Partner Summit

11-13 November 2026
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Partnership for Impact: Strengthening Collaboration and Enhancing Accountability

cbm
christian blind mission

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Welcome to the CBM Partner Summit 2026!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Addis Ababa as we gather together under the theme “Partnership for Impact: Strengthening Collaboration, Enhancing Accountability.” This summit gives us an opportunity to not only pause and reflect on what we have achieved together but look ahead to the challenges and opportunities before us.

At CBM, we know that meaningful change does not happen in isolation. It is made possible by strong partnerships built on trust, shared purpose, and a commitment to improving the lives of persons with disabilities. Every day, our partners bring knowledge, dedication, and local leadership to this work. Your contribution is at the heart of the progress we have made together.

This summit is a chance to learn from one another and have honest conversations about what is working well and where we can do better. By sharing experiences and perspectives, we can strengthen the way we work together and ensure that our efforts continue to create lasting impact for those we serve.

Most importantly, we hope these days together will inspire new ideas and stronger connections. The challenges we face are complex, but so is our collective strength. When we combine our expertise, listen to one another, and remain accountable to our shared goals, we are better equipped to drive meaningful and sustainable change.

Thank you for your trust and your unwavering dedication to inclusion. We are looking forward to a productive meeting with actionable commitments that will shape our future. It is a pleasure working with all of you.



Photo: CBM/Grüner

Hans-Peter Lauffs
Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Dr. Rainer Brockhaus
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

About CBM

Christian Blind Mission (CBM) is an international development organisation dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities.

The organisation derives its name from Ernst Jakob Christoffel, who, in 1908, embarked on a journey to Asia to support blind people and people with other disabilities.

CBM's primary objective is to break the cycle of poverty and disability and to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world.

Partner Summit 2026

The CBM Partner Summit 2026 marks an important step in strengthening CBM's global partnership ecosystem. The summit reflects CBM's commitment to moving beyond traditional project-based engagement toward strategic, long-term partnerships that drive sustainable impact for persons with disabilities.

The event serves as a global platform for partners and CBM to jointly define priorities, address common challenges, share learning, and agree on actions that contribute to more inclusive and resilient systems.

In an evolving development landscape characterized by localization, increased accountability requirements, and the need for systems-level change, partnerships are more important than ever.

Summit Objectives

1. Strengthen Strategic Alignment and Partnership Effectiveness

Strengthen a shared understanding of CBM's Vision and Strategy 2030, partnership approach, and mutual expectations while fostering trust, accountability, and effective collaboration across the partnership network.

2. Co-create Solutions to Enhance Quality, Compliance, and Sustainability

Engage partners in identifying practical solutions, innovations, and improvement actions that strengthen programme quality, compliance, safeguarding, organisational capacity, and sustainable impact.

3. Foster Learning, Networking, and Knowledge Exchange

Create opportunities for partners, OPDs, and CBM teams to exchange experiences, share good practices, build relationships, and learn from one another's successes, challenges, and innovations.

4. Shape Collective Priorities and Commitments for Future Action

Develop a shared roadmap for advancing disability inclusion through joint action, innovation, resource mobilisation, advocacy, and partnership strengthening, with clear commitments and follow-up actions.

Agenda

Wednesday, 11 November 2026
Day 1: Alignment & Shared Expectations

08:00 - 09:00
Registration & Networking
Event Organiser / Partner Summit Committee

09:00 - 09:05
Welcome and Opening of the Global Partner Summit
Master of Ceremonies; Abenet Berhanu, Country Director, CBM Ethiopia

09:05 - 09:15
Inclusive Cultural Opening
Katim Performance Group

09:15 - 09:30
Opening Address: Setting the Vision for Our Shared Future
Dr. Rainer Brockhaus, Chief Executive Officer, CBM

09:30 - 09:40
Goodwill Messages from Strategic Partners and Supporters
Representatives from CBM Italy, Sightsavers and bengo

09:40 - 09:50
Keynote Speaker: The Future of Disability Inclusion in a Changing World
José María Viera, Executive Director, International Disability Alliance (IDA)

09:50 - 10:05
Special Address & Official Opening of the Global Partner Summit
Guest of Honour, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (TBC)

10:05 - 10:35
Tea Break, Networking & Group Photo

10:35 - 10:50
Partner Perspectives: Priorities and Expectations for the Summit
Monique Dague, Programme Lead, CODAS Caritas Garoua

10:50 - 11:15
Shaping Impact Together: Partnership Priorities, Shared Accountability and Collaborative Action
Peter Lauffs, Chief Operating Officer, CBM

11:15 - 11:40
Partnership Reflection Dialogue: What Do We Need From Each Other?
Moderator

11:40 - 12:00
Donor Perspective: What Matters for Future Partnerships and Funding
Christina Fritz, bengo

12:00 - 12:20
Growing Impact Together: Introducing CBM's Thematic Areas and Opportunities for Partnership
Mbacke Niang, Director, Global Programme Development and Implementation

