



A photo of Valerie who has bilateral cataracts and is part of the See the Way Rwanda project. ©CBM UK/Habimana

# CBM Global Climate Advocacy Roadmap

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# Introduction

*"A small window of opportunity is fast closing to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees celsius, prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis and secure climate justice for people, communities, and countries on the front lines of climate change."<sup>1</sup>*

*Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Governments have committed to a level of action to limit global warming at 2 degrees, or 1.5 degrees if possible. But this commitment has not been backed by the rules and regulations needed to meet those commitments, thereby protecting future generations.<sup>2</sup> This summer of 2023, the world has had its hottest 23 days ever recorded over a month. Climate change is first and foremost an environmental issue, limiting rising temperatures to 1.5 degrees is of the highest importance to preserving crucial ecosystems and climate systems. It is also a justice issue as the negative impacts of climate change are felt more acutely by people who have contributed the least.<sup>3</sup> Groups who are already facing discrimination and exclusion experience the impacts on a disproportionate basis, amplifying inequalities and undermining sustainable development across all regions. Tackling the crisis caused by climate change must happen through an equality and human rights lens, addressing the power imbalances that exist in and between countries and communities.

In addition to commitments for climate action under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement which is key among them, governments have agreed to climate action as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At a policy level, the coming five to seven years will shape the development framework that will replace the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and look towards the future. It will also be a period where there will be an increased push on governments to meet their commitments including those made on climate responses and finance as well as

disability inclusion. Now, more than ever, there is a need to break down the silos that exist between development and human rights. The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report highlights the challenge ahead for governments to address intersecting crises, including the inequality crisis, which can be further exacerbated due to the impact of climate change.<sup>4</sup>

As a federation targeting our advocacy with our partners through a climate justice lens over the next four years, we believe links human rights and development to achieve a human centred approach, safeguarding the human rights of the most at-risk people and sharing the burdens and potential benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.

## About the Roadmap

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CBM Global is delighted to share its climate advocacy roadmap. The purpose of the roadmap is to set out our intended direction of travel for climate advocacy (2023 to 2026). Our hope is that international, regional and national level climate policies will fully reflect the inclusion of persons with disabilities. This is needed in advance of the Global Disability Summit in 2025 so as to help shape upcoming global processes for future development frameworks.

## How you can join us on the journey?

Partnership is a key principle of how we do our work on advocacy. Partnering with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), alliances and grassroots networks at community level is how change happens. Working with partners, consortiums and alliances is how we work as a federation. **If you are interested in joining us to be a critical support in bringing this roadmap to reality, contact: Mary Keogh, Advocacy Director, CBM Global: [Mary.Keogh@cbm-global.org](mailto:Mary.Keogh@cbm-global.org)**

<sup>1</sup> UN (2023) See generally, [The Sustainable Development Goals Report Special edition](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Climate change: July set to be world's warmest month on record - BBC News](#)

<sup>3</sup> IPCC (2022), see generally Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and [Vulnerability](#)

<sup>4</sup> UN (2023) [The Sustainable Development Goals Report Special edition](#)

# Disability is a key issue for climate justice

Persons with disabilities living in low-income countries most at risk of climate change face serious threats to their lives, homes, health, food security, access to water, sanitation, and livelihoods.<sup>5</sup> In extreme cases, persons with disabilities are more likely to die or become even more marginalised due to the climate crisis including climate induced disasters.<sup>6</sup> This is a severe worldwide injustice. We believe this injustice can be addressed through the power of human connection, equity, and solidarity across and between different countries, through intentional inclusive participation in social justice moments, movements, and communities for a healthier planet where power is shifted, and no one is left behind.

## Climate and Disability; Key findings from our work

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- Persons with disabilities feel less safe and secure. This ranges from increased food prices, mobility restrictions, isolation from others, fear of movement in the community, loss of livelihood, land and homes.<sup>7</sup> Read some stories of [impact here](#).
- There is an increasing negative impact on health and well-being. The increasing nature of climate crisis resulting in loss of home, possessions and loved ones due to adverse and extreme weather events, or forced migration due to gradual environmental change creates trauma for communities including for persons with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>
- The need for a rights-based participatory approach. A bottom-up approach of engaging communities most impacted is critical for adapting to the changing environment and for building collective action. Due to a range of accessibility and attitudinal barriers persons with disabilities are generally not included in community led, or movement led action on climate justice.<sup>9</sup>
- Adaptation must be community led. Using local indigenous knowledge from communities and recognising persons with disabilities as technical experts and active decision-makers, with lived experience of changing environmental conditions and the knowledge to offer practical solutions, including nature-based mitigation solutions.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> OHCHR (2020), [Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change](#), see pg.4 to 8.

