

My name is Christine,

I'm the executive director of Uganda national association of cerebral palsy and I'm one of the founder of that organisation.

Ugandan National Association of Cerebral Palsy was formed by persons with cerebral palsy after realising that our voice was not heard, we were left out.

Persons with cerebral palsy most of them are illiterate, the illiterate rate is very high.

For me to acquire education it has been so challenging that the teachers don't understand me, the teachers could look at me, 'Ah she's attacked by demons', and most of them they say 'No, she will scare other children, other learners'. So I was denied education from a number of schools.

Why? Because they were not aware of how I can learn. However, I persisted and my family also persisted in looking for school good enough to go to.

After this training, I feel empowered, now I feel confident to go outside and, you know, start the advocacy work basing on inclusive no matter what disability you have. Because now I'm an inclusive activist. Why? This Bridge has really empowered us, I'm now in the position to stand and defend my advocacy using the UN Convention.

I loved Module 1, you know why? For us organisations of persons with disabilities, here in Uganda, you know when you are writing proposals, when you are advocating, we always focus on single disability. For example cerebral palsy, when I'm writing a proposal, looking for fundraising, advocating, I will focus on a single disability. It was very amazing that in Bridge, we learned to be inclusive, that we are all persons with disabilities no matter what category, so whenever we are advocating, we should be inclusive. At first I used to think it's very hard, how will I advocate for a deaf blind as in I find it very hard, but now, wow after Bridge 1, I found some things are just ... they're just easy.

I really loved the way those guys have been training, you know, they are real technical facilitators. First of all, the way they are really simplifying the materials, it's accessible to everybody. Whether you have a PhD, whether you have a Masters, whether you have a certificate, the language is inclusive – the simplified language. And they've gone ahead because they've understood that we have different needs, and they've even catered for those who maybe cannot read long sentences by using pictorial illustrations.

Advocacy is a big work and we need to do it as a team. And doing advocacy and for it to be successful, we must be well knowledgeable about what we are advocating for. So, we cannot know all those things unless we get an opportunity of being in such trainings, like Bridge. I'm very grateful for the Bridge training, it has been, wow, fundamental.