

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) ACTION PLAN

2014-2024



1. Background

Human rights must be upheld and guaranteed for persons with disabilities, who continue to face barriers to participation and limited opportunities in society. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) should underpin all efforts to improve the situation for persons with a disability in Vanuatu, including remote communities. An estimated 15% of the world's population, approximately 1 billion people experience some form of disability. Persons with disabilities are growing in number as a result of factors such as population growth, ageing and non-communicable diseases, as such there is increasing demand for rehabilitation services, much of which is currently unmet, particularly among the poor and other vulnerable, disadvantage groups of society.

Vanuatu has long recognised the needs of person with disabilities and organisations have offered support for education and rehabilitation services, but disability was hardly prioritised, and hence significant unmet need existed. In the past 2 decades disability has been slowly recognised through efforts from the Vanuatu Society for Disable people (VSDP) and recently the Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA), Sanma Frangipani Association (SFA) and Vanuatu Paralympic Committee. This Disability NGOs have pushed for government to consider disability as a priority issue of development. As a result of long time lobby from NGOs the government developed a national disability policy and Action plan to support disability development. The Council of Ministers approved nine policy directives in 2004 which lead to the development of the disability policy in 2008 and also ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). A disability Desk was established within the government with its budget in 2009 to recognise the potential of persons with disabilities and their organisations.

Advocacy, lobbying and efforts continued in 2010 which lead to the recruitment of the Disability Desk Officer in 2011. A national Disability committee was appointed which ensures disability is mainstreamed in all line ministries and agencies. This body assists in the implementation of the national disability policy to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities; provides a framework for the coordination of development partners, governments and civil society in building a disability inclusive Vanuatu; and strengthens commitment of all stakeholders towards the implementation of the CRPD and other human rights instruments that relate to disability.

Despite this recent focus and substantial progress at the level of government commitment and policy development, the need for disability services across the country remains. A detailed mapping of the availability of disability services was completed for AusAID in 2011, which showed substantial deficiencies in access to services for persons with disabilities across the health, education, employment and social sectors. Further, in many cases services were supplied centrally through national institutions, indicating that while services can to some extent be accessed in the major urban areas, the availability of disability services declines in rural areas and outer islands. A focus on services in communities is required to overcome this distributive inequality.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a fundamental strategy to achieve community based inclusive development, a process that breaks down community barriers and enables persons with disabilities to participate fully. CBR efforts have evolved and developed for over three decades and play an important role in increasing the quality of life of persons with disabilities. CBR has been developed and promoted by WHO as a strategy for rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. CBR upholds and demonstrates practical applications of the general principles and common themes on human rights and works towards a paradigm shift from a charity-oriented to a rights-based approach in disability programs. Today, CBR is being implemented in more than 90 countries in the world and has evolved into an effective and comprehensive multi-sectoral strategy in creating access to health care, education and livelihood opportunities, among others. In 2010 the World Health Organisation released the 'CBR Guidelines' to help inform these efforts, including its matrix of key focus areas for CBR activity.

CBR has existed in Vanuatu for over two decades; most notably Port Vila and Santo which have all implemented CBR programs and developed personnel with CBR knowledge and skills. There has also been a few trained personnel who have undergone CBR training in Fiji, however, due to lack of active CBR programs, they have shifted focus to other areas.

Increasingly nationally stakeholders in disability, health, education, labor, alongside development partners have identified gaps in services and explored options to fill them, however, there was a need for a CBR workshop for the

Vanuatu. From the 7th -8th May 2014, the first national CBR Forum occurred in Port Vila, Vanuatu. This workshop was attended by approximately 26 representatives from government, disabled people's organisation and service providers from 4 provinces. During this workshop the national and provincial service needs, challenges, actions and objectives were identified and discussed and relationships between national stakeholders strengthened. The Vanuatu National CBR Action Plan is a result of this Workshop.

This Action Plan was designed to be in line with the National Disability Policy and other regional disability plans and assist in the achievement of the UNCRPD. Ultimately the National CBR Action Plan is designed to make the CRPD real to people with disabilities and their families living in their remote communities of Vanuatu.

2. Mission

To improve lives of people with disabilities in all communities through establishment of Community Based rehabilitation approaches and programs, as well as strengthening the existing programs by Government, NGOs, CSOs and DPOs.

3. Vision

The Action Plan envision a nation where all people with disabilities live with dignity, enjoy equal human rights and opportunities and are empowered to participate actively to contribute to and benefit from development in a rights-based, barrier-free and inclusive society through mainstreaming CBR strategies at national, provincial and community level

4. Goal

- Educate the society on CBR programs and services through advocacy and awareness campaigns
- Men, Women and Children with disability across the country have full access to services they need to realize their rights

- By 2024 WHO CBR components and elements are initiate implemented, sustained and maintain to provide quality services to Persons with disabilities within communities.