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Watch (2022), [Leave no-one behind: People with Disabilities and Older People in Climate Related Disasters](#)

<sup>7</sup> See generally CBM Global (2019) , [Climate change: The 4Ps for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Climate change, mental health and well-being](#)

<sup>9</sup> See CBM Global (2022) [CBM Global research 2022- Missing in climate action](#) pg. 17 to 22

<sup>10</sup> See CBM Global (2022), [Case study: Nepal's changing climate & its impact on communities including people with disabilities](#).

# CBM Global climate justice advocacy roadmap, why now?

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Responding to the climate crisis is a top policy priority for all governments and yet the connection of disability inclusion and climate is not strong.<sup>11</sup> CBM Global included climate justice as an advocacy priority for its advocacy strategic framework in 2021. As a federation, we want to contribute 'with our partners' to influencing international normative frameworks, regional and national strategies and policies developed on climate action to be disability inclusive. We also want to see the broader policies, frameworks, platforms, and facilities related to the reforms needed for a climate just society transformation to be disability inclusive including the financial flows that will accompany them. This includes transformation in key sectors relevant to CBM Global core areas of work such as health and well-being, inclusive and accessible cities and communities, employment and livelihoods and the nexus between humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

## Leveraging change through a federation approach

As a federation present both in the 'global south' and the 'global north', we have the distinct advantage of bringing in the perspectives of a variety of countries and to demonstrate the interconnected world we live in. Through our advocacy work, we want to ensure that our approach to advocating for climate justice recognises the differentiated responsibilities to addressing the climate crisis in the countries we are present in, some of which have contributed significantly to the climate crisis while others bear the impact. This requires a critical role for us as a federation to reflect on how our members from the global north must challenge and hold their governments to account for policies which have caused harm in the countries we are present in.

Equally our mainstream partners, OPDs and allies in low and middle income countries where CBM Global works are also trying to hold governments to account on climate action. We should support these initiatives and support a drive for accountability for concrete climate action in these countries too. Advocacy and influencing have an important engagement role with governments of climate vulnerable countries.<sup>12</sup> Governments in receipt of international finance and aid must ensure the effective use of funding to address climate related issues.<sup>13</sup> In doing so, they must ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations through education and awareness on climate change and its impacts so they can also play their part in advocating for reduced emissions. Holding governments to account requires us to think how we can best use the value of empowered movement, peoples solidarity, and the collective importance of the wide perspectives present in the federation to push for transformative change.

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<sup>11</sup> See EDF (2022), [Climate change: persons with disabilities still left behind](#)

<sup>12</sup> Depending on the context we are working in, we can have a direct advocacy role as a development and humanitarian organisation. We can also have an influencing role where we work in partnership with OPDs and other stakeholders to influence longer systemic change.

<sup>13</sup> Use of aid to finance

# The key drivers behind our climate advocacy work

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## The race to 1.5 degrees is all our responsibility

Ensuring governments uphold the commitment to limiting the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is a critical aspect for our advocacy work. We believe that accountability among and between governments is critical for a just response to the climate crisis. A strong inclusive civil society holding governments to account on their commitments to the Paris Agreement is also important and OPDs play a key role in this. For CBM Global, it also means looking at our own environmental footprint. We have environmental responsibilities and we action these through our Environmental Responsibility policy which outlines commitments to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, including by playing our part in seeking to reduce climate change, through reduction of, or compensation for our carbon emissions.<sup>14</sup> Development and humanitarian actions must be sustainable and do no harm.

## Partnering with OPDs and communities at the frontline of the crisis

Not all countries feel the negative impact of climate change equally. This also applies to different population groups who can feel impact more acutely. Confronting the climate crisis requires solidarity in and between countries and development partners. As an INGO working alongside persons with disabilities and in low income countries, CBM Global needs to take an active role in climate advocacy focused on reducing carbon emissions to ensure the climate crisis does not become irreversible. Frequent flooding, droughts, extreme heat, and environmental degradation caused by changing climate conditions impact the land, life, natural resources, the economy, infrastructure, and populations in different ways. For CBM Global, many of the countries we work in are at the frontline of the climate crisis yet have contributed the least. Indonesia is ranked in the top-third of countries in terms of climate risk.<sup>15</sup> Bangladesh, Burkino Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, Philippines, and the Pacific Islands are all members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum 20 (CVF20).<sup>16</sup> A 2022 assessment report from CVF found that in aggregate dollar terms, V20 economies have lost approximately US\$525 billion because of climate change's temperature and precipitation pattern affects.<sup>17</sup> Forecasts of future impacts are shared in box C on the next page.

