

CBM Italia Onlus Activity Report 2022



CBM Italia Onlus

Activity Report 2022

Contents

1 Background	5	3 Our People	25
1.1 Disability in the world		3.1 CBM People	
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities			
1.2 The relationship between poverty and disability		CBM in Italy	29
The impact of climate change on persons with disabilities			
2 Identity	13	4 Objectives and activities	35
2.1 Who we are		4.1 Projects in the Global South	
The commitment of CBM Italy: break the relationship between poverty and disability		Inclusive eye health	
Strategic action areas and technical skills		Community-based inclusive development	
2.2 The CBM action model		Emergency response programmes	
2.3 Networks and alliances		4.2 Advocacy	
2.4 Governance structure		Networks and alliances	
Board members assembly		Training and advocacy	
Management board		4.3 Fundraising and Communications	
Control body		4.4 Reliability and transparency	
2.5 Ethics and integrity		4.5 Other information	
Code of ethics		Environmental policy	
Safeguarding policy		Data protection	
		Dispute resolution	



CHAPTER 1

Background

1.1

Disability in the world

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

7

1.2

The relationship between poverty and disability

The impact of climate change on persons with disabilities

9

Disability in the world - summary



1.3 bln

persons with disabilities in the world, equal to

16%

of the global population

Source: WHO 2022



142 mln

the number of persons with severe disabilities

Source: WHO 2022



~ 80%

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

Source: WHO 2022

1.1 Disability in the world

Disability is the result of interactions between the state of health and/or physical impairments of individuals and a series of factors linked to the environment and the society in which they live.

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”.

Ten years on, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a new **Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities** in 2022.

In this report, the WHO determines that the number of persons with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments has increased over the past 10 years, and that they are not included properly in the social system for environmental or social reasons.

In 2022, this number totalled approximately **1.3 billion people** or **16% of the global population** – just under the entire population of China or India. Although the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was approved in 2006 and signed by 184 countries around the world, there are still 1.3 billion persons who risk being unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights. On the contrary, they are frequently discriminated against and ignored.



This rise in number since the 2011 report is associated with various factors:

- increase in the global population
- ageing of populations
- increase in persons with non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, diabetes, cardiac and respiratory diseases)

These factors, due to demographic and epidemiological changes, are accompanied by other variables, including:

- healthcare emergencies, including epidemics of such infectious diseases as COVID-19 from the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- natural disasters
- conflicts

1.2 The relationship between poverty and disability

We have seen that disability is determined by interactions between state of health and personal/environmental factors. This means that different environments can impact persons with disabilities differently. **Living in a context with barriers, without any means of support, can restrict the daily activities of persons with disabilities;** while living in inclusive environments can make opportunities available to them. This is the main reason why **80% of persons with disabilities are found in the Global South.** The greater obstacles there are associated with a lack of infrastructure, difficulties in the sourcing and distribution of necessary aids, and an absence of inclusive social protection systems.

Persons who live in low-income countries are at greater risk of suffering from a disability. Poverty, in fact, is associated with malnutrition, unhealthy environments, the absence of hygiene and clean water,

and challenges in accessing adequate healthcare services.

There are still too many persons with disabilities who cannot afford the medical treatment they need. The healthcare infrastructure in their countries is frequently inadequate and the medical personnel there, often without specialist training, do not have access to necessary equipment. Persons with disabilities are exposed to the risk of poverty, given the additional costs associated with their state of health, as well as to barriers that impede their access to education, training and work. The “Seen, counted, included” report published by UNICEF in 2021 identifies that, in terms of schooling, children with disabilities are at a general disadvantage compared to their peers without disabilities.

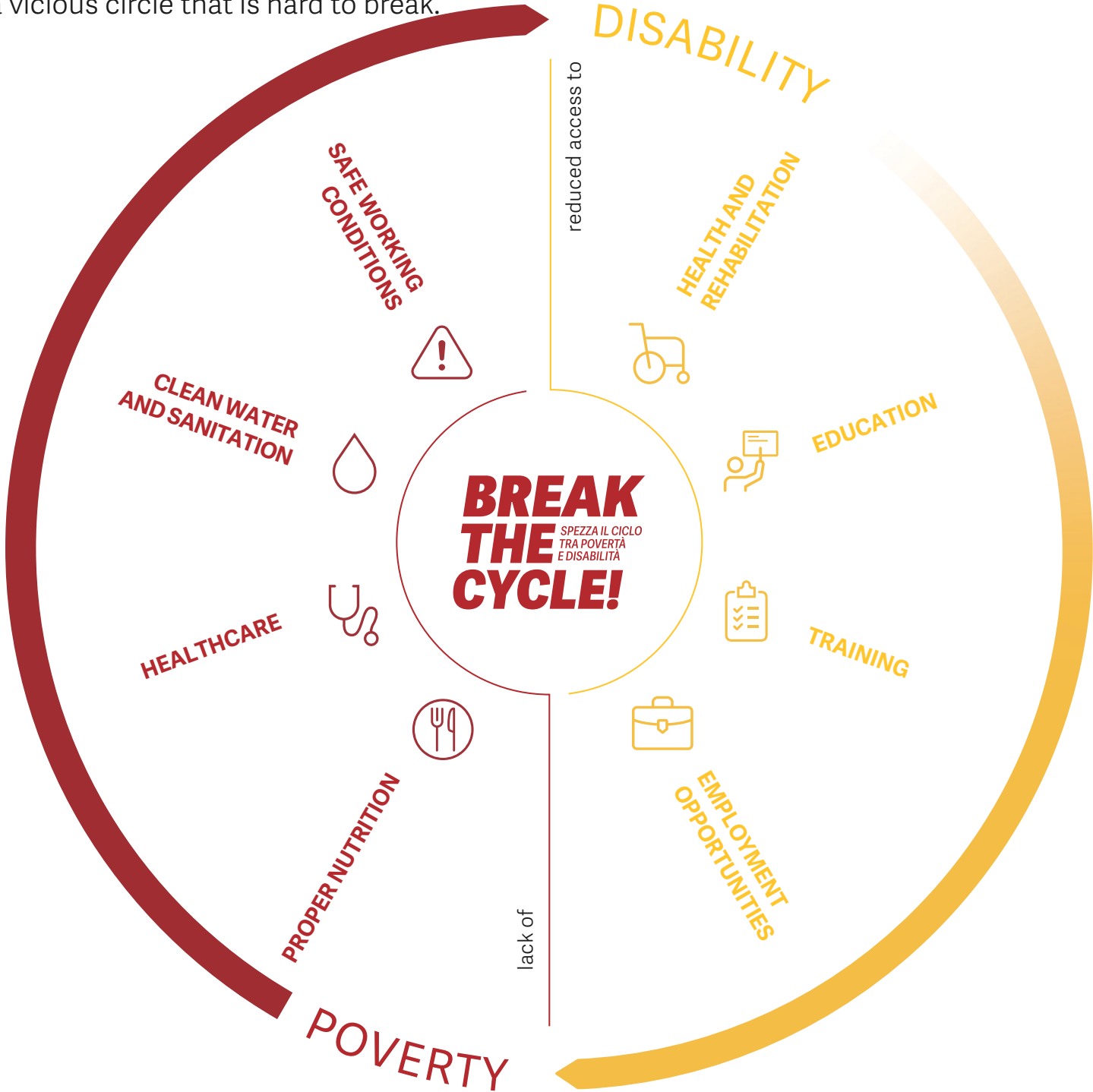
Children with disabilities are 49% more likely to have never attended school than children without disabilities. They are also 42% less likely to have foundational reading and numerical skills.

