



# Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA)

Annual Report 2025

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# 01 Foreword



**We are pleased to present this year’s Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA) Annual Report, a reflection of the efforts and progress made toward ensuring that humanitarian responses include and reach everyone, especially persons with disabilities.**

This year has brought new challenges and deepened existing ones. Around the world, the humanitarian system has been stretched to its limits. The escalation of conflicts in Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine, DRC, and the Sahel region has led to massive displacement and suffering, hitting people with disabilities the hardest. At the same time, climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and cyclones are becoming more frequent and severe, yet disaster preparedness and response remain largely inaccessible to many.

These growing needs are further exacerbated by shrinking humanitarian funding. Decisions by Western governments to reduce aid budgets were already underway even before President Trump’s announcement to cut USAID funding. Across Europe, including in Germany, we have observed sharp reductions in humanitarian budgets, despite the surge in global needs. Funding for inclusive humanitarian responses remains critically low, leaving many organisations stretching limited resources further than ever, often at the expense of reaching those who need support the most.

Despite these soaring challenges, we continue to see hope, resilience, and determination. Over the past year, IHA and its partners have worked tirelessly to deliver inclusive access to healthcare, clean water, protection, and essential services. We have deepened collaboration with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), strengthened technical support, and consistently advocated for inclusive practices across all aspects of humanitarian response.

A key to our approach is localisation, working meaningfully with national and local partner organisations who are best placed to lead effective, inclusive responses. In the past year, CBM has supported initiatives in major humanitarian settings such as Gaza, Lebanon, South Sudan, eastern DRC, Ukraine, Nigeria, and the Sahel region. Another central pillar of CBM’s work is operating through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus – linking short-term humanitarian responses with longer-term development-focused solutions. This is particularly crucial in protracted crises and complex emergencies that demand tailored, multi-dimensional approaches.

Moreover, we continue to invest in preparedness and anticipatory action, building the capacities and knowledge of our partners and communities before crises unfold. We believe this proactive approach remains vital to reducing risk and strengthening an inclusive humanitarian response.

This report highlights IHA’s achievements, lessons, and stories that show what is possible when inclusion is a shared commitment. In this report, you will read about projects that not only met urgent needs but also built the resilience of individuals and communities. From training local artisans to maintain water points, to developing locally led anticipatory actions and strengthening partnerships with OPDs. We are grateful to our staff, partners, donors, and community members for your dedication. Your support makes it possible to continue delivering and advocating for inclusive aid in times of crisis.

As we look ahead, we know that the path will not be straightforward, but we are more committed than ever. Together, we can build a more inclusive and responsive humanitarian system – one that truly leaves no one behind. I wish you an inspiring read of CBM’s IHA annual report 2025.

**Till Küster**

On behalf of Roland Schlott, Director of Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA)  
Christian Blind Mission (CBM)



## 02 Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA)

**CBM’s strategic objectives focus on advancing Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA) through a multifaceted approach aimed at expanding its reach, improving quality, aligning programs with its mission, and strengthening networks.**

By building sustainable partnerships and securing steady funding, CBM ensures it can respond effectively to crises while maintaining high project standards. Through active participation in global and regional humanitarian networks, CBM enhances its influence

and maximises the impact of its humanitarian work, all while committing to creating a more inclusive world.

CBM delivers inclusive humanitarian assistance across key sectors, including food security and basic needs through inclusive cash and voucher assistance (iCVA), accessible health care services with integrated psycho-social support (MHPSS), and protection efforts that prioritise disability inclusion. It also promotes inclusive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (iWASH) services, ensuring that people with disabilities are not left behind in crisis response.



### **Strategic Objective 1: Increasing scale and reach for Inclusive Humanitarian Action**

CBM strengthens its unique role in IHA by building a diverse and sustainable network of partners and donors, ensuring steady growth in funding. Its humanitarian efforts rely primarily on support from institutional donors, with strategic use of CBM’s resources. This approach allows CBM to remain well-funded and fully equipped to respond effectively to the needs of people affected by crises.



### **Strategic Objective 2: Strengthening the Quality of Inclusive Humanitarian Action**

CBM is recognised as a credible actor in IHA, known for its project qualities and commitment to adhere to humanitarian principles. It ensures full compliance with relevant humanitarian standards such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and is consistently reflected in national Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRPs).



### **Strategic Objective 3: Strengthening Nexus and programme alignment**

CBM is strengthening its engagement in the humanitarian-development (peace) nexus by aligning more closely its humanitarian programme with its long-term development programme. These efforts are grounded in a deep understanding of local needs, ensuring that our interventions support a smooth transition from humanitarian action to long-term development.



### **Strategic Objective 4: Building and leveraging networks and alliances**

CBM’s humanitarian action is visible and CBM is an active member of key humanitarian networks at global, regional, and national levels. Its unique value proposition is well-understood across these networks and recognised by potential partners and allies in consortia. Through strategic advocacy and active engagement in alliances, CBM strengthens its influence and supports its broader humanitarian objectives.

## IHA Reach in 2024

In 2024, CBM's Inclusive Humanitarian Action (IHA) supported over 718,480 individuals affected by crises through a range of humanitarian interventions. These included food assistance, cash and voucher support, and community engagement on disability inclusion.

These activities reflect CBM's continued commitment to inclusive, needs-based humanitarian support, which puts crisis-affected communities at the centre of our work. While progress has been made to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs around the globe, there remain important opportunities to deepen impact and strengthen disability-inclusive humanitarian responses in the years ahead.

