



Our advisory work in Papua New Guinea

Impact through influence: Our advisory work in Papua New Guinea

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Supporting an OPD to step up: the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons

CBM has supported the organisational development of PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons. With CBM's active mentoring and support, PNGADP is now the trusted go-to organisation for disability advice. PNGADP now advises on aspects of DFAT's aid program in PNG...

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Supporting PNG to get moving on a disability law

CBM has been a catalyst for government action in enacting a Disability Law, and has provided legal and technical advice in the drafting process. The law will provide the foundation for better rights for people with disability to be enforced nationally...

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Training influential decision makers on disability issues

CBM provides training on inclusion to "Australia Awards alumni" – people who have studied with DFAT scholarships in Australian universities. These people hold influential positions in the government and public service. Understanding disability rights mean they will engage and promote disability inclusion...

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A disability policy for Bougainville

CBM has supported the development of a disability policy that will guide local government on Bougainville about how people with disability should be considered in access to basic supports and services...

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Country-wide justice programs that consider disability issues

CBM has advised on how a comprehensive Justice Program incorporates disability issues – through training of police, court officials and the Justice Department to be better aware of disability issues and the legal framework...

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Early Childhood programs that include kids with disability

CBM's advice to UNICEF on how to make its pilot early childhood development program inclusive of children with disability has had knock-on effects. UNICEF's pilot is influencing national early childhood programs, which will consequently have an inclusion element...

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Improving education policy: more focus on inclusive education

CBM provided technical advice to the PNG Government's education policy review, which led to a shift in focus from "special education" to "inclusive education". This will ensure better funding, action and support for children with disabilities, who will now have the right to attend schools in their own community...

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Supporting the Australian aid program in PNG to take action on disability issues

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CBM has supported WaterAid and World Vision in ensuring that their water programs in remote areas of PNG are disability inclusive. Training local community organisations on disability inclusion means they promote this further in their programs...

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Influencing faith based aid programs and churches

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Supporting World Vision's programs in PNG to address disability issues

Working alongside other NGOs who are active in health programs, is a way of influencing the broader health sector in the country to improve disability inclusion...

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Papua New Guinea



a population of

8.9 million

CBM estimates that

975,000 people have a disability

and

98%

of these people have no access
to support services.

The context: Disability in Papua New Guinea

- Papua New Guinea ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013.
- There is a national policy on Disability. A national law is under development.
- The departments of Community Development, Health, and Education have the greatest focus on disability issues. The National Advisory Committee on Disability (NACD) coordinates the roll-out of the National Policy on Disability. The National Board for Disabled Persons (NBDP) coordinates disability service providers.
- Official disaggregated data regarding the prevalence of people with different types of impairment is not available in PNG.
- There are few Organisations of People with Disability, and the country's rural and remote nature limits participation.
- The PNG government has strong links with well-established non-government service providers that provide disability services particularly in early childhood and primary education across the country. PNG's strong church networks also provide social services that support people with disability at the community level.
- The NGO Callan Services is a major provider of health and community based rehabilitation services for people with disability and inclusive education for children with a disability. CBM New Zealand has funded projects through them.
- As the country that receives the largest proportion of Australian government aid, CBM Global's advice into DFAT-funded programs is a strong way that we can influence for inclusion across a range of sectors.

The context: Disability in PNG

What we want

A more inclusive world with communities enriched by diversity

Inclusive laws, policies program and investments

Individuals, organisation and institutions practise inclusion

How we work and what we have done in PNG

Influencing the legal framework

- ↳ PNG's Disability Law
- ↳ A Disability Policy for Bougainville
- ↳ An Education Policy that is inclusive

Piloting approaches for influence and scale up

- ↳ Advice on inclusion in Australia's aid to PNG
- ↳ UNICEF's Early Childhood Development Program

Changing institutional approaches

- ↳ Influencing PNG church programs
- ↳ Influencing decision maker with the government and civil service

Influencing community programs

- ↳ Inclusion in community WASH programs
- ↳ Inclusion in health programs

Strengthening the Disability Movement

- ↳ PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons



Supporting an OPD to step up for national engagement – the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP)

What we did

We undertook a comprehensive capacity development program to strengthen the PNGADP. We continue to work alongside this on specific programs.

What this led to

A stronger national Organisation for Persons with Disability (OPD) that can provide trusted advice on disability inclusion to the PNG government and to aid programs in PNG.

