

CBM Italia

Annual Report 2023



CHAPTER 1

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Disability in the world at a glance



1.3 billion

people with disabilities in the world, amounting to

16%

of the global population, i.e. 1 in 6

Source: WHO 2022



142 mln

the number of persons with severe disabilities

Source: WHO 2022



~ 80%

of people with disabilities live in low and middle-income countries

Source: WHO 2022

1.1 Disability in the world

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

The concept of disability is a recent one. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defined it for the first time in 1990 and a second time in 2001 when it introduced the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), according to which disability refers to several conditions of the person that are intertwined with external factors relating to the living environment.

Underlying the definition is the 'bio-psycho-social' model according to which disability does not depend on biomedical elements but on their interaction with environmental and social factors. Disability is thus 'the consequence or result of a complex relationship between an individual's health condition and the personal and environmental factors that represent the circumstances in which the individual lives'¹.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it refers to the presence 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".

Disability is thus the result of the interaction between health conditions and/or physical impediments that a person experiences and contextual factors related to the environment and society in which they live.

¹ - WHO (2001), International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE WORLD

In 2022, 10 years after the previous report, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published the **Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities**, which provides a worldwide overview of equity in access to health for persons with disabilities.

The WHO has estimated that in 10 years the number of people with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments has increased and that for environmental or social reasons they do not enjoy proper inclusion in the social system.

The 2022 figure stands at around 1.3 billion people, a combination that represents 16% of the global population, slightly less than the entire population of China or India.

In summary, **1 in 6 people in the world has a disability**. Of these people, about 142 million have severe disabilities and **almost 80% live in low- and middle-income countries**, compared to 20% living in high-income countries.

The rising number compared to the previous report is associated with several factors:

- the increase in world population
- the ageing population
- an increase in chronic diseases (such as cancer, diabetes, heart and respiratory diseases).

In addition to these factors due to demographic and epidemiological changes, there are others such as:

- health emergencies, including outbreaks of infectious diseases (such as COVID)
- natural disasters
- ongoing conflicts.

1.2 The relation between disability and poverty

Disability is determined by the interaction between health status, personal and environmental factors. This means that different environments can have a different impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Living in an environment with barriers, without supportive factors, can limit daily activities; while living in inclusive environments can foster more opportunities. This is the main reason why 80% of people with disabilities live in low- and middle income countries, where there are more obstacles related to the lack of infrastructure, the difficulty in accessing and distributing necessary aids and the lack of inclusive social systems.

DISABILITY AND POVERTY: A VICIOUS CIRCLE

People living in low-income countries are at greater risk of experiencing disabling conditions. Poverty is linked to malnutrition, unhealthy environments, lack of hygiene and clean water, as well as difficulties in accessing adequate healthcare services. Many people with disabilities cannot afford the medical care they need. In these countries, it is common to find a lack of adequate health infrastructure, specialized medical personnel, and proper equipment.

People with disabilities are also at a higher risk of poverty due to the increased costs associated with their condition and barriers to accessing education, training, and employment. The UNICEF report 'Considered, Counted, Included,' published in 2021, reveals that children with disabilities are globally disadvantaged in schooling compared to their peers without disabilities.

Specifically, 49% more children with disabilities have never attended school compared to children without disabilities, and 42% fewer have basic reading and numeracy skills. These data translate into low literacy rates among adults with disabilities, which is one of the factors that hinder access to information, tools, and resources.

These inequalities consequently impact long-term employment and income-generating opportunities. It is crucial to work within communities to ensure that people with disabilities have access to care and services. Equally important is creating an inclusive environment where people with disabilities can live, exercise their rights, and realize their potential.

Persons with disabilities in Africa

Data on disabilities, although important, are unfortunately lacking in many of the contexts where they are most needed.

Official government statistics in Africa report that the percentage of people with disabilities is between 2-5%, but in some countries, it is likely closer to 20-22% due to the prevalence of conflicts, forced displacement, and lack of access to adequate medical services.

A study conducted by the World Bank Group in 2021 on Sub-Saharan Africa revealed that:

- **Disability rates are higher in rural areas:** The distance from remote areas to find healthcare, combined with fewer financial resources for travel, hinders access to care.
- **Women experience higher disability rates than men:** unequal protection and rights contribute to a greater incidence of disability among women. Many families with limited financial resources often choose to invest in the education of male children. **Pregnancy** and childbirth also contribute to the higher prevalence of disability among women: many pregnant women do not receive adequate care, which has consequences for both their own health and that of their child.

- **Elderly people report higher rates of disability:** In addition to mobility limitations, reduced visual and auditory capacity, and difficulties due to aging, lack of access to healthcare can worsen over time, so an untreated condition can deteriorate to the point of impairing a person's functionality.
- **People with disabilities have lower levels of education:** Schools often lack the resources to accommodate children with disabilities, leading many of them to drop out of formal education more frequently than their peers without disabilities.
- **Entering the workforce is a challenge:** The main barriers to employment include discrimination; those who do find work often earn less. Precarious employment and insufficient financial resources mean that many people with disabilities rely on their families or social programs.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On December 13, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly approved the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Entering into force in 2008, the Convention has been ratified by 186 countries, including Italy since 2009.

The Convention asserts a simple but still inadequately implemented concept: that **persons with disabilities must be able to enjoy the same freedoms and civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights as the rest of the population, without discrimination or limitation of any kind.** States that have ratified the Convention, as well as organizations inspired by it, commit not only to improving the health conditions of persons with disabilities but also to **removing or modifying environmental factors that hinder their participation in social life and the equal enjoyment of rights.**

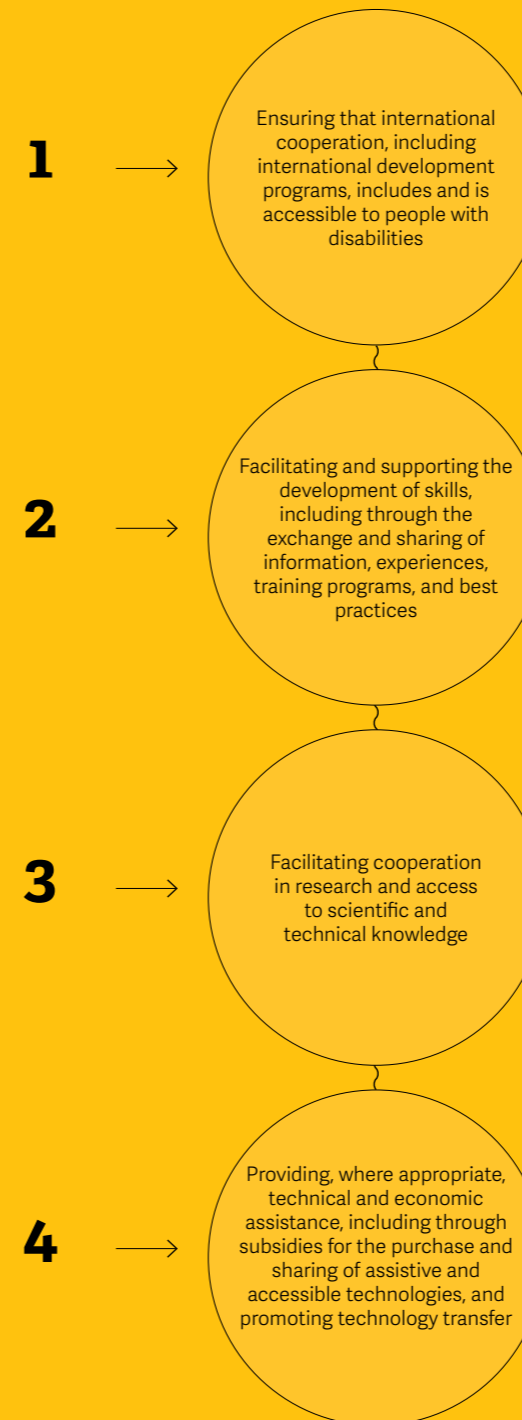
Article 11 refers to **situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies:** "States Parties shall, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters."

Article 32 of the Convention **further recognizes the**

importance of international cooperation and its promotion to support national and international efforts, promoting collaboration with other countries, relevant international and regional organizations, and civil society.

An extract from the presentation of Italy's ratification of the Convention by the Minister of Labour, Health, and Social Policies (2009) states: "[...] The Convention represents a tool shared by the international community that sets forth values and goals to enhance the degree of social inclusion for people with disabilities. Government and opposition, regions and local authorities, businesses, the non-profit sector, and civil society are all called upon to contribute, each with their own responsibility, to creating a society where people with disabilities can become increasingly active and free."

THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTRIES, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONVENTION, ARE AIMED AT:



THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISES ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

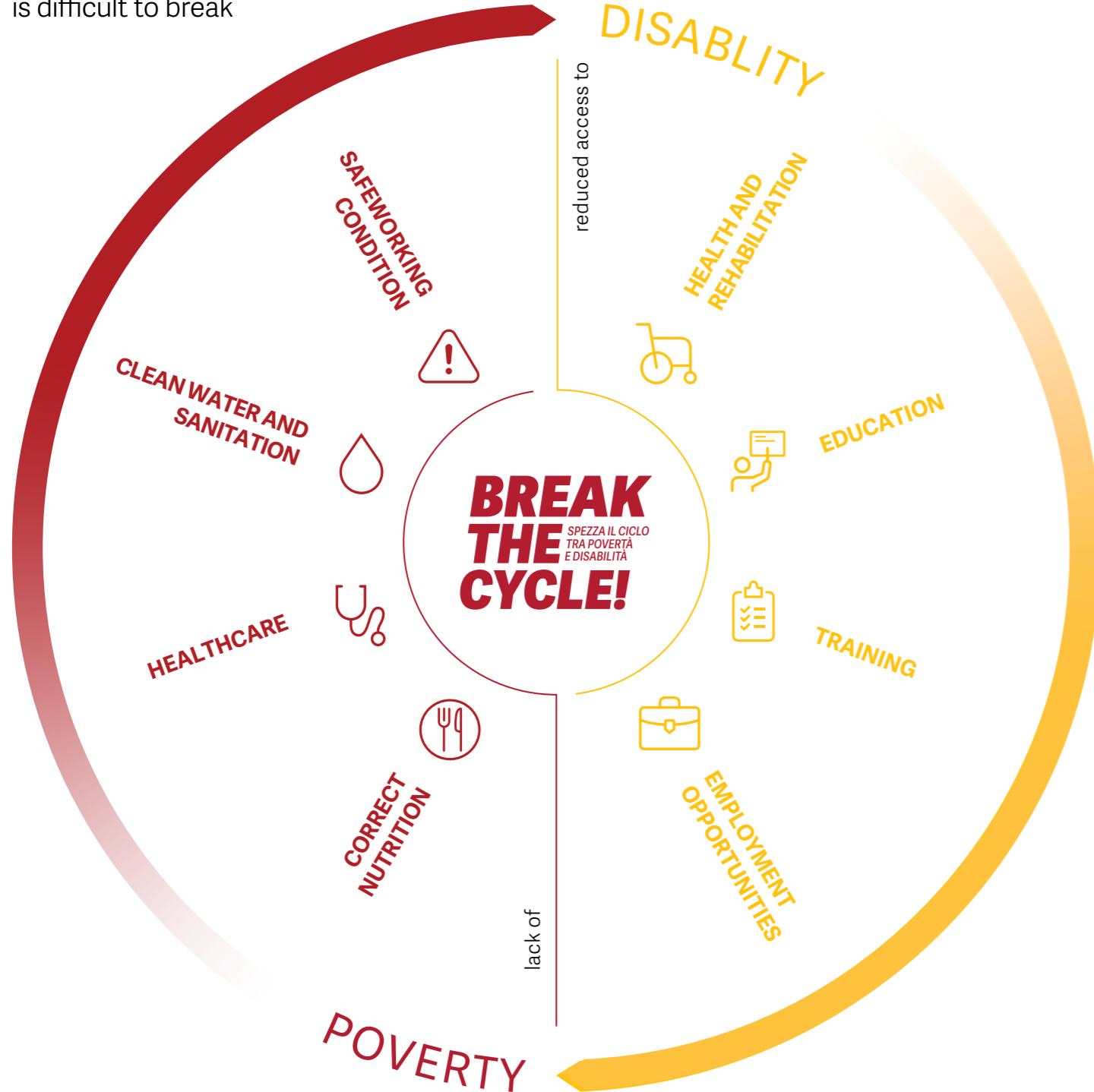
By 2024, an **estimated 300 million people worldwide** will require **humanitarian assistance** and protection due to **conflicts, climate emergencies, and other factors.**

According to OCHA data (2024), **74.1 million** people in **East and Southern Africa** will need humanitarian assistance; **65.1 million** in **West and Central Africa**; **53.8 million** in the **Middle East and North Africa**; 50.8 million in Asia and the Pacific; 38.9 million in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 16.8 million in Eastern Europe.