These statistics translate into low literacy for adults with disabilities and, consequently, into reduced access to information, tools and resources. This data confirms the existence of a relationship between poverty and disability: a vicious circle in which one feeds the other and vice versa. **It is fundamental to work within communities to prevent the causes of disability and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to treatment and services.** At the same time, it is important to create an inclusive environment within which persons with disabilities can exercise their rights and develop their potential.

ART. 25 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Barriers of a physical and institutional nature, including those inherent in communications and attitudes, create a vicious circle that is hard to break.



THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Climate change is having increasingly adverse effects throughout the world. The exponential increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and tropical storms, represents a risk factor from many standpoints. When climate disasters happen, persons with disabilities have fewer opportunities to escape and find protection due to the absence of inclusive protocols, while access to healthcare becomes impossible under extreme conditions and access to sustenance becomes more difficult.

In addition, persons with disabilities are frequently abandoned when their communities have to be evacuated and, just as likely, they may encounter greater difficulties in retrieving their personal possessions and/or lost aids.

The absence of specific policies, plans and programmes to address climate disasters exposes this group of persons to greater risks.

Drought represents an additional risk factor since agricultural output, as one of the principal sources of sustenance in low-income countries, **is heavily conditioned by the effects of climate change**. A lost rainy season may result in the countless cattle deaths and decimate the harvest, plunging millions of people into food insecurity. These factors caused the Human Rights Committee of the UN General Assembly to highlight on 12 July 2019² the urgent need to continue tackling - in the context of the human rights obligations of member States - the adverse consequences of climate change for all and, in particular, for the Global South and those persons who are most vulnerable.

The resolution adopted by this UN body calls on countries to adopt inclusive

strategies in the context of policies designed to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.

The approach must consider the community as a whole, having regard for persons with disabilities, consistent with the objectives and principles set out the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This will make it possible to respond effectively to the economic, social and cultural consequences of climate change and to the obstacles created for everyone, but above all to support the resilience and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in both rural and urban areas, faced with the adverse effects of climate change.





CHAPTER 2

Identity

2.1	Who we are	15
	The commitment of CBM Italy: break the relationship between poverty and disability	
	Strategic action areas and technical skills	
2.2	The CBM action model	18
2.3	Networks and alliances	21
2.4	Governance structure	22
2.5	Ethics and Integrity	23



2.1 Who we are

CBM Italia is a humanitarian organisation committed to **preventing and treating blindness and disabilities, 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 works in synergy and coordination with CBM International (*Christian Blind Mission*), an international organisation active since 1908 in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since 1989, CBM has been recognised as a “Non-State Actor” in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO), with which it collaborates.

THE COMMITMENT OF CBM ITALIA: BREAK THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY AND DISABILITY

CBM Italia is committed to breaking the relationship between poverty and disability cycle by implementing **projects that promote health, education and independent living, supported by 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 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The activities of CBM contribute towards global efforts to promote and implement an inclusive development approach to disabilities that is based on human rights.

Under art. 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Member States are obliged to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all their policies and programmes. This approach, known as **disability mainstreaming**, requires all policies and programmes to be planned and implemented together with persons with disabilities, having regard for their needs, rights and potential.

CBM adopts this approach both in Italy and abroad, addressing the causes of the link between poverty and disability, and promoting the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

CBM promotes *Disability Inclusive Development* (DID) as an approach derived from disability mainstreaming that seeks social inclusion for persons with disabilities. This is founded on the safeguarding of human rights; art. 3 of the CRPD sets out the guiding principles:

- respect for inherent dignity
- non-discrimination
- full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- respect for difference and acceptance of disabilities as part of human diversity
- accessibility
- equality between men and women
- respect for the development and rights of children with disabilities.

In the broadest sense, social inclusion is achieved when the entire community, **including persons with disabilities**, benefits in equal measure from development processes.

This means that:

- persons with disabilities must be included in the planning and implementation of all actions;
- the barriers to social and collective participation, whether physical, economic, or found in attitudes or cultural norms, must be removed.

Source: CBM - Disability Inclusive Development Toolkit

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Together with stakeholders, CBM Italia strives to break the relationship between poverty and disability and ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected, via projects that promote health, education and independent living, supported by humanitarian action.

The activities of CBM Italia concentrate on the following action areas: *Inclusive Eye Health*, *Community-Based Inclusive Development* and *Inclusive Humanitarian Action*.

INCLUSIVE EYE HEALTH

These projects seek to guarantee eye health and quality medical care for those living in the poorest and most isolated communities. CBM Italia not only focuses attention on preventing the causes of blindness, but also on inclusive health. This means **providing adequate access to healthcare services for those who, for various reasons, would be unable to obtain them on their own**. The approach envisages collaboration with medical personnel, ophthalmology centres and local communities, in order to reach those persons who are most fragile and isolated.

This strategic action area (*initiative*) also encompasses projects designed to ensure that blind and vision-impaired persons are included at all levels in their communities, with the same opportunities as everyone else.

COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

For CBM, community involvement is crucial in order to change the lives of persons with disabilities, reducing their risk of poverty and social exclusion. Accordingly, projects not only focus on the health aspects, but also

on **education and social matters**: initiatives concentrate on access to **education, vocational training and job placements**, as well as on other systems of support that enable persons with disabilities to lead independent lives. Community training and the building of awareness are also covered in this context, thereby increasing local knowledge about the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitating their inclusion.

INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The recent humanitarian crises, such as the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and the climate emergency in Africa, have highlighted the greater vulnerability of persons with disabilities during emergencies: among the most fragile, they are often left behind and unable to receive the support they need and to which they are entitled.

Disabilities are often absent from emergency relief plans.

As such, there is an urgent need to adopt a “dual track” approach 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 implement reconstruction policies that “build back better” by considering and promoting the needs of persons with disabilities.

Together, these actions (*Inclusive Eye Health*, *Community-Based Inclusive Development* and *Inclusive Humanitarian Action*) and initiatives are supported by complex **advocacy** in support of the rights of persons with disabilities. More specifically, CBM is committed to promoting and activating change at governmental level, including new initiatives, awareness building and pressure to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities via its transposition into national legislation.




2.2 The CBM action model

Efforts to create a world in which persons with disabilities are able to lead full lives and enjoy their human rights are made in partnership with local actors and institutions, governmental bodies, NGOs and civil society organisations, and consortia of sector operators.

In the field, CBM Italia can count on **local structures** within the CBM International network, such as country offices coordinated by regional hubs. The presence of local offices enables CBM Italia to draw on the professionalism of **persons expert in the territories benefiting from the initiatives concerned**. These offices also add value to the processes of appraising, monitoring and reporting on each project. At the same time, *initiatives* use expert contacts to provide the technical **advice** needed to guarantee high quality programmes, and identify and disseminate best practices. The teams responsible for the various initiatives work in tandem with the country offices and regional hubs to define programme priorities and global guidelines.

