Multi-Stakeholder Regional Consultation for the North Eastern Region

On VNR and Covid-19

January 28, 2022

[Online consultation on the Follow-Up Action Plan on the Recommendations of the second VNR Including forward looking strategies to inform recovery from COVID-19 pandemic]

REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR NE REGION ON VNR & COVID-19

January 28, 2022

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Expansions
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
ADIP	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase
AIC	Accessible India Campaign
ALIMCO	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
BTR	Bodoland Territorial Region
CM	Chief Minister
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CwDs	Children with disabilities
DDRC	District Disability Rehabilitation Centre
DEIC	District Early Intervention Centre
DIF	District Indicators Framework
DLCs	District Level Committees
EOI	Expression of Interest
GOI	Government of India
HBE	Home-Based Education
HI	Hearing impairment
ID	Intellectual Disability
IGNDPS	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
INR	Indian Rupees
MH&FW	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
MI	Mental Illness
MSJE	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
NEP	National Education Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

NIEPVD	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities
NIF	National Indicators Framework
NOC	No Objection Certificate
OBC	Other Backward Class
OPD	Organization of People with Disabilities
PMAY	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana
PPP	Public-private partnerships
PwDs	Persons with disabilities
RCI Act	The Rehabilitation Council of India Act
RFP	Request for Proposal
RPwD Act	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act
RTE Act	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act
SC	Scheduled Caste
SCPD	State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIF	State Indicators Framework
SSA	Samagra Siksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UDID	Unique Disability Identity Card
U-DISE	Unified District Information System for Education
UNCRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
VI	Visual impairment
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WwDs	Women with disabilities

1. Executive Summary:

The **Regional Consultation on Voluntary National Review and Covid-19** for Northeast India region was a timely opportunity for various stakeholders to meet and reflect on the status of disability inclusion in the implementation of the SDGs. 5 thematic areas of health, education, employment, accessibility and disaggregated data were primarily covered and aspects of social security was also deliberated upon. The report has been prepared through a participatory process, including inputs from participants in the consultation and beyond that.

Majority of PwDs do not have either Disability Certificate or UDID Card or both.

Availability of rehabilitation services, basic health care and assistive devices is limited for PwDs due to economic constraints, physical and transportation inaccessibility and lack of trained health professionals and personnel, and the pandemic accentuated the multiple issues faced by PwDs in this regard.

The education scenario of CwDs is bleak. High drop-out rates at every transition level from primary to secondary to higher secondary and higher education; digital divide in accessing education and acute shortage of human resources; multiple ministries catering to different sites of education and dearth of data on education status of CwDs are major challenges.

Though there is 4% reservation in government jobs, the identified posts are mostly vacant. There is no reservation for 6 types of disabilities and people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are hardly ever employed, inspite of reservations. Skill development programmes for PwDs are few and far between, and PwDs also face many challenges in availing loans for livelihood initiatives.

Accessible India Campaign has been a huge let-down in ensuring accessibility in the built-environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem and it has not made a dent even in the urban areas. Mandatory accessibility norms in the RPwD Act are not being complied with. Social security measures are either missing or highly inadequate across the states. PwDs, who are largely below the poverty line, have little access to affordable housing, though the RPwD Act envisages 5% reservation in poverty alleviation schemes.

The overarching recommendations for state action emerging from the consultation include, inter alia, the urgent need for addressing snags in the system for issuance of Disability Certificates / UDID Cards; increase the quantum of assistance given as disability pension / allowance to meet the basic minimum needs for a life with dignity and to cover the additional cost of living with a disability; enforce accessibility standards like National Building Code and Harmonized Guidelines by all concerned authorities, particularly, strict compliance of Sec 44 (2) of the RPwD Act; ensure education continuity for all CwDs upto higher education level by making systemic changes to bring all CwDs under different sites of education within the ambit of the Ministry of Education; provide specific measures to ensure vaccination for Covid-19 for CwDs / PwDs in remote areas and also for those with profound disabilities, including providing for home vaccination, as required; train and employ human resources for early intervention and rehabilitation services to make DDRCs and DEICs fully functional; provide PwDs with affordable quality assistive aids and appliances and opportunities for employment and livelihood; monitor the strict compliance by all authorities in the implementation of 5% reservation provision in all poverty alleviation schemes and

programs; and bring transparency and accountability in implementation of Government schemes by making information on government websites accessible and readily available.

It was felt that NGOs / CSOs needs to build their understanding of the SDGs and deliverable indicators so that they can monitor progress at the district and block level. They also need to ask specific questions on state actions to ensure access to health, education, social security measures, livelihood opportunities for PwDs. These are at the very core of the strategic advocacy actions, which can ensure disability inclusion in the SDGs.

Advocacy for priority interventions to address bottlenecks in the system of issuance of Disability Certificates, UDID Cards and Aadhar Cards is the need of the hour and there should be a push for active involvement of ground level NGOs / CSOs to facilitate the processes.

Boosting networks amongst concerned stakeholders in the region and encouraging involvement of mainstream community level organizations will ensure inclusion of PwDs in various schemes and programmes. NGOs / CSOs / OPDs to act as watchdogs to depict the ground realities of PwDs and to prompt states to accelerate action to ensure disability rights. PwDs will also have to be empowered with knowledge of their rights and facilitated, wherever necessary, to be able to access schemes and facilities.

States to actively promote the use of digital technologies to break traditional barriers to communication for PwDs.

Non-availability of disability and gender disaggregated data in education, employment, access to livelihood and skill development programs, health, insurance facilities, housing and social security measures, disaster management and relief provision et al is a glaring gap in the system and different data collation formats and indicators needs to be revised to capture the ground realities of PwDs across the SDGs. Disaggregated statistics will be key to support tailored and evidence-based policy formulation and budgetary provisions, as well as monitoring of the implementation of the development agendas. “No target is met, unless met for all groups, including PwDs,” and it is imperative that disaggregated data for disability is pushed to “leave no one behind.”

2. Introduction:

The **Regional Consultation on Voluntary National Review and Covid-19** was organized by Shishu Sarothi for North East India region in partnership with the National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP) on January 28, 2022 from 3 pm to 5.30 pm on the zoom online platform.

The meeting started with a **Welcome Address** delivered by Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi. She spoke of the significance of the consultation, and the whole discussions around the VNR linked to the impact of the pandemic on the lives of people with disabilities. She referred to NCPEDP's Report, *Locked Down & Left Behind,* that documented the plight of people with disabilities at the time and reflected that while the pandemic hasn't come to an end as yet, that it was very important for stakeholders to take stock of the status of persons with disabilities vis-à-vis implementation of the SDGs which were a Global Call to Action to all member countries to end poverty, and protect our planet, and which talks about 'all' and to leave no one behind.

