## ADDC Bulletin: February 2021 edition

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Welcome to our first edition of our Bulletin for 2021. As Australians anticipate the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in the coming months, it is imperative that people with disabilities everywhere be prioritized in accessing these vaccinations. The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has provided some [guidance](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_recommendations_on_accessing_covid-19_vaccinations_final_01.12.20.pdf) in achieving this. People with disabilities have experienced exclusion, discrimination and neglect during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every measure must be taken to ensure these experiences do not happen in recovery initiatives as well.

At ADDC, we have been focusing on our ongoing advocacy efforts around securing the DFAT disability budget in this year’s Federal Budget, and ensuring that Australia’s international COVID response and recovery work is inclusive of people with disabilities. We are also looking forward to engaging with consultations on DFAT’s third disability strategy. Keep an eye out for the ADDC Membership Survey that we will send out over the coming weeks to gather your insight and input on this!

Also if you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin, 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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## ****IN THE NEWS****

## HLPF 2021 under the auspices of ECOSOC

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development (SD) is the core United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals (SDGs). The Forum will be held from Tuesday 6 July to Thursday 15 July 2021, including a three-day ministerial meeting. It will discuss SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 12, 16 & 17, and will allow participants to explore various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the types of international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impact.

This year’s theme will be, “***Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.**

Learn more about the HLPF [here.](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021)

## Recognize and protect rights of persons with disabilities, UN chief urges

The UN chief urged that as the world recovers from the pandemic, we must ensure that “the needs, aspirations and rights of persons with disabilities are included and accounted for in an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID world.” On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, he urged stakeholders and world leaders to commit to work to tackle obstacles, injustices and discrimination that people with disabilities experience.

Access the article [here](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/uncategorized/protect-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html).

## ****FEATURED RESOURCES****

## Report: A report on the social protection response to COVID-19 for persons with disabilities - South Asia Region

This report provides an overview of the social protection response and recovery initiatives for people with disabilities from the perspective of Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) by countries in the South Asia Region.

It highlights the gaps in current efforts in reaching people with disabilities in the region and provides recommendations to address the issues at hand. ]

This report was jointly prepared by the IDA and the Centre for Inclusive Policy (CIP), under the framework of the United Nations Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) COVID-19 joint response, and inclusive social protection project implemented by the International Labor Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF with inputs from Bridge CRPD-SDGs alumni.

Access the report [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/-social-protection-covid19).

## Report: The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People: Inclusive Education Study in Nepal and Uganda

This report is a result of a qualitative study conducted in Nepal and Uganda on inclusive education for learners who are hard of hearing. Children who are hard of hearing are often overlooked in mainstream educational settings. The report provides the perspective of parents/caregivers, learners who are hard of hearing, teachers and decision-makers, highlighting the factors that facilitate and inhibit the implementation of inclusive education at local levels.

The research also focused on issues arising in the early rehabilitation of learners who are hard of hearing, access to hearing aids and assistive technologies, availability of support services, accessibility and inclusivity of learning. Evidence suggests that learners who are hard of hearing face challenges in mainstream education as a result of lack of knowledge about rehabilitation, access and communication requirements and lack of trained resources in education and public health sectors.

Access the report [here.](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/IFHOH-Inclusive-Education-Report?fbclid=IwAR1TF_UgQoqOlCDuJ2Wn69ooXRIXDKb1aryqf7sPTuj4Is_O54fceP0B6-4)

## Report: National Consultation and Learning Workshop on COVID-19: Issues of Indigenous Youth and Women with Disabilities

A series of workshops was held by the Nepalese National Indigenous Disabled Women Association (NIDWAN) in support of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and International Disability Alliance (IDA) on 5-11 December 2020 to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The overall aim of these workshops was to encourage and create pathways for the inclusion of marginalized and under-represented groups, particularly indigenous peoples and indigenous women with disabilities. Moreover, it also aimed to building the capacities and solidarity among the participants coming from different provinces with different levels of knowledge and understanding the issues and rights of indigenous peoples,

Access the report from these workshops [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid-Indigenous-youth-women-with-disabilities).

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

## Financing rights and social justice for persons with disabilities in the era of COVID-19 and beyond

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities has launched a new briefing, which addresses how people with disabilities have been affected by the global pandemic and seeks to provide useful contributions towards the collective effort for a more just global economic system after COVID-19.

The briefing sets out some key considerations for ensuring that international economic policies tackling the crisis always contribute to the enjoyment of human rights and social justice by persons with disabilities in their diversity, especially those in the Global South.

Access the briefing [here.](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/financing-covid19-beyond)

## Disability-inclusive responses to COVID-19: Lessons learnt from research on social protection in LMIC countries

Across the world, one billion people are living with disabilities; they are marginalized and face heightened risk of poverty. This is exacerbated by COVID-19. The article explores how social protection and other initiatives can mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic. It also highlights the need to address these impacts using disability inclusive interventions in programs including meaningful consultations with people with disabilities.

This paper draws on the literature on disability, poverty and social protection in low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries to explore the pathways through which the current pandemic may increase the risk of poverty amongst people with disabilities.

Access the article [here.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7455235/)

## Lessons Learned from the Webinar Series on Disability Inclusion in Gender and GBV Humanitarian Interventions

From July to September 2020, the Women’s Refugee Commission, South Asian Disability Forum, the Network of African Women with Disabilities, and UN partners, with support from the Australian Government, conducted a series of webinars on the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action for gender and gender-based violence (GBV) actors in Africa and Asia.

The webinars aimed to bring humanitarian actors and women-led organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to introduce the IASC Disability Guidelines, including recommendations for actions for disability inclusion in gender equality and GBV programs and activities. They also shared examples of disability inclusion in gender equality and GBV activities from across each region.

