



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 149

Date of Issue	20 June 2023
Project Code	23-CL-23-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship for Persons with Disabilities
Timing	14 November 2023–17 November 2023
Hosting Country(ies)	Lao PDR
Venue City(ies)	Vientiane
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	Lao National Productivity Organization
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	11 September 2023
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Discuss the challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) across different economic sectors; explore the role and impact of social entrepreneurship in strengthening the rights and inclusion of PWDs; and share policy initiatives and strategies for providing more inclusive socioeconomic opportunities for PWDs through social entrepreneurship initiatives.
Rationale	The COVID-19 pandemic has made it challenging for businesses in many industries to remain productive, which has compounded the difficulties that PWDs face in obtaining employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Social entrepreneurship is crucial to provide potential solutions to address these barriers and create new opportunities for PWDs.
Background	<p>The unemployment, underemployment, and exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labor market incur social and economic losses estimated at 3–7% of GDP in Africa and Asia (ESCAP, 2020). It is crucial to be mindful of these significant expenses and to incorporate disability inclusion while designing policies to support decent work and productive employment.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected PWDs. Many lost their jobs or experienced reduced hours, exacerbating existing inequalities and challenges. Social entrepreneurship can provide tools for addressing the challenges faced by PWDs to overcome barriers and generate multiplier effects.</p> <p>This workshop will provide a platform for addressing challenges faced by PWDs to promote their inclusion in the workforce, examine entrepreneurial support initiatives for PWDs, and explore innovative solutions to create more sustainable, accessible workplaces by leveraging the power of social entrepreneurship.</p>
Topics	Introduction to social entrepreneurship; Challenges and needs of PWDs; Identifying opportunities for social entrepreneurship; Skills and techniques for social entrepreneurship; Strategies for improving productivity and creating new opportunities for PWDs; and Examining successful social entrepreneurship models and case studies.
Outcome	Increased awareness and understanding of social entrepreneurship for PWDs; improved policies and programs to strengthen social entrepreneurship initiatives for PWDs; and strategies and solutions adopted for promoting the rights and inclusion of PWDs.
Qualifications	Government officials and representatives of industrial associations, enterprises, or not-for-profit organizations involved in programs/projects related to social entrepreneurship and PWD employment.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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