Appreciating the good participation in the consultation, she requested everyone to give their inputs with a regional perspective on how the SDGs are implemented in the north eastern states of India, so that we can together come up with an advocacy plan suggesting a way forward.

Delivering the **Opening Remarks**, Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP shared that the current Consultation was the second of the five planned consultations on the VNR, the first being organized by the National Platform for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) for the Northern Region.

He shared that NCPEDP in collaboration with Sightsavers did the disability component for the second Voluntary National Review in 2019 and that such inclusive reviews at the national, subnational and regional level, are being held as a part of the follow-up of the process towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable Development Goals on poverty, hunger, education, livelihood and disaggregated data are important areas. Regions like the northeast have their own set of stories to tell around these goals and these narratives of disabled people and the voices from the sector needs to come out and be documented. He observed that North East India is also keenly looked at by the Centre because of its unique terrain, issues and challenges. The Consultation was thus an important platform for all to share about things which have happened and been accomplished, things which are in the pipeline, good practices, what has not worked out and the challenges. He concluded by requesting all participants to keep their inputs and deliberations focused around on the VNR and the SDGs and to come up with ways to work towards our goals collectively.

Thereafter, Amvalika Senapati, Deputy Director, Advocacy, Shishu Sarothi, gave a **brief background on the VNR**, wherein she mentioned how the VNR considers the voices from the community, including persons with disabilities amongst other population groups identified as vulnerable or at-risk. She touched upon the importance of disability inclusion, as failure to include and integrate persons with disabilities in all development activities would mean failure to achieve the SDGs, and she also spoke about the challenges, the means to strengthen implementation of SDGs and the ways to achieve the SDGs as cited in the VNR report.

Participants:

The consultation saw the participation of multiple stakeholders from across the 8 states in north east India, including persons with disabilities, representatives of civil society organizations and OPDs and government functionaries including State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities. A few CSO representatives from other parts of the country as well as UN representatives from various agencies also participated in the same. Overall, 65 people participated in the online program. Two NGOs, Deaf Biblical Society, Dimapur, Nagaland and Barefoot Trust, Shillong, Meghalaya, who were not able to participate, sent in their inputs via mail and the same were duly noted as well.

Methodology:

Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) serve as a basis for the international review of the progress on the SDGs. India presented its second VNR in July, 2020, through a largely government led process, involving analyzing the country's achievements in the SDG space so far, identifying gaps and challenges, highlighting strategies to overcome the challenges, recognizing success factors and good practices, and analyzing new and emerging issues.

While the VNR does document the challenges raised and recommendations made vis-à-vis disability inclusion in the SDGs, this regional consultation comes as a follow-up activity to deliberate upon inputs and suggestions from stakeholders based on their experience and understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities and the ground realities that they face on a daily basis.

The consultation primarily focused on 5 thematic areas of health, education, employment, accessibility and disaggregated data. Besides the key Speakers for the different areas, there were discussions, deliberations, interactions and inputs from participants from across the region in the various sessions. Inputs were also received via emails from a few participants. A couple of participants who could not attend the consultation, also submitted their inputs via emails.

3. Discussions on Thematic Areas:

3.1. Education:

The introduction on Education, given by Bibhash Modi, Director, Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam, was presented on his behalf by Mamta Ghosh, Coordinator, Inclusive Education Program at Shishu Sarothi.

She briefly outlined the achievements listed in the VNR, covering all the sectors of education, from early childhood, to elementary to secondary to higher education and vocational development; along with the challenges and ways to address it; and also shared some data vis-à-vis the education scenario of children with disabilities. In conclusion, the presentation highlighted the need for a dedicated disability cells in the Ministry of Education as a coordinating mechanism for convergence of all education programs of Cwds, aligning of the NEP with the RTE, to address the barriers in education for CwDs and recommended that

special schools and home-based education be brought under the purview of the Ministry of Education.

Inputs from Stakeholders:

- Concern was raised that the NEP is not aligned with the provisions of the UNCRPD, RPwD Act, RCI Act and RTE Act. The NEP implementation in the region should take into account that the new curriculum frameworks and all new bodies for assessments, standard setting, quality assurance address all sites of education for students with disabilities (including Anganwadis and Pre-School, Home Based education, General schools, Special Schools, Open School, Resource centers).
- NGOs reiterated the concerns about the drastic decline in the number of CwDs transitioning from primary to upper primary to secondary to higher secondary levels of education across states.
- There is a huge digital gap in accessing education by CwDs. This has been further pronounced with the pandemic, where CwDs have completely dropped out of the education system due to lack of access to digital platforms. The little access to education via digital modes was largely limited to the urban milieu. CWDs from challenging geographical terrain with little or no access to internet connectivity and electricity have been completely left out of the education system these past couple of years due to the pandemic.
- SSA Resource Persons are overburdened with multiple responsibilities which limit frequent and regular school visits and there is also a severe shortage in availability of trained manpower for students with disabilities.
- CSOs should focus at the district level for the establishment of District Level Indicators vis-à-vis inclusive education of CwDs and they should play a prominent role in monitoring of the said indicators.
- The dearth of data on various aspects of education for CwDs was railed at by various participants.
    - There are approx. 703 special educators for around 54,000 CwDs across Samagra Siksha Abhiyan in Assam.
    - Under Saksham Tripura program, there is now one Special Educator to cover 3 regular schools.
    - There are 35 Special Educators and 1794 CwDs enrolled under Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, Nagaland.
    - There are 51 Special Educators, and 887 and 174 CwDs enrolled in the elementary and secondary education levels respectively in Sikkim.
- Education in mainstream schools and in special schools are covered by different Departments and there is a complete lack of convergence between the two.
    - It was shared that in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam, a lot of the work in education happens on parallel tracks. Baseline survey on education done in Kokrajhar district of Assam shows that 33% CwDs do not attend school, 67% have attended school, out of which 26% drop out from school at some point due to various factors. The Social Welfare deptt. of BTR has carried out a study on

the education situation in BTR and they are also working with the Education deptt. for developing an education policy for BTR in alignment of NEP.

- In Assam, there is a scholarship @ INR 2,400 per annum (INR 200 monthly) for students with minimum 40% disabilities for education purpose. There is also a scholarship for students with minimum 40% disabilities to pursue Medical and Technical Education @ INR 3000 per month (Yearly INR 36,000).
- In Manipur, there is a scheme, "CM gi Sotharabasinggi Tengbang," which includes a Scholarship scheme to students with disabilities, with INR 3,000/-per annum for Class I-V, INR 4,000/- per annum for Class VI-VIII, INR 6000/- per annum for Class IX-XII and INR 8000/- per annum for Graduates and above. Under the scheme, free travel and concession to persons with disabilities are being given to them in public transport under Manipur State Transport (MST).

