

# **CBM Italia Onlus Annual Report 2021**





CHAPTER 1

# Background

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# Disability in the world



1 bln

persons with disabilities in the world, equal to

15,3%

of the global population.

*WHO and World Bank, 2011*



30%

the percentage of children with disabilities who have never been to school.

*Global Partnership for Education and World Bank*



80%

the percentage of persons with disabilities who live in low and middle-income countries.

*WHO and World Bank, 2011*



7

The UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals that explicitly mention persons with disabilities.





# The relationship between poverty and disability

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disability refers to the existence of “long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.

The disability of a person, therefore, does not depend solely on their state of health but, rather, on the dynamic interactions of their impairment with a series of environmental factors.

This is one of the main reasons for which **a greater incidence of disability is observed in the Global South.**

As stated in the World Report on Disabilities (2011), the incidence of disability in the population falls as average income rises. So, there is indeed **a relationship between poverty and disability: a vicious circle in which one feeds the other and vice versa.**

**Poverty**, in fact, is associated with malnutrition, living in unhealthy environments, the absence of hygiene and clean water, and economic and logistical challenges in accessing prevention services and adequate treatment.

According to the WHO (World Health Organisation), over half the persons with disabilities cannot afford the healthcare

they need, a value which is more than 15 percentage points greater than the rest of the population.

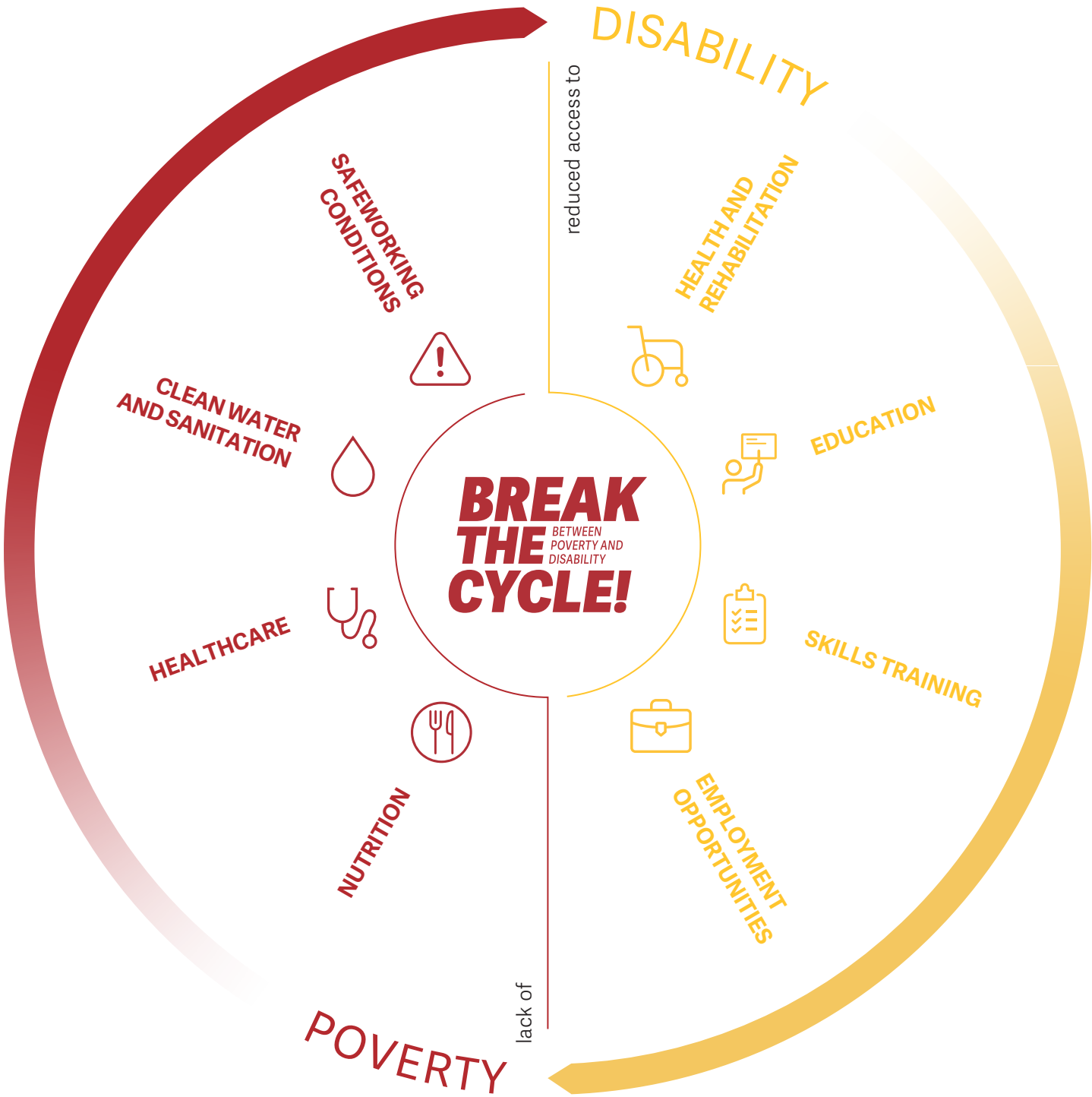
In addition, developing countries are more likely to have additional barriers in access to health services, given the shortages of adequate infrastructure and specialist medical personnel, as well as the existence of physical obstacles to treatment, such as a lack of equipment for the clinical examination of persons with disabilities.

At the same time, **persons with disabilities** are exposed to the risk of poverty, due to the additional expenditures necessary to meet the needs associated with their disability, as well as the existence of barriers that hinder access to education, training and employment.

Numerous studies show an inverse relationship between disability and education. For example, according to the report entitled “The price of exclusion: disability and education – Disability gaps in educational attainment and literacy” (2017), based on a study conducted in 19 developing countries, about **30% of children with disabilities have never been to school.**

This vicious circle can only be broken by acting on multiple levels. On the one hand, **it is necessary to work within communities to guarantee prevention and access to treatment** and, on the other, it is important to **guarantee an inclusive environment** within which persons with disabilities can live, enjoy their human rights and achieve their potential.

The need to tackle topics linked to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in an organic and crosscutting manner is also addressed in the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Persons with disabilities are explicitly mentioned in 7 targets and 11 indicators.





# Disability in the SDGs

Disability is referenced in various parts of the SDGs and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs, for instance:



## QUALITY EDUCATION

**4.5**  
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

**4.a**  
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**11.2**  
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

**11.7**  
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**8.5**  
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.



## PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

**17.18**  
By 2030, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.



## REDUCE INEQUALITY

**10.2**  
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.





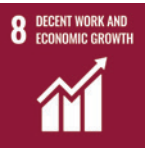


# Why does eye health matter to the Agenda 2030 SDGs?



## NO POVERTY

90% of vision loss in low- and middle-income countries, with the poor and extreme poor the furthest left behind. Vision loss costs the global economy \$411 billion every year in lost productivity alone.



## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Providing glasses can increase workplace productivity by 22%. Cataract surgery can increase household per capita expenditure by 88%.



## ZERO HUNGER

Eye care can increase household income and reduce hunger: 46% of households moved up an income bracket following cataract surgery.



