

Global Disability Summit Commitments Report

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Introduction

I am pleased to share this short publication in advance of the Global Disability Summit 2025. In it, we reflect on progress towards our 2022 GDS commitments (note that the [full report](#) on how we have implemented our commitments over the last three years is available on the CBM Global website). We also highlight the new commitments we have submitted for 2025 which will build on all of the progress achieved and which further clarify our ambition going forward.

At the heart of our previous and current GDS commitments as a Federation is the promise that we will continue to seek feedback from our OPD partners on ways we can strengthen our partnership approach in all aspects of our work. We take seriously what it means to be a good partner organisation and put equity at the heart of our approach.

As an INGO, we are mindful of the power we can bring and how it can create unequal power dynamics in partnership and we are working to increasingly shift decision-making power to partner organisations and local communities. We engage in constant reflection of the roles we have as a partner. We see ourselves as a critical friend, a convenor and connector, helping build sustainable connections. We are an advocate, we strive to create space for OPDs and the wider disability movement to advocate directly, ensuring they receive a profile, credit and a platform for their work and achievements. We are also a co-learner, working with our partners and learning from each other on how to bring transformative change.

As we prepare to engage with our teams and OPD partners for the 2025 GDS summit, we also outline what we believe to be important outcomes to emerge from this pivotal summit.



David Bainbridge
Executive Director
CBM Global Disability Inclusion

Highlights with our 2022 GDS commitments



Commitment on Meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

Working more intentionally with under-represented groups

Throughout the three years of implementing our 2022 GDS commitments, we worked to ensure our country strategies and programme plans with our partners had a greater focus on diversity of partnerships and inclusion of under-represented groups, such as persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, deafblind and other groups. Our country teams have continued to develop strategies and programmes that seek more involvement of marginalised and underrepresented groups. We have established small grants and one-off grant facilities that enable more funding towards underrepresented groups. For instance, in Kenya, grassroots organisations of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities and women-led OPDs are receiving funding through a County grassroots network OPD.

Increasing funding to OPD partners and supporting organisational strengthening

Over the 3 years of implementing our GDS commitments, the proportion of funding allocated to CBM Global partners that is channelled to OPDs has increased from a baseline of 12% in 2021 to 18% in 2024. This translates to an increase in grants to OPD partners from EUR 1.7M in 2021 to EUR3.8M in 2024. We increased the number of OPDs in a funding relationship from 18 in 2021 to 25 in 2024. Funding to OPD partners is important, but more than a donor we see ourselves as a partner and over the 3 years we have provided technical support, coaching and organisational strengthening. Our inclusive community-based programmes have invested in organisation strengthening in various countries, including the OPD Capacity Development Project in Indonesia, Organisational Development of PDF, 'Growing Stronger Together', and Kenya OPDs Leadership, Engagement and Development (LEAD) Project. We also continue to pursue our partnership with global OPDs, such as the International Disability Alliance, the World Blind Union, and the World Federation of the Deaf.

Indonesia

In September 2022, the OPD Capacity Strengthening Project embarked on a journey to empower 16 OPDs across Indonesia. Led by SIGAB (Sasana Inklusi dan Gerakan Advokasi Difabel), a local OPD from Yogyakarta, the project aimed to bolster both the institutional capacity of these organisations and the skills of the individuals driving them. The initiative was designed with the aim to ensure geographical diversity and gender inclusivity.

The project set out with a clear objective to enhance the ability of smaller OPDs to monitor the implementation of the UNCRPD and contribute to future shadow reports. It also sought to provide networking opportunities and training for disability activists across Indonesia, focusing on organisational development and expanding their institutional portfolios.

A steering committee, composed mainly of senior activists with disabilities, played a pivotal role. They were actively involved in developing training modules, delivering training sessions, and advising the project team. The selection of the 16 OPDs was a transparent process, ensuring considerations for accessibility, reasonable accommodation, gender, under-represented groups, and representation from different regions of Indonesia.

In August 2023, the selected OPDs gathered for a conference, followed by a series of capacity-strengthening trainings. These sessions, conducted both face-to-face and online, covered topics such as disability and human rights, leadership, public policy, gender-based advocacy, and financial management. Later, the participants also received training on fraud prevention and safeguarding. To supplement the standard training, a bimonthly webinar series was introduced, attracting around 100 participants on average. Additionally, SIGAB upgraded its website to include accessible resources on capacity strengthening for OPDs.

