

NGO and Civil Society Center & Poverty and Social Analysis and Disability Inclusion Team

“Nothing About Us, Without Us”: Meaningful Disability Engagement in ADB Infrastructure and Social Development Projects

.....

12 August 2026

2:00–3:30 p.m. Manila time (GMT+8)

Online via Zoom



Welcome and House Rules

Emma Walters

Senior Social Development Specialist
NGO and Civil Society Center, Climate Change
and Sustainable Development Department, ADB



CSO Conversations

Translation and International Sign Language Interpretation Available

For Translation

- To select your preferred audio channel:
 - Click **Interpretation** on the Zoom toolbar.
 - Select your preferred language (Bahasa/Mongolian).
 - To hear only the interpreter, click **Mute Original Audio**.
- You may change your selected language at any time during the session.

For International Sign Language Interpretation

The International Sign Language interpreter's video is spotlighted on your Zoom screen.

Reminders



Please keep your audio on mute while the webinar is ongoing.



If you have questions, send them through the Zoom chat box or use the raise hand function. Kindly wait for the moderator to recognize you before speaking.



This session will be recorded and will be shared through our community site and DevAsia.

Opening Remarks

Yevgeniy Zhukov

Director General

Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department

“Nothing About Us, Without Us”:

Meaningful Disability Engagement in ADB Infrastructure and Social Development Projects



Solving Complex
Challenges Together
for 60 Years

Introduction to Disability and Inclusion at ADB

Gohar Tadevosyan

Senior Social Development Specialist

Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department



CSO Conversations

Case Study 1:
**Indonesia Ministry of Transportation Disability Inclusion Hub
and ADB’s Sustainable Infrastructure Assistance
Program Phase II (SIAP II)**
*Institutionalizing disability inclusion within
implementing agencies*

Arya Yoga Rudhita

Junior Policy Analyst
Center for Sustainable Transport Management
Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia

