



## 1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

CBM Ireland is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world. Based on its Christian values and over 100 years of professional expertise, CBM addresses poverty as a cause and a consequence of disability. CBM's vision is: "an inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential".

We do this by working with partner organisations and persons with disabilities and the wider CBM family. The main thrust of our work focuses on seeking to overcome barriers to inclusion through employing a twin-track approach to disability. One track addresses the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families, regardless of their nationality, age, sex or religion. This is done through providing equal access to affordable and comprehensive health care and rehabilitation programmes, quality education programmes and livelihood opportunities. The other track simultaneously works towards breaking down the barriers that exclude persons with disabilities while promoting an accessible social and physical environment to ensure active their participation in community-based activities, planning and decision making. Through advocacy and within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), CBM strives to deliver a right-based approach to disability in its work.

**CBM Ireland is delighted to have the opportunity** to input into the review of the White Paper. We were also pleased to be able to

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<sup>1</sup> CBM Ireland has aligned its submission with the Disability Task Force's submission  
[http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Disability\\_Inclusion\\_Taskforce\\_Response\\_to\\_IA\\_White\\_Paper\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Disability_Inclusion_Taskforce_Response_to_IA_White_Paper_-_FINAL.pdf)

host a thematic afternoon session on disability and the White Paper at the international conference we organized with partners in 2011.<sup>2</sup> By submitting this paper, we hope to contribute to the future of Ireland's international development programme and in particular its important work in the areas of fighting poverty, inequality and exclusion in developing countries.

CBM's Ireland submission supports the Dochas submission. We also support the Disability Inclusion Taskforce's submission to the White Paper, which addresses the issue of how to ensure the effectiveness of Irish Aid, programmes in areas of poverty reduction and humanitarian assistance is maximized by<sup>3</sup>:

- **Including people with disabilities in all of Ireland's development activity and humanitarian aid**
- **Ensuring that all development activities undertaken in Ireland's name (through our development aid and programmes) do not create intentional or unintentional barriers to equality of participation by people with disabilities.**

## **2. Progress made.**

CBM Ireland is supportive of the overall thrust of the White Paper, its value and principles. In particular its focus on poverty reduction, attention to fragility, commitment to humanitarian emergencies and its works on education and health, all relevant themes to the work of CBM Ireland. As an organisation whose focus is on the poorest of the poor, people with disabilities, our comments in progress made section will be within this context.<sup>4</sup>

The Irish Aid White Paper of 2006 gave a commitment to "examine the possibilities for increased activity in the area of disability and development, such as support for specific programmes to address the needs of disabled people".<sup>5</sup> This was the only substantive reference to disability in the White Paper. The consultation paper on which this submission is based provides further commentary on how Irish Aid has advanced its 2006 commitment on disability. In its progress made section it

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<sup>2</sup> CBM Ireland in partnership with the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and Dochas and Disability Federation Ireland hosted a conference on Inclusive Development, see [http://www.cbm.ie/download/pdf/conference\\_reportoct\\_20th.pdf](http://www.cbm.ie/download/pdf/conference_reportoct_20th.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1

<sup>4</sup> CBM Ireland is working in partnership with local organisations in the following countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Burundi, Central African Republic, Uganda and Zambia. The 2011 UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranks DRC as the number one poorest country in the world at 187<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries while Chad is ranked 183<sup>rd</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> White Paper on Irish Aid, 2006, (p. 116)

reports, "that disability is systematically considered in the design of Irish Aid development programmes and addressed in a multidimensional way".<sup>6</sup> It reports also that Irish Aid has made an investment of €6.5 million to NGOs working with people with disabilities. **All of this is welcome progress** and in particular the fact that Irish Aid **addresses disability within a multidimensional way, as traditionally disability has been categorized as a health issue and also viewed as a homogenous group, not taking into account the needs of women or children with disabilities.**

In line with the progress outlined in the consultation document, it would also appear from a number of parliamentary responses by previous Minister on Overseas Aid (2010 and 2011) that disability is mainstreamed and systematically considered throughout Irish Aid's work.<sup>7</sup>

