# ADDC Bulletin: February 2020

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Dear ADDC Bulletin subscribers,

Welcome to our first edition of our Bulletin for 2020, recapping disability and development news items from here and around the world.

Some significant developments have occurred locally with the Australian Government recently seeking submissions on its [development](https://dfat.gov.au/aid/new-international-development-policy/Pages/default.aspx) of its new international development policy, as well as DFAT commencing consultations on its disability inclusion policy. The ADDC Executive Committee recently met with key DFAT representatives to advocate for a forward-looking and ambitious approach that included people with disabilities in both these new policies.

In addition, [applications are now open](#_ADDC_Executive_Officer) for the ADDC Executive Officer role with Kerryn taking 12 months parental leave in the coming months. Applications are open until Monday 24th February.

Internationally, the [Doha Declaration](#_Doha_Declaration_to) on Disability and Development was launched. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities have called for inputs into their submissions to the [HLPF 2020](#_Calling_for_inputs:) and by youth with disabilities regarding their [views on SDGs](#_Calling_for_inputs:_1). There are many more news and resource items below we are pleased to share with you.

To help with locating upcoming major event and dates in 2020, we have collated a [calendar](#_Calendar_of_2020) of key events/dates for you.

If you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin or calendar, do contact us. We would love to hear from you.

On behalf of ADDC we thank you for being with us on this journey to a more inclusive world,

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# ADDC NEWS

## ADDC submission for the International Development Policy Review

The Australian Government announced in December 2019 the development of a new international development policy and opened public consultations to inform its creation. This is the first time in a decade this policy has been reviewed. As part of the consultations, DFAT invited written submissions from the development sector, partners and the general public by 14th February.

We welcomed this opportunity to provide input, drawn from the experience and expertise of our membership, to the formation of the new international development policy. Our submission provides both principled and practical guidance to aid the Government in maintaining their globally-recognised leadership in disability-inclusive development; ensure the integration of inclusive approaches across development assistance, humanitarian and human rights policy; suggest action and accountability measures; and outline necessary resourcing for the effective and impactful delivery of the new international development policy.

Thank you to those in our network we worked with to raise disability-inclusion development collectively in a number of submissions as a core component of international development and ensuring no one is left behind in any of our efforts. The [ACFID website](https://acfid.asn.au/content/member-submissions) will be hosting submissions from the sector for your reference.

Download our submission ([PDF](https://www.addc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ADDC-submission-to-DFAT-international-development-policy-February-2020-Final.pdf) version, [Word](https://www.addc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ADDC-submission-to-DFAT-international-development-policy-February-2020-Final.docx) version).

## ADDC Executive Committee annual meeting

On 30-31 January, ADDC Executive Committee members met in person in Melbourne to plan and strategise for 2020 as well as meet with key DFAT representatives for [consultations](#_Update_on_DFAT). [Committee members](https://www.addc.org.au/who-we-are/executive-committee/) represent organisations from across Australia advocating for disability inclusion and rights, working together to ensure full and equal participation in society for people with disabilities globally.

## Update on DFAT consultations

On 31st January, members of the ADDC Executive Committee met with key DFAT representatives as part of the consultations on the development of a new Australian Government international development policy and the consultations regarding DFAT’s future approach to disability inclusion.

Members of the ADDC Executive Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss the continuing need for disability-inclusive development to be a priority cross-cutting theme of the Australian international development program, as well as ways to progress the inclusion of people with disabilities across all of Australia’s aid initiatives. For more information and correspondence with the Minister of International Development and the Pacific on this issue see [here](https://www.addc.org.au/continue-australias-commitment-to-people-with-disabilities/).

This week, ADDC and CBM Australia are bringing together key leaders from the disability rights movement from the Asia-Pacific region to meet with DFAT representatives as part of the ongoing consultations to develop a new international development policy. This opportunity provides the space to bring together representatives, including the Chairperson and General Secretary of the ASEAN Disability Forum as well as the CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum, to discuss with senior DFAT representatives, including Expert Panel members on the development of Australia’s new international development policy, support for regional priorities and practical approaches that include people with disabilities across the whole of the Australian international development program. The consultation will be held on 21st February and we thank Save the Children for hosting us in their offices for the day.