This article elaborates the strategies employed, ongoing gaps faced, and recommendations for engaging women with disabilities in all their diversity in online networking for inclusive humanitarian action.

Access the article [here.](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/leaving-no-one-behind-online-networking-covid-19-context-lessons-learned-webinar-series)

## Webinar recordings:

## World Economic Forum: Building back better: Diversity and inclusion in a post-COVID world

The annual Davos Agenda held by World Economic Forum explored various topics about the post-COVID world. In the “Delivering Social Justice in the New Economy” panel, leaders from all over the world shared their solutions and advice for a reimagined future that is prosperous, equitable and celebrates inclusion and diversity. Panelists discussed the challenges and solutions for creating a diverse and inclusive future.

Access the video recording of the discussion [here](https://www.and.org.au/news.php/464/building-back-better-diversity-and-inclusion-in-a-post-covid-world).

## UNESCO webinar: Inclusion of people with disabilities during COVID-19

Globally people with disabilities experience marginalization and face systemic inequalities related to access to health, education, employment and this has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Disability specific issues and gaps related to the current COVID-19 context must be brought to the fore and disability inclusion efforts must be enhanced to ensure the rights of people with disabilities are guaranteed. Special attention must also be focused on women and girls living with disabilities, who experience multiple disadvantages, face discrimination based on both gender and disability, and are particularly vulnerable to abuse and violence.

Access the video recording of this webinar [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19xabtDnT4E).

## 2020 Harkin International Disability Employment Summit

This virtual summit explored the value of and opportunities within disability inclusion particularly for business and employers. It stressed the need for disability inclusion to be an accepted and valued component in business strategy rather than it being just an aspirational goal.

This summit was organized by the Harkin Institute along with a global CEO community known as the “Valuable 500” and held on 10 December 2020.

Access the video recording of the summit [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccj29d-EFWY).

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

## Call for abstracts: 2021 RDI Conference

The Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network) and The University of Queensland (UQ) invite you to submit abstracts for presentations at a two-day international conference to be hosted online on the 1-2 July 2021. Submissions are to contribute to the conference theme of *Pathways through disruption – the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia*.

Abstracts are open until Monday 21 February, COB. Find out more about the calls for abstracts [here](https://rdiconference2021.org.au/).

## Call for input: IDA Survey on Experience of Persons with Disabilities Adapting to COVID-19 Global Pandemic

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) with the United Nations Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) invites all people with disabilities across the globe to participate in this survey, developed by people with disability (including input from marginalized groups such as women and Indigenous population groups for people with disability. Through the survey, it seeks to capture the violations of human rights of people with disability during the global pandemic and gather evidence of good practice.

The survey is available in various languages and international sign and uses plain language. The survey will document various economic, social and cultural consequences of the pandemic as well as experiences of people with disabilities who have contracted COVID-19.

Access the survey [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid19-survey).

## Call for input: Smart Glasses for people with visual field impairments

Responses to this survey will be used to help people with visual impairments, focusing on people who are blind. The goal is to notify users about any possible threats in their visual field. The solution is oriented to designing *Smart Glasses* (wearable technology) that uses technology and artificial intelligence with sensors to deliver services to help people who are blind.

Access the survey [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0dGYRb9WnLFDxjpOoaGqqgGdXryez0fhj505vKapuLkByag/viewform).

## ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## Global launch of “Learning, Acting and Building for Rehabilitation in Health Systems” (ReLAB HS)

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s International Injury Research Unit & Nossal Institute for Global Health | February 24, 2021 12am-1:30am AEST

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://www.relabhs.org/)

## General discussion on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment

United Nations Human Rights Commission Office of the High Commissioner | March 8-21, 2021

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GeneralDiscussions.aspx)

## Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific

UN ESCAP | March 23-26, 2021

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/8)

## Pathways through disruption - the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia

Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network) | July 1-2, 2021

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](https://rdiconference2021.org.au/)

## ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Director of Business Capability & Performance

CBM Australia | Melbourne based | Apply by February 25, 2021

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/janeedge_directorjobs-generalmanagers-leadershipteam-activity-6765522920455462912-8K2B)

## Senior Communication Manager

IDA | Full-time, flexible location | Apply by February 26, 2021

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/opportunities?fbclid=IwAR2ssrkgcEz8jrv_0mfQbBjKgPdnR9z5vl3dS9VkArfLjq4zxUqFaoEGNxs)

## ABC Fellowships

Accessible Book Consortium | Term: 12-24 months | Apply by March 1, 2021

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/news/en/2021/news_0002.html)

## Data Analysis Consultant

World Federation of DeafBlind | Full-time, flexible location | Apply by March 1, 2021

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/wfdb_tor_for_research_consultancy-final.docx)

## Research Consultancy Opportunity: Expressions of Interest (multiple locations)

Interplast Australia and New Zealand

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://interplast.org.au/get-involved/employment-opportunities/)

## 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 organizations 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.

**Acknowledgment of Country:**ADDC recognises the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We acknowledge their resilience, contributions and connection to land, culture and water. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future. 45 per cent of Aboriginal Australians live with a disability or a long-term, restricting health condition. They are 2.1 times more likely to live with a disability than non-Aboriginal Australians, and 5 times more likely to experience a mental health condition. Aboriginal people with disabilities participate in cultural activities at the same rates as those without disabilities. We pay our respects to their enduring spirit and inclusivity.

**Disclaimer:** This bulletin is a compilation of other organizations’ articles and material. While every effort made is to validate content, ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contacted within the Bulletin.