The primary reasons for this are:

- **Conflicts:** The world is witnessing increasingly entrenched conflicts with devastating consequences for civilian populations. In 2023 alone, nearly 1 in 5 children worldwide lived in conflict **zones.**
- **The global climate emergency:** According to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, approximately 3.6 billion people – more than half of the world's population – live in highly climate-vulnerable environments.
- **Economic factors:** Economic dynamics intersect with conflicts, climate disasters, and epidemics, significantly contributing to the growing humanitarian needs.

Physical, communication, institutional and attitudinal barriers create a vicious cycle between disability and poverty that is difficult to break



Conflicts and climate disasters are also the main factors causing population displacement: according to OCHA data, there are more displaced people now than at any other time in history since the beginning of the century.

Moreover, due to conflicts, extreme climate events, economic crises, poverty, and inequality, acute food insecurity affects 258 million people in 58 countries. Epidemics are causing significant loss of life (e.g., cholera) and have become increasingly deadly in recent years due to the overload of healthcare systems, lack of access to clean water and sanitation services, and the presence of multiple concurrent epidemics (Source: Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 OCHA).

In a humanitarian crisis, everyone is at risk, but some are more vulnerable than others. This vulnerability results from prior situations of discrimination and deeply rooted inequalities against certain groups, further exacerbated by ongoing crises. Climate change, slow economic growth, insecurity, conflicts, and health threats mean that those suffering from structural and preexisting inequalities are the most affected.

Among these are people with disabilities, who, in crisis contexts, are exposed to a greater risk of death, injury, abuse, and deprivation due to barriers and stigmatization that add to the discrimination they already face.

The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" (2015-2030), the global agreement on disaster risk management adopted by the United Nations in 2015, commits to enhancing the participation of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and supporting inclusive decision-making processes in which people with disabilities are key stakeholders.

To understand the progress made since the Sendai Framework in including disability in crisis and emergency response, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conducted a Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters in 2023, ten years after the previous survey.

The survey aimed to identify whether people with disabilities are prepared for potential disasters, if risk information and early warnings are available and accessible, if people with disabilities are aware of national and local emergency plans, and if they are involved in decision-making and response planning processes!

The reported data is alarming and shows limited progress in the inclusion of disability over the past decade.

- 184% reported not being prepared for disasters.
- 17% would face significant difficulties participating in evacuation or displacement plans, and 6% would be unable to evacuate independently
- 56% reported not knowing or not having accessible information in case of an emergency.
- 24% of respondents reported being displaced due to crises or disasters.

An inclusive humanitarian action is essential to mitigate risks by ensuring that children, women, and men with disabilities have access to protection and assistance systems and are included in emergency plans.



DISABILITY AND POVERTY IN ITALY

As we have seen, disability and poverty are conditions that reinforce each other, contributing to increased vulnerability and exclusion. Since the 1990s, international literature has recognized the relationship between disability and poverty, and it is well-established that people with disabilities generally experience higher poverty rates compared to the rest of the population.

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In Italy, despite the lack of specific, continuous data on the subject, it has repeatedly been highlighted that people with disabilities endure generally worse living conditions, including higher levels of material deprivation, greater unavoidable expenses, and fewer employment and income opportunities.

In 2019, The Italian National Institute of Statistics report on disability highlighted how the presence of one or more people with disabilities impacts the economic conditions and lifestyle of the entire family

In recent years, absolute poverty in Italy has significantly increased: according to Istat data, in 2022 it affected 5.6 million people, or 9.7% of the population. This poverty is not just economic but also encompasses a lack of health, education, services, opportunities, and relationships, thus characterizing itself as social exclusion.

The research "Disability and Poverty in Italy", conducted by CBM in collaboration with the E. Zancan Foundation, explores how this exclusion affects people with disabilities living in our country. It is the first Italian study aimed at enhancing knowledge on this issue.

The study had two main objectives: to quantify the extent of poverty among people with disabilities and their families, considering regional differences, and to explore with families the connections between poverty and disability. It was conducted in dialogue with nearly 300 people with disabilities and their families residing in various regions of Northern, Central, and Southern Italy.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE

According to Eurostat estimates, 27% of the population in Europe aged 16 and older has some form of disability (2022), which amounts to nearly 101 million people, or 1 in 4 adults in Europe. The country with the highest percentage of people with disabilities is Latvia (38.5%), followed by Denmark (36.1%).

There is a direct correlation between aging and disability. While 8% of young people aged 16-19 have a disability, the percentage of people with disabilities exceeds 50% among those over 65 years old. In addition to age, gender also plays a role: women with disabilities in Europe constitute 29.5% of the total female population, compared to 24.4% of men. Many people with disabilities face barriers in accessing health services, education, employment, recreational activities, and in participating in social and political life.

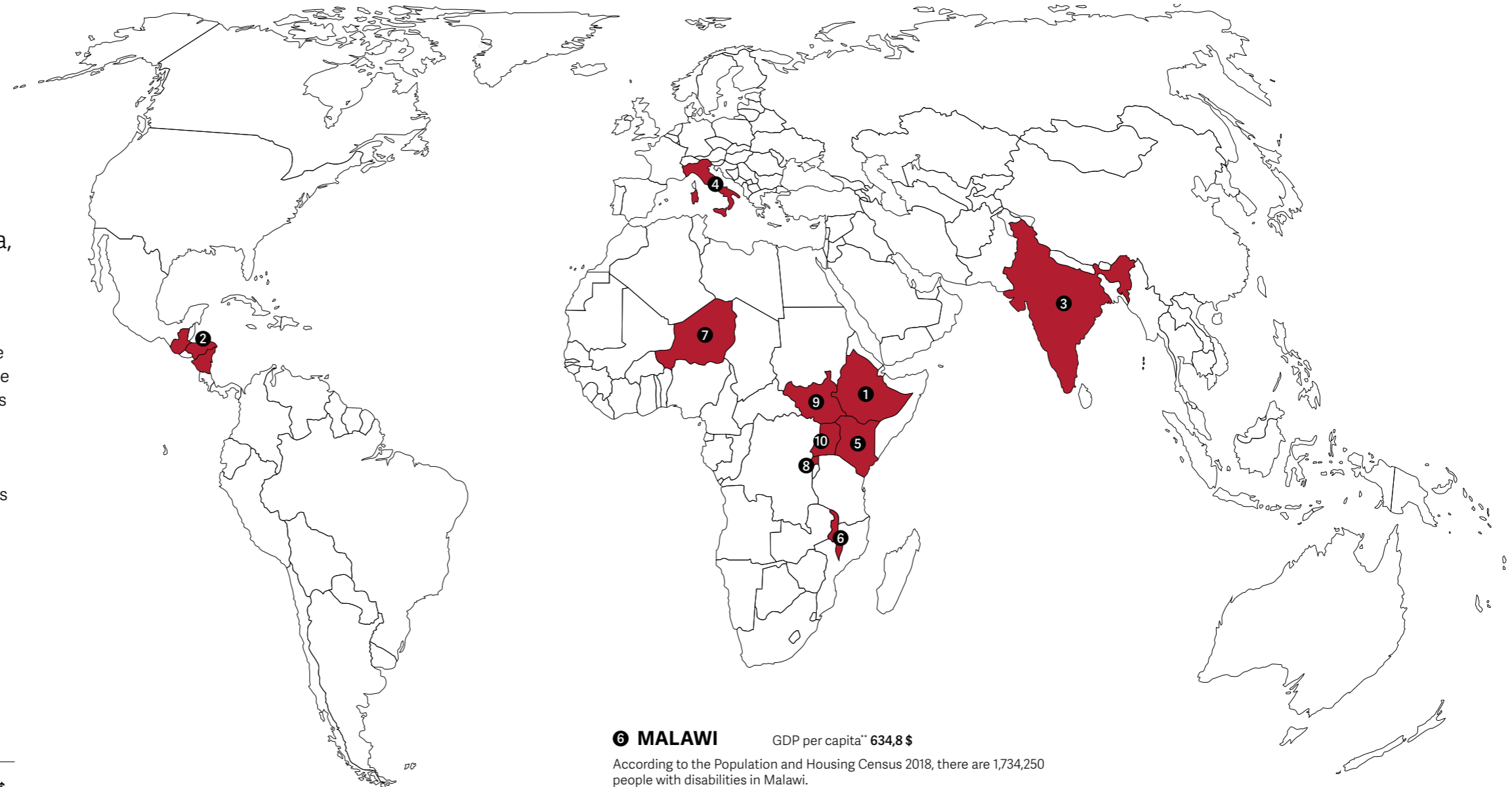
Source Eurostat 2022.

1.3 Disability in the countries where CBM works

In 2023, CBM Italia focused its efforts in 11 countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia, as well as in Italy.

People with disabilities make up approximately 16% of the global population, which amounts to 1.3 billion people worldwide. However, many countries are unable to provide specific data on disability due to a lack of national surveys and monitoring systems that account for disability.

A coordinated effort at the national level is necessary to accurately estimate the number of people with disabilities within each country.



1 ETHIOPIA GDP per capita** 925,1\$
17,6% of the Population Lives with a Disability

2 LATIN AMERICA GDP per capita** 5.025,5 \$

In Guatemala, 10.6% of the population lives with a disability, according to the latest national census. The Guatemalan government has established the National Council for the Attention of Persons with Disabilities (CONADI), an organization created to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In Honduras and Nicaragua, the percentage of the population living with disabilities is 5% and 3%, respectively.

3 INDIA GDP per capita** 2.256,6 \$

In 2012, the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was established under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This agency was created to enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities. The most recent census, conducted in 2011, estimates that approximately 2.84% of the population lives with a disability. This figure is significantly lower than the average estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

4 ITALY GDP per capita** 35.657,5 \$
According to ISTAT data, 5,2% of the population lives with a disability.

5 KENYA GDP per capita** 2.081,8 \$

In 2003, Parliament enacted a law aimed at ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, achieving equal opportunities for them, and establishing a National Council for Persons with Disabilities. The most recent national census recorded that 2.2% of the population has a disability. However, this number is likely underrepresented due to an inadequate infrastructure that does not allow full access to censuses for all individuals with disabilities.

6 MALAWI GDP per capita** 634,8 \$
According to the Population and Housing Census 2018, there are 1,734,250 people with disabilities in Malawi.

7 NIGER GDP per capita** 590,6 \$
In 2019, the government of Niger enacted a law prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities. With a population of over 21 million, Niger is one of the top four countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change. The new emergencies facing the country include flooding, epidemics, and conflicts between farmers and herders over land availability. Additionally, 80% of the population lives in rural areas, 45% live below the poverty line, and only 15% have access to electricity.

8 RWANDA GDP per capita** 822,3 \$
In 2021, Rwanda adopted a national policy and a four-year strategic plan (2021-2024) for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

9 SOUTH SUDAN GDP per capita** 1.071,8 \$
11% of the population lives with a disability. According to a WHO study, there are approximately 250,000 people with disabilities in the refugee camps in South Sudan alone. In the absence of precise data, it is estimated that there are around 1.2 million people with disabilities throughout South Sudan.

10 UGANDA GDP per capita*** 2.960 \$
It is estimated that about 12% of the population in Uganda lives with a disability. The Ugandan government has enacted specific laws for people with disabilities, including their right to employment. According to the 1995 Ugandan Constitution, Article 21 prohibits any discrimination against people with disabilities. Uganda is one of the few countries in the world to recognize sign language in its Constitution.



CHAPTER 2

Identity

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2.1 Who is CBM Italia

CBM Italia ETS (civil society organization) is an international organization committed to health, education, employment, and the rights of people with disabilities where the need is greatest, both globally and in Italy.

Founded in 2001, it was recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in 2009. Since 2023, CBM Italia has acquired the status of ETS (civil society organization) with its registration in the National Register of the Third Sector (RUNTS).

CBM Italia works in synergy and coordination with CBM International (Christian Blind Mission), an international organization active since 1908 in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Since 1989, CBM has been recognized as a “Non-State Actor” in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), with which it collaborates.