The organisation is building youth leadership, and strengthening leaders in rural areas.

“Through CBM support, PNGADP now has a seat at the table as programs are developed.”

Line ministries and local government in PNG see PNGADP as one of the go-to organisations for advice on disability issues – they are now seen as a legitimate, and technical savvy organisation. CBM Global’s Inclusion Advisory Group has been their back-stop.

PNGADP is now consulted on disability issues across a range of Australian and other donor’s aid programs – ranging from infrastructure to community development.

PNGADP now has a DFAT contract to develop disability inclusion capacity in implementing partners working on Australian Government aid programs in PNG. Organisations recognise the value of our back-stop support to PNGADP, our training materials, and our links to wider networks.

What this means:

Stronger OPDs that can better represent the issues facing people with disability with government and aid donors.

People with disability are often overlooked as governments formulate policies and plans.

Research shows that OPDs in lower-middle income countries are effective at increasing participation, access and wellbeing.

2

Supporting PNG to get moving on a disability law

What we did

Through a range of trainings with key influencers in the law and justice sector in 2016, CBM, along with PNGADP, made a clear case for the need for a national disability law.

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group has worked with DFAT's Law and Justice team in the development of disability law.

"CBM has been the catalyst for the PNG government recognising that people with disability need better access to law and justice."

The PNG Dept. of Justice and the Attorney General's Dept. have progressed this law. We provided detailed legal and technical advice to ensure compliance with the UNCRPD as the law was drafted and legislation was reviewed.

What this led to

The draft disability law is now making its way through parliament. This will bring PNG into compliance with the UNCRPD.

Finally, people with disability will have access to a justice system with a legitimate law against which to press their claims.

"We will find that cases around rights won't now just be dismissed out of hand, as people with disability making a lot of noise."

Without the law, women with disability currently seeking legal action around domestic violence and abuse are not seen as credible witnesses because of their disability. A worker with a disability who has been wrongfully dismissed from employment because of their impairment has little recourse. A disability law will change this. We recognise that policy development is slow – but we have actively engaged in this work because we know the knock-on effects are huge.

"This is a slow burn – but this will have major impacts. Getting policies like this in place is complex, but we have a range of champions who we have worked with, mentored and supported the process."

– CBM Advisor

What this means:

A legal framework that enshrines disability rights.

3

Training influential decision makers on disability issues

Programs influenced

Australia Awards Alumni program – implemented by Coffey International

What we did

We are providing training on inclusion to 'Australia Awards alumni' – people who have studied with DFAT scholarships in Australian universities.

Through a series of trainings in PNG on disability, and connections with OPDs, they have heard first hand the challenges of people with disability, and have a better understanding of the rights framework.

What this led to

Many graduates of the Australian Awards program are in government or policy-making areas within the PNG civil service.

Training these people on disability inclusion means that are able to understand the issues and can influence programs to be disability inclusive. Our influence in Bougainville stems directly from a participant who was trained.

“There is so much stigma attached at the moment – I am more aware of that now, so I will take steps to ensure they have the support they need.”

— PNG public servant

This compliments the work that DFAT is doing in mandating disability inclusive approaches through organisations implementing the Australian aid program in PNG.

What this means:

Decision makers that understand disability issues.

“Don’t underestimate the value of getting the right people in the room!”

— The Director of Social Equity Services from the Department of Community Development was one of the training participants. He recognised the need to develop a disability policy for Bougainville.

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group was engaged further to provide input into this policy.



A Bougainville Disability Policy

Programs influenced

The PNG Australia Governance Partnership - implemented by ABT Associates

What we did

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group has provided direct advice on the development of a disability policy for Bougainville.

As a post-conflict region, there is more need for a policy that takes into account disability acquired through the conflict, as well as the province's weak health and early childhood services. Through a DFAT-funded program being implemented by ABT Associates, we have supported the Autonomous Bougainville Government to develop the policy through a needs based capacity development approach.

What this led to

This work has led to direct funding of OPDs by DFAT, and a focus on ensuring there is increased capacity of Bougainville government officers in understanding disability inclusive development.

Once completed, this policy will guide and direct local government and development partners to ensure that development programs are active in including people with disability.

What this means:

Local policies that enshrine disability rights.

