



Summary Report

of the 5th CBR Africa Conference

Kenyatta International Conference Centre,
Nairobi, Kenya 1st June - 5th June 2015



THEME:

CBR Guidelines:

A Bridge to Inclusive Society beyond
the 2015 Development Framework



Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network (CAN)

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● Glossary ● ● ●

APDK	Association of the Physically Disabled of Kenya
CAN	Community Based Rehabilitation Africa Network
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CBI	Community Based Inclusion
CBM	Christoffel Blindenmission
CRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EC	Executive Committee
KICC	Kenyatta International Conference Centre
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAD	Norwegian Association of Disabled
NCPWD	National Council for Persons with Disabilities in Kenya
PSGs	Parent Support Groups
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Schemes
WHO	World Health Organization

● Acknowledgements ● ● ●

We would like to take this opportunity to thank CAN's donors and Conference sponsors for their contributions towards the 5th CBR Africa Conference and for their ongoing support of CAN, without which our work and events would not be possible.



For more information on CAN and for access to the full presentations given at the CBR Africa Conference please see our website at: <http://afri-can.org> or contact us at: info@afri-can.org

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● Foreword ● ● ●



I am delighted to provide the foreword for this Summary Report of the 5th CBR Africa Conference held from 1-5 June 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya under the Theme: **CBR Guidelines: A Bridge to Inclusive Society Beyond the 2015 Development Framework.**

The event, which was held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, was a memorable and important occasion in the CBR calendar, bringing together more than 300 participants (42% female and 56% male) from 27 countries. Simultaneous translation of the event was provided in French, Portuguese and Arabic.

What makes the CAN events unique is the great variety of people who attend and present at the Conference. What they have in common is their passion for CBR, and the Conference represents a chance to bring their knowledge and experience together under one roof for the benefit of sharing and moving forward the CBR sector. This report is the first publication from the event, the aim of which is to share some of the knowledge and ideas presented and discussed at the Conference. It will be followed by the more comprehensive CAN Conference book which is currently being compiled.

I had the great honour of being elected Chairperson of CAN at the Conference and I look forward to serving CAN over the coming years. I hope that you enjoy this publication and encourage you to continue to share your knowledge, wisdom and ideas through the CAN network. It will benefit all who are working in this critical and dynamic field.

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● The CBR Africa Network (CAN) ● ● ●

The Community Based Rehabilitation Africa Network (CAN) is the African regional affiliate of the CBR Global Network. CAN was founded in 2001 and exists to promote access to appropriate information on disability and development for all people in Africa.

CAN works closely with disability organizations, government agencies, development organizations, and national and regional decision makers to create increased awareness of, and support of CBR as defined in the WHO CBR Guidelines as an effective approach to promoting disability rights in Africa and realizing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). One of the major aspects of CAN's work is to hold CBR Conferences every 3-4 years to bring together CBR stakeholders from across the continent to share ideas and experiences.

This was the first CBR Africa Conference since the launch of the CBR Guidelines at the 4th CBR Africa Conference in Nigeria in 2010, and it represented an important opportunity for CBR stakeholders to come together to review progress against the guidelines and in the context of the broader development environment.

Originally scheduled for 2014 in Egypt, the CBR Africa Conference was moved to Kenya following unrest in North Africa. An outbreak of Ebola also resulted in a postponement of the Conference to 2015. I am happy to report that in spite of these challenges CAN and its partners were able to plan and host a memorable Conference that achieved its objectives and helped the CBR sector to share learning, develop partnerships, and agree a series of resolutions relating to CBR.

The Government of the Republic of Kenya hosted the 5th CBR Africa Conference and the secretariat was held by The Association of the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) who coordinated the input of a range of Disability/CBR stakeholders in the country.

