

Glossary of key terms

These terms have been taken from CBM documents but also from other sources such as OECD and Human Rights Resource Centre, which can also be useful references as a learning aid:

OECD (2012), "Glossary of development terms", in Development Co-operation Report 2012: Lessons in Linking Sustainability and Development, OECD Publishing. <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/4312011ec052.pdf?expires=1403354927&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=995B896BD-67440F08DB1ACD8E7076390>

Human Rights Resource Centre: Appendix 3 – Glossary of Human Rights
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/hreduseries/hereandnow/Part-5/6_glossary.htm#Anchor-Declaration-43098

Accession: this is a way in which a country can become a States Party to a convention. Normally a country will sign and then ratify the convention to which it wants to become a States Party. Accession is where a country signs and ratifies all at the same time. When a country does this we say that it has "acceded" to the convention.

Accessibility: means ensuring that people with disabilities are able to have access to the physical environment around them, to transportation, to information such as reading material, to communication technology and systems on an equal basis with others. Accessibility requires forward thinking by those responsible for delivery of private and public services to ensure that people with disabilities can access services without barriers.

Action research: is an approach commonly used for improving conditions and practices in a range of environments. Its focus is on generating solutions to practical problems by engaging development practitioners and people with disabilities with the research and the subsequent development or implementation activities.

Agency: the socially determined capability to act and make a difference. Economist and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen defines this agency as 'what a person is free to do and achieve in pursuit of whatever goals or values he or she regards as important'.

Agenda 2030: This is another way to call the Sustainable Development Goals. (See definition of the Sustainable Development goals below)

Barriers: when discussed in relation to people with disabilities, barriers can have a number of meanings. They can be structural barriers, such as physical barriers (e.g. stairs), also structural in terms of how a society organises itself in areas such as welfare and support services, opportunities to own or control resources and decision making. Barriers can also be attitudinal, for example prejudice and negative perceptions of people with disabilities can create barriers hindering their full and equal participation in society.

Civil Society: Civil society is the term used to describe non state actors (individuals or groups that are not part of the government). It is made up of a wide range of people and groups such as charitable or not for profit organisations,

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self-help groups, unions, indigenous people organisations, faith based groups and many other activist groups advocating for rights. Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) have an important role to play as part of civil society.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR): is focused on enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families; ensuring inclusion and participation. It is a multi-sectoral strategy that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services. CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families and communities, and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services. (WHO CBR guidelines definition).

Convention: a legally binding document, in writing, between two or more countries. (Also sometimes known as a "treaty," "protocol," "covenant," "agreement," or "pact.") Conventions are stronger than Declarations because they are legally binding for governments that have signed them. When the UN General Assembly adopts a convention, it creates international norms and standards. Once the UN General Assembly adopts a convention, Member States can then ratify the convention, promising to uphold it. The UN can then censure governments that violate the standards set forth in a convention.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): The CRPD is an international human rights treaty, which protects the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Parties to the Convention (those who have ratified it) are required to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by people with disabilities.

Core international human rights conventions: This term refers to the group of UN human rights conventions; a committee of experts has been established to monitor implementation of each one. There are currently nine such core conventions of which the CRPD is the most recent. The core conventions are:

- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment;
- the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
- International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Critical education: also sometimes known as critical pedagogy, is a philosophy of education that combines education with critical theory and looks to bring about a transformation in inequitable systems. It is based on the notion of active critical learning that demands a constant process of reflection, questioning and evaluation.

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Cultural identity: A snapshot of unfolding meanings relating to self-nomination or ascription by others. Thus, cultural self-identity can be understood as a description of ourselves with which we identify. Social identity would refer to the descriptions others have of us. Cultural identity relates to the nodal points of cultural meaning, most notably class, gender, race, ethnicity, nation and age.

Declaration: is a document stating agreed standards but it does not carry legally binding obligations. UN conferences, like the 1993 UN Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and the 1995 World Conference for Women in Beijing, usually produce two sets of declarations: one written by government representatives and one by NGOs. The UN General Assembly often issues influential but legally non-binding declarations.

Disability: Article 1 of the CRPD states that 'Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'.

Disability-inclusive development: focuses particularly on the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. It actively seeks to ensure the full participation of people with disabilities as empowered self-advocates in all development processes and emergency responses and works to address the barriers, which hinder their access and participation. While CBM's focus is disability-inclusive development, we adhere to the general principles of inclusive development in our work.