## Response to Senate Estimates Questions

Last October, as part of the 2019 Senate Estimates process, ADDC worked with the Office of the Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Pat Conroy, to ask a number of questions on the Australian Government’s disability inclusion strategy in aid. The questions were taken on notice and DFAT has recently provided responses.

Read the Government’s responses to Senate Estimates Questions [here](https://www.aph.gov.au/api/qon/downloadestimatesquestions/EstimatesQuestion-CommitteeId5-EstimatesRoundId7-PortfolioId11-QuestionNumber93).

## Applications open for position of ADDC Executive Officer

Come and work with ADDC to shape Australian international development efforts to be disability inclusive.

Applications are now being received for the role of ADDC Executive Officer.

The Executive Officer plays a key role in developing and implementing ADDC’s national platform for international disability advocacy and action with the ADDC Executive Committee and ADDC members, advocating for disability-inclusive development be a priority cross-cutting theme for all international development programs.

Closing date for applications is Monday 24 February 2020. Applications will be assessed as they are received so candidates encouraged to apply early.

To read more about this unique and interesting job opportunity, click [here](#_ADDC_Executive_Officer).

## Calendar of 2020 Key Events and Days

**We have compiled a calendar with the key events and days for the disability rights movement regionally, nationally and globally for 2020.**

**It is available in** [MS Word](https://www.addc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-Calendar-for-Key-Events.docx) **and** [PDF](https://www.addc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-Calendar-for-Key-Events.pdf) **formats and within the next month will be available as an accessible format on our website.**

**This is an evolving resource and we welcome any suggestions or key events/dates we may have not included. Email** [Linda](mailto:lmunoz@addc.org.au) **with your ideas and events.**

# ****IN THE NEWS****

## Putting Disability Inclusion into Practice in the Rohingya Refugee Response

Through the Australia Assists Program, RedR Australia deployed Disability Advisor, Tarryn Brown, to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh to ensure that the assistance provided by WFP would be accessible to everyone. Tarryn was the only Disability Inclusion Advisor working at the time, not only within WFP’s global operations, but also in any UN agency or NGO in Cox’s Bazar.

Read more about the impact of Tarryn’s work in a case study prepared by CBM Australia [here](https://www.redr.org.au/media/pkwhjsz4/disability-inclusion-case-study-tarryn-brown-wfp-bangladesh.pdf). And if you have the skills and experience to undertake similar work, RedR would love you to join their roster of technical specialists. You can learn more [here](https://www.redr.org.au/humanitarian-roster/join-as-a-skilled-professional/).

## Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action Established

This group is a platform for fostering cooperation between disability and humanitarian actors to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

It will design and coordinate joint actions; reinforce efforts of individual organizations; and link with broader processes for strengthening the quality and accountability of humanitarian action.

Expressions of interest in participating in the group are invited from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN entities, as well as interagency networks, multilateral or bilateral agencies, private sector, academics and others committed to promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, in line with a rights- based approach.

For more information, or to express an interest in participating, please contact this [email](mailto:rg.disabilityinclusion@gmail.com).

## Doha Declaration to Promote Rights of 1.5 Billion Persons with Disabilities Worldwide

The [Doha International Conference on Disability and Development (DICDD)](https://www.dicdd.qa/), held on 7-8 December 2019, concluded with the Doha Declaration that sets out an action-oriented approach for world governments to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into their national development plans.

The Declaration forms a core reference point internationally for policy development about human rights and sustainable development in the context of disability.

Read more about the conference on the UN DESA [webpage](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/doha-declaration.html) and access the Declaration [here](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/11/Doha-Declaration-Disability2019.pdf).