The CBM Operational Model seeks to strengthen the collaboration between initiatives, adopting an holistic approach to the mobilisation of resources and the teams that implement the programmes: an approach that respects in full the context, strategies, needs and specific capabilities of each country.

DIDRR: Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.



Implement strategies and practices that reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities when faced with humanitarian disasters. Include community action plans designed to prevent and manage the risks stemming from emergencies.

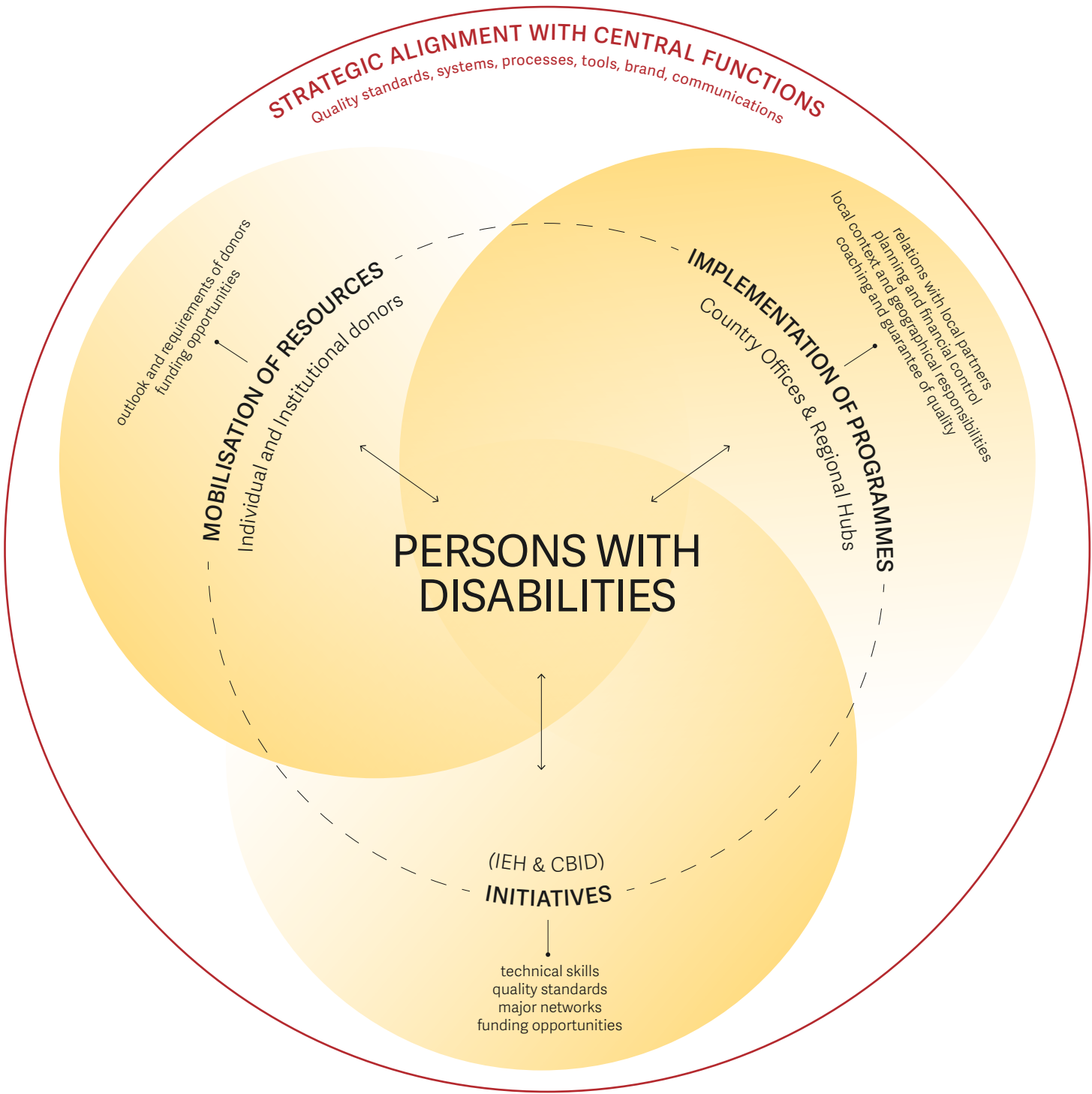
Natural catastrophes and wars are events that cause enormous losses in terms of lives and material damage.

Persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, children and other vulnerable groups are often omitted from risk prevention plans and excluded from emergency preparations. They are invisible when communities are mapped and evacuations are planned, making it impossible for them to reach help and safety.

CBM develops plans for the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, both before and during emergencies in areas subject to environmental disasters or conflict. The international community now recognises the need to add **inclusion as a guiding principle for DRR**, as evidenced in the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)*.

However, this can only be achieved in practice by involving society as a whole, thus better promoting the empowerment and participation of everyone affected disproportionately by disasters, including persons with disabilities. Only by working directly with them can communities identify how to enhance their resilience and reduce the specific risks arising in each context.

CBM Operational Model



CBM Country Offices and Regional Hubs

Each country office is responsible for preparing a country plan. This document **identifies priorities and defines programmes** in support of an inclusive approach to disabilities in the country concerned.

In addition to supporting local project partner organisations, each country office is committed to strengthening the capabilities of the Disabled People Organisations (DPO), governmental bodies and civil society organisations present in its territory.



EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

The regional hub is based in Nairobi, Kenya. This hub coordinates projects in 10 countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



