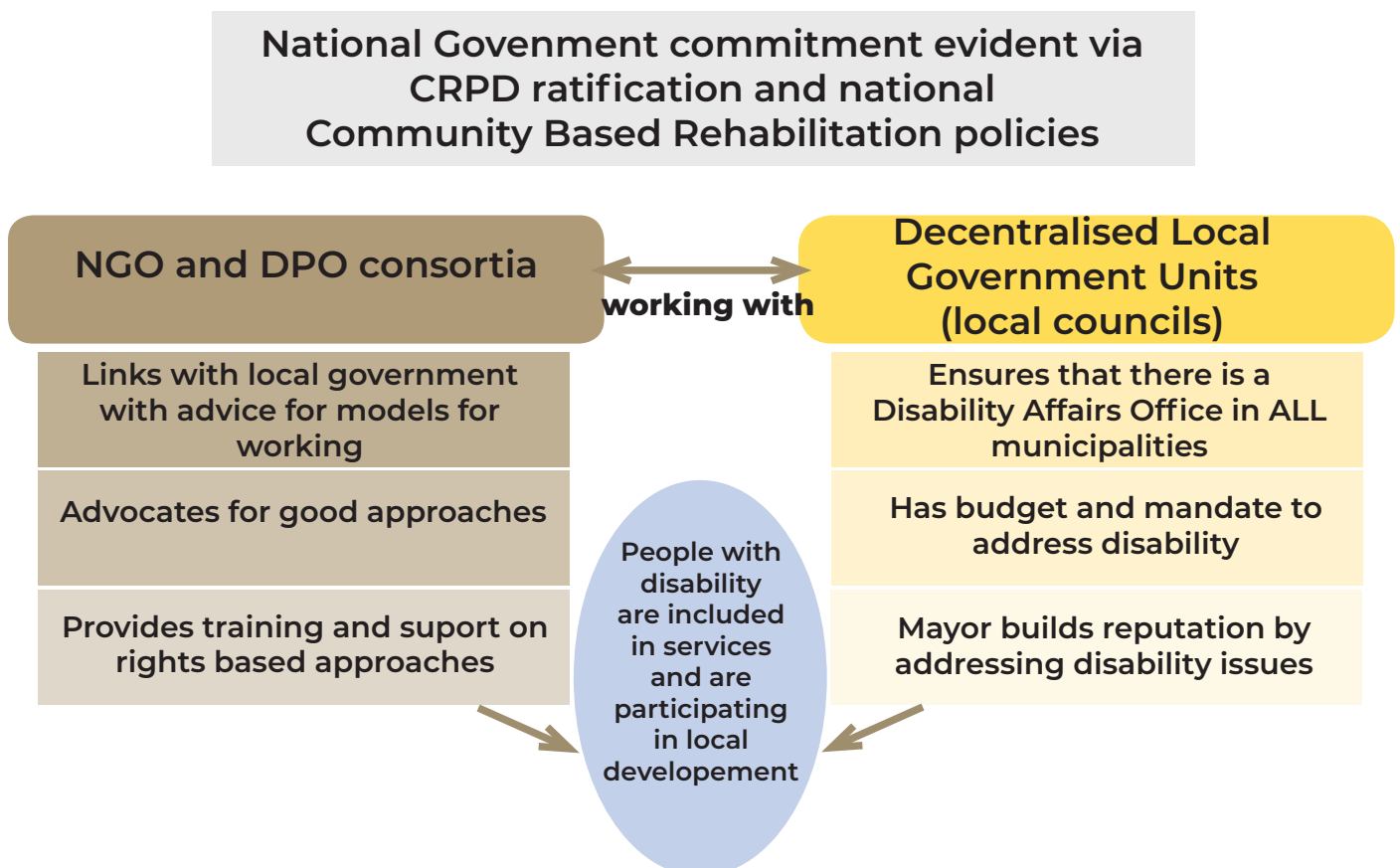


# CBID in the Philippines



## A strong model of local government and civil society collaboration

Community based inclusive development (CBID) practice focuses on the creation of inclusive societies where people with disability have access to social and development benefits like everyone else in their communities. The rationale is that no one should be excluded from development for any reason, and that the inclusion of marginalized people in development processes reduces poverty, builds community resilience and benefits the whole of society. CBID uses a twin track approach in which people with disability, governments and community based organisations work together to address barriers to meaningful participation and inclusion experienced by people with disabilities. At the same time, it ensures specific services and supports required by the diverse population of people with disabilities are provided to enable full participation and the movement's capacity to engage effectively with government and other development stakeholders.



