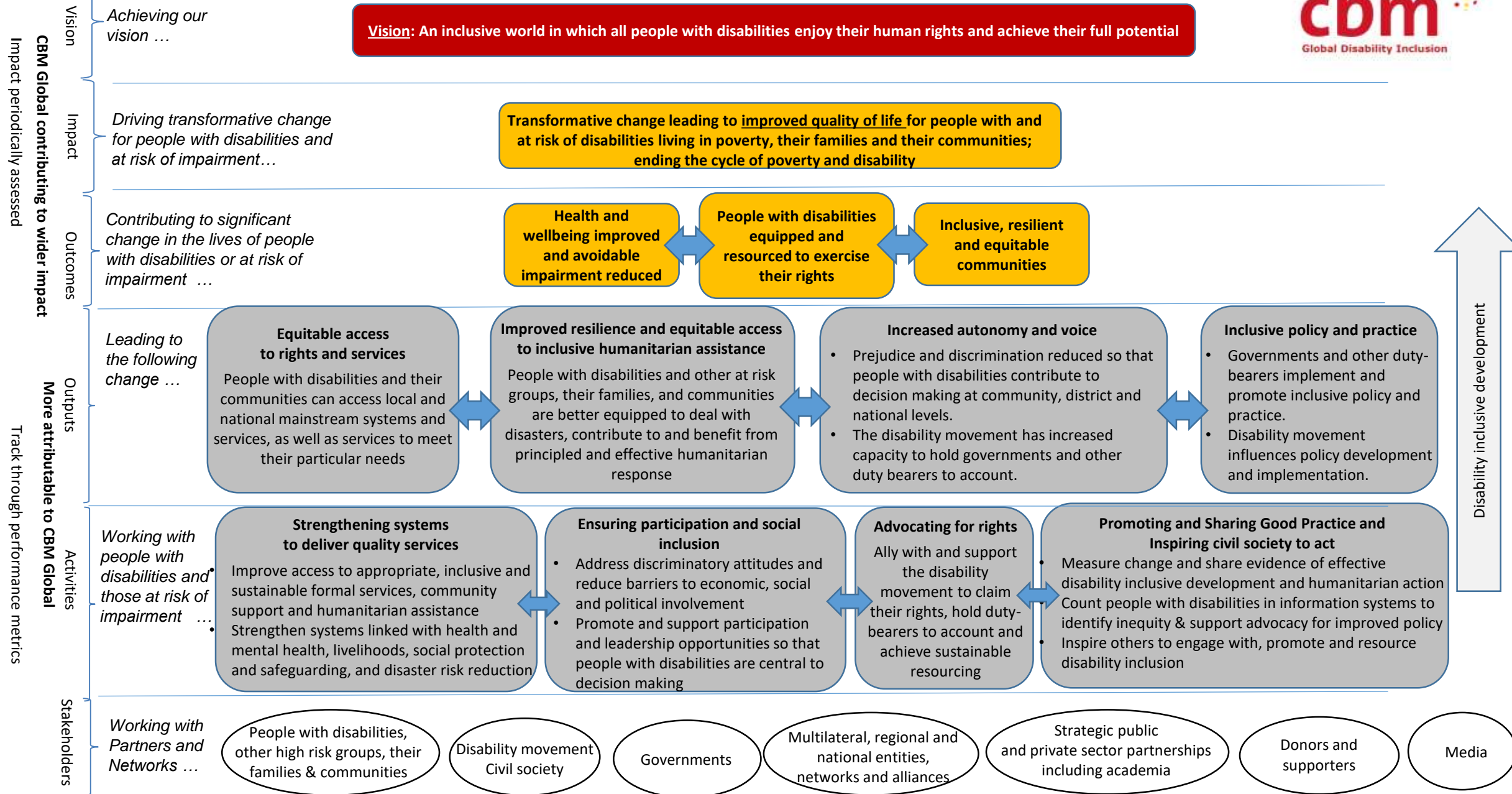
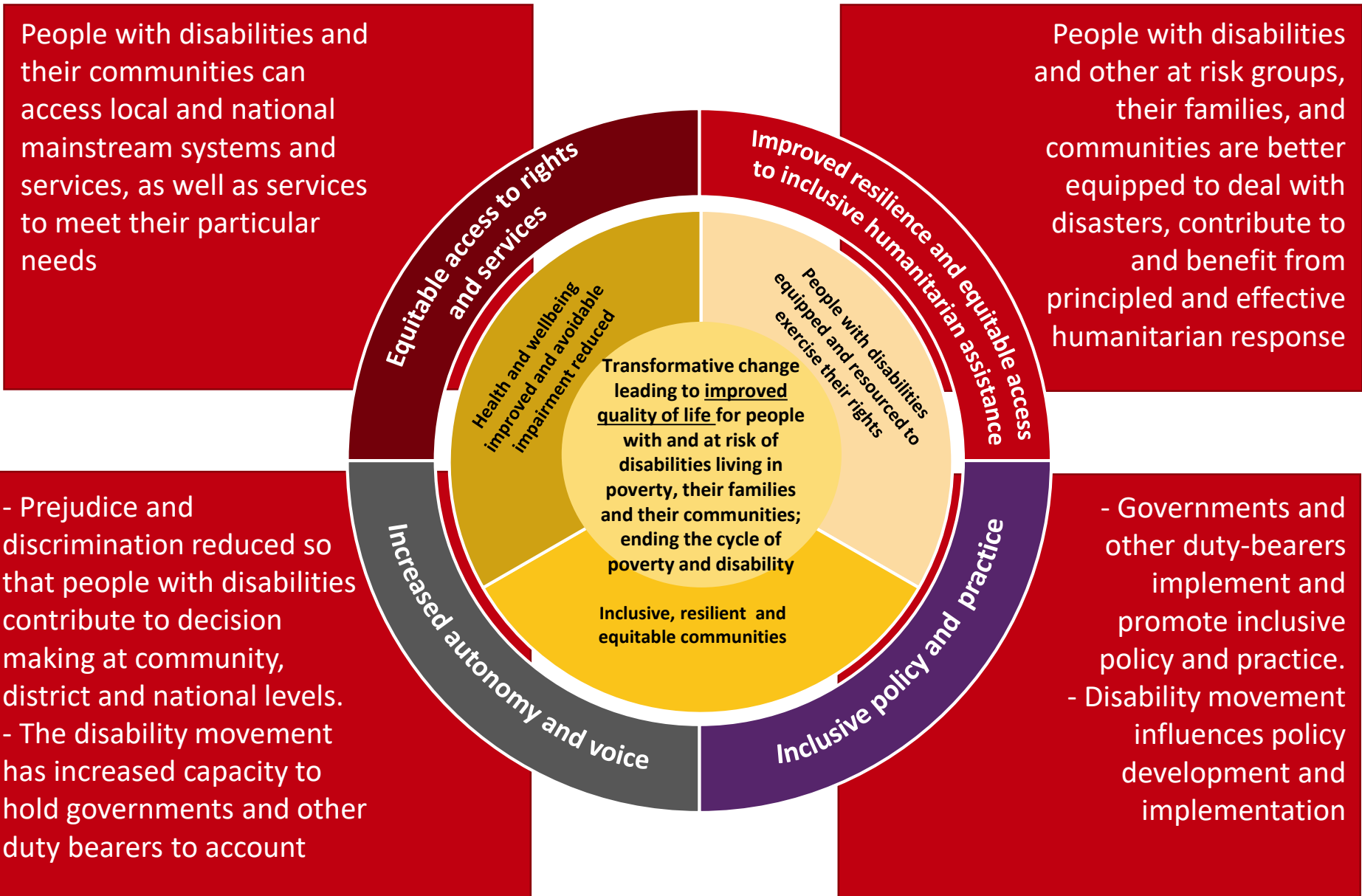