“Due to the legacy of the war, poor health and early childhood services, and remote populations with poor transport infrastructure to get health support, estimations are that 4 in every 10 people in Bougainville have some sort of impairment.”

5

Country-wide justice programs that don't discriminate

Programs influenced

Justice Services And Stability For Development (JSS4D) Program - implemented by CARDNO

Up to \$90 million, 2016-2019

What we did

Leading on from our work on the disability law, CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group was engaged in supporting the design of this program which focuses on effective law and justice services, anti-corruption, community safety, and addressing family violence.

Program teams are being trained on disability rights, ensuring increased understanding and awareness on disability issues by police, village courts, and bureaucrats. The program will look at what laws that need to be changed to ensure compliance with the UNCRPD.

What this led to

All justice-related proposed infrastructure must now be accessible – so far two accessible court houses and a police station have been built. There is more thinking about what stops or enhances people with disability's access to justice.

A person with disability is more likely to be the victim of a crime, and it is much harder for a person with disability to report a crime. Work like this starts to change things.

Because of our influence, the Village Court system will be more systematic in collecting information about whether plaintiffs have a disability. This will provide better oversight by national government about who is – or is not – accessing justice.

What this means:

A justice system that considers disability rights.

“Discrimination, poverty and low education levels means that people with disability face many challenges when dealing with the police and courts - and face physical challenges in accessing services.”

– Femili PNG

CBM has connected the project team with women whose experiences highlight the need to address disability as part of the justice program and its work in changing attitudes and raising awareness.

6

Supporting the Australian aid program in PNG to better address disability issues

Programs influenced

Australian Official Development Assistance to PNG

\$605 million, 2019-20 (\$512.3 million in bilateral funding)

What we did

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group has worked directly with the Australian Embassy in Port Moresby who oversee DFAT's comprehensive development support to PNG.

We have worked to build a better understanding of disability issues within the aid program, mentored in-house experts and champions, and provided focussed support on how disability can be practically addressed across through DFAT's education, health, infrastructure, and justice programs. We have done this through training, consultations, mentoring and specific guided technical support.

We provided a peer review of the PNG National Education for Prosperity Project Plan to ensure that disability issues were addressed in this 15 year 3-phase program plan, worth \$87 million for phase 1.

We provided direction on how a proposed Australian government program worth \$20 million to improve the PNG electoral processes (2019-24), could better consider inclusion issues.

We reviewed DFAT-funded program plans around supporting the PNG government to develop a safer, more reliable transport system. We had input into how transport infrastructure could address accessibility issues.

What this led to

Australia now has an aid program in PNG that is better addressing disability inclusion, at all levels.

A number of specific spin offs have occurred through funding of initiatives such as supporting the disability law and improving the Justice Program.

What this means:

A justice system that considers disability rights.

7

Influencing Water Programs for better inclusion

Programs influenced

Civil Society WASH Fund, 2013-18

Water for Women Fund, 2018-22

What we did

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group supported WaterAid and World Vision to ensure that their water programs are disability inclusive.

Training on inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene to WaterAid, World Vision and their local partners – as well as hands-on support in their work in Wewak and Daru provinces, has meant that more people with disability can access their water programs.

What this led to

Local organisations that we trained in East Sepik went on to influence local government and other organisations linked to Oxfam and Care to be more inclusive in their water programs.

Wewak local government's approach to water and sanitation now integrates inclusion aspects.

“The engagement of CBM with WaterAid across PNG and Timor-Leste, set the stage for their ongoing strong focus on disability inclusion. Now WaterAid is seen as an expert in the inclusive WASH. A range of learning resources were jointly produced that are widely accessed by the WASH sector.”

— WaterAid officer

What this means:

NGO programs that address disability rights and access.

In PNG, few schools in rural and remote areas have toilets that are accessible to children with mobility issues.

8

Influencing Faith Based Aid Programs and Churches

Programs influenced

Church Partnership Program
up to \$23 million, 2017-2020

What we did

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group provided advice to a large Australian Government funded program being implemented by Australian faith-based aid organisations – the Church Partnership Program.

We looked at the ways that churches across PNG perceived disability, how people with disability engaged with the church, and how the Program could better promote inclusion. We trained program implementers, and helped develop 3-year action plans across seven church programs, with indicators to measure success.

We estimate that only 7% of people with a disability in PNG would be able to attend a church regularly. In PNG society, exclusion from church means exclusion from social connection and support.