Antoni Tsaptura

Disability Inclusion Specialist Consultant
SIAP II, Indonesia Resident Mission

David Tjahjana

Accessibility Advisor
GAUN (OPD) – Gerakan Aksesibilitas
Umum Nasional

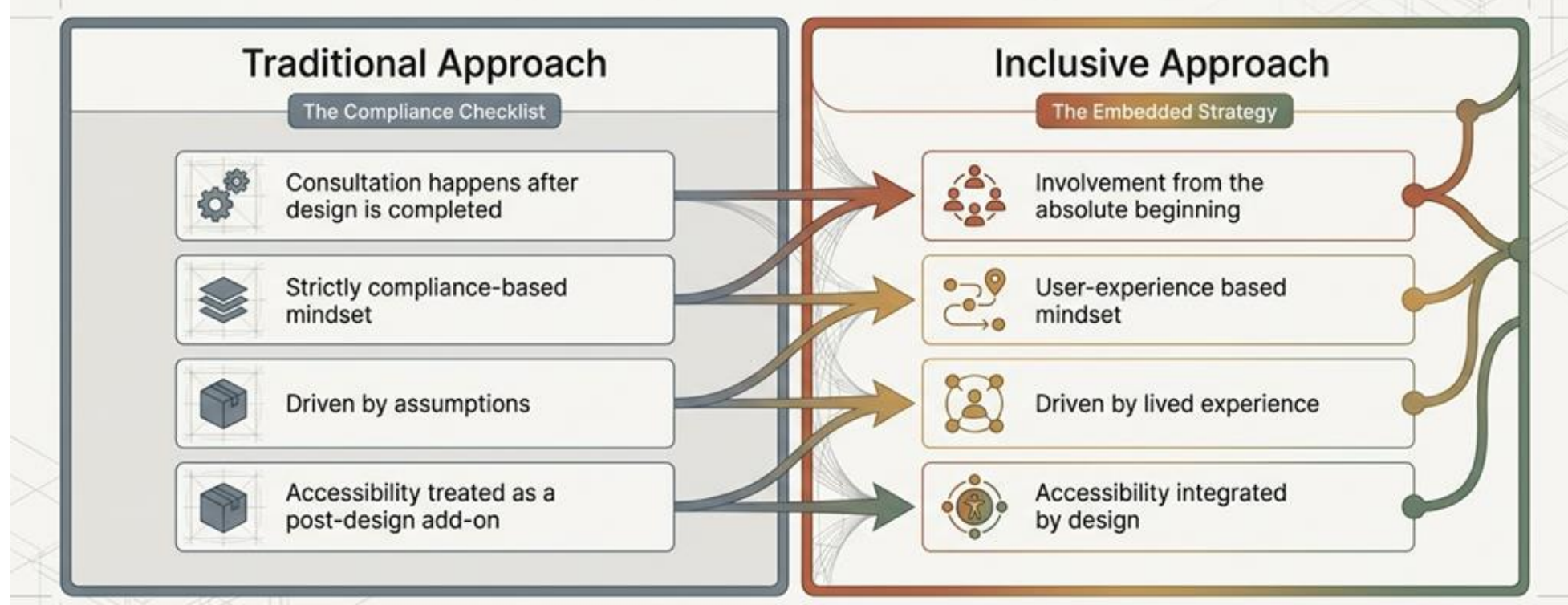


How Meaningful Disability Engagement Improves Transport for Everyone

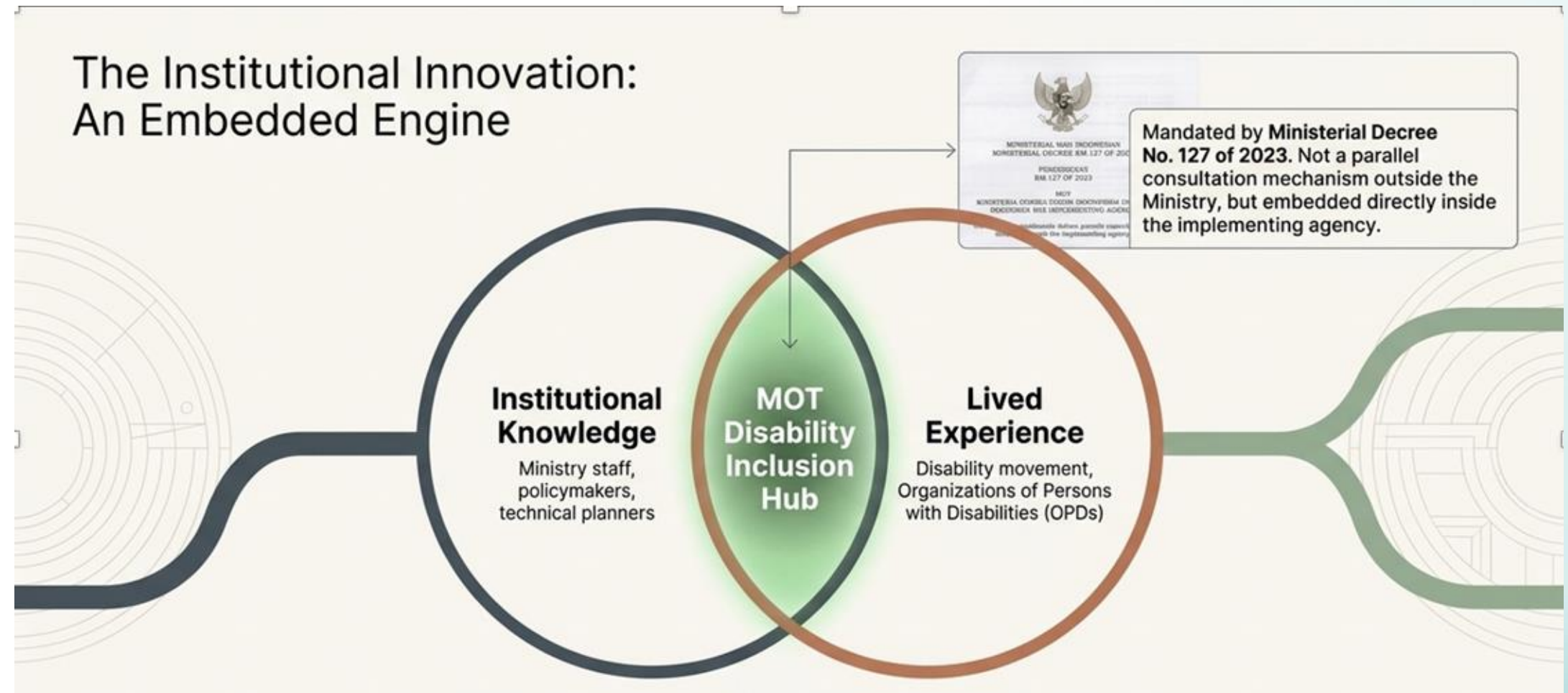
Arya Yoga Rudhita

Disability Inclusion Hub - Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia

