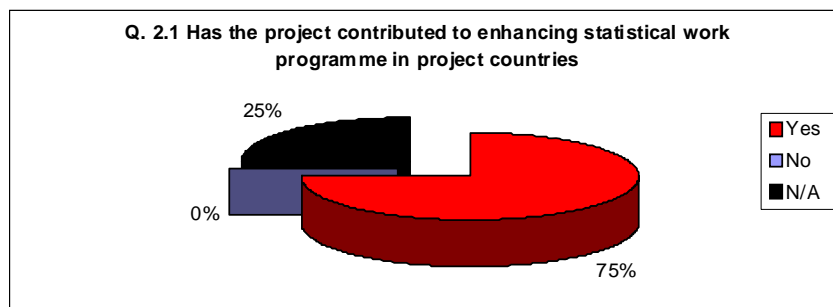


87% of respondents indicated the project to be relevant or very relevant. The qualitative comments on these responses are:

- some questions still need to be revised
- share information, experience and best practices within countries in region and joint efforts
- I observed that disability statistics are not reliable, differs from publication to publication in countries
- The project allows a first rethinking of and capacity development on how to collect disability statistics and works with the key structure responsible.
- It helps the country identify gaps in statistics on disability
- The project was only known to me recently after merger with MOH and former Min. Gender and Family
- There is still a need to test some of the questions that were formulated
- The project has the potential to address the need for more accurate and comparable disability information
- I was able to understand ICF concepts

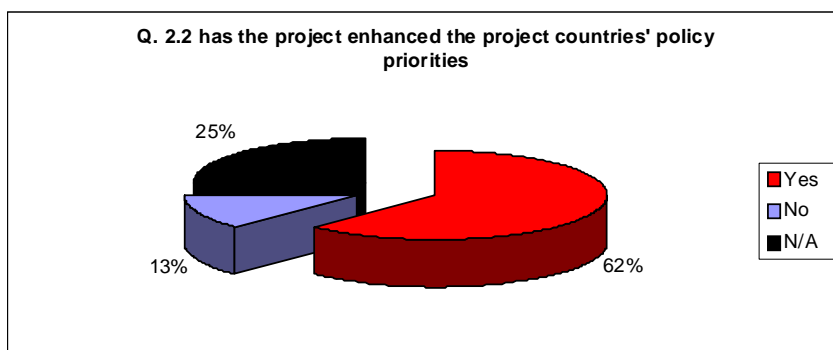
**Question 2: Has the project contributed to any of the following:**

*2.1 Enhancing statistical work programme in project countries?*



Three quarters of respondents seem to think so, while one quarter has indicated N/A.

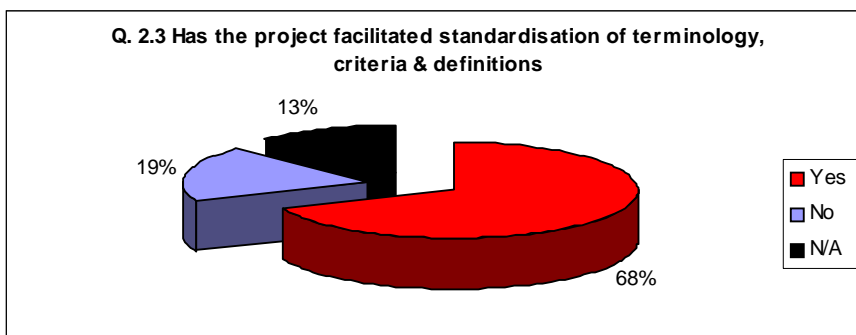
## 2.2. Enhanced the project countries' policy priorities?



Here results are more mixed, as some countries consider that the project has yet to achieve this aim. Nonetheless a majority has responded positively, with two negative responses, based on the following information.

- There was no enhancement since only pilot data collection was implemented, no reliable new statistics were achieved; also stronger link to/involvement of MOSVY and other stakeholders would have been helpful to lead to policy change
- The project was only for limited areas and results could not be used to make generalisations

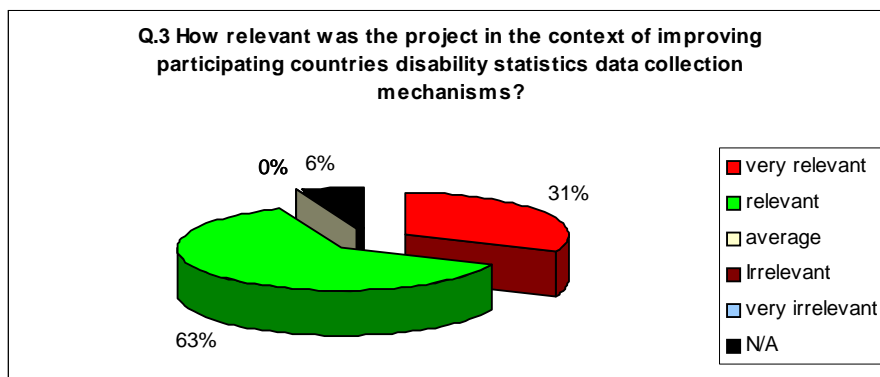
## 2.3 Facilitated standardisation of terminology, criteria and definitions on disability



While a majority has given a positive response, there have been three negative responses from participating countries, as follows:

- The project only started enhancement of capacities, but it did not involve directly in our country more policy or standardisation activities so it was not achieved
- The project result's still have to be replicated in a large sample
- Project tended to perpetuate the terminologies that were being rejected by the community

