

Consultancy to prepare a review of the current literature on disability inclusive development in the Pacific and recommendations for strategic prioritisation of areas of interventions.

I. Context/ Justification

Regional context of “Inclusive development for the rights of persons with disabilities” & focus on “Evidence”

The Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) was endorsed by the Forum Leaders in their meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia in September, 2016. The PFRPD focuses on achievable priority goals in the areas of Livelihoods; Mainstreaming; Leadership and the Enabling Environment; Disaster Risk Management; and Evidence. In coordinating the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting on the PFRPD, a governance structure comprised of all partners and stakeholders (both government and non-government) was established as the Regional Reference Group on Disability with the overall coordination of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

One of the five goals of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with disabilities is to strengthen disability research, statistics and analysis. It has been widely recognised that there is a need for in-depth quantitative and qualitative research on the inclusion of person with disabilities. Such a strong evidence base will allow for the effective mainstreaming of issues concerning persons with disabilities and the reflection of their needs and aspirations in relevant policies and programmes. Within this context, the Framework targets to promote the use of disability research in informing policy development, policy reviews, evaluations and service provision; to identify national and regional research priorities; and to develop a database of disability research.

UNESCO’s priorities in the area of “disability inclusive development”

UNESCO is part of the Regional Reference Group committing to support the implementation of the PFRPD with its mandate and technical expertise in the area of social inclusion. At the same time, UNESCO’s strategy and programmes are informed by the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2017-22 which identified disability as one of the potential joint programming areas under the Outcome on Human Rights. Areas of work related to the rights of PWDs in which UNESCO implemented in the Pacific region include policy support to the development of inclusive education at the regional and country level; promoting the use of ICTs to foster the inclusion of PWDs and improving education data and information system to support evidence-informed policy formulation and implementation.

The Social and Human Sciences (SHS) Programme of UNESCO focuses on improving social policy, particularly related to the rights of PWDs, feeding into more inclusive, just and equitable societies and in strengthening evidence-based research policy interface. Its interventions in the Pacific have focused on (i) supporting the development of evidence-based youth policies at the regional and national level (ii) generating policy research in the area of migration and social inclusion of marginalised groups (iii) supporting the development of sport for development policy and (iv) capacity building and promoting regional knowledge sharing in the area of gender and peace; youth policy implementation; ethics of knowledge production.

In promoting a culture of evidence-informed decision making, particularly in disability inclusive development, the SHS Programme will center around (i) supporting policy research towards evidence-

based policy formulation and implementation (ii) capacity building to generate, manage and apply knowledge for development and (iii) policy advocacy at both the regional and national level (with a focus on least development countries).

In terms of supporting policy research in the area of social sciences, UNESCO SHS Programme adds value to the processes for generating national policies and research-based evidence. These activities demonstrate how specific innovations in the social sciences and humanities can turn complexity into an asset rather than a threat, thereby making a direct contribution to new forms of governance that advance human well-being through better accountability, effectiveness and inclusion. With regards to capacity building, the SHS programme's focus is on supporting Member States and relevant stakeholders through targeted human and institutional capacity strengthening and development actions to better understand the stakes and manage contemporary social transformations, particularly disability inclusive development, and to better deliver on specific targets of the 2030 Agenda related to social inclusion. Finally, another focus of the SHS's programme is on targeted advocacy campaigns and awareness raising initiatives promoting inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies.

II. Objectives

The purpose of the stock-taking exercise is two-fold. Firstly, it provides an overview of the existing issues in the area of disability inclusive development at the regional and national level through a critical review of research and programmes implemented. This objective is related to the Goal 5 of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an implementation activity of which is to review the current discourse on disability inclusive development and identify areas wherein enhanced evidence building is needed. Secondly it identifies priorities for areas of interventions and proposes potential entry points for UNESCO SHS Programme at the regional and national level to promote evidence-informed disability inclusive development subject to the three aforementioned focuses. The review will include literature from various countries of the Pacific sub-region. The work should focus on published literature and documents available in printed format and on the Internet.

The review is expected to provide an analytical and critical overview of current conceptualizations, major areas of progress/success, and potential risks and challenges in the inclusion of PWD through the existing literature, which includes the current evidence, research and programmes related to the rights of women and youth with disabilities. The review will also map out the areas of work that other development partners and donors in the Pacific have been promoting and prioritizing and identify areas in which evidence building is need. The review needs to suggest the potential areas for interventions and entry points for UNESCO in promoting evidence-based policy making and implementation in the field of inclusion of PWDs.