Disabled people's organisations (DPOs): are usually self-organised organisations where the majority of control at board level and at membership level is with people with disabilities. The role of a DPO is to provide a voice of their own, on all matters related to the lives of people with disabilities.

Disaster risk reduction management (DRRM): is the systematic process of using administrative decisions, organisation, operational skills and capacities to implement policies, strategies and coping capacities of the society and communities to lessen the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) adverse effects of hazards.

Duty bearers: a human rights based approach to development defines States (governments, national and local authorities, public officials and service providers) as duty bearers.

Empowerment: is a process by which people, organisations or groups who are powerless become aware of the power dynamics at work in their life context, develop the skills and capacity for gaining control over their lives, exercise their control without infringing on the rights of others and support the empowerment of others in the community.

Entry into force: this is when a convention becomes active, meaning that States Parties must act to implement their obligations under the convention. Usually a convention will specify that a certain number of countries must become States Parties before the convention can enter into force.

Environmental sustainability: is based on a simple principle: everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on

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our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.

Equality: There are three definitions of equality. Formal equality refers to being respected equally that all persons irrespective of their background or characteristics are born equal. Equal opportunities is a process to ensure that all people regardless of age, sex, race, disability or any other characteristic have access to the same opportunities in life as others in the community and are able to participate equally in the public sphere. The third definition is de-facto equality where people have equality of outcomes.

Equity: is where there is formal recognition that women and men, girls and boys have different interests, preferences, needs which may necessitate different treatment and opportunities. It demands a redistribution of typical power relations, structures and resources; transformation in unjust power relations, hegemonies and structures; opening up of access to resources and participation for traditionally marginalised groups. Equity ultimately is about achieving fairness or equality of outcomes for all – in effective de-facto equality.

Gender: refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being female and male and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialisation processes. They are context/time-specific and changeable.

Habilitation: refers to healthcare services that help a person acquire, keep or improve, partially or fully, and at different points in life, skills related to communication and activities of daily living. These services address the competencies and abilities needed for optimal functioning in interaction with their environments. Examples include therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age. Habilitative services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, audiology and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings or community based settings.

High Level Panel (HLP): established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to advise and make recommendations on the vision and shape of the post-2015 global development framework and on key principles for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms; the HLP, which consisted of 26 'eminent persons' from governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and youth, appointed in their personal capacity, submitted its report to the Secretary General in May 2013.

Human diversity: is an important concept to ensure that diversity of people with regard to race, class, colour, culture, gender, disability is recognised.

Human rights: these are the rights that everyone has just by being human, irrespective of citizenship, nationality, race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexuality, or abilities. You don't have to be a member of a particular group, and nobody needs to give you your rights. Everyone is automatically entitled to enjoy the full range of human rights just because they are human.

Human rights model of disability: The human rights model takes universal human rights as a starting point. People with disabilities are seen to have a right to access all within their society on an equal basis with other. Disability-inclusive

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development takes a rights-based approach.

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA): is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk – governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others – bringing them into a common system of coordination. The HFA outlines five priorities for action, and offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience.

Impairment: an impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action.

Implementation (of a convention): involves States Parties taking whatever actions they need to in order to comply with their legal obligations under a convention.

Inalienable rights: refers to rights that belong to every person and cannot be taken from a person under any circumstances. To be human is to have inalienable rights. They do not need to be given to people by their government or any other authority, nor can they be taken away. Nobody can tell you that you do not have these rights. Even if your rights are violated or you are prevented from claiming your human rights, you are still entitled to these rights.

Inclusive development: ensures that marginalised groups actively participate and benefit from the development processes and outcomes, regardless of their age, gender, disability, state of health, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion or any other characteristics. It seeks to address the deepening inequality and consequent lack of access to opportunities for those who are excluded from development gains and processes⁸⁷.

Individual autonomy: is an idea that is generally understood to refer to the capacity to be one's own person, to live one's life according to reasons and motives that are taken as one's own choices and not the product of manipulative or distorting external forces.

Indivisible rights: refers to the equal importance of each human rights law. A person cannot be denied a right because someone decides it is 'less important' or 'nonessential'. All rights are equally owned.

Inherent dignity: is a basic recognition that human rights are a natural part of who you are. The text of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which begins "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." is where the concept of inherent dignity originates.

