

Summary Bridges report - Fase 1 (01/08/2015 – 31/07/2016)***BRIDGES and the process of understanding CBR in Indonesia & Brazil******by project leader, Beatriz Miranda,***

The project Bridges aimed to explore general CBR initiatives existent in Brazil and Indonesia and to address the specific topic of sustainability. A participatory approach was proposed for the research which implied that people affected by leprosy and disabled people would be active as researchers or co-researchers. During these eight months of implementation, however, the objectives and process of research in each country have been through some adjustments. It could be said that such adjustments must be considered as one of the results of the research process instead of just a methodological change.

Bridges conclude that CBR is a contextually designed strategy that aims at provoking changes in communities by promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities, facilitating their access to different services and guaranteeing the fulfilment of their rights including their right to rehabilitation and health. There are four main principles that a CBR project has to look at: sustainability, multi-sectoriality, inclusion and empowerment. They are interdependent and in order to make an initiative sustainable, these principles have to be implemented. However, since CBR is a locally constructed strategy these principles can vary and some other principles can appear depending on the needs of people and their context. This can be illustrated by the different approaches that the two projects in the two countries had followed: In Indonesia the process has been developed by the two DPOs with minimal academic discussion. Brazil, on the other hand, has not involved DPOs in this first stage. Exchange of training, field visits and materials is considered to be beneficial for both countries and projects and could inform the wider community that works with CBR initiatives and on community based development.