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Welcome to our September edition. As we approach our flagship day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, we encourage you to nominate a leader for the [National Disability Leadership Awards](#Awards). These awards recognise and celebrate the important work achieved by people with disability in a year of extremely challenging circumstances.

We are also eager to share with you news of our [online consultation](#Consultation) with ACFID on draft guidelines on “Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion” (GEDSI) to be used in advocacy efforts with DFAT. This is coming up on Wednesday 7th October. This consultation is taking place in light of and in response to many parts of the sector transitioning to a GEDSI approach. Anyone working in, or interested in, inclusion is encouraged to attend and contribute.

Keep an eye on our next bulletin to find out more on how your organisation can take part in International Day!

In solidarity,

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# ADDC News

## Online consultation: A systematic approach to GEDSI

[ACFID](https://acfid.asn.au/), with the support of ADDC and CBM Australia, are running an online consultation on “Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion” (GEDSI) on Wednesday 7 October 2020 between 2pm to 4pm (AEST).

In light of many parts of the sector increasingly moving towards a GEDSI approach to inclusion, ADDC, CBM Australia and practitioners from the sector have been working on an initial draft set of recommendations for a systemic approach to inclusion across DFAT’s development program.

This online consultation will be used to overview this draft of recommendations as well as seek the sector’s feedback and input on them, with the aim of engaging with DFAT on this issue (as they develop their approach to inclusion in their Partnerships for Recovery Strategy, and beyond).

Anyone working in, or interested in, inclusion is encouraged to attend. The event will be conducted using the Zoom meeting platform, and part of the event will be recorded.

To register or for more information on the consultation click [here](https://registrations.acfid.asn.au/iMIS15/Public/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=201007GEDS&WebsiteKey=5d819c9d-0f77-45f8-b835-1c6adcd3d15c). If you have any specific questions about this consultation or process, please email ADDC’s Executive Officer Lucy Daniel here.

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

## COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor calls on governments to ensure essential supplies for persons with disabilities

The COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor (DRM) has called on governments to take immediate emergency measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to food, medication, and other essential supplies. Analysis by the COVID-19 DRM has revealed that government failure to take measures to protect the most basic needs of persons with disabilities has resulted in preventable deaths. Almost one-third of the survey respondents said that people with disabilities in their country lacked access to food or medication at some points during the pandemic.

One respondent with a disability from Australia said: “My main concern is that the living expenses of all people with disabilities have gone up, and continue to go up, and the Australian government insists that they haven't. Many of us are getting to the point of missing meals altogether, choosing between food or medication.”

The COVID-19 DRM Coordinating Group believes that failure to take these steps will lead to further, preventable deaths of persons with disabilities.

Access the full statement [here](https://covid-drm.org/en/statements/covid-19-disability-rights-monitor-calls-on-governments-to-ensure-access-to-food-medication-and-essential-supplies-for-persons-with-disabilities).

## Highlights from the 23rd Session of the UN CRPD Committee

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities conducted its 23rd session virtually between the 17th August and 4th September. The session did not include reviews of States’ parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During this session, the Committee:

* Adopted views on 7 individual communications under the Optional Protocol to the CRPD; as well as a follow-up report on views on previous individual communications;
* Took note of contributions by organisations of persons with disabilities and national human rights institutions highlighting violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities, in particular of those residing in institutions, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response;
* Established a working group on deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities;
* Advanced in its work to develop a general comment on Article 27 of the CRPD (work and employment);
* Recognised the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar, whose mandate came to an end.
* Informed the “International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities”, adopted jointly by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility.

The Committee has also informed that its 24th session will be on March 8th to 26th, 2021, subject to confirmation. The countries to be reviewed are Bangladesh, Djibouti, Estonia, France, Jamaica and Venezuela.

The 15th Pre-Sessional Working Group will take place, subject to confirmation, on March 29th to April 1st, 2021.

Access the full summary of the 23rd session [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/23rd-crpd-session-closes).

## GLAD Network on Disability and COVID-19

On 25 June 2020, the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network held a round table featuring Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General and a number of other dignitaries speaking on disability and COVID-19. During this event, a number of powerful messages were conveyed about the need to make the response to and recovery from the pandemic inclusive of people with disabilities.

The GLAD Network has just released a short video showing key messages from this high-level event in accessible formats including International Sign and audio description. The video can be viewed [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9-JX4NIp4Q&t).

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

## WBU Report: COVID-19, Amplifying Voices: Our Lives, Our Say

The World Blind Union (WBU) had developed a report based on their study examining the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed some deep structural inequalities in society. Data gathered from the study is shows that persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons from lower socioeconomic status backgrounds are among those hardest hit by the pandemic. While this report puts a spotlight on the voices of people with vision impairments, many of the experiences shared strongly resonate with numerous other studies showing how marginalised groups have been affected by this crisis.

