



10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

January 17-18, 2023 Islamabad

**Community Based
Inclusive Development
Network Pakistan**

**Proceedings Report of the
10th Annual National Conference
January 17-18, 2023
Islamabad**

by CBID Network Pakistan

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Abbreviations and Acronyms:

AAR Japan	Association for Aid and Relief Japan
CBIDN	Community Based Inclusive Development Network
DPO	Disability Persons' Organization
DWA	Disability Welfare Organization
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
HANDS	Health And Nutrition Development Society
NCRC	National Commission on Rights of Children
NFWwDs	National Forum on Women with Disabilities
OPD	Organizations of Person with Disabilities
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
PWDs	Person with Disability
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCRPD	United Nation Convention of Rights of Person with Disabilities
WHH	Weilt Helfie Hunger
WHO	World Health Organization
WwDs	Women with Disabilities

Preface

It was a pleasure to welcome esteemed partners, practitioners, and participants to the 10th Annual National Conference, themed **“Paradigm of Development, Economy and Equity: Unsolved Dilemma of Inclusion and Social Mainstreaming”**. The conference was held in collaboration with HANDS and Sightsavers on January 17-18, 2023 at Roomy Signature Hotel Islamabad. On behalf of members and Executive committee of the Community Based Inclusive Development Network (CBIDN) Pakistan, I would like to graciously thank the team of HANDS and Sightsavers and other volunteers for their hard work and contributions towards making this conference a success.

I further want to extend my gratitude to our partners, namely Sightsavers, HANDS, UN Women, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) Japan, CHIP and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for providing financial and technical support. Since last many years, CBID network has been working to promote and strengthen the rights for persons with disabilities and inclusive development, and our various partners have a long history of supporting this purpose. Their interest and patronage are indispensable to CBID Network mission.

I pay special gratitude to our CBID Network member organizations across the Pakistan, who led the whole movement over the last two decades from recognition of the rights of person with disabilities by the federal and provincial governments and different authorities for legislation and by the court of laws, and realization of agenda of inclusive development by the development partners, businesses and academic institutions.

Progress on inclusion has been made globally, but it's not enough. More needs to be done. The Annual National Conference by Community Based Inclusive Development Network (CBIDN) Pakistan with its vision of promoting equality is a timely reminder that meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations is not an optional extra but a prerequisite to ensuring an inclusive world. Considering, significant progress in the front of legislation related to rights of persons with disabilities in many provinces of Pakistan, there is a need to develop a national action plan for ensuring inclusive development with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders to fulfil their commitments for empowering persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and SDGs.

Whether the approach and narrative towards disabilities issues and inclusion should be redefined or a call for an integrated approach towards inclusive development rather than addressing it in silos. It is never too late to extend the scope of development planning, economic planning, integrating sociological and anthropological perspectives in planning and aligning overarching targets with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

The main purpose of the CBID Network Annual conference is to share and disseminate the experience of challenges and learnings of person with disabilities and their organizations, progress of inclusive development and discuss with different stakeholders, government and non-government development partners, the critical issues in various thematic areas. The conference team feels privileged to have benefited from the presence of public representatives, policy makers, UN representatives, various

partners, academicians, experts among Persons with disabilities, organizations of persons with disabilities and representatives of local and international organizations for their unique insights. Only together we can respond to national challenges in ensuring inclusive development, develop evidence-based policies, and in turn, effectively implement them.

Dr. Muhammad Sarwat Mirza

National Coordinator

Community Based Inclusive Development Network

Pakistan

Acknowledgements

It is a matter of great honor for me to acknowledge all those persons and organizations involved in the planning and organizing of the 10th Annual National Conference. On behalf of Executive Committee, first and foremost, I would like to convey our gratitude to HANDS and Sightsavers teams leadership and teams for their tireless efforts towards planning, arrangements, event administration and logistical managements to ensure smooth completion of behind the scene activities with extraordinary enthusiasm.

Furthermore, I extend my utmost gratitude to all our key partners and donors as Sightsavers, HANDS, UN Women, WHH, AAR Japan, CHIP, and PPAF, for their continued assistance in varying forms. The CBID Network sincerely values its long-term partners and donors that have been supporting and encouraging the network and its activities since its inception, and especially our annual national conference. The conference preparatory committee, comprised of focal persons from partner organizations, played a vital role in all phases of planning and execution. In this respect, I must mention technical and supporting teams from Sightsavers and HANDS.

I would like also extend special thanks to CBID Network provincial coordinators including Mr. Jawaid Rais from DWA Sindh, Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman from Milestones Punjab, Mr. Khurshid Alam Khurshid from SADA Foundation KP, Mr. Riaz Baloch from Balochistan, and Mr. Amjad Nadeem and Hasan Balti from Gilgit-Baltistan. They are the pioneer members of the CBID Network movement, facilitated in organizing the conference this year as well and ensured the participation of partner OPDs from all provinces in the conference.

I will express my sincere thanks to Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Pakistan to grace the occasion and speaking at the inaugural session of the conference.

At last, CBID Network Executive Committee offer our profound thanks to all distinguished speakers, presenters, moderators of the sessions, and participants who actively contributed to making this national conference productive and rewarding.

Asim Zafar

Secretary

Community Based Inclusive Development Network

Pakistan

Conference Overview

Community Based Inclusive Development Network (CBIDN) Pakistan is a platform which provides a collective voice to all stakeholders working for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. It was founded back in 2011 by the collective efforts of many likeminded local and international organizations. CBIDN is also an advocacy forum to influence policies and programs in a way that can create equitable opportunities for persons with disabilities. One of the greatest achievements of CBIDN is developing a better understanding and rephrasing the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach for achieving the goals of Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) for Persons with Disabilities and OPDs. This is being done through a twin track approach: focusing on society to remove barriers that exclude persons with disabilities; and focusing on persons with disabilities to build their capacity and supporting them to promote their inclusion.

The 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups, and has recognized disability as a cross-cutting issue, to be considered in the implementation of all of its goals. The agenda also includes seven targets and 11 indicators explicitly making reference to persons with disabilities, covering access to education and employment, availability of schools that are sensitive to the needs of students with disabilities, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, accessible transport, accessible public and green spaces, and building the capacity of countries to disaggregate data by disability.

In Pakistan, despite the progress made in recent years within legislation and efforts for aligning our plans with UNCRPD and SDGs commitments, persons with disabilities continue to face numerous barriers to their full inclusion and participation within society. This is mainly due to weak implementation and compliance by government ministries, public services departments/institutes, and private organizations/businesses. Moreover, disability related stigma, prejudice, and discriminatory attitudes are prevailing within families, and communities.

There is a dire need to develop a national action plan with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders to fulfil their commitments for empowering persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and SDGs.

CBID Network Pakistan is committed to advocate and influence the national, provincial, and local policies and plans in alignment with SDGs and UNCRPD and in this regard, hosts a national conference annually. The annual conference provides an opportunity to policy makers, legislators and our development partners (especially Organizations of Persons with Disabilities – OPDs) to deliberate upon the plans and policies for promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The primary objective of the National Annual Conference is to bring policy makers, donors, academicians, development organizations, practitioners and young population to a common platform to discuss the existing challenges, and potential solutions for promoting national inclusive development agenda through mutually agreed strategies for disability inclusive social cohesion in a rapidly changing national development context.