The CAN general meeting was divided into sessions over different Conference days. A history of CAN, its goal and mission were presented. Proposed amendments to the constitution were presented and discussed and the CAN Executive Committee (EC) election procedure explained. Time was given for each country and region to discuss their nominations. The Chairperson's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted, and a new EC was elected to drive the organization's work for the next period. This includes representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Amendments to the Constitution were passed. A formal hand over to the new EC was performed in the presence of the general assembly. The new committee held its first meeting shortly after the election within the KICC, Nairobi. The CAN general meeting discussions together with discussions during the main Conference proceedings culminated in the Conference resolutions provided.

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● A word from the Chair of the Conference planning committee ● ● ●



Towards the end of 2013 I met with representatives of CAN and learned of the difficulties they were facing regarding organization of the 5th CBR Conference due to challenges in the planned location of Egypt. Kenya had been identified as an alternative location following the country's bid to hold the Conference at the 2010 Conference in Nigeria. I was asked to assist in making a request to the Government of Kenya to agree to host the Conference and to lead the stakeholders mobilization. Although time was short, the response both from Government and stakeholders was positive. The Government committed to support the Conference and requested us to work closely with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

By January 2014, we had formed a Committee comprising of more than 20 stakeholders including representatives of both Civil Society and the Government. NCPWD, a semi-autonomous Government Agent was well represented in the Committee and a person delegated by the Principal Secretary represented the Ministry responsible for disabilities. The Association of the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) a major CBR stakeholder agreed to host the Secretariat and I was elected Chairman of the organizing Committee. We nominated four subcommittees to carry out respective roles and decided that the Conference would take place in November 2014. We were however, confronted with the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa leading to suspension of travel across the region and since we did not want to close out CBR Network members from West Africa, we postponed the meeting to June 2015. Despite this challenge and fundraising difficulties owing to the short time available, we are proud that we finally were able to organise a successful Conference.

The Conference highlighted positive developments, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the CBR Guidelines as well as stimulated debate, and explored solutions to identified gaps alongside promoting the replication and scaling up of successful interventions in the CBR field. A common theme of our discussions was towards the achievement of a Post-2015 Disability-Inclusive Development Agenda. The programme was developed in partnership with members of the Conference committee and the CAN Board and secretariat. As is usual with CBR Africa Conferences, our aim was to give opportunities to a broad range of speakers and to cover a wide range of CBR themes.



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● Opening ceremony ● ● ●

The opening ceremony for the 5th CBR Africa Conference included speeches from Dr David Ole Sankok, National Council for Persons with Disabilities in Kenya, the Honorable Isaac Mwaura MP, outgoing CAN Chairperson Soumana Zamo from Niger, and Dr Moody Awori, former Vice President of Kenya. Delegates also heard a song from the Day Care Children Centre in Nairobi.



Ambassador Raychelle Omamo officially opened the Conference. Ambassador Raychelle welcomed delegates to Kenya and highlighted the laws in place in Kenya to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Her speech concluded by officially opening the Conference as follows:



“I want to thank the planning team and each and every one of you and wish you a very fruitful and productive session and finally take this opportunity to declare the 5th CBR Africa Conference officially open”.

● Highlights of keynote speeches ● ● ●

CAN was honored to welcome a variety of highly experienced and inspiring speakers to give Keynote addresses at the Conference. Some highlights of their presentations are below.

In a presentation entitled ‘**CBR Guidelines: A Bridge to Inclusive Society Beyond the 2015 Framework**’ Alarcos Cieza of the WHO Disability and Rehabilitation Unit in Geneva presented on the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and the roadmap to their adoption in September 2015. In particular Dr Alarcos highlighted the disability targets and indicators included in the SDGs and the objective to ‘leave no one behind’. The shift from CBR to CBI was also discussed.

The Role of the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya on the Implementation of CBR Guidelines in Kenya was the theme of the presentation by Annie Mugambi of the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya, which has the mission: *To offer best support services to persons with disabilities in Kenya through provision of resources, promotion of awareness and advocacy of appropriate policies.*

The fund supports individuals and organizations and its work is aligned to the five components of CBR in a variety of ways that were presented. Mrs Mugambi emphasized the need for partnerships and collaboration to achieve progress.



