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Global Disability Inclusion

CBM Global

Our Programmatic Strategy

Summary – November 2020



CBM Global Disability Inclusion

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1. Our Context

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world had been making progress in tackling poverty but people with disabilities were being left behind. The pandemic now threatens to undo progress towards ending extreme poverty and is revealing the extent of the exclusion and discrimination that people with disabilities have been experiencing.

CBM Global's programmatic strategy is driven by some stark facts:

- One in seven of us has a disability – that is more than a billion people around the world, 80% of whom live in developing countries.
- One in five (20%) of the poorest people living in developing countries has a disability.
- There is a vicious cycle of poverty and disability. If you are poor, you are much more likely to have a disability because of lack of access to medical care, clean water and sanitation; poor nutrition and unsafe working conditions. The discrimination and exclusion faced by people with disabilities in health, education and livelihood for example, leaves them even more vulnerable and likely to become and stay poor.
- Millions of people with disabilities are currently affected by humanitarian crises. People with disabilities are the most likely to be worst affected and least likely to get help.
- The COVID-19 crisis is disproportionately affecting people with disabilities. Some of the key issues include a lack of accessible life-saving public health information, lack of support in putting hygiene measures into practice, lack of accessible health facilities and in some countries negative attitudes and discrimination denying access to life-saving health care.

2. International Norms and Frameworks

There are many frameworks and human rights treaties that frame development and humanitarian work. CBM Global prioritises supporting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for its field programme, advocacy and advisory work as these are foundational to development and humanitarian responses. We also use other regional and national frameworks as relevant.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The CRPD is an international human rights treaty for realising the human rights of persons with disabilities and has been ratified by a majority of governments around the world. Adopted in 2006, it primarily obligates governments to take action, but it also includes everyone involved in national development and international cooperation to be inclusive of all persons with disabilities. It is a driver for change, framing a rights based approach to disability, and outlining the necessarily actions for governments, civil society and private sector to create more equal and inclusive societies.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs form part of Agenda 2030, and they consist of 17 global goals and 169 targets focused on the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental inclusion for all people throughout the world. This global commitment to leaving no



one behind frames international cooperation and global development efforts for the coming decade.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework is a global agreement to reduce and prevent disaster risks across the globe (2015- 2030) . It aims to strengthen social and economic resilience to ease the negative effects of climate change, man-made disasters, and natural hazards.



3. Our Theory of Change

The Theory of Change is a critical pillar of the CBM Global Programmatic Strategy. It reflects our experience and learning on what most effectively leads to wider societal change with people with disabilities living in poor communities. The Strategic Goals and Vehicles of Change outlined in this strategy all connect to the activities, outputs and outcomes articulated in the Theory of Change. The Theory of Change is however not static and will be updated as the external environment and context for CBM Global changes.

CBM Global seeks **transformative change leading to improved quality of life for people with disabilities living in poverty, their families and their communities, ending the cycle of poverty and disability**. Disability and poverty are linked in a cycle and perpetuate each other, so we focus on the poorest communities in the world.

CBM Global seeks this change through three main outcomes:

- **Reduction of avoidable impairment and improvement of health and wellbeing**
- **People with disabilities are equipped and resourced to exercise their rights**
- **Inclusive, resilient and equitable communities**

These three pathways are closely related, influencing and reinforcing each other, together contributing to the key goal of improved lives and reduced poverty.

4. Our Strategic Goals

CBM Global is a **dual mandate organisation: working both in development and in humanitarian action**. CBM Global has Strategic Goals operating at four complementary levels – pursuing impact at the individual, community and systems levels and in humanitarian emergencies.

Goal 1: Strengthen the voice and autonomy of people with disabilities

CBM Global believes that people with disabilities and their representative organisations are critical development partners – at global level, or local community level. We work in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations to hold governments, decision makers and those in power to account and claim their rights. We ensure people with disabilities are central decision makers, directing their own lives.