## REDUCED INEQUALITY

Women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, local communities refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants are most affected by poor vision. 73% of people with vision loss are over the age of 50,



## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Poor eye health increases the risk of mortality up to 2,6 times.



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Unoperated cataract can increase the chance of a motor vehicle accident by 2,5 times.



## QUALITY EDUCATION

91 million children have a vision impairment but do not have access to the eye care services they need. Glasses can reduce the odds of failing a class by 44%. Children with vision loss are 2-5 times less likely to be in formal education in low- and middle-income countries.



## CLIMATE ACTION

The health sector, including eye care, is responsible for 4,4% of all greenhouse gas emissions and has other impacts on the environment. Climate change may also increase the prevalence of eye conditions and disrupt eye care delivery.



## INCREASED GENDER EQUALITY

55% of people with vision loss are women and girls.



## PARTNERSHIP

Vision for everyone cannot be achieved without partnership.





CHAPTER 2

# Identity

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## 2.1 CBM Italy: breaking the cycle between poverty and disability

### BREAK THE CYCLE

CBM Italia is a Non-Governmental Organisation committed to preventing and treating blindness and avoidable disability, as well as to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Global South and in Italy. Founded in 2001, CBM Italia has been recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation since 2009,

**CBM Italia is part of CBM (Christian Blind Mission), an international organisation active since 1908 that seeks to include and improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities who live in Africa, Asia and Latin America.**

CBM Italia works in synergy and coordination with CBM International. Being part of an international network, supported by **regional hubs and country offices throughout the world**, makes it possible to define and implement effective and efficient interventions, thanks to the collaboration with international technical advisors, to joint planning of how to use the economic resources available and the sharing of skills, the sharing of expertise and best practices, as well as the active participation in other international networks operating in the sector.

**CBM Italia is committed to breaking the cycle between poverty and disability**

by implementing projects that promote health, education and independent living, and humanitarian action that focuses on persons with disabilities and their rights, consistent with the principles embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The activities of CBM Italia concentrate on two principal action areas: Inclusive Eye Health and Community-Based Inclusive Development with, in addition, aid programmes that respond to humanitarian and environmental emergencies.

In 2021, CBM Italia developed initiatives in 13 countries in the Global South: India, Nepal, Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Bolivia, Guatemala and Paraguay.

**BREAK  
THE  
CYCLE!**





**INCLUSIVE EYE HEALTH**

*Inclusive Eye Health* projects seek to guarantee eye health for those living in the poorest communities without access to the necessary treatments and services.

The initiatives involve **local doctors and personnel who work to prevent and reduce avoidable vision disabilities by preventing and treating the principal causes of blindness and vision impairment**, like cataracts, refractive errors and retinopathy, and such Neglected Tropical Eye Diseases as trachoma.

This strategic action area also encompasses initiatives to ensure that **blind and vision-impaired persons are included at all levels in their communities**, with the same opportunities as everyone else, and initiatives for persons whose health impedes their access to prevention and eye care services.

Inclusive Eye Health initiatives include the direct provision of services for the prevention and treatment of vision disabilities, such as screening, examinations and surgery, the supply of specialist equipment or other resources to local hospitals and ophthalmology centres, the distribution of spectacles and devices, the provision of mobile clinics so that remote areas without healthcare services can be reached, the development of activities designed to prevent and treat Neglected Tropical Diseases, and the delivery of specialist training to local doctors and personnel.

**COMMUNITY BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The Community-Based Inclusive Development action area encompasses all those projects that seek to generate a positive change in the lives of persons with disabilities and their families, **reducing the risk of poverty and exclusion from those social contexts** that persons with disabilities are entitled to frequent, such as schools or workplaces, but do not because of local adversities.

This inclusive approach, based on community and centred on the individual, strives both to **prevent avoidable causes of disability and include persons with disabilities in all aspects of society**.

Some interventions primarily focus on **promoting the rights of persons with disabilities** and their inclusion and participation in the community, while others aim to improve health conditions via **prevention, treatment and rehabilitation activities, carried out both directly and indirectly**. A third type of project seeks to enhance the skills and abilities of persons with disabilities via **inclusive education and initiatives to increase their economic independence by earning their own livelihood**.

Certain inclusive education projects seek to guarantee the accessibility of schools, inclusive teaching and training of teachers in the inclusion of children with disabilities.

The initiatives to enhance economic independence include **training and job placement programmes**, as well as **food security and micro-credit projects**.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMMES**

For persons with disabilities, the problems deriving from emergency situations set challenges that are even more difficult to overcome.

In fact, as seen during the pandemic, but even in the case of environmental catastrophes or conflicts, **disabilities are often absent from emergency relief plans**.

Persons with disabilities are left behind, with greater difficulty in obtaining the help they need. During emergencies, CBM collaborates with the local

and international partners and organisations active in the rescue work, including via advocacy, training and awareness-building efforts.

A “twin track” approach is adopted to the management of emergencies, with a view to ensuring that aid is available to all, including persons with disabilities and the most vulnerable, such as the elderly and children, and that the actors committed to delivering humanitarian aid are able to provide support that takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities.



