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Submitted jointly by:

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Bhutan Transparency Initiative and
Bhutan Network for Empowering Women



POVERTY REDUCTION (cluster 2):

Challenges

- 12% in 2012 to 8.2% in 2017 (Bhutan Poverty Assessment Report 2017)
- Rural Poverty at 11.9%
- Gini Coefficient 0.38 in 2017 up from 0.36 in 2012
- Unemployment 2.4% in 2017 however, Youth Unemployment 16.7 %
- Poverty amongst senior citizens and persons with disabilities

Recommendation:

- Partner with national and local CSOs in last mile service delivery
- Adopt a holistic national social protection strategy
- Institute social work as a work category recognised by the Royal Civil Service Commission
- Establish and run efficient hospices and integrated homes/shelters/day centres for seniors/persons with disabilities/women and children in difficult circumstances



Right to Education (Cluster 3&4)

Challenges:

- There are only 15 schools that have Special Educational Needs Programme and only two special schools, hence children with disabilities still underserved
- Lack of basic awareness of menstrual health and hygiene in rural schools continue to result in absenteeism of girls
- Nutrition security of growing children especially those living in rural communities and in boarding schools, still a concern

Recommendations:

- Improve mensuration hygiene awareness and access to affordable sanitary supplies and facilities
 - Nutritionist recruited and made responsible for nutrition based school feeding programmes
 - Review the quality of teacher training programmes
 - Incorporate life skills learning through play
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Right to Health (cluster #5)

Challenges:

- NCDs on the rise
- High cancer rate to population size
- HIV and AIDS lack of funded rehabilitation programmes
- Geriatrics care and palliative care still in the nascent stage

Recommendations:

- Undertake a national study to get to the root causes of the rise in NCDs, renal failure and cancer in the Bhutanese population
 - Develop clear strategies and implement an action plan based on the findings preventing loss of precious lives
 - Repeal Section 213 of the Penal Code of Bhutan
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Persons with Disabilities (cluster #6)

Challenges:

- Lack of both capacities and facilities for holistic support
- No facility catering for the needs of those with severe disabilities
- No creative programmes to improve quality of life for those with disabilities
- Quality of life for persons with disabilities is lower in general and dependent proportionately to family capacity to support
- The draft Policy on persons with disabilities sponsored by the Gross National Happiness Commission is yet to be adopted

Recommendation:

- Ratify UNCRPD at the earliest
- Develop a national plan of action for persons living with disabilities
- Invest in holistic management of severe disabilities through a National Centre for Disabilities



Protection of Women & Children from Domestic Violence (Cluster 7)

While good progress made in the institutional arrangement for the implementation of the three Acts (Child Care and Protection Act 2011; Child Adoption Act 2012 and Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2013)

Challenges:

- Inadequate implementation resources – both human and financial
- Care work challenges in the absence of support facilities, hence reducing income independence
- Lack of adequate shelters/halfway homes/affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence
- Inadequate rehabilitation programmes

Recommendations:

- Adequate resources provided, to both state programmes as well as those run by civil society through due accreditation processes
 - Establish and run shelters/homes/training centres
 - Sign and ratify UNTOC
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Thank you for your attention