Advocacy on inclusive climate finance and aid is also important for countries on the front-line of the crisis. The CVF 2022 assessment highlights how international resources supplied to V20 countries can diminish the negative macro-economic effect of climate change and underscores the importance of funding for loss and damage. Our advocacy in partnership with OPDs in our donor countries is of critical importance to ensure a focus on disability inclusive climate funding flows.

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<sup>14</sup> CBM (2021), [CBM Global Policy: Environmental Responsibility](#)

<sup>15</sup> World Bank (2021), see [Climate risk country profile: Indonesia](#)

<sup>16</sup> Climate Vulnerable Forum (2022), see generally [Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report 2022](#)

<sup>17</sup> Climate Vulnerable Forum (2022), See [Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report 2022, Key findings, pg.8.](#)

- It is estimated that on average tropical cyclones cost Bangladesh about \$1 billion annually and that by 2050, a third of agricultural GDP could be lost and 13 million people could become internal climate migrants.<sup>18</sup> If flooding episodes are severe, it is estimated that GDP could fall by as much as 9 percent.
- For the Philippines, climate change is expected to lead to more intense typhoons, higher sea levels, and storm surges. Storm surges are projected to affect about 14 percent of the total population and 42 percent of coastal populations. Informal settlements, which account for 45 percent of the Philippines' urban population, are particularly vulnerable to floods due to less secure infrastructure, reduced access to clean water, and lack of health insurance.<sup>19</sup>
- Nepal's GDP has already been affected by climate change with increased flooding, heat stress on labour productivity and health, and heat stress on crops and livestock is expected to be a continual drag on growth.<sup>20</sup>
- A devastating drought in southern Madagascar, where catastrophic hunger has brought one million people to the brink of famine. Research by OPDs in Madagascar has highlighted how persons with disabilities have been left out of the famine response.<sup>21</sup>

## The contribution we want to make

Building on our [Global Disability Summit commitments](#), our advocacy roadmap outlines our efforts to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities in the call for climate justice, tackling unfair and harmful practices that negatively impact our planet. As a federation, we will do this alongside our global, national and community partners. We will:

- work with our country teams, partnering, and supporting OPDs to ensure disability is recognised as being connected to the overall struggle for a climate just world.
- partner with OPDs, including youth based OPDs and women led OPDs, to mutually increase capacity on relevant technical areas on climate and work together to create connections with climate activists on the ground in the communities where we are present to ensure the transition to a more just world which is disability inclusive.
- recognise our roles and responsibilities as an INGO by promoting good allyship with our OPD partners and positively supporting and encouraging the emergence of climate leaders within the disability movement.
- join with other disability focused and climate focused INGOs and CSOs in their advocacy efforts for a climate just world.<sup>22</sup>
- comply with our commitments to mitigate efforts through our environmental policy and ensure our work does not contribute to further global warming.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>18</sup> See [here](#)

<sup>19</sup> See [here](#)

<sup>20</sup> [World Bank \(2022\) Nepal: Country climate and development report](#)

<sup>21</sup> CBM Global (2022) Case Study – [Climate Change and its Humanitarian Consequences: The impact on persons with disabilities in Southern Madagascar](#)

<sup>22</sup> Networks and CSOs focused on intersection of disability and climate include; the International Disability Development Consortium and the Task Group on Climate Action, HelpAge International for intersection of age and disability. Mainstream climate CSOs we work with and through include the Climate Action Network, its international, regional, and national nodes and the Centre for International Environmental Law

<sup>23</sup> CBM Global (2021) [CBM Global Environmental Responsibility](#)

# Climate justice and health and well-being

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Climate change can exacerbate existing health and health care inequalities faced by persons with disabilities and the health impacts of climate change may be experienced more severely by persons with disabilities owing to the harmful impact of climate change on health systems.<sup>24</sup> Persons with disabilities may have reduced access to health care and poorer health outcomes than others owing to a combination of structural factors, including stigma, social exclusion, poverty, discriminatory legislation and policies and the limited availability of tailored services and programmes. This becomes further exacerbated due to the impact of climate change. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2022 stating that access to a clean and healthy environment is a universal human right, recognising the impact of environmental injustice and the need to reduce it. Within the text there is recognition that environmental damage has negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights.<sup>25</sup> This includes the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Health is a critical issue for all and the impact on climate change on health is something that will inform all we do at CBM Global including mental health, preventable diseases and inclusive eye care.

