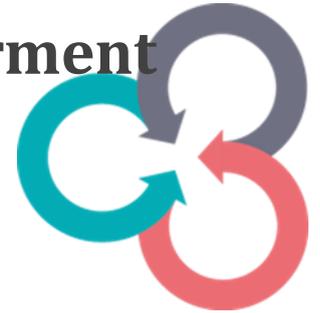


# Inclusion through Creative Empowerment

Recover Better Support Fund



## The Challenge

**Harsh Conditions:** Cambodia’s violent history and the landmine-laden countryside alongside a poor health care system and high poverty rate impaired the development of the whole population but especially the opportunities of people with disabilities. Nearly 80 % of Cambodia’s population lives in rural areas and is mostly engaged in subsistence farming.

**A Challenging Intersection:** Women with disabilities who live in rural areas experience a triple marginalization and discrimination due to gender, disability, and poverty. The effects of this marginalization have become more severe due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which bears the risk of leaving people with disabilities behind on the agenda of recovery and development. A study from the UK Department for International Development (DFID, now FCDO) shows that most people with disabilities in Cambodia were among the poorest and faced more hurdles to escape poverty, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a study on the impacts of disabilities published in the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (2020), disability is likely to trigger a vicious circle, leading to reduced work and earnings as well as a limited accumulation of both social capital and productive assets.

## The Objective

The project aims at strengthening the resilience mechanisms of rural farmers with disabilities, improving their livelihoods, and cushioning the negative consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project empowers farmers with disabilities (particularly women) by building skills, capacities, and confidence to engage in agricultural production. Moreover, the development of assistive farming technology to improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience mechanisms are at the core of the project.

## The Target Group

The project focuses on farmers with disabilities (of which 75 % are women) - including those with hearing, visual and intellectual impairments - from rural areas in the three provinces Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap in Cambodia. The project will furthermore benefit provincial trainers who receive a master training on creative capacity building (CCB). All participants are supposed to spread their knowledge in their communities and self-help groups, hence on the long run, the project is expected to unfold a positive impact on the lives of many more farmers in the area. This positive impact will be amplified by the collaboration with three local organizations, government bodies and international institutions to raise awareness.

Project name	Building Back Better- transformative rural action for women with disabilities
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Cambodia
Implementing Organisation	People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAFiD) formerly known as Light for the World Cambodia
Duration	November 2021 – May 2023

## The Approach

**Multi-Level Approach:** The project applies a multi-stakeholder approach, making use of existing resources and capacities to anchor the project on both the community and political level. To assure that women with disabilities in rural areas have



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access to agricultural production and are enabled to improve their livelihoods, the project engages relevant stakeholders throughout the whole planning and implementation phase. Besides local actors, the project will approach governmental institutions, international organisations, and engineering institutions.

**Comprehensive Support:** Capacity building is offered to women with disabilities. Applying a human-centered creative capacity building approach, participants jointly identify challenges encountered in their daily lives and develop coping strategies. Moreover, the issue of discrimination against female farmers with disabilities and perspectives of inclusive agriculture will be brought to political awareness through political advocacy.

## About PAiFD

People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAiFD), formerly known as Light for the World- Cambodia, is a non-governmental organisation working to promote social inclusion. The vision of PAiFD is an inclusive society where opportunities to participate in the cultural, social, and economic environment are open for all. Therefore, PAiFD contributes to a world in which all persons live in dignity and fully exercise their rights and reach their potential.

## Achieved Results



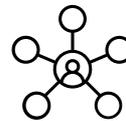
83 farmers completed the workshops focusing on creative capacity building



70 farmers reported an increase in agricultural livelihoods



4 prototypes which help coping with the identified challenges were designed, created, and evaluated



53 stakeholders (policy makers, private sector actors and development agencies) reported an increased disability inclusion knowledge

The Recover Better Support Fund supports efforts designed and implemented in partner countries to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies while advancing the 2030 Agenda. For that purpose, it deploys two funding lines: (1) Sustainable development advisory bodies and (2) leaving no one behind and strengthening socio-economic resilience. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), it supports 23 projects in 16 countries worldwide with up to 180.000 EUR.

GIZ implements the Recover Better Support Fund. For further information, please visit [www.recoverbettersupportfund.com](http://www.recoverbettersupportfund.com) or contact the funds team at [recoverbetterfund@giz.de](mailto:recoverbetterfund@giz.de)

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