Focusing on the main theme of the Conference, Stephen Chacha the Africa Regional Coordinator of Africa Beyond 2015 gave a presentation entitled **CBR and the Post 2015 Development Agenda** where he highlighted the global civil society campaign that had pushed for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the MDGs with the involvement of more than 1 000 civil society organizations globally. He emphasized that the Post 2015 Development Agenda objectives were to build on the foundations laid by the MDGs, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges. Also to reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development, integrating the three dimensions of environmental, economic and social development.

CBM's regional senior advisor for East Africa Tigabu Gebremedhin presented on **Africa's Home Grown Solutions for Disability Inclusion** and highlighted three solutions as follows: Making use of the unconditional love and affection of mothers to their children for disability inclusion; making use of the power of positive peer influence; and bringing together representatives of key community stakeholders in assemblies to discuss and plan solutions. An example of positive peer influence was provided from Ethiopia, where traditional coffee ceremonies by mothers are used to educate, share, change attitudes, and give hope. Coffee ceremonies are an established cultural activity for all mothers and therefore provide an ideal forum for mothers of children with disabilities to meet and share their experiences with both other mothers of children with disabilities and mothers with non-disabled children.



Joerg Weber of WHO Geneva presented a case study on **Monitoring of CBR programmes**, and the progress on developing the WHO CBR indicators highlighting the use of the CBR Guidelines as guiding principles. The aim is to develop 25 indicators at the helicopter level and five at the plane level. An example is: *People with disabilities and their families take positive steps to maintain their health such as eating a balanced diet, getting vaccinated and exercising regularly.* An IDDC CBR working group has developed over 40 desirable outcomes and questions to be used for data collection via an App in development. A survey to obtain feedback from CBR experts about the validity and feasibility of the indicators is underway with a view to publication of a CBR M&E Manual.

AK Dube of the Africa Disability Alliance presented on **Social Inclusion, Human Rights and CBR**, defining each of the concepts. He highlighted that the concepts are approaches and means of achieving improvements in the quality of lives of all people. These facilitate mainstreaming strategies and provide a strong basis for ensuring that persons with disabilities are placed at the centre of planning. AK highlighted that all three concepts can be used to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

In his Keynote presentation on the **Role of the Disability Movements and Networks in Beyond 2015 Development Agenda in Africa** Dr Samuel Kabue of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) in Kenya noted: *"It is not possible today to discuss CBR without talking about the disability movement and its activities. CBR is about inclusion in development and general society and this is what the movement is all about".*



Samuel highlighted the role of the disability movement in advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities through their organizations in the Post 2015 Development Agenda discussion, and stated that it is for this reason that unlike the MDG's, clear references to Persons with Disabilities are contained in the SDGs.

Hubert Seifert of Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) presented a talk on the topic **Improving Livelihood of People with Disabilities Beyond 2015 Development Agenda**, highlighting that 80% of persons with disabilities in less resourced settings are unemployed and face attitudinal, physical and informational barriers. He talked of a paradigm shift from centre based programmes to community based programmes and inclusive livelihood development, with a shift towards mainstream skills training and employment initiatives, and opportunities for participation in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) where a group of people save together and take small loans from those savings. The paper emphasized the need to use existing expert organisations on VSLA rather than disability programmes running VSLA where they do not have the expertise.



● Main Conference themes ● ● ●

In addition to the Keynote speeches, more than 50 participants gave presentations on a broad range of CBR related topics. There was also a wide range of poster presentations and exhibition stands. Countries represented among the speakers included: **Australia, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe.** Some of the main themes of the presentations and discussions are highlighted below.

▸ CBR frameworks

There was consensus on utilizing the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the World Health Organization (WHO) CBR Guidelines as frameworks for CBR initiatives in line with the social model of disability. Many speakers also commented on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the references to disability within them. They were contrasted with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which had no specific mention of disability. There was a general optimism amongst delegates that the emphasis of the SDGs that *'no one be left behind'* and the presence of specific disability targets and indicators was a positive development.