International Bill of Human Rights: this is the name used to refer to the three foundational documents of all international human rights law: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF): known more commonly as ICF, is a classification of health and health-related domains. As the functioning and disability of an individual occurs in a context, ICF also includes a list of environmental factors.

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD 10): The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is the standard diagnostic tool for epidemiology, health management and clinical purposes. This includes the analysis of the general health situation of population groups. It is used to monitor the incidence and prevalence of diseases and other health problems.

Intersectionality: this originated in feminist theory. At its core is the recognition that the intersection itself of different identities produces a particular experience of oppression, and one cannot arrive at an adequate explanation by using an additive strategy of gender plus race, plus class, plus sexuality such as in the case of multiple or additive discrimination. For example a middle class, educated professional man with a physical disability who lives in Europe will experience different types and forms of discrimination than a young woman with a learning disability from a rural village in Asia or Africa.

Legal capacity: means the capacity to have rights and the power to exercise those rights. Practically, legal capacity is the law's recognition of the validity of a person's choices.

Lived experience: is a term used to describe the first-hand accounts and impressions of living as a member of a minority or oppressed group.

Medical model of disability: focuses on the individual and sees disability mainly as a health condition, an impairment located in the individual. It assumes that by addressing the medical ailment this will resolve the problem. In this approach a person with disability is primarily defined as a patient, in terms of their diagnosis requiring medical intervention. Disability is seen as a disease or defect that is at odds with the norm and that needs to be fixed or cured.

Models of disability: are the different ways to conceptualise disability. The main recognised models are the medical model, the social model and the human rights model.

Millennium Declaration: this has eight chapters and key objectives, and was adopted by 189 world leaders during the summit of the United Nations in 2000: The Declaration, after the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, stresses the observance of international human rights law and international humanitarian law under the Principles of the United Nations Charter as well as the treaties on sustainable development. The Declaration reaffirmed Member States' faith in the United Nations and its Charter as indispensable for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. The collective responsibility of the governments of the world to uphold human dignity, equality and equity is recognised, as is the duty of world leaders to all people, and especially children and the most vulnerable.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): The MDGs are an international set of goals that were established following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. There are eight goals in total.

The New Urban Agenda: was adopted in October 2016 at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, also known as "Habitat III". It is an action-oriented document which sets out global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development for the next 20 years, guiding the efforts around urbanization of a wide range of actors: nation states, city and regional leaders, international development funders, United Nations programmes as well as civil society, including the private sector.

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Non discrimination: requires that people are entitled to equal treatment irrespective of their particular characteristics. It is used to assess apparently neutral criteria that may produce effects, which systematically disadvantage persons possessing those characteristics. Non-discrimination is fundamental to the human rights based approach and one of the underlying principles of the CRPD.

Open Working Group Process: A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly was mandated by the Rio+20 Outcome document to prepare a proposal on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for consideration by the Assembly at its 68th session (September 2013 – September 2014). The Open Working Group was established on 22 January 2013 by decision of the General Assembly. The Member States decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation that is new to limited membership bodies of the General Assembly. This means that each seat in the Group is shared by 1-4 Member States. These country teams will decide themselves how they will be represented in the OWG meetings.

Paris Declaration: The Paris Declaration (2005) is a practical, action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development. It gives a series of specific implementation measures and establishes a monitoring system to assess progress and ensure that donors and recipients hold each other accountable for their commitments.

Participatory learning in action (PLA): an umbrella term for a wide range of similar approaches and methodologies, including Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Learning Methods (PALM), Participatory Action Research (PAR), Farming Systems Research (FSR), Méthod Active de Recherche et de Planification Participative (MARPP), and many others. The common theme to all these approaches is the full participation of people in the processes of learning about their needs and opportunities, and in the action required to address them.

Participatory rural appraisal (PRA): is a label given to a growing family of participatory approaches and methods that emphasise local knowledge and enable local people to make their own appraisal, analysis, and plans. PRA uses group animation and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis, and action among stakeholders.

Post-2015 agenda: refers to a process led by the United Nations (UN) that helped define the future global development framework that succeeded the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which came to an end in 2015.

Power analysis: means identifying and exploring the multiple power dimensions that affect a given situation, so as to better understand the different factors that interact to reinforce poverty and inequality.

Reasonable accommodation: is an adjustment made in a system to accommodate or make fair the same system for an individual based on a proven need.