Through this report, WBU hopes to raise awareness on the specifics of what those challenges have meant in reality for its constituents, as well as shed light on what have been effective resilience strategies for them.

The study was made possible with the support of [CBM Global](https://cbm-global.org/).

Access the executive summary of the report [here](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/resources/Arne%20Husveg%20Development%20Fund/Amplifying%20Voices%20-%20Our%20Lives%20Our%20Say_WBU%20COVID-19%20Executive%20Summary%20Report_August2020_FINAL%2Balttext.docx) and the report [here](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/resources/Arne%20Husveg%20Development%20Fund/Amplifying%20Voices%20-%20Our%20Lives%20Our%20Say_WBU%20COVID-19%20Report%2C%20August2020.pdf).

## Resource document: Using the Washington Group Tools to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Disability

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics has released a guidance document on using the Washington Group tools to assess the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.

This resource also provides information on using the questions in online or phone-base surveys, which will be useful for other population surveys, not only COVID-19 research activities.

Access the document [here](http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Using-the-Washington-Group-Tools-to-Assess-the-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Persons-with-Disability-1.pdf).

## Website: Accessible COVID-19 statistics tracker

This site makes critical COVID-19 statistics available in a text format that is easy to read and understand, thereby removing the barrier people with disabilities encounter when data is presented in a graphical format.

Access the webpage [here](https://cvstats.net/).

## Webinar recordings:

## WBU webinar: COVID-19, Amplifying Voices: Our Lives, Our Say

The World Blind Union (WBU) organised this webinar to share the findings of a study it conducted examining the extent to which COVID-19 pandemic has exposed some deep structural inequalities in society.

Watch the webinar recording [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUBYms965NQ&feature=youtu.be).

## OTHER NEW RESOURCES:

## Joint blog from IDA Chair and GEM Report Director

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) Chair, Ana Lucia Arellano and Manos Antoninis, Director, Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report have released a joint blog looking at their common aim of inclusive education.

“The obvious commonalities between the 2020 GEM Report and the IDA Inclusive Education Report are far from coincidental. They signify growing momentum across the global disability movement to articulate a cross-disability consensus position on the implementation of SDG 4 in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).” Access the blog [here](https://gemreportunesco.wordpress.com/2020/09/02/singing-from-the-same-song-sheet-growing-momentum-across-the-disability-movement-to-adopt-a-comprehensive-definition-of-inclusive-education-to-achieve-sdg-4/).

The UNESCO GEM Report can be accessed [here](https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2020/inclusion).

The IDA Inclusive Education Report can be accessed [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/ida-inclusive-education-2020).

## Report: Disability and climate change

This report titled, *Climate Change: This Century’s Defining Issue* and authored by Mary Keogh, CBM Global’s Disability Inclusive Development Director, and Maria Paula Acuna Gonzalez, looks at the impact of climate change from four perspectives: personal, programmes, policy and political.

The report highlights a lack of inclusion, representation and investment in people with disabilities in relation to climate change. It also cites positive examples of progress, such as seen in how organisations representing persons with disabilities in the Pacific and Latin America are engaging in climate change.

Recommendations in the report set out key actions to ensure that people with disabilities and their representative organisations are not left behind in the global, national and local movements advancing climate justice.

Download the report [here](https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CBMGlobalclimate_change_report.pdf).

## Report: Mobilising Women's Leadership: Solutions for Protection and Recovery in a Time of COVID-19 and TC Harold

This report draws on information from the [Shifting the Power Coalition’s](https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Shifting-the-Power-Coalition-Brochure_2020.pdf) network of women leaders and focal points, including young women and women with disabilities, across six Pacific Island countries.

The findings and recommendations presented in this report draw from an online questionnaire and focus group interviews with women leaders representing diverse constituencies across six countries.

Download the report [here](https://www.undrr.org/media/47835/download).

## Resource document: Planning and conducting a ‘Country Mission’ - towards national mobilization of persons with psychosocial disabilities

This document provides detailed processes on 'how to' engage and empower persons with disabilities at the national level. It provides a step-wise introduction to planning and executing Country Missions for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) which generally have experience with mobilising persons with disabilities at the sub-regional, or regional levels.

Download the document [here](https://www.tci-asia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Planning-Conducting-Country-Mission.pdf).

## Special Rapporteur of Health’s final report

In the Special Rapporteur’s final report to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR,, Dr Danius Puras elaborates on the elements that are needed to set a rights-based global agenda for advancing the right to mental health.