Goal 2: Build inclusive, resilient communities

CBM works with people with disabilities, their families, broader civil society and local government to build resilient inclusive communities, which can withstand the impact

of natural and human-made disasters, including as a result of climate change. Our community development work is based on the promotion of equality and recognition of disability as a part of human diversity, so that all members of the community enjoy their human rights and can see the cycle of poverty and disability broken.

Goal 3: Build inclusive and sustainable local and national systems and services

Within a rights-based approach, CBM Global recognises that the best way to ensure people with disabilities can fully access services such as healthcare, education, or livelihoods for the long term is for governments to build inclusive structures and services. In order to reduce the inequalities that lead to poverty and exclusion, local and national services need to be available, affordable, accessible, of quality and in line with international standards, and reflect the service users' priorities. In addition, support services, such as sign language interpretation, supported decision making, personal assistance, rehabilitation, and assistive device services, which meet specific requirements of people with disabilities, are needed to ensure full inclusion in all areas of life. Furthermore, inclusion is not achievable without accessible environments (including physical environments, transport, information and communication, and public facilities and services). Recognising this, we work to strengthen local and national systems and services to provide required support and to be more accessible and inclusive.

Goal 4: Ensure populations affected by natural and manmade disasters have access to inclusive humanitarian assistance and protection

For humanitarian response to be truly effective, it must include all of society, at all levels of activity. Yet, when it comes to preparing for and responding to the increasing number of natural and human-made disasters happening on a global scale, the capacities, rights, and needs of people with disabilities are not yet fully addressed by the international humanitarian community. CBM Global is fully committed to assisting the humanitarian sector to become more inclusive and compliant with the CRPD, the Humanitarian Disability Charter, and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction 2015–2030. CBM Global will adopt a three tier approach: prioritising investments in humanitarian preparedness and operational delivery; policy development through advocacy; and technical advice and support in close collaboration with local, national, and international partners and the disability movement.

The Four Strategic Goals work at complementary levels to ensure we are taking a strong developmental approach to our work. The following considerations are key to our approach:

Comprehensive approach

Our strategic goals promote a whole of life, person-centred approach for people with disabilities. Our approach does not just look to address change at an individual level but also challenges systemic exclusion and discrimination that exist. We do this by strengthening systems and services to be more inclusive and aligned with the CRPD. Supporting the voice and power of people with disabilities as agents of change in both development and humanitarian action underlines our whole approach. Our **Programme Quality Framework** sets out the principles and commitments that underpin this approach. This includes building awareness and capacity internally to ensure that CBM Global staff promote and outwork the same principles and commitments in our own practice.

Reaching those who are left behind

Our focus is low-income locations and engaging with the most at risk people, in particular under-represented groups. CBM Global programmes aim to reach those who are traditionally left behind or considered harder to reach. The needs and expectations of people in poverty are also changing. In middle-income countries in particular, poorer communities no longer need NGO supported programmes which deliver services; the priority instead is mobilisation and support in order for communities and people with disabilities to be able to access available government resources, model and build a disability perspective into government systems, and address the systemic policy issues of inequality, rights, and economic systems.

Gender and disability

Disability has a different impact on women, men, girls, boys and people with other gender identities. Furthermore, while all women and girls face inequality, women and girls with disabilities often face additional, compounding disadvantage due to discriminatory social norms and perceptions of their value and capacity. CBM Global in its country plans, field programmes, advisory and advocacy work and also at an organisational level always considers the intersection of gender and disability.

Adapting to the challenge of climate change

The negative impact of climate change is being tangibly felt by communities in countries across the Global South and it brings into sharp focus the disproportionate effect that climate change is having on people with disabilities. The inclusion gains achieved by the international disability community and INGOs such as CBM Global in both the development and humanitarian spheres are at risk of being undermined by the climate emergency.