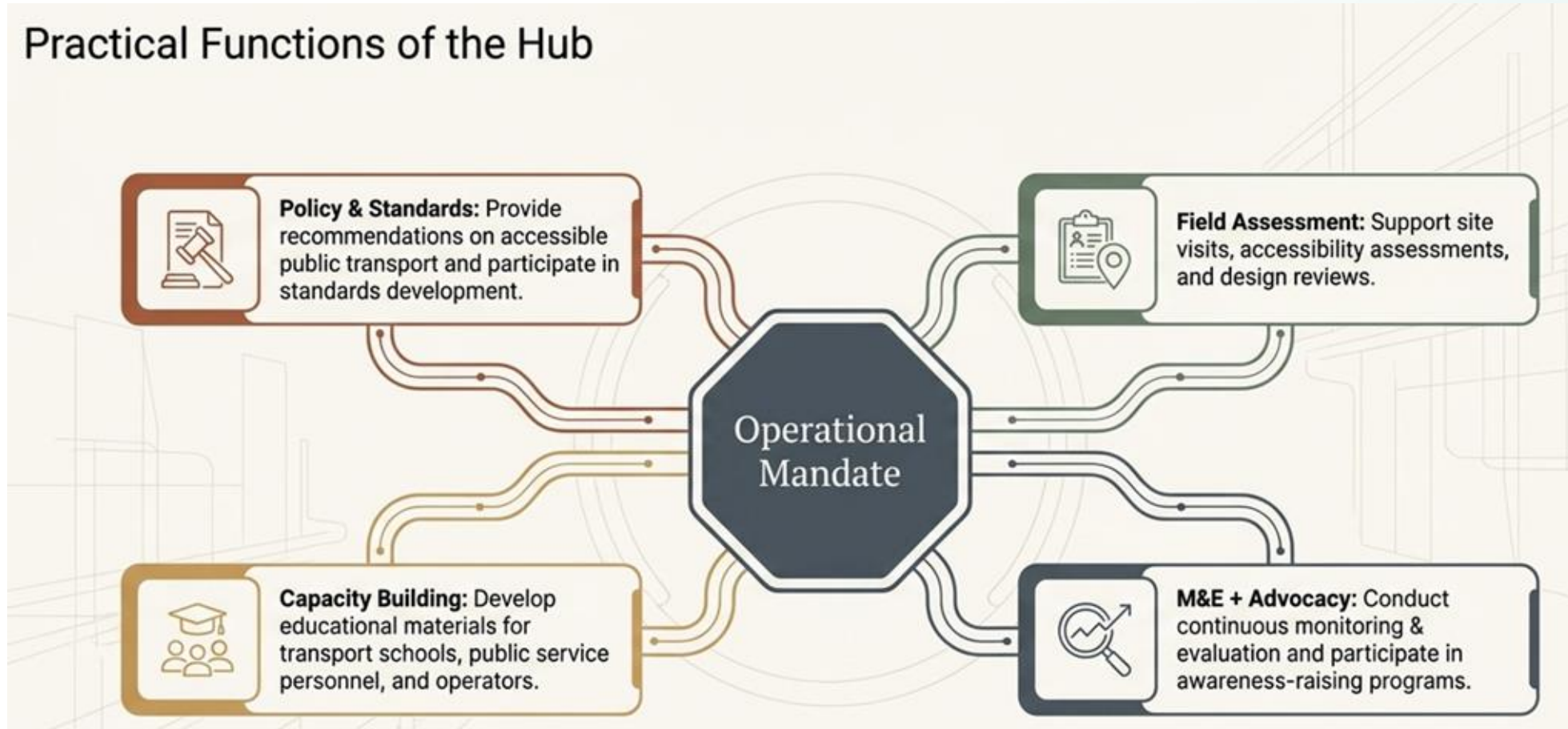
From Designing FOR to Designing WITH



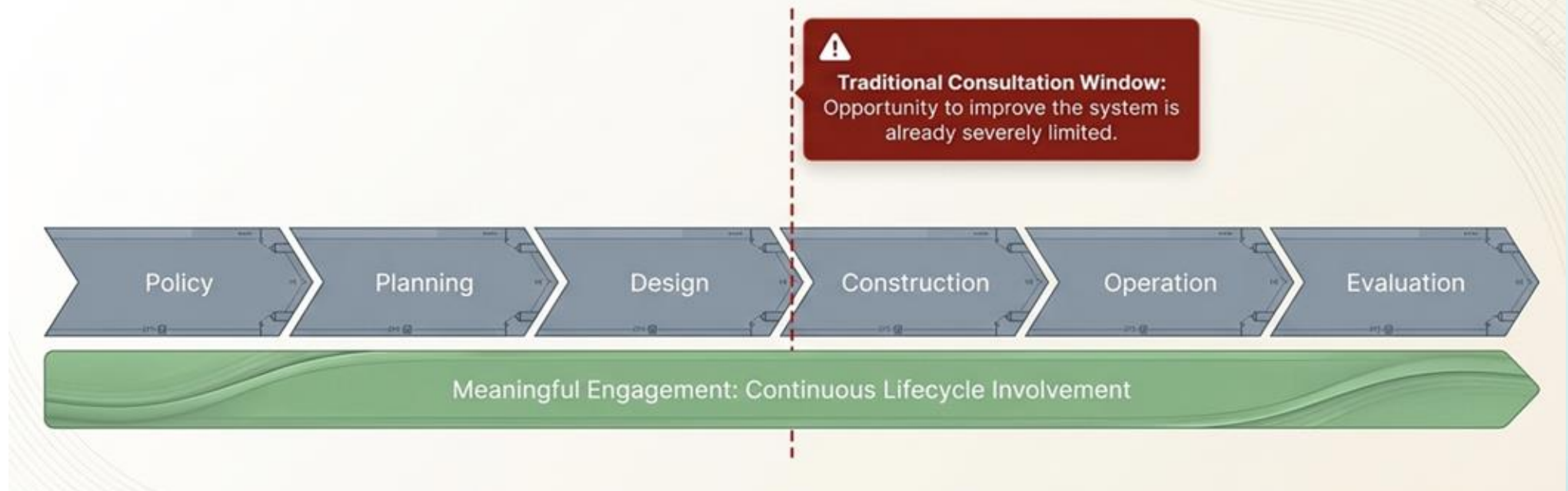
“Nothing About Us, Without Us”:
Meaningful Disability Engagement in ADB Infrastructure and Social Development Projects