12:20 - 13:20
Shaping Impact Through Partnership: A Conversation on Thematic Priorities and Opportunities for Partnership
Babar Qureshi, Director, Inclusive Health; Dominique Schlupkothen, Director, Community Based Inclusive Development; Till Küster, Director, Inclusive Humanitarian Action

13:25 - 14:25 ***Lunch Break***

14:25 - 15:15
Deep Dive Dialogues: Advancing Impact Through Collective Action
Thematic Initiative Directors and Partners

15:15 - 15:45 ***Tea Break***

15:45 - 16:05
Insights from the Thematic Dialogues: Key Messages and Priorities for Action
Bright Ekweremadu, Global Head, Programme Implementation



Photo: CBM/Bothe

16:05 - 16:30
Looking Ahead: Emerging Priorities for Disability Inclusion
José María Viera, Executive Director, IDA; OPD Representative

16:30 - 16:45
What We Heard and What We Must Act On Together
Moderator

16:45 - 17:00
Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways
CBM Leadership and Partner Representative

Thursday, 12 November 2026
Day 2: Co-Creation & Operational Excellence

09:00 - 09:10
Recap of Day 1
Moderator and Partner Representative

09:10 - 09:20
Day 2 Introductions
Bright Ekweremadu, Global Partner Summit Chair & Global Head, Programme Implementation

09:20 - 09:45
Programme Quality in Practice: Standards, Evidence and Support for Improvement
Mbacke Niang, Director, Global Programme Development and Implementation

09:45 - 10:30
From Standards to Results: A Partnership Dialogue on Programme Quality
Sabreen Aldwaib, Country Director, Eastern Mediterranean Programme

10:30 - 10:40
Partner Pulse: Priorities for Programme Quality and Impact
Moderator

10:40 - 11:10 *Tea Break*

11:10 - 11:35
Partners Financial Compliance and Accountability
Thorsten Schmidt, Director, Finance and Operations

11:35 - 12:00
Building Trusted Partnerships: Safeguarding, Ethics and Accountability in Practice
Yhozhett Estrada, Global Safeguarding Advisor

12:00 - 12:40
Partner Reflection Café: Turning Insights into Action
Moderator and Panelists

12:40 - 13:00
Strengthening Partnerships Through Digital Collaboration: Leveraging the ProMIS Partner Portal
Patrick Umlauf, Head of IT & Organisation

13:05 - 14:05 *Lunch Break*

14:05 - 15:00
Strengthening Stewardship: Donor Readiness Clinic
Martina Freiberg, Team Lead, International Institution Donors; Michael Wicke, Team Manager, Grants Management

14:05 - 15:00
Learning from Experience: Innovation, Adaptation and Scaling What Works
Partner-Led Session

14:05 - 15:00
From Data to Decisions: Strengthening Data Quality, Evidence and Results
Kathryn Zoerhoff, Team Manager, MERLA

15:00 - 15:30 *Tea Break*

15:30 - 16:00
Breakout Session Presentations & Q&A
David Munyendo Country Director Kenya Country Office

16:00 - 16:40
Growing Together: Strengthening Partnerships for Impact and Sustainability
Julius Fon, Country Director Cameroon and Partner Representatives

16:40 - 16:50
Wrap Up and Close for the Day
Moderator

Friday, 13 November 2026
Day 3: Learning, Commitments & Action

09:00 - 09:10
Recap of Day 2
Moderator and Partner Representative

09:10 - 09:20
Setting the Scene for Day 3
Bright Ekweremadu, Global Partner Summit Chair & Global Head, Programme Implementation

09:20 - 10:50
Shaping the Future Together: A Partner and Leadership Dialogue
Moderator

10:50 - 11:25 *Tea Break*

11:25 - 12:00
From Summit Insights to Action: Co-Creating Our Partnership Roadmap
Moderator, CBM and Partners

12:00 - 12:30
Joint Country Office–Partner Implementation Planning
CBM Country Office Teams

12:30 - 13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30 - 15:00
Exhibitions and Networking
All Participants

15:00 - 15:30
Tea Break, Networking Cocktail & Exhibition

15:30 - 16:05
Plenary Validation of the Joint Action Plan and Commitments
Moderator

16:05 - 16:40
Closing Ceremony
Partner Representative, OPD Representative and CBM Leadership

19:00
Gala Dinner: Celebrating Cultural Diversity
Francis Orech Okello and Omoi Samuel, Masters of Ceremony

Participants

The summit will bring together CBM Leadership Teams, Country Directors and Programme Managers, Partner Organisation Leaders, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), thematic Initiative Representatives, Donor Representatives, and Government Officials.