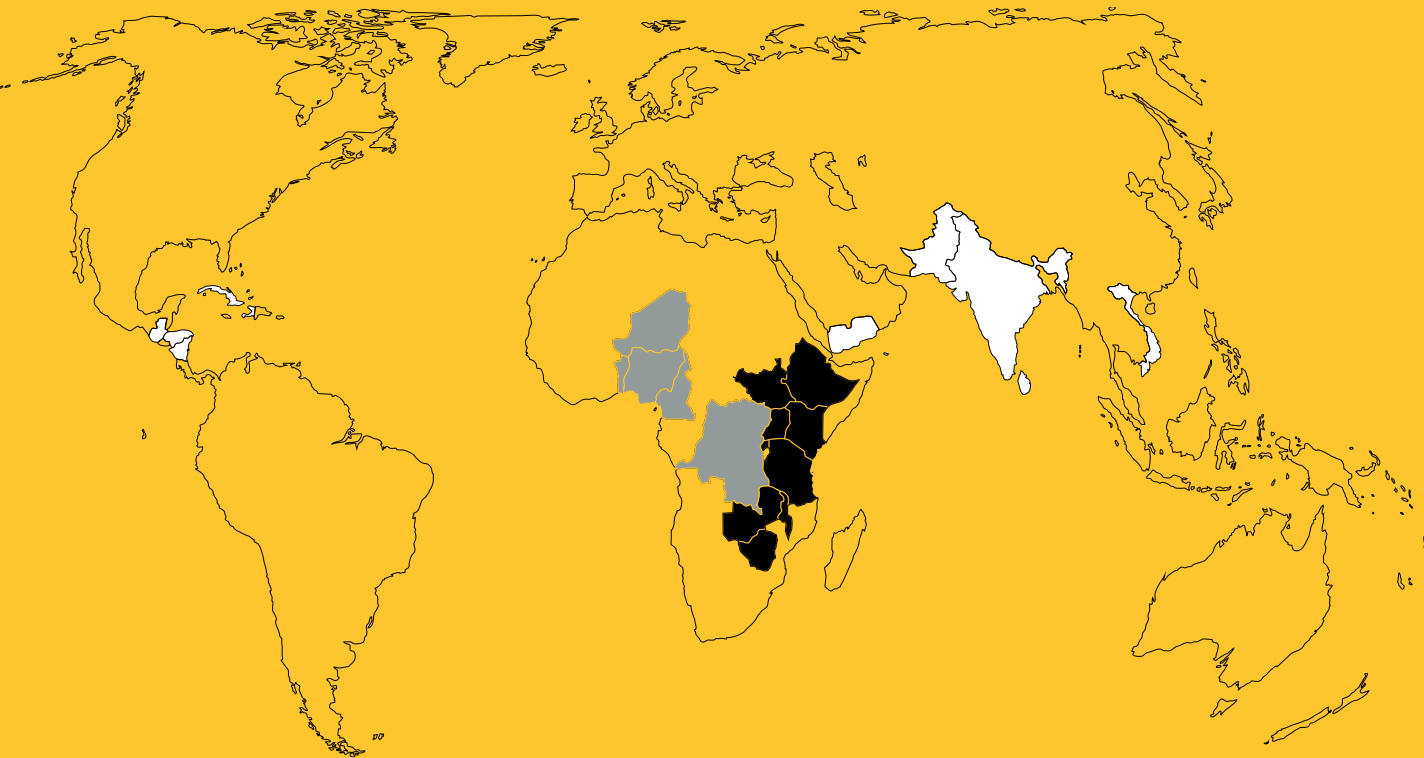


# CBM Country Offices and Regional Hubs

In addition to assisting local project partner organisations, each Country Office is responsible for preparing a country plan. This document identifies priorities and defines an inclusive approach to disabilities in the country for which it is responsible. In addition, each country office is committed to strengthening the capabilities of the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (DPO),

governmental bodies and civil society organisations present in the country, facilitating the creation of relations among them and promoting joint advocacy activities and the sharing of results, experiences and learnings. In total, 21 Country Offices support the CBM International Network, coordinated by 3 Regional Hubs:

- **EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA**  
Coordinates the country offices in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**  
Coordinates the country offices in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo
- **ASIA AND AMERICA**  
Coordinates the country offices in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Middle East, Central America, Haiti.



## 2.2 The CBM Italia action model

When developing projects, CBM Italia works in partnership with local, regional, national and international actors and institutions, including governmental organisations, regional bodies, multilateral institutions, local or international NGOs and consortia of sector operators. These partnerships, created on the initiative of CBM Italia or proposed by one of the actors involved, may take the form of financial support, the development of skills or collaboration on a series of national or global initiatives. CBM Italia supports the work of partners, not only by making skills and technical resources available, but also by acting in synergy with local governments and institutions, organisations of persons with disabilities, academia and both public and private donors, in order to create favourable environmental conditions for the success of each initiative promoted.

At an international level, CBM Italia, just like all organisations within the CBM International network, can count on **Country Offices, in the locations where initiatives are carried out, that are coordinated by Regional Hubs.**

The constant presence of a CBM contact in the proximity of areas where projects are promoted makes it possible to provide partners with continuous support in terms of monitoring, evaluating and reporting on projects while, at the same time, providing them with the technical advice needed to guarantee high quality programmes, and identify and disseminate best practices.

The efforts of the Country Offices and Regional Hubs are supported by the teams **responsible for each initiative.** These teams, comprising international experts

tasked with establishing programme priorities and global guidelines, ensure the maintenance of qualitative standards and represent CBM in the international networks active in the sector.



# Our history



Ernst Jakob Christoffel, founder of CBM. Born in 1876 in Rheydt, Germany, he dedicated his life to the blind, the poor and persons with disabilities, abandoned by all. He left no one behind, becoming the pioneer of inclusion.



In Malatia, Turkey, Christoffel founded a home for blind and otherwise children with disabilities, orphans and those who had been abandoned. This planted the first roots of CBM, Christian Blind Mission. Expelled from Turkey after the First World War broke out, he remained undeterred.



Christoffel moved to Iran where, in 1925, he set up two homes in Tabriz and Isfahan, respectively for blind and otherwise disabled young people.



During the Second World War, Christoffel was arrested and left Iran. Returning there in 1951, he continued to help persons with disabilities, the poor and the abandoned, until his death in 1955. His tombstone reads: *«Father of the blind, persons with disabilities and orphans».*



CBM recognised as a “Non-State Actor in official relations with the World Health Organisation”, with which it collaborates.



CBM performs the first cataract operation.



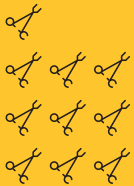
CBM Italia Onlus, Christian Missions for blind people in the world, founded in Milan.



CBM appointed consultant for the prevention of blindness to the United Nations.



CBM Italia recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



CBM reaches the milestone of **10 million cataract operations** around the world.



CBM reaches the milestone of **15 million cataract operations** around the world.



CBM is one of the principal organisations for development cooperation, working to include the blind and persons with disabilities and help improve the quality of their lives.

## 2.3 Network and alliances

CBM Italia seeks the cooperation and involvement of partners that share the same vision and values. This is consistent with the approach adopted when developing projects in the field, when looking for constructive dialogue with institutions and when building awareness to create a fully-inclusive society for persons with disabilities.

For this reason, during 2021 CBM Italia continued to participate actively in the networks of civil society organisations, especially in the context of international cooperation, in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The participation of CBM Italia intends to share good practices, facilitate dialogue and gather the new ideas that emerge from discussions.



## 2.4 Governance structure

CBM Italia was founded as a charity in 2001. During the past twenty years, the Association has evolved in response to operational needs and regulatory changes, modifying not only its operational approach, but also its organisational structure and governance bodies.

The key documents governing the life of the Association are the **Articles of Association** and the **Code of ethics and conduct**.

The Articles of Association define the objects, the statutory bodies and the methods of functioning of CBM Italia, while the Code of ethics and conduct defines the guiding principles that underpin all activities. The governance and control of the Association are entrusted to the various bodies identified in the Articles of Association.

### BOARD MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

The Board Members Assembly is the top decision-making body of CBM Italia, comprising 17 members responsible for resolving on general guidelines for the Association and operational matters, as well as for approving the regulations. In addition, the Assembly elects the members of the Management Board and the Board of Auditors and approves the financial statements.

### MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board, currently comprising 5 members elected by the Assembly, exercises the widest powers for the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Association. This Board is responsible for devising programmes to carry out the activities of the Organisation,



preparing the financial statements, establishing satellite offices, recommending changes to the articles of association and adopting all appropriate measures for the proper functioning of the Association that are not reserved for the Assembly.

INTERNAL CONTROL BODIES

The Board of Auditors checks that the accounting records are kept properly, examines the annual financial statements and documents the audit work performed in the Book of Meetings and Resolutions. The Control Body also monitors compliance with statutory, solidarity and social utility objects of the Associations and certifies that the financial statements are prepared in compliance with the relevant ministerial guidelines.<sup>4,5</sup> Etica e integrità

2.5 Ethics and integrity

CODE OF ETHICS

The **Code of ethics** and conduct represents a commitment to ethical and lawful conduct, consistent with the values, mission and professional standards of CBM Italia. This Code, binding for employees, members of the Management Board and third parties involved in activities relating to CBM Italia, is founded on the standards defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Humanitarian Charter; the INGO Accountability Charter (Accountable Now) and the Code of Conduct of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and is consistent with the policies and guidelines of CBM International.