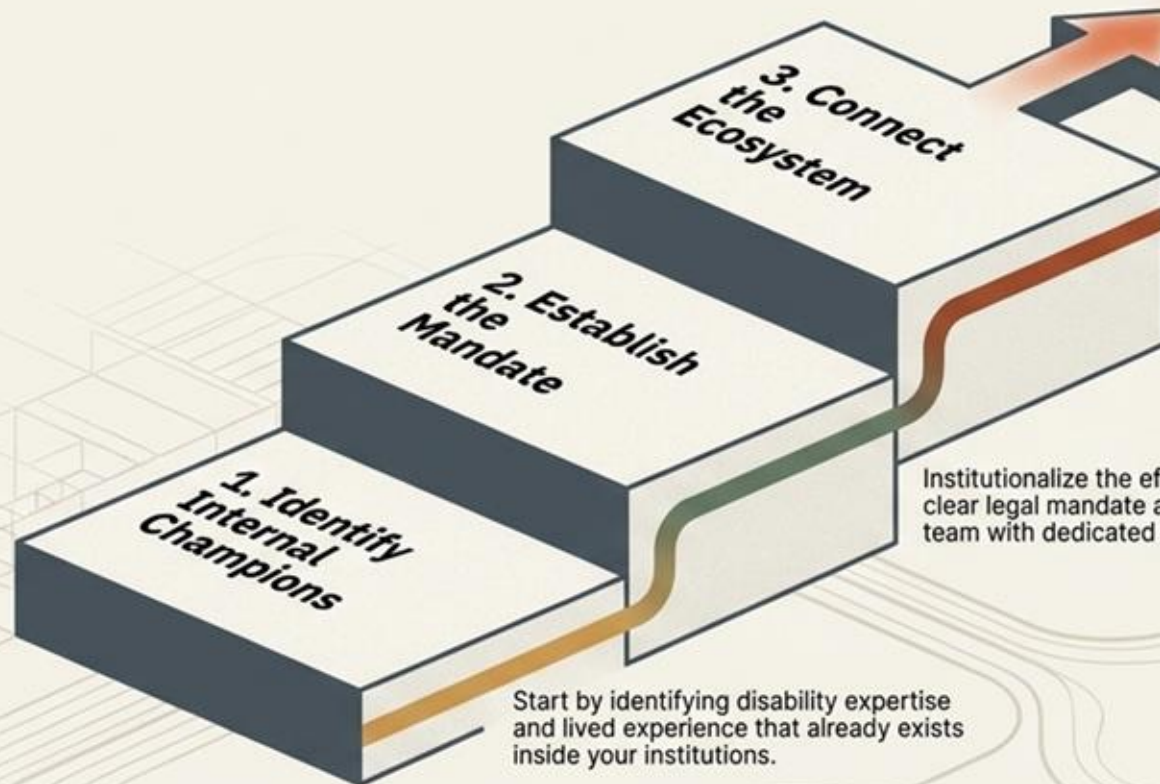
Practical Functions of the Hub



The Cost of Late Consultation



The Blueprint for Replication



Result: Safer, more inclusive, user-centered transportation systems that benefit everyone.

Connecting Projects, OPDs and Government: Advancing Disability-Inclusive Infrastructure

Dr. Antoni Tsaputra
Disability Inclusion Specialist
ADB Indonesia Resident Mission

SIAP II as a technical support model

Technical assistance can organize disability inclusion across existing projects

- SIAP II supports inclusion not only by producing guidance, but by helping projects engage relevant actors.
- It connects OPDs, disability experts, government champions, and loan or grant project teams.
- This helps disability inclusion become more systematic across infrastructure operations.



Meaningful engagement gives OPDs and disability advocates active roles

- OPDs can contribute as resource persons, technical reviewers, facilitators, and capacity-building partners.
- Their involvement should shape infrastructure, services, training, and institutional systems early in the process.
- This moves engagement from feedback collection to shared problem-solving.



MOT Disability Inclusion Hub helps project teams access disability expertise from within the implementing agency.

- The team includes disability activists and OPD-linked members who understand both systems and lived experience.
- Project teams can receive more practical and continuous input throughout implementation.
- This makes disability inclusion more likely to influence real project processes.



Replicable lesson for other contexts



- Indonesia benefits from an active disability movement and internal government champions.
- Smaller countries may need different arrangements for representation and capacity support.
- The principle is the same: connect lived experience, technical expertise, and project decision-making.

Meaningful disability engagement becomes stronger when it is embedded, supported, and connected to decisions.



- Identify the disability expertise that already exists inside institutions.
- Connect internal champions with OPDs and users with disabilities.
- Resource participation through budget, accessibility, accommodation, and follow-up.
- Use engagement to improve design, implementation, operation, and monitoring.

“Nothing About Us, Without Us”:

Meaningful Disability Engagement in ADB Infrastructure and Social Development Projects



Solving Complex
Challenges Together
for 60 Years

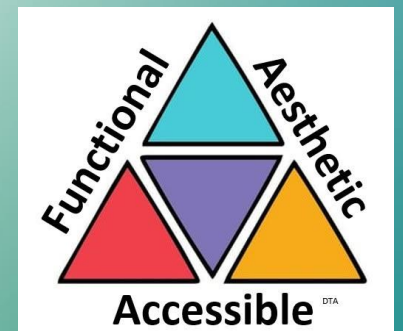
Meaningful Involvement of OPDs in Transport Projects

David Tjahjana

Accessibility Advisor, GAUN - National Public Accessibility Movement

Chairman, Inclusive Transportation Forum - MTI

dave_chyn@yahoo.com



1. OPDs as Technical Partners

- OPDs should not only be invited to validate decisions
- GAUN provides technical insight from user experience
- Key areas:
 - Station access
 - Pedestrian connectivity
 - Wayfinding
 - Safety
 - Information systems
 - Service procedures
- [Kontak Kami - GAUN | Gerakan Aksesibilitas Umum Nasional](#)



2. Accessibility is the Whole Journey

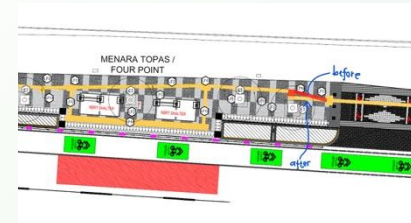
Quote: “Accessibility is not only about ramps or lifts.”