3.2. Health:

Ms. Pi. Vanlaldiki Sailo, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Mizoram, was the main Speaker for the thematic area on Health, and she spoke of the issues and challenges faced by people with disabilities during the pandemic. She shared that the Health Deptt. of the state did provide some facilities for wheelchair access and accessible toilets in Covid Care wards. Priority was given to PwDs for home vaccinations both in urban and rural areas. During the 2021 lockdown, Mizoram government provided assistance of INR 2000/- from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to eight blind children who lost their livelihood due to the pandemic. Local Level Task Force was mobilized to give food and cash and to sensitize people responsible to provide testing facilities, nursing care and meal services to persons with disabilities, as required. She also mentioned that there were plans for mobile van and dispensaries, free medication and for transportation for PwDs.

Ms. Sailo also drew attention to some important points for the improvement of the heath resources for PwDs in the state, including the following:

- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan App launched by the MSJE, GOI to identify gaps and facilitate remedial action by concerned authorities, should be upgraded to practically serve its purpose.
- Sensitization of health professionals posted in rural areas is crucial in order to have better understanding to provide specialized healthcare for PwDs.
- Urgent needs to formulate guidelines in order to provide accessible medical equipment in all health care center;
- Provide free medicines and free transportation for PwDs in all primary & community health center in rural areas.

Inputs from Stakeholders:

- The pandemic brought to focus the myriad difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in accessing healthcare facilities.
    - There was extreme difficulty in accessing healthcare for the severely disabled and wheel chair users. Health care workers are not sensitised on the different

types of disabilities and the hidden issues & disabilities faced by persons living with multiple sclerosis and other invisible disabilities.

- The process of Disability Certification took a complete backseat for most part of 2020 and also 2021, thereby denying PwDs access to various schemes and other benefits.
- Essential rehabilitation and therapy services were discontinued for CwDs / PwDs during the pandemic. Due to loss of livelihood options, many families discontinued with essential medicines for PwDs with ADHD, epilepsy, MI, thereby resulting in marked deterioration of their health conditions.
- In Dibrugarh district, Assam, covid centers did not have facilities for PwDs and the district administration could not accommodate CwDs (inmates of Child Care Institute, Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre) in the Covid Care Centers and, MRC campus had to be turned into a Covid Care Center. However, during the 2nd wave of the pandemic in 2021, the district authority did admit infected CwDS (only males) in the hospital for better care.

- Access to vaccination for Covid-19 is difficult for PwDs in remote areas and it is almost completely out of reach for people with severe and profound disabilities. Though there is no specific data on the number of disabled people who have got vaccinated for Covid-19, it was unanimously agreed by all participants that PwDs are more likely to have less access to the vaccination process.
- DDRCs and DEICs are mostly not operational across the districts. Basic health care, therapy and rehabilitation facilities are not available to PwDs in rural settings. There is little scope for early identification and intervention in the face of lack of trained manpower.
  - In Nagaland, presently only the DDRC at Dimapur is functioning and 2 more DDRCs have been approved for the districts of Mon and Tuensang, but are not yet functional. There is one functioning DEIC at the Naga Hospital Authority Kohima.
  - In Sikkim, there is a DDRC only in East District, Gangtok, attached to STNM Hospital.
  - In Assam, there are 12 DDRCs as per records, but most of these are not getting funds and are in-operational.
- There is a need for a single window system for PwDs to make the process of access to various schemes more disabled friendly thereby enabling PwDs to avail the benefits/facilities provide by government.
- Doctors and health workers are not sensitized and awareness amongst all health professionals and allied personnel is the need of the hour.
- There are woefully inadequate facilities in the states to address mental health issues, which are only on the rise during the pandemic.
- There are not enough specialists for issuance of Disability Certificates for all the 21 Specified Disabilities under the RPwD Act in every district. The notified doctors for issuance of Certificates are not aware of the Disability Assessment Guidelines issued by the MH&FW, GOI. The UDID Cards are not being issued timely and its process is not accessible for many people without android phones and with no connectivity.

Disability Certificates and UDID Card continue to be issued wrongly. Children with ASD get certification as ID and persons with Deaf-blindness get certification as either VI or HI.

Suggestion was given that there should be a Nodal Officer in every district under the Health Deptt. for Disability Certification. It was also suggested that trained rehabilitation professionals who have knowledge about different disabilities could also be used to help in the disability certification process, in view of the shortage of qualified medical professionals in rural areas.

- In Meghalaya there is a State Nodal Officer and UDID officer at each district for dealing with the UDID process but, as in other states, in Meghalaya also the challenge is the lack of specialist for developmental disabilities and mental illness.
- In Mizoram, while there is no problem for the disability certification process in urban areas, people in rural areas face many issues in the application process and there is a need to organize assessment camp and certification camp in the rural areas and also to create awareness regarding the UDID process amongst PwDs in rural areas.
- For Assam, the status till date is 1,97,000 UDID registrations done, 37,000 rejected applications and 88,178 UDID cards issued.
- For Manipur, 9290 UDID registrations have been done and 4348 UDID certificates have been issued till date.
- For Nagaland, 1539 UDID registrations have been done and 1242 UDID certificates have been issued till date.
- For Sikkim, there is a total of 3001 UDID registrations and UDID certificates issued till date, out of total 5767 PwDs who have Disability Certificates (Total population of PwDs in Sikkim as per Census, 2011 is 18,187. There is also a Nodal Officer for UDID in the state.

PwDs with UDID cards in North East

STATES	PwDs Population*	PwDs with UDID Cards#	UDID Cards as % of total PwDs
1. Meghalaya	44317	24,694	55.72
2. Tripura	64346	19,957	31.01
3. Mizoram	15160	3192	21.05
4. Sikkim	18187	2931	16.11
5. Assam	480065	81076	16.88
6. Manipur	58547	3767	6.43
7. Arunachal Pradesh	26734	1788	6.68
8. Nagaland	29631	1173	3.95
ALL INDIA	26814994	65,37,404	24.37

#As per 2011 Census; *#Total as on 15.12.2021*

Source: Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

https://morungexpress.com/nagaland-only-395-of-pwds-have-unique-id-cards

- The scheme, “CM gi Sotharabasingi Tengbang” in Manipur has five sub-schemes, including Care-Giver allowances/Maintenance Grant to Persons with Disabilities having a disability of 80% or more, to be provided with Rs. 1,500/- per month. The beneficiaries would also be covered under “Swavlamban Health Insurance Scheme for PwD”, where the State Government will provide the mandatory beneficiary contribution of INR 366 per annum, which will provide a health insurance cover of INR 2 lakhs to four members of a family and OPD charges.

3.3. Employment and Livelihood:

Mr. R.K. Sharma, Head of National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment was the main Speaker for the session. He spoke about the challenges in employment, particularly during the pandemic situation and observed that as most persons with disabilities live in rural areas and since large number of them do not have any education and are mostly illiterate, there should be skill development programs oriented around agriculture in rural settings.