CBM ITALIA'S COMMITMENT: BREAKING THE CYCLE BETWEEN POVERTY AND DISABILITY

CBM's commitment is to break the cycle between poverty and disability through health, education, employment projects, and emergency interventions that focus on people with disabilities and their rights, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. CBM's work aligns with global efforts to promote and implement an inclusive approach to disability development based on human rights and guided by the Convention. According to Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Member States are obligated to protect and promote the human rights of persons with disabilities in all

policies and programs. This approach is known as disability mainstreaming and involves planning and implementing all policies and programs in collaboration with people with disabilities, considering their needs, rights, and potential. CBM adopts this approach both abroad and in Italy, addressing the root causes of the link between poverty and disability and promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

CBM promotes Disability Inclusive Development (DID) as an approach aimed at the social inclusion of people with disabilities, and it is the result of the disability mainstreaming approach. It is based on the protection of human rights. Article 3 of the CRPD outlines its guiding principles:

- Respect for dignity
- Non-discrimination
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for differences and acceptance of disability as part of human diversity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the development and rights of children with disabilities

Social inclusion in the broadest sense is achieved when the entire community, including people with disabilities, equally benefits from development processes. It respects the diversity that disability brings and values it as an integral part of the human experience. This entails that:

- People with disabilities are included in the planning and implementation of all interventions
- Barriers to social and collective participation, whether physical, economic, attitudinal, or cultural, are removed.

Source: CBM - Disability Inclusive Development Toolkit

Vision

We believe in a world where people with disabilities can live without barriers or discrimination. We are committed to health, education, employment, and the rights of people with disabilities where the need is greatest, both globally and in Italy.

Values and guiding principles



CBM Areas of Intervention

Inclusive humanitarian action

IMPACT

- **Remove barriers** that people with disabilities encounter in **accessing aid, protection, and post-emergency recovery**
- **Address urgent needs**, including medical and rehabilitation services
- Ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in **decision making processes**

FOCUS AREA

- **Food security and assistance for basic needs** (including cash and voucher)
- **Inclusive health services**
- **Protection**
- Inclusive WASH services

Inclusive eye health

IMPACT

- Reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairments
- Make eye health and NTD (neglected tropical diseases) programs comprehensive at all levels of service delivery (promotion, prevention, care and treatment, rehabilitation)
- Strengthen national health systems

FOCUS AREA

- **Inclusion:** Ensure and promote inclusive practices in eye health programs, international networks, and at health ministries
- **Comprehensiveness:** Promotion, prevention, care, and rehabilitation interventions at all levels of service delivery
- **Integration:** Integrate eye health into national health systems

Community- based inclusive development

IMPACT

- Place **locally identified needs of people with disabilities at the center of programming**, addressing barriers to inclusion
- **Prioritize resources and solutions proposed by communities** to ensure sustainability
- **Create a systematic link** between community programs, national policies, and social protection systems

FOCUS AREA

- **Inclusive Communities:** Communities are inclusive of all people with disabilities
- **Inclusive Systems:** Services and support systems are inclusive, functional, and effective within communities
- **Preparedness at community level:** communities are resilient and prepared to face emergencies
- **Strengthening Leadership and capacities to advocacy**

DiDRR: Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. A strategy to prevent emergencies



Implementation of Strategies and Practices to Reduce the Vulnerability of People with Disabilities in Humanitarian Crises; includes community planning interventions to prevent future risks, reduce ongoing crises, and manage residual risks.

As seen in Chapter 1, natural disasters and conflicts are increasingly frequent and endemic events. People with disabilities, the elderly, women, children, and other at-risk groups are often **forgotten** in risk prevention plans, **excluded** from emergency preparedness measures, and **invisible** when it comes to evacuation planning.

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) involves implementing strategies and practices to reduce the vulnerability of people with disabilities in humanitarian crisis contexts; it includes community planning interventions to prevent future risks, reduce ongoing crises, and manage residual risks. **This is an approach that CBM develops** through plans for the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities before and during emergencies in areas prone to environmental disasters or affected by conflicts. The international community now recognizes the need to incorporate **inclusion as a guiding principle of DiDRR**, as evidenced by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). However, this commitment can only be achieved with the involvement of the entire society, promoting the empowerment and participation of all individuals disproportionately affected by disasters, including people with disabilities. Only by working with them can communities identify the needs to enhance resilience and reduce risks in the specific context.

2.2 How CBM Italia works

The commitment to creating a world where people with disabilities have equal opportunities and can enjoy their rights is aligned with the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and the 2030 Agenda, as highlighted in Chapter 1 (Background).

This commitment has always been **made concrete by CBM** through interventions in health, education, employment, and rights promotion, which involve **strengthening and enhancing local systems** in line with the approach defined as **"localization."**

CBM's intervention model involves implementing activities through local partners, ranging from civil society organizations to ministerial partners. This is essential for acting not as a replacement for local actors, but as agents who facilitate and promote local development.

Choosing to operate in this manner means promoting and consolidating partnerships that recognize and **value existing resources (both human and material) and skills** in the intervention contexts. It promotes interventions that are defined locally, thanks to a better understanding of the context and dynamics among local actors, thereby ensuring full integration of interventions and promoting greater sustainability. It means establishing solid partnerships with local actors and institutions, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, as well as with consortia of actors deeply rooted in the area.

Working with local actors also has other immediate positive outcomes, such as the ability to operate in otherwise inaccessible areas or ensuring greater continuity during times of crisis and internal tensions.

In summary, greater involvement of local actors not only ensures **greater equity** but also presents undeniable advantages in terms of intervention **effectiveness** (local actors are more familiar with the context and work within a community-level network), **efficiency** (through capacity building, local knowledge and presence can be leveraged, reducing costs), and **sustainability** (using local service providers injects new revenue into the economy, reducing the vulnerability of local populations and ensuring greater continuity of supported interventions). Finally, ensuring **local leadership** involves a profound change in existing dynamics and activation of all institutions.

This approach **is reflected in CBM's structure**, which utilizes local offices that are part of the CBM International network, such as the Country Offices coordinated by the Regional Hubs and managed entirely by local staff.

The presence of **local offices** allows CBM Italia to benefit from the expertise of individuals who are knowledgeable about the regions where interventions are carried out. It also adds value to the monitoring, supervision, and evaluation of projects. At the same time, these initiatives provide technical support to ensure high-quality programs and identify and disseminate good practices and lessons learned.

The teams responsible for the initiatives work closely with the Country Offices and Regional Hubs to define programmatic priorities and global guidelines. The CBM operational model aims to strengthen collaboration between initiatives, resource mobilization, and the teams that implement programs, embracing a holistic approach to operations while fully respecting the strategy, context, needs, and specific capacities of the country.

CBM Country Offices and Regional Hubs

Each Country Office is responsible for preparing Country Plans, which identify priorities and define programs to support disability-inclusive development in the target country. In addition to providing support to the Project Partner

Organizations, each Country Office is committed to strengthening the capacity of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), government agencies and Civil Society Organizations in the area.



AFRICA EAST AND SOUTH

The Regional Hub coordinates projects in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



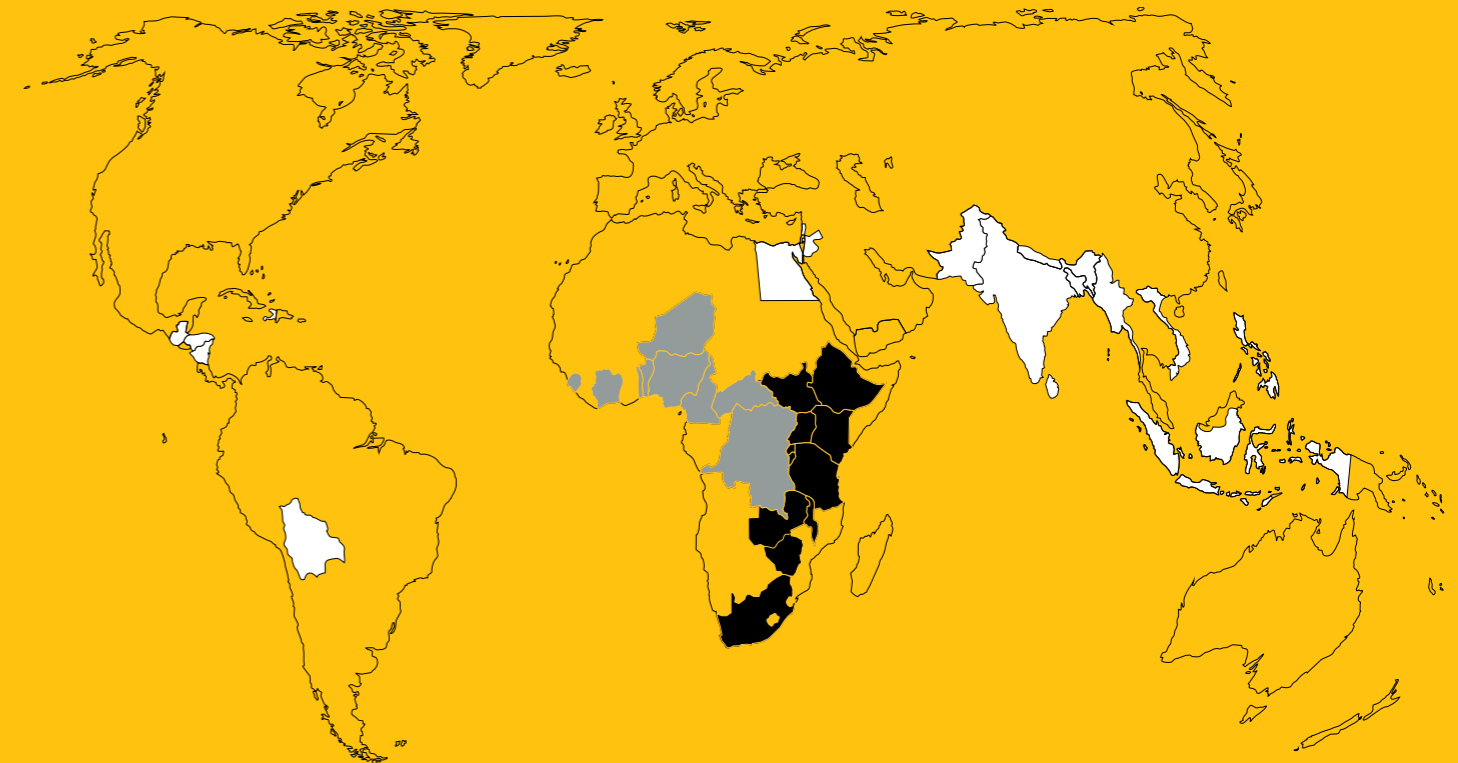
AFRICA WEST AND CENTRAL

Coordinates projects in Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, and Togo.



ASIA AND AMERICA

Coordinates projects in Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Vietnam; Lebanon, Egypt, Bolivia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar



A model of partnerships built on trust



LIKE MINDED PARTNERSHIP

CBM and its partners share the same vision, developing mutual expertise. The partners have a deep understanding of the local context, valuable technical skills, and access to communities, all of which are essential elements for the success of any initiative.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability towards people with disabilities and its supporters is one of the guiding principles of CBM's work. For this reason, every action aims to ensure high standards of professionalism, transparency, and efficient use of resources. The same approach is applied in managing relationships with partners, where roles and responsibilities are agreed upon, compliance requirements are defined, and procedures are introduced to gather feedback from partners and stakeholders, as well as to report any incidents.



INCLUSIVITY

CBM works alongside people with disabilities to empower them and overcome the barriers that prevent their full participation in society. In this context, it is essential that people with disabilities are involved in all stages of the projects.



TRUST AND RESPECT

Partnerships are based on the principles of equity and respect and aim to transform the relationship from "donorrecipient" to "partners in development." Approaches are tailored to local perspectives, customs, and norms. CBM creates opportunities to highlight the outcomes of its projects through a communication style that respects local culture.



RESPONSIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY

CBM collaborates with partners who bring innovative and effective approaches to both programming and resource mobilization. Partnerships should be long enough to generate a lasting impact while also being regularly evaluated.



MUTUAL LEARNING

CBM aims to strengthen relationships with partners through the integration and enhancement of mutual skills and knowledge. By acting as a catalyst, CBM fosters networking among partners to facilitate the exchange of knowledge. Globally, the opportunities created by CBM aim to share acquired experiences and learned lessons to influence policies and thereby increase the impact of its mission.



2.3 Ethics and integrity

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

To ensure ethical, legal, and consistent behavior with the values, mission, and professional standards of CBM Italia, the organization requires all its employees, governing bodies, collaborators, and partners to adhere to a Code of Ethics and Conduct. This Code is aligned with international standards, as well as the policies and guidelines of CBM International, drawing inspiration from the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Humanitarian Charter, the Accountability Charter for International Non- Governmental Organizations, and the Code of Conduct of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The Organization also commits to disseminating these principles among its employees and collaborators, providing adequate training and raising awareness.

CBM Italia believes that compliance with ethical rules and principles is essential to ensure the proper and transparent conduct of its activities, fully meeting the needs of its stakeholders and the categories it serves.