## Quick snapshot

The Philippines provides an example of CBID development in a context where there is national government commitment and a policy environment that supports CBID. With a decentralised system, national policy outlines the responsibilities of local government to take action and provide budget for disability inclusion. DPOs and NGOs have engaged with local government to remind them of their obligations, offer training and support, and partner together to implement CBID.

## What does CBID look like in the Philippines?

CBID is established in many parts of the Philippines though the work of many organisations with different ways of working. Common to the success and sustainability of CBID has been the strong buy-in of mayors and local government units who are aware of their responsibilities; collaboration with organisations of people with disability and parents' organisations who are aware of their rights; and technical support from a network of organisations from the community development and disability space (DPOs and service providers/allies).



> CBID approaches ensure that families with disability have access to better livelihoods

In local government units where CBID is being successfully implemented, a twin-track approach is taken. Local government are ensuring disability inclusion is mainstreamed across development programs. At the same time, people with disability and their families access specific interventions. CBID is about both accessing mainstream opportunities and accessing specific services, supports and opportunities that may be needed.

In some cases, NGOs have been involved in providing technical support to strengthen local service provision alongside capacity building for inclusion in mainstream development. NGOs have also worked alongside parents' organisations and disabled people's organisations, sometimes providing support to develop knowledge of their rights and leadership.

CBM and their partners have been playing a strong role in this process, having worked with local governments towards inclusive development in over 240 (of 1490) municipalities. Partners have worked in a variety of ways - some offering very specific assistance as requested by local governments and some formalising MOUs with local government to work together in development of CBID.

Where CBID has strong local ownership, local governments are incorporating budgets into their annual plans, cross-sectoral committees for disability affairs are working on local government responsibilities and disability focal persons are in place to facilitate liaison between local government and people with disability. This is resulting in people with disability accessing health, education, social participation and livelihoods.

## Examples of outcomes from CBID in areas where CBM has engaged

- **240 out of 1490 local government units have comprehensive disability plans addressing:**
  - Pensions
  - Health plans
  - Early childhood care and education
  - Livelihoods and vocational training
  - Disaster risk reduction
  - Influencing local level government
- **Increasing demand for DPO and NGO input**
- **Response in local government units is spreading horizontally via the Mayors' Association, with an additional 84 Mayors having signed MOUs.**

## What frameworks and structures have been important to have in place?

Several significant enabling factors have been important to the sustainable development of locally owned CBID in the Philippines:

### International frameworks

CBID in the Philippines has been informed by international frameworks. The 2007 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was ratified by the Philippine government in 2008, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the rights and responsibilities to ensuring people with disability can participate and equally benefit from, development efforts. Those organisations and local governments who are aware of CBID, recognise its importance as a tool for achievement of the SDGs and fulfilling the CRPD. Continuing awareness raising is underway to create buy-in elsewhere.

### National legislation and policy

National legislation has also supported CBID take-up, including the National CBR Policy that was put into effect by a Presidential Executive Order in 2005. This policy was developed in response to a call by WHO to implement CBR and a subsequent trial of CBR by the Department of Health in some municipalities. An evaluation after seven years found the CBR strategy was successful in communities. As a result, the Executive Order was developed and has played an enabling role by encouraging local government units (LGUs) to implement CBR and to allocate funds to support it. Together with the international frameworks and national legislation focused on rights, accessibility, election participation and social protection, this provides the legal basis referred to with LGUs for inclusive development. This gives local governments a mandate and community groups a focus, for advocacy.