Mainstreaming disability is advocated for by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a number of General Assembly Resolutions, all of which recognize that unless disability is mainstreamed development objectives will fail.<sup>8</sup> Taking the approach of the twin track approach as a benchmark, CBM Ireland feels there is a number of important issues to point out with regard to Irish Aid's identified progress made on mainstreaming disability, these are:

- **Disability it is not mentioned as a cross cutting issue** or is afforded the same status as other Irish Aid mainstreaming themes such as gender, HIV/AIDS, governance and the environment. This is, despite the fact that disability is now widely recognized as an integral part in achieving development goals (see changing context below)
- The overall spend on disability as noted in the consultation paper and ministerial responses to parliamentary question is €6.5 million since 2008. This amounts to approximately €1.625 million per year, a **relatively small amount given the numbers of people with disabilities living in the poorest countries.**<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Irish Aid White Paper Consultation document, (p.31)

<sup>7</sup> Response by Minister Jan O'Sullivan to question put in the Senate (2011)

"Disability is one of a number of issues which are mainstreamed across all aspects of our long-term development programme. This means that the issues around disability are systematically considered in the design of development programmes and addressed in a multidimensional way"

<sup>8</sup> A number of report and resolutions passed by the UN Secretary General have stated this fact, see GA Res A/RES/63/150, 18 December 2008.

<sup>9</sup> The figure of €1.625 million is calculated taking the overall sum of €6.5million since 2008 and incorporates years up to 2011, where Minister cited this number in parliamentary response (see footnote 5)

- **Goals concerning the overall inclusion of people with disabilities** in development assistance or humanitarian aid are **not defined**.
- There is currently **no requirement for governmental or non-governmental organisations funded by Irish Aid**, whether based in Ireland or abroad, **to demonstrate practical commitment to accessibility** (of information, infrastructure, systems, participation) or the inclusion of disabled people in projects or programmes.
- Although individual projects are evaluated, there is **no systematic evaluation of the impact or outcomes** of Irish Aid funded initiatives as they affect people with disabilities.

While an accepted instrument by national governments, the EU and also international agencies, mainstreaming is not without its challenges, many of which centre on fears of becoming invisible within the mainstream resulting in little or no action taken. **Irish Aids commitment to mainstreaming disability throughout its work is welcome.** However, **its commitment to mainstreaming disability must** not happen at the expense of specific responses to disability but rather include disability specific responses where needed, this is what is understood to **be the twin track approach.**

### **3. Changing context:<sup>10</sup>**

Since the 2006 White Paper was published, the context, in which Ireland operates economically, has changed dramatically urging a focus now on key priorities that need to be delivered to achieve poverty reduction. Along with the changing economic context, since 2006, CBM Ireland has witnessed significant changes in the reasoning for including people with disabilities in development aid policies and programmes. Some of these changes include:

- An International law underlining the rights of persons with disabilities. The adoption of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the United Nations (CRPD).**<sup>11</sup> It is widely acknowledged that the CRPD has a development mandate (Article 32) requiring States to take positive measures in promoting the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities and (Article 11) requiring the States ensure the

<sup>10</sup> Adapted from Disability Inclusion TaskForce

<sup>11</sup> The CRPD was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 13, 2006. The CRPD entered into force on May 3, 2008.

protection and safety of persons with disabilities in times of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

- Credible evidenced-based data on disability. The World Report on Disability published by the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 2011 provides the most comprehensive data yet available on the prevalence of impairment and disability throughout the world, the disabling barriers which impede development globally, the ways in which disabled people's lives are affected and the ways in which these issues can be resolved. The report calculates that **15% of the world's population has a disability and that four out of every five people with disabilities live in developing countries.**
- Growing recognition by international institutions that global poverty will not be solved unless disability is addressed systematically. James Wolfenshon (former World Bank President) commented "Unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015".<sup>12</sup> UN agencies, Disabled Peoples Organisations and academics concurring with this statement claim that **development objectives will not be achieved unless disability is explicitly referenced and that assuming implicit reference to disability in any policy, may not result in positive outcomes.**<sup>13</sup>
- **The publication in 2010 of the World Health Organisation's comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Guidelines,** produced with the cooperation of many international and local organisations over several years, which outline an agreed approach to CBR in line with the **CRPD and the principle of community-based inclusive development**
- The adoption of disability-inclusive policy and practice by many leading international donors. A World Bank study published in 2010 found that **disability has become a part of international cooperation and development aid.**<sup>14</sup> Donors such as USAID, DFID, AUSAID, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, GTZ in Germany and Austria are among **those who have formulated a policy on disability.**

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<sup>12</sup> See the Harvard Law School Project on Disability  
<http://www.hpod.org/involved/development-humanitarian-orgs>

<sup>13</sup> See Millennium Goals and Disability, Groce and Trani, The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9704, Pages 1800 - 1801, 28 November 2009

<sup>14</sup> See Disability and International Cooperation and Development: A Review of Policies and Practices, World Bank, Discussion Paper, Janet Lord et al 2010.