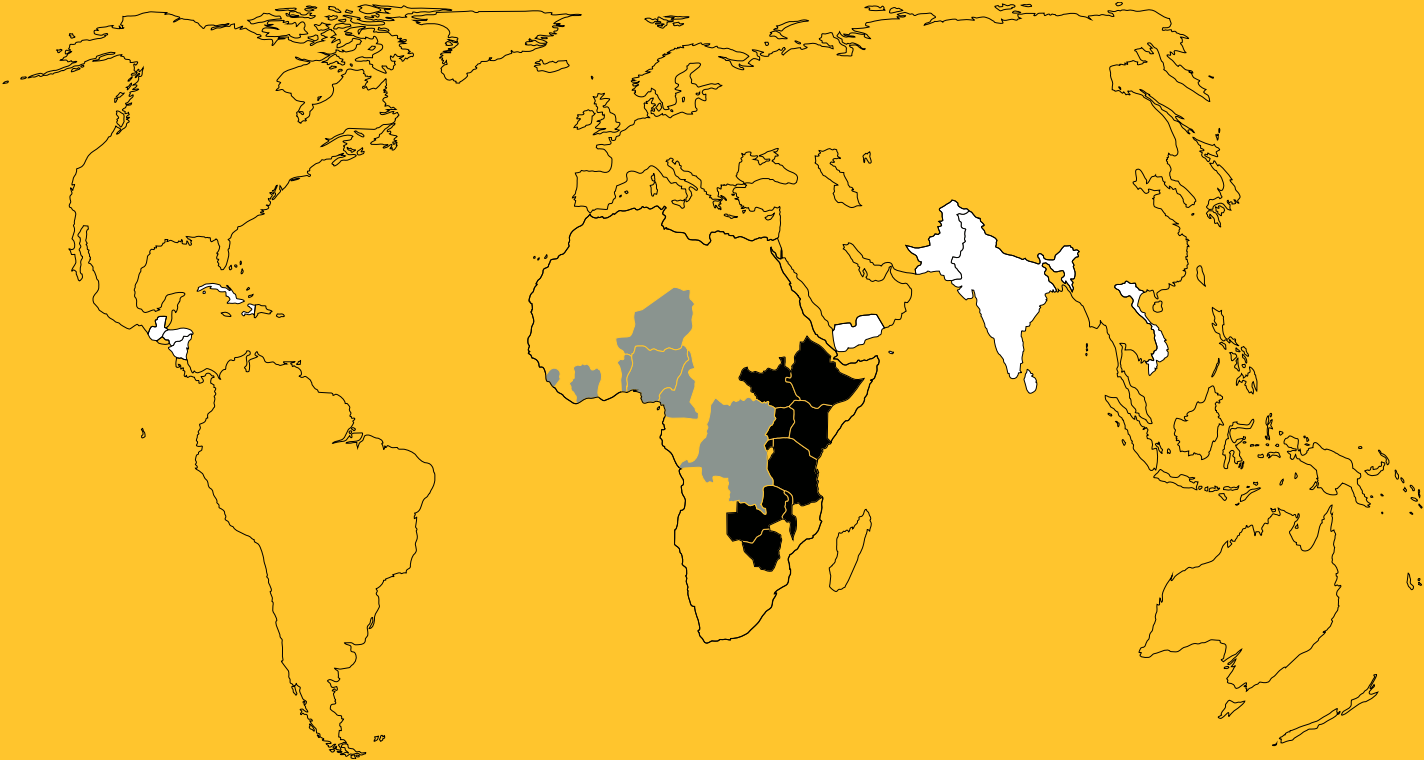
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The regional hub is based in Lomè, Togo. This hub coordinates projects in 9 countries: Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo.



ASIA AND AMERICA

The regional hub coordinates projects in various countries, including Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka.



2.3 Networks and alliances

During 2022 CBM Italia continued to support the networks of civil society organisations, in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.



2.4 Governance structure

CBM Italia was founded as a charity in 2001. The **Articles of Association** define the objects, methods of functioning and statutory bodies, 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

There are 16 members at 31 December 2022, comprising 1 founding member and 15 ordinary members; each has the same duties and enjoys the same rights granted by their appointment:

- attend general meetings and vote directly on approval of the annual financial statements;
- participate in the life of the Association.

The Assembly is responsible for **resolving on general guidelines for the Association**. In addition, it elects the members of the Management Board and the Board of Auditors and approves the budget and the financial statements. The Assembly resolves on changes to the Articles of Association proposed by the Management Board, as well as on the hypothetical winding up and liquidation of the Association.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board comprises 5 members, elected by the Assembly for a three-year period that is renewable. The Board exercises the **widest powers for the ordinary and extraordinary administration** of the Association. The members of the Management Board elect the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Association.

The Chairman is the legal representative of the Association and chairs the meetings of the Board Members Assembly and the Management Board. The Chairman also calls the meetings of the Board Members Assembly and the Management Board, updates the register of members and keeps minutes of the meetings of the Board Members Assembly and the Management Board. The **General Manager** of CBM Italia holds a special power of attorney, with responsibility for supporting the operations of the Association.

CONTROL BODY

The Board Members Assembly held on 18 June 2021 appointed the Board of Auditors, as envisaged by Decree 117/2017, even though CBM Italia is not yet registered with RUTNS (and therefore is not yet an ETS, but still an Onlus or ordinary charity). The members of the Control Body are chosen from among the categories of person identified in art. 2399, para. 2, of the Italian Civil Code.

The Control Body monitors compliance with the law, the Articles of Association and the principles of proper administration, as well as the adequacy of the organisation, administration and accounting systems, and their proper functioning in practice.

It also monitors compliance with the statutory, solidarity and social utility objectives of CBM Italia and certifies that the activity report has been prepared in compliance with the relevant ministerial guidelines.

2.5 Ethics and Integrity

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

CBM Italia calls on all employees, governance bodies, collaborators and partners to respect the Code of Ethics and Conduct, thereby ensuring ethical and legal conduct consistent with the values, mission and professional standards of the Association. The Code is aligned with international standards and the policies and guidelines of CBM International. It draws inspiration from the standards defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Humanitarian Charter; the INGO Accountability Charter and the Code of Conduct of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The Association is committed to disseminating these principles to all employees, volunteers and collaborators, providing them with adequate training and building their awareness about the matters concerned.

CBM Italia believes that respect for the ethical principles and rules is fundamental in order to ensure the proper and transparent conduct of activities, in a manner that satisfies in full the needs of all stakeholders and other interested parties. The Code of Ethics and Conduct of CBM Italia is available at the website cbmitalia.org

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

While working in Italy and abroad, CBM Italia dedicates particular attention to safeguarding the rights of children and those adults who are most vulnerable. For this purpose, CBM International has defined a specific safeguarding policy that CBM Italia has also adopted. The **Safeguarding Code of Conduct** is signed and respected by all employees and third parties that work on behalf of CBM Italia. It is based on the principles embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

and in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including respect for the dignity, personal autonomy and independence of each person, non-discrimination and the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, including minors. **The policy applies to all CBM personnel and all third parties that work on behalf of CBM**, such as advisers, suppliers, Board members, project visitors, interns and volunteers, photographers and journalists, defining the actions needed to prevent risks and respond to any whistle-blowing reports. The document stresses the importance of respecting the dignity and culture of children and adults, avoiding inappropriate conduct; in addition, specific procedures for reporting infringements, managing incidents and requesting consent for the use photographs, videos or stories that involve children and adults are described in detail. The appropriate forms are accessible by persons with disabilities.

In order to ensure that regular training is provided to personnel, with a specific person dedicated to this topic, *Safeguarding Focal Persons* are appointed at CBM Italia and abroad to monitor and apply all these rules. Beyond this, CBM International has established a specific unit dedicated to ensuring that constant updates are provided on safeguarding matters.

A specific section is dedicated to **Complaints and the management of infringements**. All CBM Italia employees are required to contribute to the creation and preservation of an environment that promotes application of the Code of Ethics and Conduct. Executives have special responsibilities for the creation and maintenance of this environment. Employees must always report any suspicions about or evidence of conduct that infringes the rules described in the Code of Ethics. A private section within the website cbm.org allows anyone to report infringements or risks on an anonymous basis (visit the “Feedback and Complaints” section of www.cbm.org). Complaints of this type must be sent to the *Safeguarding Focal Person*.