### Key Achievements:

#### 1. Overall Reach



**718,480** individuals (191,964 men; 251,744 women; 136,268 boys; 138,502 girls) received humanitarian support.

#### 2. Food Assistance



**348,889** people received food assistance.

#### 3. Community Sensitisation on Disability Rights



**248,205** participants engaged in awareness sessions.

#### 4. WASH Services



**70,941** individuals reached with inclusive WASH services.

#### 5. Inclusive Health Services



**48,273** people received healthcare services.

#### 6. Inclusive Cash and Voucher Assistance



**22,494** people received cash or voucher assistance.

#### 7. Non-food Items



**12,544** people were supported with non-food item kits.

# 03 Humanitarian Contexts Addressed by CBM in 2024

## The Americas

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Annual budget 2024 (EUR)
1 Guatemala	3	3	123,384
2 Honduras	2	2	45,500

## Africa West and Central

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Annual budget 2024 (EUR)
3 Niger	6	5	442,275
4 Nigeria	11	10	1,026,912
5 Cameroon	4	3	1,103,812
6 DRC	6	4	379,839

## Total

No. countries	18
No. projects	58
No. partners	46
Annual budget 2024 (EUR)	10,068,920

In 2024, IHA supported the implementation of 58 projects across 18 countries, in collaboration with 46 partners, with a total funding of €10,068,920. This reflects a strong commitment to inclusive humanitarian action across multiple regions.

## Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Annual budget 2024 (EUR)
13 Ukraine	5	3	4,845,097
14 Lebanon	2	2	213,558
15 Jordan	1	1	92,379
16 Palestinian Territories	2	1	423,020
17 India	1	1	21,732
18 Bangladesh	1	1	74,146

## Africa East and South

Country	No. projects	No. partners	Annual budget 2024 (EUR)
7 Zambia	1	1	12,812
8 South Sudan	4	2	723,817
9 Uganda	1	1	67,810
10 Malawi	1	1	7,125
11 Kenya	2	1	149,066
12 Ethiopia	5	4	316,636

### Strategic diversity:

- The project portfolio spans countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central America, showcasing IHA's global footprint and its focus on context-specific responses.
- There's a strategic blend of countries with both long-term humanitarian needs (e.g., South Sudan, DRC) and those with emerging crises (e.g., Ukraine, Lebanon).

IHA's 2024 program reflects a **strategic, inclusive, and partner-driven humanitarian approach**, with a clear focus on high-need areas and diversified geographic engagement. CBM maintains a strong emphasis on financial accountability, local partnerships, and tailored interventions, reinforcing its credibility and value proposition in the humanitarian sector.



## 04 IHA Projects Across the World

### Nigeria: Inclusive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (iWASH)



In Nigeria, through the BMZ-funded Northeast Transition to Development Project (NETTDeP), CBM has made significant progress in

improving access to clean water and hygiene services in conflict affected states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, and Taraba.

A detailed baseline survey and water gap analysis in selected Local Government Areas (LGA) revealed serious water shortages, with long travel and waiting times to collect water. In response, CBM and its local partners rehabilitated non-functional water points and constructed new, inclusive boreholes. So far, 51 boreholes have been completed, surpassing the initial target of 40. These boreholes provide clean water to over 71,000 people, greatly improving health, reducing waterborne diseases, and saving time for women and children.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with four local partner organisations: Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE) in Borno, Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) in Adamawa, Taimako Community Development Initiative (TCDI) in Yobe, and Gembu Center for HIV/AIDS Advocacy Nigeria (GECHAAN) in Taraba.

To ensure sustainability, community volunteers were trained as members of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs), including women and persons with disabilities. Local artisans were also trained in the operation and maintenance of water facilities, equipping them with tools and skills to perform repairs and routine servicing. This approach promotes ownership, reduces dependency, and creates livelihood opportunities for trained artisans.

A key success story comes from the Takari community in Konduga LGA, Borno State. Residents previously relied on unsafe water sources and travelled long distances to fetch water. With the rehabilitation of an old hand pump and the construction of a new



**Left:** Newly rehabilitated water point at Takari community, Konduga LGA, Borno state, Nigeria. © CBM

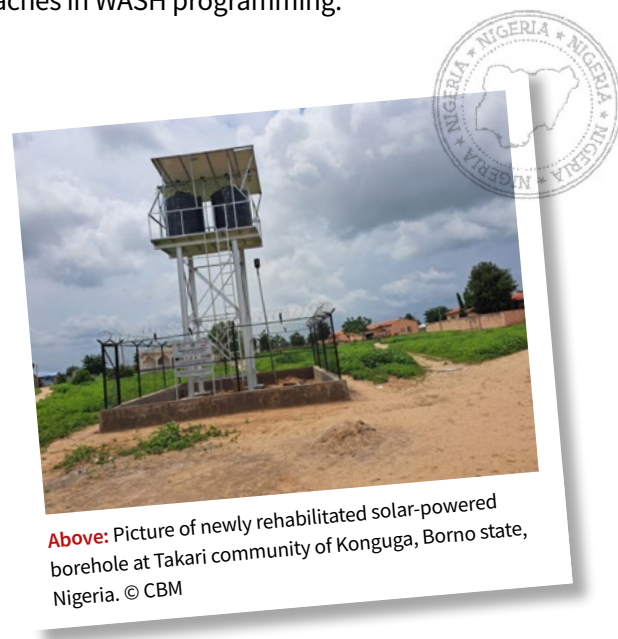
**“ The positive impact has been immediate; school attendance has improved, cases of illness have dropped, and families now spend less time and energy collecting water.**

solar-powered borehole by CBM and GREENCODE, community members now have easy access to clean water. The positive impact has been immediate; school attendance has improved, cases of illness have dropped, and families now spend less time and energy collecting water.

