



6TH CBR AFRICA CONFERENCE

7TH - 11TH MAY 2018
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
 LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

- Emulate Malawi and Uganda, Zambian DPOs told
- Its not your fault—parents of CWDs encouraged
- Cast spotlight on IDPD

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PROVIDE TARGETED INTERVENTIONS- WHO



Delegates follow conference deliberations

By Derrick Sinjela

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) representative Dr. Alarcas Cieza has observed that targeted interventions are critical to empowering persons with disability in Africa and elsewhere.

Speaking on day one of the 2018 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, themed: *‘CBR for Resilience Building and sustainable Development: Leave No One Behind’*, Dr. Cieza implored continental stakeholders to embrace interventions with disability friendly lenses. Dr. Cieza further urged development partners to use CBR lenses with interest when design interventions so as to better the livelihood of persons with disabilities.

"We need to ensure that targeted interventions are employed with disability friendly lenses as prescribed by the WHO guidelines geared to create a suitable access to inclusive CBR services that are effectively mainstreamed. We must at all-time mainstream education, health and a variety of basic social services and infrastructure," implored Ms. Cieza.

On her part, Ms Ekaete Judith Umoh, an International Disability Rights Advocate based in Nigeria says all human beings deserve better life, thus her clarion call toward inclusive livelihoods

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Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network (CAN)

MORE EFFECTIVE DISABILITY INCLUSION STRATEGIES NEEDED—PS



Dr Liya Mutale- MCDSS Permanent Secretary

By Mercy Nyangu

The Permanent Secretary in the Zambian Ministry of Community Development and Social Services Dr. Liya Mutale has urged stakeholders to continue working to find more effective strategies of ensuring the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in development programmes.

While welcoming delegates of the 6th CBR Africa Conference held at Intercontinental hotel, Lusaka, Dr. Mutale urged governments from other countries to do more research in issues affecting PWDs in order to come up with more effective interventions.

“We need to ask ourselves how we can achieve inclusive development. It is not development if a particular group is side-lined and left out. We need to spell out strategies for improving access to health care; access to quality education and access to employment for PWDs” She said.

She said the Zambian government is working hard to see that disability is mainstreamed in all government programmes. She cited the inclusion of disability issues in the Seventh National Development Plan as one strategy of inclusion that the

WHO CALLS FOR TARGETED INTERVENTIONS

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A straight talking Ms. Umoh is interested in the conference agreeing on a common continental agenda with regard to increased participation of persons with disabilities in public discourse.

Making reference to her home country, Ms. Umoh informed delegates that the 27 million persons with disability have used this Electoral College to negotiate their collective interests from Nigerian politicians.

"The outcome of the conference must come up with collective common goals to embrace everyone. If we do not do this, our voices will not be listened to by political parties and politicians. A case in point is my home country Nigeria, where 27 million persons with disability population is using these numbers as negotiations leverage. Just imagine if we decide to vote against a political organization or choose to vote for a party that has embraced persons with disabilities. So, political

parties view us as a force to reckon with," said Ms. Umoh stressing that disability is a human rights and development matter.

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“Political parties view us as a force to reckon with," said Ms. Umoh stressing that disability is a human rights and development matter

Emulate Malawi and Uganda– Zambia told

ZAMBIAN Filmmaker and Human Rights Advocate Musola Cathrine Kaseketi wants her Southern African Development Country needs to increase the pace at which Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is being decentralized away from the traditional line of rail.

Ms. Kaseketi, a renowned right based advocate — observed in an interview on the sidelines of the 2018 Sixth Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network Conference (CAN) at Lusaka's Intercontinental Hotel — that Zambia needs to learn from Malawi and Uganda, where interventions are now reaching vulnerable communities.

Currently managing Vilole Images Production, and Shunga Namutitima International Film Festival of Zambia (SHUNAFFoZ), based in Livingstone, Southern Province, Ms. Kaseketi sees a dimmed light as most Community Based Rehabilitation interventions are concentrated in urban areas.

“Zambia must learn from Malawi and Uganda, where CBR organisations are involved in advocacy and empowerment activities in rural communities. If we increase our presence beyond Lusaka and the line of rail, many burdened households will be covered by a cross-cutting interventions,” Ms. Kaseketi advised in reference to the **‘CBR for Resilience Building and Sustainable Development: Leaving No One Behind’** theme adopted during the 7th to 11th May 2018, Sixth Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network Conference (CAN) Indaba .

According to Ms. Kaseketi concentration of activities in urban centers is increasing vulnerability in rural Zambia as persons with disabilities are denied access to in-



Mr Alick Nyirenda , Snr CBR Advisor to the Zambian government

clusive education, health and inclusive living benefits accruing to peers in fortunate geographical circumstances.

