



cbm
christian blind mission

Community Based Inclusive Development Report 2024



Creating long-lasting change



Title page: Community worker Annete and CBID volunteer Emmanuel give advice to Liliane about rehabilitation for her son Joseph at the Gahini Rehabilitation Centre, Rwanda. © CBM/Hayduk

Above: A self-help group supported by CBM through partner the National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda (NUDOR). © CBM

Foreword

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. In this year's edition of the CBID Report, we look at how our community based programming contributes to achieving lasting change in shifting and often challenging environments.

These days, most communities our partners work with must deal with either acute local crises or the ripple effects of other crises, such as the war in Ukraine or the consequences of climate change. Responsiveness and (climate) adaptation therefore cut across our CBID projects. We support partners working with communities to build resilience, develop coping mechanisms and work successfully towards disability inclusion in challenging contexts.

Our *CBID news in brief* section provides you with a snapshot of the diversity of our work from fostering local innovation to building CBID capabilities and to making use of available institutional funding for dedicated inclusive local programming.

I invite you to explore key elements of our CBID work which ensure that the change CBM is supporting can last beyond a project:



Dominique Schlupkothén
Director Community Based Inclusive Development

“What strikes and humbles me again and again is how people, despite facing adverse situations, do not give in but stand together and work towards more inclusive communities.”

- Working with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) is a key part of CBID. We begin with a disability activist's perspective on why CBID takes an intersectional approach, involving different perspectives from within the community ([page 8](#))
- An OPD representative explains how persons with disabilities can shape resilient community projects that are responsive to external shocks ([page 9](#))
- We look at how a disability-inclusive livelihoods project in India has brought long-term benefits for the whole community ([page 10](#))
- Finally, we explain how and why we advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in national and international political processes ([page 11](#))

What strikes and humbles me again and again is how people, despite facing adverse situations, do not give in but stand together and work towards more inclusive communities. Solidarity from the local to the global level is often an unacknowledged success factor. It makes me proud that, together with our partners, we are making a significant contribution to a world in solidarity, working towards disability-inclusive communities and the lasting change we wish to see.



CBID projects across the world

The Americas

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
1 Guatemala	4	4	2,705,356
2 Haiti	1	1	269,954
3 Honduras	3	3	1,985,108
4 Nicaragua	3	2	797,091
Multi-country	2	2	723,034
Total	13	12	6,480,543

Europe

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
5 Ukraine	2	1	313,184
Total	2	1	313,184

Central and West Africa

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
6 Benin	1	1	322,000
7 Cameroon	4	3	2,681,910
8 Côte d'Ivoire	3	3	2,007,175
9 DRC	4	4	1,102,419
10 Niger	8	7	3,890,398
11 Nigeria	12	11	2,469,316
12 Sierra Leone	1	1	500,000
13 Togo	10	6	4,710,080
Total	43	36	17,683,298

Source: CBM CBID project data, 31 March 2024.

Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
23 India	15	10	5,654,256
24 Jordan	3	3	1,616,975
25 Lebanon	2	2	1,212,164
26 Nepal	2	2	1,307,561
27 Pakistan	6	6	2,850,567
28 Palestinian Territories	6	3	5,433,805
29 Sri Lanka	7	6	2,193,531
Total	41	32	20,268,859

Worldwide projects

No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
3	3	628,700

East and Southern Africa

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Multi-year budget (EUR)
14 Ethiopia	19	11	10,996,936
15 Kenya	11	9	3,294,107
16 Malawi	5	5	4,985,700
17 Rwanda	5	3	2,761,285
18 South Sudan	5	3	3,353,812
19 Tanzania	6	4	1,631,214
20 Uganda	14	8	4,511,948
21 Zambia	5	4	2,449,970
22 Zimbabwe	1	1	512,326
Multi-country	1	1	257,247
Total	72	49	34,754,545

Total

No. countries	29
No. projects	174
No. partners	133
Multi-year budget (EUR)	80,129,129

CBID news in brief



Around the world

Our partners **Cameroon** Baptist Health Services, the Doaba Foundation in **Pakistan** and PARIVAAR: National Confederation of Parent Organisations in **India** received our CBID Innovation Fund 2023 to develop their creative project ideas.