CBM Ireland believes, the changes in Ireland's economic context coupled with the recognition that disability as explained above is integral to development success means now more than ever that **a re-configurations of how Irish Aid mainstreams disability is needed so as to guarantee its key priority of poverty reduction is delivered upon.**

#### **4. Key issues and challenges**

The key issues outlined in the White paper remains relevant to global development themes and also CBM Ireland's core work. The issues of hunger, fragility, climate change, basic needs, governance and human rights; gender equality and private sector are all relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities. Many people with disabilities living in poor countries find themselves vulnerable and most at risk in all of these key areas. This section outlines the key issues suggested by Irish Aid and their relevance for people with disabilities and also advances the argument, that **unless Irish Aid views disability as a key issue its raison d'être of poverty reduction will not be fully achieved.**

**Hunger: hunger and malnutrition, and disability and poverty are undeniably intertwined; malnutrition causes about 20 per cent of impairments.**<sup>15</sup> As a result of malnutrition due to poverty, impairments such as blindness due to lack of vitamin A, mental impairments due to deficiency in iodine and other impairments caused by cholera can occur. People with disabilities are also more likely to be exposed to food shortages and prevailing attitudes to disability in some countries prevent access to scarce resources including food.

**Situations of fragility:** in situations of fragility caused by conflict, or emerging from a humanitarian disaster, **people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable.** For example, a study of humanitarian financing for older people and people with disabilities, 2010-2011", published by HelpAge International and Handicap International in 2012,<sup>16</sup> reveals the low level of activities

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<sup>15</sup> DFID (2000)

<sup>16</sup> See "A study of humanitarian financing for older people and people with disabilities, 2010-2011", published by HelpAge International and Handicap International (2012), the study also points out that of the 6003 projects analysed, those funded by many donors and nations, only 5.2% mentioned either people with disabilities or older people (many of whom have disabilities) alongside other groups considered "vulnerable" in situations of humanitarian crisis

targeting people with disabilities in situations of humanitarian crisis. According to the study, **less than 1.2% of Ireland's 2010** funding for this purpose was allocated to projects, which had an activity (even one among many) **targeting people with disabilities**.

**Climate Change:**<sup>17</sup> The impacts of climate change (extreme weather, sea level changes and agriculture productivity changes, leading to food insecurity) will affect the world's poorest people<sup>1</sup>. Most of the world's poor (800 million) live in ten countries, six of which are listed in the top 20 countries most at risk of extreme weather in 2015: China, India, the Philippines, Vietnam (middle-income countries) and Bangladesh and Ethiopia (low income-countries). **All initiatives such as the forthcoming Rio +20 must ensure the protection of people with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.**<sup>18</sup>

**Responding to basic needs:** People with disabilities can find themselves excluded from basic services, such as education and health-care. This exclusion leads to **people with disabilities having** poorer health, lower educational achievements, less economic participation and **higher rates of poverty and inequality** than people without disabilities.

**Governance and human rights:** people with disabilities are can find themselves prevented from participation in decision making, be that in their own private lives or through public processes such as elections. The OHCHR<sup>19</sup> recently published a thematic report which found through its submissions **that persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities continue to be deprived of their right to vote and be elected** on the basis of constitutional or legal provisions that link their political rights to legal capacity. Commenting on the thematic study, High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay "called for the removal of barriers that prevent the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and public affairs".<sup>20</sup> Removing barriers to participation increases the participation of persons with disabilities and in turn promotes good governance and adherence to the principles of the Convention on

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<sup>17</sup> Adapted from CBM's beyond 2015 document

<sup>18</sup> Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires States to include people with disabilities in humanitarian responses.

