

CONGRESS CONCEPT NOTE

5th Continental CBR/CBID Congress of the Americas 2022

In San José, Costa Rica, WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) jointly organized a workshop to discuss the creation of a Community- based Rehabilitation (CBR) Network for the Americas. Delegates from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru took part in the meeting. The group agreed to the creation of a CBR Network which will be called "Red de Rehabilitación Based en la Comunidad de las Américas y el Caribe". The CBR network of the Americas is an open body with coordination, exchange, solidarity and cooperation among its members who develop and promote the CBR strategy. The objectives of this CBR network are to contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities, the improvement of their quality of life and fulfillment of the rights of persons with a disability in the region of the Americas. These objectives will be achieved through strengthening of the CBR network's incorporation in the development of plans and policies regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. The Network seeks to influence the public agenda and contribute to the management of the global knowledge of CBR. It also aims to facilitate the empowerment of persons with a disability, the community, support the constitution of the network in the different countries and contribute to their development and strengthening.

The network of the Americas consists of different nodes:

- North node: Canada, Mexico and United States^{[1][2]}
- Node in the Southern cone: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil^{[1][2]}
- Andean node: Colombia, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela^{[1][2]}Spanish Caribbean node^{[1][2]}
- Central America node: Guatemala, el Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama^{[1][2]}
- The CARICOM and Dutch Caribbean node

After five (5) years of advocacy and awareness building, there is a growing community of interest for implementation of CBR in the Caribbean.

On April 30, 2014 at a one day meeting in Aruba during the CARPHA 59th Annual Scientific Meeting, the Caribbean CBR Network was activated under the guidance of Dr Armando Vasquez,

then PAHO's Regional Advisor on Disability and Rehabilitation. A five member steering committee chaired by Dr Glenville Liburd of Nevis was installed to spearhead this development.

The Americas CBR Network (Red de RBC de las Americas) through its Caricom and Dutch Caribbean node - the Caribbean CBR Network in collaboration with the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Disabled Persons and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are jointly inviting ALL stakeholders with an interest in the Inclusive Development of Persons with Disabilities to join us in Antigua & Barbuda. To date, four congresses have been held in four of the regions. The Congress offers an opportunity to bring together all stakeholders to maintain and strengthen the strategies and learn from each other. An overview of the four Congresses can be found in the Appendix.

When?

October 25-27, 2022. (Detailed programme will follow)

Where?

Antigua & Barbuda

About Community Based Rehabilitation & Inclusive Development

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) was initiated by [WHO at Alma Ata in 1978](#) as a Public Health / Primary Care Strategy to improve access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Over the last 44 years CBR has evolved from a health-based to a multi-sectorial strategy to ensure full participation and inclusion in society and improved quality of life for PWDs. Decision makers from all levels of administration (local to national) are becoming increasingly engaged in CBR strategies; working together to reduce inequalities in their communities through inclusion of persons with disabilities. Likewise, the understanding of disability has moved to a biopsychosocial and rights-based model encapsulated in the 2006 [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD).

What are the benefits of CBR?

CBR offers an operational methodology to realize human rights and development objectives at the community level, based on a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, which can empower persons with disabilities and their families. It is a "grass roots" or "bottom-up" approach to development with the aim of empowerment of the PWDs through their inclusion at the table of decision making

and through the adoption of the [WHO CBR Guidelines](#) and [Matrix](#) as operational tools to creating structured public dialogue.

Aim and Objectives of the 5th Continental CBR Congress of the Americas 2022:

Aim: To work towards the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Americas region

Objectives: To

- provide a platform for advancing the global, regional and national discourse and various agendas on CBR and disability inclusive development;
- provide a platform for sharing best practices, ongoing programmes and projects and receiving reports and situation analyses from countries, groups and organisations;
- build a Caribbean consensus for the adoption and sustainability of CBR as a public policy and strategy for disability inclusive development;
- develop a regional roadmap to implement, strengthen and sustain collaboration and networking for inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Theme:

1. Closing the Gaps, reducing the risks through structured dialogue and networking. (Sub theme: Gender Sensitive, Climate Resilient; Sustainable Inclusive Development for Empowerment of PWDs)

Target Audience:

These congresses typically attract between 500 to 1000 delegates from the entire Americas and other international stakeholders. to share experiences, and showcase best practices and projects.

Delegates include persons with disabilities and care takers, policy makers; service providers (health, social security, education, livelihood, legal and empowerment sectors); researchers (university faculty); representatives of local and international NGO's; international developmental partners; supranational organizations (e.g. PAHO, UNESCO; ILO; UNICEF; Commonwealth Foundation; OAS; CARICOM).

Expected Outputs:

- End of Congress Declaration – “The 2022 CBR Declaration of St. Johns” incorporating: Memorandum of Understanding for the sustainable creation/continuation of a Caribbean CBR Network as the platform for regional dialogue
- Transition of the steering committee established in Aruba to a Standing Committee - Election of officers
- Financing agreements for the work of the CBR Network(s) – Local/District; National, Regional, Global
- 5-year Strategic Development Framework for inclusive Development of PWDs in the Americas
- A Documentation and Research Framework for ongoing sharing and collaboration.

Planning considerations:

The host government will work in collaboration with the local NGO (In this case – the ABAPD), and the Caribbean CBR Network/Americas CBR Network, and other local, regional and international stakeholders across all sectors to realize a successful event. Several committees and subcommittees will be constituted to do the detailed planning and logistical coordination.