Though there is reservation in all livelihood missions, in practise, there are not enough applications received for the same. Same is the case with job reservations which are lying vacant in most States. Discrimination in accessing employment, skill development, livelihood etc. has to be collectively addressed by the central and state govts. on priority for persons with disabilities. He pointed out the need for pre-recruitment coaching in various sectors for PwDs to prepare them for competitive entrance exams and thereby ensure better livelihood / employment chances.

He also pointed out that there should be job reservation for 6 out of the 21 specified disabilities in the RPwD Act 2016 which is presently not being given.

Inputs from Participants:

- Majority of parents of CwDs / PwDs working in the private sector and those working as daily wage earners lost their jobs or were not paid for more than 6 months in 2020 during the pandemic.
- Mizoram state has complied with the 4% reservation in job as per RPWD Act, 2016.
- For Assam, though required notification has been issued by the state government for job reservations, there is a huge backlog of vacancies for persons with disabilities.
- In Nagaland, 4% reservation in government jobs has been notified. Government posts have been identified for Categories A, B, C and identification for categories D and E are currently ongoing.
- Employment to PwDs under the 4 percent reservations, is mainly only limited to few disabilities. It has been observed that only people with HI, Low Vision, Blindness and Locomotor Disabilities are the ones who get jobs and people with ID, ASD or MI are almost completely left out.
- Not all government offices / establishments have Equal Opportunity Policies.
    - In Mizoram, there are Grievance Redressal Officers in all departments.
    - In Assam, Grievance Redressal Officers for only 25 government offices have been notified, as per information received from the SCPD, Assam.

- In Nagaland, notification of appointment of Grievance Redressal Officers have been received from 44 government departments by the SCPD, Nagaland till date.

- CSOs find it difficult to empanel with Sector Skill Councils as it also involves connecting candidates and training partners with recruitment firms and potential employers and committing to do placements as well.
- PwDs with benchmark disabilities in the age group of 18 to 50 years, who have high school level education and Skill Development Training, are provided (One Time) assistance of INR 20,000 in two installments as rehabilitation grant for livelihood in Assam, under the Deen Dayal Divyangjan Punarsangthapan Asoni. A total of 8 beneficiaries per district can avail this grant. However, the scheme is not operational in all districts across the state.
- Entrepreneurship avenues and ease of accessing funds should be promoted for PwDs. Mentorship and business management training are equally important.
- System of delivery of financial assistance in the form of loan to PwDs under the NHFDC is not disabled friendly and many PwDs are not able to access this provision.
- One key concern is that the process of Disability Certification is too lenient, whereby people who are below the 40% benchmark, also gets Disability Certificates and manage to get jobs, thereby denying access to jobs to people with benchmark disability.
- In Manipur, the "CM gi Sotharabasingi Tengbang" Scheme provides PwDs in the age group of 19-59 years who can work with soft loans to take up economically viable employment opportunities and self-employment through Manipur Society for Skill Development (MSSD).
- Facilitation required to enable PwDs to access ESI, EPF etc.

3.4. Accessibility:

Ms. Diethono Nakhro, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Nagaland broadly covered aspects of Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) as in the VNR and the concerned raised by the disability sector.

In terms of the of physical accessibility of buildings, she said not much progress has been made in most of the states in the region. There is still very poor compliance of Section 44 (1) and (2) of the RPwD Act which provides for mandatory observance of accessibility norms for new public buildings. She said the Accessible India Campaign has done some good in that it has created more awareness on the need for accessibility. However, she said the campaign has remained largely a failure. In Nagaland, the one area where it has been successful is ICT, as almost all government websites in the state have complied with the accessibility norms.

The extra challenges faced by most of the states in the region due to difficult hilly terrain and the need for innovative ideas, creative solutions and special funding from the central government were also highlighted.

Some action / advocacy points were underlined, including enforcement of standards like National Building Code and Harmonized Guidelines by all states, municipal or local bodies to ensure accessibility, strict compliance of particularly Sec 44 (2) of the RPwD Act, inclusion of accessibility experts and people with disabilities in planning, developing, and auditing any

disability/accessibility programme, 5% reservation in all housing schemes as per the provisions in RPwD Act.

Inputs from Participants:

- All participants reiterated that the provision of the RPwD Act envisaging existing public buildings to be made accessible within 5 years of the Act coming into force (which is, by June, 2022), is far from being implemented in both rural and urban areas across the states.
- Inspite of the clear mandate in the RPwD Act vis-à-vis non-issuance of NOC and Completion Certificates to buildings that do not comply with accessibility norms, new buildings continue to be built as on date in flagrant violation of this provision and there are no known cases where NOC has been denied due to inaccessibility. Some illustrations of newly built / renovated public places which are not accessible,

  Assam:

  - Arboretum Cum Craft Centre, under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) in Diphu, Karbi Anglong (East) district (2018)
  - Nalbari Natya Mandir, a public auditorium in Nalbari district (2019)

  Meghalaya:

  - Office of Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Meghalaya in Shillong (2021)
  - Supper Market Complex buildings in Shillong, under the initiative of Urban Department Deptt., Government of Meghalaya (2020)
- Access to quality aids and appliances and accessible technologies by PwDs is very limited. There is a concern about the rising prices of assistive devices. The latest circular (January, 2022) notifying the revised list of appliances and devices produced and sold by NIEPVD, Dehradun in designated sales counters in the country, reflects a huge price hike (Example, price for folding cane was sharply raised from INR 100 to INR 284) and raises a question of affordability for basic items needed by PWDs.
- Real-time response and implementation of disaster management tools and techniques for disaster relief supplies, ration kits, humanitarian assistance and access to health services were not equally available in all the states.

  Access to information was a major challenge for PwDs across the region during the pandemic. Information in health and safety protocols were by and large not in accessible formats.

  - A few Covid-19 Advisories were made accessible in Assam[1].
  - Similarly, some initiatives were also taken in this regard in Nagaland.
  - There was no specific intervention for PwDs by State Disaster Management Authorities in Sikkim during the pandemic, except for priority being given for vaccination to PwDs against COVID-19 virus.
- Provision of accessibility in television programs is still not implemented across different channels, except for a handful of programs in Doordarshan.

[1] https://socialwelfare.assam.gov.in/resource/covid19-advisory-for-disabled-people

- Structured courses needed to develop a pool of Sign language interpreters in the region.
- Access to poverty alleviation programmes by PwDs is very limited. Provision of 5% reservation as per RPwD Act in housing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is not being implemented in most states.
    - In Assam, access to housing for PwDs is abysmally low. Only 3% reservation is provided by the Panchayat & Rural Development Department. In ground reality, PwDs are not even able to access this 3%. Figures for 2019 – 2020 shows that out of the total sanctioned houses of 141,925, only 249 PwDs were allotted housing, which translates to a meagre 0.00175%.
    - PwDs have access to 4% reservation in PMAY in Tripura, as opposed to the mandate of 5% reservation.
    - There is no reservation of housing allocation for PwDs in Sikkim, but PwDs get housing loan of INR 10 – 18 lakhs with 25% subsidy in the state.
    - There is also no reservation of housing allocation for PwDs in Manipur.
- Household toilets being constructed under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan mission are not in conformity with accessibility norms.