As a community member noted, “The availability of clean water has improved our quality of life and restored our dignity. We are deeply grateful to GREENCODE and CBM for their thoughtful intervention and life-changing support. Their commitment has made a lasting impact on our community, and we now look toward the future with optimism”.

In addition to direct WASH services, CBM also works on capacity building. A training workshop on inclusive WASH was held for humanitarian actors under the GFFO-funded ‘Leave No One Behind’ project.

The training aimed to support other humanitarian organisations include people with disabilities in their design, planning and service delivery. In total, 27 participants from OPDs, UN agencies, INGOs, and local NGOs attended. Representatives from the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) shared valuable lived experiences that highlighted the urgent need for inclusive programming in the sector, encouraging a shift toward rights-based approaches in WASH programming.



**Above:** Picture of newly rehabilitated solar-powered borehole at Takari community of Konguga, Borno state, Nigeria. © CBM

## Cameroon: **Inclusive Health Services**



**In the Far North region of Cameroon, daily life has become a fragile balancing act for hundreds of thousands of people.**

**Conflict, displacement, floods, and epidemics have converged to create a humanitarian crisis of complexity.**

In districts like Logone et Chari, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Mayo-Sava, the consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency and broader regional instability are etched into the lives of displaced families, host communities, and those attempting to return home after years of disturbance.

Among them, the most vulnerable: women, girls, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, face particular challenges. With essential services disrupted or overwhelmed, accessing health care is not just difficult; for some, it is nearly impossible. In this context, CBM has emerged as a vital actor in advancing inclusive humanitarian health responses, ensuring that no one is left behind.

As of 2025, over 476,000 people remain displaced in the Far North, while more than 205,000 have returned to communities still recovering from violence and natural disasters. Humanitarian needs are enormous, and the health sector, already under strain, has struggled to serve these populations adequately. Particularly at risk are persons with disabilities, many of whom were already excluded from mainstream health systems before the crisis began.

Recognising this urgent gap, CBM, in partnership with Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS), launched two major recovery projects, funded by BMZ and CBM, with a core focus on inclusive health care.

The inclusive health programme aimed to bridge both immediate medical needs and long-term structural barriers. Operating across four key health districts: Meskine, Goulfey, Bourha, and Tokombere, the program delivered a wide array of health services:

- Eye consultations, mental health support, Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) services, orthopaedic care, and physiotherapy.
- Minor surgeries and provision of assistive devices such as glasses, crutches, prostheses, and wheelchairs.
- Training of health personnel in inclusive health care approaches.
- Distribution of dignity kits, WASH kits, and hygiene items.

Outreach efforts extended to refugees, particularly in and around the MINAWAO camp, as well as remote communities severely impacted by floods and food insecurity. In 2024, the project was able to support:

**4,265** individuals with essential medications, 21% of whom are persons with disabilities

**3,337** people who accessed specialised health services across multiple sectors

**3,000** beneficiaries from 500 households who received dignity kits, WASH supplies, and assistive devices

**12** communities which were mapped for outreach, referrals, and ongoing support

### Dieudonné

Dieudonné Zra is a 12-year-old boy from Sir village in Cameroon’s Far North region. He comes from a poor farming family and has lived with bilateral clubfoot since birth. Because there was no early diagnosis or access to healthcare, his condition went untreated.

Over time, walking became painful and difficult, and he couldn’t attend school regularly. Things began to change when a mobile clinic visited his village. A physiotherapy team saw Dieudonné and quickly recognised the severity of his condition. Now, he’s scheduled to start treatment at Baptist Hospital of Meskine.

For Dieudonné, this means more than medical care; it means a chance to walk, return to school, and look forward to a better future.



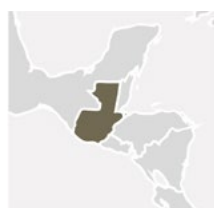
**Above:** Dieudonné having a Physiotherapy Consultation at the Minawao Refugee Camp in November, 2024.  
© CBM

**“ Humanitarian needs are enormous, and the health sector, already under strain, has struggled to serve these populations adequately.**

Working together with the Ministry of Health (MINISANTE), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), and UN agencies, CBM and CBCHS have supported build a more inclusive, community-driven model of care. Mobile teams conduct hygiene sensitisation, cholera prevention, and child health consultations, providing screenings, treatment for common diseases like malaria and diarrhea, and referrals for malnourished children.

In a humanitarian landscape where access too often ends at the edge of vulnerability, CBM's approach ensures that persons with disabilities are not just included, they are prioritised. Through capacity building, community mapping, and inclusive service delivery, the Far North initiative has become a beacon of what inclusive humanitarian action can look like in one of Africa's most complex crisis zones.

## Guatemala: Nexus in Action: Disability-Inclusive, Locally Driven Preparedness



**Socio-economic conditions exacerbate the vulnerability of communities in Guatemala to climate change, recurring climate phenomena such as El Niño and La Niña, and other natural or man-made hazards.**

In response, CBM seeks to provide sustainable support through inclusive, locally led, and easily replicable solutions. By empowering communities and especially persons with disabilities to participate actively in shaping Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (AHA) and crisis management measures, CBM promotes resilience at the grassroots level and before the disaster hits.

