# ADDC Bulletin: June 2021 edition

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Welcome to our June edition. As the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine continues across the world, it is vital that people with disabilities everywhere be prioritized in accessing these vaccinations. CBM Australia and the Nossal Institute of Health have developed this COVID-19 [vaccination fact sheet](https://did4all.com.au/resources/COVID-19_Vaccination_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf) to support Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) communicate information about COVID-19 vaccination with members.

At ADDC, we have been continuing to focus our advocacy efforts on the development of DFAT’s third disability strategy. Keep an eye out for the ADDC Membership Survey that we will send out over the coming months to gather your insight and input on this!

If you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin, feel free to send through for our consideration. 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,

Kerryn Clarke

Executive Officer

<kclarke@addc.org.au>

Linda Munoz

Support Officer

[lmunoz@addc.org.au](mailto:lmunoz@addc.org.au)

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

## 14th session of Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the CRPD

The 14th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) took place from 15th to 17th June. The COSP14 is an annual opportunity for signatories to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to report on and progress implementation of the CRPD.

This year’s theme was *Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, Realizing the rights, and Addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities*, with the following sub-themes:

* Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies.
* Living Independently, being included in the community
* Right to education; challenges with inclusive education and accessibility during COVID-19.

The Civil Society Forum, preceding the COSP, was held on Monday June 14th. This Forum was an opportunity to highlight current issues relevant to the disability movement and realisation of the CRPD in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It provided an additional space for civil society to make its own contributions, as well as share and capture important issues to people with disabilities.

Did you miss any of the Civil Society Forum or the CoSP sessions? Watch the recorded Civil Society Forum on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/user/IDACRPDForum/videos) and the recorded meetings of COSP14 on [UN Web TV](https://media.un.org/en/search/?q=COSP14). Access the [list of all side events](https://teamup.com/ksmv4e1gd1ruzbzoso) at COSP14.

General information about this year’s COSP can be accessed on this [IDA webpage](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/cosp-14).

## High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development will be held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021 and is the United Nations' follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 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".

Read the [Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities submission](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/stakeholder_group_of_persons_with_disabilities_submission_for_hlpf_2021.pdf) for HLPF 2021.

Watch the [HLPF 2021 Webinar Series Part 2: an overview and discussion on SDGs 8, 10 & 16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnbk-36K3iQ).

[Learn more about the HLPF](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/high-level-political-forum-sustainable-development).

## The costs of exclusion: Economic justice for women and girls with disabilities

In this first edition of the Generation Equality Forum held on 30 March 2021, the International Disability Forum (IDA) aimed to raise priorities of women with disabilities, reflecting on access to decent and safe work and employment, disability inclusive social protection, the impact of COVID-19 and the opportunity it presents to reimagine what inclusive access really means. It was the only Forum event that focused on the intersectionality of gender and disability. The Generation Equality Forum is an effort to accelerate movement towards gender equality.

[Access the full media release.](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/cost-of-exclusion)

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Journal article: Psychosocial Disabilities: An Assessment of Country Reports for the CRPD

This study used content analysis to review the extent and quality of reporting related to mental health and psychosocial disabilities in 19 country reports for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The criteria used were based on provisions of the CRPD and on priorities identified by a steering committee of people with psychosocial disabilities.

The paper found a wide variation in the quantity and quality of states’ reporting, with an indication that this variation relates to countries’ economic development. The authors recommend increasing the participation of representative organizations of people with psychosocial disabilities for state parties to fulfill their reporting obligations.

Read the [full journal article](https://www.hhrjournal.org/2021/06/accountability-for-the-rights-of-people-with-psychosocial-disabilities-an-assessment-of-country-reports-for-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/).

## Policy Brief: Taking a Disability-Inclusive Approach to the Pandemic Response

The Covid-19 Pandemic has affected communities globally, yet the impact has not been equal. People with disabilities were already often living with severe disadvantage and marginalisation and as predicted by many disability-focused agencies, COVID-19 has exacerbated these inequalities.

In this brief, emerging evidence from Inclusive Futures, a UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)-funded programme, highlights the catastrophic emotional and material impacts on people with disabilities in Nepal and Bangladesh. To respond to and plan for future crises, decision makers should consult inclusively with both organisations of people with disabilities and people with disabilities themselves.

[Access the policy brief](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/16515).

## IDDC Report: Adjust and Respond - The Experience of Organisations working with People with Disabilities in adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This report draws lessons from analysing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related emergency measures implemented by authorities to curb its spread on civil society organisations, with a particular focus on projects and programmes and the continuation of service provision for people with disabilities run by IDDC members and its partners in the Global South.

Experiences from IDDC members and their partners revealed that the majority of programmes tailored towards people with disabilities have been adapted, and have focused on direct responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs of people with disabilities, incorporating social distancing measures, moving programmes online and providing tele health, adapting education programmes, adopting an immediate risk mitigation and reduction response to the needs of people with disabilities and taking a disaster risk reduction approach due to unforeseen events such as Cyclone Amphan, which struck as the pandemic developed.