## Climate justice and accessible, inclusive cities and communities

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Accessibility in cities and communities for persons with disabilities is a critical pre-condition for inclusion. Climate change significantly impacts urban life and can have a devastating impact on communities. Globally, access to basic services, infrastructure, livelihoods, health and housing have costly consequences for cities' authorities. Cities themselves contribute substantially to climate change, generating 75 percent of global CO2 emissions, mainly through transportation and buildings.<sup>26</sup> A coordinated approach at all levels is crucial to tackle this challenge, making cities an integral part of the solution in fighting climate change.



A photo of Nuru who is part of an inclusive communities project. ©CBM Ireland

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<sup>24</sup> WHO (2022), see [generally Global Report on health equity for persons with disabilities](#)

<sup>25</sup> UNGA (2022), see [UN General Assembly declares access to clean and healthy environment a universal human right](#)

<sup>26</sup> UNEP (no date) [Cities and climate change](#).



# Approaching climate justice through disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and climate change adaptation

Climate-related disasters are driving increased levels of risks, vulnerability, and human rights abuses, whilst also disrupting livelihoods, increasing displacement, influencing the spread of diseases, worsening global public health and threatening lives overall. In Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, more than 1000 people lost their lives in 2019 as a result of Cyclone Idai with millions left destitute without access to foods and basic services.<sup>27</sup> In 2021 Madagascar featured high in the international news as the first country to ever experience a climate induced famine.<sup>28</sup> This growing humanitarian climate emergency requires significant investment in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and humanitarian programmes that boost the resilience and adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities and at risk groups such as persons with disabilities, and ensure they receive climate adaptation funds to manage the risks they face. The participation of people affected by climate change will be critical to ensure responsive, accountable and effective DRR and humanitarian programming. Unless policy and prevention and mitigation measures are put in place, climate change will continue to be a leading driver of humanitarian need. The participation of and support to persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all decisions affecting the enjoyment of their rights in crisis situations in equal measure to others is a precondition to ensuring climate justice.<sup>29</sup>



CBM UK's Ursula Grant speaking to Alok Sharma President COP 26 at CBM UK stall in the Green Zone at COP 26. ©CBM UK

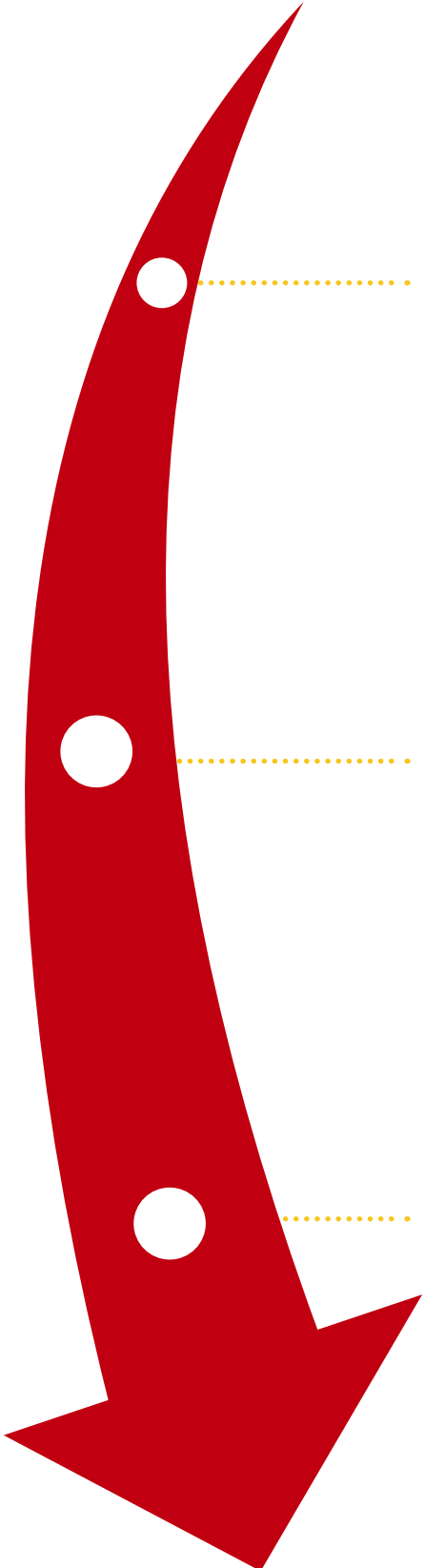
<sup>27</sup> See [here](#)