Through its partnership with the Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad de Santiago Atitlán (ADISA) and Asociación Vivamos Mejor (AVM), CBM places persons with disabilities

at the heart of community-based preparedness, integrating them throughout the entire risk-management cycle. A key achievement has been the development of Municipal Anticipatory Action Protocols (AAPs), which are part of AHA.

Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (AHA) is a forward-thinking approach that enables communities to act before disasters strike. By leveraging early warning systems, risk analysis, and pre-agreed protocols, AHA shifts the focus from reactive aid to proactive measures that protect lives and livelihoods. This method has gained global traction as climate change and recurring hazards make crises more predictable, allowing for timely, preventative action.

**Right:** Group work session within the community workshop in San Lucas Tolimán. All stakeholders, inter alia, women leaders, persons with disabilities, the fire department and community authorities discuss local risks, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities. © CBM



**2,700** individuals from 600 households across six municipalities in the department of Sololá received medical check-ups, nutritional support, food parcels, and eco-filters for safe drinking water.

“By empowering communities and especially persons with disabilities to participate actively in shaping anticipatory humanitarian actions and crisis management measures, CBM promotes resilience at the grassroots level and before the disaster hits.

In the AAP, the community agrees on priorities, actions and responsibilities for pre-defined danger levels for a certain hazard (E.g levels of rain for flooding) are met. These protocols allow for coordinated preventative and mitigating actions that reach the most at-risk populations first, reducing loss and damage while safeguarding lives, well-being, and livelihoods.

Additionally, responding to identified needs in nutrition and WASH sectors, 2,700 individuals from 600 households across six municipalities in the department of Sololá received medical check-ups, nutritional support, food parcels, and eco-filters for safe drinking water. These activities were complemented by capacity-building for local disaster management groups, who were trained in inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups, while the provision of goods addressed immediate humanitarian needs, thus combining immediate humanitarian relief with sustainable development measures.



Left: Inclusive Municipal Protocol for Anticipatory Actions in the Event of Flood Threats, Municipality of Panajachel, Department of Sololá, Guatemala

## Locally Led, Sustainable Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

To ensure credibility and localisation, the first phase of the project included technical support from the German and Guatemalan Red Cross, who brought experience in AAP development. Meanwhile, ADISA and AVM contributed the voices of persons with disabilities, community leaders, municipal authorities, NGOs, and staff from the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), along with expertise in DiDRR.

As part of the AAP, the partners and workshop participants conducted community risk assessments, such as identifying hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities to define concrete actions for authorities and outline specific preparatory steps. This led to the creation of the first inclusive municipal AAP for flooding in Latin America, in Panajachel. A major success was the allocation of the municipal budget to implement the protocol if activated, eliminating reliance on external emergency funds. It is an essential step towards more local ownership amid decreasing external humanitarian financing.

The second AAP process in San Lucas de Tolimán served both as a pilot and a learning opportunity, expanding preparedness and refining the inclusive AAP methodology. To consolidate and scale the approach, future phases aim to:

- Develop additional inclusive AAPs and systematise the methodology.
- Engage broader stakeholders for replication and learning.
- Strengthening links with disability-inclusive social protection systems.
- Ensure accessible early warning systems (e.g., automated alerts via messenger apps).
- Improve flood risk modelling to identify and prepare the most vulnerable communities in advance.

Ultimately, these efforts aim to ensure **no one is left behind** before, during, or after crises.

# Palestine and Lebanon: Food Security and Inclusive Livelihoods in Acute Conflict Situations



In Gaza, ongoing conflict, displacement, and blockades have created dire living conditions, triggering severe food shortages

and price spikes. Families are increasingly unable to access sufficient nutritious food, resulting in heightened food insecurity and malnutrition.

In Lebanon, the situation is marked by an economic collapse that started in 2019 and was further aggravated by the 2020 Beirut port explosion. Furthermore, ongoing political instability, sanctions, displacement, and conflict have undermined income opportunities, leaving hundreds of thousands unable to secure sustainable livelihoods and impacting food security.

Across both contexts, children are particularly vulnerable, facing long-term health impacts due to malnutrition. Adults, especially persons with disabilities, struggle with inadequate food access and a lack of inclusive livelihood options, perpetuating poverty and instability.

**250** hot meals are provided daily by the kitchen, weighing 1.5 kg each, feeding over 1,700 people per day. By the end of 2024, the kitchen had delivered food to over 341,250 people.

## The Community Kitchen: Gaza, Palestine

To respond to urgent food insecurity, CBM and the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children launched a community kitchen in July 2024. It provides 250 hot meals daily, weighing 1.5 kg each, feeding over 1,700 people per day. By the end of 2024, the kitchen had delivered food to over 341,250 people.

20 young men and women with hearing disabilities are employed at the Community Kitchen who prepare and distribute the meals. This not only enhances their economic independence but also promotes social inclusion, offering mental health support through meaningful daily engagement in a highly distressing environment.

### Naela

Displaced from her home, Naela Al-Basyouni lives with her parents and works in Atfaluna’s kitchen. She has a hearing impairment and a quiet presence with a lot of love, she expresses resilience through her dedication and warm personality. Her joyful spirit and laughter fill the kitchen, a testament to her strength despite adversity.

