



CBM International Advocacy and Alliances Department Annual Report 2014

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1. 2014: A Key Year for Advocacy in Action

As we look back on 2014, it was a successful year for the IAA team, its partners and allies. The key focus for 2014 was on the team's work to influence the EU elections, the UN agenda on the CRPD and the post 2015 agenda at both the EU and UN level and also at different regional meetings. Our work also continued on promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and we were involved in supporting our allies, partners and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in advocacy work on the CRPD.

2014 also saw some changes in the Team for International Advocacy and Alliances (IAA). Alba Gonzalez joined the team in the summer of 2014 as EU policy officer and Catherine Naughton after 10 years with CBM moved on to take up the position of Executive Director with the European Disability Forum.



Elizabeth Lockwood, UN Advocacy Officer with some colleagues at CBM-LARO-organized side event with the Pan American Health Organization on persons with disabilities and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Guayaquil, Ecuador in May 2014.

2. The IAA Team 2014

The IAA team is made up of five members based in Europe and in the US. The team has a global focus.

Catherine Naughton, Director of International Advocacy and Alliances

Lars Bosselmann, Acting Director of International Advocacy and Alliances/ Advocacy Manager, CBM EU Liaison Officer

Diane Kingston, Deputy Director of International Advocacy and Alliances

Follow Diane on twitter [@Diane_CBM](#)

Luisa Fenu, EU Policy Officer, CBM EU Liaison Office

Alba Gonzalez, EU Policy Officer, CBM EU Liaison Office

Follow Alba on twitter [@AlbaGonzalezAG](#)

Elizabeth Lockwood, UN Advocacy Officer

Follow Elizabeth on twitter [@LockwoodEM](#)

3. Key Advocacy Successes 2014

3.1 Disability inclusion in key UN texts for post 2015

2014 was a year of intense advocacy at the UN for CBM's UN Advocacy Officer, Elizabeth Lockwood and our partners and allies. The first half of the year resulted in the Open Working Group concluding its series of meetings on the post-2015 development framework. CBM and its partners and allies attended the majority of these meetings, [gaining support from Member States](#) and CBM had the opportunity to share the [policy briefs it developed](#). The Open Working group published its report in July and it [contained a number of references to disability](#).

In addition to the Open Working Group meetings, a number of other high level meetings and events happened in 2014, these included the thematic debates and consultations of the President of the UN General Assembly and the publication of the UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report on the post-2015. As 2014 drew to a close, CBM and its partners and allies received [some nice words about being effective advocates](#) from Member States at a lunch organised to launch a joint International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and International Disability Alliances (IDA) advocacy briefing on persons with disabilities and post 2015.

3.2. European Union Elections 2014 and Disability Inclusion

2014 was election year in the European Union (EU). CBM's EU team, Luisa and Alba were involved in a number of advocacy activities in the lead up to the elections and also with the new MEPs once they were elected. Early in 2014, CBM participated in the [launch of the statement "Putting People First – The European Union acting to strengthen the voice of persons with disabilities globally"](#). During the campaign, [more than 80 signatures across 10 countries](#) representing the whole political spectrum were gathered, showing political commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities.

After the elections, CBM participated in a [photo event](#) with the support of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who had signed the earlier statement as well as new MEPs who wanted to join the IDDC initiative. Since the new Parliament took its place, CBM has met with several MEPs in order to strengthen collaboration and to explore common fields of interest. In July 2014, the EU elections and interviews featured as part of the [IAA's newsletter](#). Finally to welcome the new MEPs to the Parliament and inform them about disability inclusion, CBM worked together with IDDC to elaborate a Welcome Toolkit ["New term, new opportunities: strengthening inclusion in EU external cooperation"](#). [The toolkit was launched in the European Parliament](#) on October 15 2014, with the support of Mr. Ayassou Komivi, President of the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in Togo, who brought the personal and professional experience from the Global South.

Read the EU teams annual report for more details on their work in 2014.

3.3. Continuing our work on the CRPD

2014 continued to be a critical year for CBM and its work on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Diane Kingston, Deputy Director of IAA as the UK's expert committee member of the CRPD, participated in the 11th and 12th sessions, which examined Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. The Committee also issued Concluding Observations [\(recommendations\) to six countries on international cooperation and humanitarian responses](#), which will result in a greater awareness and action on disability-inclusive development. The Committee also published guidance (General Comments) on legal capacity and accessibility. The latter including a specific section on international development and humanitarian response.

There were also a number opportunities at the UN and also at country level during 2014 for CBM to continue raising awareness and influencing outcomes on inclusive development. Some examples include; input from CBM at the Conference of State Parties to a side event on [Human Rights and Development Cooperation](#); input from CBM [at a roundtable on the impact of the CRPD on Dutch Foreign Policy](#) and an event organised by CBM at the UN in New York on the '[Intersectionality between the CRPD and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)' in relation to women and girls with disabilities."



