



cbm
christian blind mission

Community Based Inclusive Development Report 2025



**Voices of change: persons with
disabilities shaping their future**



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Title page: Cynthia (centre) is a community support worker with CBM’s partner ADRA in Gwembe District, Zambia. With her are Sophina (left) and Gift (right). © CBM/Inkunda Studio

Above: Members of an inclusive community group in India, who are learning new irrigation techniques and greenhouse cultivation as part of a project run by CBM partner Sanjeevani. © CBM



Introduction

Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is a way of working that ensures people with disabilities are respected and included in their communities on an equal basis, in all areas of life.

CBID is a key approach to realise the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And it is an essential contribution to an inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

In this year's edition, we look at how CBM-supported community-based programmes systematically put persons with disabilities and their representative organisations at the centre and in the driving seat of change. In doing so, we look at the engagement of persons with disabilities at different levels from global to local, at tools that foster meaningful engagement in disability programming as well as at practical challenges and how they can be addressed or overcome.

Our 'CBID snapshots' section provides you with insights into the diversity of our work from government collaboration in Guatemala to disaster risk reduction in Pakistan.

I invite you to explore this report and dive into the following topics:

- How the Global Disability Summit mechanism contributes to the disability-inclusive development agenda
- The stories of self-representatives from Zambia
- Our work with regional organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Central America
- Our Inclusive Participation Toolbox: a tool that provides practical support for the meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities in programming

In times where diversity and equity are often under pressure, disability inclusion faces the risk of deprioritisation, and budgets are tightened, it is encouraging to see people at different levels coming together to raise their voices and partner for inclusion.

“ CBID is a key approach to realise the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”



Dominique Schlupkothen

Director Community Based Inclusive Development

CBID projects across the world

The Americas

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
1 Guatemala	5	5	1,564,336
2 Honduras	1	1	1,246,579
3 Nicaragua	1	1	178,823
Total	7	7	2,989,738

Africa

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
4 Cameroon	4	3	1,887,460
5 DRC	5	4	1,027,619
6 Niger	11	9	4,469,595
7 Nigeria	16	14	3,876,355
8 Togo	5	4	3,431,398

Source: CBM CBID project data, 31 March 2025.



Asia and Eastern Mediterranean

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
19 India	6	4	3,712,631
20 Jordan	4	4	3,846,908
21 Lebanon	3	3	1,315,223
22 Nepal	1	1	863,093
23 Pakistan	5	5	2,304,907
24 Palestinian Territories	4	3	4,478,232
25 Sri Lanka	1	1	273,797
Total	24	21	16,794,791

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
9 Botswana	1	1	257,247
10 Ethiopia	9	6	5,443,127
11 Kenya	10	8	2,750,421
12 Malawi	4	4	2,778,723
13 Rwanda	4	3	1,470,217
14 South Sudan	3	3	2,582,583
15 Tanzania	3	3	981,498
16 Uganda	8	6	874,147
17 Zambia	9	5	1,952,973
18 Zimbabwe	1	1	519,603
Total	93	74	34,302,966

Total

No. countries	25
No. projects	124
No. partners	102
Multi-year budget (EUR)	54,087,495

CBID snapshots



Find out through these examples how our partners around the world are working with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DIDRR)

Our regional DIDRR programme across **Malawi, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** is delivered by multiple partners including national OPD networks. The project aims to reduce the disproportionate risks faced by persons with disabilities from climate-induced hazards and includes support for the establishment of self-help groups.

In Muzaffargarh, **Pakistan**, our partner Doaba Foundation has played a vital role in advancing disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. OPDs are now part of the District Disaster Risk Management Committee, inclusive early warning systems have been introduced, and six emergency relief camps were made accessible for persons with disabilities.

In **Sri Lanka**, our partner YMCA Batticaloa has worked with local OPDs to build inclusive livelihood opportunities that adapt to the challenges brought by climate change. The partner and OPDs have also worked with the district's Disaster Mitigation Unit on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change response.

“The project aims to reduce the disproportionate risks faced by persons with disabilities from climate-induced hazards.”



Above: Left to right: Michael Fembek (CEO of the Zero Project), Odette Nyiransengimana (CBM), Emile Cadet Vuningabo (NUDOR), and Martin Essl (Founder, Essl Foundation).

Livelihoods

In **India**, CBM is collaborating with the Leprosy Mission Trust India to improve food security for marginalised smallholders, including persons with disabilities, in the Amravati District, Maharashtra. The project aims to strengthen OPDs and inclusive self-help groups (SHGs) inside the community.

In **Rwanda** our partner the National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda, an umbrella body of OPDs, won the Zero Project Award 2025. The award recognises innovative solutions that promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The CBM-supported project contributed to the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities and established 750 inclusive village savings and loan associations (VSLAs).

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** our partner Archidiocèse de Kinshasa launched a new project which aims to improve the access of children and young people with disabilities to healthcare and mobility aids, and to support their households in generating income and developing their economic autonomy through self-help groups.

In **Niger**, a new project with two community development partner organisations, Agir Plus and DEMI-E, aims to develop disability-inclusive school and vocational education in the Diffa region among refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. This will include income generation measures and support to create village savings and loan associations (VSLAs).