This year the CBIDN has organized its annual national conference in partnership with multiple stakeholders on the overarching theme **“Paradigm of Development, Economy and Equity: Unsolved Dilemma of Inclusion and Social Mainstreaming”**. The primary objective of the National Annual

Conference is to bring policy makers, donors, academicians, development organizations, practitioners and young population to a common platform to discuss the problems, challenges, and potential solutions for promoting National Inclusive Development Agenda through strengthened social inclusion and social cohesion considering a rapidly changing National and Global context.

The Conference aimed to:

- Encourage open discussion and better understanding as well as to breakdown the stigma associated with disabilities.
- Generate inclusive dialogues and interdisciplinary interactions between academia, community organizers, social and legal activists, health care service/providers and government representatives.
- Disseminate good practices about implementation of fundamental human rights for persons with disabilities as set out in the UN standards: independence, freedom of choice, full participation and equal access to political and public life
- Serve as a platform to foster collaboration between various stakeholders to increase understanding and improving accessibility, creating more inclusive spaces for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), specifically in the area of Higher Education in Pakistan.

The conference covered the following three sub-themes, with a wide range of relevant topics under each sub-theme.

SUB-THEME 1 Policies and Law promoting rights of persons with disabilities	SUB-THEME 2 Inclusive Development with inclusion of Women with Disabilities through Economy, Employability and Empowerment	SUB-THEME 3 Reshape Learnings in Challenging Context
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Following plenary sessions were organized during the two days of conference.

Plenary Session 1: Disability Inclusive Legislations and Policies - Progress and Status of Actual implementation

Plenary Session 2: Gender Equity and Mainstreaming – How to reduce Stigma and ensure Inclusion of women with disabilities

Plenary Session 3: Inclusive Employability /Economic Empowerment of persons with disabilities

Plenary Session 4: Climate effects and challenges in Sindh and Balochistan - Sharing of experiences and learning by OPDs

Plenary Session 5: Inclusive Development – Global Commitments and National Agenda

Plenary session 6: Inclusive Development and Role of OPDs and Networks

A range of different stakeholders joined the event, all committed to advancing inclusion within development and humanitarian policies and programs. We welcome the fact that organizations representing persons with disabilities (OPDs) were at the heart of the summit. Governments, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders have made progress on developing these partnerships but more needs to be done. We need concrete steps to ensure equal participation of OPDs in decision making, policy development, and program implementation for lasting systemic change to happen.

Inaugural Session

Welcome Remarks	Dr. Sheikh Tanveer Ahmed Chief Executive HANDS
Conference Overview	Ms. Munazza Gilani Country Director Sightsavers
Journey of CBID Network	Mr. Asim Zafar Secretary CBID Network Pakistan
Digital Pakistan Special	Mr. Farhat Abbass Editor In-chief Pakistan Special Magazine
Address by Chief Guest	Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi Federal Minister of State Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Government of Pakistan
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Itfaq Khaliq Khan Senior Program Manager Sightsavers Pakistan

Mr. Itfaq Khaliq Khan, Senior Program Manager Sightsavers, was the master of ceremony for the Inaugural Session. The conference formally opened with the recitation of verses of Holy Quran. The session featured speeches and statements from a panel of distinguished guests, beginning with welcome remarks from Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed, Chief Executive HANDS.

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed
Chief Executive, HANDS

Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, graciously welcomed all the esteemed guests, distinguished speakers, country representatives of the international and national development partners, government officials, representatives of OPDs, experts, academicians and students and all participants of the 10th Annual national conference.

Before we start, we should also consider this conference as a celebration of our achievements in the past decade. Only 5 years ago there was no legislation in place for disability inclusion and rights in Pakistan. It is the CBID network that has done the work to put the laws in place when it should have been the government's work. For the sake of human rights, all government and institutional policies needed to add inclusivity within their frameworks.

CBIDN guided and assisted the Sindh government through this process and the Assembly converted guidance into law with the help of parliamentarians. These efforts have been replicated in Baluchistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, and now Punjab assembly has also passed these laws. KPK and AJK Assemblies are the only one left, but we hope our efforts will soon bear fruit here as well. Persons with Disabilities need to be counted in the national census, and alongside our all partners, inclusivity should be promoted and ensured in the Census.

On behalf of HANDS and CBID Network, we acknowledge our partners including Sightsavers, UN Women, WHH, AAR Japan, CHIP and PPAF for their valuable contribution in this conference. The vision for inclusivity of the CBID network is multi-sectoral, we promote the inclusive development agenda among all stakeholders for sustainable development in our country.

Conference Overview

Ms. Munazza Gilani
Country Director of Sightsavers

Ms. Munazza Gilani, presented the brief introduction about conference theme, sub-themes, objectives and major agenda points. She defined the main objective of the conference is to generate inclusive dialogues and interdisciplinary interactions between academia, community organizers, social and legal activists, health care service/providers and government representatives. She expressed that Persons with Disabilities and their representative organizations should have a collective space where they can discuss their opportunities and capitalize them, this will increase impact and involved the necessary stakeholders whom we need to both educate and sensitize towards persons with disabilities across Pakistan.

Commenting on the theme of the conference, she posed the fundamental question “Unsolved Dilemma of inclusion and social mainstreaming of person and women with disabilities in inclusive development agenda in respect to our national and international commitments. She explained that the underlying sub-themes of the conference intends to alert the policy makers, development partners and practitioners to take collective actions. She requested that we must take a start by addressing the attitudinal barriers and prejudices in society and then look into their organizational policies from disability lens to correct them and make the policies more inclusive. Thus, we need to focus more on opportunities rather than challenges and know where financial resources and technical expertise support are available and know which provisions exist in current laws and which institutions need to be engaged or reached out to.

Journey of CBID Network Challenges and Achievements

Mr. Asim Zafar

Secretary CBID Network Pakistan

As a secretary of CBID Network, he voiced utmost pride in associating with a group that has created unmatched record in Pakistan history for struggle and movement for the rights of person with disabilities. On this note, he lauded all Ops and provincial coordinators of CBID Network for their unwavering resolve to steer and strengthen the national disability inclusion movement over the past several decades. He provided a brief organizational history, challenges and background of the CBID Network and movement successes, which was initiated some 12 years back in Pakistan. There have been various forms of inclusivity activism throughout Pakistan in the past. In the late 90’s DPI Pakistan platform lead it when there were no CRPDs. In 2000 Pakistan Disability Forum was launched. Persons with Disabilities sat with policy makers and asked for space and percentages in the government database at the very least. As a result, the CNIC now has a disability icon option on it. There were even long protests in front of the Parliament House in efforts to fight for this cause. Now, led by OPDs and HANDS as the host, the CBID Network was launched on 4th October 2011.