The Code establishes the guiding principles and standards of conduct that must be adopted by all parties that act on behalf of or in partnership with CBM Italia, as well as the types of conduct that are deemed unacceptable.

The Code of ethics and conduct also includes specific sections on the management of potential conflicts of interest between the internal activities of CBM Italia and external activities, as well as on whistle-blowing procedures and the management of improprieties.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Particular attention is dedicated to ensuring that field work does not expose children and adults to any risk of violence, mistreatment or harm. For this reason, CBM International has defined a specific policy to safeguard children and adults at risk, or who may be vulnerable.

This policy is accompanied by the **Code of conduct** that all employees and third parties working on behalf of CBM Italia must sign and respect. Key points in the Code include acceptance of the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, respecting without discrimination their dignity, personal autonomy and independence, and promoting their full and effective inclusion and participation. They also include respect for and attention to the dignity and culture of children and adults, taking care to avoid inappropriate conduct and applying the «two adults» rule in relations with them.





# CBM people



94,7%

the percentage of employees on permanent contracts.



86,8%

the percentage of CBM Italia employees who are women.



505h

the training hours delivered to employees in 2021,



114%

the increase in average training hours received by each employee compared with 2020,

## 2.6 Our people

In order to achieve its mission, CBM Italia can count on the professionalism, skill and passion of those employees who work every day to establish an inclusive society for persons with disabilities. CBM Italia has 38 employees at the end of 2021, most of whom are women (86,8%). 94,7% Of employees are on permanent contracts.

In line with the specificity of the intervention model adopted, according to which the fundraising and management of relations with supporters are entirely entrusted to CBM Italia, while the responsibilities for the development, management and monitoring of projects in the field, they are shared with the partners, the Country Offices and those responsible for initiatives, most of the Organization's employees are involved in the marketing and communication area (42%), followed by that relating to program management (24%). To employees 6 contract professionals are added, mainly involved in supporting projects in the field.







## CHAPTER 3

# Projects in the Global South

3

### Projects in the Global South

CBM in the World  
Community-based Inclusive Development  
Emergency response programmes  
Advocacy

30



# Numbers for CBM projects in the Global South



3,20 mln

funds dedicated by CBM Italia in 2021 to supporting

30

projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



79,5%

of total investment concentrated in Africa in 2021,



0,96 mln

persons reached by initiatives to prevent Neglected Tropical Diseases, such as trachoma.



1,3 mln

beneficiaries reached by various types of project.

## 3 Projects in the Global South

Especially in the Global South, poverty and disability are closely interconnected: those who live in poverty have greater difficulty in accessing adequate nutrition and healthcare, which are factors that increase the probability of having a disability. At the same time, access to education and, subsequently, to the world of work is often barred to persons with disabilities, thus increasing the risk of living in poverty.

According to World Bank and WHO estimates, children with disabilities in the Global South are 2,5 times more likely to be excluded from school with respect to those of the same age without disabilities and, after growing up, only 2 in 10 manage to find work.

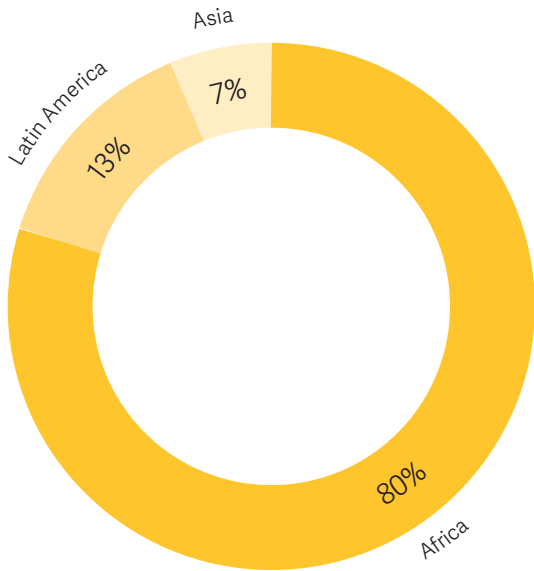
Working at an international level, the projects of CBM Italia seek to break the cycle between poverty and disability in precisely those countries in which that relationship is most evident, given the unfavourable environments there.

During 2021, CBM Italia allocated 3,20 million euro to supporting 30 projects in 13 countries in the Global South: India, Nepal, Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Bolivia, Guatemala and Paraguay.

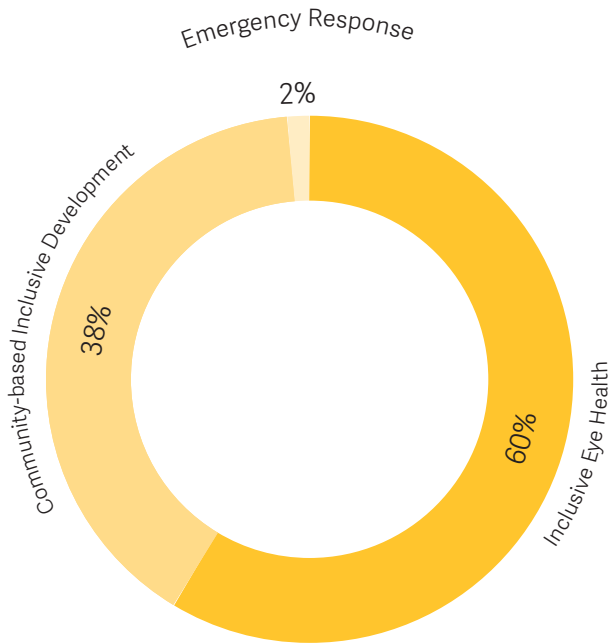
In geographical terms, the investment was mostly concentrated in Africa (79,5%), especially in Uganda (24%), Ethiopia (15%) and South Sudan (13%). Out of the total, 59,5% or more than 1,83 million euro was dedicated to the development of Inclusive Eye Health (IEH) projects. The remainder was spread between Community-Based

Inclusive Development (CBID) projects (38,5%) and action in response to humanitarian emergencies (2%).