The Code of Ethics and Conduct of CBM Italia can be consulted on the website www.cbmitalia.org.

2.4 CBM people



98%

the percentage of employees on permanent contracts



85%

the percentage of CBM Italia employees who are women



CBM Italia is made up of individuals who work daily to serve the Organization's mission, sharing **common values**, passion for their work, and professionalism. This human capital makes the realization of every project and activity possible and is an added value for the Organization in achieving its goals.

In 2023, CBM Italia focused on **consolidating the Human Resources department**, emphasizing **training programs** for the professional growth of its staff, enhancing remote or smart working, implementing an **empowerment program** for employees, developing an HR management system aligned with organizational needs, and strengthening the Enjoy CBM and Benefit Hub **intranet platform**.

The National Collective Labor Agreement (CCNL) – applicable to all employees – is that of Commerce, Tertiary, Distribution, and Services, which includes specific benefits that CBM Italia has chosen to integrate to **support the well-being** of its employees.

Furthermore, CBM Italia actively participates in The NONPROFIT HR Hub, aiming to share, promote, and discuss human resource culture topics with other Third Sector organizations. In 2023, CBM took part in several **roundtables** related to human resource management.

In collaboration with the Department of Human Sciences at the University of Verona, a survey was designed to assess climate and well-being specifically for the Third Sector. The aim was to identify strengths and weaknesses related to the organizational environment by pinpointing perceived issues and resources; measure well-being and satisfaction regarding the work environment; and quantify and locate the gap between people's expectations and their daily organizational reality.

An additional goal of the survey was for participating organizations, such as CBM Italia, to receive a comparative feedback of the results at the sector level and to provide a scientifically validated, shared climate analysis tool common to the entire Non-Profit sector. The results show that CBM Italia aligns with the benchmark regarding workload and required skills, which were sometimes highlighted as critical. Positive results were noted regarding the Organization's resources that foster motivational processes, such as the level of autonomy, support from supervisors and colleagues, adherence to organizational values, and the characteristics and meaning of the work.



CBM in Italy

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Our manifesto in Italy: Working Together for a Society for All and by All

1

For over 100 years, we have been committed to ensuring that the rights of people with disabilities are respected and promoted worldwide, especially in countries where life is most challenging.

3

We feel the need to stand alongside people with disabilities in our own country, to build together an inclusive society where everyone can live fully.

2

We have learned that barriers to social inclusion for people with disabilities are common worldwide, though they vary in form and extent.

4

We offer our experience, gained in developing countries, through programs in health, education, and independent living.

5

We believe it is essential to first facilitate mutual understanding and collaborative work among the various organizations and institutions spread across the territory, enhancing their potential and capabilities.

7

We believe that to counteract the isolation of people with disabilities, it is necessary to engage the social communities to which they belong.

9

We will work to enhance the many existing and positive experiences already active in Italy, and we will support those who aim to promote new inclusive initiatives, that are open to everyone.

11

We will help highlight the many issues that still impede the full respect of the rights of people with disabilities in daily life, with the intention of promoting their resolution through concrete projects and initiatives.

13

We want to be part of the change to make society inclusive, because only together can we make our community and yours a place for everyone.

6

We do not want to work alone; we aim to design and participate in interventions where people with disabilities are the main protagonists.

8

We want to commit ourselves to ensuring that the rights to health, education, and independent living for people with disabilities are more fully respected.

10

We will implement initiatives to inform and raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities among individuals, families, and organizations both within and outside the disability sector

12

We will support and promote culture, innovation, and research in every field: because the affirmation of the rights to self-determination and inclusion for people with disabilities greatly depends on how we, as a society and community, perceive disability.

14

We believe that every person with a disability should be able to be the protagonist of their own life.

Summary data of CBM projects in Italy in 2023



13

Projects, including 8 new projects launched in 2023



574

Individuals (including 510 minors) involved in experiential, cultural, and sport activities on disability and inclusion



24,320

Total beneficiaries



20,420

Children and adolescents reached in schools, from early childhood to secondary education



90

Primary school children sensitized through theater



3,127

Teachers, educators, and parents trained on disability and inclusion



Our approach

In Italy, the commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities continues, following the principles and directives established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which is the foundation and inspiration for CBM's work.

This commitment translates into initiatives and projects aimed at spreading a culture of inclusion and promoting the rights of people with disabilities, ensuring their active participation in society without discrimination and with a leading role.

This commitment is concretely applied through projects in the areas of **inclusive education** — a priority also in 2023 — and **independent living**.

The adopted approach is one of inclusive design, where people with disabilities and their organizations (OPDs) play a central role and actively participate in all phases of the project cycle: from needs assessment and planning to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. CBM also **promotes the adoption of this approach** through **information and training activities for practitioners and professionals**, aiming to integrate **disability sensitive** practices into the design and implementation of activities and projects where **disability is not the primary focus (according to disability mainstreaming)**.

While maintaining a significant presence in the region **Lombardy**, **CBM Italia has launched a new nationwide educational program.**

To address the new needs of ongoing projects and the opening of new fundraising channels, in 2023 the CBM programs team in Italy was reorganized. It is now divided into one unit dedicated to managing current projects and building partner capacity, and another focused on the development of project design and institutional fundraising.

Our projects

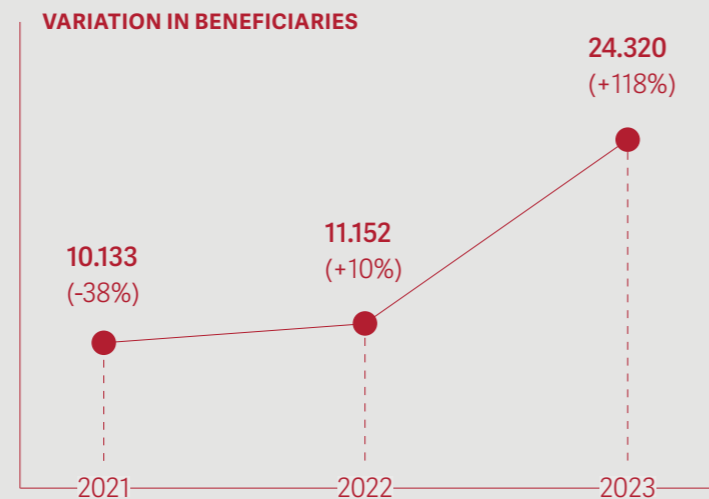
2023 was a pivotal year for CBM in Italy, marked by efforts to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities and advance a culture of inclusion through a range of initiatives, including:

- The development and dissemination of the first study on disability and poverty in Italian families: a social research that enhances understanding of the link between poverty and disability in Italy, and serves as a valuable resource for professionals in the field, offering insights to guide their interventions.
- The new educational project "Cambiamo Sguardo (Let's Change Perspective)" designed for schools across Italy, from early childhood to secondary education, aims to increase awareness of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by training teachers, students, and the entire educational community.

In 2023, CBM Italia implemented a total of **13 projects** across Italy, with 64% focused on inclusive education. Of these 13 projects, 8 were initiated in 2023. Additionally, 3 awareness raising initiatives were carried out, targeting professionals, families, youth, and children.

In total, the number of beneficiaries of the projects and initiatives was **24,320 individuals**.

The beneficiaries included not only people with disabilities but also their families, practitioners, teachers, and **the wider community, following a community-based inclusive development approach**. To achieve this, CBM engaged an involved both Organisations of Persons with disabilities (OPDs) and various local entities and organizations in the projects.



Disability and poverty in Italian families

Nearly 300 individuals with disabilities and their families participated in the first research study, "Disability and Poverty in Italian Families," conducted by CBM Italia and the E. Zancan Foundation. This study focused on families across Italy experiencing socio-economic hardship, dealing with not just economic poverty but also deficiencies in health, education, services, opportunities, and relationships, which collectively contribute to social exclusion.

«This is what happens when a child with a disability is born: life is turned upside down. There is a before and an after, and the after feels like being reborn into a new life that you have to start from scratch. You begin to see everything with different eyes; your child's disability becomes your own, it becomes the disability of the entire family. You start to realize that you no longer have the same opportunities as before and understand that you don't have the same possibilities as other families.»

MAIN FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

The study reveals that the most frequently requested forms of assistance, that are either not received or insufficiently provided, concern social and healthcare support (39% and 37% of cases, respectively), mobility, financial aid, socialization, and employment. Of all the requests made to public institutions, nearly 9 out of 10 are for services and/or contributions aimed at accessing services, while just over 1 in 10 are for financial transfers or essential material goods.

A widespread sense of abandonment by institutions is evident: the burden of care largely falls on the family, which often does not feel adequately supported from outside sources. In nearly 9 out of 10 cases, individuals with disabilities live in families that experience "subjective" economic hardship. This means that these families report managing to get by "with some difficulty," "with difficulty," or "with great difficulty" using their available resources. In terms of "objective" economic hardship, 62% of people with disabilities live in families that could not cover an unexpected expense of 500 euros with their own funds, and two-thirds of these families cannot afford a week-long vacation away from home.

One in four lives in a family that cannot afford to eat meat or fish at least every other day. Additionally, 22% of these families cannot heat their homes adequately, and 43% experience material deprivation, with 25% of them facing severe deprivation.

In the past year, one in five has struggled to buy necessary food for the family, one in three has had to forgo purchasing clothes, medical visits, medicines, or other medical expenses, and one in four has cut back on transportation expenses. While most people live in owneroccupied homes, over four in ten are renting or subletting, a proportion twice the national average for Italian families. More than one in three lives in conditions of "housing hardship".

In many cases, individuals with disabilities struggle to access recreational and social opportunities due to the "disabling" nature of their environments. Often, family members, particularly caregivers, also face challenges in participating in recreational and social activities, primarily due to the burden of caregiving.

GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

The study has revealed many insights. In this regard, the research serves as a tool for other organizations to guide their services and activities or as a starting point to explore further aspects of the link between poverty and disability.

«When you see people reacting negatively just because your child yells, makes noises in their own way, or walks unsteadily, what do you do to avoid adding to their pain? You might start by staying near the school gate to avoid unpleasant reactions, then move from the gate to the sidewalk, and eventually to the 'golden prison'... your home. This is where the isolation of your child and your entire family begins.»

1. Tear down the walls of isolation

There are several types of "walls" that create isolation for families with individuals with disabilities:

Relational Walls: These are informal and community-based support networks that are often weak or limited to interacting only with other families who have disabilities.

Institutional Walls: These refer to the inadequate support provided by public institutions, both in terms of the amount of support and the quality or suitability of the available services.

Socio-Environmental Walls: These walls arise from an environment that is not enabling, and sometimes even obstructive, due to a lack of awareness about the needs of people with disabilities. This is often compounded by the stigma associated with disabilities, particularly in more disadvantaged areas.

Isolation can sometimes be linked to a lack of knowledge and awareness about rights and opportunities. Families experiencing relational isolation, insufficient public sector support, and difficulty accessing goods, services, and opportunities (such as employment, social activities, and healthcare) often face additional challenges in navigating bureaucratic and informational needs.

Families in socio-economic and socio-cultural disadvantage are particularly affected. To break down these barriers, it's crucial to foster a culture of inclusion among institutional actors and within the community. This includes increasing awareness about the needs and resources of people with disabilities and their families, as well as ensuring they are informed about their rights and available opportunities.



The full results of the research are available in both the complete version and the abstract here.

2. Invest in services that promote humanity

A dual necessity emerges very clearly. First, there is a need to focus on providing services rather than financial contributions. Services, when delivered in a way that puts the individual at the center, offer added value due to their "human" and relational components, making them more effective compared to the "material" provision of financial support or goods. Families seek "human perspectives" that are often overlooked in the current service systems, where bureaucratic and standardized attitudes prevail.

The second necessity involves providing support that addresses both the needs of the individual with a disability—such as care, mobility, socialization, and employment/ training—and the needs of their family members and caregivers. This includes psychological support, relief from caregiving duties, guidance on opportunities (including employment and social relations), and support for future planning.

There is a widespread call for humanizing interventions and moving beyond the "standardization" of responses, which are often based on "clinical" assessments, towards a more inclusive approach. This approach should encompass a holistic care model for both the person and the family, addressing social, relational, and occupational needs.

3. Recognize and value each person's abilities

The study shows that, despite their challenges, people with disabilities and their families can offer valuable relational benefits to others. By recognizing and promoting these abilities, we can help break down social barriers, especially for those excluded from social networks.

At the local level, it's possible to introduce participatory tools and approaches in services and communities. These should focus on identifying and highlighting the resources within families of individuals with disabilities. Effective strategies include targeted communication and sharing these resources within community and institutional networks.

