

CBR and CBID

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) as a strategy has undergone considerable change over the last three decades. It was designed as a strategy that aimed to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities who live in poor resource communities in low income countries. Today CBR is understood as a strategy to ensure inclusion, rights and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The approach has changed from medical oriented towards more human rights, multi-sector and holistic.¹ It involves working closely with persons with disabilities, their families, service providers, local government and other relevant stakeholders to remove barriers that result in the exclusion of persons with disabilities from participation in community life.² The capacities of all these stakeholders are significantly important and closing the knowledge gap between them and persons with disabilities is something that the LF has incorporated as a core aspect of its strategic focus for the future.

CBR and Community Based Inclusive Development

'Community Based Inclusive Development' is a term that is increasingly heard today as a new name for CBR. This comes even more prominent in the disability arena, especially after the launch of the Rehabilitation agenda 2030 from the WHO. It seems that with all these new developments, the disability-specific track, especially in the health component, will be addressed in the Rehabilitation Agenda 2030 of the WHO and the mainstreaming track would fall under responsibilities of other international agencies based on the thematic expertise that they are covering, such as ILO for the livelihood interventions, UNICEF for the education, etc.

Liliane Foundation follows closely the developments within the sector and wants to stay alert with the new trends, but at the same time wants to reflect on the effectiveness of these changes and if and how they are going to affect persons with disabilities who live in poor resource communities in low and low-middle income countries.

LF follows the position of IDDC from 2012, that Community Based Inclusive Development is an aim or an end result to be achieved – of making communities and society at large inclusive of all marginalized groups and their concerns, including persons with disabilities.³ Persons with disabilities have equal rights to be included in any development initiatives as any other persons regardless of their disability or any other status. Therefore, CBR is a strategy or tool to achieve the goal of community based inclusive development for persons with disabilities, just as other interest groups in the community.

Reasons why the LF takes this position?

1. CBR is defined in the 2010 WHO Guidelines as a holistic and comprehensive strategy that finally is gaining more international recognition and more acceptance from Governments in low income countries. There is a certain momentum created in the last few years for systemic changes in low-income countries that will improve the position and the inclusion of persons with disabilities by using the principles of CBR. LF contributes towards this momentum and will continue supporting its partners by using CBR as a strategy for inclusion.
2. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is a principle within CBR that can create sustainable changes in the lives of children with disabilities. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is both a pre-condition and a result of a good CBR process conducted by local organisations. In a multi-stakeholder collaboration, each stakeholder adds unique knowledge, competencies and resources to support

¹ IDDC (2012). CBR Guidelines as a Tool for Community Based Inclusive Development, page 4.

² WHO (2010). *Community Based-Rehabilitation Guidelines*.

³ IDDC (2012). CBR Guidelines as a Tool for Community Based Inclusive Development, page 4.

a joint action. The purpose of this is to foster more effective and sustainable results from the interventions on behalf of the children and youngsters with disabilities.

3. The comprehensiveness of CBR is the twin track approach which gives organizations opportunities to have disability specific⁴ and mainstreaming⁵ interventions as complementary tracks that lead towards inclusion. The LF supports partners to use the twin track approach in reaching disability inclusion.
4. CBR is a strategy that gives more power for implementation of the rights of the persons with disabilities in practice. From the LF perspective, children with disabilities cannot achieve a better quality of life only from human rights instruments and legislation. Rights without implementation are useless. They need to be implemented in practice in order these children to “benefit from the conducive environment brought by the legislation”.⁶ Therefore, CBR is not an end in itself, but it can rather serve as a strategy to enforce the implementation of equal rights and to allow the provision of the best possible services to children with disabilities.⁷

Having these arguments in place, in principle the LF supports and encourages partners to use CBR as a strategy to reach CBID. However, understanding the new developments in the sector and the future funding opportunities from institutional donors, the LF also supports its partners in their quest of using CBID as term when approaching different donors and agencies.

⁴ Disability specific track means supporting and empowering people with disabilities, their families and representing organizations through increasing their access to support services, health care, education, livelihood and social activities as well as through political empowerment

⁵ Mainstreaming track means working to identify and overcome the barriers in society that persons with disabilities face, eg. physical accessibility, communication, attitude, legislation, and including persons with disabilities into all aspects of development.

⁶ Cornielje, H., Bogopane-Zulu, H. (2010). *The implementation of Policies in Community Based Rehabilitation*, page 25.

⁷ Ibid.