CHAPTER 3

Our People

3.1
CBM People

27

CBM people - summary



89.6%

Percentage of employees on permanent contracts



87.5%

Percentage of CBM Italia employees who are women



227%

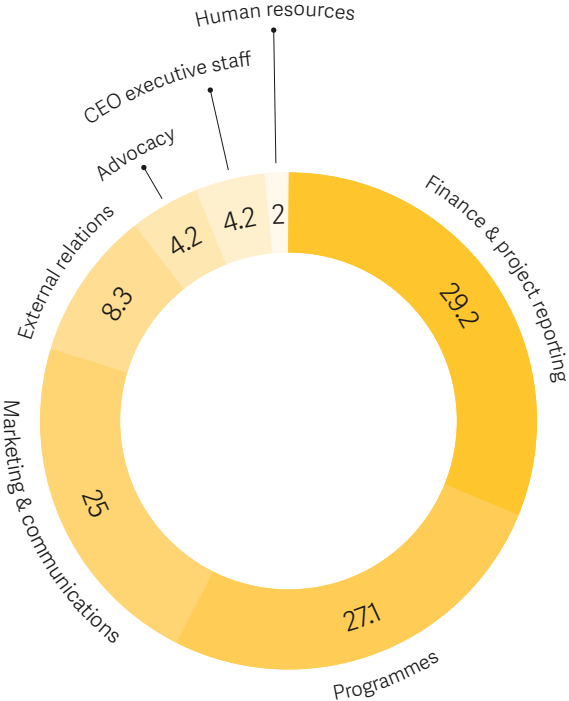
Increase in average training hours received by each employee compared with last year

The design and execution of each CBM Italia project are driven by a team of people who share common values, passion for their work and professionalism. Our human capital represents the value added by the Association to achieve the established objectives.

3.1 CBM People

In terms of HR management, CBM Italia was affected to some extent in 2021 by the *Great Resignation*, an international phenomenon that saw a steady increase in the number of employee departures consequent to the pandemic. This trend was **reversed in 2022: the workforce expanded**, raising the **number of employees from 38 to 48**. While 3 persons left, CBM Italia was able to expand employment considerably, with the arrival of **13 new employees**. Again in 2022, as in prior years, CBM Italia also benefited from the contributions made by **external professionals**. Overall, during the year **55 persons** contributed to the achievement of our results.

% COMPOSITION OF PERSONNEL



CBM in Italy

Projects in Italy

Inclusive education
Independent living
Health and access to quality treatment

31



Projects

The action model adopted in Italy envisages the active involvement of persons with disabilities. In line with the **inclusive planning** approach adopted by CBM in the Global South, **co-planning** work is carried out in Italy together with DPOs, so that persons with disabilities are actively involved in identifying areas of need for the development of new actions.

During the year, planning shifted towards new development initiatives, ever more focused on disabilities, in response to the needs identified from discussions with partners and counterparts. During 2022, CBM Italia worked on **15 projects** in Italy, of which 9 commenced in 2022 and 6 were carried over from the prior year. The number of beneficiaries was greater than in the prior year, rising from 10,133 to **11,152**.

Project recipients are not restricted to persons with disabilities, but also include their family members, operators, teachers and the community in general, adopting an inclusive twin-track approach.

On the one hand, this responds to the specific needs of persons with disabilities while, on the other, helping to create an inclusive and accessible society for the benefit of all.



Inclusive education

This area benefits from the largest number of actions carried out by CBM in Italy, where structural and cultural barriers and attitudes persist that hamper effective inclusion.

In the 2021-22 academic year there were over **300,000 pupils with disabilities** in Italian schools (3.8% of the total population), which was 5% more (about 15,000 students) than in the previous year.

Very often these students face obstacles to their education and, in the worst cases, outright exclusion and discrimination. The latest statistics indicate that:

- 32% of support teachers do not have specific training
- there are training weaknesses (absent at 1 in 10 schools) in the use of education technologies specific for pupils with disabilities (e.g. text readers, word processors, e-books, audio books etc.)
- out of over 86,000 pupils with disabilities who participated in DAD during the pandemic, only one in three interacted with their peers (while the others participated solely with their support teacher, in complete isolation from the rest of the class).

In particular, **inclusive** education promotes real **participation** in the education system by all boys and girls, with and without disabilities, guaranteeing everyone the same opportunities to learn, without discrimination. CBM Italia seeks to help **strengthen the system of inclusive education**, so that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to education without discrimination and with equal opportunities, as required by CRPD art. 24 «Education».

This objective is achieved by working in two directions: promoting and disseminating a culture of inclusion within public opinion, and strengthening the ability of educating communities to be inclusive, both in and out of school.

Inclusion is not an automatic process, being partly influenced by **how a disability is presented**. In turn, the result of this narration influences behaviours and attitudes. In this context, special attention must be given to **inclusive language**, as appropriate and respectful communication (both words and actions) represents an important gesture of awareness when building a culture of inclusion. Accordingly, during 2022 CBM Italia worked to devise new tools, such as the **Glossary** of discrimination and inclusion.

The second direction – **strengthening the ability of educating communities and educational services to be inclusive** – includes projects carried out in and out of school.

The school ecosystem is the principal place in which inclusion should be achieved, but often the necessary knowledge and resources are absent. Successful inclusion requires the mutual collaboration of teachers, classes and the families concerned. The achievement of this ideal educational state should be founded on training that not only provides adequate disability-related skills, but also facilitates an all-encompassing cultural change for the teachers, the families concerned and the entire class, highlighting the positive impact that this may have, in cognitive, emotive and social terms, on both the pupil with disabilities and the other students. The narration of inclusion must involve all students, regardless of the disability.

Independent Living

The development of autonomy is an integral part of the path to independence followed by persons with disabilities. It is essential that persons with disabilities learn to exercise greater control over their lives and participate in decision-making processes. Autonomy refers to the ability of a person to make decisions independently, without any external influence or pressure.

Persons with disabilities often have to tackle major challenges in the development of their autonomy, due to stigma and a lack of understanding.

Health and access to quality treatment

CBM Italia seeks to help strengthen and promote local initiatives and actors focused on ensuring that persons with disabilities and the vulnerable can benefit from the highest obtainable standard of health (art. 25 CRPD «Health»).