We have recognized the biggest challenges for Persons with disabilities, which are employment, accessibility, and education. We have worked with parliamentarians like Shireen Mazari, Maryam Aurangzeb and Kishwer Zehra. Shah Nawaz was the one who headed the draft of the Disability Bill and in 2014 it was presented for the first time. After 7 years and multiple hearings, it is now legislation in most provinces in Pakistan. In 2017-18 the disability questionnaire wasn’t in the census (national disability survey module PSLM 2019). Training for 1500 data collectors across the country was provided by provincial coordinators and now finally in the upcoming national census the questionnaire will be provided for persons with disabilities counting and inclusion.

Presentation on Launching of Digital Pakistan Special Magazine,

Mr. Farhat Abbas

Editor in Chief

For 22 years we created print media for disabilities and now CBID network helped us to present it in digital form. We started a Partnership w Sightsavers in the past year and more than 10,000 copies of our magazine were distributed across the country. In our magazine we aim for empowerment, rights and showcasing the achievements of Persons with Disabilities through posted pictures. We have aided in

awareness of disability, challenges and achievements, resources, and representation. Our website www.pakspecial.org is interactive, one can have membership and even share their success stories.

Inaugural Address by Chief Guest

Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi,
Federal Minister of State,
Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Pakistan

The census is already underway and by the end of April, it would be concluded by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In the 2018 election, the census provisional was accepted as a pilot project in some districts. Unfortunately, it didn't happen because legally and constitutionally we cannot have new elections without a new census. However, CNIC made a huge achievement since 2008 that maybe no other country has achieved by introducing Special CNIC for Persons with Disabilities. In DI Khan, which is a gateway to terrorism, there were many people left disabled due to suicide attacks and China supported us in the provision of 3000-4000 wheelchairs. The war on terror has not ended yet which sadly means the possibility of more Persons with Disabilities through injuries in terrorism will also not stop.

The good news is that we have made Benazir Support Program more inclusive. We supported more than 4 million beneficiaries even in the times of flood. With the help of World Food Program, we provided support to pregnant women and their children under 2 years and even registered their older children to educate them and paid 500 Rs per daughter so they can also be sent to school. A dynamic survey is soon going to be launched in response to the flood disasters.

Most of the flood disasters are in Baluchistan and Sindh and we have added more beneficiaries, but it is not something to be celebrated. Our goal is to ideally have at least 10-15 beneficiaries leave our program each year. We must bridge the communication gap and provide solutions for full transparency in funding so rural women and their children are not exploited. We encourage rural women to work by offering soft loans and have also developed a new scheme for the transgender community to become beneficiaries by simply bringing their CNICs to any Benazir Income Support office.

Plenary Session 1

Disability Inclusive Legislations and Policies - Progress and Status of Actual implementation

Key note address

Disability Inclusive Legislations and Policies --- Status of Pakistan in alignment with Global and National Commitments

Mr. Shahzad Ahmed

Director, Federal Ministry of Human Rights

Equity and Inclusion for achieving SDGs implementation in Pakistan- (A quick review of national VNR submitted to HLPF- UN)

Mr. Nadeem Khan,

Policy Advisor, SDGs Support Unit, Federal Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives

Legislation, move towards Implementation, Leading towards Inclusion, Government of Sindh

Mr. Rana Asif Habib

Consultant, and Advocate, Sindh High Court

Legislation, move towards Implementation, Leading towards Inclusion, Government of Punjab

Mr. Umar Pervaiz,

Advocate Lahore High Court

Status of the child focus polices legislation by National Commission on the Rights of Child

Dr. Rubina Fareed,

Member, National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC)

Moderator

Mr. Haider Imtiaz

Advocate, Islamabad High Court

The session was moderated by Mr. Haider Imtiaz, Advocate Islamabad High Court. He briefly deliberated about the theme of the plenary session and introduced the speakers of the session to the audience.

Global and National Commitments

Mr. Shahzad Ahmed Director,
Federal Ministry of Human Rights

We have done a lot of work when it comes to disability rights. We create reports and are known to submit them every 4 years. We have held conventions to mainstream disability which was established by Ministry of Human Rights and facilitated by the government, law department and IPC department took charge of implementation. We have a Secretariat in the Ministry of Congress. When the subject of Human Rights and Disability Rights came up in 2017, we realized we need to be like other countries and create reports on federal and provincial levels. Our strategy was lacking, and we must appreciate WHO for helping us draft legislation for provinces, particularly after the 18th amendment. According to UNCR persons with disabilities deserve rights like any other and UNESCO alongside UN Women have agreed. We have also put in a lot of effort towards laws allowing mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the workplace. With the accessibility initiative, we are working with the ministry of housing as well as Capital Development Authority on how to make public and private offices accessible. We have also created a national level committee with the same purpose and function as provincial level committees. Our main issue, however, is that we are both lacking data and existing data is unreliable, which is why for the first time we are launching a disability demographic survey since 2018. We have also adopted the Jakarta Declaration.

Equity and Inclusion for achieving SDGs implementation in Pakistan

Mr. Nadeem Ahmed

Social Policy Advisor, Federal Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives

In the MDG Pakistan's performance was not great which had to do with the one reason that the required political will was not at the highest level which caused poor coordination between provincial and federal government levels. Pakistan rectified SDGs and in 2017 we started an SDG unit and worked on several implementations such that global inspiration was transformed into our national targets and national SDG frameworks were created and pointed out short term goals that require urgent policy changing needed by at least 80% of our population. Resultantly our long-term goals will also be achieved through these changes. We looked at Pakistan's whole data ecosystem and from 233 indicators we now have 247 indicators for SDGs as of 2021. In our first SDG status report we identified 133 indicators whereas previously we only had about 15 indicators. We have made massive improvement to the point that in 2019 Pakistan's first voluntary national review was submitted to UN. We participated in a high-level political forum on 15th July 2019. Sightsavers also attended as a shadow VNR, and this forum was internationally recognized. I will remind you of the two principles of SDGs:

1. No one left behind
2. Respect and appreciate diversity

We now have a web-based data dashboard created 2015-2021 onwards and is regularly updated. We also try to maintain and update our administrative data regularly. We have come a long way compared to 20-30 years ago in terms of financial inclusion, but we are hoping KPK legislation also joins us in this matter.

Legislation, move towards implementation, Government of Sindh

Mr. Rana Asif Habib

Advocate Sindh High Court

Sindh's rules were drafted alongside with the consultation of UN Women. The struggle started in 1997 and by 2018 we saw our first milestone of success through the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities law. A quota in government positions was finally allotted to persons with disabilities and we believe that working on social welfare contributes to a largely improved society. We also encouraged the private sector to offer jobs and holistically include persons with disabilities. We created a 5% quota and lower prices in housing schemes. The ministry also created a department of empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and a DG was appointed. Every year we review legislation at the chief minister's house, and we also put into place external coordination mechanisms between departments to encourage both technical and moral support. The government of Sindh also worked to ensure conducive environments and the state will provide sign language interpreter and similar resources when needed. To maintain and continue our endeavors we need to strengthen inter department coordination and increase local interactions as that is our issue rather than finances or resources. The Sindh government is working on local to global initiative guidelines on how to support persons with disabilities. We have done the most work in legislation compared to any other province.