3.5. Disaggregated Data:

Mr. Carmo Noronho, Executive Director, Bethany Society, Meghalaya initiated his session by saying that disaggregated data is a cross cutting issue relevant for all the SDGs. He drew attention to the need for all of us to learn about the State and District Indicators frameworks, so that there is understanding on how data is collated at the district and the state level. This would help in follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of effective outcomes of various development aspects. He shared that district administrations are usually very open to suggestions and to working in collaboration with civil society. We should tap into this linkage to keep an eye on how district and block level interventions are being done and whether it promotes disability inclusion or not.

He also emphasized the importance of citizen generated data which should be duly collated and cited that OPDs, parents of PwDs and organizations working in the disability sector had been at the forefront during the pandemic reaching out to people with disabilities in need and had access to important data on Covid-19 and facilities availed by PwDs.

Pointing out some major aspects on which data is not available, he stressed upon the need to change formats of data collection to document disaggregated data by disability and gender as well, vis-à-vis access to mainstream skill development training programs; political participation of PwDs - how many voters actually voted; access to health facilities, rehabilitation services and to aids and appliances; enrollment at different levels of education; employment in government jobs and in the private sector; access to Covid-19 vaccination for PwDs especially in the rural areas; UDID and Disability Certification; and so on and so forth.

Inputs from Participants:

- It is crucial that we collate data which is not specific to disability only. This is mostly about access to various social security provisions by PwDs and perpetuates the idea of PwDs being treated only as beneficiaries. What is crucial is that we gather

disaggregated data in the mainstream and not just disability specific data in relation to schemes.

- It is critical for all of us to gather correct data in the upcoming Census and endeavour to challenge the status quo vis-à-vis inclusion of PwDs in all aspects of mainstream society. We should work together towards coming up with a regional network which could boost our mechanisms for data collection and evidence-based advocacy to promote meaningful inclusion with adequate budgetary allocations, sensitization and inclusive policies and programmes.
- Election Department does not document disaggregated data for voters with disabilities who voted in the elections.
  - In Assam, there is 163,161 PwDs registered as voters in 2021 (as against an approx. number of 3.5 lakh PwDs of voting age as per Census 2011).
  - In Manipur, there is approx. 14,000 PwDs registered as voters (as against an approx. number of 41,000 PwDs of voting age as per Census 2011).
  - In Nagaland, there are 3,532 male and 2,770 female voters with disabilities registered as voters (as against a population of over 22,000 PwDs of voting age as per Census 2011).
  - In Sikkim, there are 2,267 PwDs registered as voters (as against an approx. number of 15,500 PwDs of voting age as per Census 2011).
- The District Disaster Management Authorities have a key role to play in conducting surveys of PwDs in each district as per section 8 of the RPwD Act. However, this has seen no implementation so far.
- There is no publicly available reliable data on access to education by CwDs / PwDs in various levels and sites of education. SSA data is limited and does not reflect the reality of children not covered by government schools.
- No data on how many institutes of higher education have started implementing the provision of 5% reservation for students with disabilities in higher education and how many of those reserved seats are actually filled by PwDs.
- It was also reiterated that all EOI / RFP for infrastructure development, procurement of transportation, construction of roads and for ICT, must necessarily have mandatory compliance requirements to be fulfilled by the lowest bidder.

Category-wise houses sanctioned and completed under PMAY - Gramin

Sl. No.	State Name	Target fixed by States	Registered	Breakup of registration					Sanctions made	Breakup of sanction					Comple-ted	Breakup of completion				
				ST	SC	Minorities	PH	Others		ST	SC	Minorities	PH	Others		ST	SC	Minorities	PH	Others
1	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	35691	35503	33916	0	560	23	1587	33904	32332	0	550	23	1572	3930	3839	0	33	9	91
2	ASSAM	868029	791379	111918	52077	392720	1139	627384	735736	101562	47659	369259	1130	586515	461118	94549	43149	131674	873	323420
3	MANIPUR	42753	43062	26447	853	4296	8	15762	34965	22369	839	3263	8	11757	13563	8581	346	1330	7	4636
4	MEGHALAYA	75846	61503	57031	364	3832	38	4108	61242	56816	353	3802	38	4073	26762	25594	114	874	29	1054
5	MIZORAM	17711	13533	13461	9	62	1	63	13532	13460	9	62	1	63	5396	5388	0	7	1	8
6	NAGALAND	25072	24049	23738	1	91	8	310	15063	14813	1	91	8	249	4239	4119	0	14	3	120
7	SIKKIM	1383	1372	639	134	62	1	599	1343	630	128	62	1	585	1070	470	77	60	1	523
8	TRIPURA	213740	210401	93982	37737	14870	46	78682	204285	92500	36705	14237	46	75080	46716	29619	4726	3411	12	12371
	TOTAL	**1280225**	**1180802**	**361132**	**91175**	**416493**	**1264**	**728495**	**1100070**	**334482**	**85694**	**391326**	**1255**	**679894**	**562794**	**172159**	**48412**	**137403**	**935**	**342223**

CategoryWiseHousesCompltReport_Centre_PMAYG_0_ALLPMAYG.pdf accessed from https://rhreporting.nic.in/netiay/SocialProgressReport/Categorywisehousescompletedreport.aspx as on: 04/02/2022 10:46:41

3.6. Social Security and other provisions:

Besides the main thematic areas, discussions also revolved around issues of social security under SDG Goal 1 (No Poverty) and other provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016.

Social and economic exclusion faced by PwDs was disproportionately heightened by the pandemic, with most of them having no access to social protection measures like poverty reduction schemes, cash transfer programmes, social and health insurance, housing programmes, and mobility grants.