Journey: Arrive → Enter → Get Info → Move Safely → Board → Use Service → Exit
Independently



3. Involve OPDs Early

Early  Cheaper, Better Design, No Rework
Late  Expensive, Small Fixes Only



Quote: “Late consultation often means we can only make small corrections.”

4 & 5. Structured Collaboration & A Message

Tim Inklusi Disabilitas MOT can bridge OPDs and Government
→ Regular dialogue → Site reviews → Technical input → Follow-up

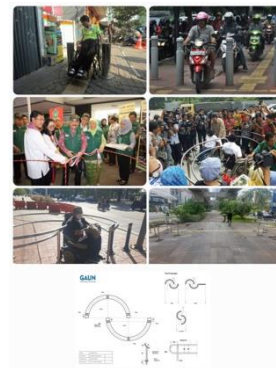
“Do not wait until the facility is built to ask users with disabilities whether it works. Bring OPDs and users into planning, testing, monitoring, and service improvement.”



Accessible for One, Better for All

audit with government

6. Implementation



Open Q&A

Moderated by:

Emma Walters

Senior Social Development Specialist
NGO and Civil Society Center, Climate Change
and Sustainable Development Department

Case Study 2: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Service Delivery for Persons with Disabilities Project (PWDP)

Asyl Khuandag
Project Coordinator, PWDP



Ensuring Inclusiveness and Service Delivery for PWDs

Project Purpose

Rather than treating disability support purely as social welfare, the project positions persons with disabilities (PWDs) as active contributors — expanding early identification, service delivery, physical accessibility, employment, and social welfare reform across Ulaanbaatar and six target provinces.

Five Project Outputs

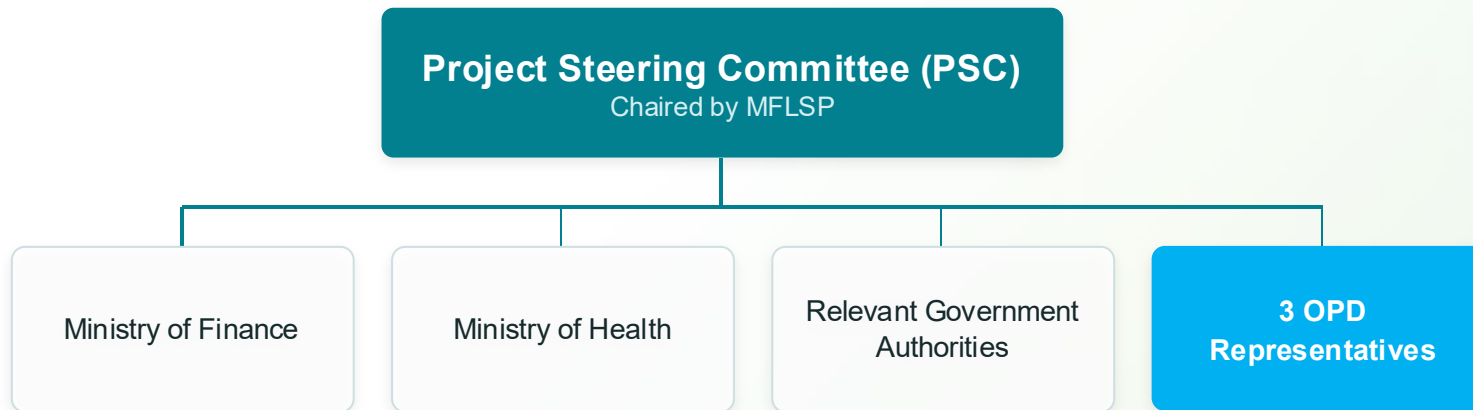
- 1 Early identification of children with disabilities
- 2 Service delivery — Development Centers (DCs)
- 3 Access to the physical environment
- 4 Work and employment for PWDs
- 5 Strategic development to support PWDs

Governance

3 OPD seats on the Project Steering Committee, plus OPD representation on all 6 province subcommittees.

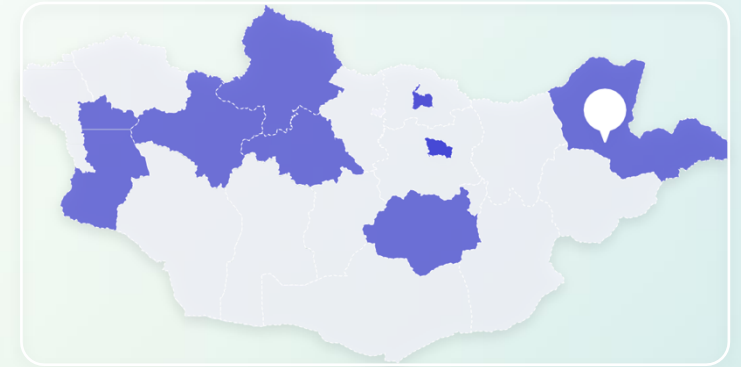
2

OPDs Are Built Into Project Governance



Target 6 Province Subcommittees

Each chaired by the province governor, with local health, education, and social protection committees and OPD representatives.



