

8 December 2023

To whom it may concern

I would like to send you a submission on my experience

Please consider these questions when preparing a submission:

1. What should Australia prioritise to advance disability equity and rights internationally?

Australia should demonstrate its partners are compliant to international conventions and national standards. For example, Indonesia by law UUNo8 :2016 Article 53 requires:

“(1) The Government, the Local Governments, any State-Owned Enterprises, and Local-Owned Enterprises are obligated to employ at least 2% (two percent) of Persons with Disabilities from the total number of their employees or workers.

(2) Private companies are obligated to employ at least 1% (one percent) of Persons with Disabilities from the total number of their employees or workers”

Managing contractors and Australian based NGOs operating in Indonesia need to be aware and implement this requirement. Some of these organisations may have over 100 employees. The interpretation maybe vague but if we include all subcontractors, then we should be proactive rather than silent.

Globally the number of people with disabilities is in the order of 15%. Indonesia has approximately 12% plus of the people with disabilities. As we have gender benchmarks, we should have number of people with disabilities benchmarks, ideally using WHO indicators on the number of people with disabilities as a suitable benchmark.

Granted it is often hard to identify people with disabilities due to the prevailing social environment where families do not want to highlight members of the family may have a disability. However, programs should highlight why they are finding it hard to meet the benchmarks.

2. What are the most effective approaches to progress these priorities?

Clearly understanding that a significant number of people will have a disability within a community. Proactively identifying where the possible 15% are and what are the types of disability. Yaysan Besi Pae is initially targeting the 4% of the population in Indonesia's Timor Tengah Selatan that are blind, of which 3 % have curative blindness. Hence has a proactive program to reduce the number of people who can have their sight restored. We are currently developing a proactive program to develop a sustainable system to implement sight restoration in remote parts of TTS, where there is no resident ophthalmologist or facilities. The sight restoration program will be financed through Indonesia's universal healthcare program, BPJS.

Yaysan Besi Pae will expand it's people with disability initiative to address other types of disability. Even though our climate change activities are supporting the general population of people with disabilities, we believe targeted programs based around a particular disability provides more awareness in the community.

Employing people with disabilities with the NGO's team. This enables the team to fully understand the strengths of these individuals, while understanding in a practical way how best to support people with disabilities. The employment may increase project costs, but this should be born by the donor and organisation. For example, Yaysan Besi Pae has two volunteers who are gradually losing their sight due to *Retinitis Pigmentosa*. As their sight deteriorates the Yaysan has had to adjust their workload, making sure they are home before it is dark and having a volunteer work with them at the same time. The disabled volunteer provides a significant contribution through their expertise.

3. How can DFAT support the role of, and partner with, organisations of persons with disabilities?

Ensure DFAT's focus on localisation and climate change are clearly targeting people with disabilities, especially organisations who support people with disabilities.

4. What are the biggest challenges to and opportunities for advancing disability equity and rights?

There are no challenges only opportunities, if we live within national laws and international conventions.

Kind regards,



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Founder Yaysan Besi Pae