Workshops may include:

- The CBR matrix
- CBR and Advocacy
- CBR and migration
- CBR and social equity and economy
- Access to Healthcare/Health Equity
- Access to Justice
- Inclusive Communication and the Use of Technologies for the Creation of Networks
- Climate change and risk management
- Community Based Inclusive Education
- The role of the caregiver
- Youth with Disabilities
- Assistive technology to benefit PWDs
- Developing a regional roadmap to reinforce the CBR Network
- How do we measure the impact of CBR in the Americas (CBR indicators)
- Data Collection, Management, Governance

Panel discussions: For example:

- (a) Community leaders present on their experiences in mental and community health.
- (b) Three countries present on the status of inclusive education in their country.
- (c) High level, Keynote presentation on Closing the Gaps.
- (d) Presentation - Accessing and using assistive technology

Four plenary sessions should be so designed to involve all presenters where each Plenary will be followed by panel discussions where participants will ask questions, receive answers and generally be involved in the discussions.

Exhibition in Booths at the Congress

Assistive Technology for Persons with Disabilities

Artifacts and items made by OPDs and PWDs (*for sale*)

Expected Outcomes:

- i) The Caribbean CBR Network will become a Standing Committee with an Executive Management Team
- ii) Participants will be involved in sharing best practices and learning from each other.
- iii) Participating organisations will develop partnerships through networking, for the benefit of their members.
- iv) The Congress participants, through discussion, will build a Caribbean consensus for the adoption and sustainability of CBR as a public policy and strategy for disability inclusive development

Tour of CBR/CBID programmes on Antigua and Barbuda

A tour to local CBR/CBID programmes will also take place.

Appendix:

**Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
and the CBR Continental Congress of the Americas
*A brief synopsis***

The Caribbean CBR Network is a unit of the Americas node of the Global Network. It was established in 2013 and won the right to host the 5th Continental Congress of the Americas in 2022.

1. CBR Congresses:

The **First CBR Continental Congress of the Americas** was held in Santiago, Chile in November 2006 and had as its main objective to “review and analyze key issues about the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the countries of the region”. It was a privileged space for regional discussion and exchange on best practices on the implementation of the CBR strategy which generated lasting impacts in the community. Under the slogan "CBR: A Strategy for Inclusive Development" CBR was promoted as a multisectoral approach strategy in support of the implementation of the Standard for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Pan American Health Organization, 2006).

Second CBR Continental Congress of the Americas under the theme “Towards Inclusive Development" took place in 2010 in Oaxaca, Mexico. The objective was the dissemination and consolidation of the CBR as a model for other development initiatives as recorded in the Oaxaca Manifesto. At the general level it aimed to "work on the establishment of a continental network of CBR, as well as in the development and strengthening of networks and discussion and exchange groups at the local and national level.”

Third CBR Continental Congress of the Americas under the theme “To Continue Building the Path of Inclusion of the Americas" was held in Medellin, Colombia in October 2013. The objectives were a) generating a collective space for the recognition and exchange of progress, challenges, and experiences, on the CBR strategy in the Americas, from a development, participation, and rights approach, and b) Identifying from exchange and collective construction, the lessons learned about the CBR as a reference to influence national policies for inclusive development. Its manifesto ratified the importance of persons with disabilities becoming major actors in the implementation of a CBR strategy, understood as a tool that allows the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their full exercise of citizenship.

Fourth CBR Continental Congress of the Americas under the theme "Building Equality" was held in Quito, Ecuador in November 2017 with the aim of "Consolidating a collaborative platform at

continental and regional level to encourage opinions, suggest better practices, socialize experiences, activate discussions and influence public policies aimed at strengthening the integral care of persons with disabilities, in order to consolidate an inclusive and supportive society based on equality of opportunities and the reduction of access gaps for the full exercise of human rights and participation in sustainable development, through the Community-Based Rehabilitation Strategy (CBR) and the intensive use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the field of disabilities" (UNESCO, National Council for The Equality of Disabilities, A Lifetime, (CBM, RBC Network of the Americas 2017).

And Now... Coming Soon

The 5th CBR/CBID Continental Congress of the Americas: Scheduled for October 25 to 27, 2022, in Antigua and Barbuda, under the theme: "Closing the Gaps, Reducing the Risks through structured dialogue and networking." Sub-themes are Gender Sensitive, Climate Resilient and Sustainable Inclusive Development strategies for Empowerment of PWDs. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has agreed to partner with the CCBRN and the ABAPD to ensure a meaningful, enlightening, and successful Congress. Other countries of the Americas are happy to assist in the Planning of the Congress.

Objectives of the 5th Continental CBR/CBID Congress of the Americas 2022. To:

- Provide a platform for advancing the global, regional, and national discourse and various agendas on CBR and Disability Inclusive Development.
- Provide a platform for sharing best practices, ongoing programs and projects and receiving reports and situation analyses from countries, groups, and organizations.
- Build a Caribbean consensus for the adoption and sustainability of CBR as a public policy and strategy for Disability Inclusive Development.
- Develop a regional roadmap to implement, strengthen and sustain collaboration and networking for inclusion of PWDs.

2. CARICOM Mandates

The CARICOM mandates for the disability inclusive development are enshrined in the Kingston accord (May 2004) and the Petionville Declaration (December 2013). In 2018 CARICOM made the bold decision to give substance to these agreements by the establishment of the post of CARICOM Rapporteur on Disability and a Special Advisory Committee.