Above: Lucrecia Peinado, First Lady of Guatemala, opens the inclusive dialogue event organised by CBM.



Above: Members of the Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities during the national event in Hawassa.

Events and networks

In **Ethiopia**, we supported the Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities to organise a national event in Hawassa to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event was attended by over 600 high-ranking government officials, OPDs, non-governmental actors and community-based organisations.

In **Mexico**, we co-organised a meeting to resume the activities of the community-based rehabilitation/CBID Americas Network. The network aims to bring OPDs, persons with disabilities and professionals together to influence duty bearers to realise the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In **Guatemala**, CBM organised an inclusive dialogue event to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, bringing together OPDs, government representatives and international bodies. The event was inaugurated by Guatemala’s First Lady, Lucrecia Peinado, who emphasised the government’s commitment to disability inclusion.

Disability-inclusive social protection (DISP)

In **Kenya**, our partner the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya, in collaboration with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and four county-level health directorates, organised community-level mass assessments and digital registration of persons with disabilities (prerequisites to access social protection services) in four counties. The activities included sensitisation on social protection mechanisms available for persons with disabilities, referrals for services and capacity strengthening of OPDs as active stakeholders in DISP.

Inclusive education

In **Cameroon**, our partner Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services is working with OPDs to develop a more inclusive environment for persons with disabilities at the University of Bamenda. OPD members have created advocacy and awareness messages and secured airtime on university radio, while focal persons have been appointed to improve the accessibility of shared spaces.

In **Tanzania**, a project implemented by our partner Child Support Tanzania seeks to enhance inclusive education in three regions by addressing social, institutional and environmental barriers. This includes strengthening school capacity, advocacy campaigns, self-help groups for parents and collaboration with government officials.

In **South Sudan**, children with disabilities from vulnerable communities can access quality education at our partner OVCI Usratuna School. The school trains teachers in working with children with disabilities and their families, including sign language and combatting stigma. It also supports OPDs to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities using the CRPD framework.

In **Togo**, CBM partner Inades-Formation is strengthening local influencers to support the inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system. This has included an awareness-raising workshop with 48 participants, including local municipal councillors, school headmasters, teachers and members of OPDs.

Advocacy and community mobilisation

In **Jordan**, CBM and the Al-Hussein Society co-hosted the first module of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training for OPDs and disability advocates. The training is an initiative of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and aims to deepen understanding of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. The training in Jordan was initiated jointly by IDA, IDDC and the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities.

In **Nigeria**, we launched a new CBM and EU co-funded project implemented by TAF Africa and the Nigerian Women Trust Fund. The project supports civil society organisations, including OPDs, faith-based organisations and the National Commission for Persons with disabilities to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. This will include the implementation of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (prohibition) Act.

In **Uganda**, a new advocacy project with the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda aims to strengthen multisectoral collaborations and increase the availability of inclusive, accessible rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. This will include working with OPDs, government ministries, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and media practitioners to influence policies.



Above: Participants and facilitators at the Bridge training in Amman, Jordan.

Moving forward together: working with OPDs in Central America

In our partner countries in Central America, persons with disabilities face similar challenges, but approaches to these challenges can be fragmented. Our work with regional networks of organisations of persons with disabilities helps us to move forward together to address these issues and make the most of our resources.

Our partnership with RIADIS, the Latin American Network of Organizations of People with Disabilities and their Families, has resulted in important research into the needs of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. A study on the response to Covid-19 listed recommendations on how to deal with future crises, while another CBM-supported study provided information on the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the level of national compliance with the CRPD and SDGs in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Both studies will provide valuable tools for organisations in the region to push for the fulfilment of disability rights.

CBM has also supported RIADIS to strengthen the capacities of OPDs and disability activists in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua through the International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium's Bridge CRPD-SDG training programme, which builds the knowledge and skills of the disability movement to advocate for and contribute to CRPD-compliant development in their communities and countries.

“ People on the move across Central America face numerous challenges as they seek to escape violence and poverty and improve their living conditions.”

CBM has worked with COAMEX (the Mexico Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to bring together OPDs and NGOs in Central America to address forced migration, one of the biggest challenges affecting the region. People on the move across Central America face numerous challenges as they seek to escape violence and poverty and improve their living conditions. Hazardous journeys mean many people acquire a disability, while people with and without disabilities turned away at the US border either return to their own countries or stay in Mexico in a legal limbo, facing greater poverty.

By focusing on reducing the conditions which cause people to flee their homes, COAMEX has developed resilience plans, advocacy plans and labour inclusion plans for Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua with organisations of and for persons with disabilities. COAMEX's input has also helped CBM to shape proposals for new programmes responding to the situation across the region. Through the partnership we will continue combining efforts, experience and knowledge from COAMEX, OPDs and NGOs to advocate and take action for the rights of persons with disabilities.



Above: Participants in the Bridge training from Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.



“These activities are bringing us together”: self-help groups in Zambia

Gwembe District in southern Zambia has been badly affected by drought in recent years. CBM’s partner, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), aims to build the resilience of affected communities with a disability-inclusive approach, which includes training on disability rights and self-advocacy.

