# ADDC Bulletin: July 2021 edition

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Welcome to our July edition. A lot has been happening in the arena of disability and development over the past month. We have seen the launch of the [Unequal Pandemic report](#UnequalPandemic) – bringing together data of some 20 Civil Society Organisations on the impact of the pandemic on people who have been marginalised and their responses. The [High Level Political Forum](#HLPF) was held between 6-15 July and for the first time, the UN has provided a HLPF program in an [easy read format](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28587Easy_Read_Document_for_the_HLPF_2021.pdf). We have also gathered new resources including [recordings from key side events](#WebinarRecordings) from the recent Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At ADDC, we have farewelled Paul Deany (Australian Volunteers International (AVI) representative) and Alexandra Gartrell (World Vision Australia (WVA) representative) from serving on our [Executive Committee.](https://www.addc.org.au/who-we-are/executive-committee/)  Deep thanks to both for their time with us; our work to advance disability inclusion has benefitted greatly from their insights and expertise. A particular note of thanks to Paul Deany who has served on the Executive Committee since the inception of ADDC over a decade ago. While we look forward to continuing to have Paul engaged in our work into the future, now is a moment to recognize the enormous contributions Paul has given ADDC – thank you! We wish Paul and Alex well in their future endeavours! We welcome Sabene Gomes (AVI) and Kate Moss (WVA) in their place and look forward to continuing our work with them on board.

We are always on the hunt for any helpful news items/resources on disability inclusive development, so reach out to us if you have anything relevant in mind.

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

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development was held from 6 July to 15 July 2021 and is the United Nations' follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme was "*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*".

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities held an event at the sidelines of the HLPF on the theme, “Building an Inclusive and Effective Path for Civil Society Engagement” in the HLPF. The events saw an amazing panel of speakers from organizations of persons with disabilities from all across the world. Videos of the side event are available [in English](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZck5KIk4Nc&list=PL6QxXqEB474YzamKep7tNCTgx8NHk49av&index=8&t=4s).

Sessions of the HLPF can be viewed through [UN Webtv](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1m/k1mtavqmyl).

## Experiences of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, Bolivia and Nigeria

CBM Global, in partnership with the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities (SGPWD), have launched three country reports highlighting in more depth the impact COVID-19 has had on persons with disabilities in Bangladesh, Bolivia and Nigeria. The research found three recurrent themes: the role of organizations of persons with disabilities, lack of access to healthcare facilities and lack of disability data.

The most common barriers that emerged from the research included:

* lack of access to COVID-19 information for all persons with disabilities
* barriers in receiving social protection measures and employment, and
* lack of disability inclusion in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

[Access the full media release.](https://cbm-global.org/news/experiences-of-persons-with-disabilities-covid-19/)

[Access COVID phase II Bangladesh country report.](http://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SGPwD_COVID_Research_Phase-II_Bangladesh_FINAL1.docx)

[Access COVID phase II Bolivia country report](http://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SGPwD_COVID_Research_Phase_II_Bolivia_EN_FINAL1.docx).

[Access COVID phase II Nigeria country report.](http://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SGPwD_COVID_Research_Phase_II_Nigeria_FINAL1.docx)

## Disability inclusive climate justice video launched

European Disability Forum and CBM Global launched a video on disability inclusive climate justice at the European Development Days which took place on June 15-16th. The video illustrates the impact of climate change on people with disabilities and the impact people with disabilities can have in contributing to climate action. Both these aspects have been under researched and are invisible in national and international frameworks.

[Access the full article and video.](https://www.edf-feph.org/disability-inclusive-climate-justice-video-launched/)

## HRC resolution on violence against women and girls with disabilities

The 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council took place from June 21 to July 14, 2021, where a resolution on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls was passed by consensus.

The resolution focused on violence against women and girls with disabilities, highlights the specific manifestation of violence against women and girls with disabilities, including forced sterilization and abortion. The resolution highlights the multiple and intersecting forms of violence faced by women and girls with disabilities in public, private, and in family settings. Crucially, the resolution highlights the need to incorporate a human rights-based approach and particularly by reviewing laws and policies that use the charity and/or medical model of disability.

[Access the resolution](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/47session/DL_Resolutions/A_HRC_47_L18_Rev.1/English_2.docx).

## Sustainable Development Goals in international sign language

The World Federation of the Deaf launched a series of videos about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in international sign language. This video is one of its first where it explains all 17 SDGs and elaborated on the goals that specifically impact people with disabilities.

[Access the video link.](http://wfdeaf.org/resources/sustainable-development-goals/)

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Report: An Unequal Pandemic: Insights and Evidence from Communities and Civil Society Organisations

This report uses insights from community and CSO data collected by collaborative partners, often in close cooperation with communities, to provide a clearer picture of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people who have been marginalised and their responses.

Over 20 CSOs were engaged, representing and working with diverse groups, including ethnic minorities; Dalits; indigenous peoples; internally displaced people (IDPs); lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI); migrants; older people; persons with disabilities; refugees; religious minorities; street-connected children; undocumented people; women and girls; and young people.

This report highlights five common issues and impacts for people who have been marginalised: access to health; income and livelihoods; food insecurity; education; and violence, abuse and discrimination.