<sup>19</sup> See the Thematic Study by the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/ThematicStudies.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> See UN Chief calls for boosting political participation of persons with disabilities, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41436&Cr=disabilities&Cr1>

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 'Nothing About Us, Without Us'

**Gender Equality: women with disabilities are often doubly disadvantaged, through their status as women and as persons with disabilities**, and hence represent one of the most marginalised groups in society. Girls with disabilities attend school less frequently than boys with disabilities.<sup>21</sup> Females with disabilities are twice to three times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than females with no disabilities.<sup>22</sup>

**Private sector:** people with disabilities for the most part do not get the opportunity to maximize opportunities that are offered through the private sectors, such as employment or credit loans for starting businesses. The rate of **economic inactivity is 2.5 times higher amongst people with disabilities**<sup>23</sup>. Also in terms of accessing loans, a report by Handicap International found that **clients with disabilities currently account for no more than one half of one percent of total MFI clients worldwide.**<sup>24</sup> All of these points highlight the relevance of Irish Aid's key issues to persons with disabilities.

In terms of additional issues for Irish Aid to consider, CBM Ireland would suggest that **disability is afforded the same status as a key issue and crosscuts Irish Aids work.** This, we believe can only serve to enhance Irish Aid's commitment to mainstreaming disability. The basis for this suggestion is that over recent years, it has become an established fact that **disability is a key development issue.**<sup>25</sup>

However, it is also widely noted challenges remain in ensuring that disability is considered systematically throughout all development interventions. One of the main **challenges is that law and policymakers believe that people with disabilities are implicitly included.**<sup>26</sup> Some argue that this belief of implicit

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<sup>21</sup> DFID (2000)

<sup>22</sup> DFID (2000)

<sup>23</sup> World Report on Disability (2011)

<sup>24</sup> Hervé Bernard , Anne Leymat, Thierry Kowalczyk, Ton de Klerk, Wanda Muñoz, Marie Cécile du Mesnil and Sylvain Bord, "Good practices for Economic Inclusion of People with Disabilities", Handicap International, <http://www.handicap-international.org/uploads/media/goodpractices-GB-2coul.PDF>, 2006.

<sup>25</sup> See "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities" (A/RES/64/131) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution makes specific reference to the need to make development work inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities

<sup>26</sup> See Groce, N., Trani, J. (2009). Millennium Development Goals and Persons with Disability. *The Lancet*. 374(9704): 1800-1801.



assumption can actually result in the opposite happening. We have witnessed this through the need for a specific international law on disability. The CRPD was developed not because other international laws excluded people with disabilities, but because the rights of people with disabilities needed to be explicitly referenced.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, we have seen this echoed through the Millennium Development Goals and the need for explicit reference of disability, so as to ensure MDG's targets include persons with disabilities. **Assuming inclusion of people with disabilities in development without a specific policy statement or stated goals or targets, evidence shows us does not equate to positive outcomes for people with disabilities.**

The second major challenge in addressing disability as a key development issue is **shifting the traditional view of disability as a specialist topic and in need of medical expertise.** People with disabilities in poor countries do require healthcare, but this should not define their totality of needs. As part of the prevention debate, Sen describes it as a matter of justice,<sup>28</sup> but it should not define the totality of a policy response to disability in development.

The final challenge lies in how disability is viewed as a homogenous group and how responses to disability do not differentiate on this basis. The key issues section outlines the denial of opportunities and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities. This discrimination comes from attitudes to disability, but also women (in the case of women with disability), people with HIV/AIDs and those of different religious beliefs. **Disability intersects with a number of different identities and variety of social, cultural, economic and political contexts, capturing the discrimination at these intersections enables a comprehensive response.**

The final section of these papers uses the framework provided for by the consultation paper and offers some considerations for Irish Aid's ways of working on disability.

