CBM
Independent Review Panel Feedback
Accountability Report 2020
Review Round September 2021

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8 October 2021

Dear Dr. Rainer Brockhaus,

Thank you for submitting your accountability report. We, the Independent Review Panel of Accountable Now, appreciate your efforts to strengthen accountability to communities, local partners, supporters, staff, donors, or other key constituencies. Our key focus is on accountability to those you serve. It is against this background that we critically discussed your report and came to the individual assessment below.

CBM twelve report, is an interim one that provides substantial information on the aspects needed to be developed in the previous report as per the previous feedback letter.

The Panel notes positively the good examples shared across the report to demonstrate progress on accountability practices such as those on strengthening partners' capacity (E4) ; however some of them are not supported by sufficient evidence. The IRP understands that some elements are still being deployed and more time is needed for evidence of positive impact (B1 and C5).

If you have any other feedback or comments on our work, please share them with us by sending them to the Accountable Now Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Accountable Now's Independent Review Panel

CBM's Accountability Report 2020
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Opening Statement from the Head of Organisation

The opening statement by CBM Chriatian Blind Mission's CEO, Dr. Rainer Brockhaus highlights the increased focus and efficiency as a result of the recent separation of the two independent CBM entities and the learnings generated by the changes.

It also highlights the pillars that guide CBM work, its mission and vision, and agility and accountability.

The opening statement emphasises the closer connection with the people and communities CBM works for and with, the review of key policies, and the focus on internal information sharing.

Cluster A: Impact Achieved

B. Positive results are sustained

B1	**Sustainability of your work** The response outlines programme processes, resources, and peer learning initiatives that have been reviewed/strengthened to address sustainability of CBM work in general and exit strategies specifically. Across them, there is an emphasis on collaboration and co-creation with partners. The IRP understands that CBM is still in process of implementing processes and new means for ensuring sustainability of its work beyond the project cycle. The panel looks forward to reading, in the next report, progress and evidence of how these have led to sustainable positive results for its partners.	**2**

C. We lead by example

C5	**Responsible stewardship for the environment** The timelines for the implementation of an environmental policy and for environmental performance reporting are provided.	**2**

	CBM contributed to the [Guide for Environmentally Sustainable Practices in the Eye Health Sector](#). The report also states that CBM promotes environmental stewardship in its projects. The IRP welcomes CBM's engagement for enhanced environmental sustainability reporting, within the organisation and within the eye health sector. Examples of how CBM has promoted environmental stewardship in its projects would have helped the IRP understand how this engagement has been embedded.	

Cluster B: Stakeholder Involvement

E. We listen to, involve and empower stakeholders

E4	**People and partners have gained capacities that last beyond your immediate intervention** CBM's partnership process has been reviewed, outlining a more explicit partner development pathway and capacity development requirements, which are jointly agreed with partners. Country offices are provided with a 5-year funding framework. Several examples of capacity development, strengthening local networks and other initiatives at project level are shared. The IRP welcomes CBM's plan to strengthen the capacities of its country offices and partner organisations in DDR/preparedness. In the next report, the IRP suggests including information on how the inclusion process, and the Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) have been multiplied by participants, as it might be a good practice to be shared across Accountable Now membership and beyond. It is also recommended to assess effectiveness of training programmes and capacity building delivered to measure long-term impacts.	*3*

F. Our advocacy work addresses the root cause of problems

F1	**Evidence regarding the root causes of the problems you address** The report states that processes to assess root causes vary depending on type of work. Context analysis and consultation with stakeholders take place ahead of strategic planning. Participation and community involvement are central to CBM approach, and consultation with stakeholders is carried to inquiry into root causes of development issues. Examples of how the participatory approach is	*4*

	implemented in strategic planning, and how it led to programming and allowed more inclusion in some partner organisations are shared. An example of research work with academia to produce evidence of linkages between humanitarian action and disability is shared (more info on one of the components here).	
F2	*Stakeholders support your advocacy work and value changes achieved* At the country level, CBM supports partners' advocacy and also implements its own advocacy work. Several examples are provided to illustrate the approach and the type of support provided, through funding, training and technical expertise. At the international level, CBM's advocacy work "facilitates opportunities for representatives of people with disabilities from the Global South to participate in decision making processes". Two examples are provided to illustrate this.	*4*