

CBM Christian Blind Mission Stubenwald-Allee 5 64625 Bensheim

Accountable Now
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**CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission
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Bensheim, 19th April 2021

Response to Feedback by Independent Review Panel and Management Response

Dear Members of the AN Independent Review Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your feedback on our 2019 Accountability report.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide initial feedback in the areas for improvement identified by the Panel. We will provide additional information in our Interim Report. A response to all feedback received will be addressed in the next CBM Accountability Report.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on your feedback and thank the Panel for their useful insights into our progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rainer Brockhaus', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Rainer Brockhaus
Chief Executive Officer

Feedback by AN Independent Review Panel and CBM's responses

Sustainability of Work (B1)

The Evaluation Synthesis 2018 and the CHS Self Assessment both point to the need to improve exit strategies. The next CBM accountability report could usefully show whether/how the management has addressed these findings.

Findings from the Evaluation Synthesis and CHS self-assessment on exit, are being acted upon at different levels. For example, guidance on partner sustainability, capacity development and exit have been further strengthened in the reviewed partnership process. The project development & approval process also includes guidance on planning for responsible project exit. In addition, there is an increasing focus on peer learning in CBM for enhanced understanding of sustainability and exit in project and partner work. This is reflected in the organisation of online peer-exchange and training sessions. The interim report will provide additional information on activities implemented in response to the Evaluation Synthesis 2018. Information on the CBM reporting templates, process and reporting frequencies will also be addressed in the interim report.

Responsible Stewardship for the Environment (C5)

CBM-I is due to strengthen its attention to Environmental Responsibility by implementing an Environment Policy and Guideline, which could be referenced in the next report if complete. The reporting omits quantitative reporting on CBM-I environmental performance, for example, its carbon footprint, or any plans to report such data or to improve environmental performance.

The transformation of CBM has required significant efforts and resources and, for this reason, work on the Environment Policy did not progress as swiftly as desired. A draft CBM Policy on Environmental Responsibility is available and is currently under review. The policy and the process for its implementation will be developed in the course of 2021/2022. The first quantitative reporting on CBM-I environmental performance is expected to cover the year 2022.

People and partners have gained capacities that last beyond your immediate intervention (E4)

The report states that this has been covered in B1 but no information of substance on capacity development is provided there, apart from the Sri Lanka example.

The partnership process was reviewed in 2020, and more explicit partner development pathway and capacity development requirements are outlined. Depending on identified needs, project interventions in principle strengthen local capacities and systems. In addition, a 5-year funding framework and non-earmarked funds are now available at Country Office (CO) level. This will enable better planning and targeted response to the identified capacity development needs. The interim report will

provide examples on how people and partners have gained capacities beyond CBM's immediate intervention.

Evidence regarding the root causes of the problems you address (F1)

The report provides no explanation of how the process of the assessment of root causes works other than stating 'through programme work and technical expertise CBM gather evidence on root causes'.

The process used by CBM to assess root causes varies according to the level where work will be implemented. Focusing on the country level, the principle of participation & community involvement in project development (iPCM), including advocacy activities, guides our work with partners. A context analysis, including policy framework, is conducted ahead of country planning process; and consultations with partners & relevant stakeholders in programme countries are also conducted. In addition, the new Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) training (2020) includes sessions on tools for identification of root causes e.g. community mobilisation in programme work. The interim report will provide additional information on how CBM approaches the process for root cause identification.

Stakeholders support your advocacy work and value changes achieved (F2)

The report does not explain how partners engage people with disabilities in advocacy messaging or how their representatives engage with the CBM advocacy team.

CBM conducts and supports advocacy activities using different approaches at country and international level. Focusing on country level, funding is provided via projects for strengthening advocacy capacities. For example, funding for trainings on human rights of people with disabilities and how to advocate at the level of the United Nations. The new CBID training also includes sessions on advocacy. Opportunities are also facilitated for representatives of people with disabilities to participate in political decision-making processes in donor countries & international level. The interim report will provide additional information and specific examples.