Access the Special Rapporteur of Health report [here](https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/44/48).

Three global south regional alliances of persons with disabilities (Transforming Communities for Inclusion Asia Pacific (TCI Asia Pacific), Redesfera Latina Americana de la Diversidad and Pan African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities) have released a statement in response to this report as well as extending their congratulations to the leaving Special Rapporteur on the completion of his tenure. “We thank him for the legacy of his reports on the status of mental health systems worldwide and the possibilities of transforming them.”

Access the statement by the alliances [here](https://madinasia.org/2020/09/felicitating-the-special-rapporteur-health-dr-danius-puras-for-his-final-report-to-the-hrc-a-hrc-44-48/).

## Journal article: Discrimination against people with disabilities in accessing microfinance

This article explores the state of existing research on discrimination against people with disabilities within microfinance lending. It argues that existing literature suggests people with disabilities face notable discrimination in accessing microfinance. The author proposes that microfinance regulators must work to identify areas of discrimination that are not correctly covered by existing lending practices.

Access the abstract of the article [here](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1875067220300390). You can email the author of the article, Debashis Sarker, for a copy of the article here.

## Resource compendium: Easy to use Toolkit by TorqAid consultancy

This toolkit is a compendium of resources put together for humanitarian or development practitioners as well as students/individuals interested in international development. The second section is updated regularly and includes articles providing background information on a broad range of humanitarian issues, crises and frameworks.

Access the toolkit [here](https://torqaid.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ae3041233aa56c6d001b712b4&id=0934818cab&e=e11c117d13).

# ****YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED****

## Nominations open: National Awards for Disability Leadership

Nominations are now open for the 2020 National Awards for Disability Leadership. This year, the awards focus on recognising the work done by people with disability and organisations of people with disabilities to support the Australian disability community through challenging events including the pandemic and bushfires.

There are seven categories; The Arts, Change Making, Rights Activism, Innovation, Social Impact, Inclusion, and The Lesley Hall Award for Lifetime Achievement.

These awards honour the important work done by disability leaders to advance equality for people with disability, and to protect and promote rights of people with disability in rapidly changing situations.

Learn more about the awards and how to register your nomination for the awards [here](https://disabilityleaders.com.au/disability-leaders/national-awards/award-categories/?fbclid=IwAR0-myGSUzfwWpprsXq_jrGv7naHuw12q2P9XH08TwE2wPeAoUGIT8wemq0). Nominations close on Friday 16 October, 12pm.

Call for feedback: RDI Network’s new learning platform

The Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network seeks feedback from international development professionals to help develop an innovative learning platform delivering an engaging learning experience for the sector. This new project aims to improve the sector’s skills in research communications and uptake.

The network encourages the participation and contribution of people with disabilities in their feedback sessions.

Register your contact details to join one of their online feedback sessions [here](http://bit.ly/rdiresearch).

## Call for abstracts: Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium (25-27 November 2020)

This conference is calling for abstracts under the theme of “Health Security in the Pacific: Lessons from the Pandemic Experience”. This conference will attract researchers, academics, policy makers, practitioners and anyone who has interest in sharing lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submission of abstracts are requested by 30 September 2020. For more information and submission guidelines, see the conference [website](https://www.fnu.ac.fj/) [here](https://solevaka.org/events/pacific-islands-health-research-symposium-2020).

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## Webinar: Introduction to the Global & Regional Processes and Mechanisms and the SDGs

Asia-Pacific Disability Constituency | 2-3.30pm (AEST) Wednesday 30 September 2020

[JOIN ZOOM CALL](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83126916327)

## Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF): Subtheme on “Digital Inclusion, Gender Equality and Diversity”

APRIGF | 27–30 September 2020

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](http://2020.aprigf.asia/)

## World Data Forum side-event: Persons with disabilities and COVID-19 data collection and disaggregation efforts

UNWDFD | 9am-10.15am (AEST), Wednesday 21 October 2020

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://attendify.co/62RQIWV)

## Oceania Connect 2020 Regional Conference

27–30 October 2020

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://asn.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fbe41073efe267439b5e8ac0c&id=1fd6379f97&e=8efe41c761)

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Digital Learning Adviser

ACFID | Preferably Canberra-based

[APPLY BY 27 SEPTEMBER](https://acfid.asn.au/get-involved/acfid-jobs)

## Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Fellow: Asia Region

IDA | Work from home

[APPLY BY 2 OCTOBER](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/tor-_inclusive_drr_and_emergency_response_fellow_for_asia_region_final.doc)

# 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.

**The aim of this Bulletin is** 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.

To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit www.addc.org.au.

**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 contained within bulletins.

**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.