Challenges to the development of CBR highlighted by several speakers included the lack of understanding of CBR as a concept and its acceptance as a valid intervention. Several presentations pointed to the ongoing need to promote the CBR Guidelines more widely. For example, in a study by CREATE in South Africa, 23.3% of respondents indicated that they were not at all familiar with the CBR Guidelines and CBR matrix. The Egypt Institute for Community Ophthalmology (EICO) of Magrabi Foundation, in partnership with CBM Egypt highlighted a significant lack of knowledge of disability legislation and CBR resources, with the majority of both CBR workers and people with disabilities and their organizations being unaware of the CBR Guidelines or principles, or sufficiently aligned with CBR programmes. Poor planning and management of CBR projects and a lack of coordination between line ministries, as well as between Government and other stakeholders - particularly DPOs - were also highlighted as inhibitors of effective CBR.



The need for advocacy was noted in many presentations and discussions. Delegates argued that advocacy should be from a rights perspective in line with the CRPD and based on empirical data if it is to influence policy and practice. CBR and DPOs need to join other advocacy voices with a similar agenda.

► CBR for inclusive development

The role of CBR as a tool for inclusive development was a strong theme throughout the Conference. Members of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) programme in Northern Cameroon expressed the view that *“Combining CBR with disability inclusive development principles makes a useful framework for considering how key outcomes are being realized. It deepens understanding of achievements at the local community level in broader development work, as well as providing some indications of the way forward for the post-2015 agenda”*.



Light for the World Burkina Faso also noted that CBR facilitates inclusion and social justice and the development of sustainable programmes, and asserted that inclusion is the best instrument for poverty reduction.

► Disability mainstreaming

Disability mainstreaming was recognized as one of the priorities for successful inclusive community development and the Conference heard from a number of stakeholders promoting disability mainstreaming. For example, University of Gondar CBR in Ethiopia held regional workshops using the CRPD and developed a mainstreaming checklist for 22 sectors and provided training to disability focal persons in each sector to enable them to implement disability mainstreaming as stated in the checklists.

► CBR training

It was acknowledged by several speakers that many community workers are still operating from a medical model perspective. CBR training as well as refresher training and supervision initiatives can help shift their approach and understanding of disability from a medical model to a rights and person-based model. Conference participants acknowledged that CBR has become part of the broader objective of inclusive development and new approaches to training are needed.

The need to standardise training in the sector and also to address training of trainers was highlighted. The Community Based Rehabilitation Alliance (COMBRA) in Uganda presented challenges to CBR training including the lack of sponsorship for participants, sustainability of workers when CBR projects come to an end, and the lack of systems and resources for support supervision and refresher training. COMBRA also highlighted factors that had enabled them to sustain CBR training for 24 years including a support supervision programme which follows up CBR workers, refresher training, and a network of resource persons including professionals, persons with disabilities and disability activists, as well as their CBR training centre.



Several Conference participants discussed online CBR training. Pwani University College (PU) of Kenya and Technische Universität München (TUM) of Germany are collaborating to develop four study modules aimed at linking the CBR Guidelines with theoretical concepts to provide an introduction to disability and CBR from an academic perspective.

In an EICO study 70% expressed the need to improve their computer skills before taking part in a computer-based training course and this was considered to be a common challenge.

Madagascar Education and Resource Center Initiated for all people with disabilities (MERICI) highlighted that *“As the transfer of skills to clients, family and community members are central to CBR, the provision of effective training is a key challenge. In instances where the community-based model relies on intermediate level workers, community workers or family members, appropriate training will be required at multiple levels”*.

► CBR or CBI

The question of moving from CBR - Community Based Rehabilitation to CBI - Community Based Inclusion - was raised within many presentations and subsequent discussion sessions with a proportion of delegates feeling the time was right to make the change, and others feeling that the term was not yet sufficiently known or understood. It was decided to recommend further discussion at the Global CBR level, with a recommendation that the change be made over time in a systemized way in order to avoid confusion at the grassroots level.