# ****NEW**** ****RESOURCES****

## ****Dependency on Australian aid and the introduction of inclusive education initiatives in Kiribati****

**This study examines dependency on Australian aid in the introduction of inclusive education initiatives in the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati through data analysis of documents and individual interview responses with key stakeholders from both the recipient and donor sides. The results indicate that the catalyst for inclusive education initiatives has been Australian aid highlighting a social justice issue, namely the exclusion of children with disabilities from school programs. Australian aid has shaped policy, funded inclusive education initiatives, and directly managed the programs through the externally controlled Kiribati Education Facility. The long-term sustainability of inclusive education initiatives is uncertain if Australian aid priorities change and funding is withdrawn.**

**Read the article by Robert Yates** [here](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/app5.296)**.**

## ****Launch of New Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (iDRR) Application****

Marking the 2019 International Day of Persons with Disability, CBM launched a new Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (iDRR) application and a new version of its Humanitarian Hands-On Tool (HHoT).

The iDRR app offers practical advice on making Disaster Risk Reduction programmes and projects accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities. The app aims to contribute to improve the quality and effectiveness of DRR programmes, explaining:

* How to ensure persons with disabilities can access and participate to all DRR programmes and actions with dignity.
* How persons with disabilities can actively participate in developing, implementing and monitoring DRR programmes, improving their quality and effectiveness.

The CBM Humanitarian Hands-On Tool (HHoT) provides step-by-step practical guidance on inclusive humanitarian field work. It has been used in emergency responses run by CBM and partners in several countries, including Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Zimbabwe. It has also been translated to Spanish and content has increased now to over 80 cards.

The new CBM iDRR Hands-on Tool uses the same methodology as HHoT to ensure accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction programs of government and NGOs worldwide.

Read more about the CBM iDRR app [here](https://idrr.cbm.org/en/) and the HHoT app [here](https://hhot.cbm.org/en/).

## “Easy-Read” version: Disability and Development Report 2018 – Executive Summary

In 2018, the United Nations launched a first-ever UN flagship report on disability and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Disability and Development Report on the “Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities”.

The report demonstrates that persons with disabilities are at a disadvantage regarding most Sustainable Development Goals. Concrete action is needed to include the world’s one billion persons with disabilities – 15% of the world population – as both agents and beneficiaries of development.

Access the newly released easy-read version of the executive summary of the Disability and Development Report 2018 [here](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/12/UN-Development-and-Disability-Report-v4.pdf).

The link to the full report can be found [here.](https://social.un.org/publications/UN-Flagship-Report-Disability-Final.pdf)

## UNJIU prepares the first-ever ‘Easy Read’ version of a report summary

The Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system has released an ‘Easy Read’ version of the executive summary of the JIU review on enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system. This marks the first occasion that the contents of a JIU review have been prepared in ‘Easy Read’ format, with the intent to improve the accessibility of the findings of the review for persons with disabilities.

The ‘Easy Read’ format helps people with learning disabilities understand information easily by using short, simplified sentences accompanied by pictures to support the meaning of the text. The preparation of executive summary in the ‘Easy Read’ format serves as an acknowledgement of the valuable contribution made by representative organizations of persons with disabilities to the review, and to the JIU’s own commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which emphasizes inclusion and references disability in multiple targets across various goals.

Read the review highlights & the easy read version of the executive summary [here.](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/review_highlights_easy_read_version_1.pdf)

Read the full 2018 report [here](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2018_6_english_0.pdf).

## UN Enable new webpage: Disability Acts/Laws by Country/Area

[UN Enable has released a new webpage](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities) on [*Disability Laws and Acts by Country/Area*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/disability-laws-and-acts-by-country-area.html) including legislative measures for more than 100 countries/areas and aims at facilitating knowledge sharing and identification of good practices in legislation for disability-inclusive development and the promotion of the rights for persons with disabilities.

The page is available [here.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/disability-laws-and-acts-by-country-area.html) If you know of any national disability act/law not yet reflected in this webpage, please notify Maria De Freitas Martinho by [email](mailto:martinho@un.org).