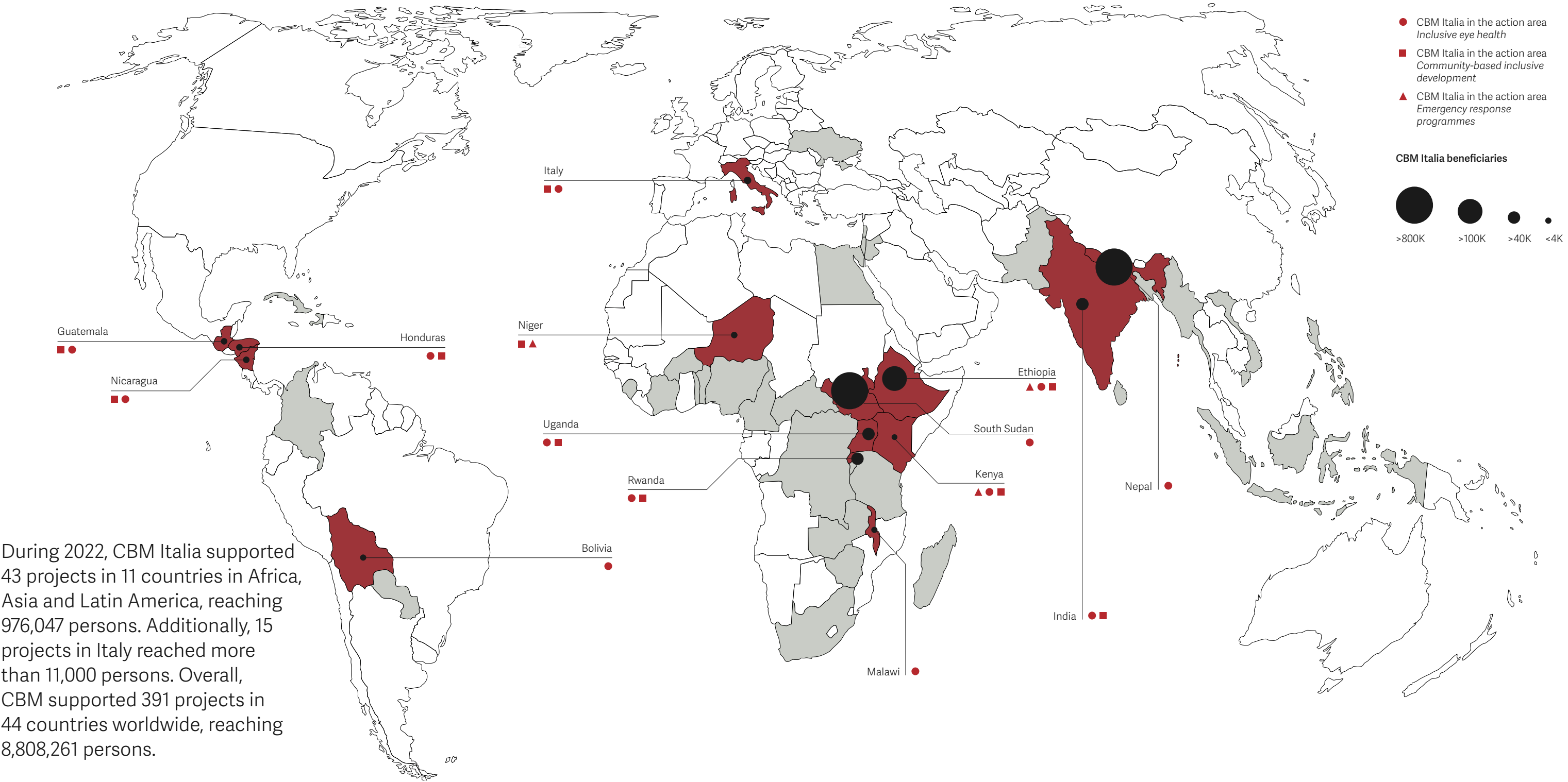


CHAPTER 4

Objectives and activities

4.1	Projects in the Global South	36
	Inclusive eye health Community-based inclusive development Emergency response programmes Our work in Ukraine	
4.2	Advocacy	43
	Networks and alliances Training and advocacy	
4.3	Fundraising and Communications	45
4.4	Reliability and Transparency	46
4.5	Other information	46

4.1 CBM in the world – Project in the Global South



INCLUSIVE EYE HEALTH

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) seek to promote the well-being of persons and safeguard the planet, with the third goal focusing on health for all at all ages. Eye health is a human right and CBM Italia strives to guarantee access to related treatments and services, even in the poorest communities. The priorities encompass preventing and reducing avoidable vision disabilities, ensuring access to prevention and treatment services by persons with disabilities, and promoting the social inclusion of blind and vision-impaired persons.

The work of CBM Italia in this area involves collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the institutions, so that eye health is included among the priorities of local governments. The Association helps them to define and implement long-term action plans to strengthen existing healthcare systems, without creating duplications or parallel systems.

- CBM initiatives therefore seek to:
- Strengthen local healthcare systems, so that ophthalmology services are accessible and inclusive
 - Promote the prevention and treatment of eye diseases, as well as related rehabilitation
 - Eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDS), such as trachoma and river blindness
 - Include the blind and persons with disabilities in their communities, guaranteeing them access to education, work and health, thus breaking the relationship between poverty and disability.

During 2022 we supported 21 Inclusive Eye Health projects in 10 countries: Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. Together, these projects were able to reach 706,595 persons.

A total of **151,713 eye operations** were completed, including 102,950 for cataracts. A total of **160,806 vision aids** were distributed, including **157,798 spectacles**. **880 professionals** completed training on eye health. In addition, in the same year, **989,648 persons** in South Sudan and Ethiopia had access to the mass administration of medicines for the prevention of trachoma and river blindness. A total of **4,257 trichiasis operations** were carried out.

COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of life, promoting active participation in their communities.

Guided by the communities and focused on individuals, the action areas of CBID include health and rehabilitation, education, means of sustenance, social life and empowerment.

The integrated, multi-disciplinary approach seeks to identify and eliminate the barriers that impede the enjoyment of rights. CBID-based projects strive to ensure sustainable results with a long-term impact on the lives of persons with disabilities and their communities.

18 Community-Based Inclusive Development projects were carried out in 2022, covering rehabilitation, inclusive education, vocational training, job placement, food security and micro-credit programmes. The **projects developed in 7 countries** (Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda) involved more than 27,390 persons. Of these, 10,226 had access to livelihood services, 5,817 of whom subsequently obtained a job; 3,502 people gained access to micro-credit services; 3,533 children and young people had access to inclusive education services.

The CBID-related projects promoted by CBM Italia **focused on 4 areas:**

- Inclusive communities: communities must include all persons with disabilities.
- Inclusive systems: support systems and services at community level must be inclusive and functioning.
- Communities ready for disasters: communities must be resilient and prepared for emergencies.
- Leadership that inspires and promotes the values of CBID.

Two new areas in which to concentrate future work have been identified: strengthening Community Support Services and Systems, and strengthening Advocacy efforts at every level, including at national level for the development of social protection systems capable of implementation at EU level.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMMES

During 2022 CBM Italia consolidated its role as a humanitarian organisation capable of tackling both unexpected and chronic emergencies, working with local communities to facilitate their resilience and preparation.

The main objective is to ensure an inclusive responsive to emergencies, so that persons with disabilities are fully involved.

To guarantee this, CBM Italia strives to implement the “*leave no-one behind*” principle, ensuring that persons with disabilities are involved in all phases of planning, assistance, protection and reconstruction. As a consequence, persons with disabilities are not just included as beneficiaries of the rescue work, but are also involved actively in the decision-making process and in managing the emergency response efforts. At the same time, CBM collaborates with the clusters and other humanitarian organisations to promote an emergency response approach that considers the specific needs of persons with disabilities. The Association is committed to sharing its knowledge and experience in the field of inclusion and to encouraging other humanitarian organisations to address disabilities in their work.

As part of our *Inclusive Humanitarian Action*, CBM Italia reached 5,008 persons in 2022 via 4 projects in Ethiopia, Kenya and Niger.

OUR WORK IN UKRAINE

During 2022, CBM worked together with the European Disability Forum (EDF) to address the serious humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, developing an emergency response programme to help persons with disabilities and their Organisations (DPO).

This action satisfied the immediate needs of persons with disabilities - almost 3 million in Ukraine at the outbreak of conflict - including food, primary goods, access to transport and shelter.

Local partners took steps to help refugees with disabilities in Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, assisting their search for safe and accessible accommodation, and helping them to find healthcare and other core services.

Over the longer term, action includes calling on humanitarian organisations, governments, EU agencies and the UN to provide an inclusive response to the emergency, via training and data collection, as well as by drawing on the experience of CBM in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the broadest possible humanitarian response.

The work carried out during 2022 made it possible to reach 20,422 persons in Ukraine and nearby countries.