Legislation, move towards implementation, Government of Punjab

Mr. Umar Pervaiz

Advocate Lahore High Court

We learned from other provinces and progressed towards this law which is based on CRPD. A beautiful thing here is that all rights are declared as human rights, and the ministries catering to them are all on board via secretaries. How to make rules part of the law is through consolidation so we can quickly implement them. An issue is that penalties for these laws were not as harsh and thus were not followed. Now if there is a penalty it starts from 50,000 Rs and per day the fine is added. To be inclusive in Punjab government, two metropolitan seats, and smaller areas have 1 seat for Persons with Disabilities.

National Commission on Rights of Children - Status of child focus policies and legislation

Dr. Rubina Fareed,

Member NCRC Islamabad

Reviews are sent to government institutions, and we create awareness for children. In the last 2 months 18 functions were hosted on children and their disabilities. We handle complaints as interprovincial liaisons. We need to do early diagnosis and reception of disabilities through means such as comprehensive school health and provision of resources in police stations, courts, and schools such as braille and sign language. Teacher level training to sensitize them is highly needed as well to address this issue.

Plenary Session 2

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming – How to reduce Stigma ensure inclusion of women with disabilities

Key note address

How to address/ reduce Stigma, Discrimination and GBV – Introduction of Stigma Tool

Ms. Fareeha Ummar

Portfolio Manager, WEE & SL Unit, UN Women

How to ensure Inclusion of Women with Disabilities?

Ms. Zahida Qureshi

President, Society for The Special Person, Multan

Deputy National Coordinator, CBID Network

Engagement of Parents in bringing the Concept of Inclusion

Ms. Amnah Aftab

Chairperson, Ham Mashal-e-Rah Foundation, Lahore

Challenges for Women with Disabilities (Specific to Urban and Rural context)

Ms. Mehnaz Akhtar, (Rawalpindi)

Ms. Anum Khan, Milestone (Lahore)

Ms. Saima Aslam International Coordinator NFOWwDs (Islamabad)

Moderator

Ms. Abia Akram

CEO, National Commission on WwDs, Islamabad

The session was moderated by Ms. Abia Akram, Chairperson National Commission on Women with Disabilities. She deliberated on the Women empowerment status in Pakistan. Many legislations had been done by Federal and Provincial Governments in Pakistan but due to lack of awareness and knowledge among masses and among the concern department officials, there is poor implementation. Women empowerment can be achieved with wider inclusive programs and awareness campaigns. She introduced the speakers and asked them for their deliberations on specific topics.

How to address/ reduce stigma, Discrimination and GBV

Ms. Fareeha Ummar

Portfolio Manager WEE & SL Unit, UN Women, Islamabad

We need international commitments, technical assistance to a variety of organizations and to bring practice models and groundwork to highlight gender equality and women's concerns and issues. Gender expert must listen and a deep dive should be done to understand the concerns of women with disabilities. Across large parts of the world, girls and women of all ages with any form of disability face multiple forms of discrimination and inequalities, driven by multiple attitudinal barriers, prejudice and stereotypes. As a result, they are often excluded from the social and economic dividends of progress. They are at more likely to have no access to education, do not get economic opportunity for earning or dignified employment, and frequently are the targets of gender-based and sexual violence. Women with Disabilities suffer more sexual, physical violence and this phenomenon is widespread in both rural and urban areas. The impact of stigma and discrimination on people with disabilities – especially women – has long been recognized, but a strong understanding of disability stigma and how it affects opportunities and wellbeing has been hampered by the lack of robust data and internationally-recognized tools and methodologies. A lack of understanding of the underlying determinants that perpetuate stigma and discrimination has meant that we've sought to address these issues predominantly through social awareness campaigns.

We felt we needed a pilot project, to take international experience and expertise to contextualize the rights of Pakistani Persons with Disabilities. UNDP and organizations of Persons with Disabilities worked with us. The project Addressing stigma, discrimination and violence for empowering women with disabilities, jointly led by the UN Development Programme and UN Women, with funding from the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, has been working with researchers and partners in 4 countries including Pakistan.

The stigma tool and studies are designed in seeking to develop a comprehensive understanding of stigmatizing experiences of women and girls with disabilities and how to tackle them effectively. Women with diverse disabilities have been closely involved in the work. We must see tools and framework on individual and intrapersonal levels, social relations, constraints, and concern, also see societal constraints and the role of intersecting sources of inequalities. We should not ignore Pakistan's reality, instead we must carefully see and understand the violence against women with disabilities. Religious and traditional beliefs play a role in stigma and socio-cultural norms, societal fabric influences our attitudes and while we have deeply studied but limited findings because women do not want to talk about this issue. We want to consolidate efforts and bring them to a federal level. We should bring women with disabilities in the center, give them visibility and leadership. And we ourselves as women need to know how these issues affect us individually and societally.

How to ensure inclusion

Ms. Zahida Qureshi

Society for Special Persons, Multan

Deputy National Coordinator CBID Network

Poor girls particularly are not visible, they are kept closed in a room and not a part of society, customized appropriate program focused on women with disabilities, and we gave 2000 wheelchairs in the community last year, 500 of which were for women. We need a self-sufficient country, self-manufactured wheelchairs as import is expensive for the masses. Women are overseen in society and have limited family support due to stigma. Everyone woman faces many challenges no matter how empowered they are. A lot of persons with disabilities could not be a part of the education system, and we need to strengthen their skills and livelihoods to give them mobility and independence. Self-commitment is very important to achieve these goals.

Engagement of Parents in bringing Inclusivity Concept

Ms. Amnah Aftab,

Chairperson Ham Mashal-e-Rah Foundation

Parent teacher collaboration in inclusion is necessary to mainstream children alongside sensitivity at home and vocational training.

Challenges for Women with Disabilities (Urban and Rural Context)

Ms. Mehnaz Akhtar, (Rawalpindi)

Ms. Anum Khan, Milestone (Lahore)

Ms. Saima Aslam International Coordinator NFOWwDs (Islamabad)

Rural girls want the bare minimum, just to be recognized by their family as a real person and member of society. The ground realities are very different from our aspirations for the future. While it's easier to accept your own disabilities, it's difficult to see our children's disabilities. Due to stigma these women worry about talking to a non-disable and don't have or know of resources in case they face violence. Police stations, crisis centers and help centers should be easily approachable and accessible. Even hospital beds are not accessible. Without an attendant, women with disabilities often feel insecure.

Plenary Session 3

Inclusive Employability/ Economic Empowerment of persons with disabilities

Key note address

Shaping the Future- Inclusive and Equitable Employment and opportunities for Youth with Disabilities in Pakistan

Ms. Munazza Gilani
Country Director,
Sightsavers

Opportunities and Challenges for youth with disabilities

Ms. Phaokhamkeo Khemphone,
ILO Country Representative for Pakistan/ Decent Work Country Programme

Skills Development and Exploring Markets/ Job Placement Solutions

Mr. Khaleeqe Khan,
Team Lead Ham Mashal e Rah Foundation

Case Study – Success story from disability to Independent Living Center

Mr. Jawaid Rais,
Founder Disability Welfare Association
Provincial Coordinator, CBID Network

Successful Start Up

Mr. Ehtisham Hussain and Ms. Sakina Batool
Co-founders of Digi-Deaf

Moderator

Mr. Itfaq Khaliq Khan
Senior Program Manager Sightsavers Pakistan

The session was moderated by Mr. Ittfaq Khaliq Khan, Senior Program Manager Sightsavers. He described the significance of theme considering the young generation and the development opportunities. He introduced the speakers and asked them for their deliberations on specific topics.