Members of the CRPD committee during the 12th session in Geneva, September 2014. Photo: Victoria Lee

3.4 Disaster Risk Reduction and Inclusive Humanitarian action

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and inclusive humanitarian action are an important part of the post 2015 agenda and the IAA team worked in 2014 to support advocacy efforts in this area. A number of important meetings took place at international level in 2014 and CBM Emergency Response Unit (ERU) staff and IAA staff attended to make sure disability inclusion was considered.

A number of positive outcomes were achieved in 2014 for disability inclusive DRR these were; the inclusion of [a number of references to persons with disabilities](#) as part of the declaration from the 6th

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and also in the [final document of the Regional Platform of the Americas](#). One of the most significant achievements was the commitment for the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be disability-inclusive, meaning that sign language interpretation will be available and documents in accessible formats. The document for this conference called the [zero-draft includes a number of references to persons with disabilities](#).

3.5 Other key advocacy successes at a glance

In addition to our major areas of focus, here are some other examples of advocacy in action for 2014.

[Report on the Cost of Exclusion and Gains from Inclusion launched at the European Parliament](#)

[Disability action plan adopted the World Health Assembly](#)

[UN meetings discuss progress on disability rights](#)

3.6 Advocacy themes in our 2014 communications

Throughout 2014 we continued using social media and online newsletters, as a means to communicate on important advocacy themes. Listed below are some of the important themes that we featured:

[Women and girls with disabilities](#)

Promoting [Inclusive health](#)

Back to school and [Inclusive education](#)

Psychosocial Disability and [Human Rights](#)

[DRR: Inclusion is key for effective disaster risk reduction](#)

4. CBM Supporting the Voices of Persons with Disabilities

Throughout 2014, the IAA team continued to support persons with disabilities to have their voices heard at various meetings and also through our communications e.g. the IAA newsletter and also blogs.

- At the UN 2014 summer meetings on disability, CBM's partner, Risnawati Utami, Founder/Director Ohana and Chair of Indonesian National Consortium for Disability Rights (Konas Difabel) represented civil society in the opening of the Conference of States Parties, Chaired by Kenya, the President of the Conference.

- CBM partner Risnawati Utami also presented at the side event “Linking Human Rights, Disability and Development.”
- IAA gave support to the conference in [Nairobi on The post-2015 development agenda and the UNCRPD in Africa](#)
- [Launch event of Exclusion and Inclusion report in December 2014](#)
- Mr. Ayassou Komivi, President of the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in Togo spoke at the launch of the IDDC toolkit for new MEPs.



CBM’s partner, Risnawati Utami, Founder/Director Ohana and Chair of Indonesian National Consortium for Disability Rights

5. Some key statistics from 2014

The IAA team members are involved in a range of activities which we describe as internal e.g. our work with [CBM’s 11 Member Associations](#), and partners, and external e.g. our work with partners, allies and other organisations. Box 1 below gives examples of the external organisations we work closely with.

Box 1: CBM Allies and Partners

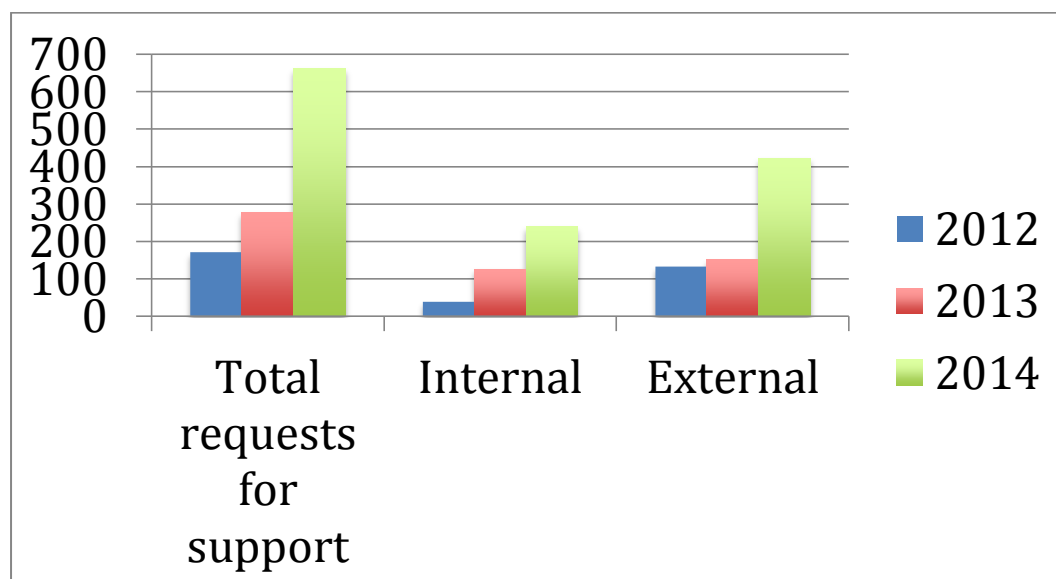
International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
 World Health Organisation
 Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
 Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN)
 International Disability Alliance
 International Disability and Development Consortium
 World Blind Union
 International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
 International Council for Education of Children with
 Visual Impairment (ICEVI)