<sup>28</sup> BBC (2021), [Madagascar on the brink of climate change-induced famine](#)

<sup>29</sup> IASC (2019), see [Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#), pg. 37

# Our five advocacy priorities

The trajectory of our 2023 to 2026 advocacy work in partnership with OPDs and other partners, networks and coalitions focuses on:



**Our short-term goals** will continue to focus on consolidating and growing our support and partnerships with OPDs for:

- ✓ **Connecting Disability Rights and Climate Justice:** Addressing the policy gap in international and national climate policy on disability inclusion by supporting our partners and OPDs to engage and influence policy levers.
- ✓ **Evidence Based Data:** Addressing the data gaps on the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities through advocating for data disaggregated by disability and through co-creation of evidence with OPDs.
- ✓ **Working with partners on crosscutting issues such as accessibility:** for example, connecting with the New Urban Agenda and inclusive and accessible climate resilient cities advocacy work led by the World Blind Union.

**Our medium-term goals** will take a deeper dive into the impact of the climate crisis by supporting locally based solutions driven by those most impacted. This will create evidence and models of good practice which can be integrated into advocacy messaging on impact and solutions. Connecting with our programmes this will include capacity building, training, and mutual learning – both internally and externally.

**Our long-term goals** will focus on two sectoral/technical aspects of climate advocacy, the Just Transition and Disability Inclusive Climate Finance. The Just Transition which brings structural transformation, particularly for low-income countries, through new green economies, renewable energy being accessible to all, and climate smart livelihoods created for and by people in local level communities and ensures all voices in communities are represented at the different stages of the decision-making processes. Climate finance facilities need to be disability inclusive and we will work alongside advocates for inclusive climate finance to ensure that funding for climate action reaches communities who are most impacted.

# Priority 1: Addressing the policy gaps

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**“THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPLEMENTING [POLICIES], THEY THOUGHT ‘OKAY, CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE, IT IS NOT REALLY RELATED TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND MAYBE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE NOT AN ACTIVE PART OF IT’. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE MANY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE NOT MUCH ENGAGED WITH THEM.”<sup>30</sup>**

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The perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations have not been in the room when global and national policies on climate adaptation and mitigation are being developed. This results in a lack of disability inclusive language at international, regional, and national policy level. A review of national climate policies conducted over two consecutive years, 2021 and 2022, highlights how a major gap remains in disability inclusive language in national determined contributions, national adaptation and mitigation policies and plans.<sup>31</sup> This despite the fact that persons with disabilities living in climate affected countries bear the brunt of the climate crisis and are acutely impacted at a personal level, in terms of health and well-being, at an economic level in terms of loss of livelihoods, and more broadly within the wider environment.<sup>32</sup>

The lack of representative language in climate policy at all levels and across different frameworks such as the SDGs highlights that governments need to deliver on implementing Article Four (c) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which obligates governments to include persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the development of all policies. It also highlights that the current approach to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the UNFCCC policy process (and more widely within Government processes) could be further strengthened by adopting CRPD compliant language instead of the current references which frame disability within “vulnerable” or “at risk” categories.<sup>33</sup> Within the SDG framework and the goals specifically focused on climate, there is no specific reference to persons with disabilities.

This suggests a lack of awareness by climate policy makers of the need to include persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the stakeholder processes for developing policies on climate action across different frameworks, including taking a consistent approach to accessibility at the yearly major climate conferences, COP, Bonn and other UNFCCC and UN intersessional meetings, and also national processes for stakeholder dialogue and policy development. It highlights the disjointed nature of international laws where treaty bodies do not naturally create synergies between each other. The interaction, for example, between the CRPD and the Paris Agreement is minimal from both sides.<sup>34</sup> The absence of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations from global, regional and national processes results in a loss of expertise and skills that could positively contribute to the complex approach needed for solving the climate crisis. OPDs at the heart of policy responses to the climate crisis could have a profound impact in helping shape inclusive climate policies that transform how society works.