Participating CBM partners:

Bangladesh:
- Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

Botswana:
- Southern Africa Federations of the Disabled (SAFOD)

Cameroon:
- Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services
- CODAS Caritas Garoua
- Union des Églises Baptistes du Cameroun (UEBC)

DR Congo:
- Appui Au Development De L'enfant En Detresse (ADED)
- FRACARITA
- Programme National de Lutte contre les Maladies Tropicales Négligées, Ministry of health
- Programme National de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire (PNRBC), Ministry of health

Ethiopia:
- ALERT Comprehensive Specialized Hospital
- Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD)
- Cheshire Ethiopia
- Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disability (FEAPD)
- Grarbet Tehadiso Mahber

Guatemala:
- Asociación Rompiendo Límites
- Unidad Nacional de Oftalmología
- Visualiza

Honduras:
- ASONOG

India:
- CBM India Trust
- Dr. RP Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi
- Sanjeevani Vikas Evam Jan Kalyan Samiti

Italy:
- OVCI

Jordan:
- Institute for Family Health
- King Hussein Foundation (IFH/KHF)

Kenya:
- AGC Tenwek Hospital
- AIC-CURE Children's Hospital of Kenya (CURE International-Kenya)
- Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
- Waldorf Kakuma Project

Lebanon:
- Arcenciel

Malawi:
- Nkhoma Mission Hospital
- Saint John of God Hospitaller Services
- St John of God Hospitaller Service

Niger:
- Fédération Nigérienne des Personnes Handicapées (FNPH)
- ONG Developpement pour un Mieux Etre (DEMI-E)
- ONG KARKARA

Nigeria:
- Albasar International Foundation
- Centre for Gospel Health and Development (CeGHaD)
- Health and Development Support Programme (HANDS)
- Taimako Community Development Initiative (TCDI)

Pakistan:
- College of Ophthalmology and Allied Vision Sciences (COAVS) Mayo Hospital Lahore
- Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust – LRBT
- Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS) Hyderabad

Palestine:
- Juzoor for Health and Social Development
- QADER for Community Development
- St John Eye Hospital Group

Rwanda:
- HVP GATAGARA
- National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda (NUDOR)

Sierra Leone:
- Welfare Society for the Disabled, Sierra Leone ((WESOFOD SL)

South Sudan
- ACROSS
- Buluk Eye Centre
- Ministry of Health
- OVCI - La Nostra Famiglia E.T.S.

Tanzania:
- CCBRT
- Good Samaritan Foundation - Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre

Togo:
- Association nationale de personnes atteintes d'albinisme au Togo (ANAT)
- INADES-Formation

Uganda:
- CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital
- Mengo Hospital
- National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)

Ukraine:
- National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine
- UA Mental Help Foundation

Zambia:
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- Beit-CURE Children's Hospital
- Kitwe Teaching Eye Hospital
- Zambia Federation of Disability Organizations (ZAFOD)



Photo: CBM/Hayduk

From Summit to Action

Joint Action Planning
Develop concrete commitments, timelines, and ownership structures to ensure implementation of summit outcomes.



Photo: CBM

Expected Outcomes
By the end of the summit, participants will have:

- Agreed on key strategic partnership priorities
- Strengthened understanding of partnership roles and expectations
- Established clear accountability and safeguarding commitments
- Identified practical learning and innovation opportunities
- Developed joint action plans with defined ownership and timelines
- Enhanced collaboration across CBM's global partnership network

Post Summit Expectation
Establish follow-up mechanisms and implementation roadmaps that will guide collaboration beyond the event.



Photo: CBM/argum/Einberger

Exhibition

The exhibition provides an interactive platform for Country Offices and partners to showcase innovative programmes, successful inclusion models, achievements, and lessons learned under the summit theme **“Partnership for Impact: Strengthening Collaboration, Enhancing Accountability.”**

The exhibition enables partners to explore relevant practices and innovations, strengthen relationships and pursue collaboration opportunities identified during the summit.

When: Day 3, Friday, 13 November
Where: Conference Hall
Who: All participants



Photo: CBM/Simon B. Opladen

Events – Networking and Exchange:

Day 3, 13 November



Photo: Adam Mengistu

Gala Dinner: Celebrate Diversity Through Culture

Join fellow participants for a vibrant Cultural Night dedicated to celebrating the rich diversity of the CBM partnership community. Guests are encouraged to wear their traditional cultural attire, representing their heritage and showcasing the unique customs and traditions of their countries and communities.

The evening will feature cultural performances, music, networking, and a shared appreciation of the diversity that strengthens our global partnerships.

Dress Code: Traditional Cultural Attire (encouraged) or Smart Casual.

Discover Addis Ababa

As part of the CBM Partner Summit 2026, participants will have the opportunity to experience the rich culture, history, and hospitality of Ethiopia. The networking and cultural exchange day is designed to foster meaningful connections among partners while exploring the unique heritage of the host country.





Photo: CBM/Happuc

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CBM Partner Summit 2026

Partnership for Impact: Strengthening Collaboration, Enhancing Accountability
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 11-13 November 2026

Building stronger partnerships to advance disability inclusion and sustainable development worldwide.

Weblink: www.cbm.org/cbm-partner-summit
E-Mail: partnersummit@cbm.org

Hashtags for social media
LinkedIn: CBM Christian Blind Mission
X: @cbmWorldwide
IHI X: @cbmIHI

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