“ We have the right to education, to health, to economic empowerment.”

© CBM/Inkunda Studio



Georgina, 58, has a physical disability and lives in a rural community, where persons with disabilities have faced stigma and discrimination. This stigma prevented

Georgina from interacting with government officials. “We were scared to go to any office, so we would just confine ourselves to our homes.”

As part of the training, she says, “we were told about our rights. We gained the confidence to begin to approach these offices and to attend their meetings with the community.”

The training motivated Georgina and others to organise collective action. “They taught us that we have the right to education, we have the right to health, we have the right to economic empowerment. We started mobilising other members of the community and created a self-help group.”

The group now has 26 members, mainly persons with disabilities or their family members. ADRA supported them to register the group and obtain an official certificate. Together, they have more influence and can bring about change. “When you do it as an individual, sometimes people don't take you seriously, but when they see us as a group, they see that we are advocating for something important.”

“ Whether you have a disability or not, we can interact with each other.”

© CBM/Inkunda Studio

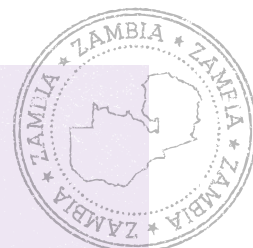


Oclane, 30, set up a self-help group in his community after taking part in the training. His group has 28 members and meets once a week.

Oclane, a person with albinism, attended school up to the age of 14 but struggled with his studies due to poor eyesight. He is now active in the community and works with other group members to tackle challenges. “We teach each other on different aspects, mostly to do with the development of our community. If we discuss a particular issue, then we give ourselves the task of addressing it. We also involve people who are not part of the self-help group, to get more ideas on how we can develop.”

ADRA is supporting the group to apply for funding for their projects, for example to purchase guinea fowls to rear and improve their livelihoods.

The project has addressed the stigma faced by persons with disabilities. Oclane explains: “People used to be uncomfortable associating with people with disabilities. ‘No, we can’t drink from the same cup, we can’t eat together because this person has a disability.’ Now these activities are bringing us together. Whether you have a disability or not, we are able to interact with each other.”



A summit for solidarity

The third Global Disability Summit in April 2025 in Berlin (GDS) was a significant moment for the global disability movement. The summit showed that the global community remains largely committed to human rights and solidarity with those left furthest behind, at a time when those values are increasingly being called into question.

This year's summit was co-hosted by the governments of Germany and Jordan alongside the permanent co-host, the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The GDS was attended by organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), civil society organisations, the private sector, and academia. It built on months of advocacy from OPDs and civil society organisations – including CBM and our partners – to ensure the best possible outcomes for persons with disabilities globally.

CBM colleagues from around the world took the opportunity to talk to stakeholders from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, government representatives from our partner countries, and to strengthen relationships with our national and international civil society colleagues and networks, including most importantly representatives of OPDs.

Our exhibition booth presented CBM's Inclusive Participation Toolbox to visitors, while we participated in or co-organised several side events, including a joint event with IDA which sparked a discussion about better networking and stronger cooperation between parliamentarians worldwide to promote the disability inclusion agenda.

The summit encouraged all stakeholders to set concrete goals for the next three years to make their contribution to inclusive development cooperation and humanitarian action. CBM made ambitious joint commitments in partnership with IDA and Sightsavers. Our intensified collaboration with OPDs is the common thread throughout.



Above: The participants in the parliamentary side event co-hosted by CBM and IDA during the summit.

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What will matter most will be the action taken by states and multilateral institutions with the necessary political and financial power. In this respect, it is encouraging to see the strong support for the final declaration of the GDS, which was endorsed by 100 governments, regional organisations, UN agencies, development banks and funds.

In collaboration with our partners and networks, CBM will monitor how these announcements are put into practice and the corresponding processes are implemented at national, regional and international levels. We will also hold ourselves accountable to our own commitments.

José Viera, Executive Director at IDA: “The Global Disability Summit is a promise to the 1.3 billion persons with disabilities. Together, we can create more and better opportunities. But this will only be possible if political will is transformed into measurable, impactful actions, backed by concrete financial commitments. That is the commitment of IDA and CBM.”

Shiela Aggarao, CBID Advocate/Co-Trainer and Feminist with Disability: “I look forward to seeing how governments will ensure that their commitments are realised, which won't happen unless there is adequate funding for organisations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders. I hope that the summit will give governments ideas on how to work with persons with disabilities at all levels of decision-making, from the local to the global level. And as a feminist with disability, I strongly emphasise that there should be an intersectional lens in future summits, as well as in all policies and programmes resulting from these commitments.”



Above: Samuel (9), who is deaf, with his family at their home in Guatemala. The family grows fruit and vegetables to generate income. They receive support with learning sign language and from a village savings and loan group thanks to CBM partners Asociacion Rompiendo Limites (ASORO) and ASORECH (Asociacion Regional Campesina Ch'orti'). © CBM/Hayduk

A hands-on tool for disability-inclusive international cooperation

CBM's Inclusive Participation Toolbox provides the knowledge, materials and partners you need to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

Visit participation.cbm.org
for more information.