Four community organizers, mentored by the steering committee, were assigned to support the 16 OPDs in implementing their action plans, which were developed during the training sessions. These plans were further supported with small grants.

In January 2024, an annual reflection meeting was held, where recommendations emerged to improve the project's OPD strengthening efforts. It was suggested that representatives from the 16 OPDs should be included in coordination and reflection meetings to ensure their voices are heard. There was also a call for capacity building of the project team, taking into account their passion and background skills. Furthermore, it was recommended that the steering committee should focus more on an advisory role rather than supporting project implementation.

Through these efforts, the OPD Capacity Strengthening Project continues to make strides in empowering disability organisations across Indonesia, fostering a more inclusive and capacitated community.

Pacific Disability Forum

CBM Australia proudly supports the Pacific Disability Forum’s “Growing Stronger Together” program, a transformative initiative aimed at strengthening the governance, efficiency, and effectiveness of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) across 14 Pacific Island countries. This ground-breaking program is a leading example of fostering localisation and movement-led approach to organisational strengthening, resilience and capacity-building.

The “Growing Stronger Together” program emerged in response to the unique challenges faced by OPDs in the Pacific. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for robust infrastructure and online connectivity. Recognizing this, the program focuses on enhancing compliance, governance, and operational capacity, ensuring OPDs can effectively advocate for disability inclusion and equity.

Capacity building and training are at the heart of the “Growing Stronger Together” program. The initiative begins with a comprehensive assessment of each OPD, involving SWOT analysis, risk profiling, and the development of tailored workplans. This process identifies gaps in compliance, governance, and financial management, providing a clear roadmap for improvement.

In-country training sessions are also a cornerstone of the program. OPD staff and volunteers receive hands-on training in governance, leadership, and financial management. These sessions are designed to build foundational skills, ensuring that OPDs are equipped to navigate their unique challenges and drive meaningful change. Training topics include governance, leadership, strategic planning, finance, data collection, report writing, communication, and monitoring and evaluation.

Engaging with stakeholders is also crucial to the program’s success. Multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnership meetings with government agencies, donors, and UN bodies foster collaboration and support for OPDs. These interactions help align efforts towards disability inclusion and policy change.

The “Growing Stronger Together” program has already made significant strides. The first reflection workshop was held in 2024 (pictured), allowing OPDs to share learnings and refine their strategies. Looking ahead, the program aims to sustain and scale its impact, ensuring that OPDs remain credible, trusted partners in the disability movement.



CBM Australia is committed to empowering OPDs in partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum through the “Growing Stronger Together” program. By centering localisation, relationships and the voice of people.

“The discussions are a safe space, it’s like a really important family meeting, a real heart to heart. We have a responsibility to model good practice to younger leaders now and those who are yet to come, the future leaders who are not even born yet. We have to be brave. It requires trust and accountability and honesty. We’re asking the leaders to get their houses in order.”

Setareki Macanawai, Former CEO, Pacific Disability Forum

Adapting our funding conditionalities to support OPD partners

In response to our [2022 OPD listening exercise](#), CBM Global took steps to address the challenges outlined to us by our OPD partners regarding the partnership assessment tools we use as an organisation. We committed to ensure a broader and longer-term perspective and with adaptations more appropriate to OPD partnerships. After a process of consultation and initial piloting CBM Global introduced its new Partnership Assessment tool. The new tool is geared towards identifying capacity strengths and areas that require further strengthening across functional and technical areas (e.g., programme, governance, finance, etc.). With the new tool, all types of organisations are assessed against the same criteria, but the tool allows for flexible decision making on funding levels depending on assessment outcomes. The new tool includes an assessment of the quality of the partnership, to be conducted jointly with each partner capacity re-assessment every 3 years.

Support partnerships with other social movements

Where aligned with disability movement priorities, CBM Global committed to invest in strengthening the capacity of the disability movement to influence mainstream agencies through technical advisory roles, including through building OPD roles, resources, and associated budget into advisory contracts. [Consistent with our Approach to working with the disability movement](#), OPD partnerships were integrated into contracts, including with the World Food Programme.