INVESTMENTS BY CONTINENT



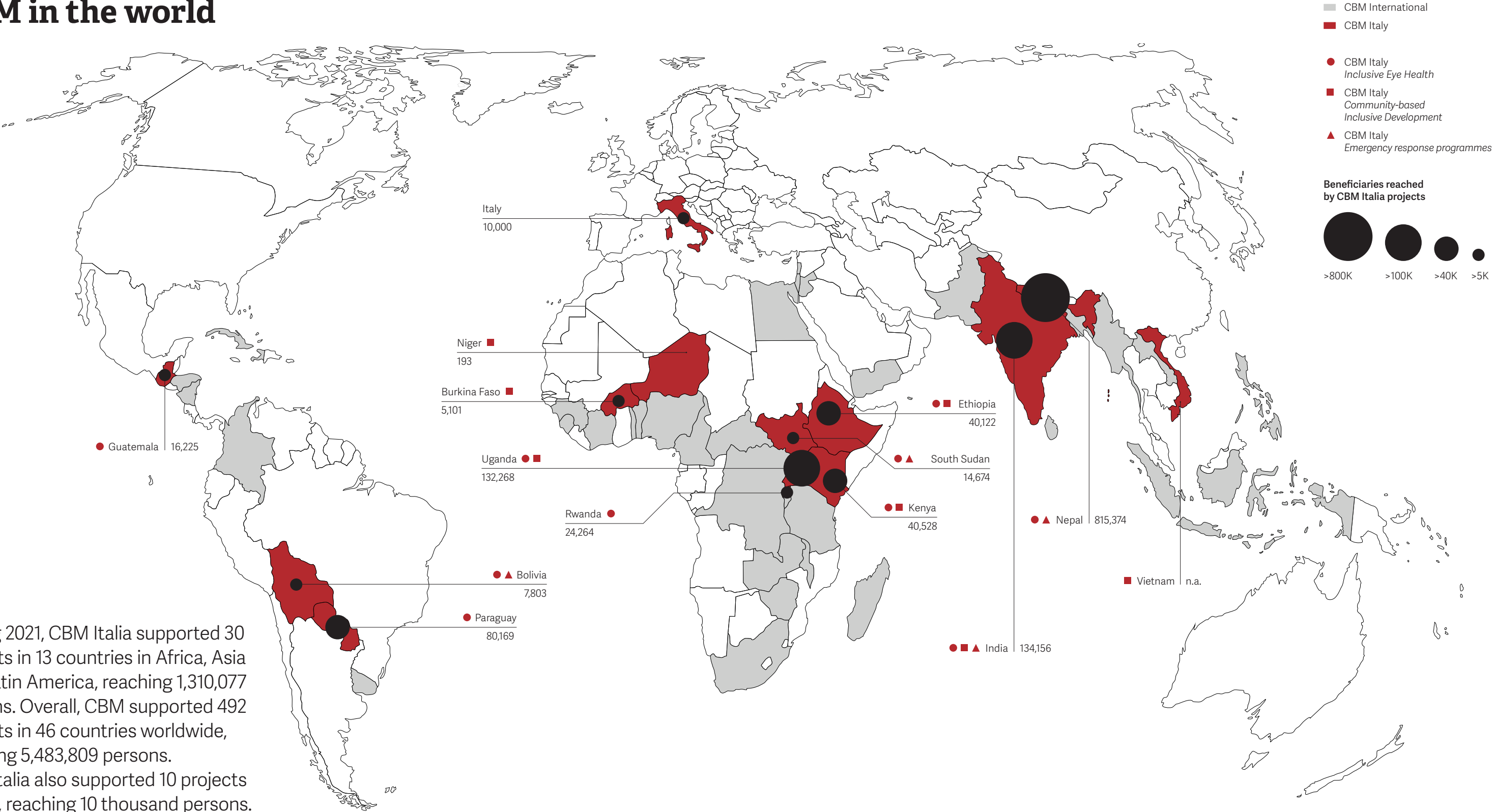
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS RAISED BY TYPE OF PROJECT





# CBM in the world

During 2021, CBM Italia supported 30 projects in 13 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, reaching 1,310,077 persons. Overall, CBM supported 492 projects in 46 countries worldwide, reaching 5,483,809 persons. CBM Italia also supported 10 projects in Italy, reaching 10 thousand persons.



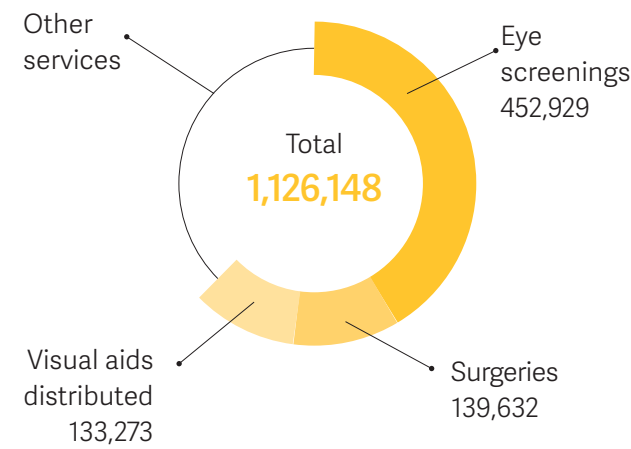


Overall, supported projects reached 1,3 million beneficiaries, plus a further 1,15 million persons who received medicines to prevent the onset of Neglected Tropical Diseases (0,96 million) or were involved in action to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic (0,19 million).

2021 was a special year for CBM Italia, as almost 70% of the outstanding projects were completed on the natural conclusion of their long-term life cycles.

Final assessments of the initiatives concerned were carried out during the year. These assessments took into account the results achieved with respect to the objectives set, as well as the necessary changes made to manage the pandemic and the sustainability of the initiatives. In this way, it was possible to identify areas for improvement, as well as opportunities for expansion or for the replication of successful experiences in new areas.

**BENEFICIARIES OF INCLUSIVE EYE HEALTH PROJECTS**





## COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The *Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)* approach, centred on the individual, seeks to ensure that **persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of life** and can participate actively in their communities.

**12 Community-Based Inclusive Development projects were carried out in 2021**, covering rehabilitation, inclusive education, vocational training and job placement, food security and micro-credit programmes.

These projects, supported in 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Niger, Uganda, Vietnam), involved 18,010 persons. In most cases, the beneficiaries of the CBID projects were persons with a physical disability (83% of the total), followed by those with vision disabilities (8%) and cerebral paralysis (3%).

During 2021, CBM Italia launched a series of new projects to promote resilient communities capable of responding to and overcoming the crises caused by climate change, natural catastrophes such as droughts or floods, and even exceptional events like the Covid-19 pandemic.

In some cases, for example, persons with disabilities and their families participated in training and activities to improve their local agricultural systems. The objectives were to make these systems more resistant to climate change and avoid crop losses, improve household nutrition and enable families to engage in commercial activities that increase their income.

Alongside this, other initiatives worked together with schools and local communities to produce food in support of malnourished girls and boys, thus improving their nutritional intake and eliminating one of the principal risk factors linked to the emergence of a disability while, at the same time, increasing their school attendance.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMMES

During emergencies, persons with disabilities have a higher death rate than others because they receive warnings late, are often excluded from rescue efforts and have greater problems accessing humanitarian aid (distribution of food, water, shelter and healthcare services). In addition, events such as earthquakes and floods may damage their support devices and aids (wheelchairs, sticks, prosthetics), or their movements may be made impossible by damage to the roads and other infrastructure.

CBM Italia works closely with the local and international partners and organisations engaged in emergency rescue work to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities as well, consistent with art. 11 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the Covid-19 emergency, persons with disabilities were among the most vulnerable to the virus, due to difficulties in maintaining social distancing with their family members, caregivers and doctors, as well as to the existence of pre-existing conditions that made the infection more severe.