Why it matters

OPD seats extend from project planning to local implementation — ensuring rural and provincial PWDs are represented, not just Ulaanbaatar-based organizations.

Achievement of the Project

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



A nationwide model for
early identification of
children aged

9,18,36
months

implemented.

The skills of

1200+

health workers
strengthened.

DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES



Development Centers for PWD's constructed
and put into operation in **6 Provinces**

Since 2023, comprehensive development support
and social rehabilitation services provided to

30,000+ PWDs

Created **210 workplace**
in project sites.

Achievement of the Project



DIGITAL ACCESS AND INFORMATION OPENNESS



The first open and free Mongolian screen reader system for converting Mongolian text to speech developed.

11,000+

It supports the lives and social participation of visually impaired people.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT CENTER FOR PWD

In 2024, 8-floor building
Employment Support Center for PWD constructed
in Sukhbaatar district of Ulaanbaatar city.



The Center has the capacity to provide employment services, counseling, job placement, and skills training to

5,000+

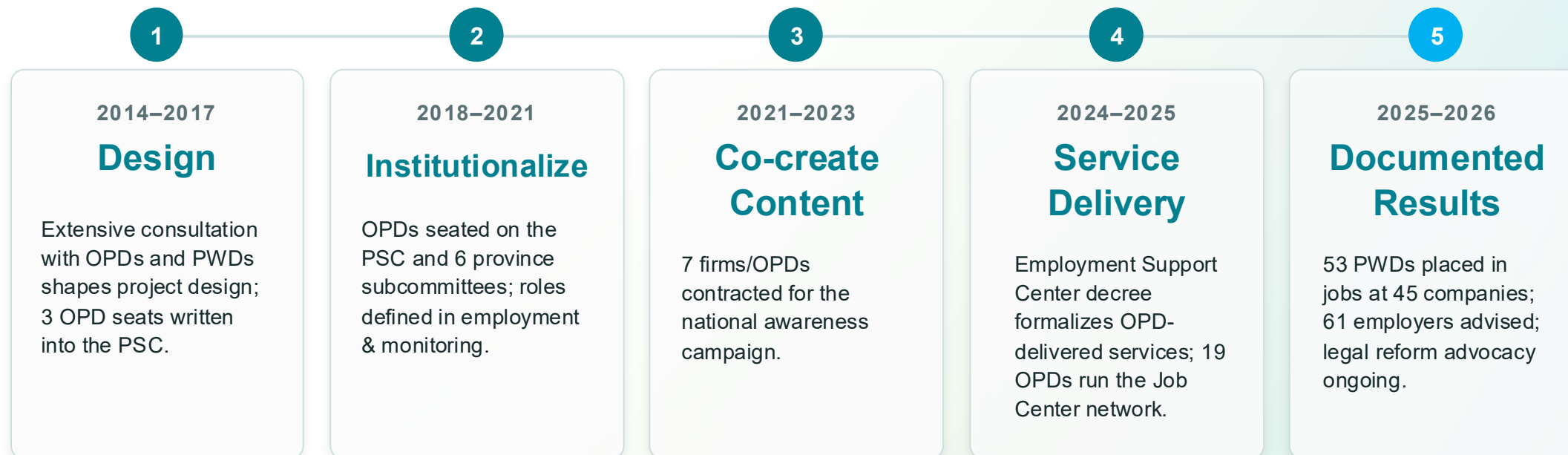
PWDs and employers.

Achievement of the Project

RAISE AWARENESS AND CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARD PWDs



OPD Role Has Matured Over the Project Lifecycle



OPDs Co-implement the National Awareness Campaign

Delivered via newspaper, TV, radio, and social media, 2021–2022

Seven Contracted OPDs

Seven OPDs were contracted to co-develop national awareness content with PWD participation. The project's own success indicator required the content to meet quality criteria the OPDs themselves set.

Content developed with the participation of PWD themselves.

71.4%

of surveyed PWD were satisfied with the published content

102

newspaper articles, interviews & editorials

40

TV programs (20 min, 5 channels)

22

short video spots (30 sec)

44

social media content pieces

OPDs Now Deliver Employment Services Directly

19

OPDs selected to deliver skills training & job coaching

300

PWD received individual training for job placement

53

PWDs placed in jobs (25 women) at 45 companies

61

employers advised on workplace adjustments



Employment Support Center for PWDs, Sukhbaatar district, Ulaanbaatar.



Case Study 2: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Service Delivery for Persons with Disabilities Project (PWDP)

Chuluundolgor Bataa

President, National Association of
Wheelchair Users Mongolia



Participation in Project

- Why OPD’s participation in the project was crucial.
- Lessons learned.
- Actionable insights for future OPD collaboration in ADB projects.

Meaningful disability engagement in ADB projects

Working with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities across the project cycle

Dr. Shivani Gupta

Senior Inclusive Design Manager,
Global Disability Innovation Hub, University
College London



What We'll Cover

01 Context

- Who is GDI Hub?
- What are OPDs?
- Why does OPD participation matter?
- Identifying OPDs
- Why is OPD engagement challenging?