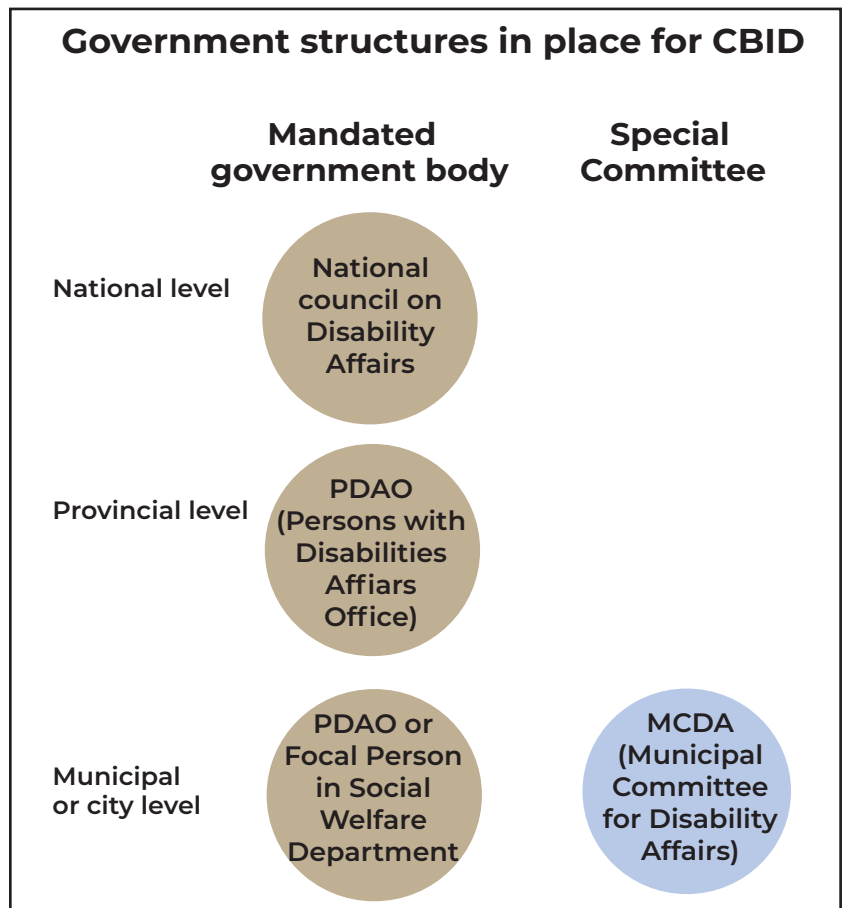
# Development of relevant government structures

## National level

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) is a national government agency under the Department Social Welfare and Development. NCDA's role is to advocate for policy and programmes for persons with disabilities and monitor its compliance.

## Provincial and municipal level

In 2009, the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) Act put in place the structure of a PDAO for every province, city and municipality, to ensure programs and services for people with disability. The officer (usually a DPO representative) sits at the local development council, where policies are formulated and budgets decided. The PDAO Act included a corresponding obligation that they each spend 1% of their Internal Revenue Allotment budget specifically programs and services for people with disability (with another 1% for senior citizens). The different levels of these offices are independent from each other, with separate programs and budget, but where the province and municipality have a good relationship there is sharing of technical resources and funding. At provincial level, the PDAO also supports the Federation of DPOs, the umbrella organisation of the different DPOs in the province.



In 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class municipalities (those with less revenue and so limited budget), there is a provision for appointment of a disability focal person instead of a PDAO. The focal person is appointed in the Provincial and Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office to work to address the needs of DPOs and people with disability and coordinate with municipal councils for disability affairs, where they are established. Where the PDAO is not yet established, or is still developing, the disability focal person is an important connection point of the DPO leaders in the municipality or province.