“ She sustains her family of five through her work in the kitchen. With her love sign, she shows in sign language saying “Love you all” to the world.



Above: Naela prepares meals in the Community kitchen, Gaza. She sustains her family of five through her work in the kitchen. With her love sign, she shows in sign language saying “Love you all” to the world. © CBM/ASDC





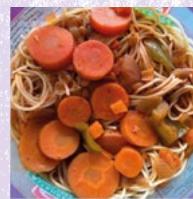
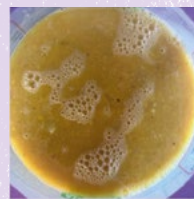
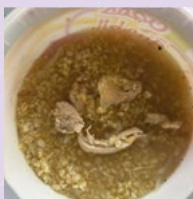
## Mahmoud

In Deir al-Balah refugee camp, Mahmoud, a father of seven, has faced daily hardships as the family’s sole provider. He has a hearing impairment. He shares, “These meals have eased the burden of cooking and buying food.” He adds with gratitude, “The food is very well-organised and incredibly delicious.” Thanks to the community kitchen, he can now better support his family and face challenges with renewed strength and hope.



**Above:** Mahmoud, a father of seven, is very excited about the opportunity to work in the community kitchen and distribute food. © CBM/ASDC

**Below:** A monthly menu is prepared in advance, depending on the availability of ingredients to ensure balanced nutrition, featuring a variety of legumes, vegetables, and rice dishes with meat included whenever possible. © CBM/ASDC



## Lebanon: Food Security and Livelihoods

In Akkar, Northern Lebanon, CBM, through local partner Nusaned, supported the provision of home-made meals to 169 Syrian refugee households (845 individuals) as of July 2025. Vulnerable women, with and without disabilities, received inclusive job training to prepare nutritious food, combining community kitchen services with livelihood creation.

40 women also received internship opportunities, fostering resilience and empowerment to enable them to become leaders in their communities. Nusaned, a co-leader in Lebanon’s national food security cluster, plays a vital role in coordination and ensuring food reaches the most vulnerable.

In addition, CBM partnered with the Lebanese Union for Persons with Disabilities (LUPD) to support inclusive vocational training in food production, delivery, and preparation across Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and the South. The Access Kitchen initiative addressed food insecurity by distributing 33,337 meals to 1890 persons by June 2025.

Despite the challenging environment, CBM’s partners in Gaza and Lebanon have shown adaptability, responding to evolving conditions and ensuring accessible aid delivery in coordination with local stakeholders. These efforts have ensured no one is left behind, even amid security risks and logistical barriers.



**Above:** Nisreen is happy to learn how to prepare traditional Lebanese preserved foods called Mounneh, while participating in the food production training through CIS College in Halba, Lebanon. The produced goods are then distributed to Syrian refugees as part of Nusaned’s emergency response. © Nusaned

**33,337** meals were distributed by the Access Kitchen initiative to 1890 persons.

## Ethiopia: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



In Ethiopia’s Amhara region, thousands of people, refugees, returnees, and host communities are working to rebuild their

lives after years of displacement, conflict, and hardship. Among them, people with disabilities face added barriers to recovery, with limited access to mental health services, physical rehabilitation, and social support.

To meet these needs, the Relief and Development Organisation (RaDO) in Gondar is implementing a project titled: ‘Strengthening Self-Reliance, Integration, and Social Cohesion among Refugees and Host Communities in Amhara’. Funded by BMZ and implemented in partnership with the Organisation for Rehabilitation and Development (ORDA), Ethiopia, this multi-year initiative (Oct 2024-Dec 2028) provides critical psychosocial and rehabilitation services, with a focus on people with disabilities. The project offers a wide range of inclusive services:

- **Mental health support** through group and individual therapy sessions.
- **Physical rehabilitation** via home-based care and physiotherapy.
- **Self-help groups** that empower community members through shared learning and peer support.
- **Training** for 10 community rehabilitation workers and 15 volunteers.
- **Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)** kits and materials to support therapy work at the household level.
- **Construction** of a rehabilitation center and a community hub in Alemwach.

Since the beginning of the project by the end of 2024, over 480 people have directly benefited, 200 from therapy groups and 280 from home-based care, including people recovering from stroke, injuries, and cerebral palsy.

### Key Achievements (2024–2025)

**40** self-help groups formed

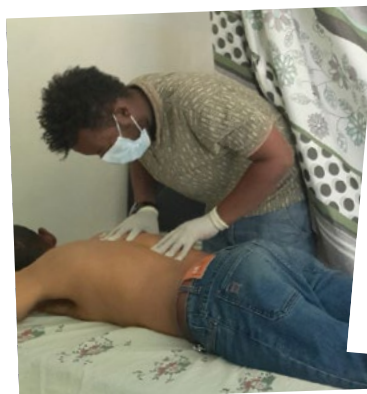
**200** group therapy sessions conducted

**280** individuals received personalised home-based care.

**10** community rehab workers trained and active

**65%** of planned psychosocial and rehabilitation goals already achieved

“By combining mental health support, rehabilitation, and community empowerment, our work is helping hundreds of vulnerable people in Amhara find strength, stability, and hope for a better future.”

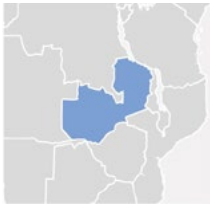


Above: Centre-based physiotherapy treatment underway. © CBM



Above: Counselling being conducted during one of the group counselling sessions. © CBM

## Zambia: Food Security: Linking Humanitarian Action with Resilience Strengthening



In the rural districts of Gweembe and Mambwe in Zambia, food insecurity has long been a harsh reality due to recurring droughts

and a changing climate. For families already living on the edge, especially those including persons with disabilities, survival can feel like a daily battle.