02 How to operationalize

- Enablers
- Case study
- Roles across the project cycle

03 Going further

- Key guidance
- Resources and contacts

Who is GDI Hub?

Global Disability Innovation (GDI) Hub accelerates ideas into impact for a more just world — for disabled people, and all people.



Delivery & Practice Centre

World-leading in disability
innovation



Academic Research Centre

Hosted at UCL, University College
London



WHO Collaborating Centre

First global centre on Assistive
Technology

GDI Hub is supporting ADB’s efforts to embed disability inclusion across projects to build inclusive design in infrastructure projects.



What is an OPD?

A **Disabled People’s Organization (DPO)** or **Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD)** is a civil society, representative organization that exists for the purpose of advancing justice for the disability community. An OPD is either:

Majority-run and -controlled by disabled people

Including at leadership and board levels.

OR

Run by supporters of disabled people

Only where access or legal needs make such support necessary — self-advocacy and self-determination must remain a primary part of the organization.

Source: Global DPO Map — dpomap.com/about-global-dpo-map

Why does OPD participation matter?

A human rights imperative

Participation is enshrined in the CRPD,

- One of the General principles (Art. 3)
- Part of the general obligations (Art. 4.3).
- International cooperation to work in partnership with OPDs (Art 32).
- OPDs have the right to be participate in national implementation monitoring processes (Article 33.3).

“Nothing about us without us”

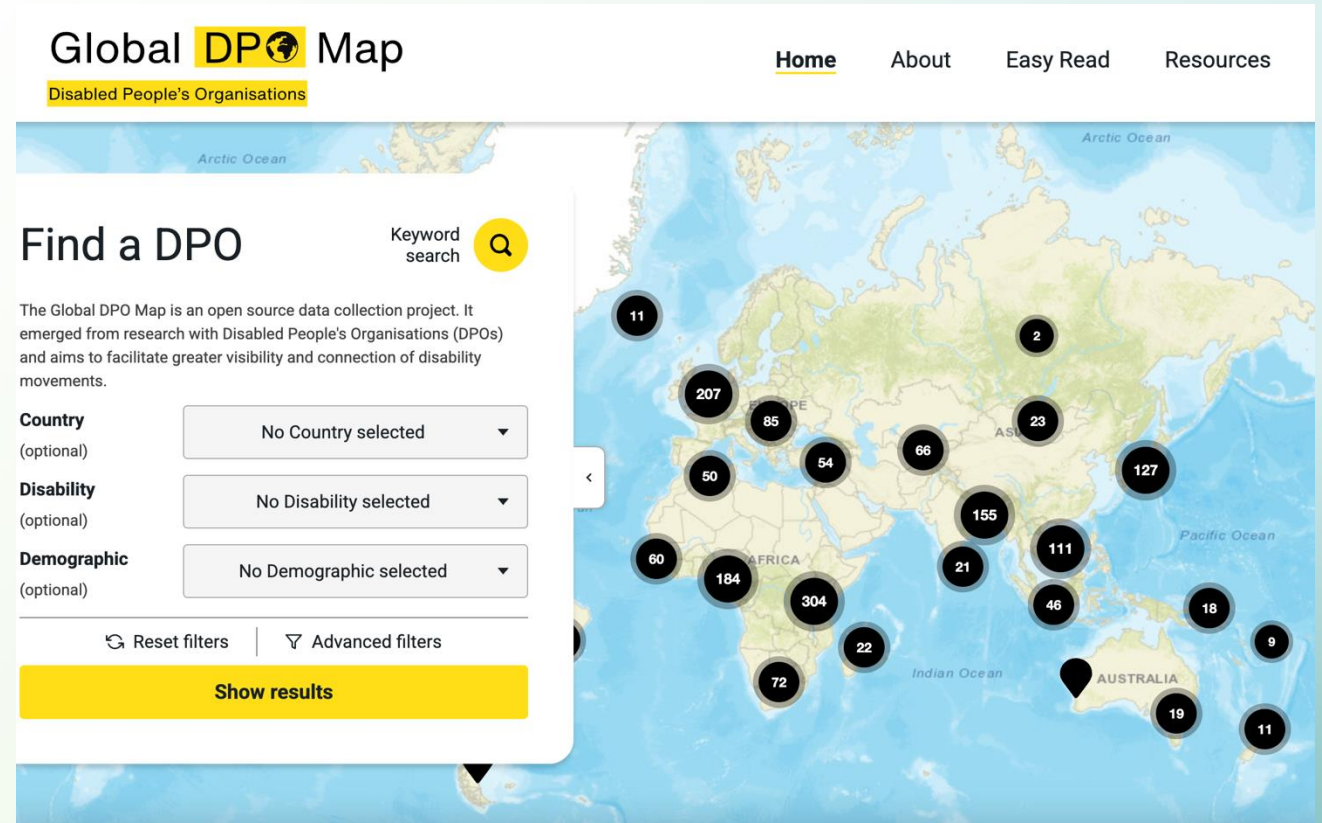
- People with disabilities are the experts on their own lives and on the barriers they face
- Engagement with OPDs and their local presence and specialized knowledge leads makes projects more relevant, more accessible and more effective.

Source: CBM Global Disability Inclusion — participation.cbm.org/why

Identifying OPDs to engage in projects

OPD Map

An open-source data giving greater visibility and connection of disability movements.



Why is OPD engagement still challenging?