# CBM Global Theory of Change ('Ending the cycle of poverty and disability')



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# **CBM Global's Theory of Change (TOC) Narrative**

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Last updated: August 2020

## **Introduction**

CBM Global's vision is of an inclusive world where all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential. The focus of our work underpinned by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Agenda 2030 is partnering with people with disabilities and their families who live in or are at risk of poverty, and who often cannot access their human rights on an equal basis with others. This can be because of the barriers people with disabilities face in accessing essential services such as health or education. Also, people with disabilities commonly face profound stigma and discrimination and are routinely denied economic, social and leadership opportunities. We believe that it is only by partnering with people with disabilities and an authentic cooperation, collaboration and partnerships with different parts of society – government, private sector and broader civil society movement can a real impact on inclusion be achieved.

## **Background to CBM Global's Theory of Change**

The Theory of Change document is a critical pillar of the CBM Global Programme Strategy. It demonstrates what CBM Global's long and broad experience has found leads to wider societal change for people with disabilities living in poor communities. The strategy comprises 4 strategic goals that connect to all of the activities identified in the Theory of Change.

The process of pulling together the Theory of Change has drawn on a vast range of expertise from across CBM Global. It draws heavily on CBM Global's programme strategy and in particular the multiplier effect of the three vehicles of change which has as its basis - authentic partnerships with others, especially the disability movement, in all aspects of our work, that recognises and values their expertise and networks. This multiplier approach creates a unique combination of vehicles or avenues for change comprising field programmes, advocacy and advisory work, and engaging in both development and in humanitarian action.

The Theory of Change is not a static document and will need to be updated in due course as the external environment and context for CBM Global changes.

The TOC diagram is structured so that, from the bottom to the top, the logic shows how we are contributing to an ultimate impact of improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and ending the cycle of poverty and disability (expressed as moving through activities to outputs to outcomes). This impact aims to fulfil our vision, though we recognise

that full achievement of impact cannot be attributable to our actions alone beyond the 'outcomes' level (called the 'ceiling of accountability')

The activities and outputs do not link in direct correspondence, and multiple activities may contribute to any of the outputs, but they are grouped logically in the 4 broad areas where we identify certain actions leading to the change we want to see.