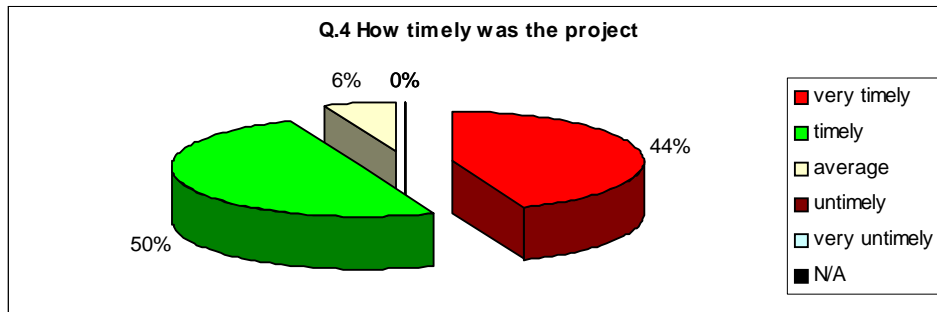
**Question 3: How relevant was the project in the context of improving participating countries' disability statistics data collection mechanisms?**



Here 94% of respondents considered the project relevant or very relevant, with 6% of N/A. Large examples of relevance has been provided by respondents as follows:

- Before only permanent disabilities were collected
- Sanitise and build capacity of NSO to conduct pilot survey of disability data collection
- Partially relevant but missing link and engagement with MOSVY should be enhanced
- Before this project disability statistics were collected from administrative statistics
- Relevant as it is used in the recent population census
- We have learned about the importance and relevance of many elements we do not notice in everyday life
- Engagement of NSO and NSCB ensure that project outputs will be used as inputs to further improve data would also strengthen coordination between statistical agencies and the NCDA. Challenge is how to continue these agencies engagement after the project duration. Project also allowed participants to be aware of on-going initiatives at the global level which may be integrated into statistical processes in the country
- The NSO can explain to stakeholders the difficulties of collecting detailed info on disability stats
- Countries were open with their needs and the project was developed to meet those needs
- Nature and scope of project have potential to address the problematic issues reported by countries
- There is no exact data on the extent of the loss of hearing in children and adults and scope of correctional assistance
- Lack of a collaborative mechanism which leads to absence of single state system

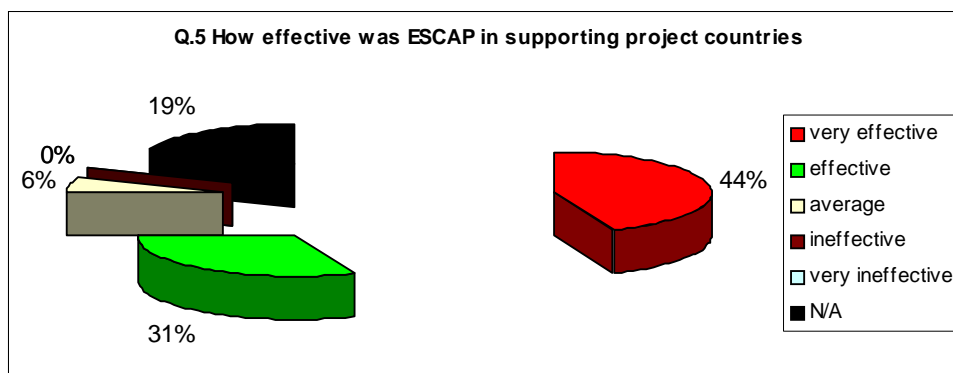
**Question 4: How timely was the project in the context of improving disability statistics data collection mechanisms?**



Again 94% of respondents considered the project timely or very timely. An equally good sample of examples was given to show the timeliness of the project, as mentioned hereunder:

- We can do a difficult survey after Census 2011
- Timely in the preparation questionnaire in the census
- Till today there has been only one standard national mechanism for statistical data collection, now specific & comprehensive mechanism for disability data collection
- Project timely considering almost a decade past since the last official statistics were released; with the help of experts the country was able to come up with a set of questionnaires that consider the ICF
- Just at the right time as a census, which can be used as a frame for a survey, was just undertaken
- Great need in view of the 2010 round of censuses, timing was crucial to meet the needs
- Very timely to include concepts to Census of Population 2011
- In time with the formulation of a national action plan to protect the rights and improve the quality of life of disabled persons

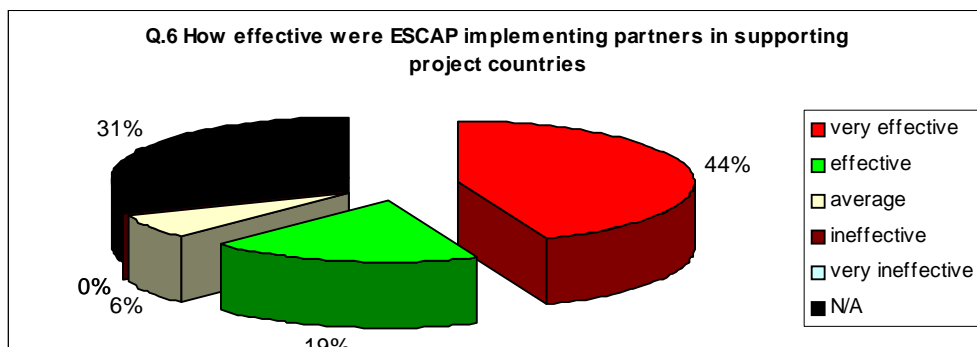
**Question 5: How effective was ESCAP in guiding and supporting project countries in the implementation of this project?**



75% considered ESCAP's role to be effective or very effective, and 19% did not provide an answer. Here are some of the responses considering ESCAP's effectiveness:

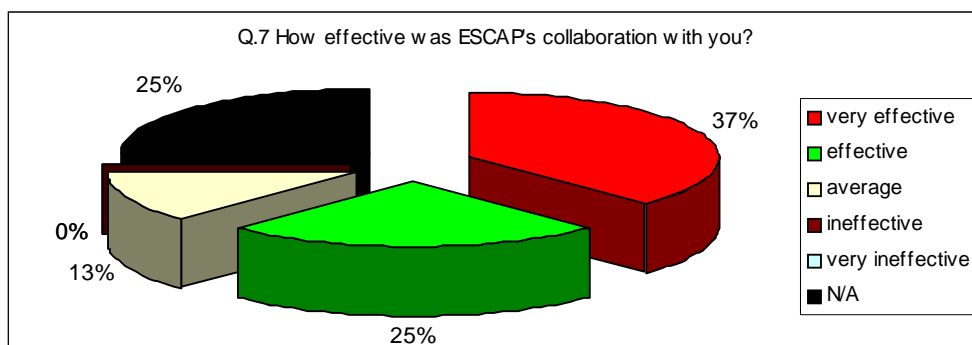
- Involvement of NIS as a key data collection institute and other relevant key players in disability questionnaires were discussed among key stakeholders in the disability sector
- ESCAP provided experienced international subject matter experts and consultants
- The study and integration of international experience is always of value and useful

**Question 6: How effective were ESCAP's implementing partners in guiding and supporting project countries in the implementation of this project?**



Here the percentage of effective and very effective drops to 63%, with 31% of N/A. This is likely due to the nature and constituencies of the key informants, as some of the questions are more targeted directly to the participating countries. For both questions above the average rating was given by 6% of respondents, and none gave an ineffective or very ineffective rating.

**Question 7: how effective was ESCAP's collaboration with you?**



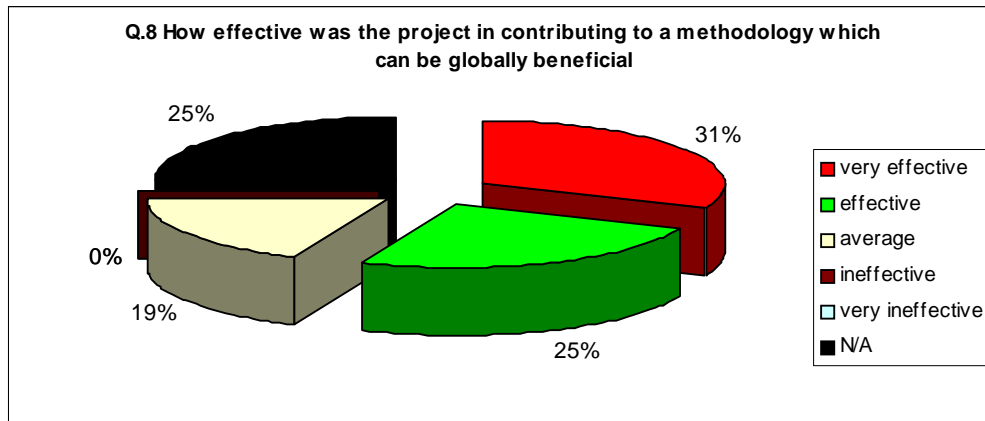
Here 62% of respondents consider the collaboration effective or very effective, with one fourth N/A and 13% giving an average rating. Again no rating under average is given.

Some explanations for these ratings are provided hereafter:

- I was invited as a resource person to attend a workshop on "count us in"
- Exchanges between national partner and ESCAP very timely and highly responsive
- Since the start of the project ESCAP collaboration has been very efficient and effective
- We did not have a direct collaboration, but participated in preparatory meetings and we were invited to 8th WG meeting
- Through the efforts of ESCAP a great deal was accomplished in a relatively short time
- Initially close and effective collaboration but was not sustained



**Question 8: How effective was the project in contributing to giving shape to a methodology which can be globally beneficial?**

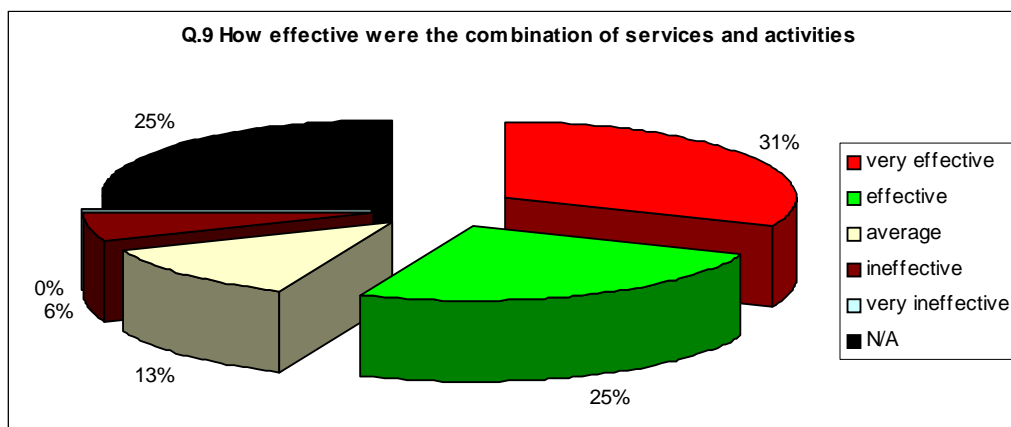


56% of respondents think the project was effective or very effective in doing so, versus 19% who see it as average, and one fourth of N/A. Again no ineffective or very ineffective rating was given.

The comments and explanations for this question are:

- Local translations will deviate some findings
- It is a very useful document for all countries to be used as modality
- Intended to standardise the definition of disability
- In my view the methodology itself was developed taking into account all the needs of an individual
- The project provided evidence for inclusion or exclusion of certain questions. Contributed to methodology
- The project had a major impact on moving the field of disability statistics forward and developing testing methodology.
- Project leaned towards the WG methodology giving less consideration to WHO methodology

**Question 9: How effective were the combination of trainings organized, advisory services provided, and technical papers beneficial in enhancing the capacity of participating countries' NSOs in implementing such surveys, handling, data collection, and analysis?**



This question brings more mixed responses. If 56% consider it to have been effective or very effective, 13% see it as average and 6% ineffective (again with one quarter of N/A). Some of the reasons can be linked to the partnership strategy, project's short time-frame, or technical reasons, as appears hereunder:

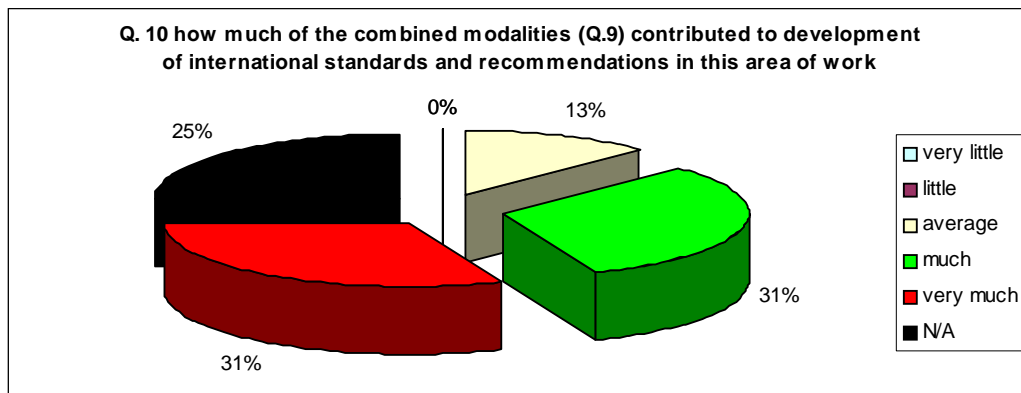
*The positive side:*

- Appropriate to get capacity of partner country to take own responsibility & ensure ownership
- Good collaboration with NIS on sharing reports, questionnaires, etc.
- ESCAP project team was flexible to respond to include the analysis of cognitive interviews to provide capacity building to the staff involved in the project through a workshop.

*The negative side:*

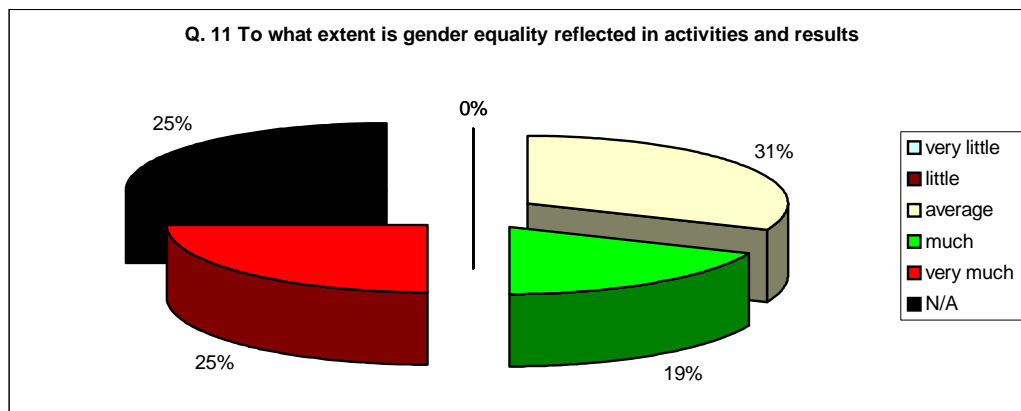
- Because some enumerators did not ask the question during the census
- A longer project would have been beneficial to sustain the process with participating countries
- Community, NGO and strategic partner consultations were not conducted effectively, and information dissemination between these partners was minimal.

**Question 10: How much of these combined modalities (question 9) contributed towards the development of international standards and recommendations in this area of work?**



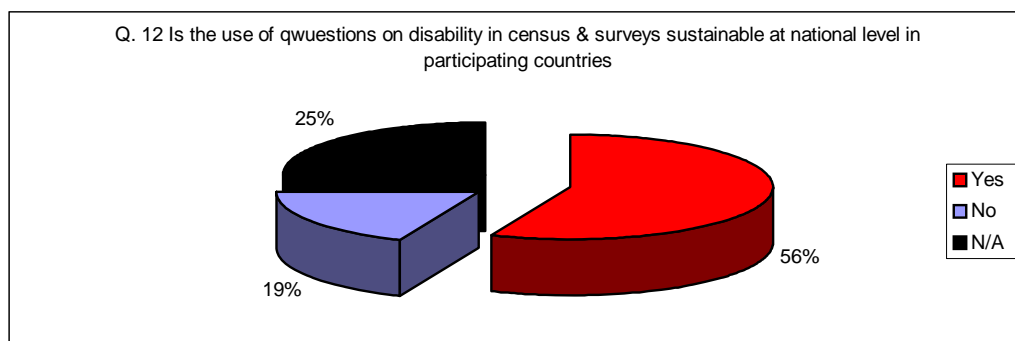
62% of respondents considered the project had a substantial influence in obtaining these results, versus 13% who gave it an average rating and one fourth of N/A.

**Question 11: to what extent is gender equality reflected in the activities and results?**



The results have more variation, with only 44% of respondents who consider that gender equality is much or very much reflected, versus almost one third who consider it as average, and one fourth of N/A. This seems to indicate that more efforts could be placed in gender mainstreaming.