## **5. Ways of working**

During the lifetime of the next Irish strategy on development, the government is expected to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Once the government ratifies the CRPD, it will become bound to Article 32 (international cooperation) and Article 11 (situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies). Article

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<sup>27</sup> See Quinn, G., Degener, T., (Eds), *Human Rights and Disability: The Current Use and Future Potential of United Nations Human Rights Instruments in the Context of Disability*, Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva, (2002)

<sup>28</sup> See Sen, Amartya, *The Idea of Justice*, 2009, pg 253 – 259

32 in particular requires that State make their international development programmes accessible and inclusive of persons with disabilities and ensure that the involvement of people with disabilities and their representative organisations are involved at all levels of the development process. The Convention and Article 32, signify a paradigm shift from the pre-dominant medical/charity to disability specific and disability related cooperation projects to a social/human rights model of inclusion and mainstreaming. Article 32 is a potent tool for working towards the full realization of the rights of people with disabilities in the countries which Irish Aid monies support. **CBM Ireland feels that this White Paper Review process gives Irish Aid a timely opportunity to reflect on its ways of working on disability and initiate steps towards compliance with Article 32.**

These steps are outlined below are broadly similar to that of the Disability Inclusion Task Force submission to the White Paper and are also representative of feedback from the conference organized by CBM Ireland with partners in October 2011.

**1. Aid Effectiveness:** the changing context and key issues section outline why the inclusion of people with disabilities in development programmes, will make aid work better as it reaches the poorest and most marginalised. Evaluating aid effectiveness involves ongoing reflection on whether Irish Aid's internal processes are proactively inclusive of people with disabilities. Strong internal mechanisms are needed in order to stimulate a more systematic approach to disability, with specific guidance on inclusion and accessibility in all areas of Irish Aid's work.

**CBM Ireland** recommends that Irish Aid

- Adopts disability as a crosscutting issue to enhance its mainstreaming approach to disability
- Requires that mainstream projects and programmes it funds to demonstrate their practical commitment to disability inclusion
- Funds disability specific work where required

**2. Policy Coherence:** At a national level, the Irish government has a National Disability Strategy and a series of guidelines which promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in work undertaken by the Irish government e.g. sectoral plan for Department of Health, Transport etc. Most recently, the government has announced a set of Disability Impact Guidelines, which require

that all substantive proposals submitted to Cabinet must take account of people with disabilities.<sup>29</sup>

At a regional and international level, Ireland is party to a number of human rights instruments that reference people with disabilities. These include, CEDAW, ICCPR, IESCR and the CRC, which has a specific article on children with disabilities recognizing the role of international cooperation.<sup>30</sup> Additionally, Ireland and Irish Aid are strong advocates on the role of policy coherence for development. Along with its international commitments,

As stated in the introduction to this section, Ireland has given its commitment to ratify the CRPD. In order to be coherent with Article 32, Irish Aid will have to demonstrate<sup>31</sup> the steps it has taken to ensure inclusion and accessibility, measures it has taken to ensure that all donor funds are used to reach people with disabilities, provision of evidence (including disaggregated data) of disability mainstreaming, provision of details of projects and programmes specifically targeting people with disabilities, and evidence of the mechanisms Irish Aid uses to ensure that people with disabilities and their representative organisations are involved in the design, development and evaluation of appropriate programmes and projects. Finally, the Irish government has already in place a set of standards on a number of areas relating to disability, a first step in preparation for complying with Article 32 (see Appendix I) would be to assess how Irish Aid meets Ireland's standards. A good example of these standards is the recently published

**CBM Ireland recommends that;**

- Irish Aid considers measuring its work on disability against nationally set standards on disability, in particular an extension of the National Disability Strategy to include the

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<sup>29</sup> See Guidelines for Government Departments: How to conduct a disability impact assessment, <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/20120305%20DIA%20Guidelines.pdf/Files/20120305%20DIA%20Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> See Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that "States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas"

<sup>31</sup> Guidelines on treaty-specific document to be submitted by states parties under article 35, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Second session Geneva, 19–23 October 2009, See guidelines for Article 32 (p.19)

Department of Foreign Affairs would create a space to learn from other government departments on including people with disabilities.

- Irish Aid and the Department for Foreign Affairs should begin readying their policies and practices to achieve compliance with Article 32. First steps in this process could be development of a policy for inclusion of disability or the appointment of a focal person to lead compliance.

**3. Working with programme countries:** Ireland continues to carry out excellent work in building sustainability within the programme countries it works. This approach means sustainable long-term development for the citizens of these countries. People with disabilities are part of these citizens, yet many remain without a voice, no access to services and marginalized. Working on building a strong disability community in programme countries is important so that capacity of people with disabilities can be developed so they can bring about change in their own lives.