A companion circle document is also included as an alternative presentation of the linkages. This simplifies the main TOC diagram and replicates the same words, but shows these in a different format where the fuller diagram may be too detailed.

## **Theory of Change**

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 promoting each other, together contributing to the key outcome of improved lives and reduced poverty.

### **Reduction of preventable impairment and improvement of health and wellbeing:**

Particularly in the poorest communities, preventable impairment brings an enormous social and economic burden. This can be reduced through strengthening existing health and education systems, and increasing economic, political and social participation so that people can shape what services look like. By making effective and good quality services accessible to all, the whole community benefits. We believe in challenging structural injustice that perpetuates inequity, reducing opportunities for those already likely to face the most barriers. By working throughout the life cycle, such as investment in early intervention, promotion of safe behaviour, treatment and rehabilitation for all, we can contribute directly to improved health, quality of life and wellbeing, as well as reduction of poverty.

These outcomes are sustained by working with governments who have a duty towards their citizens. We are also increasing our focus on ensuring people with disabilities are included during times of particular disruption to systems, with our growing expertise in disaster risk reduction and response to emergencies.

**People with disabilities are equipped and resourced to exercise their rights:** The marginalisation and discrimination experienced by people with disabilities is addressed partly through the strengthening of systems as described above which provides support in two ways (the twin track approach) - working towards mainstream services and interventions that are accessible to all, and supporting specialised services that meet specific needs of people with disabilities such as rehabilitation, assistive devices or pharmaceuticals. The outcome is that people with disabilities, by being able to effectively advocate for their own priorities, experience improved educational attainment, better health, access to essential equipment and other rights, achieve not only increased income but also greater economic power, and are increasingly making decisions about their own lives.

People with disabilities, their families and communities benefit from joining the global movement of people working towards realising their rights as enshrined in the CRPD. CBM Global works not only to raise awareness and to challenge discriminatory attitudes at all levels, but we also work alongside people with disabilities and their representative organisations in several areas. These include; providing people with the resources and skills to hold duty-bearers – including CBM Global - to account on their legal obligation to implement the CRPD and their commitments under Agenda 2030; addressing barriers and reducing prejudice; and finding a strengthened voice and participating more fully in economic, civil, political and social opportunities.

**Inclusive, resilient and equitable communities:** The realisation of the rights of people with disabilities relies on changes to the social, legislative and physical environment. These changes arise from reduced stigma and more inclusive attitudes on one side, and the promotion of inclusive physical and policy environments on the other. CBM Global seeks to strategically model accessible environments, whilst also challenging discrimination: in CBM Global's own institutional practise, with private supporters and donors, alliance partners, governments, partner organisations and across the Disability Movement.

We believe in celebrating diversity, and recognise that there are many characteristics that cause certain people to be discriminated against. We therefore also pay particular attention to the other groups who, along with people with disabilities, need to be able to access their rights in an equal way to others. We consider gender, poverty and marginalisation of people based on age, ethnicity, sexuality, and other characteristics throughout our work, paying attention to ways that we can make sure our programmes benefit everyone.

### **CBM Global's foundational principles and approaches**

Challenging attitudes and increasing participation and decision making by people with disabilities - The rights of people with disabilities are central to CBM Global's work, starting with the way that people with disabilities themselves perceive their roles and potential, and extending to attitudes and beliefs of families and communities, organisations, national governments and global institutions. Most of our work begins with raising awareness on the rights of people with disabilities and the barriers faced in accessing those rights, including growing the voice and representation of people with disabilities in all CBM Global supported initiatives.

Partnership, Networks and Alliances - We recognise the different capacities that others bring to the table and therefore build alliances and networks in the local, national and global arenas of our work. Central to CBM Global's approach is working through local partners because they know their own environment, and can bring about lasting change. Our role is to support this work with technical expertise and resources while seeking to influence and inspire action in others. This involves harnessing not only the resources of our generous advocates and supporters, but also governments and other stakeholders in field countries, donor governments, International NGOs, and multi-lateral organisations, academic, media, public and private sector partnerships which allows us to leverage significantly greater change than CBM Global's resources alone allow.

We are mindful of the power imbalances that have historically determined relationships, and will build on our partnership approach, seeking to be accountable to different parts of the organisation, our partners, and people who use CBM Global programmes. Our 3 way working methodology ensures equal participation in programme development, and we have systems in place to enable greater accountability and promote safeguarding.

## **Measuring our impact and contribution**

Just as we aim to build our programmes on a sound evidence-base, it is important to measure impact carefully. We co-create with the Disability Movement and other disability actors metrics that accurately measure the important changes we want to see in the world. We will use such measures to underpin this TOC to see what outcomes are being achieved. This will include collecting disaggregated data to demonstrate the importance of counting people with disabilities in all our work, so that we can measure the outcomes and impact of our work, as well as following trends so that we can make sure we are always able to respond effectively to changing needs.

## **CBM Global Disability Inclusion**

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