

# Mapping of humanitarian capacities of OPDs and disability-focused NGOs in Cameroon:

## FACTSHEET

### 1. Background of the study

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers have shown to hinder their participation in humanitarian assistance. CBM is working with partners to implement inclusive humanitarian responses for people with disabilities, to support those affected by humanitarian crises and to positively influence the work of the wider humanitarian community.

Phase 3 of the project – Leave No One Behind, a consortium project with three partners is a combination of global and local actions that aim to benefit the wider humanitarian community by disseminating and operationalising the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action through disability inclusive programming and coordination.

The aim of the mapping exercise is to assess and document the involvement of national and local OPDs and national/ local NGOs working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian coordination, as well as their capacities and understanding of inclusive humanitarian action. The mapping exercise laid the groundwork for future CBM activities over the next years, which will focus on building the capacities of OPDs and local NGOs and increase their involvement in relevant humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Cameroon.

The study targeted at 500 OPDs and disability-focused NGOs, but attained 311, representing 62,2% of the target. The process of this study faced several challenges, including access to information by some OPDs and the use of new technologies, particularly with the Kobotoolbox.

Data was collected qualitatively and quantitatively during the mapping studies between October 2022 to November 2022 and further triangulated to inform the findings in this report.

### 2. Main Findings of the study

The main findings of the study are:

- Existence of a favourable normative and strategic framework for disability inclusion in Cameroon;
- A total of 311 OPDs and disability-focused NGOs have participated to the mapping exercise;
- 78% of the organisations are registered with a formal declaration and operating status, while 22% are not;
- As regards to the leadership of organisations, a total of 27% of the organisations are led by people with physical impairments and 22% are led by people with visual impairments while those with intellectual disability and the deaf and hearing impairments represent 2% each;
- 56% of the OPD leaders are male while 44% are female;
- The Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) is the most dominant network named by the OPDs;
- Platform inclusive society for persons with disabilities is the network which has been mentioned by OPDs of the eight other regions (except Northwest and Southwest) ;
- The current involvement of OPDs and disability-focused NGOs in ongoing humanitarian programs and humanitarian coordination remain insufficient because of their limited knowledge on the humanitarian topics: 33% of OPDs understand what humanitarian action is, 28% of OPDs understand what the humanitarian system is and 24% of OPDs understand what humanitarian coordination is.

- Regarding the findings, OPDs in Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon have a better understanding of the Humanitarian Coordination System compared to other regions.
- Limited access to information and communication, and limited access to funding are additional barriers to OPD engagement in humanitarian action.
- A lot of OPDs (59%) have been involved somehow in Humanitarian response, but meaningful participation of OPDs remains an exception in the humanitarian sphere: 31% of OPDs and disability-focused NGOs who were involved in humanitarian activities have participated in needs assessments, 21% during project implementation and only 2% worked as partners with other humanitarian actors. 18% of organisations interviewed, said they participate in cluster meetings, but it seems that these participants are mostly disability-focused NGOs and not OPDs.
- The main capacity building needs identified for OPDs is on structuration and functioning of OPDs and their networks, this is also crucial for efficient collaboration with partners.

To achieve this result, this study used a methodology based on document review and analysis, administration of direct questionnaire to OPDs, focus group discussions with OPD leaders, and key interviews with various NGOs and partner organisations.

At the strategic and institutional level, the study findings indicate that OPDs share common challenges, although their needs vary from one region to another. They also have a divergent understanding of humanitarian action and related terminologies and concepts. However, most OPDs are grouped in networks that are more or less strong and only need to be strengthened or restructured in order to fully play their role. In the same vein, the vision, objectives and missions of these OPDs and their various networks are not sufficiently understood by all members.

In a nutshell, difficulties faced by OPDs and NGOs working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action are outlined as: stigmatisation of disability; lack of financial resources of the OPD; poor structuring and functioning of OPDs; difficulties in mobilising financial resources; poor methods of communication (both in terms of target and means of communication); and the constraints linked to the mobility and transportation.

Other difficulties are technical in nature including limited command of the concepts linked to humanitarian action as well as those usually discussed in coordination meetings.

After categorising the difficulties encountered by OPDs, related recommendations were formulated.

### 3. Recommendations

Recommendations formulated in order to address capacity building needs, focusing on how to: improve advocacy and raise awareness for a better inclusion and disability mainstreaming; Support the structuring of OPDs so that they are equipped and able to play their role fully; Support the structuring of national OPD networks; strengthen the technical capacities of OPDs in areas such as leadership, fundraising and project management.

### 4. Main capacity building needs

In general, five main areas of capacity building have been identified and are common to all OPDs in Cameroon:

- Structuring and functioning of OPDs and OPD networks;
- Set up and management of humanitarian response projects;
- Capacity building in finance: Initiating income-generating activities;
- Technical capacity building for OPDs and other organisations working on disability: inclusive humanitarian action, IASC guidelines on the inclusion of people with disabilities, the UN Convention, national law;
- Development, implementation and monitoring of a communication plan based on the communication needs of OPDs.