In 2024, CBM, in partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Zambia, launched the ‘Empowering Communities’ project. Designed not only to provide immediate humanitarian relief but also to build long-term resilience, the project brought hope through food relief, climate-smart agriculture, livestock and vegetable production, and sustainable water access, ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities throughout its design and implementation.

For three months during the lean season, 272 of the most vulnerable households received regular food packs containing essentials: maize meals, sugar beans, salt, and cooking oil. Among these households



**Above:** Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit Committee Member Mr. Mbewe hands over a food pack to 28-year-old Elizabeth Phiri, who clutches three bags of meal, cooking oil, salt, and 15 kg of beans she has just received. After weeks of food shortages due to a severe drought, the aid brings much-needed relief and restores a sense of hope for Elizabeth and her family. © CBM

were 118 people with disabilities, for whom inclusion was not an afterthought but a priority. These food packs did more than feed empty stomachs; they created breathing space. With daily meals secured, families could turn their attention toward rebuilding their lives.

### Chakupa

Chakupa Zulu, a 58-year-old woman living with a physical disability in Mambwe. The effects of poverty, limited mobility, and unreliable income had worn her down, but the drought pushed her closer to desperation. When she received a food relief package through the CBM-ADRA project, it was a turning point. She no longer had to worry about feeding her child and grandchild. Instead, she focused her energy on her small farm, planting maize, ground nuts, and gradually improving her household’s food security. Chakupa expressed deep gratitude for the inclusive support she received, highlighting how essential it is for humanitarian aid to reach and empower the most marginalised.



**Above:** Chakupa, despite farming, isn’t easy for her due to her disabilities. Still, she doesn’t give up and produces in her garden, which allows her to earn for her family. © CBM

But the project didn't stop at humanitarian relief support. More than 320 individuals, including persons with disabilities, were trained in practical skills like goat and chicken rearing, vegetable gardening, and even beekeeping. A further 400 participants prepared to receive seed packs and livestock, strengthening household food production for the seasons ahead. To ensure sustainability, the project partnered with local government departments in Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry, enhancing local capacity and boosting technical know-how by an estimated 40%.

Recognising that food security is impossible without water, the project also began constructing solar-powered boreholes and irrigation systems in both districts. These systems are poised to change the agricultural landscape, allowing for year-round farming, reducing dependency on erratic rainfall, and ensuring clean water access, especially for marginalised communities.

CBM and ADRA Zambia will continue to build on humanitarian action by integrating inclusive resilience-strengthening approaches, with a focus on long-term food security, climate adaptation, and inclusive WASH systems. At its heart, this project is about dignity. It's about ensuring no one is left behind, especially in times of crisis.

## Impact on Numbers

**272** households (1,632 people) supported with monthly food packages during lean season

**320+** individuals trained in livelihood skills

**120** households set to receive seed packs; 50 will receive goats

**2** solar-powered boreholes under construction

**70%** of trained participants now report increased self-reliance and a 20% rise in income

“With daily meals secured, families could turn their attention towards rebuilding their lives.”

## Ukraine: Accessible Health and Advocacy for Disability Inclusion → Build Back Better!



**More than three years into the war, life in Ukraine remains extremely difficult. Drone and bomb attacks continue across the country and have**

**been intensified in recent months. About 12.7 million people, 36% of the population, need humanitarian help in 2025. Landmines cover a quarter of the country, and damaged infrastructure has made water, electricity, food, and healthcare hard to access<sup>1</sup>.**

Over 10 million people have fled their homes. Around 7 million are living abroad, and 3.6 million are displaced inside Ukraine<sup>2</sup>. Many of them are people with disabilities, chronic illnesses, injuries, or older adults with limited mobility, often stuck in unsafe shelters or unable to leave their homes.

CBM is supporting five inclusive humanitarian projects with international and local partners and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

These projects focus on:

1. Ukraine: Report reveals war's long-term impact which will be felt 'for generations', UN News; Ukraine emergency, UNHCR

2. Ukraine Refugee Situation

- Inclusive health care, including mental health and rehabilitation.
- Access to assistive devices and inclusive infrastructure.
- Training for psychosocial and health professionals
- Inclusive cash transfers (to cover extra costs of living of persons with disabilities).
- Strong advocacy to push for disability-inclusive policies and practices.

“ There are days I feel hopeless, but when I look at my daughter, I’m thankful we’re still alive.

In 2024, the five disability-inclusive projects across Ukraine and neighbouring countries reached over 50,000 people, focusing on internally displaced persons, returnees, veterans, and host communities affected by the war. The projects are mainly funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft. Key efforts in 2024 included setting up an Assistive Technology Hub in Lviv, piloting a specialised department for spinal cord injuries at Lviv’s TMU hospital, supporting inclusive rehabilitation, providing fellowships for Ukrainian ophthalmologists, and ensuring emergency aid reached people with disabilities. All projects combine concrete humanitarian services with advocacy to push for a more inclusive and accessible future in Ukraine.