Shaping the Future- inclusive and equitable employment and opportunities for youth with disabilities

Munazza Gilani

Country Director, Sightsavers

We have launched a project called future makers because we believe Persons with Disabilities' voices must be included. Sightsavers has been working in Pakistan since 1998 and 90% of the work was done with the public sector. We must find ways to involve the government and hold it accountable rather than creating new NGOs. The working age population is 153.5 million yet 84.8 mil are inactive, and 4.7 mil are unemployed. However, there are relevant legislations in place that can be utilized such as in Punjab and KPK there is persons with disabilities employment and rehab ordinance amendment act of 2012.

The Future Makers project was established by standard chartered in 2019 to address inequality through greater economic inclusive activities in market. They've been partnering with us in Pakistan and affirmative action is needed like quota system to create space for persons with disabilities and only then they can create that space for themselves. Our theory of change focuses on an inclusive labor market system, Persons with Disabilities employment confidence and addressing policy barrier and entrepreneurial barriers by involving the necessary stakeholders. There are pathways to follow such as identifying gaps and working with stakeholders to address issues, labor market assessment, interviews, focus group discussions, communication with persons with disabilities and their institutions.

Attitudinal stigma, lack of education and skills, lack of self-confidence, lack of resources and assistance/ infrastructure are some of the serious issues that persons with disabilities face. All stakeholders must support through capacity building, development of accessible infrastructure and sensitization training to name a few. Employers' federation Pakistan and Sightsavers signed an MoU in Karachi and started the dialogue on changing the corporate sector workplace environment and policies.

Opportunities and Challenges for youth with disabilities

Ms. Phaokhamkeo Khemphone,

ILO Country Representative for Pakistan/ Decent Work Country Programme

Everyone deserves a fair income, visibility, safe working conditions and equality. Decent work gives everybody a voice in which they have the right to be protected from exploitation. This ensures an inclusive and sustainable future for their own lives and their families. In ILO, to promote this we produced international conventions and recommendations and promote productive employment, social dialogue, consultations, and social protections.

Pakistan has ratified ILO conventions of discrimination. By doing this, the government and worker community have committed to promoting equality in the workplace. Disability is in the center of ILO. For Youth with disability there are either limited opportunities or they are not well-communicated or promoted to them. Thus, they don't know where to get information from partly because Pakistan doesn't

seem to have employment service centers. These must be established as it is important to support the labor market both for employees and employers. This is one of the opportunities that you as the OPDs can help the government set up. A place where employer and job seeker come together to meet and create/connect with opportunities will help youth with disabilities assess their skills or add to them to be matched with the right employer which will solve the unemployment issue. There are 3 main things that ILO is doing:

1. All big companies are asked to combine their visions to help Persons with Disabilities
2. Persons with Disabilities become conditions of trade and human right
3. Digitalization is highlighted a platform for youth with disability. However, it's not the magic fix until there's a space to provide youth how to get benefits of digitalization so they can understand how to use it, seek needed opportunities to receive and develop skills.

Skills Development and Exploring Markets/ Job Placement Solutions

Khaleeqe Khan Niazi

Team Lead Ham Mashal e Rah

We started our organization 5 years ago. A year ago, we joined hands with the social welfare department, and we now have many students seeking diff skills. We have 5 special needs provided with hostel facilities all under one roof. We are now aiming to move towards Faisalabad as well. We request partner organizations to visit our institute and we want to give them the road map to our findings. For the first time in Pakistan an insurance company created a package for special needs, and we are underway of signing an MoU with them. Our efforts are going towards positivity. Although we are an over-legislated country, we are highly under-legislated in areas of need. We know how to deal with and create a path for special needs children. We need to develop strong communication and connection within the CBID network to collaborate effectively. One day we will all sit here together happily with reassurance for our special needs children.

Case Study

Jawaid Rais,

Founder DWA.

Provincial Coordinator CBID Network

DWA created an Independent living space in Karachi for Persons with Disabilities. Disability Welfare Association is working since 2003 and is a second home to its members for its hospitality, care and comforts. This friendly aboard is reflective of numerous lively activities involving so many smiling faces with sheer confidence. With its inclusive futuristic approaches, DWA acts as a platform for its members with disabilities to exhibit and explore their natural talents, academic capabilities and professional skills. We trained many persons/ women with disabilities in skills to provide services to other persons with disabilities. This created skilled based earning opportunity.

Following service and engagement models have been developed by DWA:

- Personal Care Attendant services are available at the center and also provided at home as well. The staff have been trained in personal care for diverse / multiple disabilities. They provide individual focused care to the children, women or person with disabilities according to their need. They also provide training to the family members or care takers in personal care. Community attendants are also trained and provided services to the person with disabilities at their home. The services are

provided free of charge but the Care attendants are paid employee of the organization. We are gradually expanding our skilled team, to expand our services to more communities.

- Consultancies, Psychosocial and Peer counseling
- Free of cost Assistive technology and devices

Additionally, DWA has created entrepreneurship opportunities through different program schemes for empowerment of persons/ women with disabilities by establishing as

- Mini Garment factory
- Inclusive Computer Institute
- Mobility Workshop -- fully equipped for the modification of customized Tri-Motorbikes and Tricycles.

He emphasized that there is a need to create awareness among young persons with disabilities and guide them to achieve empowerment through gaining skills for their dignified employability and well-being.

Successful Start Up by Youth

Ehtisham Hussain and Sakina Batool

Co-founders of Digi-Deaf

Deaf community is marginalized and neglected in every sector in Pakistan. As Heller Keller said blindness cuts off from things and deafness cuts off from people. Thus, opportunities and education, inclusive development and sustainability are cut off and the biggest challenge is the communication barrier. My life has been really hard in terms of skill development and education. I haven't learned anything from school as they almost never have qualified sign language interpreters. Teachers just write on the board and punish us for not talking. A lot of deaf people fall into depression. I'm from Gilgit and there is only 1 special education institution there. However, when we moved to Islamabad, we saw the same challenges here as well. I had the urge to overcome these challenges, that's why I thought we need a program to enable and empower people in the mainstream. Under resourced families don't have the ability to support their deaf child or give proper grooming to them and they are in denial of special care. Many deaf people in Pakistan learn language after the age of 15. There is a lack of trust in society which results in their lack of exposure as their families often try to keep them home. I believe anyone can learn to do a few signs to have a basic interaction, all we have to do is create awareness and basic education. Lots of corporations and businesses would never consider hiring deaf people as they are discriminatory, which needs to be addressed since this is a social issue. We do digital and onsite training to build capacity. We have programs to encourage businesses to hire deaf people and yoga meditation programs so deaf people have a space for their mental health and personal development. This mission cannot be achieved alone, we need the support of policy makers and organizations.