In 2022 and 2023, CBM Global launched the [Advisory Capacity and Exchange Project \(ACE\)](#) that supported the disability movement to influence through the provision of inclusion advice. In partnership with OPDs at national, regional, and global levels, guidance notes for OPDs were developed and piloted and an Asia Pacific Fellowship pilot programme was initiated. This Asia focused programme was built around individual fellows learning priorities, and included on-the-job coaching, and mentoring for mainstream advisory work. The ACE project was completed, with Fellows graduating in April 2024. A range of capacity development resources and guidance notes for the disability movement were produced and translated. An independent evaluation provided strong feedback from partners and fellows to inform future work. A new project focusing on foundational advisory skills in Indonesia was designed and approved for 2025-26.



Commitment: Supporting and resourcing OPDs to engage in climate action

Our 2022 GDS commitment on climate action pledged our support to working alongside OPDs and the wider disability movement to advocate for the provision of accessible platforms for representation and participation to influence climate decisions at global, regional and national level. Our [climate advocacy roadmap](#) puts our work with OPDs at the centre. For the past three years, we have worked steadfastly alongside global, regional, national and local OPD partners and grassroots activists for the recognition of a formal disability constituency and the need for accessible and inclusive climate processes within the whole UN Framework Convention on Climate Change framework (UNFCCC).

We have also committed to channel resources to OPDs and disability activities to attend climate policy platforms and over the course of the 3 years since our 2022 GDS commitment on climate action, we have directly funded OPDs to attend key meetings. We are proud to be part of the Global Greengrants Fund Disability Rights & Climate Justice Board, celebrating three years of grant making of over \$1 million dollars to OPDs, disability grassroots activists and networks in Sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. A new fund from our federation member CBM Ireland for OPDs and disability activists – funding fairer futures - will be a welcome addition in 2025 and 2026.

Our most recent engagement with the Global Disability Fund has supported the development of an open-source climate advocacy training package for persons with disabilities wanting to engage in climate action. The training package co-developed with OPDs, and disability climate activists was piloted in 2024 and the material can be found [here](#).

One of the most important climate campaigns we became involved in and were proud to support in 2024 was the launch of the Africa Albinism Network (AAN) petition to have sunscreen put on the World Health Organisation's Essential Medicines List. Read more about it [here](#).





Commitment: Working in partnership with OPDs on inclusive health systems and delivery

Our 2022 GDS commitments in the health category focused on how we could work alongside OPDs to address discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in accessing inclusive eye health and inclusive mental health. For our work in inclusive eye health, in 2023, in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU) and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), we piloted [Accessibility GO!](#) in Laos at the National Ophthalmology Center and the Champasak Provincial Eye Center. This pilot in Laos has laid the foundation for more inclusive and accessible eye health services. The collaborative efforts of healthcare providers, OPDs, and international experts resulted in practical tools and action plans that can be scaled in Laos and beyond. We have committed the next pilots in Nepal for 2025 and Nigeria for 2026.

We also made a commitment to engage with national and regional OPDs as central actors in all our health work. This includes for example ensuring that health programmes engage with persons with disabilities in all parts of the Programme Cycle, that OPDs are the main vehicle for community engagement in anti-stigma campaigns (like Time To Change), they are promoted as trainers (for example in Bridge training) and are the main actors in our advocacy work. Over the 3 years since making this commitment, national and regional OPDs are increasingly recognised as central actors in all the health work that we support.

CBM Global has completed a comprehensive 2-year programme of psychosocial OPD engagement across Africa and Asia to understand how we can most effectively fulfil our commitment to work closely with the disability movement. [Our Good Practice Guide on OPD Organisational Strengthening](#), co-produced during this process, was launched in February 2024. As we develop more and more holistic health programmes and ensure a continuum of care, the central role of OPDs is essential and features both in our Global Strategy and health and wellbeing frameworks. In addition to our ongoing OPD engagement and support, which facilitates inclusion in decision-making and the delivery of our health work, we have launched new programmes and initiatives to further scale these efforts. For example, as part of the Africa Mental Health Leadership Programme, we are working alongside the Pan Africa Network for Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD) to strengthen organisations and facilitate small grants for local OPDs in the region, ensuring they have the resources and capacity to drive meaningful change.