### Maksim Mazovsku

Maksim is a 14-year-old boy living with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. He doesn’t speak and uses a wheelchair. For years, his family couldn’t find a wheelchair that properly supported him. “He kept sliding down and couldn’t hold his head up,” his mother Lyubov shared. Everything changed when they visited a CBM-supported **Assistive Technology Hub** run by our partner Momentum Wheels for Humanity. Experts helped find the right wheelchair, and Lyubov received training on how to use it. “Now he sits perfectly, no falling, no pain,” she says. “Thank you for helping children like Maksim. With your support, we can give them the care they deserve.”



Above: Maksim in his wheelchair. © Momentum Wheels for Humanity



### Daria

Daria, 29, fled the war twice. She was five months pregnant when she and her husband escaped the Luhansk region in 2014. The stress, poor nutrition, and fear affected her pregnancy; her daughter was born blind in one eye. They rebuilt their life in Sumy, but the war found them again in 2022. Forced to flee once more, Daria reached out to CBM’s partner, the **League of the Strong**. They helped her pay the rent and get back on her feet.

“There are days I feel hopeless,” Daria admits. “But when I look at my daughter, I’m thankful we’re still alive.” She now dreams of becoming a truck driver and is determined to give back: “I’ve lost everything twice. Now, I want to help others the way people helped us.”



Above: Daria with her mother and playing outside. © Oksana Danyschuk/The League of the Strong, 2025



## 05 Networks and Key Partnership Initiatives



### IHA at the Global Disability Summit 2025, Berlin

From April 2 to 3, 2025, the 3rd Global Disability Summit (GDS) took place in Berlin. The Summit was hosted by the Government of Germany, the Government of Jordan, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The summit brought together over 4,700 participants from more than 160 countries, with a strong focus on inclusive international cooperation and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>3</sup>. Before the summit, on April 1, the Civil Society Forum (CSF) provided the opportunity for Civil Society Organisations, including many Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) from around the globe, to shape the agenda, raise their voices and formulate their demands.

### Engagement of IHA and Strategic Partners

CBM's Inclusive Humanitarian Action Initiative (IHA) actively participated in the GDS, taking the opportunity to initiate discussions on the status of IASC Guidelines implementation, current challenges and collaboration opportunities with OPDs, like-minded humanitarian organisations, donors, and government actors, as well as CBM's local partners involved in its humanitarian interventions. Before the summit, CBM co-led the GDS Working Group of the Disability Reference Group (DRG) and organised a successful side event on inclusive humanitarian financing, highlighting the urgent need for dedicated resources to advance disability-inclusive crisis response.

“ CBM co-led the GDS Working Group of the Disability Reference Group (DRG) and organised a successful side event on inclusive humanitarian financing.

**Right:** IHA Staff in dialogue with representatives of EDF and DG ECHO. © CBM



3. Global Disability Summit – 2nd-3rd April 2025/Berlin

Beyond these efforts, IHA participation was specifically aligned with the objectives of Phase 4 of the Leave No One Behind! (LNOB4) project. As part of this project, IHA was able to support the participation of two strategic partner organisations at the GDS: Chick Sama Fru from the Coordination Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) represented OPD partners from West and Central Africa, who actively engage in humanitarian action, and Michael Mwendwa, Disability Inclusion Advisor of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), joined from one of the most recognised humanitarian actors globally.

### Partner Engagement and Panel Participation

A particular highlight was the productive exchange between CUAPWD and the Ukrainian humanitarian OPD partners of CBM, the National Assembly of People with Disabilities (NAPD) and the League of the Strong (LoS). These interactions were crucial for sharing experiences from diverse contexts and developing joint strategies for disability inclusion.

Additionally, the representative from ICRC had the opportunity to serve as a panellist at the side event 'Victim Assistance in Disability Rights Context'.

His contribution brought valuable insights into the intersection of humanitarian action and disability rights in crisis contexts. The GDS, with its broad program, side events, and networking opportunities, provided an ideal platform to generate new impulses for inclusive humanitarian action.



Above: Michael Mwendwa from ICRC speaks with Veronika Hilbert from CBM at the CBM booth © CBM

“ The summit brought together over 4,700 participants from more than 160 countries.

### Phase 4 – Leave no one behind! Enabling the uptake of the IASC Guidelines on Disability Inclusion for lasting impact through side-scaling & localisation (2025-2027)

Since 2016, CBM and Handicap International (HI), also known as Humanity & Inclusion, have worked in close partnership to implement the Leave No One Behind! project, a vital initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). Over several consecutive phases, this project has aimed to strengthen the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, ensuring that crisis response is inclusive, accessible, and aligned with global standards such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Now entering its fourth phase, the project builds on the strong foundations and lessons of earlier

phases to side scaling impact and sustainability. The fourth phase focuses on addressing key gaps identified in previous phases, particularly around meaningful participation, accessibility, engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and the localisation of technical support for inclusive humanitarian practices. A strong emphasis is placed on empowering local OPDs and humanitarian coordination systems to lead inclusive responses, ensuring that inclusion becomes a necessary part of humanitarian response.

“ The consortia project is implemented across six pilot countries in West and East Africa: Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, South Sudan, Uganda, and Somalia/Somaliland.

The consortia project is implemented across six pilot countries in West and East Africa: Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, South Sudan, Uganda, and Somalia/Somaliland, where persons with disabilities often face heightened risks and barriers during crises. Through a combination of trainings, technical support, capacity development, tool adaptation/development, and advocacy, the project aims to embed disability inclusion into national and local humanitarian systems in a sustainable and meaningful way.