Plenary Session 4

Climate effects and challenges in Sindh and Balochistan - Sharing of experiences and learning by OPDs

Issues and Challenges due to Recent Floods in Balochistan

Mr. Zia-ur-Rehman

Founder, Quetta Online, Balochistan

Climate effects and challenges for Person with Disabilities

Mr. Riaz Baloch

Founder, TSO, Balochistan

Provincial Coordinator CBID Network Balochistan

Issues and Challenges due to Recent Floods in Sindh

Mr. Abid Lashari

President NDF, Shaheed Benazir Abad, Sindh

Climate effects in Urban settings – Flash Floods and Heat Waves

Mr. Jawaid Rais

Founder DWA

Moderator

Mr. Muzammil Islam

Program Manager,

AAR Japan

The session was moderated by Mr. Muzammil Islam. He deliberated the Climate effects and Challenges faced by the communities in Sindh and Balochistan. He delivered that between June and August 2022, torrential rains and a combination of riverine, urban, and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in Pakistan. At the height of the flooding, one-third of the country was under water, 33 million people were affected, and nearly 8 million people reportedly displaced. The floods took the lives of more than 1,700 people, one-third of whom were children. More than half of all the districts in the country were declared as “calamity-hit” with the majority of those affected located in the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The 2022 floods also highlighted Pakistan’s high vulnerability to climate change¹ Pakistan consistently ranks among the top 10 countries worldwide most affected by climate change. Then he introduced the speakers and the asked them for their experience sharing related to Disaster Risks and Responses.

Issues and Challenges due to Recent Floods in Balochistan

Mr. Zia-ur-Rehman

Founder, Quetta Online, Balochistan

Combined, the climate catastrophe and economic harm of the floods have deepened the Balochistan’s already significant inequality and further exacerbated the socioeconomic hardships of the poor and marginalized. Thousands of houses and infrastructures have been damaged, hundreds of thousands of agriculture land have been adversely affected, and The number of people impacted by disruptions and loss of employment in the flood-affected districts. Although Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities are constituted by the government but their capacity to response is limited due to lack of capacity and resources. Several months after the disaster, still most of the people are facing challenges in returning back or regain their livelihood. Among those people, the persons with disabilities are the most sufferer as facing multiple burdens of hardship and ignorance.

Climate effects and challenges for Person with Disabilities

Mr. Riaz Baloch

Founder, TSO, Balochistan

Provincial Coordinator CBID Network Balochistan

The mortality rate of Persons with Disabilities is much higher, if compared to those without disability. Our overall planning and health services are not inclusive. Although we have disability inclusive DRR Network for Asia and Pacific but our provincial authorities have not made inclusive their disaster response & resilient frameworks. In light of the flood, Pakistan should know how to protect from natural disaster and natural disaster inflicted disability. We need new ideas and more importantly we need data. Without data we cannot receive a true picture of our national disability crisis, and neither can we assess the resources needed. There is a lack of international funding compared to the past and the approach is not inclusive at all.

Issues and Challenges due to Recent Floods in Sindh

Mr. Abid Lashari

President NDF, Shaheed Benazir Abad, Sindh

Sindh rural have been very badly affected by recent floods. Still many areas, villages and agriculture land is under water. Majority of people are unable to revive their homes and livelihood. Specially in many of

the response programs the inclusivity is missing. The persons with disabilities have no access to get help or most of the basic needs or services. They have mobility issues to reach or access the service opportunities. The persons with disabilities and especially women with disabilities are even ignored by their families to get their needs. There is a need to emphasize the government, UN agencies, donors and local NGOs to focus their services for the most vulnerable population, make their interventions more inclusive not only on paper, but practically demonstrate or ensure inclusivity in the field and reach to the each and every person with disability.

Climate effects in Urban settings – Flash Floods and Heat Waves

Mr. Jawaid Rais

Founder DWA

In southern Sindh, cities like Karachi, Hyderabad-Jamshoro, Sukkur and coastal cities such as Badin are already at the forefront of climate change related impacts, ever more visible in the form of coastal storm surges, rising sea levels, hotter summers (heat wave), unprecedented floods, human and livestock displacement and unpredictable precipitation. These calamities not only killing the people but disrupting the life and livelihood opportunities. A conceivable scenario of increasing temperatures could lead to a drastic change in Pakistan's weather system and its industries and trade, and undermine any hope of achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Urbanization phenomena further exacerbate the vulnerability especially for the persons with disabilities, due to their limited mobility. He emphasized that there is a need to ensure inclusivity in all urban planning projects and resilient to climate effect.

Conference Day 2

Plenary Session 5

Inclusive Development, International & National Commitments Practices of Development partners

Key note address

Inclusive Development: How HANDS addresses inclusion and equity agenda in its programs

Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed
Chief Executive,
HANDS

Inclusive Water and Sanitation Programs

Mr. Sohail Nazir
Program Manager, Water Aid Pakistan

Creating community voice and partnership for inclusive development

Irshad Abbasi
Group Head Resource Mobilization and Donor Support,
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)

Inclusive Development: How WHH addresses Inclusion and Equity in its programs

Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed
Program and Partnership support coordinator, Weilhungerhilfe (WHH)

Inclusion in Education

Mr. Muzammil Islam
Program Manager, Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) Japan

Humanitarian Standards on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly

Mr. Syed Moez Kakakhel
Country Director, HelpAge International

Independent Living and Inclusive Development

Mr. Shafique-ur-Rehman
President Milestone

Moderator

Mr. Muhammad Raheem Marri
Head of Department Inclusive Development, HANDS

The session was moderated by Mr. Raheem Marri, Head of Inclusive Development Program, HANDS. He introduced theme of the session and then the speakers of the session. He requested the speakers to deliberate on their organization practices related to inclusive development commitments.

Inclusive Development - How HANDS addresses inclusion and equity agenda in its programs

Dr Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed,
CE HANDS

We face the challenge of funding and to be able to address them we should take this network ahead and work with OPDs to figure out strategies to deal with these realities. In Pakistan there are 6.2 million children with disabilities and 9.8 million adults suffering with it. Our first work was a very extensive workshop figuring out job creation, enterprise development to uplift from poverty, special education, literacy, water sanitation and disaster management. We need to improve in all these areas. Our target is 6 billion rupees and 3 billion has been achieved so far for disaster relief, recovery, and rehabilitation work. Quota for PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES including 5% in HANDS policy, we have sensitized and trained staff as well. My recommendations for a way forward are to work in public health on nutrition which is a multi-sectoral responsibility, and we must create framework with government and major stakeholder. Our agenda is health, agriculture, education, and livelihood. For this Planning and Development department is very necessary. Making one inclusion department won't achieve much as all sectors need to be involved.