We were part of the international organising committee for the Asia Pacific CBID Congress 2023 in **Cambodia** and have been invited to work with the **Nepal** government and stakeholders to coordinate the 2027 conference.

Three CBM-supported inclusive education projects in **Gaza**, **Guatemala** and **Kenya**, run by partners Atfaluna Deaf Children's Society, ADISA and Waldorf Kakuma Project, won the Zero Project Award 2024. The award recognises projects that address the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and contribute to creating a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Asia and Eastern Mediterranean

In **India**, CBM received the Divyangjan Swabhimani Samman award for projects that contribute to advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We worked with our partner, the Centre for Accessibility Monitoring Information on Disability and the University of Kelaniya in **Sri Lanka** to publish a new study on disability inclusion in education, economic development and transportation in three provinces.

In **Jordan**, we are working with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), community-based organisations and other national civil society organisations on a new project. This includes the development and rollout of new, national CBID standards to mainstream CBID, realise the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure equal access to services.



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Above: Josephine participated in the Waldorf Kakuma Project in Kenya, which received the Zero Project Award.

East and Southern Africa

We launched the new CBID short course in partnership with the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, certified by the University of Cape Town in **South Africa**. This constitutes the final, advanced level of our CBID training and is open to CBM staff and partners as well as students.

In **Zambia**, we worked with partner Beit CURE Hospital and the Zambian government to launch the country's first-ever temporal bone laboratory for ear and hearing care.

Right: Beit CURE Hospital (BCH) Lusaka, Zambia. Mercy (9) after an operation for her chronic middle ear infection, examined by Dr. Haben Werkinneh.



© CURE International

The Americas

In **Guatemala**, a consortium of OPDs who won the CBID Innovation Fund 2022 signed a memorandum of understanding with the Guatemala Electoral Authority to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in electoral processes.

We partnered with the Latin American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families to publish a new study on disability rights in **Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala**.

Central and West Africa

In **Togo**, we launched a new, 12-year project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, which will be implemented by the Fédération Togolaise des Associations des Personnes Handicapées, the Togolese National Programme for Eye Health, and the Coalition Nationale Togolaise pour L'Education Pour Tous. The project aims to build sustainable structures for inclusive healthcare and empower disadvantaged groups to participate in the country's social and economic development.

In **Nigeria**, we are working with partners Elim Christian Vocational Training Centre and the Centre for Gospel Health and Development on a new, three-year EU-funded project to strengthen the resilience of civil service organisations and OPDs through community-based inclusive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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Above: Carmen Lucía Guerrero (CBM) and Mauricio Mogollón (ADISA) collect the Zero Project Award for the project in Guatemala.

© ZeroProject/Rupert Pessi

“Inclusion is not just about counting”

Taking an intersectional approach

CBM’s CBID training programme equips colleagues and partners with the knowledge and skills they need to realise the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in local communities.

Silvia Quan, currently president of Colectivo Vida Independiente in Guatemala, is a CBID co-trainer in Central America and the Eastern Mediterranean. She explains why an intersectional approach is key to effective and sustainable CBID projects.

Community Based Inclusive Development is community-driven and people-centred. This means that for CBID to be effectively implemented, it needs to be tailored to the local context and to persons with disabilities in the community. Persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group. An intersectional approach considers this broad diversity of persons and situations for better long-term outcomes.

When talking about the rights of women with disabilities, for example, we need to apply an intersectional approach. Women with disabilities are diverse; we are young, elderly, indigenous, migrants, and come from different socio-economic classes, rural and urban

“ If possible, design and implement programmes that are not only directed at adult women; include young women, girls who have different experiences and needs. Or indigenous women, women of mixed heritage, urban women, rural women.

areas, just to mention a few layers of identity. Intersectionality means that each woman experiences disability differently. Therefore, it is essential to think about the variety of experiences that permeate women with disabilities when working on programmes for empowerment, inclusion in the workforce, economic support, or education.

In my lived experience, being a blind woman and a descendant of Chinese migrants, I have faced situations where this intersection has affected me discriminately. Often, when people work on disability issues, they overlook how these intersections negatively impact how a right can be fulfilled or how effective inclusion can be for women and girls with disabilities.

