



Briefing Paper: Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)

Background

There are an estimated 1 billion people with disabilities, 15% of the world's population (WHO and World Bank 2011). Over 80% of persons with disabilities live in low and middle-income countries, where they are overrepresented among people living in poverty. Yet, persons with disabilities are often disregarded in development planning and budgeting, which means the needs and interests of persons with disabilities are not addressed. This oversight has a negative impact on the ability of persons with disabilities to transcend poverty. It limits persons with disabilities' contribution to and participation in society, resulting in further exclusion. Women and girls with disabilities face additional challenges due to gender inequality.

According to the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD)**, disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (United Nations, 2006)

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet **and** ensure prosperity for all as part of a **new sustainable development agenda**. (United Nations 2015) The tagline of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is **Leave no-one behind**. The SDGs cannot be achieved if persons with disabilities are excluded from the development agenda.

The **UNCRPD** came into force in 2006 and to date it has been ratified by 177 Member States (United Nations, 2018). The Convention emphasises “the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development” (Preamble g). Article 32 states that **development programmes should be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities**. (United Nations, 2006)

Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is a **rights-based approach** within **community development** for the **equalization of opportunities, empowerment and social inclusion**¹ of all persons with disabilities. (ILO, UNESCO, WHO 2004).

¹ The act of making all groups of people in society feel valued and important

The United Nations defines **Community Development** as "a process where **community members come together** to take **collective action** and **generate solutions to common problems**. (UNTERM, 2018) It is a broad term given to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, **typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities**".

CBID is implemented through the **combined efforts** of persons with disabilities, their families, organizations and communities, and the relevant governmental and non-governmental health, education, vocational, social and other services" (ILO, UNESCO, WHO 2004)

CBID is implemented at a range of levels – individual, community and society - to ensure services (such as: health, education, livelihood, social protection, humanitarian crisis interventions, justice, recreation, sport and leisure) are accessible to all persons with disabilities, whether women, men, boys or girls.

CBID involves:

- 1. Ensuring equal access to all services.** The CBID approach is people-centred and community focused, promoting interdependence, mutual support and resilience. It recognizes that building strong communities requires a focus on equal access to good quality services and on civic participation aimed at supporting people with disabilities, their families and organizations to have the ability and confidence to fully participate in the social, economic and political life of their communities.
- 2. Ensuring equal participation** in all community activities - aimed at supporting persons with disabilities, their families and organizations to fully participate in the social, economic and political life of their communities.
- 3. Providing the access to special services where needed.** In general people with disabilities should access the same services as the rest of the population (mainstreaming), although there will sometimes be a need for specialised services to provide for impairment or disability related needs. (E.g. in livelihood: access to mainstream technical and vocational training centres, as well as specialised provision like sign language interpretation during the training).

What is the role of Government in CBID?

Ensuring inclusive policies, structures and processes: Government needs to promote and facilitate (including providing adequate funding for) policies, systems, structures and processes which are inclusive of persons with disabilities, ensuring that barriers that exclude persons with disabilities are removed or mitigated. E.g. adaptation of schools or workplaces to make them inclusive so that children be educated and adults can be employed, alongside their nondisabled peers.

Human Resources: Ensure that the government work force at various levels of governance has the competence and capacity to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Coordination: ensuring that those engaged in CBID (both public and private) complement each other and create synergies to ensure wider and equitable coverage.

References

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