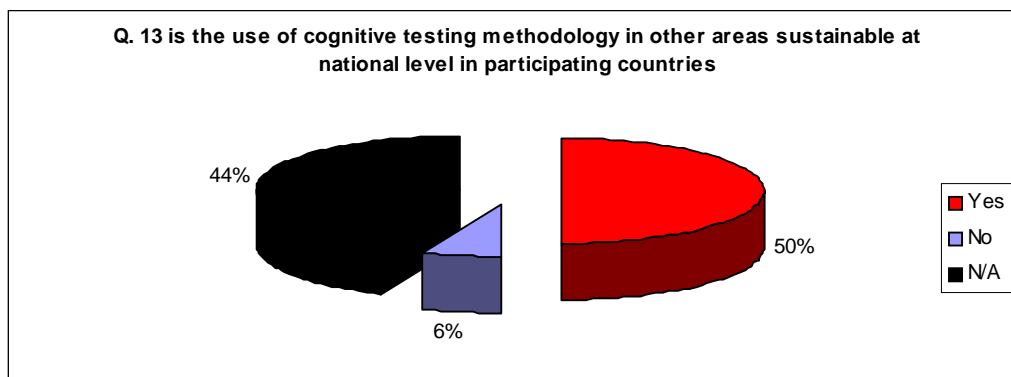
**Question 12: is the use of questions on disability in census and all surveys sustainable at national level in participating countries?**



While a majority believes it to be sustainable, 19% do not believe it to be. The reasons given are:

- Because the questionnaires are not clear to give us the specific type of disability
- Depends on the availability of government funds to include such questionnaires in surveys and censuses
- Use of disability questions in the census is sustainable. But the results have to be analysed if these reflect the conditions expected. Use of disability questions in survey will need a stronger advocacy from stakeholders
- Not to the extent of detailed questions, due to the exorbitant cost of surveys in the country

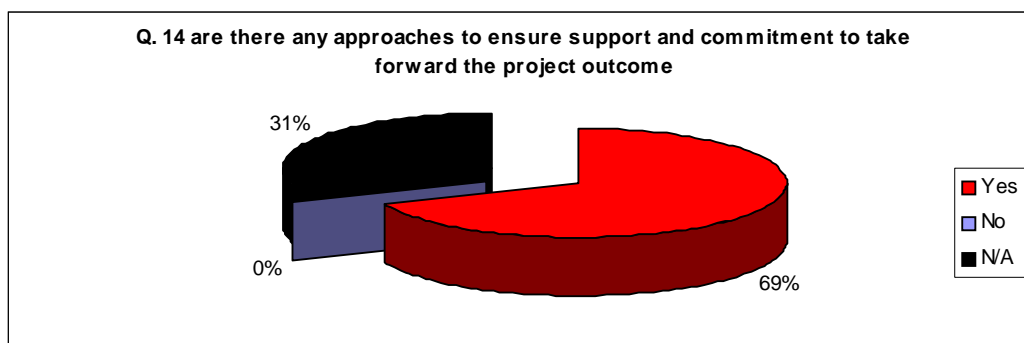
**Question 13: is the use of cognitive testing methodology in other areas sustainable at national levels in participating countries?**



Only 50% consider it to be sustainable, with almost as many N/A. One respondent does not see it as sustainable. Reasons given are:

- Because it needs budget support
- The inclusion of PWD questionnaire utilising the cognitive testing methodology is a continuing challenge
- The use of cognitive testing is a novel way of coming up with survey questions for new initiatives. Provided another strategy in the development of survey questionnaires
- Cognitive testing methodology has a number of challenging issues regarding its utility and sustainability. We raised those issues during the project planning phase.
- It is not yet widespread. Resources are needed

**Question 14: are there any approaches to ensure support and commitment to take forward the project outcome?**

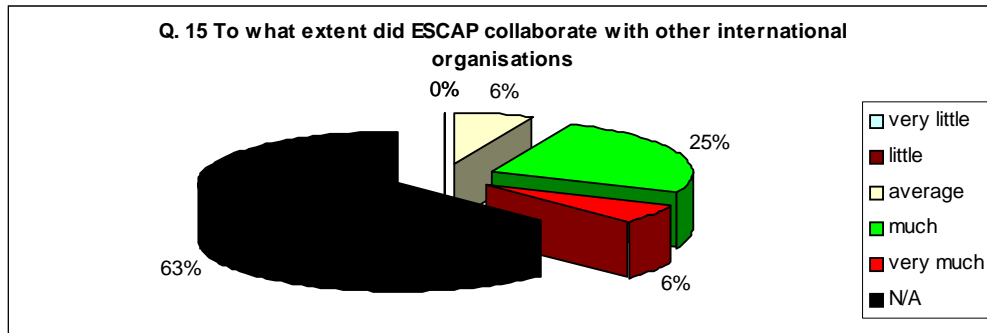


There appears to be a large consensus that support is there to take forward the project outcome. Some examples are:

- According to DCS they will arrange a dissemination session before this year
- To conduct this type of survey in national level and train the country's NGO for disabled persons in this
- Budget allocation by government
- International cooperation and sharing of experience in particular have greatly influenced all the approaches

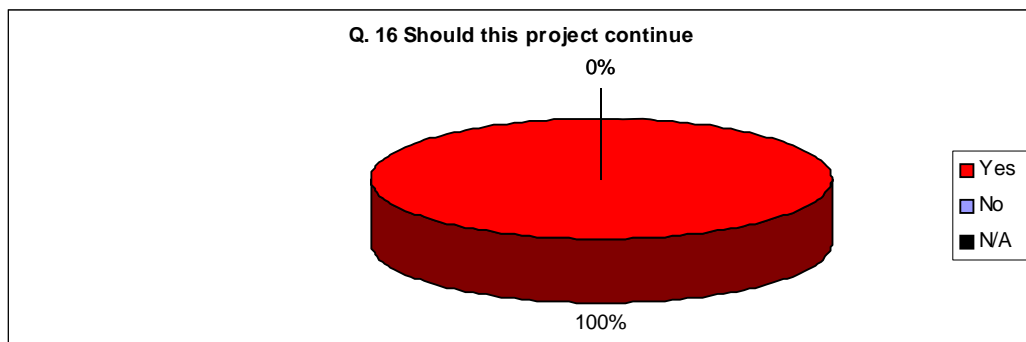
- Convince the stakeholders on the methodology of survey operations versus micro-approaches

**Question 15: To what extent did ESCAP collaborate with other international organisations, including UN Country Teams or UN regional commissions to ensure sustainability?**



This question proved to be wrongly targeted as most informants had no knowledge of this. Therefore almost two-thirds have given an N/A response, with one fourth giving a much rating, and 6% to very much and average alike.