The work of the IAA team ranges from but is not limited to: attending meetings at UN and the EU, providing capacity building on the CRPD and Inclusive Development when requested; work on the post 2015 process and support with specific submissions of policy briefs to institutions such as the EU, the UN, the CRPD committee of experts and others.

2014 witnessed a significant rise in our request for support to both internal and external organisations we work with.

During 2014, the IAA team:

- Attended a total of 1130 meetings with internal actors and external actors to CBM; 766 of these meetings were with external actors and 364 were with internal actors.
- Received a total of 662 requests to provide support and input to internal and external stakeholders. See chart 1 below



6. CBM Member Associations in Action

CBM Members Association had a busy year in 2015 at a national and international level. In this section they share some of their highlights for 2015.

CBM Australia

"In 2014 CBM Australia built on its advocacy reach and depth. Advocacy continues to be invaluable to the organisation as it helps generate and build support for CBM's cause on many different levels, from the political to across the international development community here in Australia and to our valued supporters." John Jeffries, CEO of CBM Australia.

Key advocacy moments for 2014

CBM Australia encourages the international development community in Australia to celebrate the contribution of people with disability and reflect on their own inclusion policies and programming on International Day of People with Disability. For this day, CBM Australia decided to focus on the issue of attitudes as one of the main barriers to inclusion. To help facilitate action on International Day, a number of resources were shared across the Australian development sector, including a short video to bring attention to significant barrier of attitudes, with the tag line "make your attitude count." In the video, people with disability from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Fiji talked about the discrimination they have faced in their lives and how they have responded to it. The video was promoted across the international development sector in Australia and through shares on twitter, reached approximately 350,000 people. It was also shared with our supporters online and proved to be a valuable tool to promote inclusion and disability inclusive development.

CBM USA

"Advocacy plays a key role in fulfilling CBM's mission in the US and around the world." Caryl Garcia, CEO, CBM US

Key advocacy moments for 2014

CBM-US has leveraged our limited size and resources, by carrying out a very focused effort on changing key systems, policies and practices. We have concentrated on working through InterAction, the coalition of US-based international humanitarian and relief

organizations, which in turn advocates to change select policies of the US government. In 2014, we would like to highlight the following:

CBM took part in a review of USAID calls for proposals to identify the level of explicit mention of disability inclusion in line with USAID's disability policy. The findings of that study were presented to USAID. As a result USAID has asked the review group to conduct a follow on study which tracks the reporting on results in projects implemented where the inclusion of people with disabilities has been explicitly expressed within the call for proposals. This research will be undertaken in 2015.

CBM took part in the revision of Inter Action's private voluntary organization standards, which include explicit standards both for organizations and their programs related to gender, disability and diversity. CBM led the working group revising the gender, disability and diversity program standards. The recommended changes to the disability standards reference the UNCRPD while either maintaining or strengthening the language in respect to the inclusion of men, women, boys and girls with disability in the programs of Inter Action members as well as the recruitment and retention of women and men with disabilities at Inter Action member organizations.

CBM Ireland

"Advocacy is at the heart of what we do, working to protect the human rights of people with disabilities. In 2014 we endeavoured to bring our partners' voices directly to political leaders and people of influence. In doing so, they shared their stories and experiences directly with decision makers at the highest level. Hopefully this will have a positive impact on disability inclusion in government development policies and programmes." Sarah O'Toole, CEO, CBM Ireland

Key advocacy moments for 2014

CBM Ireland in 2014 focused on post 2015 and also inclusive humanitarian responses. The major advocacy project we undertook for 2014 was Inclusive Humanitarian Week. A significant amount of our advocacy resources were spent on bringing a delegation from the Philippines and CBM's Emergency Response Unit.

The delegation arrived on the 8th November 2014 and spent a wonderful week in Dublin. They invested a huge amount of time and energy in preparation for and during the trip, which was invaluable to its success. The delegation delivered training to international development organisations in Ireland working on emergency

response; they met with disability activists, delivered training to university students and also met and presented to member of Ireland's Foreign Affairs Committee. The visit finished with a photo exhibition of CBM and its partner's response to Typhoon Haiyan. Moya Brennan to the event and she indicated her commitment and willingness to act as our Goodwill Ambassador and help in our advocacy and fundraising efforts.