This new page complements the webpage released last October on [national disabilities plans/strategies by country](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/strategies.html) available [here.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/strategies.html)

## New Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Report: Awareness raising under Article 8, CRPD

This recently released OHCHR report on provides an overview of the obligation under article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, their capabilities and contributions to society, and to foster respect for their rights and dignity.

It contains guidance on a human rights-based approach to develop awareness-raising programmes and recommendations to assist States in implementing their obligations under international human rights law.

Access the report [here](https://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Issues/Disability/Article8/A_HRC_43_27_AdvanceEditedVersion.docx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1).

# ****OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT****

## Calling for inputs: Submission of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to HLPF 2020

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities (SGPwD) is preparing its response to the call by the UN Secretary-General to the “Decade of Action” to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Comments are requested on what actions the UN system and governments should take to realize the SDGs for persons with disabilities. Deadline for comments: 1 March 2020.

Follow this [link](https://internationaldisabilityalliance.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=217f78e7ae80e87d647cb61c5&id=a3face7798&e=02c08c5bd1) to share your thoughts in line with the outline of the submission. If you are require an MS Word document version, please email [here](mailto:hlpf2020@ida-secretariat.org).

## Calling for inputs: Submission of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities re youth with disabilities

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities annually makes a submission to the UN advising on how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities. This year we would like to dedicate one chapter to youth with disabilities.

Help the Group highlight what youth with disabilities think about the Sustainable Development Goals and to give attention to young people with disabilities in the global processes.

Youth with disabilities are invited to complete this [short survey](https://internationaldisabilityalliance.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=217f78e7ae80e87d647cb61c5&id=e9da1a6304&e=02c08c5bd1) by 1 March 2020.

## Women Deliver Young Leaders Program

Are you or do you know a young advocate living with a disability who is looking to amplify their influence to advance gender equality?

Women Deliver — a leading global advocate that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women — is launching the search for the next class of their award-winning Young Leaders Program!

The Women Deliver Young Leaders Program connects passionate young advocates with the platforms, the people, and the resources to amplify their influence to progress gender equality. To date, the program has supported 700 young advocates from 138 countries who are on the front lines of advancing gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women.

This year, Women Deliver will select 300 young advocates who are taking a stand for gender equality and drive positive change in their communities, countries, and around the world.

Applications are welcome from individuals aged between 15-28 from diverse backgrounds and all levels of experience, including those living with a disability.

Apply [here](https://womendeliver.org/youth/young-leaders-program/apply/) by 13 March.

# ****CONFERENCES, TRAINING**** ****& EVENTS****

## Global Conference, Measure What Matters: Data To Leave No One Behind

6-8 April, 2020, Canberra

This conference will bring together global thinkers and practitioners to showcase the value of gender sensitive data collected at the individual level, highlighting global efforts to close the gender data gap and leave no one behind.

Keynote speakers of this conference have been announced with the broader program currently under development. It is envisaged attendees will have opportunities to attend hands-on workshops, as well as thought-leading lectures.

Following four years of research and refinement, the Individual Deprivation Measure’s important findings will be released at this conference.

The current IDM Program is a partnership between the Australian National University, International Women’s Development Agency and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The conference will be held at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

For more information and resources please explore the [IDM website](http://www.individualdeprivationmeasure.org/).

## [World Blind Union (WBU) General Assembly 2020](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/general-assembly/Pages/default.aspx)

19-24 June 2020, Madrid, Spain

WBU General Assembly is held every four years and brings together WBU members from across the world to review WBU’s work, elect international leaders, adopt constitutional amendments and decide on important priorities for the next quadrennial period.

Here is a list of important dates and deadlines regarding the General Assembly:

* February 28, 2020- Membership due (for countries seeking financial support)
* March 31, 2020 - Membership due (for countries NOT seeking financial support)
* April 15, 2020 -Registrations close.