Inclusive Water and Sanitation Programs

Mr. Sohail Nazir,
Program Manager, Water Aid Pakistan

We see inclusivity beyond disability such as ethnic minorities and elderly, gender issues and children, chronic illness. We must remove barriers for differently abled people. Inclusive programming and health impact reaches everyone. Water sanitation is a basic human right. We cannot compromise the needs and rights of population and if we are not inclusive then we are doing just that. Persons with Disabilities wait and avoid use of water resource such as communal bathroom as they feel shame or they are stigmatized of contamination, resultantly they lower their water intake. Adolescent girls often leave school due to lack of inclusivity in matters of menstruation. Children with disabilities cannot access or have trouble accessing wash facilities. We assume inclusivity is more expensive but that's not always the case. We need a universal designing principle for wash infrastructure facility, ensure emergency hygiene kits, Capacity building and understanding of Persons with Disabilities and to create an environment through targeted approach.

Creating community voice and partnership for inclusive development

Mr. Irshad Abbasi
Group Head Resource Mobilization and Donor Support, PPAF

We had a 2018 board resolution on inclusive development however the next step forward is superficial if we don't try to mainstream Persons with Disabilities. We need a strategic framework, exclusive unit and focal persons designated for challenges in project cycle management be it infrastructure or otherwise. In 2005 the World Bank hugely supported physical and psychological disability. We need a multi-dimensional

disability program. We've provided scholarships for 500 children; 6000 students were taught sign language and we need to continue such efforts through working with the Bait ul Maal disability councils equity based program and project together and figure out how to pool resources together and collect effective comprehensive data with integration. We need more zakat and philanthropy in Pakistan but first we need to develop the element of mutual trust.

Inclusive Development: How WHH addresses Inclusion and Equity in its programs

Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed

Program and Partnership support coordinator, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

He first introduced his organization. WHH has a vision of a world in which everyone can lead a self-determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty. Welthungerhilfe is implementing both acute emergency aid and long-term development projects in Pakistan. The major program sectors of our organization include:

- Zero hunger by 2030
- Humanitarian aid
- Food and nutrition security
- Strategy at country, district, household, and individual level

He specially highlighted one major program in Pakistan named as More Opportunities for Unemployed Youth. More than two thirds of Pakistan's population is under 29. Far too many of these young people have no jobs and few qualifications despite a variety of government-run programs that aim to create education and employment opportunities. Welthungerhilfe provides professional training to teaching staff in order to improve and expand course offerings, especially for technology-related professions that are in high demand. Young people are also taught soft skills so that they have an easier time finding a job or founding a small business afterwards. He expressed the realization that in all development programs inclusion must be ensured.

Inclusion in Education

Mr. Muzammil Islam

Program Manager, Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) Japan

Article 4 mentions inclusivity rights yet we still need full and pure inclusive education. This should be our national agenda and we need to create more national policies. In 2002 the first documented IE was introduced. In the National Policy on education 2009 Inclusive Education was introduced in general education. Teachers will be trained in Baluchistan ESP 2020-2025; the Sindh School Education Sector Plan and Roadmap 2019-2024 SEC was established to improve disability inclusion in education system. Although work is done, I have two recommendations for our government:

1. Strengthen coordination mechanisms among departments
2. Adopt Washington Group of questionnaire in all data collection initiatives

Humanitarian Standards on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly

Mr. Syed Moez Kakakhel

Country Director, HelpAge International

We cannot stop two realities: death and aging and yet we are in denial about both. HelpAge reminds society of the importance of old age community in our society. There is no data on GBV elderly women and there is an attitude of disregard of the elderly in general. KP passed the first 1st senior citizen act, then Sindh, ICT and Baluchistan followed. It was a 3-year struggle for implementation. Those working in the humanitarian sector need to realize that the elderly and Persons with Disabilities have special needs. An aging and disability task force was created with multiple organizations including Sightsavers. 46% of elderly have some type of disability but there is attitude, environment or systematic exclusion and we need realization and capacity building to break these barriers so we can address the vulnerability of elderly with disabilities.

Independent Living and Inclusive Development

Mr. Shafique-ur-Rehman

President Milestone

Pakistan is the 4th country where Independent Living was introduced. The premise of this program is to encourage persons with disabilities to find ways to self-generate income. We reached a turning point through the contribution of HANDS who created a great model with low costs. Wheelchair users are disregarded as members of society, but they need to be mobilized. So far, we've provided 1.30 lac wheelchairs, but we hope to provide 25 lac one day. We need to immerse them in society to create inclusion and so they learn skills to generate their own income. Even if not a humanitarian issue, a good economist would say don't let any person go to waste instead we disregard wheelchair users and then they turn into burden instead. Investment in inclusion of Persons with Disabilities is lacking in Pakistan if we do invest, it will bring positivity in our society.

Plenary Session 6

Inclusive Development and Role of OPDs and Networks

Key note address

Role of OPDs and Networks in Inclusive Development

Mr. Anwar Saadat

Coordinator ADDTF

Women with Disabilities in Leadership Role

Ms. Nadia Yaseen

Manager, Better Life Welfare Foundation, Chistian Bahawalnagar

Contribution of CBDIN towards Inclusive Development in GB

Mr. Amjad Nadeem

Coordinator CBID Network Gilgit Baltistan

Contribution of KDF and Challenges for Independent Living in Skurdu

Mr. Hasan Balti

President, KDF Skurdu, Baltistan

Youth Engagement for inclusive Development

Ms. Tayyaba Gul,

Chief Operating Officer, Youth Catalyst, Nowshera

Contribution of OPDs towards Inclusive Development in Balochistan

Riaz Baloch,

President TSO, Quetta Balochistan

Moderator

Mr. Abid Lashari

President NDF, Shaheed Benazir Abad, Sindh

The session was moderated by Mr. Abid Lashari, Chief Executive of National Development Foundation (NDF).

Role of OPDs and Networks in Inclusive Development

Anwar Saadat

Coordinator ADDTF

Our Task Force aims to bring like-minded organizations together for advocacy with donor agencies, government, and other counterparts to work on better inclusions. All humanitarian response should be inclusive. Gaps in humanitarian response need to be identified, including elderly with disabilities. We also don't collect data based on internationally recognized standards and joint planning with member organizations is necessary to see where resources lie, mobilize, and respond to the gaps. We must take advantage of the added value of this network to consolidate isolated organizations so whenever anyone needs technical support we can help. We also aim and hope for standardization, for example in terms of nomenclature.

Women with Disabilities in Leadership Role

Ms. Nadia Yaseen

Manager, Better Life Welfare Foundation, Chistian Bahawalnagar

We established a small organization in 2020 in Chistian when we saw people particularly women, spending their whole lives trapped in a room or crawling around because they didn't own wheelchairs. There are so many unaccounted-for Persons with Disabilities because they never leave home. They don't even know that they can coexist with society due to the lack of mobility and awareness and we work towards spreading awareness and fundraising for donations of wheelchairs.