Such efforts can lead to significant positive outcomes. They can help reduce the social stigma that isolates individuals at home, combat discrimination against people with disabilities and their families, and strengthen opportunities for social and employment inclusion.



The research was presented on January 31, 2024, in the prestigious setting of the Historical Archive of the Presidency of the Republic in Rome, in the presence of institutions and representatives from the world of disability, as part of the events celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Italian Constitution. Highlighting the principles stated in Article 3. You can watch the recording here.

4. Promote inclusive opportunities for life and work

Many families are worried about the future when they can no longer care for a loved one with a disability. This issue affects all families but is especially critical for those in difficult socio-economic and cultural situations. Planning for the future involves preparing for transitions from living at home to other living arrangements over time. This planning needs to focus on both relationships and employment. Employment is particularly important because it can help people with disabilities and their families stay active and engaged. However, caregiving responsibilities can make it hard for family members to find and keep jobs, which affects the whole family economically and emotionally. Families also recognize that a supportive work environment can benefit people with disabilities and their caregivers. For caregivers, it's essential to have policies that help balance work and caregiving duties, which can improve their employment opportunities and income.

«Disability makes you different, but isolation can be devastating. If I asked my daughters what they prefer—being alone at home or being with others—they would definitely say "being with others." That's why it's important to provide opportunities for inclusion for people with disabilities, like my daughter Benedetta and also Camilla, my other daughter, who has a significant intellectual disability. Don't leave us alone or on the margins. Families like ours should receive the same care and support as our children, and we need to be guided through this challenging journey. This is possible.»

The quoted text is an excerpt from the words of Chiara, the mother of Benedetta and Camilla, two girls with disabilities.

Inclusive education

In this area, CBM has carried out the highest number of interventions (64%) in Italy, where cultural, attitudinal, and structural barriers persist, making genuine inclusion difficult.

According to recent Istat data*, during the 2022-23 school year, there were nearly 338,000 students with disabilities in Italian schools (4.1% of the total enrollment), marking a 7% increase (about 21,000 students) compared to the previous school year. Often, the full participation of these students in the educational process is hindered by exclusionary and discriminatory attitudes.

Additionally, the data highlight that:

- **Only 40% of schools are accessible** for students with physical disabilities; 17% for students with hearing impairments or deafness; and 1.2% for students with blindness or visual impairments.
- 30% of support teachers lack specific training.
- On average, 60% of students with disabilities change support teachers from year to year, leading to significant disruption in their education
- Training in specific educational technologies for students with disabilities is also lacking: in only 1 out of 4 schools have all teachers attended at least one relevant course (e.g., on tools such as speech synthesis, word processing programs, e-books, audiobooks, etc.).

In this context, CBM Italy's interventions aim to promote awareness of the **rights of people** with disabilities and to provide **methodologies and tools** for educational inclusion, and contribute to the **spread of**

a culture of inclusion.

Inclusive education promotes the effective participation of both students with and without disabilities in the educational system, which should provide equal learning opportunities for all, without discrimination. CBM Italy aims to enhance an inclusive education system so that people with disabilities can exercise their right to education without discrimination and on an equal basis, in line with Article 24 "Education" of the CRPD. This goal is pursued through two main approaches:

- Strengthening the inclusive capacity of educational communities, both inside and outside the school.
- Promoting and spreading the culture of inclusion within public opinion.

The first area includes projects implemented both inside and outside of schools aimed at increasing the inclusive capacity of educational services and, more broadly, of educational communities.

Additionally, in projects that do not have a specific focus on disability, CBM has supported partners in both designing—by providing methods and tools—and implementing initiatives to ensure inclusion, in line with the disability mainstreaming approach. This approach stipulates that "all interventions should be planned and executed in such a way that the needs, rights, and potential of people with disabilities are considered equally with those of other population groups" (CBM, Disability & Development Policy, 2007). The main beneficiaries have been: minors and young people with and without disabilities of all ages; school staff (administrators, support and regular teachers, educators, support roles, and other professionals involved in the educational environment); educational and support figures; representatives from local services; educators and workers engaged in non-formal and informal settings, such

as sports and leisure activities; family members (parents, guardians, siblings, and other significant figures); and operators and professionals responsible for delivering the services provided by the projects.

The school context plays a crucial role in achieving inclusion; however, it often lacks the necessary knowledge and resources to reach this goal. Collaboration between teachers, students, and families is essential to recognize the value of each person's diversity and uniqueness and to create an inclusive educational environment.

To achieve this optimal condition, it is crucial to have training that not only provides specific knowledge about disability but also fosters cultural change among all involved parties, highlighting the benefits for both students with disabilities and their peers. To establish an environment of **mutual understanding and respect** within the school community, it is essential that inclusion narratives engage all students, both with and without disabilities. In this direction, CBM Italia's 2023 projects aimed to promote awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, making it a "living" and tangible tool for coexistence.

The leading initiative is the new national project **"Cambiamo Sguardo: dire, fare, parlare di disabilità" (Let's Change Perspective: Speak, Act, Talk About Disability)**. This free training program aims to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and promote a culture of

inclusion. It offers tools to support civic education teaching and learning.

The project is designed for schools of all levels throughout Italy, as well as non-school organizations involved in educational activities. It provides an **online training course and a toolkit with educational activities that can be adapted for different age groups**.

* ISTAT data from the report "L'inclusione scolastica degli alunni con disabilità (The Educational Inclusion of Students with Disabilities) | Anno 2022-2023 (Year 2022-2023).

"Let's Change Perspective": Speak, Act, Talk About Disability

"LET'S CHANGE PERSPECTIVE"... A PROJECT THAT FOCUSES ON RIGHTS!

"Cambiamo Sguardo" ("Let's Change Perspective") represents a further step beyond the "Apriamo gli occhi!" ("Let's Open Our Eyes!") program that CBM Italy has been running since 2014 in preschools and primary schools. Over 10 years, this program has reached and raised awareness among 60,000 students and 5,000 teachers on themes of solidarity through activities, games, and stories.

CBM recognized the urgent need to shift the focus from raising awareness about solidarity to providing **formal training**—specifically aimed at the educational community, with a particular emphasis on the school environment—on human rights and, more specifically, the **rights of people with disabilities**.

The first step toward structural change always begins with knowledge and awareness.

"Cambiamo Sguardo" aims to move in this direction by offering free training modules for teachers and educators, enabling them to become agents of change and create inclusive environments. These modules are supported by operational kits, which provide practical tools to actively engage students and implement new models of coexistence.

The goal is to create an **inclusive educational environment** and provide the necessary tools to promote a culture of inclusion in Italian schools.

"To change perspective" means stepping into others' shoes, shifting viewpoints, and transforming ideas into behaviors and behaviors into actions. To build a more inclusive society and improve the world we live in, we support the rights of individuals and the entire human community.



«I believe that language can shape our thinking. My hope is that, over time, the way we speak will positively influence our attention towards others.»

Chiara, lower secondary school teacher

«Society is not yet ready to provide real opportunities for people with disabilities. That's why it's even more important for schools to envision the future of these individuals and provide them with all the tools they need to come as close as possible to their life goals and desires.»

Alessandra, lower secondary school teacher

«Respect is conveyed not only through actions but also, and perhaps more importantly, through language.»

Karin, preschool teacher



THE PROGRAM

“LET'S CHANGE PERSPECTIVE” can be used for teaching civic education and for applying theoretical and practical tools to all disciplines related to the proposed themes.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is aimed at: Curriculum and support teachers, Educators and teaching assistants, Communication assistants, School principals of all levels (from early childhood to upper secondary education), Students aged 3 to 18, Non-school organizations, All interested individuals.

RESOURCES

Online training: 4 modules of 30-minute video lessons to explain disability and understand the rights of people with disabilities, provided by experts from Ledha Milano (Lega per i diritti delle persone con disabilità) and the Istituto dei Sordi di Torino.

Digital operational kit (printable): Activities, games, and workshops to encourage opportunities for discussion and understanding of diversity.



**FIND OUT
HOW TO
PARTICIPATE**

Inclusive education also encompasses the **educational workshops** conducted in primary and lower secondary schools as part of the **"Scuole Aperte" ("Open Schools")** program by the Municipality of Milan, which have allowed for the involvement of children.

In 2023, the training course for F.I.R.E.! – Training Project on Inclusion and Educational Resilience for children with CHARGE Syndrome – was also completed. The course aimed to improve the social quality of life for students with complex sensory disabilities and their families. The national training involved the educational community of teachers, educational operators, and parents through a series of 15 online lessons and in-person workshops, covering topics from the rights of people with disabilities and disability language to Universal Design for Learning, from the basics of understanding deafblindness to the psychosocial needs of students, and from art therapy to inclusive teaching

CBM has also promoted various initiatives in schools and the community, targeting different age groups, with the goal of raising awareness about disability issues, offering concrete experiences to fully understand the meaning of inclusion, and overcoming barriers, starting with cultural and contextual challenges.

With the "Sono Inclusivo Ambassadors" (I'm Inclusive Ambassador) project, developed in collaboration with the Fondazione SON Speranza Oltre Noi, CBM Italia engaged a group of students aged 16 to 18, making them "ambassadors" for inclusion. In this second edition of the project, the students participated in a Paths to crosscutting skills within the framework of Work-Based Learning and Career Orientation Programs (PCTO), which included meetings and experiential workshops. They were provided with tools and content related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the associated individual and collective responsibilities. Guided by an expert, the students were involved in creating a podcast titled "Punti di Vista" (Points of View), through which they shared the realities of people with disabilities, exploring topics related to inclusion, language, participation, and accessibility.

As a new generation of ambassadors, these young people have become advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, actively engaging in creating spaces for reflection and discussion on inclusive practices and contributing to enhancing the inclusivity of their own communities.

Outside of school, the activities of the "Inclusione in Movimento" (Inclusion in movement) project, designed in collaboration with LEDHA Milano, Amici Casa della Carità, and the LopLop Association, continued and were concluded this year. The project highlighted a significant but often overlooked aspect: leisure time and the right to choose to participate in social, cultural, and sports activities accessible to everyone, in line with Article 30 of the CRPD. For the project's success,

it was essential to collaborate with local authorities, associations, and organizations in the area. From the shared experience, a set of ten good practices emerged for future projects that are more inclusive and respectful of diversity².

Finally, CBM played a key role in **integrating the theme of disability across all project activities in three partnership initiatives** by training operators and providing supervision, offering **guidelines** to make the project's activities or events **accessible**.

This is the case for two new collaborations launched in 2023. The first is with the organization VIS (Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo), which leads the project "TESTiamoCI per il futuro: TErritori e STudenti per una nuova CIttadinanza ecologica." (Let's test for the future: territories and students for a new ecological civic engagement). This project aims to raise awareness of the climate crisis by strengthening environmental education in schools and proposing concrete actions to students aged 11 to 18. Within this project, CBM focuses on the impact of the climate crisis and pollution on the future of people with disabilities, who are at double the risk in the event of environmental disasters. With this in mind, CBM conducted training for teachers on the CRPD and Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and also developed a guide with essential accessibility guidelines. The second project, "Le cose che abbiamo in comune" (The Things We Have in Common), is promoted by the Lop Lop Association in partnership with CBM Italia and the Museo Popoli e Culture. The project aims to combat educational poverty by raising awareness among children aged 6 to 11 about culture and global citizenship through interdisciplinary, multisensory, and inclusive experiences exploring the city of Milan. In this initiative, CBM was

responsible for supervising the activities and materials to ensure that the principles of inclusion and accessibility were applied in their design and implementation, allowing participation by everyone. Additionally, the collaboration continued with the national project "Crescere nel Villaggio" (Growing Up in the Village), promoted by CSB - Centro Salute del Bambino, which creates educational opportunities for children and parents, as well as meetings and training sessions to support parenting. At the national level, CBM trained educators and staff from all the centers ("villages") in collaboration with the Università Cattolica of Milan, providing expertise on inclusion, educational knowledge, and professional well-being. At the local level, in the "village of Milan," CBM maintained a constant presence with educational activities for children aged 0 to 6 and their parents.

The second area includes projects and activities aimed at raising public awareness and engaging the community through workshops and hands-on activities.

In 2023, CBM carried out 3 awareness initiatives that engaged 124 children:

- The theatrical performance "Solo due passi," (Just two steps) presented at the Festival of Children organized by the Municipality of Milan, aimed to introduce children aged 6 to 10 and their parents to the themes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, using a simple and engaging medium such as theater.