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<sup>30</sup> CBM Global (2022), [Missing in Climate Action](#), reference from Key Informant pg. 19

<sup>31</sup> McGill and International Disability Alliance (2022), [Status Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies](#)

<sup>32</sup> OHCHR (2020), [Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change](#)

<sup>33</sup> CRPD (2006), Article 4

<sup>34</sup> Open Society Foundation (2021) [Disability and Climate Justice, a research project](#)

## Why is this important?

- Every country that has signed up to the Paris Agreement must produce national climate plans, including national determined contributions, national adaptation, and mitigation plans.
- If persons with disabilities are not included in the initial policy development or the review process, then governments are failing to meet their CRPD, SDG, New Urban Agenda and Paris commitments.
- The implementation of the Paris Agreement is reviewed regularly, providing opportunities to celebrate progress and highlight gaps.

## Where we will focus our advocacy efforts

In the short to medium term, we will partner with OPDs and our country and member teams for training on different national planning instruments for climate change adaptation & DRR and why influencing them is important. We will work with our OPD partners on a roadmap for advocating for disability inclusive climate policy. At country level, working with our country teams and OPD partners, we will create linkages with climate activists through networks we are involved with. At international level we will continue alongside our OPD partners, the International Disability Alliance, World Blind Union and the World Federation of the Deaf to profile the need for disability inclusion in language, outcomes, frameworks, platforms and accessibility at the UNFCCC and in all their processes.



CBM Emergency Response Unit Communications Coordinator Gordon Rattray being helped from a boat. ©CBM/John Javellana

## Priority 2: Addressing the data gap

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Data advocacy is a foundational priority supporting the [four advocacy priorities of CBM Global](#). Our work on data advocacy with OPDs focuses on advocating for better data and how to use evidence-based data to influence decision makers to address the most urgent actions at national, regional, and global levels in different sectors. This is critical for identifying current gaps in all areas related to responding to the climate crisis; from designing and implementing humanitarian responses to the impacts of extreme weather, to tracking how many persons with disabilities are displaced or forced to migrate due to climate change, to understanding how much funding for adaptation and other climate financing instruments are reaching persons with disabilities.

The current goals, indicators, targets and reports relating to climate change do not explicitly address persons with disabilities, or include data disaggregated by disability. Specific indicators for the [SDG 13 \(target 13.b\)](#) on climate action mention marginalized and at risk groups but do not specifically mention persons with disabilities. The absence of quantitative and qualitative data creates problems for policy makers and OPDs trying to track the impact of the climate crisis on persons with disabilities, particularly when it comes to documenting loss and damage experienced by persons with disabilities and to understand the extent to which responses are including persons with disabilities. National information systems and data collection need to be strengthened and participatory, and disability-inclusive risk and capacity assessments should be used to identify key areas of action.<sup>35</sup>

Coordination and information sharing between different government departments is also important, we need to break down silos. For example, from our own research<sup>36</sup> we know that the department responsible for leading on climate action will rarely think of connecting to government departments prioritizing disability and the focus of data disaggregated by disability. When it is documented it very rarely connects to climate related policy.

In addition to government collected data, there is the importance of citizen generated data, which is data that people, or organisations produce to monitor or drive change on issues that affect them. It was particularly effective during the COVID-19 crisis where citizen data could be mobilised quicker than official data which often is set into a routine cycle and is not able to respond quickly. In our data advocacy work alongside our partners, we advocate for the recognition that citizen generated data can provide access to detailed, localised information and empower CSOs to actively engage in the monitoring of issues that affect their lives. This is particularly important as the evidence of the changing climate is very often recognised by communities who are first-hand witnesses to its impact. Additionally, citizen generated data is increasingly being recognised by national statistical authorities and can complement official statistics to fill data gaps, particularly for marginalised communities, such as persons with disabilities.

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<sup>35</sup> OHCHR (2020) [Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Climate Change and Disability Rights: Discussion Paper \(June 2023\)](#), CBM ([cbmuk.org.uk](http://cbmuk.org.uk))

### Why is this important?

- Every country has a legal obligation or a promise/commitment to collecting data under the CRPD, SDG 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.
- Planning and budgeting for response to the climate crisis requires data on persons with disabilities. This data will need to be complemented by an understanding of barriers persons with disabilities face in being included in climate action. This knowledge is critical to allocate appropriate budget towards inclusive climate change policies and plans.
- Data collection mechanisms that monitor the impact of climate change that aren't disaggregated by disability leave out a large percentage of the population.