For these reasons, the emergency management projects developed by CBM during 2021 included awareness building and training on virus prevention, the distribution of health kits and food to families, the creation of water access points in hospitals and villages, and the offer of medical treatment.

In total, 193,888 persons benefited from work carried out to manage the pandemic response as part of 9 projects in Bolivia, India, Nepal and South Sudan.

## ADVOCACY

Via advocacy efforts, CBM Italia strives to establish a **constructive dialogue with the institutions, in order to affirm the rights of persons with disabilities and promote a fully-inclusive society**.

These activities involve discussions with national institutions and international bodies, in order to keep persons with disabilities at the forefront when determining both domestic policies and international cooperation policies, consistent with the principles embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified by Italy in 2009,

At national level, in the context of Italy's presidency of the G20 in 2021, CBM Italia participated in the working parties of Civil Society 20 (C20) dedicated to international cooperation in the context of the Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities, agreeing furthermore to analyse the survey data obtained by the Observatory with regard to disabilities, Covid-19 and emergencies in general.

The collaborations activated in prior years have continued, especially those with ASviS, GCE and CINI; at the same time, relations have been intensified with the leading organisations and networks that tackle disabilities, poverty and inclusion at national level, such as Forum Italiano Disabilità (FID), Coalizione Italiana contro la Povertà (GCAP), the working party for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Group) and the Committee for the promotion and safeguarding of human rights.

At an international level, working in synergy with the Advocacy department of CBM International, CBM Italia has helped to activate the team that will coordinate the preparation of commitments for the Global Disability Summit, in a process of monitoring and awareness

building on the topic of Disability Inclusive Development that will continue until 2025, In addition, inclusion in the European Disability Forum was formalised during the year.

These advocacy activities will continue along the path traced over the year, involving further discussions with and active contributions to the national and international networks joined by the Association, all focused on the key topics of disability, social inclusion and poverty.

CBM also plans to develop a pilot training course in the context of Disability Inclusive Development, mostly for the benefit of Civil Society Organisations (CSO).





# CBM in Italy: a new direction



Commencing from 2020, the experience acquired in applying the principles of disability mainstreaming to the design and implementation of CBM programmes in the Global South has been extended to Italy, with initiatives that support **inclusive education, independent living and health and access to quality treatment** for persons with disabilities.

The approach taken in Italy actively involves persons with disabilities and inclusive planning experts in the various development phases of each initiative, while also creating networks among the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and other important actors,

such as institutions and territorial bodies, which is key to understanding local needs and defining responses that are relevant in the circumstances.

The decision to extend this approach with specific projects in Italy was accelerated in 2020 by the COVID-19 emergency, which often left persons with disabilities without treatment, support networks or social services, as compounded by an increased sense of isolation and vulnerability.

**A total of 10 projects were active during 2021**, including 6 new projects with long-term objectives. The other initiatives completed projects launch in 2020 in response to the initial COVID-19 emergency.

## Summary data on CBM projects in Italy from 2020



3

Action areas on which CBM has concentrated in Italy: inclusive education, independent living and health and access to quality treatment.



10

projects in progress, 6 of which are new.



9,387

children in infant and primary schools throughout Italy, as well as



317

teachers and parents, involved in educational paths addressing inclusion and solidarity.



38

boys and girls with CHARGE syndrome reached by independent living projects.



8,466

children aged between 3 and 10 involved in the "Apriamo gli occhi!" ("Eyes Open!") educational project, together with



115

teachers, to enhance awareness about the values of solidarity and inclusion.



204

hospital healthcare, administrative and customer service persons involved in meetings and psychological support activities regarding the COVID-19 emergency.



102

social-healthcare and education-rehabilitation personnel and family members involved in building skills for the management of children with disabilities.



## Inclusive education

Consistent with the strategic objective of maximising impact via the selection of projects to promote, CBM Italia **has chosen to focus more on inclusive education initiatives**, where the organisation has greater experience and longer established relations.

The projects have been pursued with the involvement of experts in the field of poverty education and the participation of senior academics and leaders from the territorial organisations closest to the real needs.

**The “Apriamo gli Occhi!” (“Eyes Open!”) educational project was also extended into 2021, with the involvement of 8,466 children and 115 teachers.** CBM Italia has promoted this project since 2014, Dedicated to children aged between 3 and 10 and their teachers, this project seeks to build awareness about the values of solidarity and inclusion, which underpin the work of CBM in the Global South and in Italy. The children practice such social skills as empathy, awareness and openness, which are fundamental when promoting a culture of inclusion.

During 2021, the educational path was enriched with new content on the topic of human rights, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and more consistent with the objectives and key aspects of Global Citizenship Education and Agenda 2030,

The project has offered teachers additional materials to enrich their civic education programmes.

In addition, a new webinar format has been devised and tested to discuss the rights of persons with disabilities, extending participation to non-scholastic bodies

(libraries, associations, education centres and communities) that work with children in the project age range.

A **national Global Citizenship Education project** was also completed successfully during the year, together with a project for infant and primary schools in the suburbs of Verona, Vicenza, Belluno and Mantua, in order to develop skills and values on the topics of disability and cultural diversity among students and their educators.

## Indipendent living

**Among various projects to help develop the independence and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, CBM has launched the “Come l’Acqua” (“Like Water”) project.** This project offers customised education-rehabilitation therapies to children affected by CHARGE Syndrome, a rare genetic disease recognised as a leading cause of congenital deaf blindness.

“Come l’Acqua” follows up on the experience of the earlier “+ARIA” project, while adopting a broader and longer-term approach. During 2021, beneficiary families throughout Italy were provided with personalised education-rehabilitation therapies, both at home and in dedicated centres.

This project will continue in 2022 and will extend to the development of communication methodologies, such as the use of Italian Sign Language, Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Braille.

Again in the context of “Independent Living”, CBM is participating in the new **“Abitiamo il Futuro”** (“Living the Future”) project promoted by the SON (Speranza Oltre Noi) Association. This will facilitate the social inclusion of persons with disabilities via the creation of a residential facility intended to support their progress towards personal autonomy.

The facility will be inaugurated during 2022 and CBM Italia will continue the established collaboration, in order to create a place of life and cultural animation, open to the territory and welcoming to those with other fragilities.

## Health and access to quality treatment

In the healthcare area, the “Tu curi, io ti ascolto” (“You cure, I listen”) project was completed in December 2021 after reaching 204 doctors and administrative staff at the Humanitas San Pio X Hospital in Milan.

This programme promoted the activation of individuals and teams and strengthened their resilience, thereby reducing the potential adverse impacts associated with management of the healthcare emergency.





## CHAPTER 4

# Economical and financial position

4

### Economical and financial position

Funding sources in 2021  
Economic value created and distributed  
Partnership

46



# Economic sustainability in numbers



7,63 mln

euro from donations collected by CBM Italia.



281%

the average return on investment from each euro spent on fund-raising activities and promotional messages.



54,842

the individual CBM Italia donors who contributed



75%

of the funds raised.



15%

of donations from regular donors.

## 4 Economical and financial position

The ability of CBM Italia to work on breaking the vicious cycle between poverty and disability is linked to the sustainability of its operational model that, in turn, is based on mobilisation of the resources and support provided by a broad network of private donors and institutional sources.

