

1.1. CBR Program in Rwandan context

The national development strategies are described within the second Economic Development and Poverty reduction Strategy (EDPRS2). This states that Rwanda does not intend to leave any of its citizens behind in its development. Specific steps will be taken to ensure that Persons with Disabilities and other disadvantaged groups are able to contribute actively to the country's development and to benefit from it.

By 2015, Rwanda did not yet have a comprehensive CBR program addressing social and physical rehabilitation. Several small projects run by International NGO and with some Disability Partners Organizations (DPO) touch on elements of CBR: mobilization and identification of Persons with Disabilities; creation of associations including parent groups; information and advocacy to access services.

Different initiatives are fragmented in some areas of the country. Currently, stakeholders are trying to develop CBR national coordination mechanisms and national guidelines to implement national policies.

The vision of CBR program in any context is to achieve and maintain self-independence and full social inclusion of children, youths and adults with disabilities and special need.

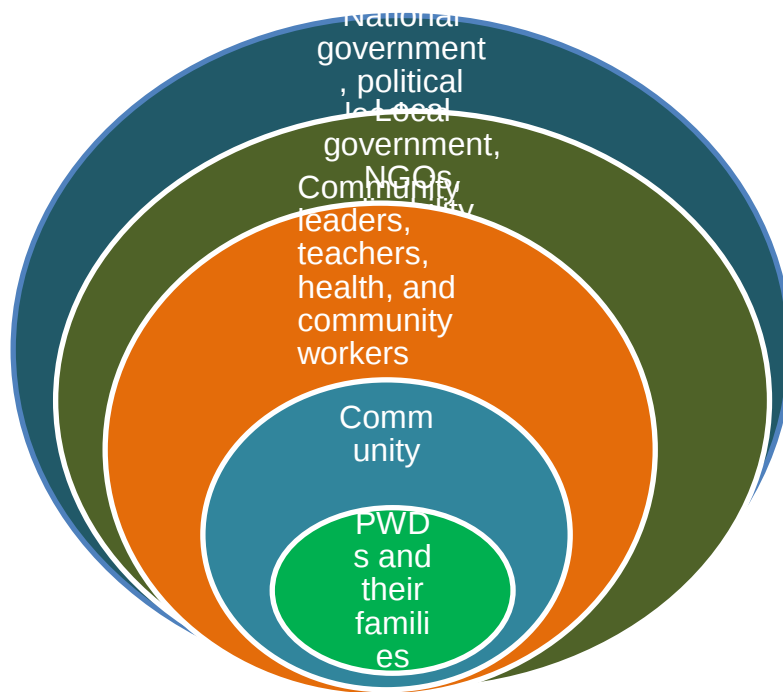
The need for CBR programs should focus on the following points:

- Reducing poverty, given that poverty is a key determinant and outcome of disability;
- Promoting community involvement and ownership;
- Developing and strengthening of multisectoral collaboration;
- Involving disabled people's organizations in their programs;
- Scaling up their programs;
- Promoting evidenced-based practice.

2.5 CBR STAKEHOLDERS

Many different stakeholders may be identified from the beginning of a CBR program. These may include: Persons with Disabilities and their family members, members of the community (including community leaders, teachers, etc.), civil society (e.g. non-governmental organizations, religious organizations and women's groups), PWDs' organizations and government authorities.

Each stakeholder will bring skills, knowledge, resources and networks and will have specific roles and responsibilities regarding the development and implementation of CBR



➤ **Person with disabilities and their families**

Person with disabilities and their families play an extremely important role within CBR. Their roles and responsibilities will become clear throughout the CBR guidelines, but in summary they may include the following:

- Playing an active role in all parts of the management of the CBR programme;
- Participating in local CBR committees;
- Being involved by volunteering and working as CBR personnel;
- Building awareness about disability in their local communities, e.g. drawing attention to barriers and requesting their removal

➤ **Community members**

CBR can benefit all people in the community, not just those with disabilities. CBR programs should encourage community members to undertake the following roles and responsibilities:

- To change their beliefs and attitudes that may limit opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and their families;
- To address other barriers that may prevent Persons with Disabilities and their families from participating in the life of their communities.
- To participate in training opportunities to learn more about Disability;
- Protect their communities and address the causes of disability
- Provide support and assistance where needed for Persons with Disabilities and their families.