For more information and resources, please explore the [WBU website.](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/general-assembly/Pages/default.aspx)

## [3rd CBR/CBID World Congress](https://cbrglobalnetwork.org/)

28-30 July, 2020, Entebbe, Uganda

The 3rd Community Based Rehabilitation/Community Based Inclusive Development (CBR/CBID) World Congress is a groundbreaking event, emerging at a pivotal time in the history of the global CBR/CBID movement. The main objectives of the Congress are:

* To showcase good practices and lessons learned in CBR/CBID and inclusive development (CBID activities around the world
* To envision the future role, relevance and terminology of CBR/CBID, inclusive development and community based disability services globally
* To identify strategies for action across CBR/CBID at all levels from the individual to the social, including strategies to build capacity and human resources.

The [World Congress website](https://cbrglobalnetwork.org/) has now been updated with further information including a provisional schedule, registration and venue details.

For any queries regarding the event, please contact this [email](mailto:cbr.inclusion@gmail.com).

## Save the Date: International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disabilities Conference

1-5 March, 2022, Melbourne, Australia

The Australian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine will be hosting the next combined meeting of the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disabilities in Melbourne in 2022. This meeting will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Further details to be released in due course. For more information on this conference, contact this [email](mailto:info@ausacpdm.org.au?subject=Details%20on%20International%20Alliance%20of%20Academies%20of%20Childhood%20Disabilities%20Conference).

# ****EMPLOYMENT and**** ****FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES****

## ADDC Executive Officer

Australian Disability & Development Consortium, Box Hill, Melbourne

The Executive Officer plays a key role in developing and implementing ADDC’s national platform for international disability advocacy and action with the ADDC Executive Committee and ADDC members, advocating for disability-inclusive development to be a priority cross-cutting theme for all international development programs.

We are seeking a skilled professional to undertake the role for 12 months (parental leave contract). The role is 3 days per week (0.6 FTE) working with and managing the ADDC Support Officer (0.6 FTE).

Consistent with our commitment to the principle of “Nothing about us without us”, candidates who have a disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

The ADDC Secretariat is hosted by CBM Australia, who employ the ADDC Executive Officer and Support Officer. The role in based at the CBM Australia office in Box Hill, Melbourne.

The closing date for applications is **24 February 2020.**

Read more and apply [here](https://www.addc.org.au/opportunity-to-work-with-addc/?fbclid=IwAR3fcyBJvkBMldouzn-SIzYFqSdvtqUX0_6wDye1inWDS5OYXMa34zSsXkA).

## Occupational Therapist (Psychiatry)

Australian Volunteers International, Fiji

The Labasa hospital is seeking an Occupational Therapist to work with staff on the stress wards at the Mental Health Unit providing professional capacity support in implementing programs to the patients. This is envisaged to enhance and progressively move towards the establishment of a comprehensive and responsive mental health system/services in Macuata. The OT role will also provide training to current staff on how to effectively monitor cases using appropriate practical/manageable action plans in the communities. This support will enhance the link between community and clinical services and support the work carried out by the zone nurses.

The closing date for applications is **26 February 2020.**

Read more and apply [here](https://www.australianvolunteers.com/assignments/occupational-therapist-psychiatry-in-fiji/).

## Physiotherapist Trainer

Australian Volunteers International, Tonga

The Mango Tree Centre for People with Disabilities (MTC), established by the Church of the Nazarene in 2002, provides rehabilitative and family support services for people with disabilities on the main island of Tongatapu. Tonga currently has limited services and programs for children or adults with disabilities. Some of the services offered by MTC include early intervention sessions, wheelchair and equipment provision, home visits and parent support and computer training. MTC is seeking a volunteer to share their skills with local staff to develop capacity in assessment of children with disabilities and developing relevant therapy plans for clients.

The closing date for applications is **26 February 2020.**

Read more and apply [here](https://www.australianvolunteers.com/assignments/physiotherapist-trainer-in-tonga/).

## Psychologist Mentor

Australian Volunteers International, Micronesia (Pohnpei)

Behavioural Health and Wellness aims to provide services for individuals, families and communities by addressing and providing the necessary support to people with mental illnesses, substance addictions and domestic violence victims. There are current plans to build a Mental Health facility which will primarily focus on community care rather than institutionalised care. There is one psychologist employed by the program who covers the whole of FSM. This assignment will support the local psychologist and others through providing training to enable them to have the capacity to cover more communities and provides services to more people.

