

What is the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025?

The estimated 90 million Southeast Asians with disabilities¹ encounter attitudinal, communication, environmental and institutional barriers as they take part in the lives of their communities. In December 2018, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) launched a new plan to integrate human rights of persons with disabilities into the ASEAN Community framework. The *ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Enabling Masterplan)* builds on the region’s commitments to create a barrier-free community.

The Enabling Masterplan translates principles from global human rights documents such as the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and from the UN Sustainable Development Goals into actions aligned with the ASEAN Community’s development blueprints.

Harmonizing National Legislation

All 10 ASEAN member states have ratified the CRPD, demonstrating their commitment to disability rights. To implement both the Enabling Masterplan and the CRPD, ASEAN member states must harmonize national legal frameworks with international disability rights standards. Amending national laws and policies ensures that people with disabilities have access to their political, economic, social and cultural rights.

To ensure that all 76 of the Enabling Masterplan’s key action points are realized, members of the **Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMS WD)** – often, national ministries of social welfare – oversee the Enabling Masterplan implementation. Because the Enabling Masterplan touches all sectors, government ministries should coordinate to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved.

Outreach to Disability Communities

In order to align national legislation with the Enabling Masterplan, government officials can work with disabled people’s organizations (DPOs) to identify which national laws or policies may not comply with the Enabling Masterplan. By highlighting areas for legal harmonization, national governments can use the Enabling Masterplan to support the development and implementation of laws to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities.

According to the Enabling Masterplan, “The implementation of the Enabling Masterplan shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, encourage participation of civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, to enhance opportunities for stakeholder engagement and partnership.” DPOs can provide expertise on



Meeting in Jakarta, participants of AGENDA’s November 2018 strategic communication and advocacy workshop learn about the hierarchy of laws to analyze disability rights in ASEAN member states.

“It is not the responsibility of one organization or only one government agency... it must be the collaboration and the willingness of all government agencies and organizations to work together in order to achieve the goals of the Masterplan.”

Thailand Association of the Blind, AGENDA network

¹ According to the World Health Organization, approximately 15 percent of the world’s population has a disability.

disability rights, guidance on engaging the disability community, and support to collect data to demonstrate the Enabling Masterplan progress. National government officials can reach out to DPOs for technical assistance and support to implement the Enabling Masterplan, such as by providing trainings for government officials on how to integrate disability rights into work plans and direct technical assistance.

DPO networks have been formed through the **General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA)** and the **ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF)** to advocate on disability rights in ASEAN at both regional and national levels.

DPO networks in each of the 10 ASEAN member states can provide technical expertise on disability rights and serve as partners:

Brunei Darussalam – Council of Welfare for People with Different Abilities, datoalimin@gmail.com

Cambodia – Cambodia Disabled People’s Organization (CDPO), admin@cdpo.org

Indonesia – Indonesia Disabled People’s Association (PPDI), dpp@ppdi.or.id

Lao PDR – Laos Disabled People’s Association (LPDA) info@ldpa.org.la

Malaysia – National Council of the Blind, Malaysia (NCBM), moseschoo@ncbm.org.my

Myanmar – Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), info@mili.org.mm

Philippines – Center for Advocacy, Learning and Livelihood (CALL) Foundation of the Blind, Inc. - please contact AGENDA Program Manager, Erni Andriani (eandriani@ifes.org).

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Thailand – Thailand Association of the Blind (TAB), thaiblind54@gmail.com

Vietnam –Hanoi Independent Living Center (HILC) ttsongdoclaphn@gmail.com; www.ttsongdoclaphn.vn

Singapore –please contact secretariat@aseandisabilityforum.org

For more information on DPO networks, please contact AGENDA Program Manager Erni Andriani (eandriani@ifes.org) and ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) at secretariat@aseandisabilityforum.org



ADF and AGENDA members take part in a mapping exercise in July 2019 to identify legislation that can be harmonized with the Enabling Masterplan.

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