What this led to

Faith based aid agencies working in PNG are now better coordinated in addressing disability inclusion. There is a consistent shift from viewing disability as a welfare issue to a rights issue.

This means that people with disability are seen as valuable contributors in their church, rather than objects of pity.

Information we collected fed into the development of a "Theology of Disability". This now underpins the training of pastors, priests, and field workers. This approach has been very effective in changing attitudes.

Given the strength of the faith-based organisations in PNG, this work influences their approach to other programs. For example, we see church programs considering disability inclusion in their disaster preparation and response programs.

Given the importance of faith across the Pacific, changes in approach will ripple right across the Pacific.

"This helped shift the thinking in the churches and the community from 'she is bewitched by the devil' to 'she has rights and needs support to uphold her dignity.'"

"This was a big thing! It really shook up the churches, and it made organisations like mine really think through their understanding and approaches to inclusion."

— Project implementer

What this means:

Church programs that understand rights and include people with disability.



Supporting World Vision's Health Programs in PNG to address disability issues

Programs influenced

World Vision Tuberculosis Program

What we did

We have supported some of World Vision's health programs in PNG by providing training and analysis on how their programs could better address disability.

What this led to

With a sizeable program in the country, World Vision PNG is well placed to influence and strengthen health systems to provide greater access for people with disability to health information, services and treatment they need.

With teams working on improving government tuberculosis programs, we highlighted what stops people with disability from accessing health support and TB testing. We worked with teams to identify what could be done to improve transport, accessibility to testing sites, attitudes of health workers and families, and public health messaging.

What this means:

NGO programs that address disability rights and access.

**A person with a disability is less likely to be fully immunised.
A child with parents who have a disability is also unlikely to be fully immunised.**



Early Childhood Programs that include Children with Disability - a UNICEF Partnership

Programs influenced

UNICEF's PNG Program, \$250,000

What we did

CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group supported UNICEF as they introduced an early childhood pilot programs in two PNG provinces in 2018.

Our technical input guided UNICEF in making their early childhood centres disability inclusive.

What this led to

Children with disability are now engaged in early childhood programs.

Early Childhood teachers are trained in inclusion, and there are now linkages with disability service providers (for health and rehabilitation support) and local government. In Milne Bay, the Department of Education has had UNICEF train primary teachers in inclusion and child-centred approaches, demonstrating a knock-on effect from early childhood support into primary schools.

Successes in these two pilots in Milne Bay and Morobe provinces have influenced early childhood policy. Linking with the Lutheran and Catholic church programs in Morobe and Milne Bay, there is momentum and understanding on inclusion issues. The Governor of Morobe has been pushing for more uptake on early childhood programs, and this has helped to set an inclusion to be considered.

As a result, the PNG National Government is beginning to make commitments around inclusive early childhood development programs.

What this means:

Multilateral organisations trialling approaches to disability inclusion- and influencing government.

Children who have participated in an early childhood program are more likely to continue to secondary school.

“Many children in PNG have disabilities that could have been remedied or alleviated with early screening, intervention and treatment. Getting children into early childhood programs is a way to pick up on treatable health problems that, if left unaddressed, cause lifelong disability.”



Improving Inclusive Education across PNG

Programs influenced

UNICEF's PNG Program

What we did

Since 2017, CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group has provided technical advice in a 4-year national Inclusive Education program.

In 2019 we worked closely with the PNG Government to influence the review of their education policy, leading to a shift in focus from "special education" to "inclusive education". This will ensure better funding, action and support for children with disabilities, who will now have the right to attend schools in their own community.

We have learnt from work funded by CBM New Zealand with the PNG NGO Callan Services, who run Education Resource Centres for learners with disability. Through this, we have been well placed to advise on the features of an improved education policy. We have then gone on to advise on indicators that service providers can use to track disability inclusion in their education programs.

What this led to

The Department of Education's new policy actively includes children with disability.

By law, children with disability now have the right be included in mainstream schools. Inclusive Education Resource Centres, to date run by NGOs like Callan Services, will now be supported by the PNG Education Ministry as standard practice.

What this means:

Education policy that addresses disability rights and access.

"We estimate there are 413,000 children with disability under 15 years in PNG, and only 5% of them are currently in school."

– CBM analysis, 2018



Inclusion Advisory Group is an initiative of CBM Global.

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Australian Government



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