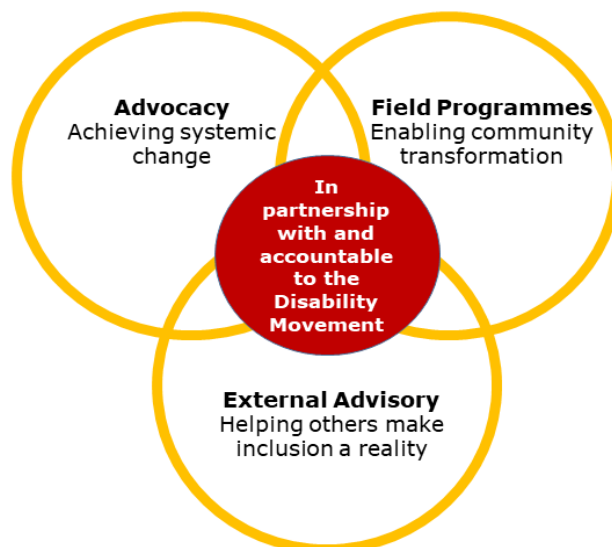
Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

People with disabilities need to be at the centre of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The crisis brings with it an opportunity to create more inclusive and accessible societies. Without this commitment, the levels of exclusion faced by people with disabilities will be compounded and the cycle of poverty and disability further reinforced.

5. Maximising our Impact: the Multiplier Effect

CBM Global's multiplier effect comes from the unique combination of our three **Vehicles of Change**:

- **Field Programmes:** *enabling community transformation*, strengthening inclusive service delivery and providing evidence and learning to inform our advocacy and external advisory work (and vice versa)
- **Advocacy:** *achieving systemic change*, informed by the evidence and learning from our field programmes and external advisory work
- **External Advisory:** *helping others make inclusion a reality*, complementing and amplifying our advocacy work and



drawing on the evidence and learning from our field programmes

Field programmes – enabling community transformation

Delivering inclusive field programming, particularly focusing on the preconditions or foundations for inclusion (accessibility, non-discrimination and support services for people with disabilities) will be core to CBM Global's programmatic strategy and remains critical to enabling transformative change for people with disabilities and their families. These solid field programme outcomes which work with governments to demonstrate, pilot, monitor and model how to create the foundations for inclusion, are the basis on which we ensure our advocacy is representing the real life experience of people with disabilities and what is needed at community level. CBM Global will pursue comprehensive and integrated programming (as opposed to 'vertical' non-integrated programmes), building on the foundation of individual and community level engagement and using our community based inclusive development approach as one modality.

Advocacy – achieving systemic change

Many of the barriers faced by people with disabilities can be overcome through national and local governments ensuring the foundations for inclusion are in place and having disability inclusive approaches to services. Even where strong policies on disability inclusion exist this does not imply financing is available or that implementation is taking place. Using evidence from and the engagement of our field programmes working in partnership with the disability movement, we contribute to influencing global and national level outcomes that achieve positive change for people with disabilities. Achieving systemic change in a country's laws, developing rights based policies, or advocating for disability budget for example, means engaging with national level advocacy and policy work, in partnership with DPOs and working with government, civil society, mainstream service providers and the private sector.

External Advisory – helping others make inclusion a reality

An increasingly conducive policy and funding environment for disability has seen an exponential growth in the demand for technical advice. Mainstream humanitarian and development actors, including governments, non-government organisations, management contractors and UN entities want access to timely, evidence based, quality technical advice and capacity development, and increasingly ask for this in large scale national and regional programmes. Our advisory function works with the Disability Movement to support others to put inclusion into practice. We seek out advisory opportunities which are catalytic and have the potential to spark broader, systemic change for inclusion. Our advice continuously builds on the years of lessons learnt from our own programmatic experience and the technical expertise to hand internally and with our partners in the disability movement and in the mainstream development and humanitarian sector.

6. Our Focus Thematic Areas

CBM Global's field programmes, advocacy and external advisory work focus on four key themes which are increasingly integrated.