Inputs from Participants:

- Access to Disability Pension for PwDs is limited. For most PwDs, this is the only source of security, as PwDs are mostly illiterate and without livelihood opportunities, and just a small section of this population is actually getting this support.
- A major concern is that PwDs are asked to repeatedly submit applications for the same in the concerned offices. Stakeholders have no access to any information with regard to the status of their application and they have to spend precious and substantial resources in going to the offices multiple times to enquire about the same.
- For PwDs who are already availing it, the disbursement of the pension amount is intermittent and irregular. Many PwDs have reported that they get the assistance for 6 to 9 months and not for the entire 12 months in a year.
- Further, the quantum of assistance being provided across the various states is highly inadequate to meet the basic minimum needs for a life with dignity and to cover the additional cost of living with a disability.
    - In Sikkim, INR 2,000 is given under IGNPDS to PwDs above 18 years and with 80% and above disability and INR 1,500 is given to persons with benchmark disability below 18 years and with low income under the Chief Minister State Disability Pension.
    - In Assam, an approx. 169,000 PwDs are availing Disability Pension at the rate of INR 1,000 per month. This is about 35% out of total 480,065 population of PwDs as per Census 2011.
    - In Tripura, Disability Allowance at the rate of INR 1,000 per month is given to PwDs with 60% and above disability from 10 years of age and above.
    - In Nagaland, a total of 6356 PwDs are availing Disability Pension at the rate of INR 300 per month.
    - 742 PwDs are availing the IGNPD Scheme in Mizoram. The amount of assistance is INR 400 per month (including INR 300 as central assistance and INR 100 as state contribution).
    - Care-Giver allowances/Maintenance Grant of INR 1,500 per month is being given to around 6,000 PwDs under the Chief Ministergi Sotharabasingi Tengbang (CMST) scheme in Manipur. This grant is, however, only given to people with 40% and above intellectual disability or mental illness, people with cerebral palsy (65% or above), people with locomotor disability (80% or above) and people with blindness (100%).

- Arunodoi Scheme, launched in October, 2020, in Assam, provides financial assistance of INR 830 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to some specific categories of poor and single women, including WwDs.
- **Persons with visual impairment, ASD and other disabilities face many challenges is getting Aadhar Cards**, due to issues with recording of biometric scans. No reasonable accommodation has been provided to address the situation of people with these specific disabilities like it has been done in states, like Tamil Nadu.

  Also, there is no readily available data of PwDs who have been issued the Aadhar Card.
- **District Level Committees** under section 72 of the RPwD Act have not been constituted and / or are not operational on a regular basis.
  - In Assam, DLCs are formed for most districts, but there is no regular conduct of its sittings to monitor and supervise implementation of various provisions under the RPwD Act and members are not sensitized on their roles and responsibilities.
  - In Nagaland, DLCs have been constituted for all districts, except the newly formed ones and sensitization workshops on their roles and responsibilities are also being carried out.

4. Recommendations:

- Meaningful **engagement of CSOs and NGOs with the state** is the need of the hour for mainstreaming disability in all sectors at the district level. Collaboration is important. Stakeholders have to proactively take initiative to gather information and ask questions at the local level to follow-up on implementation of various provisions of the RPwD Act as well as with regard to access to schemes.
- **Capacity building of OPDs** should be taken up on a structured basis, if they are to play an integral role in creating awareness of their rights and ensuring proper implementation of provisions of the law by all concerned duty bearers.
- **Streamlining of the process for Disability Certification and UDID** is urgently required. Inspite of the requirement for mandatory online certification of disability through UDID portal w.e.f. 01.06.2021, as notified by Notification No. S.O. 1736(E) dated 5th May, 2021 issued by the MSJE, GOI, the practice across states is varied and, in many places, disability certification camps are being held even now.

  Notified doctors for issuance of Disability Certificates should be specifically trained on the Assessment Guidelines. There should be proactive facilitation from the grassroot workers under the Departments of Social Welfare and Health & Family Welfare across the district, to help PwDs and parents of CwDs to apply online for Disability Certificates / UDIDs.

  Trained rehabilitation professionals who have knowledge about different disabilities could be used for disability certification process, in view of the shortage of qualified medical professionals in rural areas.
- Need for **unified framework for Inclusive education** through RTE, RPWD and NEP 2020 and clarity of legal and policy framework for right to education of students with disabilities.

- States to provide **access to digital platforms of quality education** for CwDs. Ministry of Education portals could be replicated / translated in state languages in accessible formats.
- States have to **ensure education continuity for all CwDs upto higher education level.** Various deterring factors like shortage of human resources, inaccessible books and TLMs, infrastructure and transportation inaccessibility, lack of scholarships should be addressed to bring down the school drop-out rates, and facilitate more CwDs to be able to access secondary and higher education.
- There must be **quota for people from the region in all National Institutes for training in disabilities,** as there is a dearth of human resources in the northeastern states.
- States to take specific steps to ensure **access to pandemic related care and services, including vaccination for Covid-19 for PwDs** in remote areas and also for those with profound disabilities, including providing for home vaccination, as required.
- **Make DDRCs and DEICs fully functional** in all districts with active involvement and funding of both ministries of MSJE and MH&FW, to ensure access to quality early intervention and rehabilitation facilities for CwDs / PwDs. Involve NGOs with expertise and experience in rehabilitation and early intervention through PPP mode, so that robust services are strengthened across different districts, to increase accessibility, availability and quality of these services to improve quality of life of CwDs / PwDs.
- Make available **affordable quality assistive aids and appliances** including android phones for people with sensory disabilities.
- Take measures to **fill job vacancies** in government jobs. Provide pre-recruitment coaching and bridge courses to build employability prospects for PwDs.
- Make the processes and procedures of **Skills Council and NHFDC more disabled friendly**, to facilitate more access to skills training and loan facility by PwDs.
- Ensure strict **full compliance with 5% reservation in all poverty alleviation schemes** and programs.
- **Disability pension / allowance schemes should be uniformly available to all persons with disabilities** (irrespective of category of disability) and there should be increase in quantum of assistance to meet the basic requirement of PwDs across states.
- **Strict compliance of accessibility mandate by all departments required** to ensure built-environment, transportation and ICT accessibility.

  To ensure disability inclusion across all domains of infrastructure development, transportation, roads and ICT, **all EOI / RPFs of the government must require mandatory accessibility compliance**.
- **Ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of Government schemes and other initiatives**, by using technology to allow access to information. It is crucial that government agencies meet citizen expectations through transparent record management and towards this, regularly update data on all concerned government websites.

- **Government to capture disaggregated data on disability and gender for all development aspects in the mainstream and disability data** not only to be confined to specific schemes and programs meant for PwDs, but be used for all mainstream work. As an illustration:
  - The **data capture format for U-DISE to be revised** to capture the status of CwDs across various sites of education.
  - Data formats for recording of voters who voted in elections to **capture data on PwDs who voted** via different means (postal ballots or in polling stations).
- **District Level Committees** under section 72 of the RPwD Act should be constituted and functioning regularly in all the districts across the states.

5. Advocacy Strategy:

The interactive session on strategies to develop an Advocacy Charter vis-a-vis persons with disabilities for Building Back Better post pandemic was facilitated by Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi. She began by referring to the *North Eastern Region District SDG Index & Dashboard (Baseline Report 2021 – 22)*[2], that tracks progress of the districts of all eight States of the region, on 84 indicators that are aligned to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) National Indicator Framework (NIF) to get an overview of the performance of districts in the region against the different SDGs. She shared a snapshot of the top 3 and bottom 3 ranking districts in the region across 5 SDGs discussed at length in this consultation.