There is also an option, at municipal level, to form a municipal council for disability affairs (MCDA). The MCDA is a cross-departmental council with representatives from different government departments and civil society groups (e.g. local DPOs and parent organisations) that provides a platform to look together at disability in relation to the planning and budgeting of different local government departments. The MCDA can develop an annual plan that they submit to the municipal development council who then combine all plans

and allocate budget for programs. Where they exist, these provide a good mechanism for participation and multi-sectoral collaboration to work together to address barriers people with disabilities face in accessing mainstream services.

Although the MCDA is not mandated, CBM's partners have made development of MCDAs a key priority in their partnership agreements with local governments, as it promotes collaboration amongst municipal government agencies.

## Development of guidance documentation and training

In 2009 the *Philippines CBR Manual: an Inclusive Development Strategy* was published through the cooperation in the Philippines of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the CBM CBR Coordinating Office (the most recent of several iterations). This manual provides guidance to local government and NGOs for CBR implementation. This has been used as a key resource in the Philippines, but also used in Egypt and Indonesia. Development of the CBR Guidelines (WHO, 2010) have also helped to provide a common reference point for CBID. The CBR Guidelines reflected the ongoing change process that was already underway from an, often, single sector service delivery approach to a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, rights based approach. Stakeholders from the Philippines contributed to the development of the guidelines and now use them as a framework in design.

Responsibility for training and development in CBID nationally, was initially with a national Training and Development Committee tasked with developing a national plan (from 2008). The Philippines Coordinating Centre for Inclusive Development is currently filling this role. A CBID network has also been established, with a view to them taking on a more formalised role in training and supporting the local development of CBID.

## What ways of working have been most important?

### Strong partnership

Perhaps the most important key to sustainable CBID in the Philippines has been the partnership between local governments, groups of people with disability and their family members, and NGOs. This partnership has involved, in many cases, the signing of MOUs between local government units / mayors and NGOs but in some cases has involved occasional input or coordination together. Some partnerships (such as in the example of NORFIL Foundation below) involve the NGO initially working very closely with both LGUs and parents groups/ DPOs to ensure the necessary structures and processes are in place. This involves ensuring that duty bearers (government) are aware of their obligations and that rights holders (people with disability and family members) are also aware of what they can expect of government. This has genuinely resulted in sustained, increasingly inclusive local systems.



> Children with disability should have equal access to education

## **Community mobilisation**

Development of civil society awareness and leadership with DPOs, parents' organisations and non-government organisations has complemented the existence of legislation, structures and training packages. This has been what has brought the legislation and policies to life, with local governments being more aware of what they need to implement, and being encouraged and supported to do so. At the same time, organisation of people with disability and their family members has meant they can work together with local government for meaningful changes.

## **What are some of the ongoing challenges/ learning?**

### **Sustainability**

A number of key factors for sustainability are in place including legislation and policy and community mobilisation. There are still challenges at times with ensuring the ongoing partnerships between local government and community members. There is continued work to strengthen budgeting for inclusion and in reorienting government when there are changes in local government leadership, particularly where CBID is still being established and embedded in local government ways of working.

### **Coordination - need for centralised data/ monitoring**

A national coordinating body is in place, but there is still work to be done in terms of developing a national picture of what is happening in CBID across all provinces, and for some form of centralised learning and monitoring. This is a work in progress and could potentially be coordinated through the National Committee for Disability Affairs in coordination with stakeholders such as CBM, the CBID network and UNCRPD Coalition.

### **Not every aspect of inclusion can be addressed at municipal level**

Although many government sectors have representation at municipal level, education only operates at provincial, regional and national levels. This has required some adaptation of approaches where education is concerned, with development of linkages and advocacy at different levels of government.

## Promoting CBID: a mayor's perspective

“Inclusive development has become a way of thinking and doing local development initiatives”. Former Municipal Mayor, Hon. Rony Lavega Molina shares his experiences on introducing CBID in San Jose de Buenavista municipality. The approach has involved a local DPO working together with the local government unit. Together they have taken a CBID approach without the actual presence of disability related NGOs. Instead, NGOs have been available as resources as needed for technical support.