**CBM Ireland recommends that:**

- Irish Aid when in government to government discussions, raises the issue of people with disabilities in the context of Human Rights
- Irish Aid supports programmes and projects that support people with disabilities to advocate for positive changes in their own country.

**4. Working with multilateral organisations:** In its important partnerships with UN agencies and other multilateral organisations Irish Aid demonstrates its understanding that global challenges needs global solutions. Irish Aid multilateral beneficiaries play a significant role in international development, particularly in the promotion of human rights and through working on thematic issues, such as gender, equality, good governance and sustainability. As noted in the White Paper consultation documents and highlighted at the October conference, Irish Aid's continued focused support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) provides an example of what can be achieved.

**CBM Ireland recommends that Irish Aid;**

- Ensures that the human rights of people with disabilities are prominent in all its multilateral commitments.
- Ensures that Irelands work through multilaterals on emergency response is respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities.

**5. Working with civil society organisations:** The inclusion of people with disabilities in the design and development of policies is widely acknowledged as good practice, and is required by the CRPD.<sup>32</sup> Many times, people with disabilities and their representative organisations are able to bring solutions to the table. Other bilateral agencies and governments have worked successfully with the disability community in the development, implementation and monitoring of development aid.<sup>33</sup>

**CBM Ireland recommends** that;

- Irish Aid engages in a dialogue of learning and sharing of experience with representatives from the domestic disability sector and from overseas development organisations with a disability and development focus. There are a number of existing models this could be based on such as the Human Rights Forum organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

**6. Results and accountability:** The consultation documents stress that the measurement of sustainable positive change for poor people, and fulfillment of international obligations in areas such as gender, governance and sustainability, lie at the centre of meaningful aid provision. All are applicable to people with disabilities, with additional impetus soon to be added through the ratification of the CRPD.

**CBM Ireland recommends:**

- Irish Aid to initiate an internal process to examine how to bring its existing practices, resources and infrastructure into compliance with Article 32.

**7. Public engagement and ownership:** Public engagement and ownership relates to education and information on development issues, as well as to results and accountability. CBM Ireland, in partnership with five other NGOs specialising in disability<sup>34</sup> and as part of a cross border initiative, has developed a comprehensive development education resource targeted at 11 to 16 years in the

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<sup>32</sup> See the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 4 (3)

<sup>33</sup> AusAid in 2008 implemented a wide consultation process with the disability community in Australia and in partner countries where AusAid is present. This consultation formed the basis of the 'Development For All Strategy' published in 2008 and also resulted in the formation of the Disability Reference Group who guide AusAid's work.

<sup>34</sup> The five NGOs are: Children in Crossfire, War on Want Northern Ireland, Disability Aid Abroad, CBM Ireland, Livability-choices for disabled people.

Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Titled *Disability and Development* the resource explores the concept of disability in a local and global context. It is structured around specially commissioned short films of real life stories of young people living with disabilities on the island of Ireland and around the world (Haiti, Nepal, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Ireland, Tanzania, Bolivia)<sup>35</sup> *Disability and Development* is a learning resource that links Rights & Responsibilities, Human Dignity and Development.

**CBM Ireland recommends** that;

- Irish Aid communications highlight the agency's focus on disability inclusion, including through the use of images of people with disabilities in its publicity materials.
- Irish Aid through its development education programme supports creative opportunities for the disability community to raise awareness on disability.

**8. Financing aid:** As the consultation document notes, the Irish public remains supportive of ODA, despite the economic recession. Measures taken to strengthen aid effectiveness and accountability will help to sustain public support.

**CBM Ireland recommends:**

- that Irish taxpayers' money is spent on development projects and programmes which are demonstrated to be inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities, and which contribute to the ending of their exclusion from the mainstream of the societies in which they live.

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<sup>35</sup> Michael Brown, the Director of the Development Media Workshop (DMW) produced the films. DMW was established in 2005. It focuses on development and environmental issues, using media and educational materials to promote awareness and discussion of important issues, locally and globally.

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## **Appendix 1**

### Article 32 – International Cooperation

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

(a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

(c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;

(d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfill its obligations under the present Convention.