Projects struggle to identify representative OPDs

- Which OPDs genuinely represent people with disabilities?
- How do we reach smaller grassroots organizations?

Engagement starts too late

- OPDs are often invited only after project designs are complete.

Limited budgets

- Accessibility and participation are rarely budgeted from the beginning.

Capacity gaps on both sides

- Project teams may lack disability knowledge.
- OPDs may need support to engage with procurement, infrastructure or technical planning.

Consultation without influence

- OPDs are consulted.....but recommendations are not reflected in decisions.

Participation is not monitored

- Projects count meetings rather than measuring influence.

Seven principles for moving from consultation to partnership

- Engage early
- Ensure diversity of disability representation
- Resource participation
- Build capacity on both sides
- Share decision making
- Close the feedback loop
- Institutionalise participation

Budget benchmarks

3–7%

of total program budget for OPD
engagement and inclusion activities

10–15%

where there is a strong focus on
disability rights or inclusive development

Source: AT2030 – Pathways to Funding for OPDs in Low-and-Middle Income Countries

From Consultation to Partnership

Example: Inclusive City Pilot Project

Traditional engagement

Invite OPDs to workshops

One consultation

Ask opinions

Volunteers

Accessibility on request

Project closes



Meaningful engagement

Co-design priorities

Continuous engagement

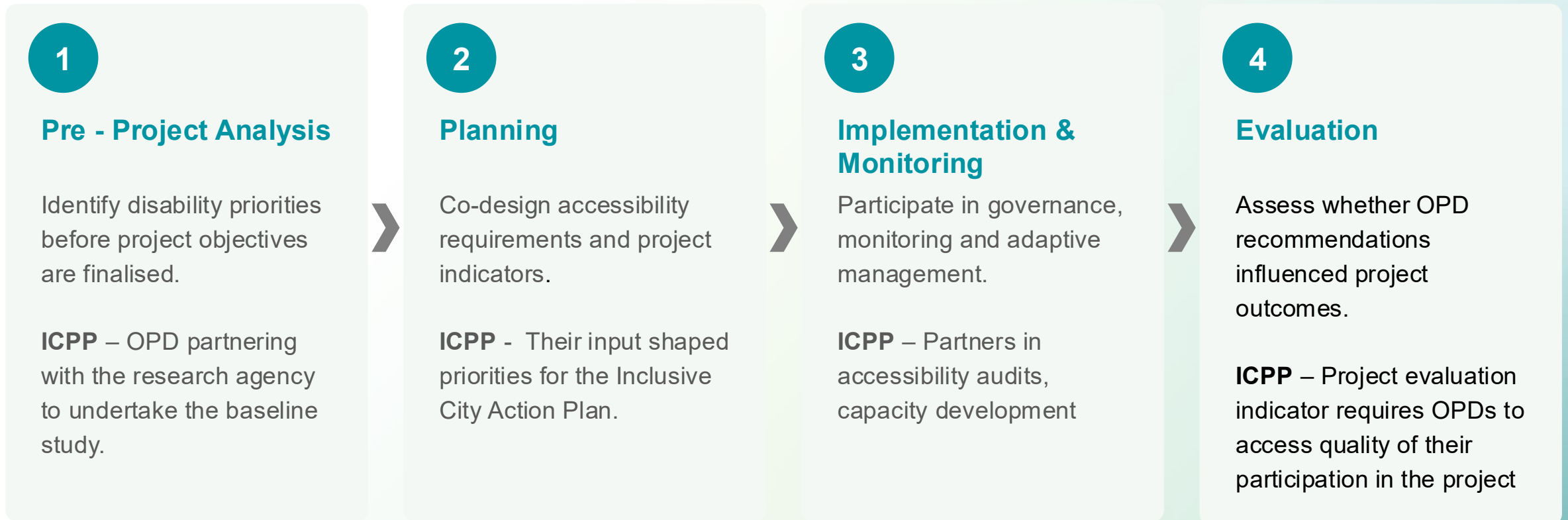
Shared decision making

Paid experts

Accessibility by design

Relationships continue

OPD participation across the project lifecycle



Five questions every project team should ask

- Have we identified representative OPDs?
- Have we budgeted for participation?
- Are persons with disabilities involved before decisions are made?
- Do OPDs influence decisions?
- Can we demonstrate that OPD engagement influenced project decisions?

Resources

Global Map of Disabled People's organizations

dpomap.com

Pathways to Funding for OPDs: Landscape Review

at2030.org/pathways-to-funding-opds

Access to Funding: Good Practice Guidance from & for OPDs

at2030.org/access-to-funding

Inclusive Tourism: A Playbook for Accessible Tourism

Forthcoming ADB publication, developed with GDI Hub

Thank you.

Dr Shivani Gupta

Senior Inclusive Design Manager
Global Disability Innovation Hub, UCL

at2030.com
disabilityinnovation.com

Open Q&A

Moderated by:

Emma Walters

Senior Social Development Specialist
NGO and Civil Society Center, Climate Change
and Sustainable Development Department

Closing Message

Benjamin Graham

Director, Fragility and Engagement
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department

Evaluation

Help us make our knowledge events better.
Please answer the poll that will be flashed on your screen.

Thank you for joining us.

**Follow our pages and
visit our website to stay updated**

linktr.ee/adbandcivilsociety

