CBM Concept Paper on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)

What is CBID?

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. Together people analyse and address the issues that contribute to inclusive development in their community. CBID is founded on self-empowerment and participation of people with disabilities and their communities. This is the basis of collective action to build resilient, equitable and inclusive communities.

What is a community?

While community can be defined in many ways, the definition used here refers to people living in a particular physical place. People in a community interact with each other, as individuals or groups in varying and constantly changing circumstances. Communities are dynamic as well as complex and can be cities, towns and villages as well as temporary settlements such as refugee and internally displaced persons camps. In governance terms, community is defined as the smallest government unit with duty bearer responsibility.

Who is implementing CBID?

There are many entry points for CBID. The development process begins from within the community itself but there is often a facilitator, or a group from outside the community, to initiate CBID.

The role of **facilitator** can be played by:

1. Community Based Organizations working in the community or in a nearby geographical area
2. Local or National Government
3. Faith based organisations
4. Local leaders, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), parents' groups or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

CBID is **implemented** by women, men, girls and boys with different types of disability, their families, organisations, communities, relevant government and non-government health, education, transport, livelihood, social and other programmes and services.

How is CBID implemented?

Key outcomes

- **Proactive communities**

  CBID works from the bottom up, using participatory processes where people with disabilities empower themselves, so that they can exercise their rights. When people change the way they think, they also change the way they do things, which in turn can lead to collective action, a dynamic process where people work together for transformative social change.

- **Inclusive systems at local level**

  CBID ensures local services and programmes (both mainstream and disability-specific) are accessible, available, affordable, acceptable and of high quality. Local governments are being advocated to, supported and held accountable for strengthening inclusive systems at the community level, such as health, education, social, transport, livelihood and others.

- **Appropriate individual support**

  CBID ensures that persons with disabilities and their families have capacity and confidence and are supported to actively participate in family and community life. This includes the strengthening of peer support functions, local self-help groups and OPDs, as well as access to specific support, such as early intervention, personal development, personal assistance or assistive devices.

- **Non-discrimination**

  CBID promotes and safeguards the voice, choice, dignity and autonomy of people with different disabilities. This includes working proactively with communities to become more respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities by reducing stigma and prejudice.

Activity areas

The backbone of implementing CBID is **community mobilisation**. Community mobilisation is a process in which action is stimulated by the community itself, or by facilitator(s) and that is planned, carried out, and evaluated by the community's individuals, groups, and organisations on a participatory and sustained basis.

Key activity areas used for mobilising a community are:

- **Participatory mapping**

  A first step in implementing CBID is to understand the context and the issues that have shaped the community by mapping the local stakeholders, resources, services, infrastructure, terrain, hazards and barriers to inclusion. Using a variety of techniques, participatory community mapping helps to understand the complex interrelationships and power dynamics of a community and identify possible pathways to positive change.

- **Capacity building**

  Knowledge development, ability building and attitudinal change are the preconditions for informed action in a community. Capacity building can be on a broad range of topics, such as rights, accessibility of services or how to form local peer support groups. The types of delivery can be informal, such as guided critical discussions in groups, or more formal by providing structured training courses. Local OPDs should take a leading role in capacitating community stakeholders.

- **Awareness raising and advocacy**

  To bring about change and to reduce stigma and discrimination, awareness raising activities are pivotal. The methods used depend on local resources and context and may include, among others, community gatherings, individual discussions, role modelling or media campaigns. The message(s) can be aimed at selected stakeholder groups or individuals, as well as at the general public to foster behavioural change. The participation of OPDs is fundamental to these activities as people with disabilities must play a key role in this behavioural change process.

- **Networking**

  Sustainable CBID outcomes can be achieved through synergy among multiple actors and the effectiveness of their interactions. Mapping, understanding and engaging in local networks are therefore key to seek complementarity approaches and processes.

- **Sharing, learning and accountability**

  Continuous learning helps to build shared understanding that can foster collaborative action for inclusive development, as well as to adapt actions to a constantly changing context. In order to have community ownership and be sustained, CBID needs to be accountable to the community, including people with disabilities. Bottom-up, community-led monitoring, evaluation and research offers the link between learning and accountability, and provides the data and evidence to influence both local and national policies and frameworks.