Commitment: Supporting OPDs in data advocacy to gather, understand and use data for advocacy and to advocate for better data



One of our 2022 GDS commitments on data focused on supporting OPDs capacity on data advocacy. CBM Global co-developed the disability data [advocacy toolkit](#) in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and uses this toolkit as a guide to build the data capacity of OPDs. With IDA, in 2023, we supported a consultant to assess the toolkit and gather Citizen-Generated Data and Persons with Disabilities - OPD-led data case studies.

With support from UNFPA, we also developed an open source [disability data advocacy workshop for OPDs](#). We supported delivery in 2023 with OPD partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Laos, and the Data for Development Festival in Uruguay.

Working with OPDs to collect and use data for advocacy was also part of our 2022 GDS commitments. Over the three years, we supported and facilitated OPDs to present in key data-related events, including the UN World Data Forum, the UN Statistical Commission, High-level Political Forum, and Financing for Development processes.

We provided funding to the World Federation of the Deaf to carry out deaf-led research and data collection in Nigeria on deaf women's access to health care during emergencies. We also funded deaf led research in Bolivia on deaf Indigenous women and their access to health services. Alongside our OPD partner IDA, we facilitated a disability data workshop in Bolivia to 35 OPD representatives.

**The outcomes
we would like
to see from
GDS 2025**

The changing context

The world is facing many complex problems, climate crisis, economic challenges, rising poverty among groups who are most left behind, and a breakdown of social cohesiveness. Set against this backdrop, the Global Disability Summit takes place at a moment in time when upholding human rights, equity and justice is especially critical. We are witnessing a rapid roll back in human rights and particularly international human rights law.

Efforts to underpin equity and justice are under significant threat and international cooperation and collaboration has been de-prioritised by many governments in favour of increased defence budgets and pursuance of isolationist and nationalist policies.

This is a time for action and solidarity. For CBM Global as an INGO working with communities who will most directly face the negative consequences of this changing dynamic, we are calling on governments to hold the line on human rights, international human rights laws and the pursuit of equity and justice for all people, including persons with disabilities.

For the GDS 2025, we have 5 asks. We are calling on governments and other actors to:

Ask 1: Acknowledge and take concrete measures to adequately resource OPDs, grassroots networks and the disability movement.

The why

- Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), grassroots networks and the wider disability movement bring lived experience, local expertise and skills that can shape more equitable and sustainable (locally led and owned) outcomes in development cooperation and humanitarian action.
- OPDs, grassroots networks and activists from the disability movement face unique and additional challenges in accessing funding to achieve their goals. Public and private donors must make concrete efforts to remove barriers for OPDs to access funding.

How we will work to achieve this

Working with our OPD partners and within the CSO networks we are members of, we will advocate to governments and other donors to take actions to reduce the barriers that OPDs, grassroots networks and the wider disability movement face in accessing funding. We will also advocate on the importance of providing core funding to OPDs to take forward their agendas for change and the need for tracking this funding.

Ask 2: Remove barriers to equal participation of persons with disabilities by utilising and investing in the pre-conditions for inclusion.

The why

- Over the past decades, the development and humanitarian sectors have increasingly recognised the importance of including people with disabilities, particularly through disability-inclusive mainstreaming practices, as well as supporting Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).
- However, persistent structural barriers to inclusion can mean that even if a programme or service has applied robust disability inclusion practices within its own processes, people with disabilities will not be able to access it because of structural gaps within the broader context or environment outside that programme or service.
- Preconditions for inclusion are a framework of the key elements essential to addressing these structural gaps, so that people with disabilities can participate in opportunities, international development programmes, services and everyday life on an equal basis with others. These central elements are generally understood to include: non-discrimination, accessibility, assistive technologies, and support services (as well as others depending on context and purpose).
- Utilising the framework for analysis or investment aims to build a more inclusive society for people with disabilities and amplifies the impact of disability inclusive practices within international development operations.

How we will work to achieve this

We will invest in initiatives aiming for systemic change under the precondition areas at the national, sub-national or community-wide level. This is distinct from and in addition to the essential work seeking to make individual programmes themselves more inclusive and accessible for those directly participating in them.

This will include prioritising investments to address structural gaps under the precondition areas. We will also apply preconditions analysis to inform the design and direction of policies and programmes.

Federation Member CBM Australia and the Pacific Disability Forum have developed a [toolkit](#) to deepen understanding and application of the framework of the preconditions for inclusion as well as their relationship with disability inclusion practices.