Contribution of CBDIN towards Inclusive Development in GB

Amjad Nadeem

Coordinator CBID Network Gilgit-Baltistan

First, we need to push for legislation for Persons with Disabilities in Gilgit-Baltistan. When we were trying to establish legislation all special needs people were thrilled and then started to fight further for their rights. In 2019 the GB Assembly Disability Act was created. Before this only data of 3000 Persons with Disabilities was collected but after this achievement, we got data of over 16000 ppl in spite of the terrain difficulties when it comes to data collection. We used the IMS system for data collection. Some of our efforts for the rights of persons with disabilities were:

- 2000 people were taught a variety of skills
- In 2019-2020 50 million was the budget for their resources, education, spreading awareness to society and rehabilitation facilities
- A quota of 200 for persons with disabilities for officers' grade 1-16 was developed
- Free and accessible transportation was created, and we worked with 10 OPDs in 10 districts
- 500 people were given small grants for small businesses for self sufficiency

Contribution of KDF and Challenges for Independent Living in Skurdu

Mr. Hasan Balti

President, KDF Skurdu, Baltistan

We were established in 2011 when CHIP did a project with us. Persons with Disabilities by birth are not even named and they often have no wheelchairs and are kept as prisoners in their own homes. The Disability movement of 17 DPOs was created in GB and after the ACT the social welfare department made their own rules. We are willing to collaborate with other organizations to create more opportunities and provide basic amenities for Persons with Disabilities like wheelchairs.

Youth Engagement for inclusive Development

Ms. Tayyaba Gul,

Chief Operating Officer, Youth Catalyst, Nowshera

So many institutes like schools or home don't talk about personal health or hygiene. We need to have a wheelchair function for menstruating women as tools are not accommodating but no one is even willing to have that conversation in the first place.

Contribution of OPDs towards Inclusive Development in Balochistan

Riaz Baloch,

President TSO, Quetta Balochistan

We should not show piece or show case special education/needs kids as it is painful and hypocritical to call them for events just for marketing purposes or pretending to be humanitarian. No one knew about 3rd December before 2008 in Baluchistan as PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Day, not even the social welfare organization and it was our work including spreading of awareness that has brought light to this issue today. There are limited DPOs in Baluchistan and yet we still passed our first Disability Act, and it didn't cost us much. Even though we didn't know what we were doing we still worked hard and pushed policy makers to make the necessary changes in legislation.

MoU signing ceremony was held between Milestone and Abia Akram (National Forum) for Assistive technologies for women with disabilities. The MoU was signed by Mr. Shafique ur Rehman, President Milestone and Ms. Abia Akram, Coordinator National Forum on WwDs.

Concluding Session

Reflections on the Conference and Way Forward

Ms. Munazza Gilani

Country Director, Sightsavers

Greeting the dignitaries, guests, speakers, and all participants, she began her remarks by heartily congratulating the CBID Network and its partners on a successful two-day national conference. She expressed that conference brought pertinent social and development issues to the table for open discussion, led by knowledge and experts' views, and productively expanded the awareness on rights of persons with disabilities and their participation in inclusive development. By taking stock of where Pakistan stands today in terms of international and national commitments to inclusive development, the conference steered the focus towards planning and rapid action to prepare for this decade. She emphasized that this conference provided the opportunity to interact and sharing rich experiences for learning to continue the consistent, targeted and collaborative work to achieve the inclusive development agenda. She presented the summary of take away and recommendations.

Commitments and Recommendations:

We are keen to see commitments emerge that place the participation of OPDs as a top priority in all development and humanitarian efforts. As the world slowly emerges from a global pandemic and recognizing that some parts of the world are still gripped by it, we want to see the summit deliver on:

1. Increased financial commitments by government for implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all sectors, e.g. health, social protection, humanitarian, community inclusion. We would expect financial commitments to include measures to support capacity building, growth, and leadership of OPDs.
2. Commitments to accelerate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ensuring a disability inclusive approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Investments that reach persons with disabilities living in poverty are critical. We would expect to see commitments to accelerate progress in health, community mental health, social protection, livelihoods, and poverty reduction efforts that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.
3. Clear measures to ensure persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are included in policy review and development processes. The pandemic and the on-going crisis the world faces in climate, conflict, and food security, all require important policy decisions and OPDs should be at the decision making table and involved in the co-production of policies. General comment no 7 from the CRPD committee provides guidance on this.
4. Commitments to ensure government data systems take measures to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities. Inclusive Data systems give evidence-based data on progress and also indicate where gaps exist in implementing CRPD/SDG and other commitments.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Muhammad Sarwat Mirza

National Coordinator, CBID Network Pakistan

Dr. Sarwat commenced his vote of thanks by recognizing the support and efforts of all Executive members of CBID Network from all across the Pakistan and especially the provincial coordinators including Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman (Milestone) Punjab, Mr. Jawaid Rais (DWA) Sindh, Khurshid Alam Khurshid (SADA

Foundation) KP, Mr. Riaz Baloch (TSO) Balochistan, Mr. Amjad Nadeem Gilgit-Baltistan, Hasan Balti (Skurdu) and Ms. Zahida Qureshi Deputy National Coordinator.

He expressed special thanks for all partner organizations including development partners and OPDs who brought along participants, presenters and experts, who truly enriched the discussion across the two days. He further extended gratitude to all speakers and presenters for their invaluable, enlightening and insightful information sharing, as each session elicited constructive and useful takeaways and recommendations. He acknowledged the active participation of dignitaries and representatives from the Federal Ministries and departments as Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister of State Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Mr. Shahzad Ahmed from Ministry of Human Rights, Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Social Policy Advisor SDGs Unit, Mr. Rao Faisal from BISP, Dr. Rubina Fareed from NCRC, and Ms. Tanya Khan from APWASI. He expressed gratitude to all session moderators who are the subject specialist and experts, well-coordinated their sessions and facilitated the earnest debate and dialogue, including Mr. Itfaq Khaliq Khan (Sightsavers), Mr. Asim Zafar (CBIDN/ HANDS), Mr. Abia Akram (NCFWwDs), Mr. Haider Imtiaz (Advocate), Mr. Muzammil Islam (AAR Japan), Mr. Rahim Marri (HANDS) and Mr. Abid Lashari (NDF).

He thanks to long list of individuals and groups deserving credit and gratitude for successful conference. He presented thanks to the organizers especially management teams of Sightsavers and HANDS, led by Ms. Munazza Gilani and Dr. Tanveer Ahmed. He paid special thanks to Mr. Itfaq Khaliq Khan and Ms. Ammara Qureshi from Sightsaver; and Mr. Rahim Marri, Mr. Muhammad Ali and Ms. Sumera Javeed from HANDS for their tireless and incredible efforts throughout the preparation and conference phases.

Finally, he expressed high gratitude to Mr. Asim Zafar, Secretary CBID Network Pakistan, as this huge undertaking would not be possible without him as Mr. Asim Zafar as one of the pioneer leader is an excellent asset for this whole movement. He recognized and appreciated his huge contribution, work ethics and effortless multitasking. The National Coordinator concluded on a note of gratitude to every single individual who participated and was involved in organizing this conference.

Picture Gallery

Picture Gallery National Conference CBID Network Jan 17-18, 2023 Islamabad





Plenary Session 1:



Plenary session 2:



Plenary 3:



Plenary 4:



Plenary 5:



Plenary 6:



