

Rehabilitation and you

Dear ...

Greetings from the CBR Global Network (CGN) and the Indian Forum for Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology (IFRA)!

We are writing to request you to join our **Global Advocacy initiative to ensure that Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Home based Rehabilitation services are included in the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution (148. R6) on 'The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities' to be adopted in the 74th session of the WHA in May 2021.**

CBR, a community development strategy conceptualised and promoted in 1978 by the World Health Organization (WHO),

CBR Guidelines <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/44405>

CBR Matrix - <https://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/matrix/en/>

Is a multi-sectoral approach to achieve elimination of poverty, equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. It is Practiced in over a hundred countries through the combined efforts of persons with disabilities and their organizations their families and communities and relevant government and civil society services. Thorough CBR millions of children, adults and older people with different disabilities, living in poverty and in resource scarce settings in low and middle income countries or benefiting. Yet, currently, it is not finding its rightful place in current discourses, advocacy efforts or in documents on health and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities.

Why you should join us in this advocacy?

- 15% of the World population are estimated to have disability. 80% of them live in middle and low income countries”.
- Global estimates indicate that **at least one in every three people in the world would need rehabilitation services** at some point in their lives due to illness, injury or disability. Yet in many low- and middle-income countries, less than 50% of people receive the services they require.
- The WHA Resolution 58.23 on disability makes the clear linkages between increasing demand for rehabilitation services and poverty, war and violence, environmental degradation, diseases like HIV and AIDS and accidents. It also highlights the specific needs of vulnerable populations groups - women, children, older people and those affected by malnutrition or living in poverty.

By advocating together, globally, we will increase the chances of the passing of the Resolution mandating member states to ensure access to quality and affordable community based/ home based rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups living in poverty and in resource scarce settings everywhere.

We attach the Executive Summary of our policy brief on CBR (still under review) which lays out the argument for the inclusion of Community Based Rehabilitation in this resolution.

How you can help

1. Please Circulate this widely

2. Please influence the Minister of Health in your country to

1. Write an email / letter to the regional office of WHO recommending that CBR should be included into the WHA resolution on **highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities**

2. The copy of this letter should go to the Director General of WHO, Geneva and

3. A copy of this letter should go to the Permanent Mission of the respective Country.

Sample letters are attached.

We will be happy to provide more information or any clarification that you may need.

Look forward to your response in the next few days.

About us:

IFRA

IFRA, the Indian Forum on Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology (IFRA) is an informal Network comprising of persons with disabilities, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPD), family members with a person with disability, CBR practitioners / other rehabilitation professionals, representatives of children, women and older people without disabilities

CBR

The CBR Global Network, <https://cbrglobalnetwork.org/> is the only Global Network of the Global South with its members from Africa, the America`s , Asia, The middle east and the Pacific have their presence in over hundred countries implementing CBR programs.

The aim of both CGN and IFRA is to advocate for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups needing rehabilitation to have access to quality and affordable habilitation and rehabilitation services and to technology.

Warm Greetings

B. Venkatesh

Hon. President CGN, Hon. Convener IFRA