Ask 3: Strengthen the OECD Disability DAC marker by adopting minimum standards.

The why

- The Disability DAC marker was adopted in 2018 as a voluntary marker to track disability inclusive official development assistance. It has a good uptake among donors and creates coordination opportunities.
- The marker provides an important mechanism to support reporting, accountability and transparency around ODA and disability inclusion. This is becoming even more critical as ODA cuts and pushback on DEI-A means many organisations are reorienting how they allocate funding.
- Accessing ODA funding continues to be a challenge for OPDs. We will advocate for a code to be included in the Disability DAC marker to track funds to OPDs so that progress can be monitored.
- The consistency and quality of the data continues to be a challenge. Adopting minimum criteria will help strengthen the Disability DAC marker implementation.
- In 2025, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) takes place. The Disability DAC marker and other tracking mechanisms will be important to hold governments to account on their commitments to financing disability inclusive development.

How we will work to achieve this

We will work with our OPD partners and supportive governments to advocate for the adoption of minimum standards for the Disability DAC Marker and will support efforts by development partners to advance this. We will continue to work alongside OPDs in joint capacity building on how to use the Disability DAC marker for advocacy purposes, holding governments to account on their commitments. We will work alongside our OPD partners at the global level to support advocacy efforts for better outcomes for persons with disabilities in Financing for Development processes and beyond.

Ask 4: Strengthen efforts to gather data on the situation of persons with disabilities to enhance policies and programmes.

The why

- Data on persons with disabilities are needed so we understand the real situation of persons with disabilities, to identify gaps that are not addressed through policies and to provide examples of successes.
- Data is not only beneficial for evidence-based advocacy, but also to influence decision makers and convince them on the themes where the most urgent actions and steps must be taken at national, regional and global levels. This is the beginning and foundation to all other efforts.
- Recognising, using, and promoting citizen data is a way to address vital data gaps that traditional statistics miss, especially OPD-led citizen data processes.
- Citizen data are particularly relevant for measuring implementation of the CRPD and SDGs for persons with disabilities. In fact, out of 231 global SDG indicators, only 3 can disaggregate by disability. Despite this, the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda mandate countries to collect and disaggregate disability data, notably CRPD Articles 4 and 31, and in the 2030 Agenda: paragraphs 48 and 57, and Goal 17.18.

How we will work to achieve this

- Consult OPDs from the very beginning and foster participation of OPDs in the data value chain, including by providing accessibility.
- Convene annual meetings with statisticians, policymakers, the UN, and OPDs and allies to ensure disability data are being used, shared, and produced.
- Invest and support communities to gather citizen data, especially intersectional data to complement official statistics.

Ask 5: Advocate for recognition of a Disability Constituency with the UNFCCC.

The why

- Persons with disabilities are negatively impacted by the climate crisis yet have contributed the least.
- Equitable climate solutions come from the communities most impacted and representation in policy processes at local, national and global level is critical for a disability inclusive climate response.
- Recognition of a disability constituency in UNFCCC processes is a critical step for ensuring representation of organisations of persons with disabilities, grassroots networks and the wider disability movement.
- Resourcing the Disability Constituency is critical to ensure participation of OPDs, grassroots networks and disability activists.

How we will work to achieve this

We will step up our advocacy support to the informal disability caucus as it advocates to the UNFCCC for recognition of a disability constituency. We will continue to support and co-learn alongside our OPD partners, grassroots networks and the disability movement on the importance of engagement for a [climate just world](#). We will provide financial support to OPDs in the Global South to build their capacity and take climate action and will join a gender-just, disability-inclusive campaign on Just Transition.

Our GDS 2025 commitments

By 2027 we commit to:



Having at least 20% of our funding to partners being provided to OPD partners.



Increasing by 25% the number of projects with OPD organisational strengthening outcomes.



Expanding the number of programmes that work specifically with the most left behind amongst under-represented groups, including women and girls with disabilities, and we'll monitor progress annually.

We also commit to advocating to governments and other actors for better resourcing of OPDs, grassroots networks and the disability movement. We commit to:



Advocating to our institutional donors for flexible and longer-term funding to OPDs that includes provisions for core costs and facilitates organisational strengthening and we'll monitor progress annually.

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