Inclusion is not just about counting and saying, for example, “we have 500 or 100 women”. It is also about taking these intersections into account. Lived experiences are so varied that it’s best to consider everything we can. If possible, design and implement programmes that are not only directed at adult women; include young women, girls who have different experiences and needs. Or indigenous women, women of mixed heritage, urban women, rural women.



Above: Silvia Quan

“Nothing without us”



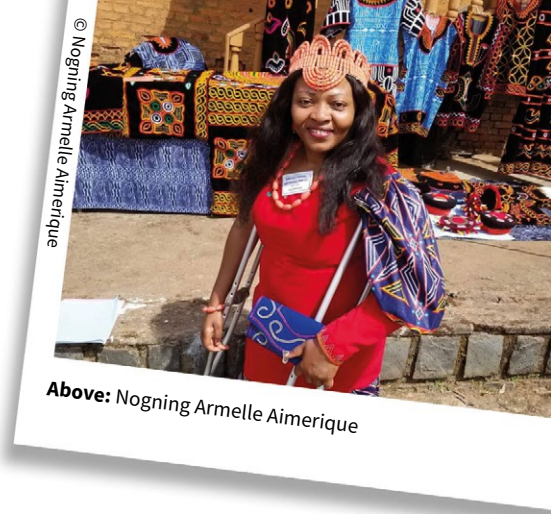
Collaborating with organisations of persons with disabilities

Climate-related and human-induced disasters are rising dramatically, but too often, persons with disabilities are left behind. **Nogning Armelle Aimerique** is the Board Chair of the Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, which works with our partner, Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) on a range of CBID projects. She explains why persons with disabilities need to be involved from the beginning.

There is a motto in the disability rights movement: “Nothing about us without us”. Our motto in the Coordinating Unit is “nothing without us”. We say this because we are part of the community and part of society, and we do not limit ourselves to specific issues that concern persons with disabilities. When we talk about the rights of persons with disabilities, we are talking about human rights. The rights that everybody shares.

There is a saying that he who wears the shoe knows where it hurts. Persons with disabilities should be involved in decision making because they know better than anyone what challenges they face and are more likely to find the right solutions.

Like other countries around the world, Cameroon is affected by climate change. Some areas of the country are experiencing severe droughts and floods, which are affecting the most vulnerable groups. Persons with disabilities are often badly affected because there is little or no access to information. Often, inclusive early warning systems are written down in policy, but we don’t see any action. So, persons with disabilities lose their lives or become more vulnerable.



Above: Nogning Armelle Aimerique

Disability encompasses a wide range of experiences and characteristics. A truly disability-inclusive approach should be comprehensive and holistic, ensuring that all individuals with disabilities are considered and their needs are adequately met.

The Coordinating Unit has worked with CBM and CBCHS to deliver stakeholder workshops on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DIDRR) in Cameroon. We are part of a group developing an African Network for DIDRR, which met last year at a workshop in Niger sponsored by CBM, the International Disability Alliance and the African Disability Forum. We want to represent African OPDs in regional and international DRR networks, and share information with the grassroots. We want to ensure our voices are heard, to establish inclusive early warning systems in Africa and make sure that persons with disabilities are involved.

When you involve persons with disabilities from the beginning, there is more potential for long-term sustainability. Because from the onset they can give their own opinion on how things should be done. They will feel ownership of the project and committed to its success.

Mainstreaming disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in community development

Read how DIDRR can be integrated into community development programmes in our guidance for planning and practice:

www.cbm.org/cbid



Community-based inclusive dairy farming

Sustainable project examples from India

In the rural areas of Betul in Madhya Pradesh and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, poverty is a prevailing issue, particularly among persons with disabilities. Milk production is the main source of income for marginalised farmers.

However, despite a growing demand for dairy products, farmers have been unable to improve their income and often lack the necessary knowledge, infrastructure and resources to produce and market dairy products effectively. These communities can also lack the means to collectively represent their interests and access government support programmes.