In particular, the objectives of the review include:

- Review of current findings of disability inclusion at the regional level and national level including the conceptualisation of inclusive disability development, nature of exclusion of PWDs, current issues in disability inclusive development, challenges of disability inclusive development. The review need to also take into account the analytical account of what evidence, research and programmes currently exist to support the needs and rights of women with disabilities and youth with disabilities.

- Map out the areas of work that development partners and donors in the Pacific have been promoting and prioritizing;
- Suggest areas of work wherein evidence building is needed as part of the Goal 5 of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Provide recommendations for UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme in terms of potential areas and interventions to support Member States in fostering disability inclusive development along the three focuses (i) supporting policy research (ii) capacity building and (iii) policy advocacy.

III. Reporting and Working Arrangements

The consultant(s) will gather, review, analyze and synthesize available literature produced by diverse sources, related to disability inclusive development in the Pacific, both at the national and sub-regional levels. During the course of the assignment the consultant will be under the direct supervision of the Associate Programme Specialist in Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Office in Apia.

The expression of interest may include more than 1 consultant. In that case, it needs to include a clear segregation of tasks between the consultants involved and their consultancy fee (if different). For further information on the expression of interest, please refer to section IX.

IV. Tasks

Specific tasks will include the following:

- A. Search existing literature on national policies, practices and initiatives in the area of inclusive disability development in the Pacific region at both regional and national level. This includes looking across literature sources written by research institutions, governments, UN agencies, NGOs, among others. The review will also include a description of the protocols that have been followed with respect to the parameters for the selection of relevant research/data collection.
- B. To provide a critical synthesis of the conceptualisations of inclusive development for PWDs, nature of exclusion of PWDs, current issues in disability inclusive development, challenges of disability inclusive development at the regional and national level.
- C. To map out the areas of work/priorities of development partners and donors in the Pacific related to inclusive disability development.
- D. To provide recommendations about areas of work wherein evidence building is needed as part of the Goal 5 of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities related to identifying priorities for strengthening evidence & justifications.
- E. Provide recommendations for UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme to support Member States in promoting disability inclusive development with a focus on (i) policy research (ii) capacity building to generate, manage and apply knowledge for development and (iii) policy advocacy for social inclusion. The recommendations need to be at both regional level and national level (with a focus on least development countries).

The recommendations need to identify and elaborate on 2 potential thematic areas which are relevant for the UNESCO's SHS programme's interventions in the area of disability inclusive development in the Pacific. Under each of the proposed thematic areas, the consultant(s) need to provide detailed recommendations as to:

- Justifications for the proposed thematic areas;
- Impacts that the SHS Programme can deliver in the proposed thematic areas at the regional and national level;
- How the SHS programme can intervene along the three focuses of (i) policy research (ii) capacity building and (iii) policy advocacy at the regional and national level.

Before elaborating on the potential thematic areas, the consultants should provide UNESCO SHS Programme Specialist on the draft review and discuss the potential areas.

V. Deliverables

The consultant(s) will produce a review report of no more than 60 pages (excluding necessary annexes and bibliography).

The consultant(s) will also produce a short policy brief (5 pages) related to the review of disability inclusive development in the Pacific

A concise Programme concept note based on the findings of the report and responding to the recommendations about potential thematic areas which are relevant for the UNESCO's SHS programme's interventions in the area of disability inclusive development in the Pacific.

VI. Budget and payments

First payment will be released upon the receipt of the list of bibliography

Second payment will be released upon the receipt of the first draft of the review report

Final payment will be released upon the receipt of the final review report

VII. Effective date

The consultancy contract is expected to complete by December 22, 2017

VIII. Requirements

- Minimum Master degree in social sciences;
- Professional background on social research;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English;
- Availability for telephone, email or video-link discussion during the full duration of assignment;
- Experience in consultancy work in the area of inclusive disability development in the Pacific is a major advantage.

IX. Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest should contain the following information:

- Details regarding the consultant, including curriculum vitae, referees, past experience in this area of work, and demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and the requirements of this consultancy
- Availability
- Elaborated description of suggested methodology
- Proposed consultancy fee

The expression of interest should be sent via email to nt.van@unesco.org before COB **October 23, 2017**. UNESCO will only contact the successful bidder.