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# **CBM Global submission in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 53/6 on human rights and climate change**

# **Introduction**

CBM Global (CBMG) is a dual mandate organisation. Our main humanitarian goal is to support and facilitate locally driven people-centred, timely, appropriate and effective humanitarian assistance to some of the poorest and most at-risk men, women and children affected by natural and human-caused disasters. This support is delivered in partnership with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and in close coordination with the humanitarian sector at global, regional, national and local levels. Climate Justice is one of CBMG advocacy priorities and our work in partnership with partners including organisations of persons with disabilities can be found detailed in our [Climate Advocacy Roadmap.](https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Climate-Advocacy-Roadmap.pdf)

CBMG in this submission to HRC 53/6 address a selection of the questions and gives details of examples of evidence gathered by CBMG, members of the CBM Global federation and different partners on the impact of loss and damage on persons with disabilities.

# **Responses to Questions**

1. **Stories of the impacts of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights in your country.**

As an INGO working with partners in countries, many of which are at the frontline of the impact of climate change, CBMG has documented stories from partners on the impact of climate change on the human rights of persons with disabilities.

In 2022, CBMG Nepal published a detailed case study [*Nepal’s changing climate and its impact on communities including people with disabilities*](https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Case-Study_Nepals-changing-climate.pdf). The case study highlighted how persons with disabilities lost their homes and livelihoods due to a heavy flash flood from two tributaries- the Melamchi and Indrawati rivers. This resulted in five deaths and 20 missing people along with heavy damage to the Melamchi water supply project while also cutting off road access to several villages. When the flood and landslides happened in 2021, CBMG Nepal carried out a survey among people with disabilities and their families, and found that:

* 53% of household shelters fully collapsed,
* 72% of households lost their agriculture land,
* 73% of households lost their food stock, and
* 19% households lost their livestock and livestock sheds along with damage to their shelters.

In 2023 CBMG produced a case study of [*Climate-Change-and-its-Humanitarian-Consequences.pdf (cbmuk.org.uk)*](https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Climate-Change-and-its-Humanitarian-Consequences.pdf) and the impact on persons with disabilities in Southern Madagascar where an unusual number of cyclones had hit the region, which translated into new emergencies in an already critical situation – and where an estimated 1.68 million experienced high levels of acute food insecurity. Testimonies of people with disabilities needing to leave their communities behind and move due to the lack of rain because of climate change included those whose “plantations can no longer yield enough crops to support their most basic needs. To survive, they had to sell their house and when there was nothing left to eat in the area”. This forced displacement removed them from their homes and communities of support.

Further research by CBMG highlights stories from an individual perspective of how persons with disabilities are losing their homes and livelihoods. The [Missing in Climate Action: Stories of persons with disabilities from the Global South](https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Missing-in-Climate-Action-November-2022.pdf) highlighted how loss and damage experienced by persons with disabilities often goes unaccounted for due to lack of disaggregated data on disability. In addition, it highlighted the experience of persons with disabilities continuing to face discriminatory laws that can prevent persons with disabilities owning land and assets, which means the impact of damage  can go uncounted. Stories from persons with disabilities detailing the impact of climate change on their lives in Kenya, Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines can be found in [The impact of climate change; from people with disabilities in the areas that we work](https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-impact-of-climate-change-cbmg-accessible-27.06.pdf).

**Quantitative and qualitative data as well as mechanisms and tools to measure, monitor, report on, and evaluate the impacts of loss and damage**.

The Human Rights Council has expressed concern that loss and damage to livelihoods caused by sudden and slow-onset events directly and disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, undermining their well-being and their enjoyment of a whole of range of human rights. Locating the data at country level remains problematic, and is outlined more fully by CBM in its paper [Climate Change and Disability Rights: Discussion Paper (June 2023) - CBM (cbmuk.org.uk)](https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/resource/climate-change-and-disability-rights-discussion-paper-june-2023/) in which it is highlighted that “Just as national disability data is limited so too is data to trace the impacts of climate change on person with disabilities.” Resolving this gap this is a key recommendation as the lack of data represents a huge obstacle to developing an appropriate response and channelling it through the national and sub-national public financial management system. Often there is no reliable data about how many people with and without disabilities have died because of climate related events. This gap in data persists even though the regions affected are used to receiving aid due to the constant emergency situations that it finds itself in.

The incremental progress being made by countries on disability data creates a challenge for being able to provide evidence on the impact of climate change on the human rights of persons with disabilities in any specific country. Data on disability in general remains underreported or not reported at all and this creates barriers to giving data when it comes to evidence climate impacts. Research however is emerging highlighting the impact. Good examples to highlight include; The Independent Expert on Albinism in [2023 highlighted loss of life and serious risk of violence with respect to persons with albinism](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5545-right-education-persons-albinism-report-independent-expert). Research led by Organisations of Persons with Disabilities such as the [Pacific Disability Forum](https://pacificdisability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PDF-Final-Report-on-Climate-Change-and-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf), has proved extensive additional loss and damage experienced by persons with disabilities.

**Public policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements**. In 2023, CBM UK published a [Climate Change and Disability Rights (cbmuk.org.uk)](https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Climate-Change-and-Disability-Rights-Discussion-Paper-June-2023.pdf) , a working paper which focused on asking “Does the climate crisis impact implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)? A 3-country study”. The study hypothesised that the costs and damages incurred by climate change, if not met with additional and specific funding, will result in national funds being diverted away from essential government services for marginalised groups. The key findings detailed below broadly sign post a need for disability inclusive policies and also cross governmental action on disability and climate.

The key findings included;

* Lack of transparency of government budgets both centrally and decentralised across different ministries makes it difficult to understand where money is being spent and potentially being re-allocated during times of climate crisis;
* With increasing costs of climate crisis, disability was not a key priority in any areas, including policy and finance allocation for the governments in each of our case study countries**.**
* Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and persons with disabilities are not systematically included or meaningfully consulted in budgetary decision making for policies, even those that specifically relate to persons with disabilities, both within and outside the context of climate change.
* Structural gaps in communication and coordination between ministries make cross communication challenging between the departments working on the implementation of disability rights and departments working on climate adaptation and mitigation**.**

**Please provide specific recommendations, if possible, on how to address the critical challenges that have been identified, including actions to be taken at country, regional, and global levels, as well as by different groups of stakeholders, Governments, development agencies, financing institutions, and others.**

The UN Special Rapporteur on climate change and human rights in his report to the General Assembly in 2022 highlighted a ‘participation disconnect’ between those who are at most risk of being affected by climate change impacts and those who participate and are represented in political and decision-making processes. The UNSR reiterates that the voices of those most affected must be heard and the losses and damages they are suffering must be understood and accounted for.

[Climate Change and Disability Rights (cbmuk.org.uk)](https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Climate-Change-and-Disability-Rights-Discussion-Paper-June-2023.pdf) points outs out that crucially the fact that many Governments are not reporting or complying with their obligations under the CRPD means that persons with disabilities, as rights holders and active citizens, are not included across all Government policy priorities, programmes and budgets. This has to change.

Inclusive financing and budgetary processes must be a key component of the alignment of climate response with the principles of the CRPD and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.  This includes being central to mechanisms and calculations for loss and damage. While the funding mechanisms for covering loss and damage is currently being negotiated by governments, there must be recognition of the need for those funds and their distribution to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and be CRPD compliant. Insurance schemes, for example, often discriminate against persons with disabilities so if these are used in response to loss and damage, they must be designed to be disability inclusive.

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Read more about our [climate advocacy](https://cbm-global.org/news/climate-crisis-and-persons-with-disabilities) work.