► Importance of collaboration

One of the strongest themes of the Conference was the acknowledgement that collaboration of all stakeholders is essential to create strong CBR programmes and positive outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Handicap International (HI) used their experience in Dadaab, Northern Kenya to highlight that achieving the MDGs for persons with disabilities requires concerted efforts by all stakeholders including the Government. They also acknowledged that it is possible to achieve elements of the MDGs in a complex situation such as Dadaab through a well-designed CBR project with a strong partnership mechanism, community commitment and support systems in place.

A number of organizations emphasised the role of communities. For example, the Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) from South Sudan highlighted how the community had been encouraged to be part of the inclusion process.

During school environment adaptations in some areas, community members and organizations had contributed bricks, sand, water, and labour.

A representative of Masaka District Local Government in Uganda presented the need to establish a social inclusion unit in the Ministry of Local Government as a crucial aspect in the process of planning and evaluation of social inclusion. He asserted that this would help social inclusion to become accepted as part of Local Government’s mainstream business and not just an “add on” to core programmes: *“Disability issues within Local Government are addressed as a matter of compliance and not as a matter of inclusivity”*.



► DPO and parents group involvement in CBR practice

The essential need for DPOs and parents groups to play an integral role in CBR was communicated strongly in a wide range of presentations and discussions throughout the Conference. The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CORSU) highlighted that when empowered and mentored, Parent Support Groups (PSGs) form a strong pillar in sustaining CBR service delivery at household level especially in rural communities. OREBACOM in Beira, Mozambique illustrated the importance, advantages and challenges of DPO ownership of CBR programmes. Their programme has a high rate of persons with disabilities among CBR workers, staff and board members - particularly persons with hearing disabilities - and has influenced the perception of persons with disabilities in the programme and the broader communication with the community and other stakeholders. Families who have been hiding or feeling embarrassed about their child with a disability, react particularly strongly to receiving a CBR worker with a disability in their home. *“DPOs understand the various needs of persons with disabilities, beyond “physical rehabilitation” and understand the need to address all aspects of the CBR matrix”.*

VISION CBR Association (VCBRA) in Ethiopia encouraged CBR programmes to strengthen and support DPOs as the best way of advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, including through capacity building and training DPOs in the CRPD as well as creating linkages between DPOs and other development sectors.



► Data, documentation and research

Many delegates highlighted the need for further research and reliable data across a variety of CBR topics, and several innovative projects were presented. A presentation of CBR experiences from Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, where the Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) is supporting a Documentation and Research in CBR Project reported how a wide range of information has been gathered and shared to promote learning across the sector. The presentation emphasized the need for empirical data through rigorous research and documentation to effectively inform advocacy by DPOs and policy development. They also highlighted the need to provide evidence-based justification for investment in CBR as an effective strategy for influencing change in the lives of disabled people, their families, communities and government policy.

CBM Cameroon highlighted how CBR workers had been key contributors to Best Practice Guidelines for Rehabilitation, adapting some of the WHO CBR Guidelines for the local context through formation of working groups who reviewed literature and practices and assessed them for the local context.

University College London (UCL) presented on their project underway in collaboration with several African partners to design a model of evaluation and a set of tools which could work flexibly in different programmes to explore questions including what is CBR trying to do, how does it do it, and does it do it well? Also what changes in the lives of persons with disabilities are the most important?

MERCI is using an ‘MIF’ (Mesure de l’Indépendance Fonctionnelle pour l’Enfant) tool to measure progress of children with disabilities according to rehabilitation and life objectives defined for each child. They evaluate areas such as increased independence, enhanced mobility, and greater communication.



► Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Several projects in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa explored factors that make girls and women vulnerable to sexual violence. Vulnerability was linked to the type of impairment, as well as to negative attitudes towards disability by family and perpetrators. Barriers that limit access to justice were found in the family, community and in the justice system. Handicap International's (HI) research on sexual violence against children with disabilities in Africa showed they are almost four times more affected by physical violence and three times more affected by sexual violence than non-disabled children. HI proposed initiatives to include children with disabilities in schemes to learn about keeping themselves and others safe.