[Access the report](https://t.co/6dNfhwDoX7).

## Comment in The Lancet: Triple Jeopardy - Disabled People and COVID-19

This comment suggests that the pandemic has affected people with disability differently because of three factors, namely, the increased risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19 itself, reduced access to routine healthcare and rehabilitation, and the adverse social impacts of efforts to mitigate the pandemic.

It also highlights some of the positive developments of the pandemic including the reduction of physical and communication barriers for people with disabilities in education, work, shopping etc. with the help of internet access.

Tom Shakespeare, Florence Ndagire and Queen E Seketi authored this comment.

[Access the article.](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00625-5/fulltext)

## Policy Brief: Inclusive COVID-19 Vaccinations for People with Disabilities

This policy brief by CBM’s Inclusion Advisory Group and the Nossal Institute for Global Health aims to help governments, organizations of people with disabilities, development partners, service providers advocate for and implement disability inclusive vaccine roll-out programs. The brief explains why reaching people with disabilities is crucial and provides practical pathways that government disability service providers, the disability movement and stakeholders to make vaccination programs more accessible and inclusive.

[Access the full brief.](https://did4all.com.au/resources/Policy_Brief_Inclusive_Vaccines_Draft_FINAL.pdf)

## Report: A Global Agenda for Inclusive Recovery - Ensuring People with Intellectual Disabilities and Families are Included in a Post-COVID world

This report published by Inclusion International documents the experiences of exclusion faced by people with intellectual disabilities and their families and the advocacy work of members around the world. The report raises the voice of the most excluded during the global crisis and demands for an inclusive COVID-19 recovery effort. It calls for government and stakeholders to:

* Present all information in accessible formats and use partnerships to ensure it reaches the right communities
* Ensure consistent access to support services, including in emergency situations
* Improve awareness and inclusivity within health systems
* Support families and family-led organizations
* Address unsafe living conditions by prioritizing deinstitutionalization
* Design inclusive social protection systems
* Reimagine education systems to ensure education delivery models are fully inclusive of students with disabilities
* Reaffirm commitments to inclusion in employment

[Access the full report](https://inclusion-international.org/a-global-agenda-post-covid/).

# Webinar recordings

## Technology and Equal Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities

The G3ict and the International Disability Alliance co-hosted a session focusing on the Article 13 of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that required that State parties ensure effective access to justice for people with disabilities on an equal basis with others. The aim of the session is to facilitate and support the implementation of the dispositions of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities promoting digital accessibility and assistive technologies.

This session examined the digital transformation of courts and justice systems today and what steps are required to ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities. The discussion also explored how technologies can be leveraged in innovative ways to address long-standing barriers to justice for people with disabilities, including accessing critical information, participating in judicial proceedings, tracking the progress of a case, and receiving needed accommodations.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ4ZnCc4vTY)

[Access a written article based on the recording.](https://unsdn.org/2021/05/14/technology-and-equal-access-to-justice-for-persons-with-disabilities/)

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

## IDA Global Survey

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) invites disability activists/advocates active in organisations of persons with disabilities to complete an online survey, to learn about the way survey participants are taking part in policies and programmes developed by governments and international partners.

This survey is part of a strategy to monitor meaningful participation of Organisations of People with Disabilities and to hold decision-makers accountable, in line with Articles 4.3 and 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[Access more information about the survey](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/activities/second-ida-global-survey-opds-participation-policies-and-programmes).

## **Communications to the Commission on the Status of Women**

Any individual, non-governmental organization, group or network may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the Commission on the Status of Women containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women in any country in the world.

The Commission on the Status of Women considers such communications as part of its annual programme of work in order to identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women for purposes of policy formulation and development of strategies for the promotion of gender equality.

Communications must be submitted to the Commission by the **1 August 2021**.

[Access more information on the communications procedure](http://www.unwomen.org/csw/communications-procedure).

## Call for papers: 6th World Disability and Rehabilitation Conference 2021

The World Disability and Rehabilitation Professionals’ Association (WDRPA) invites academics, activists, advocates, artists, professionals, scholars and students to submit their abstracts for the upcoming 6th World Disability and Rehabilitation Conference 2021 (WDRC 2021).

The main theme of this year is *It Takes a Village: Accessing Disability Services Across the Globe*. The three guiding questions for this year’s conference are: What does it mean to create a habitable and accessible planet? What is your role in this endeavour? And in what ways does this goal entail collaboration across disciplines, ideologies, experiences and world views? The call for abstracts is for a wide range of topics under the main theme.

The deadline to submit abstracts is July 14.

Access [this website](https://disabilityconference.co/call-for-papers/) for more information.

## 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).

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## World Blind Summit

World Blind Union, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment | June 28-30

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

## 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)

## 6th World Disability and Rehabilitation Conference 2021

World Disability and Rehabilitation Professionals’ Association| November 11-12

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](https://disabilityconference.co/call-for-papers/)

## Deafblind Africa Conference

Deafblind International Dbl | May 12-14, 2022

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

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## 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. 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.