### Areas of focus:

- Strengthening mechanisms to support disability inclusive coordination, enhancing the participation of persons with disabilities.
- Facilitating the uptake and use of inter-agency tool sets on disability-inclusive programming in key sectors and addressing sectoral gaps.
- Addressing barriers and capacity constraints of organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) for meaningful participation in the humanitarian system.
- Integrating disability-inclusion further at the global humanitarian system level through engagement in key groups.



**Above:** The board chair of the Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disability (CUAPWD) presenting about the barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities in accessing humanitarian assistance.  
© CBM

## Expanding our capacities to respond to large-scale crises: The collaboration between CBM and ZOA

In 2024, CBM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ZOA, a Netherlands-based international relief and recovery organisation. This partnership aims to strengthen collaboration between the two organisations, committed to delivering high-quality humanitarian services across the globe.

By combining their complementary strengths, CBM and ZOA seek to enhance their impact in crisis-affected regions. ZOA is particularly interested in improving inclusion in its humanitarian work, learning from CBM's experience in partner implementation and localisation of humanitarian action. In turn, CBM values ZOA's operational presence and expertise in navigating complex humanitarian contexts, and

it is the aim that CBM could benefit from ZOA's operational presence and deployment capacities to respond to crises in such countries where CBM has no own structures or partners in place.

A first activation of this new strategic partnership came into place when Myanmar was struck by a devastating earthquake in the Mandalay region in March 2025. The disaster caused widespread destruction, triggering a humanitarian emergency.

While the full extent of casualties and damage is still being assessed, early reports highlight the severity of the situation and the urgent need for assistance. This catastrophe has exacerbated the already dire circumstances faced by vulnerable communities in Myanmar. Even before the earthquake, the country was grappling with ongoing internal conflict, violence, and instability.

In response, CBM and ZOA have launched the Emergency Relief and Recovery for Earthquake-Affected Communities in Mandalay and Sagaing project, running from April 2025 to March 2026.

CBM is contributing 200,000€ to the total budget of 2mio.€. The project aims to assist vulnerable households who lost or damaged their accommodation with a one round Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to make investment in house repair or temporary shelter possible. This project adopts a multisectoral approach, aiming to provide immediate humanitarian aid while also laying the groundwork for early recovery and long-term resilience.

Throughout all project activities, inclusion of persons with disabilities remains a central priority. This joint response by CBM and ZOA ensures that no one is left behind during such a critical time of need.



Above: Ma Ei Thazin Htwe with her two kids and Mother.  
© ZOA

“ I am very happy we have a water filter now. The water is clean, and it is easy to use – even for someone with a disability like me. I no longer worry about my children getting sick.

Ma Ei Thazin Htwe from Sagaing, Myanmar

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) IASC Reference Group

In addition to being an active member of the Global Disability Reference Group (DRG) and the Anticipation Hub and maintaining strategic partnerships with various local and international organisations, CBM has recently become a member of the MHPSS IASC Reference Group.

CBM has been engaged in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities in humanitarian crises since the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia in 2004. While MHPSS was initially included primarily in responses to natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Nepal in 2015, it has increasingly become a strategic area of focus for CBM, particularly as our humanitarian work has shifted towards addressing conflict and displacement-related emergencies.

Over the past five years, CBM has implemented substantial MHPSS components in conflict and displacement contexts, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Gaza), Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2023, CBM also published a new set of mental health guidelines

specifically for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, based on experience and evidence gathered from our work in Gaza<sup>4</sup>.

CBM is committed to supporting the systematic application of the IASC Guidelines on MHPSS. It has officially endorsed these guidelines and are actively being integrated into MHPSS programming across our global humanitarian operations. It also promotes these guidelines and their accompanying tools throughout the organisation, among our partners, and across wider humanitarian networks. Additionally, we are documenting our efforts in designing and implementing MHPSS interventions and have plans in place to strengthen this work further.

As a committed member of the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, CBM contributes its expertise and technical resources, with a specific focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. This includes active collaboration with fellow members in the development of training materials, provision of expert consultants, dissemination of tools, and participation in field operations. It also engages in the Reference Group’s governance processes, including decision-making on key issues such as the selection of co-chairs and endorsement of annual work plans.

4. [https://www.cbm.org/dam/jcr:e44050c9-0509-4b67-8f79-a70f4f075b6e/mhp\\_support.pdf](https://www.cbm.org/dam/jcr:e44050c9-0509-4b67-8f79-a70f4f075b6e/mhp_support.pdf)

# 06 Publications and Contributions

## Publications



**Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Response Plans – The Case of Cameroon**

[View document](#)



**Establishment of the Disability Working Group (DWG) Northeast Nigeria – Lessons Learned**

[View document](#)



**The Road to Inclusion North-East Nigeria**

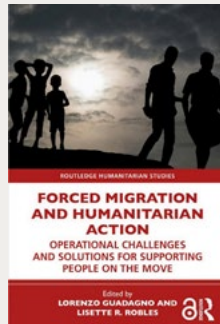
[View document](#)

## Contributions



**Anticipatory Action in 2024 – A Global Overview**

[View document](#)



**Forced Migration and Humanitarian Action: Operational Challenges and Solutions for Supporting People on the Move**

[View document](#)



**Humanitarian Action for Different At-Risk Groups In Displacement**

[View document](#)



Below: Nadia & Wafaa proudly show their course completion certificate, after participating successfully in the food processing training provided by CIS College and Nusaned in Halba, Lebanon. © Nusaned