Advantage Africa cited the main reasons why persons with disabilities are susceptible to abuse, which include that disabled victims are seen as easy targets, as well as the belief that disabled people cannot choose their own relationships, and that law enforcement is ineffective. They highlighted that perpetrators are often people familiar to the victim such as family members, teachers and other carers.

It was noted that professionals in education, health, and the police and judicial services are often poorly equipped to provide appropriate support and welfare facilities for persons with disabilities. There was common agreement from delegates on the need to increase people's awareness of sexual and disability rights and to provide information suitable for different audiences.



► Health

Several presentations recognized the challenges related to provision of assistive devices. CORSU's presentation highlighted that health workers frequently employ a top-down or traditional medical approach, where caregivers are not involved in deciding whether a child would benefit from splinting and therapists make this decision. CORSU highlighted that physiotherapists, occupational therapists and community-based workers can form a strong team by involving the caregivers and children at all stages of service provision.

Motivation Africa's presentation highlighted that WHO estimates that globally only 5-15% of people needing assistive devices have access to them and that community-based rehabilitation actors can play a significant role in overcoming these challenges. The WHO Wheelchair Guidelines (2008) developed in response to the need for functioning systems of wheelchair provision in less-resourced settings outline an eight step process of wheelchair provision and highlight that CBR workers can play a role in four of the eight steps: (Step 1 Referral, 4 Funding, 7 User training, and 8 Follow-up, maintenance and repair) and CBR workers are therefore integral to effective provision. Many delegates highlighted the challenge of donated wheelchairs that do not meet WHO standards and that are distributed without assessment of the user. Uganda has addressed this by developing local guidelines and sharing them with the donors. As a result two major donors of wheelchairs began to support local production and involve rehabilitation workers for assessment before distribution.



Education

Many presentations focused on the importance of inclusive education within CBR initiatives. Deaflink Uganda cited inadequate investment, poor governance, high poverty levels, infrastructure, and insufficiently trained teachers, among the reasons for Africa failing to meet the MDG of universal primary education for children with disabilities. Many delegates confirmed these challenges existed in their own settings. Deaflink noted that the majority of deaf children in school would not acquire literacy and numeracy skills by the end of primary due to the general lack of qualified teachers of deaf children or schools catering for their needs. The speaker emphasized the importance of vocational training to begin at primary level rather than post secondary stage because many children - especially those with hearing disabilities - do not proceed to next levels of education.

A Light for the World and Save the Children initiative in the University of Gondar (UoG) in Ethiopia highlighted the value of training teachers to work with children with disabilities. One of the teachers trained through their programme said *“I am a 5th grade teacher and I have four deaf children in my classroom. Before I got the training I really didn’t have any clue whether they had a happy or bad day. After attending the training I have started communicating with them and I am able to help them.”*

In the SEEPD programme in Northern Cameroon a twin track approach of promoting mainstream inclusive education alongside separate supported education is being promoted, and many delegates confirmed this as a good strategy being employed in their own countries.

Hawassa College of Teacher Education in Ethiopia holds an annual forum on inclusive education with the aim of awakening all stakeholders to discharge their responsibility.

Women with disabilities were highlighted as a particularly marginalized group in education. A study in Bamba district by World Vision Kenya and MoH NCAHU highlighted the general lack of education of women with disabilities.

Delegates heard that in Ethiopia more than 85% of the teachers working in Government schools of Tula sub-city have been reached through trainings resulting in a marked improvement of the commitment of teachers and school principals on supporting children with disabilities. The Parent Teachers Association and administration personnel have also been reached through repeated trainings on disability and inclusive education.

The Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) noted that for advocacy on issues affecting the community, parents groups and DPOs are very instrumental. For example, groups of parents were able to meet the County Education Department to lobby for school fees to be waived for children with disabilities with a positive outcome.