### Where we will focus our advocacy efforts

Our short-term actions will continue to co-produce evidenced based research with OPDs, and our country and member teams based on good quality data, and where not available advocating for this. Our research reports to-date are detailed [here](#). Working with our OPD partners and allies we will support longer term advocacy goals of ensuring goals, indicators, targets, and reports relating to climate change explicitly address persons with disabilities and include data disaggregated by disability. This is particularly important as the dialogues focused on the post 2030 Agenda will begin in 2024. We will also advocate for national information systems and data collection to be strengthened, inclusive and participatory, and disability-inclusive risk and capacity assessments to be used to identify key areas of action.



Melmar is the primary breadwinner for the family of five in the Philippines. He does various jobs (from home), including fabricating fishnets, fishing accessories as well repairing shoes and cutting hair. ©CBM/John Javellana

# Priority 3: Promoting locally based solutions, capacity building and mutual learning

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**“ACCESSIBILITY CAN BE THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PROGRAMS, MEETINGS AND MANY OTHER FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES”.**

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A key component of climate justice is the involvement of everyone in society, everywhere across the world. Active inclusive involvement of people is crucial, to help their understanding of the issues and their role in tackling them. This knowledge and understanding provides a foundation for developing local context driven solutions that are fit for purpose. Very often persons with disabilities and OPDs are left out at even the most basic level of participatory processes. There is a lack of recognition of the valuable role OPDs have in being part of community actions on climate change. This exclusion includes education, which is the entry point to understanding what climate change is and what are its impacts, as well how to become involved in processes at community, regional, national, and international levels. CBM Global has heard from OPD stakeholders we have engaged with that the number one concern at this moment is the lack of education, training and capacity building opportunities to help engage with climate action.

Accessible and inclusive capacity building leads to an informed understanding of the climate crisis and helps in navigating the complex issues. It is required to give confidence and enable meaningful engagement and people-based approaches to tackling climate change. Whilst persons with disabilities may already have solutions, through their own life experiences and resilience, which would be beneficial to climate action and adaption, the lack of participation as well as access to information and training can mean very often that OPDs can get left behind. A current entry point for capacity building, learning and exchange for OPDs is the [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#) programme which delivers its climate change impact through work programmes that focus on six elements: education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation.

### Why is it important?

- The UNFCCC Action for Empowerment (ACE) Programme specifically recognise persons with disabilities. The commitments detailed in the ACE programme give an opportunity for dialogue on how they will be implemented locally and support cross movement building.<sup>37</sup>
- There is a need for our OPD partners as well as CBM Global country teams to focus on locally based solutions, that are driven by local contexts and communities.
- Working with our OPD partners at national level we will ensure that opportunities delivered through ACE programmes are inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- CBM Global Country teams are already initiating specific projects that include training, and capacity building that will drive locally led solutions.

### Where we will focus our advocacy efforts

In the short term, we will prioritise supporting training, confidence building and effective networking of country teams, member teams, OPD partners and climate activists using platforms for e-learning as a basis. In the longer term, in partnership with OPDs, we will utilise CBM Global emerging programmatic work to highlight good practice and solutions that can work and can be scaled up. We will continue to invest our financial and human resources into learning networks supporting OPDs to learn and grow in climate technicalities.



Cow Rearing in Gaibandha city Bangladesh. ©Fahad Kaizer/CBM

<sup>37</sup> See details about ACE [here](#)



# Priority 4: Disability Inclusion through a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies

A just transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy presents a unique opportunity to advance decent work for all, social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty. If taken seriously this supports delivering on SDG 1, 8 of the SDGs and CRPD articles on work and employment and adequate standard of living and social protection. As countries move forward with plans to transform their economies, it is critical that we know more about the potential contributions of persons with disabilities and the types of practices that can yield transformative change in poverty reduction, access to renewable energy and decent work. Without an explicit focus on creating opportunities for persons with disabilities, the goals of a socially inclusive green economy will remain unreachable. Just transition is an opportunity to address pre-existing inequalities where persons with disabilities have been left out from employment and sustainable livelihoods.

## Why is it important?

- Persons with disabilities are at risk of falling further behind in terms of economic opportunity, access to clean renewable energy, employment, poverty, and related development indicators if not included in just transition.
- Dialogue and policy progress toward transition to a just, low-carbon economy are key entry points for putting forward innovative solutions for an inclusive livelihood approaches.
- Just transition is interlinked with other climate finance sectors such as low carbon smart cities (e.g., decarbonised and accessible transport systems) and therefore requires alignment with these sectors to allow inclusion of persons with disabilities meaningfully. Inclusive and accessible transport systems and other green infrastructure becomes the foundation for inclusive just transition.
- It is a key entry point for pushing for disability inclusive social protection.