➤ **Civil society/Development partners**

The roles and responsibilities of civil society organizations and groups will vary depending on their level – International, National, Regional or Community. Their roles and responsibilities will also be influenced by their level of experience and involvement in disability and CBR. Historically, many nongovernmental organizations have been at the center of CBR work, so they may be the driving force behind any new or existing CBR program. Generally, roles and responsibilities may include:

- Developing and implementing CBR program where there is limited Government support;
- providing technical assistance, resources and training for CBR program;
- Supporting the development of referral networks between stakeholders;
- Supporting CBR program to build the capacity of other stakeholders;
- Mainstreaming disability into existing program and services;
- Supporting the evaluation, research and development of CBR

➤ **Representative of PWDs**

Representatives of PWDs are a great resource for strengthening CBR program and can play meaningful roles in CBR program. Their roles and responsibilities may include:

- Representing the interests of people with disabilities;
- Advice about the needs of Persons with Disabilities;
- Educating Persons with Disabilities about their rights;

- Advocating and lobbying for action to ensure that Governments and service providers are responsive to these rights, e.g. implementation of program in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Provision of information about services to Persons with Disabilities;
- Direct involvement in the management and coordination of CBR program

➤ **Government**

Disability issues should concern all levels of government and all government sectors, e.g. the health, education, employment and social sectors. Their roles and responsibilities might include:

- Developing a national policy on CBR, or ensuring CBR is included as a strategy in relevant policies, e.g. rehabilitation or development policies;
- Developing CBR as an operational methodology or service delivery mechanism for providing rehabilitation services across the country.
- Taking the lead in the management and/or implementation of national CBR program
- Ensuring that appropriate legislation and policy frameworks are in place to support the rights of persons with Disabilities;
- Providing human, material, and financial resources for CBR program;
- Ensuring Persons with Disabilities and their family members are able to access all public program, services and facilities.

2.6 ROLE OF CBR IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTORS

➤ **Health sector**

The role of CBR is to work closely with the health sector to ensure that the needs of Persons with Disabilities and their family members are addressed in the areas of health promotion, prevention, medical care, rehabilitation and assistive devices. CBR also needs to work with individuals and their families to facilitate their access to health services and to work with other sectors to ensure that all aspects of health are addressed. CBR programs can facilitate access to health care for persons with disabilities by working with primary health care in the local community, providing the much needed link between Persons with Disabilities and the health-care system (eg Community health workers)

➤ **Education sector**

The role of CBR is to work with the education sector to help make education inclusive at all levels, and to facilitate access to education and lifelong learning for persons with Disabilities.

A school may have an accessible building and teachers who are trained to work with all types of children, but children with disabilities may still be excluded. They may be hidden in back rooms at home, the family may lack support, and they may need assistive devices and medical rehabilitation. CBR can address all these issues and liaise between the education, health and social sectors and with disability community groups. CBR personnel (e.g. community education worker) may need to have several rounds of discussions to convince parents about the need for and benefit of educating their child with a disability, especially if the child is a girl or the parents are not educated themselves.

The social model of disability moves away from an individual-impairment-based view of disability and focuses on removing barriers in society to ensure Persons with Disabilities is given the same opportunity to exercise their rights on an equal basis with all others. Similarly, inclusive education focuses on changing the system to fit the student rather than changing the student to fit the system. This shift in understanding towards inclusive education is required of CBR programs, which in the past have tended to work at a more individual level.

➤ **Social development sector**

The role of the CBR is to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the full participation of Persons with Disabilities in the social life of their families and communities. CBR programs can provide support and assistance to Persons with Disabilities to enable them to access social opportunities, and can challenge stigma and discrimination to bring about positive social change.

➤ **Livelihood sector**

The role of CBR is to facilitate access for Persons with Disabilities and their families to acquiring skills, livelihood opportunities, enhanced participation in community life and self-fulfillment.