Reflective practice/reflective practitioner: reflective practice is often associated with the work of the educationalist Donal Schon, in his seminal book 'The Reflective Practitioner' (1983). The term is used to describe a key ability for practitioners to problem solve, to deploy an ability to reflection-on-action (reflecting on experiences to draw upon learning for future events), as well as to think on their feet and to apply reflection-in-action (for a practitioner to apply

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previous experiential learning – beyond abstract learning – to problematise, analyse and resolve a situation). Reflective practitioners are expected to develop skills to document, share and support peer review and learning as part of a wider professional practice community.

Rehabilitation: refers to health care services that help a person keep, restore or improve skills and functioning for daily living and skills related to communication that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, injured or disabled. These services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and psychiatric rehabilitation services in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient/community based settings. It is helpful to differentiate between the terms habilitation and rehabilitation: the main difference being that whilst rehabilitation focuses on regaining skills lost, habilitation focuses on learning/acquiring new skills (see definition on habilitation).

Rights holders: are people who enjoy all fundamental rights and freedoms, without conditions. Usually, rights holders are defined by the Constitution of a country, along with special provisions in some laws. People have rights and freedoms as an essential part of their being human.

Self-determination: is a characteristic of a person that leads them to make choices and decisions based on their own preferences and interests, to monitor and regulate their own actions and to be goal-oriented and self-directing.

Sendai Framework: was adopted in March 2015 and is a voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. Through its seven targets and four priorities for action, it aims for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

Social model of disability: this model identifies discrimination not because of an impairment but as a result of limitations imposed by the particular context in which people live. The focus therefore is on removing 'disabling barriers'.

States or State actors: are national governments. State Actors are responsible to ensure that everybody's human rights are respected in their country. Another term that can be used to describe state actors is the term **duty bearers**. This is because they have the duty to provide for its citizens. This can be used to describe governments and the ministries - such as the Ministry of Health, Education, Social Welfare, Youth, Employment, Agriculture etc. that are responsible to ensure that all citizens equally access opportunities and resources.

Structural adjustment programmes: are economic policies for developing countries that have been promoted by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) since the early 1980s by the provision of loans conditional on the adoption of such policies. Structural adjustment loans are loans made by the World Bank. They are designed to encourage the structural adjustment of an economy by, for example, removing 'excess' government controls and promoting market competition as part of the neo-liberal agenda followed by the World Bank.

Sustainable development: was defined in the Brundtland Report (Our Common Future, 1987) as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The

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report identified the importance of sustainable development in eradicating poverty and halting further environmental degradation and moving to sustained economic growth.

Sustainable Development Goals: were established by the United Nations in September 2015. It is a joint plan that has 17 goals highlighting three dimensions of development: economic, social and environmental. Governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and business sector have agreed to work in partnership to try to end poverty, promote peace, share wealth and protect the planet by 2030. This plan is also known as 'Agenda 2030'.

Transformative (re development processes): is as a result of a process whereby positive development results are achieved and sustained over time by institutionalising policies and projects within national strategies. It embodies the concept of institutionally sustained results – consistency over time. This is in order to exclude short term, transitory impact, but address the deeper underlying structures, systems and relationships that bring about change.

United Nations General Assembly: one of the principal organs of the UN, consisting of representatives of all member states. The General Assembly issues Declarations and adopts Conventions on human rights issues, debates relevant issues, and censures states that violate human rights. The actions of the General Assembly are governed by the United Nations Charter.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948. Primary UN document establishing human rights standards and norms. All member states have agreed to uphold the UDHR. Although the declaration was intended to be non-binding, through time its various provisions have become so respected by States that it can now be said to be Customary International Law.

Universal Design: involves designing products and environments so that the widest range of people possible can use them, without need for adaptation or specialised design. Universal Design evolved from Accessible Design, a design process that addresses the needs of people with disabilities. Universal Design goes further by recognising that there is a wide spectrum of human abilities. Everyone passes through childhood, periods of temporary illness, injury and old age. By designing for this human diversity, we can create things that will be easier for all people to use.

Washington Group: was formed as a result of the United Nations International Seminar on Measurement of Disability that took place in New York in June 2001. An outcome of that meeting was the recognition that statistical and methodological work was needed at an international level in order to facilitate the comparison of data on disability cross-nationally.

Glossary: Endnotes

⁸⁷ Adapted from DfID (2000). Disability, poverty and development, poverty and disability – a vicious cycle.