# ADDC Bulletin: May 2021 edition

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Welcome to our May edition. Within the Federal Budget 2021 released earlier in May, significant cuts to disability inclusion in international aid made last year were maintained. This is a devastating outcome for people with disabilities. The Australian Government failed to restore a 25% cut to DFAT’s central disability allocation instated in October last year. [ACFID](#ACFIDcuts), [ADDC](#ADDCcuts) and [CBM Australia](#CBMcuts) have been vocal in expressing their disappointment of the Government’s decision, with ADDC and CBM Australia continuing to lobby our government and political leaders about this decision.

We welcome the recent announcement by the Australian Government granting an extension of time for the Disability Royal Commission to deliver their Final Report on the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation experienced by people with disability in Australia. A big thanks to those who supported the call to extend the commission – every act of support helped to ensure that the commission now has sufficient time to conduct their investigations thoroughly. The Final Report is now due on 29 September 2023.

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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# ADDC NEWS

## Aid budget cuts will devastate people with disabilities

The Federal Government has failed people with disabilities in the 2021-2022 aid budget by maintaining deep cuts to critical funding for disability inclusion. ADDC describes the move as cruel for a Government that has promised to protect the most vulnerable. ADDC Executive Officer Kerryn Clarke said the COVID-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on people with disabilities throughout our region and globally.

“People with disabilities are more likely to die from COVID-19, making up more than 50 per cent of all deaths in high income countries,” Ms Clarke said. “That figure is likely to be much, much higher in low and middle income countries. Without strategic intervention, the pandemic is set to widen inequalities and push people with disabilities and their families deeper into poverty and increase the death rate even further.”

“It is devastating to see our most vulnerable friends and neighbours abandoned when they need us the most.”

[Read the full media release.](https://www.addc.org.au/media-release-aid-budget-cuts-will-devastate-people-with-disabilities/)

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

## Disability aid budget stagnates while COVID-19 rampages

Leading disability-inclusive international development agency, CBM Australia is appalled that the Federal Government has failed to restore core funds for people with disabilities in its aid budget. CBM CEO Jane Edge said the COVID-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on people with disabilities.

“This is a defining moral challenge of our generation,” Ms Edge said. “It is horrific. People with disabilities are dying at higher rates, they are going hungry, they are without access to medical care and are being pushed into deeper poverty.”

“Immediate strategic and financial intervention for people with disabilities is desperately needed to reduce widening inequalities. This goes to the heart of social justice and who we are as a nation.”

CBM is continuing to call for the Government to put a clear focus on disability inclusion in their COVID-19 response, including specific funding, and to increase the central disability allocation to a minimum of $14m per annum.

[Read the full media release.](https://www.cbm.org.au/media-release/disability-budget-stagnates-while-covid-19-rampages/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email_6&utm_campaign=betterworldforall)

## COVID-19 Spikes Across Asia, Australian Aid Falls

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) – Australia’s peak-body for international development NGOs – has expressed concern that against the backdrop of an Asia-Pacific at the epicentre of the pandemic, Australia’s development assistance is declining. Responding to the budget, ACFID CEO, Marc Purcell said:

“The Australian Government did the right thing by front-loading its immediate regional response to COVID-19. But despite COVID-19 deaths rising alarmingly across the Asia-Pacific, Australian development assistance is now declining.

“The situation is fast evolving, but our budget response is not. Beyond the two-year package for India, there are no new, additional investments in this budget for tackling the pandemic.

“DFAT is working around the clock on our response in the region, but we need a greater speed and scale of investment from the Government.”

ACFID has expressed deep disappointment that the 25% cut to the Central Disability Fund has been retained.

ACFID looks forward to engaging further with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on areas in the development assistance budget such as, disability, gender, youth and climate change in the coming weeks.

[Read the full media release](https://acfid.asn.au/media-releases/covid-19-spikes-across-asia-australian-aid-falls).

## International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia: LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities during the pandemic

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the organizations ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe have reported the LGBTIQ+ community is and continue to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The LGBTIQ+ community often face barriers when accessing healthcare services and this has heightened during the pandemic particularly for LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities.

[Read the full media release.](https://www.edf-feph.org/international-day-against-homophobia-and-transphobia-lgbti-persons-with-disabilities-during-the-pandemic/)

## Seventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank held the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The theme of the session was “*Building forward better towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063*”.

The African Disability Forum and the International Disability Alliance actively engaged in the session, monitoring, collecting and disseminating key information to organizations of persons with disabilities to encourage their participation to influence the prioritization of persons with disabilities in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

At the end of the consultation, the forum recognized that:

* High quality data disaggregation by gender and disability are key in closing the digital divide and in leaving no one behind (including minorities and other vulnerable groups)
* Social protection of vulnerable populations is key in reducing inequalities and to achieve SDG 10.
* Governments must strengthen national labor laws and policies to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized are protected to achieve SDG 8.

[Read the full media release](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/africa-regional-forum-sustainable-dev).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Facts & Figures: ACFID’s summary of the 2021 Federal Budget

This document highlights the key increases and decreases in funding of international development policies and programs in the 2021-2022 Federal Budget, pointing out the sector-wide concerns regarding the Government’s decision not to restore the 25 per cent cut to the Central Disability Fund.

[Download the summary document](https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/ACFID%20Budget%20Analysis%202021-22_0.pdf).

## Position paper: Violence against women and girls with disabilities

This paper was published by the European Disability Forum (EDF) on violence against women and girls with disabilities as part of the consultation of the European Commission on gender based and domestic violence. Women and girls with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and harmful practices at rates much higher than women and girls without any form of disability. They also face additional barriers in terms of reporting violence, accessing justice and victim rights support.

[Access the position paper](https://www.edf-feph.org/edf-position-paper-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/).

