The GRID Network: Groups for Rehabilitation and Inclusive Development
Building a CBR Community of Practice in Cameroon

Kenchi Joseph¹, Lynn Cockburn², Mbibeh Louis, Jacques Chirac Awa¹,
Peter Mue³, Ezekiel Benuh⁴, Goli Hashemi⁵

¹Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services  ²University of Toronto, Canada ³CBM ⁴SightSavers ⁵Samuel Merritt University

2nd CBR World Congress
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
26-29 September 2016
Acknowledgments

The GRID Network Project is implemented with funding from the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) and the Australian government Australia AID, through CBM Australia, and in-kind support from University of Toronto.

GRID is one of many projects that the CBCHS SEEPD program is running; SEEPD emerged from CBR work and rehabilitation services of the CBCHB

http://www.cbm.org/programmes/SEEPD-382099.php
The goal of the GRID Network

.... is to develop communities of practice focused on disability, rehabilitation, and inclusive development to improve quality of life of Persons with disabilities in the North West Region.
Guiding Frameworks

- ICF model (WHO, 2002)
- The Sustainable Development Goals (2015)
  - Specific goals for the theme group were identified based on the SDGs
Purpose of this Presentation

• To share information about how CBR is included in a new community of practice project, the GRID Network, in the North West Region of Cameroon

• Specifically, to talk about how this project is supporting CBR in several ways

• Gather ideas and hear about similar professional development initiatives in African and other low-income countries.
Why the GRID Network?

• The GRID Network = Groups for Rehabilitation and Inclusive Development

• Growing community of rehabilitation providers in Cameroon, as in other African and LMIC countries.

• In many places there are no, few, or very new professional development opportunities for CBR and rehabilitation providers who are committed to inclusive development

• Can be very difficult to find out about PD opportunities

• People want to talk with and learn from each other
A Community of Practice

A group of people who share common goals and who are interested in (sometimes passionate about!) developing and spreading new knowledge to improve understanding and action around an issue.

Adapted from Wenger-Trayner’s work
The GRID Network

GRID Core Team
- Program Manager
- Project Head
- Project Coordinator

- HIV and Rehabilitation
- Community Based Rehabilitation
- Vision Care and Ophthalmology
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Inclusive Education
- Management & Leadership in Inclusive Development
- Inclusion and the Media
- Gender and Inclusive Development
- Gender and Rehabilitation Community Based

Inclusive Education
How the GRID Network is developing

- **Core project team** of 3 people making organizational decisions
- **Leaders** for each of theme groups
- **10 members** (up to) nominated for each theme group from several organizations
- **Discussions**: Theme groups work on what they see as priority areas for collaboration
- **Ongoing communication**: Fewer F2F meetings, more social media, internet communications
CBR with Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services

Pre-1980s: Services for people with disabilities including physiotherapy had been established previously.

1982: The Community Based Rehabilitation established for the North West Region of Cameroon to serve rural areas.

Over the years we grew: in several areas of the region, now implemented in rural and urban settings, reaching approximately 502,973 people including 23,677 PWDs.
Why we needed a CBR group in the GRID Network

- GRID Network established January 2016
- CBCHS has a long standing CBR program in the region
- The rehabilitation landscape is changing, thus there is need to document and share evidence-based practices in CBR
- Other organizations in the region are also interested in developing CBR initiatives
Aims of the CBR GRID group

The CBR theme group aims to:

• use knowledge and evidence to improve CBR services in the region

• find ways to share what has been effective with others.

• select key areas to focus on
Our Questions

The CBR group focuses on the questions such as:

• What works (what is effective, what has impact) with respect to CBR in the NWR and in other places in the world?

• How can we keep up to date with CBR discussions and debates that are happening globally?

• What can we learn and implement from other programs?

• What are the impacts and benefits of CBR on broader development initiatives?
CBR Theme Group Members

• Local, national and international group members are from several sectors and professional backgrounds.
• The CBR Group has people from Cameroon and USA
• Passionate and committed to sharing ideas and key learnings.
What is the GRID CBR Group doing?

Providing opportunities for professional collaboration and learning between different organizations
More specifically,…

- Focused on knowledge dissemination, use, and changing practices (i.e. implementation)
- Sharing resources, dialogue and communication to learn about CBR and inclusive development
- Developing and adapting resource materials
- Encouraging the use of internet and social media to share knowledge relevant to CBR in African contexts
- Providing leadership opportunities for CBR leaders
- Encouraging universities to include rehabilitation and inclusive development in their programs
Achievements so far

• Learning about programs and referrals
• Expanding learning opportunities for greater empowerment and participation
• Strengthening institutional support for collaborations and communities of practice
• Promoting inter-organizational relationships in the disability and inclusive development arena
• Opportunities for leadership development
Next Steps

• Situational Analysis
• Continued knowledge sharing
• Adapting materials to our local context
• Identify specific opportunities to further complement each other in collective work (e.g. understanding best practices, keeping up with changes in the field globally)
Thank you and Contact us

We would love to:
- Hear about similar initiatives, and what you learned
- Share your resources with the CBR GRID Network

Kench Joseph  josephkenchi@yahoo.com
nwrcommunityofpractice@gmail.com

> Thank you, Merci, Meyaka, Zonka, Beri-wo, Njika, Kezong