**Question 16: Should the project continue?**



Interestingly this question had no N/A and all respondents concurred on the fact that the project should continue. A number of reasons were given:

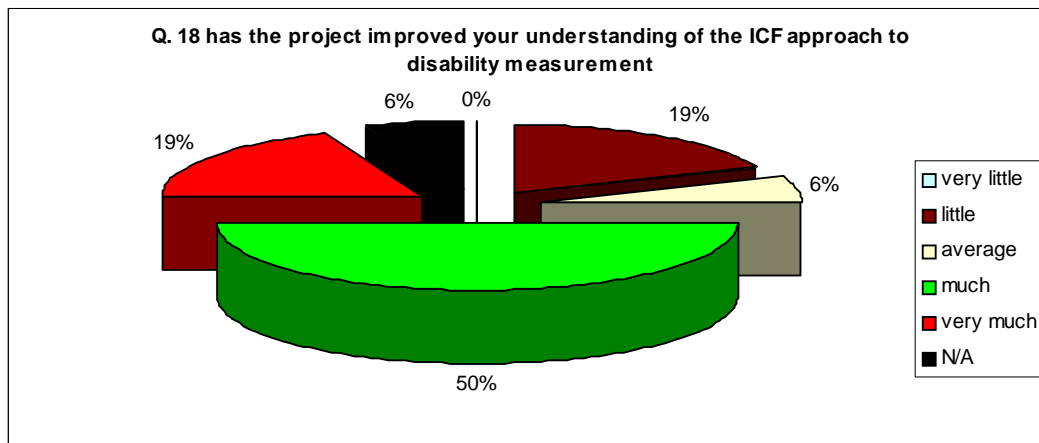
- Measuring various difficulties of people would help to plan needs for such people in the future
- Important to get reliable data on disability for planning and addressing the disability issue
- Very important in order to ensure accuracy of disability statistics at national level for better service provision
- This will help our country develop a standardised tool for use in the future
- The more indicators there are, the better problems can be traced and solved

The primary question therefore was to identify HOW the project should continue.

**Question 17: is there an open-ended question and some interesting recommendations were made, such as:**

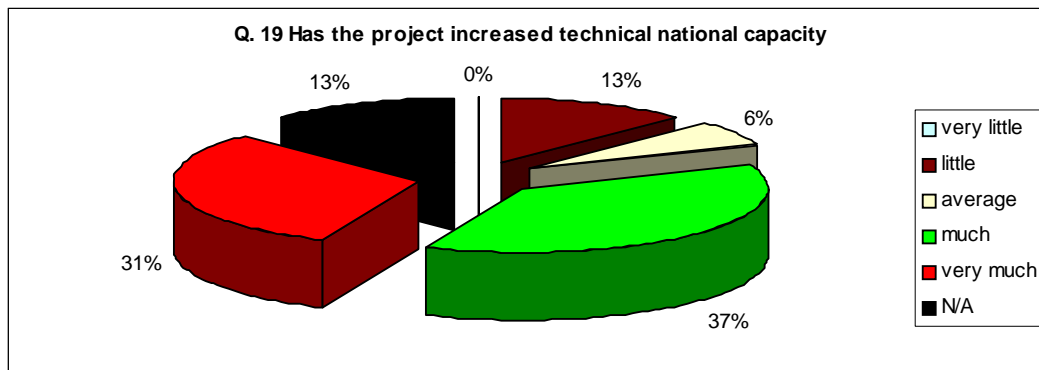
- A survey should be carried out definitely after the Census
- Get NIS capacity built and continue to provide appropriate technical and financial support
- There's understanding from high level leadership on the importance of this project; a national coordination mechanism is empowered and provided with human and financial resources to carry out the project
- A comprehensive policy or plan to address the stats issue; mobilize external and internal resources
- 1) Involve more key stakeholders open to enhance disability statistics and their usage, their visibility in UN and state annual reports on sectors, policies, etc. 2) Attention to be paid to allocate resources to making those data and methodologies easily accessible in the country (example NIS Cambodia has a website, but no disability info on it yet 3) promote the usage for monitoring on parts of the MDGs would enhance its relevance for policy change in the country and better services 4) review questionnaires to include participation and access level in line with MDG
- The project should continue as periodic national sample survey+
- To conduct sample survey to analyse all type of disability domains
- It should tie up with all stakeholders
- In strengthening the data collection especially on disability
- Definitely we should continue to use such mechanisms for developing recommendations which influence greatly the application of this methodology
- Aim to follow up on participating countries status in terms of utilising the methodologies and outputs and also attempt to enhance the previous outputs by considering recent developments
- It should continue with the refinement of the survey questions and come up with a recommended set
- An additional round of cognitive and field testing couple with 2 additional meetings would be very beneficial over the next year. After that, institute yearly meetings that include these countries and expand
- Disability statistics is a neglected area within health statistics as well as social statistics. For many reasons the need for accurate and comparable disability data will increase, and ESCAP in collaboration with WHO and other UN agencies can provided the needed platform to complement country level efforts
- To further improve methodologies and guide the analysis
- With better collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders
- Educational seminars and trainings should be carried out, not only for statistics specialists, but also for employees of state executive bodies working on disability issues

**Question 18: Has the project improved your understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement?**



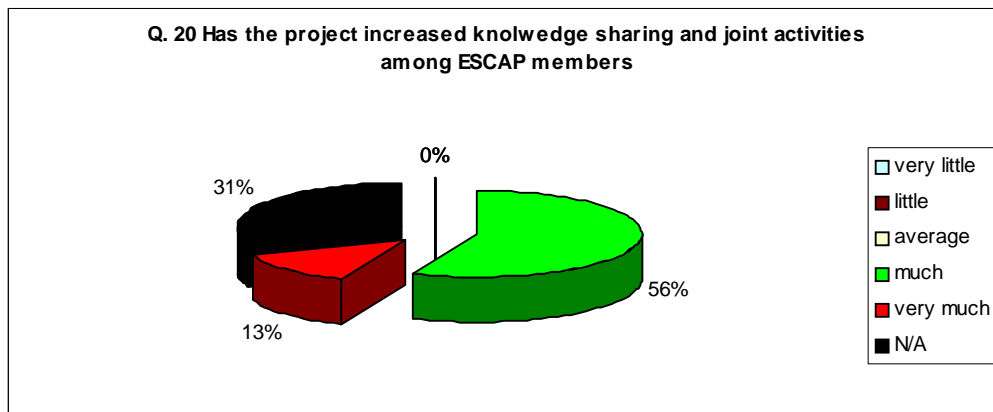
69% indicated much or very much, 19% little, and 6% average and N/A respectively.