## Where we will focus our advocacy efforts

In the short term we will follow and support the leadership of our OPD partners on accessible and inclusive cities. For example, the World Blind Union and its partnership with the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) which will bring an increased focus on the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of local governments and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in urban development and city planning processes. This is particularly critical when it comes to adaptation to climate change. Our longer-term goals will be advocating for renewable and clean energy alternatives to be readily available and accessible to persons with disabilities. A key objective of the just transition will be the provision of job programmes to help skill, reskill, and upskill people into new roles. This requires support of a whole of life approach to accessing the green labour market from climate education, to access to early years education, to access to a transport system that enables access to sustainable jobs. Our longer term goals will be to work with our OPD partners on influencing to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the provision of these job programmes enabling a transition of employees with disabilities from sunset to sunrise markets.<sup>38</sup> For persons with disabilities engaged in employment that is being sunset, we will work with our OPD and mainstream partners to advocate for social protection and re-attachment measures to workers with disabilities who will need to transition.

<sup>38</sup> Sunset to sunrise markers are markets which are in decline (sunset) and markets which are new and growing (sunrise)

# Priority 5: Ensuring climate financing is disability inclusive

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Equitable access to all finance funds is imperative to ensuring that local communities are best served and given every opportunity to address the ongoing challenges of climate change. [Climate finance](#) refers to local, national, or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, developed countries have committed to provide 100 billion US dollars per year to climate affected countries by 2020, thereby supporting climate policies as part of their obligation to the UN convention on climate change. There is demand for 50% of the climate finance being committed to Adaptation and for high income countries to double their commitment to adaptation financing by 2025 compared with 2019.

The increasing impacts of climate change have strengthened the calls of developing countries for new financial support to recover from unavoidable losses and damages. **This would be in addition to the 100 billion US dollar per year commitment under the Paris Agreement.** A new fund for loss and damage was agreed at COP27. The funding mechanism must ensure specific and targeted grant-based participatory funding for people with disabilities, operating on a human rights basis, informed by locally-driven needs, which extends to ensuring representation and participation on the Fund Board.

## Why is it important?

- Climate financing must reach the local level, and space needs to be created for OPD inputs into design, implementation and monitoring of local action plans.
- For all climate financing to be fair and equitable disability inclusion must be included as a key criterion in awarding all climate funding, particularly grant-based adaptation finance, the new loss and damage fund and pre-agreed emergency funding so that countries and communities can react immediately when disaster strikes. We should push for Key Performance Indicators on disability inclusion to measure the progress on disability inclusive climate action. These KPIs for example could include frontline communities who can access the funding to be included in these funds.

## Where we will focus our advocacy efforts

In the short term, as a member of several mainstream climate advocacy networks we will support their demand for a new loss and damage finance facility fit for purpose and advocate along with our OPD partners for this fund to be disability inclusive, people centred and responsive to the local context of developing countries. In the medium to long term alongside our OPD partners and mainstream climate organisations, we will support inclusion of persons with disabilities and accountability towards disability inclusion in locally led adaptation plans in CBM Global priority countries. We will also support the generation of evidence and use this to influence national and local adaptation plans to be disability inclusive in CBM Global priority countries.

# CBM Global Federation Resources

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These resources have been developed by different parts of the federation and OPD partners

1. [UK Climate Policy Paper](#)
2. CBM Global research 2022, [Missing in climate action](#)
3. [Nepal case studies](#)
3. [Madagascar case study in partnership with Global Green grants](#)
4. [Climate change: The 4Ps for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#)
6. [Climate change, mental health and well-being](#)
7. [Disability Inclusive Climate Action at COP27](#)
8. [Lessons learnt at COP27 on inclusive climate action](#)
9. [Four takeaways from COP26](#)
10. Ensuring DI Climate action [NGOs must ensure a disability-inclusive approach to climate action | Bond](#)
11. [Lessons learn from COP26](#)

## **Videos and podcasts:**

- [Disability Inclusive Climate Justice video by EDF and CBMG](#)
- [An inclusive planet: inclusion, mental health and climate change #COP26 \(2k views\)](#)
- [BBC ouch podcast](#)
- [Enabling Commons podcast](#)



# An Inclusive Planet: Inclusion, Mental Health and Climate Change

Chair: Kirsty Smith, CEO, CBM UK



CEO Kirsty Smith speaking at CBM UK's side event at COP26. She is joined by CBM Global partner the International Disability Alliance and Humanity and Inclusion. ©CBM UK