DPO's in the Southern part of Zambia in particular Livingstone were pivotal in the conference coming to Zambia, through intense lobbying during the 5th Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network Conference (CAN) in Nairobi, Kenya on the theme: **‘A Bridge to Inclusive Society beyond the 2015 Development Framework’**.

The First CBR Africa Conference was held in 2001 at the Uganda National Institute for Special Education, themed: **‘A Participatory Strategy in Africa’**, with four key areas being identified namely; initiating formation of CBR Association, improving information sharing on CBR good practices, review of CBR training programmes and organizing regular CBR conferences in Africa.

Malawi hosted the Second 2004 CBR Africa Conference on dubbed: **‘CBR Part of Community Development’**, with South

Africa hosting the Third CBR themed: **‘Inclusive Policy Development and Implementation’** and Nigeria hosting the Fourth CBR dubbed: **‘Linking CBR, Disability and Rehabilitation in 2010’**.

Zambia is gearing becoming a haven in which Community Based Rehabilitation is decentralized by moving the coalesced Government and DPO relationship to Lusaka and elsewhere, as the closely knit activities are now in Monze District.

Ms. Kaseketi is encouraged by the advisory role coordinated by Senior CBR Advisor, Mr. Alick Nyirenda with regard to reaching DPO's and grassroots communities throughout Zambia's ten provinces.

DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE INCLUSION STRATEGIES

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government has employed. Further, she said government deliberately doubled the amount that PWDs receive under the social security scheme as a way of reducing their economic burden.

Speaking at the same event, World Health Organisation representative Dr. Alarcos Cieza said international gatherings such as the CBR Conference are critical to individual national building in terms of health. She said no one should not be left out. She cited international instruments such as the Sustainable Development Goals as instruments that countries can use to measure the inclusiveness of their development programmes.

Dr. Cieza stressed that no one should be left behind as depicted by the theme of the Conference. She further hoped to see some improvement in inclusiveness as the world convenes for the 2020 World Congress in Uganda.

The sixth CBR conference which has drawn over 400 delegates from 45 African countries is running under the theme “CBR for Resilience Building and Sustainable Development: Leave no one behind”. The conference will be officially opened by the president of Zambia His Excellency Edgar Lungu today Wednesday 9th April.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REMAINS IN THE SHADOWS

By Lillian Banda

The international day of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) has not received much support in Zambia, note some delegates to the sixth CBR Conference, which is currently underway in Lusaka.

Delegates observe that activities and programmes on the said day are attended by PWDs themselves and a handful of organisations directly concerned with issues of disabilities.

They further observe that International Day of Persons with Disabilities which falls on the 3rd of December is often poorly attended and note given that much media attention.

“When it comes to other commemorations such as International Women’s Day or Youth Day everyone is involved. The Day for Persons with disabilities should be commemorated just like any other important day so that people can be aware of the challenges and strides made by the disability movement in the country,” say Mr. Lango Sinkamba.

Mr. Sinkamba is hopeful that the conference will among

other things help to change people’s attitudes towards programmes targeted at uplifting PWDs.

“It is important to note that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that PWDs are not discriminated against or marginalised. There public can play its part by participating in the walk or preparatory programmes to make the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

And another delegate has implored the media to mainstream disability issues and increase coverage of stories on the subject.

“Very little has been written on disability and much of the same is based on negative things happening in the disability circles. We need people to highlight positive developments such as success stories around CBR,” notes Sylvester Katontoka.

Mr. Katontoka who is also the Executive Director of Mental Users Network of Zambia (MHUNZA) says media coverage of disabilities issues should be on going because disability issues and development are intertwined.

IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT– PARENTS OF CWDs ENCOURAGED

By Mercy Nyangu

“Some African parents with disabled children struggle to accept the condition that their children are born in and choose to believe that they are cursed or bewitched or that they are being punished by some wrong they did. Consequently, they choose to hide their children from society and not seek opportunities for better health care, education and other forms of development”.

Moses Kiwanuku from Comprehensive Rehabilitation Service of Uganda (CORSU) while presenting on CBR training at the on- going Community Based Rehabilitation Africa Conference being held in Lusaka, noted that one of the major challenges to attaining effective CBR results is the struggle for parents with disabled children to accept the condition of their children.

“CBR training is essential in awareness raising especially among parents and caregivers of persons with disabilities. Most parents with children born with disability do not want to understand the medical explanation to the condition of their children, they choose to blame themselves and go to witch-doctors because disability is sometimes seen as a curse or bad luck. We have a task of convincing them that it is not their fault” he said.

Mr. Kiwakunu said effective CBR training helps to reduce on the negative perceptions associated with disabilities. He said CBR training helps both the parents and children to identify and focus on their talents and capabilities not their inabilities. Once that acceptance is attained, it is easier to get the participation of PWDs in social and developmental programmes.