Disability Inclusive Community Development

People with disabilities are routinely excluded from health, education, livelihood opportunities and the chance to fully participate in their communities. We recognise that for full inclusion and participation to be effective, there are certain 'preconditions' that need to be in place, including access to quality support services and accessible information,

communication and physical environments. Support services encompasses a wide range of interventions including: access to mobility aids and assistive devices, personal assistance, in home and community support, supported decision making, communication support – such as sign language interpretation and support to access general services on an equal basis with others- such as education, justice system and health etc. Quality support enables people with disabilities to fully participate in communities and make choices about how they live their lives. Accessible communities reduce social and environmental barriers and are crucial for making inclusion a reality.

We work in partnership with the Disability Movement to make sure these preconditions get put in place. We also work to ensure that existing community services and programmes are inclusive and accessible. Through this approach, programmes at the community level improve participation and access to education, employment, healthcare, community life, and improve quality of life for women, men and children with disabilities and their families. We complement this by working with the Disability Movement to advocate and advise for changes to international, and national laws, policies and programmes, bringing community voices in to ensure inclusion is scaled up and becomes the norm. This combination can create real change, and it's well aligned with the CRPD.

Inclusive Eye Health

A billion people worldwide live with avoidable blindness or visual impairment due to lack of access to eye health services¹. For many women, men and children living in poverty, access to straightforward interventions such as cataract surgery or a pair of glasses are out of reach. Our work in Inclusive Eye Health has three priority areas: strengthening national eye health systems; improving access to comprehensive inclusive eye health services; and bringing our mental health and disability inclusion expertise to support inclusive and integrated Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programming with others.

Community Mental Health

Mental health is core to overall wellbeing and to improving the lives of people with disabilities and our Community Mental Health work recognises the central role of mental health in wellbeing and quality of life. We work to empower communities and systems to promote good mental health, to recognise and address mental health needs through community based support, and to challenge the exclusion of people with psychosocial disabilities.

Humanitarian Action

There has been growing international recognition in recent years of the need to concretely and proactively include people who have been identified as most at risk during disaster, such as people with disabilities. The nature of today's humanitarian crisis situations is also becoming increasingly complex and transcends the traditional lines between humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Humanitarian emergencies are lasting longer and have become more volatile and multifaceted, putting the traditional division between short-term humanitarian relief and longer-term development to the test.

CBM Global has been advocating for inclusive Humanitarian Action: for humanitarian assistance and services to be fully inclusive and accessible, ensuring people with disabilities are able to meaningfully participate in decision making and activities throughout the programme cycle phases, from preparedness through to response and recovery. We

¹ World Health Organisation Report on Vision, 2019 <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/world-report-on-vision>

therefore engage in inclusive humanitarian response at the operational and international advocacy levels. Supporting local partners and organisations of people with disabilities to prepare and respond to emergencies is our unique contribution in the field of humanitarian action. Our emergency work also includes partnering with the disability movement to work with mainstream humanitarian organisations to promote and implement inclusive relief and recovery operations.

7. Our Partnership Approach

Our close partnership with the disability movement and our wider partnership approach is key to our mission. CBM Global is not part of the disability movement, but we are a strong and consistent ally working with and alongside the movement. As the human rights and development/humanitarian agendas continue to more closely align, including through the SDGs, and regional and national DPOs grow in strength and voice, the NGO community should expect further scrutiny and questioning over the role of disability focused INGOs as intermediaries between donors/governments and the disability movement in the Global South, and the degree with which they are supporting a rights based agenda. CBM Global's credibility comes from the fact that we do not directly implement, we work with partners, including from the disability movement, on their local priorities through co-development of responses and strategies and we invite accountability for the way we work.

Our partnership with the disability movement is part of a wider commitment to partnership. We believe that cooperation, collaboration and partnerships are key to achieving our impact. CBM Global pursues a range of partnerships beyond the disability movement, including with governments, NGOs, associate advisors, service providers and academics. The **Partnership Principles** ensure that we have a shared understanding of what partnership means for CBM Global. We seek to add value in our partner relationships, complementing and building partner strengths and expertise, supporting capacity building at all levels.

Front page image: CBM Emergency Response team member Allen with Agnes, 67, during the humanitarian response after Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe, November 2019. © CBM/Hayduk

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