5. Objective

1. To educate and increase awareness on CBR at national provincial and community level
2. To strengthen coordination and participation of all line Ministries within government, NGOs, Service providers and DPOs towards achieving CBR programs
3. Establish a national rehabilitation centre with capacity to provide quality service across the country
4. Identify through data collection, support, train and seek employment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) according to their levels of abilities
5. Establish policies with requisite resource allocations to support CBR
6. Establishment of agricultural activities such as small livestock production, forestry nursery and aqua culture to improve the quality of PWD in achieving their individual ambition
7. To ensure men, women, girls and boys with disability benefit equally from the CBR efforts across the country

Objective 1. To educate and increase awareness on CBR at national, provincial and community level

Action	Key Stakeholders
Advocate, lobby and educate regarding CBR at national, provincial and community level	National DPOs Service providers Government WHO / Development Partners
Draw links between existing policies and programmes highlighting the role CBR can play in implementation.	National DPOs Service providers Government

Objective 2. To strengthen coordination and participation of all line Ministries within government, NGOs, Service providers, DPOs and persons with disabilities towards achieving CBR in Vanuatu

Action	Key Stakeholders
Establish national mechanisms for DPOs, Government and Service Providers to work together and coordinate their activities.	DPOs Service providers GOV WHO
Invite and involve people with disabilities and their families to all consultations regarding CBR.	Governments DPOs Service providers WHO Development partners
Ensure persons with disability and their representative organisations participate in monitoring and evaluation of CBR in the Vanuatu	Governments DPOs Service providers WHO

Objective 3. Establish a National Disability Rehabilitation Center with capacity to expand and provide quality service across the country

Action	Key Stakeholders
Seek support from government and development partners in establishing a disability rehabilitation centre	Governments National Disability Councils DPOs Service providers
Develop network with other national, regional and international agencies on CBR to provide support for a centre for persons with disabilities	Governments DPOs Service providers PDF PIFS WHO ILO Red Cross Vanuatu Humanitarian Team
Providing CBR training to interested people, including persons with disabilities to serve in the centre	Governments National Disability Councils DPOs Service providers WHO ILO PDF

Objective 4. Identify needs of PWD through data collection, support, train and seek employment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) according to their levels of abilities

Action	Key Stakeholders
Conduct a national disability survey to identify needs of persons with disabilities	DPOs Service providers Governments Provincial Disability Committee (PDC)

Work with government and private sector to support the employment of persons with disabilities	GOV Service providers NGO DPO
Organize training according to ability of persons with disabilities	WHO PDF ILO Service providers Education institutions Training institution DYTSD TVET

Objective 5. Establish policies with requisite resource allocations to support CBR

Action	Key Stakeholders
Review the existing CBR program	Governments DPOs Service providers WHO
National CBR policy consultation	Gov NGO DPO PWD Community Provincial Disability Committee
Development of CBR policy	Gov, National Disability Committee NGO Provincial Disability Committee DPO
Implementation of the CBR Policy	Gov, NGO DPO Community PWD

Objective 6. Establishment of agricultural activities such as small livestock production, forestry nursery and aqua culture to improve the quality of PWD in achieving their individual ambition

Action	Key Stakeholders
Mainstream disability into Agriculture policies and plans	Service providers / Government DPOs WHO Gov Farmers Agriculture Dept Vanuatu Agricultures College
Work with the Agriculture Department to develop activities for persons with disabilities	Service providers / Government DPOs WHO Gov Farmers Agriculture Dept Vanuatu Agricultures College

Objective 7. To ensure men, women, girls and boys with disability benefit equally from the CBR efforts across the country.

Action	Key Stakeholders
CBR programs pro-actively reach out to women with disabilities ensuring they benefit equally from programs.	Service providers / Government DPOs WHO
CBR programs actively identify opportunities for women with disability to participate in program decision-making.	Service providers / Government DPOs WHO
CBR programs actively identify initiatives that ensure children with disabilities and their families receive adequate rehabilitation and education services.	Service providers Governments WHO / Development partners

6.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms

Implementation Plan

The National CBR Action Plan will be finalized by the newly formed national CBR working group which will initially be supported by Disability Desk. The plan itself will sit within the Disability Desk, however, its implementation will be the responsibility of all stakeholders engaged in the process of its development, particularly the stakeholders named within the action areas. This plan will be utilized over the next two-year period to strengthen CBR efforts in Vanuatu

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for this action plan will be explored and developed over the initial two-year period. The Disability Desk and WHO will provide technical assistance to the monitoring and evaluation process of this Action Plan and will support an evaluation of the action plan in the lead up to its review in 2016.

CBR MATRIX