² decalogo_inclusione_in_movimento.pdf (cbmitalia.org)

The "Periferie Inclusive" (Inclusive neighbourhoods) project presented as part of the Milano Arch Week festival, in collaboration with Fondazione SON and Fondazione Casa della Carità. This project focused on accessibility, the needs, and rights of people with disabilities, with the goal of fostering the development of an inclusive city. It encouraged the transformation of marginalized areas into places that, starting from vulnerability, engage with the community by promoting hospitality, building relationships, spreading culture, and protecting rights

AT THE THEATRE WITH "JUST TWO STEPS"

The play, inspired by the values of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, tells the story of Marco, a 9-year-old boy who questions his beliefs after an unexpected encounter. Marco lives in an apartment building in a big city, which is just a few steps away from everything—the supermarket, the church, the school. These few steps seem trivial, a distance that can be crossed in a second. But is it really so for everyone? Meeting Sara, a girl with a disability who is the same age as him, sparks a series of doubts and reflections in Marco that challenge his beliefs and help him overcome prejudices and stereotypes. With "Solo due passi" – created in collaboration with the cultural association AIA Taumastica and directed by Massimiliano Cividati – CBM Italia aims to promote and enhance the culture of inclusion both inside and outside the school.



TRAILER OF THE SHOW



Independent Living

CBM Italia contributes to the participation of people with disabilities in society across its civil, political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. To support this, CBM Italia advocates for the "Progetto di vita" approach and tool, which aligns with the principle of self-determination by placing the person with a disability at the center, as the main actor in their own journey and choices.

This includes CBM's efforts to promote community-based personalized planning, initiatives directly targeting people with disabilities to support their autonomy and socialization, guidance to services, and peer support through mutual assistance and dialogue.

Among the projects aimed at promoting the autonomy of people with disabilities is "Un nuovo inizio" (A New Beginning): individualized therapeutic, educational, and rehabilitative pathways for minors with CHARGE syndrome, their families, and their educators, as well as specific actions to encourage socialization in various life contexts. Thanks to this initiative, 36 individuals with disabilities participated in personalized autonomy programs.

In 2023, support continued for the Fondazione SON "Speranza Oltre Noi," which manages a residential space for families of people with disabilities open to the community. This support was provided through the new initiative "Un Giardino in Movimento" (A Garden in Motion), a shared space focused on the values of inclusion, participation, and environmental respect. The project

was inaugurated in September 2023 with the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Municipality of Milan – District 2 for the shared management and regeneration of this communal asset.

Additionally, in response to the Ukraine crisis, CBM addressed the need to promote the autonomy of some Ukrainian refugees with visual disabilities who arrived in Italy and were hosted at the Centro don Orione in Chirignago (VE). The project "Accoglienza e autonomia per i profughi ucraini con disabilità visiva" (Reception and Autonomy for Ukrainian Refugees with Visual Disabilities) supported their integration into the new context through professional assistance and the provision of aids.

Finally, the "Nessuno Escluso" (No One Excluded) project, aimed at improving communicative accessibility for people with hearing and visual disabilities, was promoted by the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See. This service provides accessible information about the Pope's activities and the Church through a smartphone app, including a live channel for LIS (Italian Sign Language) translation. Since the project's launch, the app has been downloaded nearly 14,000 times

Our partnerships

CBM leverages its expertise alongside **qualified partners** to promote the active participation of people with disabilities in social, cultural, and economic life. Following this approach, CBM works to ensure that the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities are met effectively, with a primary **focus on contexts of greater vulnerability and socio-economic disadvantage**.

CBM works with organizations and entities across different fields to integrate a disability perspective throughout all stages of project development. This includes ensuring that disability considerations are included in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of initiatives and programs. To support this, CBM provides awareness and training on the rights of people with disabilities and on removing barriers, aimed at partners and project professionals.

CBM also works to foster the creation of networks between Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and other relevant stakeholders, such as institutions and services, third sector organizations, and citizens. This effort aims to ensure an inclusive and integrated approach in the design and implementation of initiatives that effectively address the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities. Co-design involved collaboration between Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), local entities, and associations that provide services for people

with disabilities. Working together with public institutions, such as the Municipality of Milan, the Education Department, District 2, and the Territorial School Offices of Milan and Lombardy, allowed for the development of joint initiatives and the sharing of resources and expertise.

The academic sector also plays a key role, with continued partnerships with universities like the Department of Education at Università Cattolica.

These collaborations have created opportunities for research and training, and have facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices among all involved parties.

“Out of the shadow”: Eye screenings for the most vulnerable

As part of the "Out of the Shadow!" campaign, aimed at ensuring the right to health, in 2023 we launched an initiative for the prevention and treatment of visual disabilities in Italy, targeting the most marginalized individuals. Everyone should have access to quality eye care and a pair of prescription glasses. The increase in poverty in recent years has meant that more and more people cannot afford to buy glasses or are forced to forgo medical care and preventive services for economic reasons.

Through the "Out of the Shadow" initiative, held in Milan from June 12 to 23, free comprehensive eye exams were provided to 163 vulnerable individuals, including 38 minors, who do not have access to dedicated eye health services. Thanks to this initiative, 50% of the patients received free prescription glasses, and care was ensured for patients with eye conditions, with 21% referred for further diagnostic tests and 5% for surgical interventions. The initiative was organized in collaboration with the Associazione Pazienti Malattie Oculari, at the Fondazione Casa della Carità in Milan, and was made possible with the support of the Fondazione OneSight EssilorLuxottica and the Zeiss Group, with the patronage of the Municipality of Milan.





CHAPTER 3

Objectives and Activities

3.1

CBM projects in the world

Inclusive Eye Health
Community Based Inclusive Development
Inclusive Humanitarian Action

64

3.2

Advocacy

70

CBM projects in numbers



8,1 mln

Committed to 51 projects



4,7 mln

Funds transferred to partners in 2023



90,5%

Of the funds committed in Africa in 2023



2,3 mln

People reached, of which



• 974,960

With health programs, community based inclusive development, and humanitarian action



• 1,330,185

With the distribution of medicines for Neglected Tropical Diseases

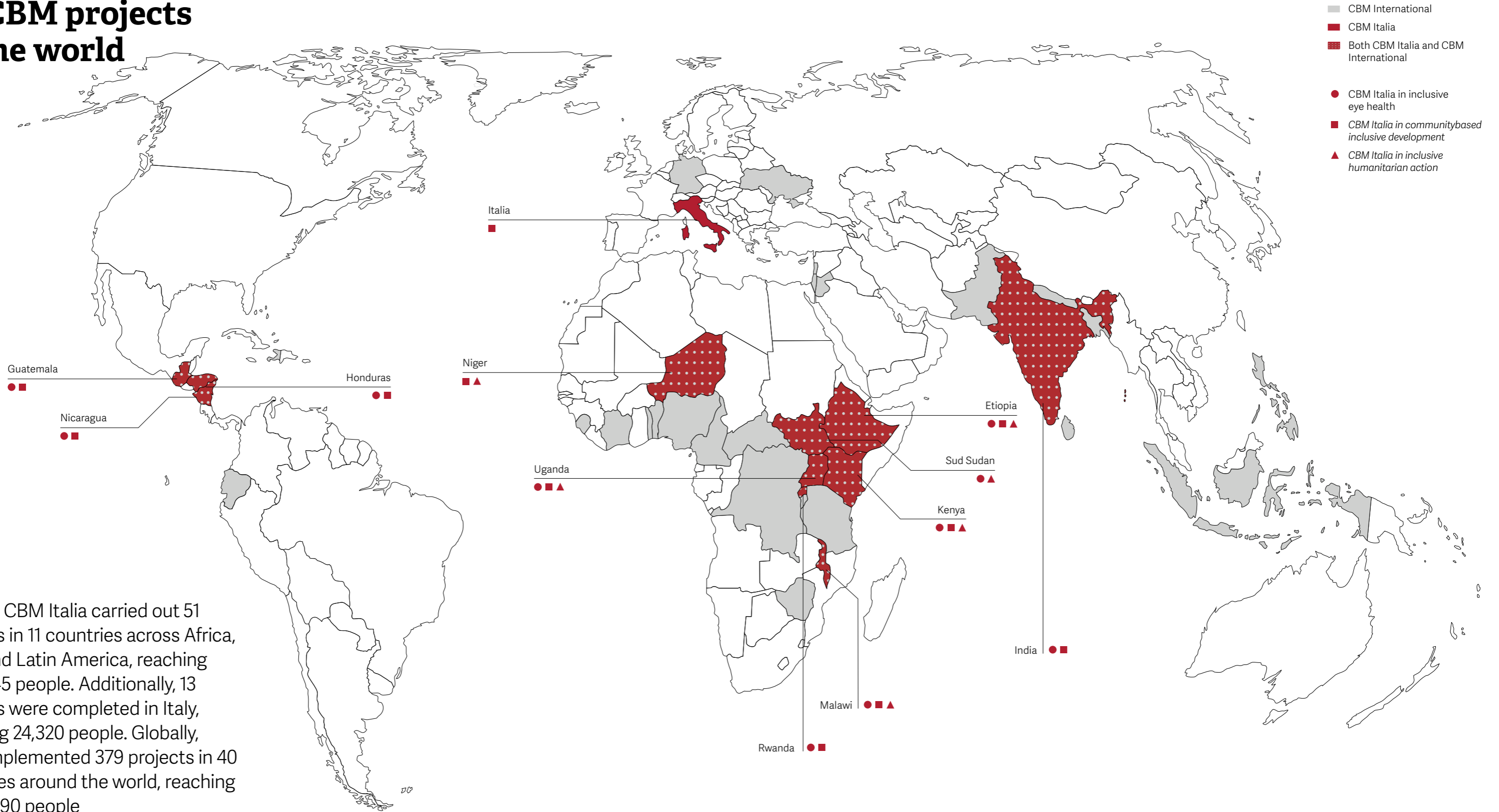


51

Projects implemented in Africa, Asia, and Latin America



3.1 CBM projects in the world



In 2023, CBM Italia carried out 51 projects in 11 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, reaching 2,305,145 people. Additionally, 13 projects were completed in Italy, reaching 24,320 people. Globally, CBM implemented 379 projects in 40 countries around the world, reaching 10,391,490 people

INCLUSIVE EYE HEALTH

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to improve people's lives and well-being and to protect our planet. The third goal concerns health for all. CBM Italia works to ensure that everyone, even in the poorest communities, has access to eye health, a fundamental right.

Priorities include the prevention and reduction of avoidable visual impairments, access to preventive and curative services for people with disabilities, and the promotion of the inclusion of blind and visually impaired individuals.

CBM Italia addresses this area by collaborating with health ministries and institutions to ensure that eye health becomes a priority for local governments, and by supporting them in defining and implementing multi-year intervention plans aimed at strengthening existing health systems.

CBM's goals include:

- Strengthen local health systems to make eye care services accessible to everyone
- Eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as trachoma and onchocerciasis
- Include blind and individuals with disabilities in communities, ensuring their access to education, employment, and health, thereby breaking the cycle that links poverty and disability

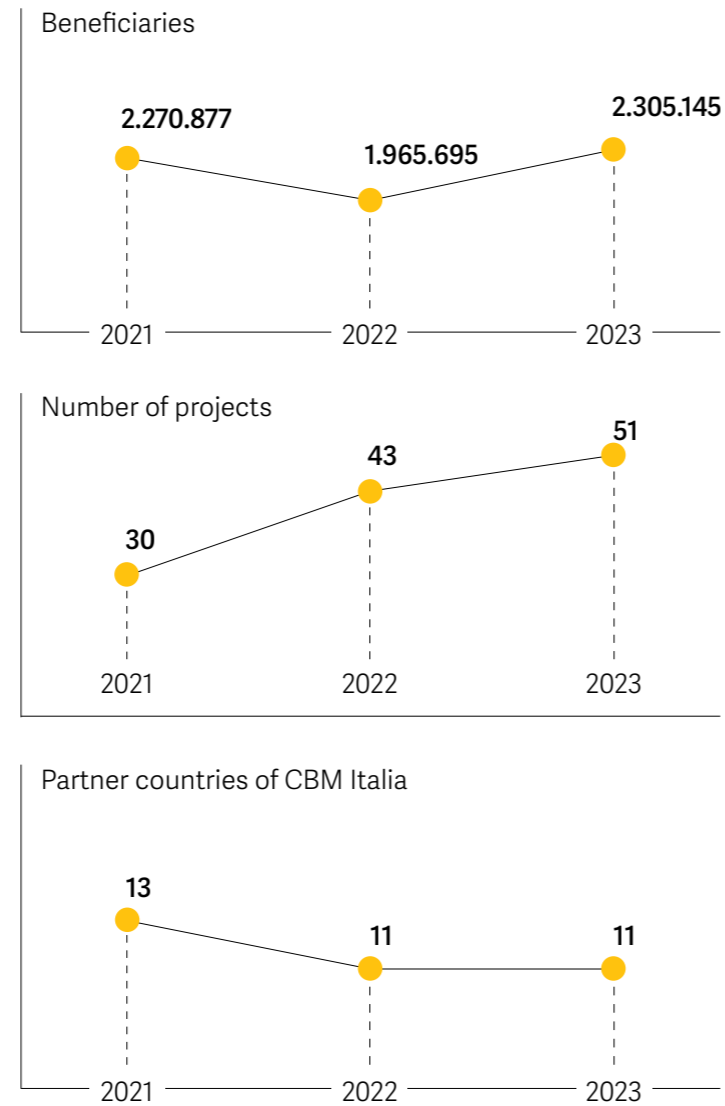
In 2023, 23 Inclusive Eye Health projects were carried out in 8 countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Uganda. These projects collectively reached 827,631 people.