4.2 Advocacy

Advocacy means taking action to influence and promote changes in policies, laws, regulations, funding and other aspects of public decision making, in order to improve a situation or defend the rights of a specific group, as in the case of CBM: persons with disabilities.

CBM Italia works at local, national and international level, drawing on support from CBM International and the networks to which it belongs. Advocacy actions comprise **awareness building, training and dialogue** with political decision makers, the mobilisation of civil society organisations and the **exercise of political influence** by helping to draft guidance documents for **media communications**. Taken together, these activities have helped to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities were moved to centre stage, heard and taken into consideration.

NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

Networks and alliances (see Chapter 4) play a crucial role in advocacy work by enhancing the efficacy of the efforts made to promote social change.

They facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources, increase visibility, strengthen credibility and cohesion among members and, in addition, improve efficiency by leveraging economies of scale.

Consistent with a commitment to disability mainstreaming and the promotion of ever more inclusive policies, CBM Italia has worked at various levels.

At an institutional level, the Association participated in the working party on international cooperation promoted by the Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities, a body that reports directly to the Prime Minister's Office. In this context, CBM Italia also represented CINI (Italian Coordination of International NGOs), a group that addresses topics linked to international cooperation inclusive of persons with disabilities, but which has also

produced training tools in collaboration with *Federica Web Learning* (University of Naples Federico II), to which CBM made contributions on the topic of emergencies and disability.

As part of the dialogue with political and state-level bodies, CBM Italia made an important contribution to the *"Education cannot wait"* campaign run in collaboration with CGE Italia (Global Campaign for

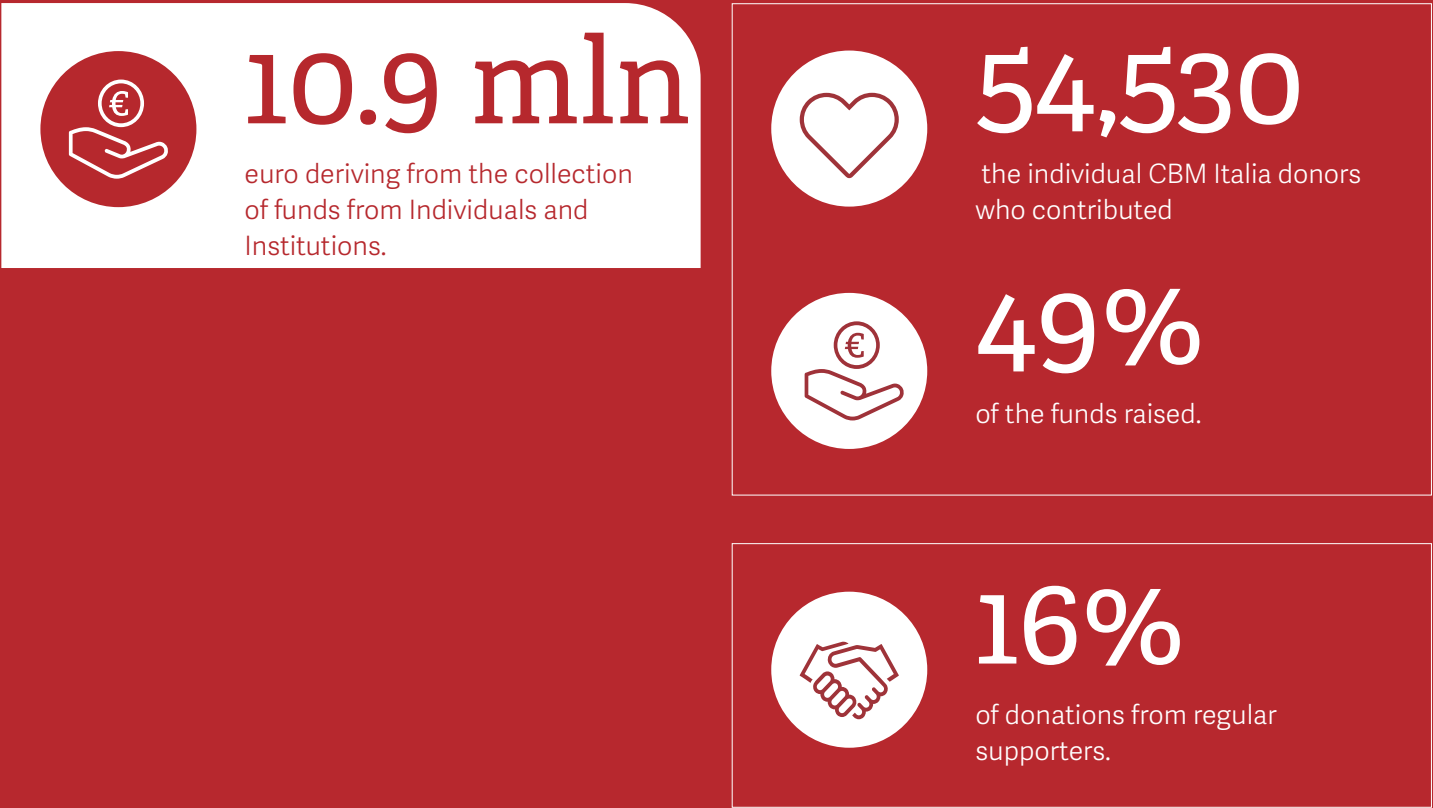
TRAINING AND ADVOCACY

In order to further strengthen advocacy actions, it is necessary to provide tools and skills so political decisions can be translated into concrete actions that satisfy the requirement to includes persons with disabilities.

In this light, CBM Italia has organised training days on "Disability mainstreaming in the management of emergencies" for the operators of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in the Ukraine emergency.

Working with VIS, an NGO, the Association has devised an advanced, on-line training course on "The disability dimension within the 2030 Agenda: inclusive development in international cooperation", in order to promote international cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda that leaves no-one behind.

Economic sustainability in numbers

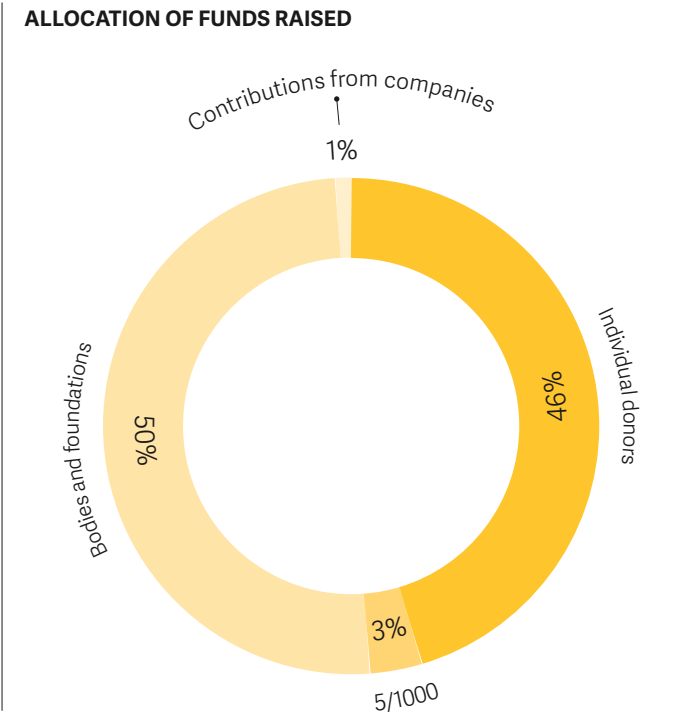
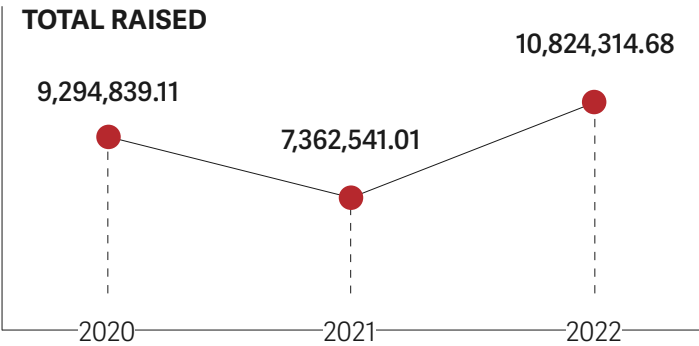