The NER District SDG Index score has been classified as follows:

● **Aspirant: 0–49** ● **Performer: 50–64** ● **Front-Runner: 65–99** ● **Achiever: 100**

SDGs	Top 3 Ranks	Score	Bottom 3 Ranks	Score
SDG 3 Health	Champhai (MZ)	76	West Jaintia Hills (ML)	40
	East Sikkim (SK)	74	East Jaintia Hills (ML)	32
	North Sikkim (SK)	73	South West Khasi Hills (ML)	31
SDG 4 Quality Education	Aizawl (MZ)	89	Kokrajhar (AS)	43
	Kolasib (MZ)	83	Udalguri (AS)	43
	East Sikkim (SK)	82	Chirang (AS)	40
SDG 8	Papum Pare (AR)	90	Sonitpur (AS)	53

[2] https://wgz.short.gy/NER

Decent work & Economic Growth	West Siang (AR)	89	Morigaon (AS)	52
	East Sikkim (SK)	88	Zunheboto (NL)	52
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	Kamrup Metropolitan (AS)	98	Kiphire (NL)	29
	Morigaon (AS)	97	Tuensang (NL)	29
	Hailakandi (AS)	96	Upper Subansiri (AS)	29
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	Chandel, Churachandpur, Senapati, Ukhrul (MN)	100	North Garo Hills (ML)	28
	South West Khasi Hills, South West Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills (ML)	100	Kamle (AR)	26
			South Garo Hills (ML)	20

According to this report, of the 103 districts considered for ranking[3], 64 districts belonged to the Front Runner category while 39 districts were in the Performer category in the composite score and ranking of districts. All districts in Sikkim and Tripura fall in the Front Runner category and there are no districts in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.

It was however predominantly felt by most participants from the region that the indicators based on which the score for the DIFs were arrived at[4], does not capture the true picture of the ground scenario in the different thematic areas.

As an instance, under SDG 9 for Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure[5], the indicators based on which the score of 98 has been arrived at for Kamrup (Metropolitan) district in Assam includes

a) Percentage of habitations with access to all weather roads under PMGSY and other State schemes
b) Surfaced road as a percentage of total road length
c) Percentage of GPs/villages with internet connection (broadband or cellular)
d) Percentage of villages covered by a mobile network

It was felt that these indicators do not suffice for this Goal and that there should be other parameters like the percentage of enforcement of accessibility standards for infrastructure and ICT, which should be monitored and taken into account, to arrive at the achievement for this development index.

Opening up the discussions to develop the Advocacy Strategies to mainstream disability inclusion in the implementation of the SDGs, the following points were stressed upon:

1. The **stakeholders in the disability sector have to build their capacity and educate themselves**, their teams and networks, on the SDG indicators and measurable tools, so that there is the know-how at the block and district level to monitor progress and to

[3] Out of the total of 120 districts in the region, data for 17 districts were not available. Tripura and Sikkim had no missing data.
[4] Indicators are given in Annexure: II to this report.
[5] Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

make changes in systems, policies and procedures that affect the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

2. **Ask specific questions** on health, education, poverty alleviation schemes, access to livelihood opportunities for PwDs in the Assembly and to elected representatives, so that it brings awareness amongst all stakeholders on the importance of capturing disaggregated data and prompting actions.

   Disability is a state subject and issues around mainstream agenda have to be raised at the state level to influence the governments to capture the data for disability, as they do for other marginalized groups. There is a need to gather specific information as a continuous effort. *How many PwDs have been issued Antyodaya Card, which uphold their right to food guarantee; how many WwDs have faced violence as per the National Crime Bureau records; percentage of PwDs and WwDs accessing skill development training programs and microfinance facilities; how many PwDs are gainfully employed and/or have other livelihood options, how many PwDs are able to access health facilities; how many CwDs have access to education in regular school / special school / open school / HBE setting; how many CwDs / PwDs are able to access sports and culture facilities in their districts / states*, are just some parameters on which disability inclusion needs to be monitored to strengthen state action.

3. **NGOs / CSOs / OPDs to act as watchdogs to capture ground realities** of PwDs **and to prompt states to accelerate action to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities** by abiding with policy and accountability framework, as well as other implementation modalities that prioritize the rights of persons with disabilities in every development aspect.

4. **Bottlenecks to access Disability Certificates, UDID Cards and Aadhar Cards** has to be addressed by the state on a priority basis with the active involvement of CSOs working with communities and PwDs.

5. **Equip people with disabilities with information about their human rights, support them to identify instances of discrimination,** assist them to uphold their rights by raising awareness of problems and seeking solutions.

6. **NGOs and CSOs to extend assistance and support to PwDs at the grassroots to facilitate access to schemes.** There are programs and schemes of different deptts. that address the needs of PwDs and NGOs/CSOs can share information about what is available out there and facilitate access to that on the one hand and on the other, they can question authorities and ask duty bearers what they have done for its implementation.

7. **Boost networks amongst concerned stakeholders** in the region and encourage involvement of mainstream community level organizations.

8. Government reporting procedures followed by different ministries, like, Monthly Progress Reports and Quarterly Progress Reports, capture data for SC, ST, OBC but there is no disability data and, in many cases, no gender disaggregated data too. There is a need to **identify the gaps in collating of disability data and to change the formats for data collection for these MPRs, QPRs** etc.

9. Ensure **active, functioning of District Level Committees (DLCs)** under the RPwD Act across districts, as they can be a primary source for information gathering at the

district level. PwDs and NGO representatives, as members of these committees can play a crucial role in advocating implementation of various rights of PwDs.

10. Push for **technology, digitalization and ICTs for empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities**, and to build an accessible and sustainable world.

6. Conclusion:

The Regional Consultation was an important platform to discuss critical thematic areas for many stakeholders working on the ground, who had little awareness about the SDG goals.

The process of documenting the status of PwDs across the different SDGs, through the consultation, was majorly impaired by the sheer dearth of data on various aspects of disability. Developing disaggregated data is crucial for upholding human rights, and the lack of the same is a significant concern which needs to be addressed at the earliest.

More dialogues and interface between government authorities and the civil society are needed on a regular basis to create awareness around issues faced by PwDs, prompt much needed action, and gather disaggregated data on disability. While recognizing that data disaggregation has its challenges due to various technical, legal, capacity and political constraints operating at global, national, regional and sub-regional levels, it is important that appropriate indicators are taken into account in data collation to ensure inclusion of marginalized groups in development, and towards this end, data gathering formats need to be revised / broadened.

Non-discrimination and equality are fundamental components of international human rights law and essential to the exercise and enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights which are crucial for the achievement of the SDGs for all, and every endeavour must be made to mainstream people with disabilities with the true spirit of inclusion and to “leave no one behind.”