There were 24,539 eye surgeries performed, including 18,554 cataract surgeries. Additionally, 41,525 visual aids, including eyeglasses, were distributed. **1,994 professionals** participated in training on eye health.

Additionally, 1,330,185 people received treatment to prevent and cure Neglected Tropical Diseases (such

as trachoma and onchocerciasis) in South Sudan and Ethiopia. There were 4,749 trichiasis (advanced stage of trachoma) surgeries performed.

TREND OF KEY INDICATORS



COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is an approach aimed at ensuring the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life, promoting their active participation. Based on community empowerment and centered around individuals, it includes interventions in health and rehabilitation, education, livelihoods, social life, and empowerment. In at-risk areas, CBID programs also involve activities for community preparedness and resilience in the event of disasters. This approach seeks to identify and remove barriers that prevent the enjoyment of rights.

In 2023, there were 21 CBID projects, which included activities such as rehabilitation, inclusive education, vocational training, job placement, food security, and microcredit. These projects, implemented in 10 countries (Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Guatemala, Malawi, Nicaragua, Honduras, Niger, Rwanda, and Uganda), **involved 83,673 people**.

Among them, **9,739 accessed livelihood services**, with 1,145 obtaining employment; **6,200** received **microcredit** services. Additionally, **35,149 children and young people** participated in **inclusive** education programs.

A new area of development has been identified to focus on in the coming years, such as strengthening Disability-Inclusive Social Protection and Community Support systems.

Community-level support systems, which have already been a significant focus of CBM's work, play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being and resilience of communities, particularly in the face of unforeseen events and increasing shocks, including those related to climate change. In such situations, people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and require inclusive measures, resulting in a social protection system that is implemented from the national to the community level.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION PROGRAMMES

In 2023, CBM Italia strengthened its role as a humanitarian organization capable of addressing both sudden and chronic emergencies by working with local communities to promote resilience and preparedness. The main objective is to ensure that emergency responses are inclusive of people with disabilities.

To achieve this, CBM Italia is committed to putting the principle of "leave no one behind" into practice, ensuring that people with disabilities are involved in all stages of planning, assistance, protection, and reconstruction. This means not only including them as beneficiaries of relief initiatives but also actively involving them in decision-making and managing emergency responses.

At the same time, CBM collaborates with other humanitarian organizations to promote an emergency response approach that considers the specific needs of people with disabilities, sharing its knowledge and experience in the field of inclusion and encouraging other humanitarian organizations to incorporate disability into their interventions.

The priority humanitarian sectors for CBM are:

1. Inclusive food security and assistance for basic needs
2. Inclusive health services
3. Protection and safeguarding for people with disabilities
4. Inclusive WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services

The above includes medical and rehabilitation services, sanitation facilities.

Through its activities in Inclusive Humanitarian Action, CBM Italia reached 4,358 people in 2023 with 7 projects carried out in Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, South Sudan, and Uganda.



3.2 Advocacy

In 2023, CBM Italia focused on continuous disability mainstreaming through its networks, taking on greater responsibility in terms of active participation and strengthening training and awareness activities in Italy. At the European level, CBM worked to enhance its presence in key discussions in Brussels and reaffirm its commitment to disability in line with European priorities, as outlined in the European Disability Strategy 2021-30.

This commitment at the European level has strengthened advocacy actions at the national level while also bringing Italian experience to international forums.

ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS

Being part of networks and "networking" (as described in Chapter 4) plays a crucial role in advocacy activities, enhancing their effectiveness and promoting real change.

Networks and alliances facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources, increase visibility, strengthen credibility and cohesion among members, and improve the efficiency of actions undertaken.

ITALY

At the institutional level, active participation in the Italian Coordination of International NGOs (CINI) continued, with ongoing exchanges on topics of international interest; among these, the issue of localization in the humanitarian field, which highlights the importance of local partners and their expertise.

CBM Italia, representing CINI, has continued to proactively contribute to numerous specific disability-related

forums, such as Working Group 13 (International Cooperation) of the **National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities, focusing on disability issues in international cooperation.**

In the field of international cooperation, with a specific focus on emergencies, the publication "People with Disabilities in Emergency Contexts and Interventions" is the result of the collaboration by a working group consisting of CBM Italia, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, along with AIFO, EDUCAID, CISP, and RIDS, with valuable contributions from members of affiliated networks, CINI, AOI, and Link 2007. The document collected quantitative and qualitative data on a sample of disability projects, both humanitarian and developmental, carried out in emergency contexts during 2020, a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, CBM Italia, in line with its commitment to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, continued to collaborate with ASviS (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development), actively participating in the inclusion of a disability mainstreaming approach in working groups related to Sustainable Development Goals 1 (Poverty), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 10 (Inequality), and 17 (International Cooperation).

CBM Italia's commitment to disability mainstreaming also characterized its work within the Global Coalition Against Poverty (GCAP), which is heavily involved in preparing for Italy's Presidency of the G7 in 2024, with the aim of ensuring international alignment on disability issues across the various topics addressed by the G7.

In the field of global citizenship education, CBM Italia played a key role—working with GCE Italia (Global Campaign for Education), of which it is a member—in the global campaign "Education Cannot Wait." The goal of this campaign was to encourage the Italian government to increase investments in education for situations of extended crises.

In the field of education, CBM Italia continued its commitment within the Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Group) by contributing to the 13th Monitoring Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. CBM Italia helped draft sections on: the commitment to children and adolescents in international cooperation (Art. 12 CRC, Paragraph 1); health and disability; early childhood education and care services; the right to education for children with disabilities; and global citizenship education, sports, movement, and education.

In 2023, collaboration with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) continued, including participation in the disability-focused event "EXPOAID 2023 - IO, PERSONA AL CENTRO." CBM Italia, along with other NGOs and the Agency, emphasized the importance of international cooperation that considers people with disabilities and their needs, highlighting best practices from projects in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The collaboration with AICS also led to the creation of a video—released on December 3, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities—published on the AICS website. The video, produced with AIFO, EDUCAID, CISP, and RIDS, showcased various international cooperation initiatives across different sectors, including human rights, health, employment inclusion, food security, women's empowerment, training, sports, and art. In 2023, CBM Italia strengthened its collaboration with multilateral organizations such as UNHCR - Representation for Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino, resulting in the training session "Strengthening the Protection of People with Disabilities in the Context of Forced Migration," conducted in partnership with LEDHA. This training involved approximately 600 participants. Additionally, a new collaboration was launched with

UNHCR's Milan office, leading to the planning of a new series of training sessions on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These sessions, developed in collaboration with LEDHA and Intersos, are aimed at community volunteers (mediators for refugee and migrant communities).

In the realm of training, CBM Italia also continued its collaboration with VIS (Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo) on the course "The Disability Dimension in the 2030 Agenda: Inclusive Development in International Cooperation." The course aimed to increase understanding of international cooperation and interventions for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities, in light of the 2030 Agenda and its concrete policy and program tools. Finally, in 2023, CBM Italia participated in working groups of the CI SIAMO project, which focuses on disability issues within migrant communities, in collaboration with ISMU, LEDHA, and Fondazione Caritas Ambrosiana.

EUROPE

At the European level, CBM Italia's participation was significant as part of the Italian delegation, led by the Italian Disability Forum, at the Fifth European Parliament of Disability in Brussels, titled "Building an Inclusive Future for Persons with Disabilities in the EU." This high-level institutional event, held every four years, brought together over 700 representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities to present key issues to the European Parliament.



CHAPTER 4

Economical and financial position

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4.2	Other Information	75
	Environmental policy	
	Data protection	
	Any disputes	

Financial sustainability in numbers



5,2 mln

euro from donations collected by CBM Italia.



48.480

Individual CBM Italia donors who contributed



18%

comes from regular supporters.



every €

spent on fundraising and communication activities has enabled the collection of more than double.



84%

of individual donors have been supporting CBM Italia for over 10 years.



4.1 Reliability and transparency

Transparency is one of the values that guides the work of CBM Italia. Being transparent means being responsible in the efficient use of resources and communicating results with clarity and simplicity, meeting the need for accountability of the organization itself, its partners, and supporters.

With this in mind, CBM has strengthened its reporting activities on the progress and status of each project since 2022, and these efforts continued in 2023

- CBM is one of the 275 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) recognized by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (data updated as of 26/10/2023).
- From 2006 to 2020, the financial statements were voluntarily audited by the audit firm KPMG.
- Since 2021, CBM Italia's financial statements have been subject to statutory audit, in compliance with the requirements imposed by the Third Sector Code.

4.2 Other information

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In 2023, CBM Italia continued its commitment to promoting sustainability and reducing the impact of its activities on the environment. With the help of a specialized company, it was determined that CBM Italia produces 9.1 tons of CO2 annually. The emissions from CBM Italia mainly come from indirect sources related to work activities, such as the energy used in workspaces (considering the number of people, technological devices, printers, bills, etc.).

Following an in-depth analysis, CBM Italia has identified several areas of intervention to improve environmental sustainability, involving and empowering its employees.

Although the numbers are not alarming, CBM Italia continues to do its part to reduce CO2 emissions and raise awareness on environmental issues. Therefore, in 2023, the implementation of CBM Italia's environmental policy, first adopted in 2022 and shared with employees, continued. The adoption of eco-friendly practices contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at a global level and protecting natural resources for future generations. Among the main results achieved from these interventions are:

- The reduction of CO2 emissions
- The creation of a responsible work environment, increasing employees' awareness of the importance of respecting the environment, and promoting ecosustainable behaviors both in the workplace and in everyday life.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

CBM Italia has undertaken various concrete actions to reduce the environmental impact of its activities, focusing on consumables, plastic, waste management, eco-friendly cleaning products, energy savings, and sustainable mobility. Here are the initiatives continued in 2023:

- *Paper: Employees have been encouraged to use paper sparingly, favoring digital documents. Paper used for printing and stationery is mostly 100% recycled.*
- *Plastic: CBM Italia uses disposable materials made from recycled or low-impact environmental materials. Employees have been provided with metal water bottles to reduce the consumption of plastic bottles.*
- *Waste Management: The company adheres to current regulations on waste separation, sorting paper, organic waste, glass, and plastic/aluminum.*
- *Energy Savings: Employees have been encouraged to turn off lights when not needed, helping to reduce electricity consumption and light pollution.*

Through these initiatives, the Organization contributes to the protection of natural resources and the promotion of a sustainable lifestyle.

CO2 EMISSIONS

Achieving carbon neutrality is an ambitious goal aimed at minimizing the greenhouse gas emissions produced by office activities and offsetting the inevitable emissions through carbon removal initiatives. However, achieving carbon neutrality requires constant monitoring of emissions and the implementation of innovative solutions to compensate for unavoidable consumption. To offset emissions, carbon credits can be purchased on the voluntary market. A carbon credit is a unit of measurement representing the removal of one ton of CO2 from the atmosphere. These credits are obtained through projects that prevent or reduce greenhouse gases and can be purchased as a means to offset generated emissions.

Since 2022, CBM Italia has chosen to offset the 9.1 tons of CO2 produced annually by participating in the **Forever Bambù** project, which has resulted in the creation of **350 square meters of bamboo forest**.

Giant bamboo forests are known for being excellent carbon sinks, meaning they can absorb large amounts of CO2 from the atmosphere. They also contribute to a circular economy, as the bamboo is subsequently transformed into bioplastics.

CBM Italia's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality has been effective since 2022 and continued in 2023, representing a significant step towards sustainable and responsible development. Through collaboration with projects like Forever Bambù and involving employees, CBM Italia demonstrates that it is possible to reconcile organizational growth with environmental protection.