The closing date for applications is **26 February 2020.**

Read more and apply [here](https://www.australianvolunteers.com/assignments/psychologist-mentor-in-federated-states-of-micronesia/).

## Teacher Trainer (Special & Inclusive Education)

Australian Volunteers International, Fiji

The Lautoka Special School has identified the need to recruit for two PE, Music and Craft Educators under the Australian Volunteer program to assist the school in delivering classes focusing on physical education, music, art and craft for the school. The volunteers will work closely with the students and the teachers in developing lesson plans for music, art and craft and also assist in the area of physical education.

The closing date for applications is **26 February 2020.**

Read more and apply [here](https://www.australianvolunteers.com/assignments/teacher-trainer-in-fiji/).

## Snowdon Masters Scholarships: Accelerating leaders with disability through post-graduate study

The Global Disability Innovation Hub and Snowdon Trust have now opened applications MSc courses beginning in Autumn 2020.

Candidates will join a unique network of high achieving leaders with disability working together to inspire future generations. Funding up to £15,000 for a UK Masters course and a £15,000 allowance is provided while studying.

For more information, click [here](https://www.disabilityinnovation.com/education/snowdon). Applications close on the 5th April 2020.

# ****NEWSLETTER********S FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS****

## UN DESA Voice January 2020

In this issue:

* UN turns 75
* The state of our world
* Sustainable transport and the ocean
* 2020 kicks off new decade of action for people and planet
* How unequal are we?
* When persons with disabilities lead and participate, the whole world benefits

To access, click [here](https://www.un.org/development/desa/undesavoice/2020/01).

## UN DESA Voice February 2020

In this issue:

* Everyone included
* Ocean action
* Bridging the urban divide
* Working together to end homelessness
* Shifting gears towards sustainable transport
* State of our world

To access, click [here.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/undesavoice/2020/02)

## East Wind 30, December 2019

Newsletter of the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Region.

In this issue:

* First Blind Forum in Myanmar
* Celebrate World Braille Day on 4 Jan
* Results of the 17th Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest 2019
* World Blind Union Employment Survey 2019
* World Blind Union General Assembly June 2020
* Audio Description on Australian TV
* Work in Papua New Guinea
* Obligation to ensure the digital world is inclusive

It can be downloaded in PDF or Word version [here](http://wbuap.org/archives/1510).

## Solevaka: A Virtual Community for Pacific SDG Partnerships, December Newsletter

Building on from the Pacific Solutions Exchange (PSE), *Solevaka* is an online knowledge and engagement platform for the Pacific that strives to bring the development community and key stakeholders together.

*Solevaka* emphasizes dynamic discussion and consultation to create connections and linkages between people and providing fit-for-purpose tools and resources for sustainable development and to reach those furthest behind.

December 2019 edition highlights of the *Solevaka* include:

* Voices of the People
* Pacific Partnership for the SDG’s
* Global Initiatives
* Summary of Events

Access the December issue [here](https://mailchi.mp/d2a15dfc27af/october-newsletter-solevaka-a-virtual-community-for-pacific-sdg-partnerships-82113?e=e74e5f0c6c) and join the Solevaka Community [here](https://solevaka.org/).

# ABOUT US

ADDC is an Australian, international network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy.

To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit our [website](http://www.addc.org.au).

This bulletin aims to provide information on Disability Inclusive Development across organisations working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities both here in Australia and across the world. Generic disability and domestic information will be included in our Bulletins when possible as part of our commitment to disability advocacy and strengthening partnerships; however, our focus remains on disability and development issues.  
  
**Disclaimer:** The ADDC Bulletin is a compilation of other organisations’ articles and material. While every effort is made to validate content, ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contacted within the Bulletin.

**Acknowledgment of Country:**ADDC acknowledges that we are situated on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations and pay respects to the traditional custodians and their Elders past, present and emerging.