Annexure: I

Regional Consultation on VNR and Covid-19 for NE Region

January 28, **2022** from **3 pm to 5.30 pm on Zoom Platform**

Sl. No	Name	Organization / Designation	State
SPEAKERS			
1.	Bibhash Modi	Director, Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam	Assam
2.	Pi. Vanlaldiki Sailo	State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities	Mizoram
3.	Ram Kishor Sharma	Head of National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment	Assam
4.	Diethono Nakhro	State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities	Nagaland
5.	Carmo Noronho	Bethany Society	Shillong, Meghalaya
PARTICIPANTS			
6.	Debeswar Borah	Assam State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities	Assam
7.	Dr. M.B. Chetri,	Jt. Comm. of Disabilities (Technical), Social Justice & Welfare Deptt.	Sikkim
8.	Victor Narzary	OSD, Education Deptt., Bodoland Territorial Region	Kokrajhar, Assam
9.	Dr. Laxman Malakar	Member, Child Welfare Committee	Tripura
10.	Juri Borah	CRC	Sikkim
11.	Iris	CRC	Sikkim
12.	Utpal Bhuyan	Dibyanga Suraksha Mancha	Sonitpur, Assam
13.	Leshu Laishram	Individual with disability - NFB, Braille without Borders	Assam
14.	Dhanmani Rajbongshi	Haemophilia Society, Guwahati Chapter	Baksa, Assam

15.	Prosenjit Chakraborty	Individual with disability representing MSSI	Guwahati, Assam
16.	Rafael Barla	CBR worker	Silchar, Assam
17.	Jayprakash Borpujari	Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre	Dibrugarh, Assam
18.	Jyoti Sinha	Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre	Dibrugarh, Assam
19.	Sayera Rahman	Prerona Pratibandhi Sishu Bikash Kendra	Jorhat, Assam
20.	Bhaotina Mushahary	Action for Inclusion & Empowerment Trust	Kokrajhar, Assam
21.	Arifuddin Choudhury	Deshabandhu Club	Silchar, Assam
22.	Niranjan Kalita	All Assam Disabled Persons Association	Guwahati, Assam
23.	B. Bauta	Mizoram Blind Society	Aizawl, Mizoram
24.	Lalhmingsanga	Mizoram Blind Society	Aizawl, Mizoram
25.	Neihtluangi	Spastic Society of Mizoram	Aizawl, Mizoram
26.	Ismart Marak	Meghalaya Deaf Association	Shillong, Meghalaya
27.	Ferdinand Lyngdoh	Individual	Shillong, Meghalaya
28.	Kamal Thapa	All Meghalaya Association of PwDs, Garo Hills Unit	Tura, Meghalaya
29.	Zamir	Prodigals Home	Dimapur, Nagaland
30.	Md. Yunnus Khan	State Platform of Disabled People's Organizations, Manipur	Imphal West, Manipur
31.	Khwairakpam Budhinanda Singh	Individual with disability	Bishnupur, Manipur
32.	Tokendra Laishram Ricky	Recreation, Spastic Society, Manipur	Imphal, Manipur
33.	Pauzagin Tonsing	Centre for Community Initiative	Churachandpur, Manipur
34.	Peter Rang	MANEDA	Senapati, Manipur
35.	Jyotirmoy Mazumdar	Voluntary Health Association of Tripura	Agartala, Tripura
36.	Mr. Dey	Donyi Polo Vidya Bhawan	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

37.	Bertha Dhkar	Bethany Society	Shillong, Meghalaya
38.	Anchal Bhatheja	Rising Flame	Mumbai
39.	Smitha Sadasivan		Chennai
40.	Carmila	(Not Known)	
41.	Jaskirat Singh	(Not Known)	
42.	Gauri	(Not Known)	
43.	Habija Khatun	(Not Known)	
44.	Jangam Gangmei	(Not Known)	
45.	Lalbuatsaiha Pachuau	(Not Known)	
46.	Ketaki Bardalai	Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
47.	Diba Nahin	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
48.	Amvalika Senapati	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
49.	Mamta Ghosh	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
50.	Kandarpa Kumar Nath	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
51.	Saswati Saikia	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
52.	Puja Devi	Shishu Sarothi	Guwahati, Assam
53.	Arman Ali	Executive Director, NCPEDP	New Delhi
54.	Niharika Das	NCPEDP	New Delhi
55.	Akash Jain	NCPEDP	New Delhi
56.	Archana Biroi	National UN volunteer	New Delhi
57.	Alka Narang	UNDP	New Delhi
58.	Aarti Thakur	Disability Rights Officer, UN Resident Coordinator's office	New Delhi

Annexure: II

The Indicators[6] based on which the district rankings in the NER District SDG Index & Dashboard has been arrived at for the different SDGs

SDG	Indicators
SDG 3 **Health**	• % of pregnant women who completed 4 ANCs in the district • % of births attended by skilled health personnel • % of children aged 9-11 months fully immunized • Infant Mortality Rate • No. of functional new born facilities (SNCU, NBSU, NBCC) per 10,000 population • No. of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population • % of TB cases successfully treated among TB cases notified to the national health authorities • No. of suicide deaths reported per 1,00,000 population • No. of de-addiction centers (public and private) per 1,00,000 population • First Referral Units (FRUs) per 1,00,000 population • Total physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000
SDG 4 **Quality Education**	• Average annual drop-out rate at secondary level (Class 9-10) • Ratio of female to male enrolment at secondary level (Class 9-10) • % of students in grade 8 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in terms of nationally defined learning outcomes to be attained at the end of the grade • % of schools with computers available • % of schools with access to electricity • % of trained teachers at secondary level (Class 9-10) • Pupil Teacher Ratio at secondary level (Class 9-10)
SDG 8 **Decent Work & Economic Growth**	• % of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned • No. of victims of human trafficking per 10,000 population • % of households covered with a bank account under PMJDY against target • No. of bank branches including Business Correspondents (BCs) in Urban, Semi-urban and Rural areas per 10,000 population • Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) per 10,000 population • % of women account holders in PMJD
SDG 9 **Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure**	• % of habitations with access to all weather roads under PMGSY and other State schemes • Surfaced road as a percentage of total road length • % of GPs/villages with internet connection (broadband or cellular) • % of villages covered by a mobile network
SDG 11 **Sustainable Cities & Communities**	• Houses completed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and/or other schemes as a percentage of net demand assessment (Urban) • Deaths due to road accidents per 1,00,000 population • % of wards with waste collection • % of individual household toilets constructed against target [SBM(U)] • % of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treated out of total MSW

[6] Refer to Page 26 of *Chapter II: Methodology and Results* of the *North Eastern Region District SDG Index & Dashboard (Baseline Report 2021 – 22)*