We received excellent coverage in print, radio and TV for Humanitarian Week. We also had good levels of activity on social media platforms. Barney appeared on both Morning Ireland on RTE Radio One and on Morning Edition on RTE One Television. Barney, May & Mario appeared on Newstalk FMs Global Village show.

CBM Italy

Key advocacy moments for 2014

2015 will be the European Year of Development, it will be a year rich in terms of opportunities and important challenges. It will not just be the year of the Expo (Milan), but also the year of the definition of the new sustainable development framework, post-2015. It will therefore be a fundamental moment to strengthen the commitment to include persons with disabilities. This topic was one of the main issues discussed at the seminar entitled, "Promote rights of persons with disability in the International Cooperation" organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on the 10th of December 2014 at the Farnesina, official location of the Ministry. During the seminar, an update on the "Plan of Action for Disability of the Italian Cooperation", was presented, this was formulated by working groups and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the participation of more than 80 NGOs, associations. The Plan is the application of the UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities within Government Cooperation policy and work.

Two main areas that were discussed over the seminar were inclusive education and emergency & disability. Inclusive education is seen as a way that allows all children, children with disabilities included, to have the same level and quality of education, ensuring equal opportunities of development for all, and promoting equity and poverty eradication. It is important to value the Italian experience, already known abroad, through advocacy, communication campaigns, information and sensitization, in particular at schools, all these are practical tools necessary to be used in 2015. Director of DGCS/MAECI Ministro Cantini commented "The limitation that society puts on persons with disability is by all means a violation of the human rights" as Giampiero Griffo (DPI - RIDS) defined the non-application of the

Convention. CBM Italy, along the lines of the national and international strategies has presented at the seminar the approach of CBR and in particular the experience of Bethany Society through the movie shot at Bethany Society by the famous Italian director Silvio Soldini and by Giorgio Garini, entitled "Un albero Indiano", an Indian Tree. A tree by all means special, which saw the participation of the whole community to its construction, in harmony and equality of participation.

CBM Germany

Key advocacy moments for 2014

CBM Germany's advocacy can look back at a successful and very busy year 2014. After the parliamentary elections in September 2013, CBM Germany's advocacy focused on raising awareness among the new elected parliamentarians and government members regarding the need of inclusive development cooperation.

Another key focus of CBM Germany's advocacy was the participation in the German chapter of Global Campaign for Education advocating for supporting replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education. In June 2014 a conference was held on this matter in Brussels. For the Global Action Week in May 2014, which focused on inclusive education for persons with disabilities, CBM Germany set up a series of action weeks in schools across Germany. A highlight of the Action Week was the closing event at the German parliament with the broad participation of parliamentarians of all political parties.

Furthermore, CBM Germany continued accompanying the German state party audit to implement the CRPD. As of CBM's particular interest are Art. 11 und 32, CBM Germany provided questions about inclusive development cooperation to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to prepare for the list of issues.

CBM Germany so continued with the efforts to influence the German position for an inclusive post-2015 framework. In addition to a number of advocacy activities, for the International Day of persons with disabilities CBM Germany hosted a panel discussion "Leave no one behind – inclusion of persons with disabilities within the post-2015 agenda". In the context of the discourse on a global post-2015-development agenda, the event focused on the new global development goals and the inclusion of persons with disabilities within these goals. A mixed panel of politicians and representatives of civil society and economy discussed the need and the opportunities of disability inclusive development.

One of CBM Germany's biggest advocacy successes in 2014 included direct references to persons with disabilities in the "Charter for the Future" published by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Charter sets the political priorities over the next years in Germany and its partner countries not only within development policy but also in other policy areas. Furthermore, it aims to contribute to the post-2015 process. In the draft process different stakeholders as civil society organisations, private sector and academia had been asked to participate. In response, CBM Germany and other actors of the German disability movement supplied key briefs and attended key meetings promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, in the first draft of the Charter persons with disabilities had not mentioned in any paragraph. A huge advocacy effort of CBM Germany finally resulted in the entry of references to persons with disabilities in all important sectors of the in the final version of the Charter as for instance health and education. This has been a broad success.

Getting Ready for a Key Year

As shown by this report, 2014 was a very successful year for the rights of persons with disabilities in key international processes. CBM, together with its partners, contributed to bringing those rights to the attention of key decision-makers and officials. At the same time, 2014 was just the springboard to key decisions, which will be taken this year. All the political will created, all the references to persons with disabilities in key documents, all the work on the CRPD implementation, will have to come together in 2015 to make this a year of positive change. CBM will continue its efforts to strive for inclusion of persons with disabilities in international negotiations, policies and fora so that the international community fully embraces, and practices inclusion at all levels.