**Question 19: has the project increased national technical capacity of participating countries for collecting disability statistics in accordance with ICF standards and regional guidelines for national censuses and surveys, which also reflect gender concerns?**



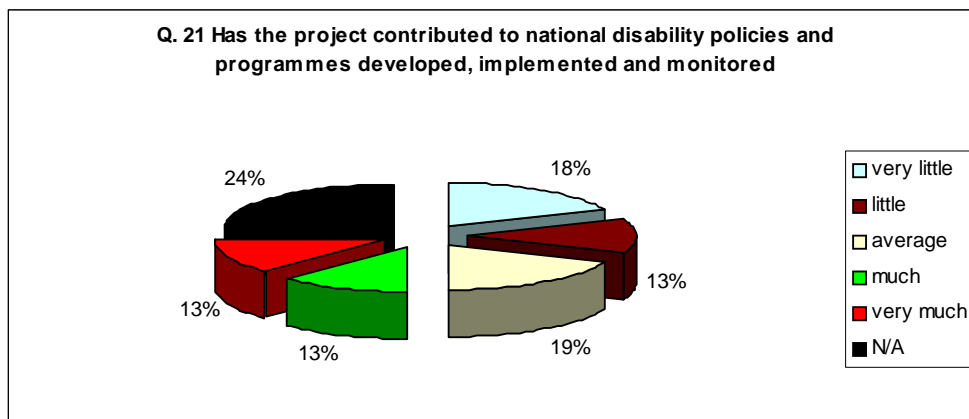
68% consider it increased it much or very much, versus 6% giving an average rating, and 13% little or N/A respectively.

**Question 20: Has the project increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics?**



More than two thirds consider it has done so much or very much, almost one third did not provide a response.

**Question 21: Has the project contributed to national disability policies and programmes developed, implemented and monitored on the basis of improved disability statistics in the Asian and Pacific region?**

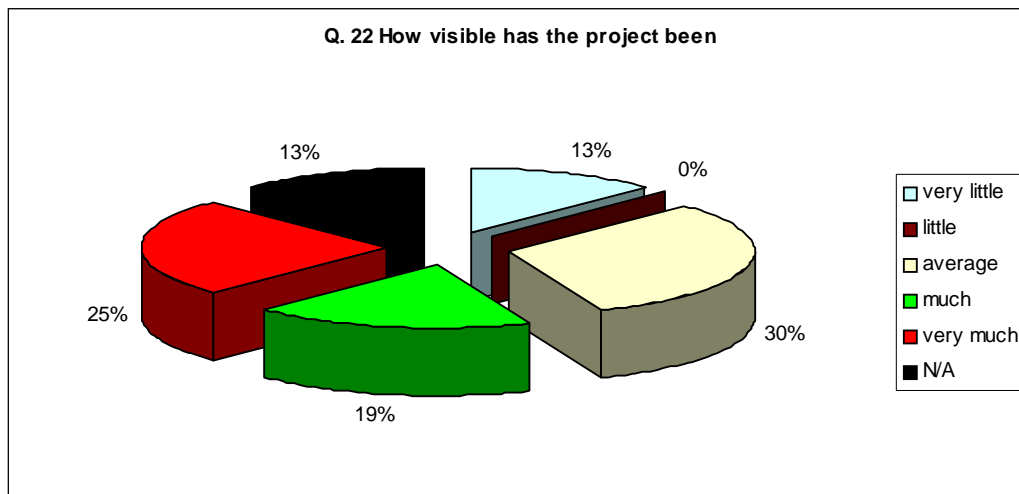


The responses to this higher-level and ambitious goal are logically much more diverse, but more responses mention little and very little (31%) than much and very much (26%), with 19% giving an average rating (and 24% N/A). The reasons given for the ratings are:

- We need to have a full copy of the pilot test results
- NSI is not the structure to promote it, only collect the statistics. Huge potential but need other stakeholders to have capacity development
- It is not known to many people
- The project has no outputs that can be generalised for the country
- The initial project design involving data producers and users allowed for addressing this issue, but not sure whether this issues were carried through



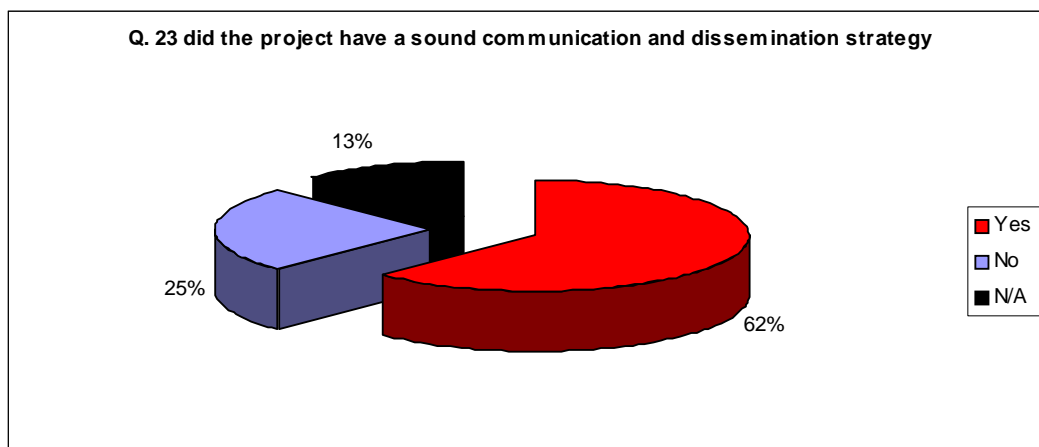
**Question 22: How visible has the project been?**