## Fact Sheet: Disability, Displacement and Climate Action

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with UNHCR’s Office for the Special Advisor on Climate Action and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) published a factsheet illustrating important facts on the intersection of disability, displacement and climate change.

This factsheet highlights how climate change can displace people with disabilities, the barriers and challenges they face throughout their journey in displacement camps and provides recommendations and actions required to improve their situation.

[Download the factsheet](https://www.unhcr.org/protection/environment/60896a274/disability-displacement-climate-change.html).

## Brief: Leave No Girl with Disabilities Behind: Ensuring efforts to advance gender equality in education are disability-inclusive

*Leave No Girl with Disabilities Behind* is a new advocacy brief from the UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) and Leonard Cheshire, providing a framework for advocacy on inclusive education for girls with disabilities. An overview of the status of global education for girls with disabilities identifies the key challenges and barriers to inclusive and gender-responsive education. Case studies from Leonard Cheshire, Humanity and Inclusion, and Sightsavers highlight some promising strategies to overcome these barriers.

[Download the brief](https://www.ungei.org/publication/leave-no-girl-with-disabilities-behind).

## Policy Guide: How to Design Disability-Inclusive Social Protection

This is the fifth in a series of policy guides developed to support policymakers and practitioners in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to strengthen social protection. This policy guide explains why social protection is important for persons with disabilities and introduces key concepts and schemes that are necessary for disability-inclusive social protection.

[Download the guide](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/how-design-disability-inclusive-social-protection).

# Recordings

## Persons with Disabilities and Climate Action: How we can be more inclusive? (29 April 2021)

This online event addressed the relationship between disability and climate change and was held as part of activities organized for the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2021. The main themes covered in this webinar are: the impact of the climate crisis on people with disabilities including displacement, the relationship between enhancing disability inclusion and accessibility, combating climate crisis and measures to be taken to enhance disability inclusion in response to the climate crisis.

Access the [video recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11mOgkhl2Zs) and [written brief](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/hnpw-2021) of the event.

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

## Survey: Supporting livelihoods of caregivers and families caring for a child with developmental disability

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) are conducting research into livelihoods support for caregivers of children with disability. Poverty is commonly experienced by our carers and families and frequently exacerbated by the loss of income and increased costs of caring for a child with disability. Although livelihood programmes do exist for adults with disability, those focused on carers and families caring for a child with disability seem less common.

The purpose of this survey is to examine the role, approach and availability of livelihood support for families with a child with disability and to capture information from those with experience and expertise in this area in low and middle income countries (as per World Bank definition).

Please note that for the purpose of this survey we take livelihood to mean the ability of individuals and their families to secure the necessities of life and improve their economic and social situations.

This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete.

Access the [survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeg9pIsPEnUXzrZ0f_PIzeewR7R1BjT6a6lniqEAJOdIpXv_A/viewform).

## Calls for nominations: The Zero Project 2022

The Zero Project 2022 calls for nominations to identify innovative practices and policies from around the world focused on enabling accessibility aiding in implementing Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Submit your [nomination](https://call.zeroproject.org/?msdynttrid=_UNaiNeRLectznLia9pzelniKImA3-o9XIrvRP2egY8).

## Australian Engagement on International Climate Change Conference (COP26)

In the lead up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26) in November 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will hold a series of stakeholder information and discussion sessions. These are intended for those with an interest in engaging on international climate change issues.

The sessions are designed to provide practical information on the UNFCCC COP26 and to inform our approach to climate change negotiations and the action agenda.

Register your interest for these online events by completing this [registration form](https://www.dfat.gov.au/node/150917). The Department is committed to encouraging diverse representation. If you have accessibility requirements for attending online events, please send them an email.

## Nominees for the *TheCIL* *Berkeley’s* 50th Anniversary Award Ceremony

In July 2022, the Center for Independent Living (TheCIL), Berkeley California is holding an awards ceremony to celebrate the organization’s 50th anniversary.

Leading up to the anniversary, they seek to identify and honour several international disability advocacy leaders who have continued the great work of all the other early leaders of the independent living movement in Berkeley, and who have made meaningful progress towards the principles of independent living in their own countries. TheCIL is currently seeking nominations from those with expertise in the disability space.

Learn more about the [nomination process and post your nomination](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1S1FFz1lLG4nMCyq-KRiK-rtPVcRw_iud5jnFAbhpt3VR9g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0).

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## 14th session of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD

UN DESA | June 15-17

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/conference-of-states-parties-to-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2/cosp14.html)

## World Blindness Summit - General Assembly

World Blind Union | June 28-30

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://www.worldblindnesssummit.com/en)

## Pathways through disruption: RDI Conference 2021

RDI Network | June 30-July 2

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

## Voluntary National Reviews for the High Level Political Forum

UN SDG Knowledge Platform | July 6–15

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021)

## Day of General Discussion on Children’s Rights and Alternative Care

UN OHCHR | September 16-17

[LEARN MORE](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2020.aspx)

## Day of General Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous women and girls

UN OHCHR | June 24

[LEARN MORE](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/DGDRightsIndigenousWomenAndGirls.aspx)

## Deafblind Africa Conference

Deafblind International Dbl | May 12-14, 2022

[LEARN MORE](https://www.deafblindinternational.org/african-conference-great-progress-despite-pandemic/)

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Disability Inclusion Advisor

CBM Australia | Canberra based

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://www.cbm.org.au/get-involved/careers/)

## Disability Support Officer

Australian Red Cross | North Melbourne location

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://careers.redcross.org.au/cw/en/job/518342/disability-support-officer-vic)

## TCI Fellowship Program

Transforming Communities for Inclusion | Pacific, West Asia and MENA regions

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://www.tci-global.org/fellowship/)

# 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, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future. 45 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. First Nations 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.