This engagement of local government with DPOs has led to significant changes over seven years. There has been a focus on both inclusion in mainstream services and initiatives and ensuring disability specific initiatives where needed. Government offices including the local government unit buildings and health office have been made physically accessible, with ramps, low vision strips and shorelines for cane users and there has been a focus on employment of people with disability at the municipality. People with disability have been included in all local health initiatives and, where needed, provided with access to health insurance. Disability related concerns have been included in local government disaster risk reduction programming and the Mayor has advocated for the same in other local governments.

People with disability have also been able to access specific entitlements such as disability ID cards and the Provision of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (ACIS) program has been extended to people with disability, relieving some of the concern about unexpected expenses that can arise. Low cost, high quality rehabilitation services and access to assistive devices has been made available through a local rehabilitation centre.

Rony Lavega Molina has himself gone on to advocate for CBID as a strategy, together with the League of Mayors and the CBR Training and Development Committee and partner organisations. As a result, 84 mayors signed up, wanting to take on a CBID approach.

## CBID: views from a person with disability working in local government

The Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) sits within local government in Bislig City and functions as a central coordinating point for CBID. It plays an instrumental role in bringing together DPOs and different government departments to plan and budget for inclusion.

Joselito Buenaflor, head of PDAO, shares how an NGO (Loving Presence Foundation, Inc.) instigated collaboration with the Social Welfare and Development Office<sup>1</sup>. The joint initiative began by establishing DPOs and identifying volunteers within 24 villages.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on Joselito Buenaflor and the establishment of CBID in Bislig visit [CBR Congress speaker information page](#)

Over time the PDAO was established and took over coordinating responsibility; this office is staffed by 25 officials, 21 of whom have a disability. However, the focus on village level interests has remained and DPOs meet weekly at village level to raise their interests and concerns with the PDAO, who then works to address issues and incorporate recommendations in to planning and budgeting.

As a result of the CBID initiative, there are now 5000 DPO members in Bislig. People with disabilities are now present in local bodies such as the City Development Council, and their experiences are being heard and recognised in city government planning processes.

Government departments are budgeting for mainstreaming measures such as

infrastructure allocations for building ramps. In addition 1% of the city's annual budget is now allocated for persons with disabilities and senior citizens. This means programs and services are receiving adequate funding and more likely to be sustained for the long term. DPOs in Bislig are also supporting other municipalities to establish PDAOs.



> Local DPOs are well positioned to influence government plans and policies at village level

Joselito explained the importance of the NGO, PDAO and other government offices acting as enablers, mentors and resources for people with disabilities, so they themselves are driving the inclusive development process. This is fundamental to a rights based approach that upholds the CRPD and supports Sustainable Development Goals efforts towards full inclusion – and equality – for all people with disabilities.

## CBID through NGOs – the example of NORFIL Foundation

In the Philippines, CBM's local partner NORFIL Foundation is contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. NORFIL Foundation's community based inclusive development project, funded through the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program, is focused on enabling the inclusion of children and youth with disability in all aspects of community life and development, including health, education and livelihood opportunities.

The project involves establishing relationships with provincial and municipal governments to ensure they are upholding their responsibilities to include people with disability in their services. They sign MOUs and develop cross-departmental committees for disability affairs.

At the same time, NORFIL Foundation establishes local groups of parents of children with disability, that form a parent's organisation to work with local government. This helps ensure disability-specific services, and people with disabilities, are included in community development efforts.



As part of a current project, 26 municipal governments are engaged in using a CBID approach and all municipal governments visited in a mid-term review in 2017 had increased their budget allocation for disability. Fathers and siblings of children with disability have increased participation in rehabilitation and household work has as a result of specific training. An increased number of children with disability are attending school and day care, with growing awareness of disability and inclusive education from teachers and principals, and young people with disability are accessing livelihood opportunities.

For further details on this approach visit this case study on the [Australian SDG website](#).

## Further information

CBM has developed this series of case studies in collaboration with in-country partner organisations. For further information contact [programs@cbm.org.au](mailto:programs@cbm.org.au)