44% do believe it was much or very much visible, versus 13% who consider it to have very little visibility, and 30% who give an average rating. There is a difference in interpretation between internal visibility and external visibility, which appears in the comments to the question:

- We believe the project has not been highly visible to the public. IEC/advocacy materials could have been produced and consultations at national level could have been conducted in addition to regional workshops
- Good visibility within the context of the WG activities, less visibility beyond

**Question 23: did the project have a sound communication and dissemination strategy?**



While 62% consider it did, one fourth does not think so. The reasons are:

- ESCAP website is not enough for national stakeholders to keep themselves informed on this new topic
- Very few participation from people

Finally the comments and suggestions made by informants are reproduced hereunder:

- In the future participation from the policy making people should also be included in the projects with DCS staff
- I would be grateful if in the design process are experts from disability sector involved from the start
- A constraint to be better considered in a future project should be to include a component on reviewing the national classification system. The impact of a nationally accepted system of information could be enhanced. Likewise key UN and other key development agencies should be more engaged, to foster the sustainability and visibility of such disability information systems. Little external stakeholders are aware of the great work done by UNESCAP
- Increase scope of such project, make increased link of potential statistics collection to monitor UNCRPD implementation and MDG monitoring
- We would like to express deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the ESCAP project
- The countries involved in this project are outstanding individually as well as a group. If they could be kept together as a group it would greatly benefit them but also would develop a strong core of expertise that could be used to advance the collection of disability statistics and the use of cognitive testing methodology throughout the regions
- Excellent project which had great benefit to the countries and to the field. ESCAP should be congratulated for conceiving and managing the project. ESCAP took great advantage of available expertise and developed strong working relationships with countries and those involved in improving disability statistics.
- Better collaboration and consultation with community and stakeholders
- Formulate international indicators not only on disabled persons, but also on elderly and gender equality

## Annex: questionnaire survey

### **Project Evaluation: Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and Regional Census Programme**

Dear key informant,

You have been identified in the context of the ESCAP Disability Project Evaluation in order to provide your feedback to the project evaluator. You are kindly requested to fill the following questionnaire, which should take no more than 30 minutes to complete, and return it latest by 23 July 2010 to: [suburconsulting@telefonica.net](mailto:suburconsulting@telefonica.net)

Kindly note the questionnaire should be filled in the English language. Your feedback is critical for the evaluation. For each question, you are requested to tick the box corresponding to your answer, and provide a brief explanation of your response.

Thank you very much for your precious collaboration and your efforts in providing feedback.

Christian Bugnion de Moreta  
 Director, Subur Consulting S.L.  
 ESCAP Project Evaluator

\*\*\*\*\*

Date:							
Name:							
Organisation:							
Title:							
Since (years in this position):							
1. How much does this project meet the needs of participating countries towards an improved national disability information system	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much	N/A	Please explain why:
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Has the project contributed to any of the following (tick all that apply)	Yes	No	N/A	For each "NO", kindly indicate the reason behind your response			

2.1 Enhancing statistical work programme in project countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2.2 Enhanced the project countries' policy priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2.3 Facilitated standardization of terminology, criteria and definitions on disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3. How relevant was the project in the context of improving participating countries' disability statistics data collection mechanisms?	Very irrelevant	Irrelevant	Average	Relevant	Very relevant	N/A	Please explain why:
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. How timely was the project in the context of improving disability statistics data collection mechanisms?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. How effective was ESCAP in guiding and supporting project countries in the implementation of this project?	Very ineffective	Ineffective	Average	Effective	Very effective	N/A	Please explain why:
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. How effective were ESCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>implementing partners in guiding and supporting your country/ the project countries in the implementation of this project?</p>							
<p>7. How effective was ESCAP's collaboration with you?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>8. How effective was the project in contributing to giving shape to a methodology which can be globally beneficial?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>9. How effective were the combination of trainings organized, advisory services provided, and technical papers beneficial in enhancing the capacity of participating countries' NSOs in implementing such surveys, handling, data collection, and analysis?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much	N/A	Please explain why:
<p>10. How much of these combined modalities contributed</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

towards the development of international standards and recommendations in this area of work?							
11. To what extent is gender equality reflected in the activities and results?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No	N/A	If No or N/A, please explain why			
12. Is the use of questions on disability in census and all surveys sustainable at national level in participating countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
13. Is the use of cognitive testing methodology in other areas sustainable at national levels in participating countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Yes	No	N/A	If yes, please explain which ones?			
14. Are there any approaches to ensure support and commitment to take forward the project outcome?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much	N/A	Please explain why
15. To what extent did ESCAP collaborate with other international organisations, including UN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Country Teams or UN regional commissions to ensure sustainability?							
	Yes	No	N/A	Please explain why:			
16. Should this project continue?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
17. If you answered Yes to question 16, how should this project continue?							
	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much	N/A	Please explain why:
18. Has the project improved your understanding of the ICF approach to disability measurement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Has the project increased national technical capacity of participating countries for collecting disability statistics in accordance with ICF standards and regional guidelines for national censuses and surveys, which also reflect gender concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Has the project increased knowledge-sharing and joint activities among ESCAP members in the field of disability statistics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Has the project contributed to national disability policies and programmes developed, implemented and monitored on the basis of improved disability statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. How visible has the project been?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Yes	No	N/A	
23. Did the project have a sound communication and dissemination strategy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any comments or suggestions:				

Many thanks for your kind collaboration.