Since October 2021, CBM has worked with two partners, Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti (PGSS) in Uttar Pradesh, and Naman Seva Samiti in Madhya Pradesh, to improve livelihoods, income, and access to government support for 2000 dairy farming households, including 400 farmers with disabilities, by introducing sustainable and inclusive structures.

The projects have focused on building community-based inclusive groups such as organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), inclusive self-help groups (iSHGs) and inclusive farmer producer organisations (iFPOs). Through the iFPOs and iSHGs, the dairy farmers have gained direct access to the local milk market, enabling them to market milk and milk products more profitably, while persons with disabilities are now actively engaged in decisions related to dairy farming practices and community development. This has enabled the communities to incorporate modern farming practices such as veterinary services, cattle management, cattle insurance and vaccinations, leading to enhanced dairy production and quality. Capacity-building programmes were conducted for the OPDs formed through the project, who became active members of the iFPOs, iSHGs and their communities.

Both projects have brought about significant positive change, enhancing livelihoods, fostering community inclusion, and linking participants to various government support schemes. The increased income has positively affected participants' standard of living and meant they can provide better food and education for their children. Meanwhile, the projects have enhanced the quality of life of persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on women and girls who have reported increased access to services, livelihood opportunities and assistive devices.



© CBM India

Above: Priyanka is a dairy farmer and president of a self-help group formed as part of the PGSS project.



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A global perspective

Advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international processes

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted nearly two decades ago, emphasises governments' obligation to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities and actively promote their fulfilment.

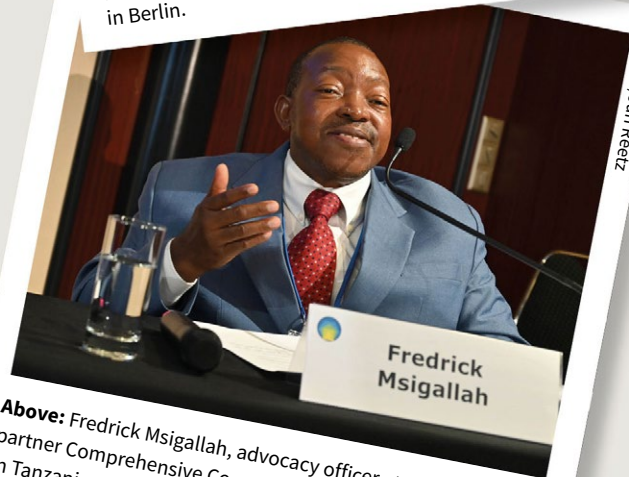
However, despite ratification of the CRPD by almost all UN Member States and the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, including the principle of Leave No One Behind, persons with disabilities remain marginalised in international policies, perpetuating their exclusion and hindering their full participation in society.

Over the last year, CBM's advocacy team has continued collaborating with colleagues and networks to advocate for change. This included lobbying for disability inclusion at the SDG Summit and High-Level Meetings on global health in New York, advocating for the German government's accountability during the CRPD States Party Review in Geneva, and promoting inclusive universal health coverage and accessible assistive technologies at the World Health Summit in Berlin.

There is still a lot to do. In 2024, the UN convenes the Summit of the Future, where member states are expected to agree on a Pact for the Future to advance the SDGs and address global challenges such as peace, climate change, and sustainable financing. CBM is actively involved in this process, providing oral and written submissions and participating in civil society initiatives to ensure the representation of the rights of people with disabilities in the Pact.



Above: Self-advocates and supporters of health equity for persons with disabilities at the World Health Summit 2023 in Berlin.



Above: Fredrick Msigallah, advocacy officer at our partner Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania, speaking on behalf of CBM at the World Health Summit 2023.

The recent UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, focusing on the Summit of the Future, provided a valuable platform for collaboration with other civil society organisations committed to disability inclusion. CBM continues to urge member states to adopt inclusive approaches and facilitate the involvement of persons with disabilities as essential stakeholders to achieve this objective. This includes reminding governments of their obligations and commitments to disability rights, prioritising inclusion and accessibility in future initiatives.

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Above: Shazia received training to become a beautician as part of a project run by our partner Pak Women. She has now opened her own studio at home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan and the income has helped her to provide for her children including daughter Haseeba, who was born with intellectual and physical disabilities.