The 54,842 individual donors who, together with bodies, foundations and firms, decided to support CBM Italia in 2021, made it possible to collect 763 million euro.

About 75% came from individual donations, 20% from grants made by institutions, bodies and foundations following calls for funding applications, and 5% from collaborations with firms. Individual donors contribute the majority of the funds collected, although the relative percentage has declined in recent years due to a rise in income from institutional donors.

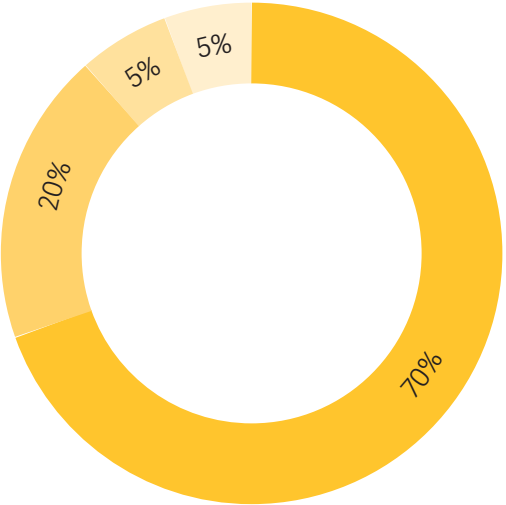
This diversification of donors is indeed fundamental for the sustainability of the Association over the long term and for its ability to support projects in the Global South and in Italy.







**FUNDING SOURCES IN 2021**



- 20% Institutions and foundations
- 5% 5x1000 tax allocations
- 5% Companies
- 70% Individual donors

**ECONOMIC VALUE CREATED AND DISTRIBUTED**

The economic-financial results and balance sheet of CBM Italia are detailed in the 2021 Financial Statements and Mission Report. Despite complexities linked to the pandemic, which have continued to influence the work carried out by CBM Italia, the Association remains financially stable with a 2021 surplus of 2,26 million euro on total income of 8,20 million euro.





# Partnerships

## Institutions



## Foundations



## Other bodies



## Companies





# Balance sheet as of 31 December 2021

| ASSETS                                 | 8,810,124 |
|--|-----------|
| B) fixed assets                        | 2,447,853 |
| I - intangible fixed assets            | 70,555    |
| 2) development costs                   | 70,555    |
| II - tangible fixed assets             | 2,377,299 |
| 1) land and buildings                  | 2,296,918 |
| 2) plant and machinery                 | 6,707     |
| 3) equipment                           | 675       |
| 4) other assets                        | 72,998    |
| C) current assets                      | 6,303,656 |
| I - stocks                             | 57,690    |
| 4) finished products and goods         | 57,690    |
| II - debtors, indicated separately     | 61,908    |
| 4) donations due from private parties  | 48,020    |
| 12) due from others                    | 13,888    |
| III - current financial assets         | 4,015,388 |
| 3) other securities                    | 4,015,388 |
| IV - liquid funds                      | 2,168,670 |
| 1) bank and postal deposits            | 2,165,738 |
| 3) cash and cash equivalents           | 2,932     |
| D) accrued income and prepaid expenses | 58,615    |

| LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS                           | 8,810,124 |
|---|-----------|
| A) own funds  | 7,350,891 |
| II - restricted funds                               | 427,908   |
| 2) funds restricted by institutional bodies         | 172,476   |
| 3) funds restricted for third parties               | 255,431   |
| III - unrestricted funds                            | 4,659,335 |
| 1) reserves from profits or surpluses               | 4,659,335 |
| IV - current year surplus/deficit                   | 2,263,649 |
| C) severance indemnities                            | 521,468   |
| D) creditors, indicated separately                  | 921,659   |
| 1) due to banks                                     | 1,234     |
| 4) due to bodies within the same network            | 158,880   |
| 7) due to suppliers                                 | 542,692   |
| 9) due to tax authorities                           | 50,235    |
| 10) due to social security and pension institutions | 100,013   |
| 11) due to employees and collaborators              | 68,604    |
| E) accrued expenses and deferred income             | 16,106    |





# Operating statement 2021

## INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

| COSTS AND CHARGES                                     |           | REVENUES AND INCOME                                      |           |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Raw, ancillary and consumable materials and goods     | -         | Income from memberships and contributions from founders  | 600       |
| Services  | 3,855,950 | Income from members for mutual activities                | -         |
| Leases and rentals                                    | -         | Revenues from services and sales to members and founders | -         |
| Personnel   | 879,062   | Gifts  | 343,645   |
| Depreciation  | -         | 5/1000 tax allocations                                   | 368,958   |
| Provisions for risks and charges                      | -         | Donations from private parties                           | 452,529   |
| Other operating expenses                              | 42,044    | Revenues from services and sales to third parties        | -         |
| Opening stocks  | -         | Grants from public bodies                                | -         |
| Provisions to fund restricted by institutional bodies | 1,438,022 | Income from contracts with public bodies                 | 821,664   |
|   |           | Other revenues and income                                | 1,048,100 |
|   |           | Closing stocks   | -         |
| TOTAL   | 3,339,035 | TOTAL  | 3,035,495 |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT (+/-)                                 |           |  | (303,540) |

## FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

| COSTS AND CHARGES                  |           | REVENUES AND INCOME                |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Regular fund-raising activities    | 1,071,843 | Regular fund-raising activities    | 4,963,116 |
| Occasional fund-raising activities | 126,028   | Occasional fund-raising activities | 205,100   |
| Other charges                      | 642,733   | Other income                       | -         |
| TOTAL                              | 1,840,604 | TOTAL                              | 5,168,216 |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT (+/-)              |           |                                    | 3,327,612 |

## FINANCING AND FUNDING ACTIVITIES

| COSTS AND CHARGES                |        | REVENUES AND INCOME         |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Bank accounts                    | 45,196 | Bank accounts               | 1,275  |
| Loans                            | -      | Other financial investments | 51,611 |
| Property                         | -      | Property                    | -      |
| Other assets                     | -      | Other assets                | -      |
| Provisions for risks and charges | -      | Other income                | 7,684  |
| Other charges                    | -      |                             |        |
| TOTAL                            | 45,196 | TOTAL                       | 60,570 |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT (+/-)            |        |                             | 15,374 |

## GENERAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

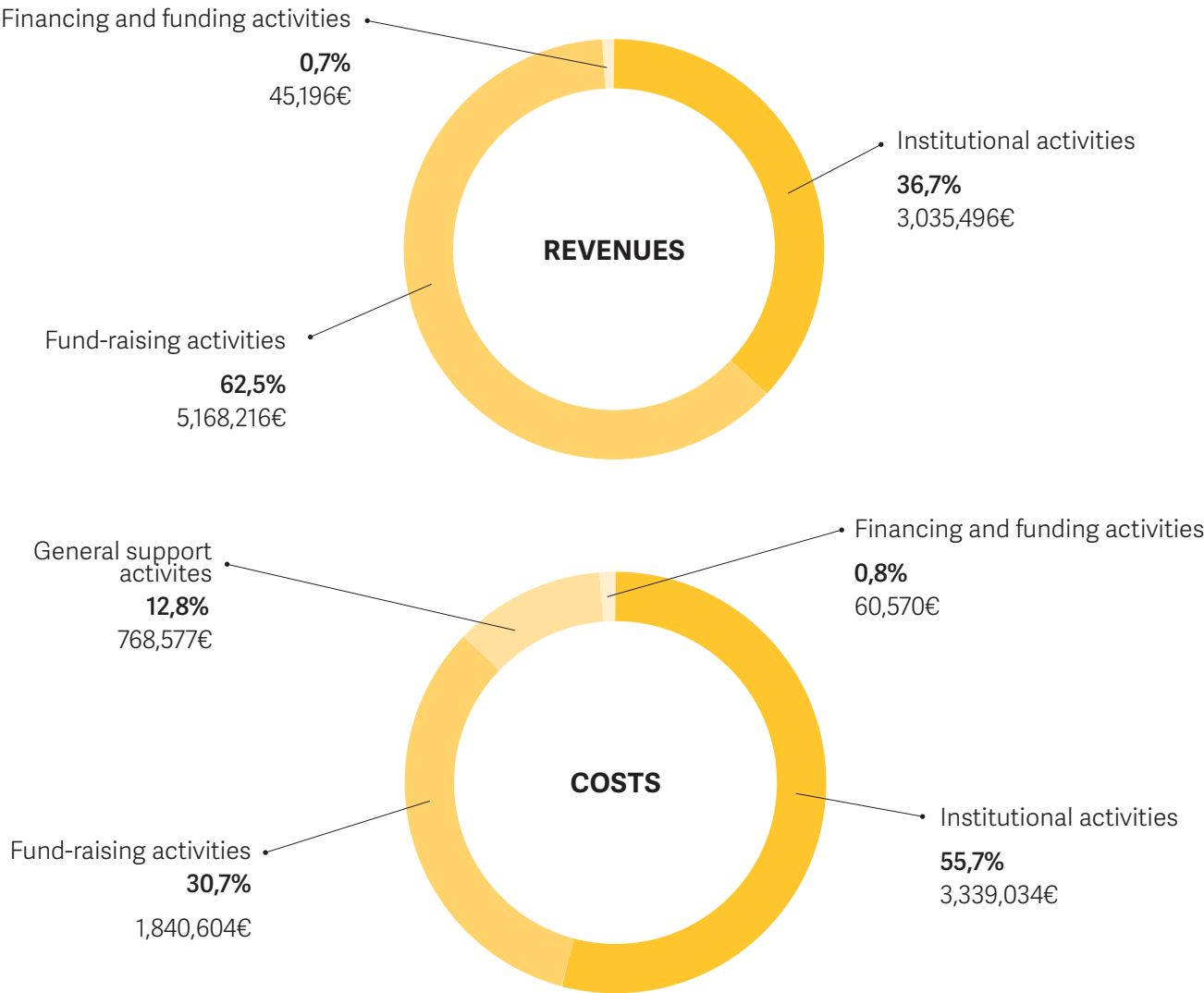
| COSTS AND CHARGES                                 |         | REVENUES AND INCOME                     |           |
|---|---------|---|-----------|
| Raw, ancillary and consumable materials and goods | -       | Income from the secondment of personnel | -         |
| Services  | 283,063 | Other general support income            | -         |
| Leases and rentals                                | -       |   |           |
| Personnel   | 313,574 |   |           |
| Depreciation                                      | 145,409 |   |           |
| Provisions for risks and charges                  | -       |   |           |
| Other charges                                     | 26,531  |   |           |
| TOTAL   | 768,577 | TOTAL                                   | -         |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT (+/-)                             |         |   | (768,577) |


## STATEMENT

|   |           |                           |           |
|---|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL COSTS AND CHARGES                   | 5,993,412 | TOTAL REVENUES AND INCOME | 8,264,282 |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TAXES | 2,270,870 | TAXES                     | 7,221     |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR              | 2,263,649 |                           |           |




# Allocation of operating income and charges





## 281%

the average return on investment from each euro spent on fund-raising activities and promotional messages.



## 88%

percentage of amount generated that CBM distributes and does not retain.

# Statement of economic value generated and distributed

In accordance with the GRI guidelines, this statement is based on a reclassification of the Operating statement in order to show how the economic value generated by the Association has been distributed to the principal stakeholders.

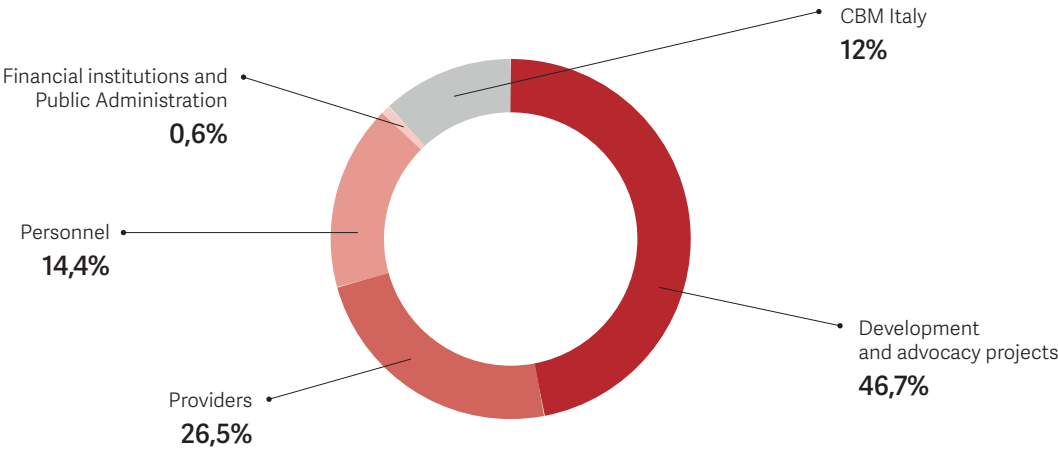
|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| A - ECONOMIC VALUE GENERATED     | 8,264,282 |
| Institutional activities         | 3,035,496 |
| Fund-raising activities          | 5,168,216 |
| Financial and funding activities | 60,570    |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| B - ECONOMIC VALUE DISTRIBUTED                      | 7,293,245 |
| Development and advocacy projects                   | 3,855,950 |
| Cost of fund-raising and general support activities | 2,192,242 |
| Payroll, benefits and development                   | 1,192,636 |
| Providers of capital                                | 45,196    |
| Payments to the Public Administration               | 7,221     |

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| C (A-B) - ECONOMIC VALUE RETAINED | 971,037    |
| Depreciation and write-downs      | 145,409    |
| Provisions and uses of funds      | -1,438,022 |
| Surplus for the year              | 2,263,650  |

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENERATED VALUE AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

- Distributed value 88%
- Retained value 12%





#### Annual report 2021

CBM Italia onlus

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**CBM Italia is  
a Non-Governmental  
Organisation committed  
to preventing and treating  
blindness and avoidable  
disability, as well as to the  
inclusion of persons with  
disabilities in the Global  
South and in Italy.**