Livelihoods

The need to empower persons with disabilities economically was highlighted within many of the presentations and discussions. Strategies proposed including raising awareness of persons with disabilities rights under local and international conventions and laws, advocacy across all sectors, training and skills development, and access to finance.

SEM in Sudan runs training in business planning, business management and enterprise selection, leading to many people with disabilities managing to set up self employed ventures such as rearing goats



and chickens, planting food crops and establishing retail trades. SEM as well as many other organizations represented at the Conference reported on successful Village Savings and Loans schemes (VSLA) being run as effective means of supporting the livelihoods of persons with disabilities.



UoG-CBR in Ethiopia reported a success story whereby they initiated a vocational training programme for 130 youths from different regions of the country to participate in a five months training on weaving, tailoring, woodwork, printing and computer training. The project resulted in the Government's Labour and Social Affairs office recognizing the need for vocational training for many youths with disabilities and promoting for district administrative bodies to allocate Government budgets to send trainees to the training centre.

► Social

Access to justice and political processes for persons with disabilities was a recurring theme within presentations. The Integral Service to fight against Disability (SILH) project, run by PIAP/ CODAS Caritas Garoua provided health, education, livelihood services, social integration and empowerment through CBR in villages of Northern Cameroon.

The project identified that training of CBR fieldworkers on the rights of persons with disabilities significantly increased their involvement in facilitating access to justice for persons with disabilities.

The SEM CBR programme in Sudan was able to raise awareness amongst persons with disabilities on the importance of participating in political events including the referendum for South Sudan, and general elections. Some persons with disabilities were also clerks and observers in the process and the community also elected persons with disabilities as county councillors for the first time. CREATE reported that historically people with disabilities in Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa were denied access to justice in the traditional courts and the traditional leaders did not treat people with disabilities equitably. Following training workshops for traditional leaders in focusing on understanding disability and how people with disabilities can access justice in the traditional courts positive impacts were reported: *“Traditional leaders are talking about people with disabilities in their meetings, which has improved the situation of being discriminated against on the basis of disability”*.

► Empowerment

A major theme within the empowerment sector of the CBR matrix was the importance of capacity building DPOs and parents groups. Many delegates highlighted the importance of training and capacity building for DPOs and for stronger links between CBR and DPOs. For example, Handicap International's programme worked with the Network of Associations of People with Disabilities in Burundi (RAPHB) and its 37 member organizations to build capacity and address weaknesses at organizational and operational levels. Their aim was to implement awareness raising and advocacy for a more inclusive society.

Several presentations highlighted the need for CBR to provide training and sensitization of significant others and trainers in the life of persons with disabilities. The Pan Africa Christian University of Kenya presented on the 'personal agency' of persons with disabilities, which is



defined as having a satisfactory experience of who you are and confidence in yourself that you have capacity to drive your own life. They noted that persons with disabilities are capable of developing agency and driving the agenda of their lives but they need a nurturing environment, and that encouragement from parents, teachers, and adults in diverse relations including church and their peers play a role in creating who they became.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities in Kenya reported that one of its functions is to engage, support and build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their family members and/or informal caregivers in order to support independent living and full inclusion in the community.

Many participants with disabilities in CREATE's case study in South Africa mentioned how important it had been for them to learn about disability and disability rights and how the training had been instrumental in achieving improvements in the situation of people with disabilities. One participant commented: *"Before the CREATE training we knew there were things called "law", "policies", "Bill of Rights", "Constitution" and so on, but we thought that it is something that you get from Pretoria or Cape Town and it is for lawyers or educated people only. We now have information and we use it to challenge Government departments"*.

Several studies presented at the Conference indicated that Parent Support Groups (PSGs) can be a valuable asset to the lives of parents and their children with disabilities. They provide parents with emotional support and encourage them to undertake joint action. It was acknowledged that the success of the child's development depends to a large extent on the role that parents play in the life of the child, and it was therefore recommended to support the formation of PSGs and recognize them as a key player in the development and implementation of CBR programmes.