4.3 Fundraising and Communications

The sustainability of the CBM Italia model is based on the ability of the Association to involve a broad network of private donors and institutional sources in efforts to break the relationship between poverty and disability by planning national and international action.

Consistent with the three-year strategy, 2022 saw expanded involvement by donors and institutional partners that enabled CBM Italia to collect funds totalling more than 10 million euro. This represented an increase of 3.5 million with respect to 2021, up 47%. As anticipated in 2021, grants for the winners of the call for projects made by AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation) - a public agency among the principal supporters of CBM Italia - were paid out in 2022. In particular, the number and quality of the projects financed by AICS confirms ever-increasing recognition by Italian Cooperation and Civil Society Organisations of the expertise of CBM Italia in the field of disabilities.

The 54,530 individual donors who, together with bodies, foundations and firms, decided to support CBM Italia, helped to raise 10.82 million euro.



4.4 Reliability and transparency

Transparency is one of the values that guides the work of CBM Italia. Being transparent means making the effort to communicate results in a clear and simple manner, responding to the accountability needs of the Association and those that support it.

Accordingly, numerous staff members within CBM Italia are responsible for checking on the execution of projects and reporting promptly and precisely on the progress of each activity.

- CBM is one of the 247 Civil Society Organisations (CSO) recognised by AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation).
- Between 2006 and 2020, the annual financial statements were audited on a voluntary basis by KPMG, an international auditing firm.
- Since 2021, the financial statements of CBM Italia must be audited by law, in compliance with requirements imposed by the Service Sector Code.

4.5 Other information

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

During 2022, CBM Italia completed various internal initiatives designed to promote sustainability and reduce the impact of activities on the environment. With help from a specialist firm, it was determined that CBM Italia generates 9.1 tonnes of CO₂ each year. The region of Lombardy alone generates more than 60,000,000 tonnes of CO₂ (source: National inventory of atmospheric emissions, Ispra 2019).

The emissions of CBM Italia mainly derive from **indirect sources** linked to the work carried out. Consider, for example, the energy used in the working environment

(calculating the number of persons, technological devices, printers, utility bills...). Following an in-depth analysis, CBM Italia has identified various action areas for the improvement of environmental sustainability, involving employees in these efforts and assigning them responsibilities.

Although the numbers are not alarming, CBM Italia is determined to play its part in reducing the impact of CO₂ emissions and increasing the awareness of team members about environmental matters. Given this, during 2022 the **first CBM Italia environmental policy** was devised and shared with employees.

The adoption of eco-compatible practices contributes to achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals and to the protection of natural resources for future generations. The principal results obtained from these initial actions include:

- A reduction in CO₂ emissions
- The creation of a responsible and motivated working environment, increasing employee awareness about the importance of respect for the environment, and promoting eco-sustainable behaviours both at work and in daily life.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

CBM Italia has taken concrete steps to reduce the environmental impact of its activities, concentrating in particular on consumable materials, plastics, waste management, ecological detergents, energy saving and sustainable mobility. The actions taken in 2022 are described below:

- 1. *Paper*: Employees have been encourage to moderate their use of paper, giving preference to electronic documents. The paper used for printing and stationery is essentially 100% recycled.
- 2. *Plastic*: The disposable materials used by CBM Italia are either recycled or have a low environmental impact. Employees have been given metal flasks in order to reduce the consumption of plastic bottles.
- 3. *Waste management*: The Association complies with current regulations governing the separation of waste:

- paper, organic, glass and plastic/aluminium.
- 4. *Ecological detergents*: CBM Italia strives to use ecological detergents whose active ingredients are rapidly biodegradable, 100% organic and stored in recyclable containers that do not represent a hazard for the environment or humanity. The products chosen have Biocertitalia certification.
- 5. *Energy saving*: The Switch Off campaign has made employees more aware of the need to switch off unnecessary lights, thus helping to reduce electricity consumption and light pollution.

Via these initiatives, the Association helps to protect natural resources and promote a sustainable lifestyle for future generations.

CO₂ EMISSIONS

Elimination of the carbon footprint is an ambitious objective that seeks to minimise the greenhouse gas emissions produced by office work and offset unavoidable emissions via initiatives that remove carbon from the atmosphere. That said, elimination of the carbon footprint requires the constant monitoring of emissions and the implementation of innovative solutions that offset unavoidable emissions.

This offset can now be achieved by purchasing carbon credits in the voluntary market. A carbon credit is a unit of measure that represents the elimination of one tonne of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Carbon credits are obtained from projects that avoid or reduce greenhouse gases and can be purchased as a way of compensating for the emissions generated.

In 2022, CBM Italia decided to offset the 9.1 tonnes of CO₂ generated each year by participating in the **Forever Bambù** project, which has cultivated **350 sq.m. of giant bamboo**. Giant bamboo forests are known to be excellent carbon sinks, capable of absorbing large quantities of CO₂ from the atmosphere and contributing to the circular economy, in that the bamboo is then transformed into bioplastic. The commitment of CBM Italia to eliminate its carbon footprint was made in 2022, representing an important step towards sustainable and responsible development.

By collaborating with projects such as Forever Bambù and involving our employees, the Association demonstrates an ability to reconcile the expansion of our activities with protection of the environment.

DATA PROTECTION

During 2022 the Association followed data protection procedures consistent with General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR). This process was initiated in 2018 with support from an external consultant, updating all the data collection policy statements already issued, the forms used in each department and the Data Processing Register. The Data Processing Register is updated constantly and this work is monitored to ensure timely alignment with any regulatory changes.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

No disputes were identified in 2022 that might result in adverse rulings or charges of any kind against the Association.

Partnerships

Public bodies



Foundations



Other bodies



Partnerships

Companies **ALSTOM**

ALFASIGMA

CAMPARI
GROUP

EVERSHEDS
SUTHERLAND

 **finder**

FORNASETTI



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Editorial Committee
Lea Barzani, Fabio Beretta, Paola De Luca,
Eleonora Giordano, Tiziana Gunetti,
Massimo Maggio, Canio Salandra

Technical-scientific consultant
Francesca Lancellotti

Contact for information about the report
info@cbmitalia.org

Graphic Design
Parco Studio

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CBM Archive

Printer
Arti Grafiche Alpine

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.