DATA PROTECTION

CBM Italia is committed to safeguarding the personal data of its supporters and beneficiaries. It ensures that the processing of personal data is conducted in compliance with EU Regulation 679/2016 (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR). In accordance with this Regulation, in 2023 CBM Italia continued to update its data protection procedures, a process that began in 2018 with the assistance of an external consultant. This included updating all existing data collection notices, forms used in each department, and the Data Processing Register.

The updating of the Data Processing Register is continuously monitored to ensure compliance with regulatory changes. CBM Italia is also dedicated to educating its employees about data protection and promoting best practices for handling and safeguarding personal data.

ANY DISPUTES

In 2023, no disputes were identified that could lead to convictions or any detrimental liabilities for the Organization.

Digital transformation

Throughout 2023, CBM Italia has focused on increasing digitalization. Digital transformation primarily arises from a cultural shift and the Organization's need to revise internal processes, aiming for greater information and data sharing and accessibility.

Digital innovation is evident through a data-driven approach that permeates all activities, from project design to fundraising and project management. This method allows for decisions based on concrete data, enhancing their effectiveness.

A key goal of digital transformation is also the revision of internal processes, including communication and data sharing. It is crucial to integrate customized digital tools designed to meet the specific needs of the organization. These tools can range from project management software to collaboration platforms, all developed internally to optimize workflow and increase productivity.

At the same time, the development of dedicated digital environments or applications plays a crucial role in making internal processes more streamlined, efficient, and aligned with strategic decisions.

In summary, these three elements—being data-driven, revising processes with tailored digital tools, and developing solutions to reduce bureaucracy—are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Together, they contribute to creating a dynamic digital ecosystem that can adapt and evolve to support the Organization.

Partnerships

Institutions



The strong partnership between CBM and AICS continues to expand. In 2023, CBM is leading two projects with AICS: one in South Sudan to improve access to inclusive eye care and another in Niger focusing on food security. Additionally, CBM is involved in eight other projects in collaboration with Italian NGOs, addressing areas such as: Inclusive education in Kenya and Ethiopia; Visual and physical disabilities in Uganda; Emergency response in Niger, northern Ethiopia, and Uganda. A new initiative has also started, funded by ECG AICS in Italy, in partnership with VIS. This project aims to promote inclusive actions and behaviors, fostering active participation in environmental protection and combating climate change.



8x1000 Presidency of the Council of Ministers: The three food security programs in Ethiopia, Niger, and Kenya continued, focusing on the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children with disabilities.



In 2023, CBM concluded its collaboration with the European Union on the first project funded by a trust fund through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The project, implemented in Niger in partnership with CISP, aimed to address the root causes of irregular migration by enhancing the professional, social, and economic inclusion of the Nigerian population. The project was completed in the middle of the year.

Foundations



The project in Uganda, "I4I – Innovation for Inclusion," funded by the "Innovation for Development" program from Fondazione Cariplo and Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, was successfully completed.

To showcase the results, a public lecture was held in March at the University Campus Bio-Medico in Rome. The event highlighted examples of digital health technologies used in developing contexts, including 3D printing applications at CoRSU Hospital. It also served as a platform for discussing partnerships between universities, innovative startups, for-profit entities, and international cooperation actors.



The "Inclusione in movimento" project, launched in 2021 in Municipality 2 of Milan, was completed in April, achieving its goals in the realm of inclusive cultural and sports activities for children aged 8 to 12. Notable outcomes included guided tours on historical and naturalistic trails designed for accessibility, benefiting nearly 300 participants, and sports events offering various inclusive disciplines for 450 children, both with and without disabilities.



For the second time, the Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lombardia has renewed its support for 30 children and adolescents with CHARGE syndrome. In collaboration with Fondazione CattolicaVerona, it also launched the "Un Nuovo Inizio" initiative in September. This initiative aims to systematize effective rehabilitative and therapeutic practices into highly personalized and participatory individual life projects.



In 2023, the Fondazione Alessio Maracchia chose CBM as a partner due to its extensive operational experience and expertise in Africa, which aligns well with the Foundation's focus. This collaboration has resulted in multi-year support for two projects dedicated to pediatric eye care in Rwanda and Uganda.



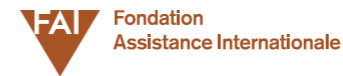
The Fondazione MEI has renewed its support for the Mengo Hospital in Uganda after one year, contributing to the purchase of diagnostic and surgical equipment needed to equip a new ophthalmology department set to open in 2024. This partnership represents a stable commitment to eye care in Uganda.



In 2023, a significant milestone was reached in the long-term partnership with the Fondazione L'Occitane, part of the French cosmetics group. Through their "Caring for Sight" program, they supported a major project in India that will provide specialized eye care to over 188,000 children living in the most vulnerable indigenous communities in Andhra Pradesh. The aim is to reduce preventable blindness and vision disorders among the 0 to 18 age group.



The project with the Fondazione ENGIE, part of the French industrial energy group, was successfully completed. This initiative supported the poorest and marginalized communities in rural Punjab, India. Thousands of children, women, and vulnerable individuals now have access to education and employment opportunities, which are essential for breaking the cycle of disability and poverty.



The important long-term collaboration with Fondation Assistance Internationale continues in supporting the trachoma elimination program in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. It is estimated that by 2025, over 200,000 people will receive treatment through the provision of preventive and curative services, access to clean water, and awareness-raising on sanitation and hygiene issues.

Other Institutions



The "Growing in the village" project, launched in 2021 in partnership with Centro Salute del Bambino and funded by The Human Safety Net – Ora di Futuro Program and the social enterprise Con i Bambini, continues this year. The project aims to strengthen an inclusive educational system in Milan for children aged 0-6, as well as their families and educators.



In 2023, the Tavola Valdese (Waldesian Church) continues to support CBM in the effort to eliminate trachoma in South Sudan, identified as a public health issue. This collaboration aims to improve the quality of life for affected women, men, boys, and girls in the Unity State.

Partnerships

Companies



For over 10 years, Alfasigma has supported our inclusive education projects in Ethiopia, helping to provide high-quality educational services for children with and without disabilities. This partnership has played a key role in completing the Robit School, a significant achievement for many children in the community.



In 2023, Campari's support was directed towards two different projects: In Italy: The "Welcome and Independence for Ukrainian Refugees with Visual Impairments" project, in collaboration with Centro Don Orione in Chirignago (Venice), helped three individuals with visual impairments learn Italian and find employment and housing. Abroad: Support was provided for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in Guatemala, an insidious condition that can be prevented with timely treatment.



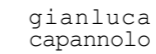
For the first time, the company partnered with us for the "Children in office" initiative, organized for the children of employees at the Assago (Milan) and Scorzé (Venice) offices. Our experts led a sensory workshop, providing an immersive experience that allowed the employees' children to explore and learn about the world of CBM.

Other companies

During the Christmas season, Logos, Mediagraf, O.T.I.M., and Riello Investimenti chose to support us.

Other projects

After the post-pandemic break, we organized the Fair Values event with the essential support of 53 companies, which collectively donated over 2,000 products.



Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2023

	31/12/2023	31/12/2022		31/12/2023	31/12/2022
ACTIVE			LIABILITY		
B) Fixed assets	2,245,330	2,344,920	A) net asset	10,157,034	11,757,397
I - Intangible fixed assets	48,807	53,523	II - restricted net assets	8,567,908	10,210,356
2) Development costs	48,807	53,523	1) statutory reserves	3,853,402	4,591,482
II - Tangible fixed assets	2,196,523	2,291,397	2) restricted funds by decision of the management board	576,325	755,716
1) land and buildings	2,115,852	2,206,385	3) restricted funds for projects decided upon by third parties	4,138,181	4,863,158
2) plant and equipment	5,006	6,786	III - Unrestricted net assets	869,567	869,567
3) equipment	–	167	1) Surplus relates reserves	869,567	869,567
4) other assets	75,665	78,059	IV - surplus for the year	719,559	677,474
C) Current assets	9,707,700	10,977,113	B) Provisions for risks and charges	100,000	100,000
I - Inventories	98,807	194,910	3) Others	100,000	100,000
1) finished products and good	98,807	194,910	C) Employees' leaving entitlement	692,890	608,147
II - Receivables, with separate classification of those due after one year	3,001,382	1,034,905	D) payables, with separate classification of those due after one year	1,030,386	884,709
1) contributions due from private bodies	2,971,159	1,025,482	1) Bank loans and borrowings	1,993	4,045
9) tax credits	1,472	–	7) trade payables	526,221	554,276
12) towards others	28,751	9,423	9) tax debts	75,569	57,042
III - Financial Assets Not Constituting Fixed Assets	3,605,047	4,044,972	10) social security charges payable	109,444	111,981
3) other securities	3,605,047	4,044,972	11) payables to employees and collaborators	51,364	66,634
IV - Liquid funds	3,002,464	5,702,326	12) other payables	265,795	90,731
1) bank and postal deposits	2,999,995	5,698,290	E) accruals and deferred income	6,652	18,316
3) cash-in-hand and cash equivalents	2,469	4,036			
D) Prepayments and accrued income	33,932	46,537	TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,986,962	13,368,570
TOTAL ASSETS	11,986,962	13,368,570			

Management accounts year 2023

A. ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	REVENUES, RENTS AND INCOME	2023	2022
1) Raw materials, consumables and goods	-	-	1) Membership fees and contributions from founders	600	750
2) Services	3,967,388	2,154,832	2) Income from members for cooperative activities	-	-
3) Use of third party assets	-	-	3) Revenues for services and transfers to members and founders	-	-
4) Personnel	1,245,977	1,082,987	4) Donations	24,748	18,300
5) Amortisation and depreciation	-	-	5) 5x1000 contribution income	269,941	307,342
6) Provisions for risks and charges	-	-	6) Contributions from private bodies	1,161,263	573,288
7) Other operating costs	357	47	7) Revenues for services and transfers to third parties	-	-
8) Opening inventories	-	-	8) Contributions from public bodies	1,212,017	328,177
9) Accruals to the restricted funds by decision of the management board	-	-	9) Income from contracts with public bodies	156,226	6,876
10) Use of restricted funds by decision of the management board	(1,419,163)	(854,673)	10) Other revenues, earnings, and income	-	-
			11) Closing inventories		
TOTAL	3,794,559	2,383,193	TOTAL	2,824,795	1,234,733
			A. DEFICIT FROM GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES	(969,764)	(1,148,460)

B. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	REVENUES, RENTS AND INCOME	2023	2022
1) Raw materials, consumables and goods	3,422	-	3) Revenues from services and sales to third parties	38,588	-
TOTAL	3,422	-	TOTAL	38,588	-
			B. SURPLUS FROM MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES	35,166	-

C. COSTS AND CHARGES FOR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	REVENUES, RENTS AND INCOME	2023	2022
1) Charges for regular fundraising	1,567,521	1,645,151	1) Income from regular fundraising	4,876,224	5,207,403
2) Charges for occasional fundrais	15,819	18,742	2) Income from occasional fundraising	38,254	-
3) Other charges	693,769	686,543	3) Other income	-	-
TOTAL	2,277,109	2,350,436	TOTAL	4,914,478	5,207,403
			C. SURPLUS FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	2,637,369	2,856,967

D. COSTS AND CHARGES FOR FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	REVENUE, RENTS AND INCOME	2023	2022
1) Bank relations	130,369	67,711	1) Banking relations	2,187	1,248
2) Loans	-	-	2) Other financial investments	21,567	22,929
3) Real estate assets	-	-	3) Real estate assets	-	-
4) Other assets	-	-	4) Other assets	3,300	3,850
5) Provisions for risks and charges	-	-	5) Other income	50,128	18,629
6) Other charges	-	-			
TOTAL	130,369	67,711	TOTAL	77,182	46,656
			D. DEFICIT FROM FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(53,187)	(21,055)

E. COSTS AND CHARGES FOR GENERAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

CHARGES AND COSTS	2023	2022	PROVENTI	2023	2022
1) Raw materials, consumables, supplies and goods	-	-	1) Secondment of personnel	-	-
2) Services	344,473	383,278	2) Other general support income	-	-
3) Use of third party assets	-	-			
4) Personnel expenses	406,212	350,715			
5) Amortisation and depreciation	144,307	148,076			
6) Provisions for risks and charges	-	100,000			
7) Oher charges	25,001	19,811			
TOTAL	919,993	1,001,880	TOTAL	-	-
			D. DEFICIT FROM GENERAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	(919,993)	(1,001,881)

REPORT

	2023	2022		2023	2022
TOTAL CHARGES AND COSTS	7,125,452	5,803,220	TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUE	7,855,043	6,488,792
			PRE-TAX SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	729,591	685,572
			TAXES	10,032	8,099
			POST-TAX SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	719,559	677,473

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