A study by Liliane Fonds, Enablement and SWEB Foundation in Ghana was presented which engaged parents of children with a severe/multiple disability to identify factors that influence their daily life. The factors were then discussed during focus groups and the group jointly searched for ways to support each other and form Parent Support Groups. Parents reported that time spent on the care of their child; their own health; the weak health status of the child; and lack of educational opportunities were the most influential factors affecting their wellbeing, aggravated by husbands commonly deserting their family if a child with a disability is born. Consequently, mothers have fewer opportunities to generate an income.

Motivation Africa noted the importance of the transfer of knowledge and skills to parents and carers of children with cerebral palsy to maximize their function and independence. Family members are frequently isolated, with many feeling helpless, frustrated and anxious. With education and support however, the lives of both the children and their families can dramatically improve as noted by Miriam, a mother of a child with cerebral palsy: *"Because of the training, Doreen is now able to communicate. I now know what she needs. The way of looking after her is much easier, because she lets me know what she needs and what I have to do for her."* Miriam says her increased knowledge is helping to show others how to interact with her daughter. This is making life easier and happier for her as she gets more time for other tasks and gets to see joy in her child when she goes off to play with her friends.



● Closing ceremony ● ● ●

The Closing ceremony was presided over by Christopher Brewer of the CP Charitable Trust, CAN's main donor organization. He remarked *"I understand that today CBR is practiced in over 90 countries and is increasingly seen as an effective strategy for inclusive development. In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to all delegates and observers for your full cooperation and contribution to the 5th CAN CBR Conference and it is my sincere hope that the Conference has identified evidence of good practices as well as gaps from various countries to help the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all development agendas"*.

Speeches were also given by Gideon Muga, National Director of the Host Secretariat APDK, and Musonda Siame, the newly elected CAN Executive Committee Chairperson.



● Field excursions ● ● ●

The final day of the Conference gave the opportunity for approximately 90 delegates to participate in field excursions to Kenyatta University, APDK CBR Project Mukuru informal settlements, the APDK Facility on Waiyaki Way and the Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAH). The visits allowed delegates to experience another CBR context first hand and to discuss and share ideas and potential areas for ongoing collaboration.



● Conference resolutions ● ● ●

The broad range of rich and diverse presentations and discussions at the 5th CBR Africa Conference were considered in the development of a list of 12 Conference resolutions which were drafted and presented to the delegates for discussion and adoption as follows:

1. All CBR stakeholders should recognize and promote the active participation, involvement and ownership of all phases of CBR programmes by Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) as well as family-based organizations of persons with disabilities.
2. Leveraging/networking: There is need to work closely with established organizations and institutions to mainstream disability at all levels.
3. Data on disability: All CBR practitioners to collaborate with line Government institutions to ensure use of available data to inform CBR programming and at the same time explore opportunities for generating new data.
4. Advocacy on CBR: All CBR practitioners and organizations of persons with disabilities and their families should advocate for Governments to ensure effective harmonization of policy and practice.
5. CBR and Microfinance: CBR programmes will remain focused and engaged in ensuring savings and loans schemes include PWDs.
6. Governments should take leadership on disability inclusion through line ministries as well as ensure adequate allocation of resources.
7. Information sharing on CBR: There should be enhanced communication on CBR activities to promote learning and exchange of good practices. CBR networks should be established and strengthened at national, regional and global levels.
8. Participation of both women and men with disabilities: Governmental and Non-Governmental should ensure participation of both women and men with disabilities at all levels of decision making, planning, policy development, monitoring and evaluation.
9. CAN to continue to disseminate, support and promote knowledge and information exchange across the CBR network.
10. Shift from Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) to Community Based Inclusion (CBI): The Conference recommend for further discussion at the global CBR Conference but with Africa position as CBI; with gradual change and sensitivity to the grassroots.
11. Bring CBR community participation into regular schools in order to base teaching on the reality of the learners, reach a better quality education and create the conditions for inclusion.
12. Ensure increased participation of women with disabilities at the next CAN Conference.