[Access this report](https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/An_Unequal_Pandemic.pdf).

## New website: Translating disability inclusive WASH policies into practice: lessons from Cambodia and Bangladesh

WaterAid has launched a website focusing on a research project aiming to improve disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive WASH policy making in low and middle income countries (LMICs) through policy and practice guidance for governments.

The research project is a collaboration between WaterAid and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Using Cambodia and Bangladesh as case studies, the overarching research question they hope to answer is: How can national WASH policies more effectively address the requirements of people with disabilities and their caregivers? The website showcases posters, practitioner learning briefs, blogs and academic papers shining a spotlight on inclusive WASH practices, policies and experiences. Newly released papers include [Are the rights of people with disabilities included in international guidance on WASH during the COVID-19 pandemic?](doi.org/10.1136/%20bmjopen-2020-046112) and [The Inclusion of Rights of People with Disabilities and Women and Girls in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Policy Documents and Programs of Bangladesh and Cambodia: Content Analysis Using EquiFrame](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18105087).

[Access the website](https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/translating-disability-inclusive-wash-policies-into-practice-lessons-from-cambodia-and).

## COVID-19 technology-based education and disability: the case of Bangladesh, emerging practices in inclusive digital learning for students with disabilities

This report sheds light on Bangladesh’s initiatives in disability-inclusive education. Its particular focus is on the role of its Accessible Reading Materials (ARM) initiative and how this has contributed to ensuring disability-inclusive and accessible education during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh.

ARM is aimed at satisfying the educational needs of all students including students with print and learning disabilities. It was launched in recognition of the need for solutions to ensure virtual, as well as regular reading access for all students, including children and young people with barriers to reading. This study’s focus is on the ARM initiative and its effectiveness during the pandemic.

[Access the full report.](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000377665)

**Business challenges for poor women with disabilities in rural Bangladesh**

Women with disabilities living in rural areas are the most disadvantaged and oppressed people in Bangladesh. This article centres on a case study looking at business challenges that women entrepreneurs with disabilities experience in rural areas. The author argues that a more gender-friendly environment and better consideration of disability during policy design and implementation could help women with disability overcome social and financial hardships.

[Access the full article](https://www.rural21.com/english/search/detail/article/business-challenges-for-disabled-poor-women-in-rural-bangladesh.html?no_cache=1).

## Why bring the voices of girls with disabilities to the Generation Equality Forum? Priorities and recommendations

Association d’Aide à l’Education de l’Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) carried out a series of consultations with girls with disability, their families and the institutions supporting them on the themes of action coalitions. The themes identified as crucial by the respondents and the contributions made by participants have been included in this document, with priorities and recommendations on those themes provided.

[Access the document](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cstuladhar%5CDownloads%5CWhy-bring-the-voices-of-girls-with-disabilities-in-the-generation-equality-forum-Version-27-06-21-VF.pdf).

# Webinar recordings

## HLPF 2021: Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities webinar series

Each year the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities comes together to create a submission around SDGs and people with disabilities relating to the theme of High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The first part of the webinar series focused on disability and data, where there was a moderated discussion on the role of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations focused on key experiences and research findings from national and global levels. The second webinar focused on SDG 8, 10 and 16, delving into effects of COVID-19 recovery for persons with disabilities within the specific goals. The third part of the series centered around regional forums and experiences of organizations of persons with disabilities.

[Access the webinar series](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6QxXqEB474YzamKep7tNCTgx8NHk49av).

## Moving the needle on gender and disability: From gender aware to gender transformative (June 15)

The Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund and partners - Global Affairs Canada, Department for Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and Women Enabled - held a side event focusing on gender and disability at the 14th Session of Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of women and girls with disability to violence and discrimination and threatens to reverse the gains achieved from years of advocacy that ensured gender policies and programs that were disability inclusive in line with the CRPD. The session brought together local and global voices to hear about best practices and chart out a path for gender transformative recovery, where disabled women, girls and gender and sexually diverse populations are working within their communities to shift power dynamics, address inequalities and create an inclusive environment for everyone to build forward better.

[Access the video recording.](https://disabilityrightsfund.org/cosp14-moving-the-needle-on-gender-and-disability/)

## Barriers, enablers, and solutions for disability inclusive education during COVID-19 pandemic (15 June)

This COSP side event was co-hosted by the UNESCO GEM Report, Inclusion International and its Catalyst for Inclusive Education Initiative, Human Rights Watch and the World Bank’s Inclusive Education Initiative. This event looked at the new barriers and enablers related to inclusion in remote learning settings, knowledge, good practices, and solutions to addressing new barriers to inclusion in education for learners with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities during the pandemic.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.facebook.com/42940254353/videos/183166180304151)

## Preparing grassroot communities for inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities (June 16)

This COSP side event brought together examples of community led interventions on human rights-based services to people with psychosocial disabilities who are de-institutionalized. Experts shared their experiences on practices of inclusion of people with psychosocial disabilities in communities as a way of building social capital and inclusion in development.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biXbnqg5ROA)

**One pandemic, different realities: Evidence on the experience of diversity of persons with disabilities, their representative organizations and civil society organization in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing to build back inclusively (June 16)**

This COSP side event provided guidelines to local, national and international stakeholders based on the lessons learned to date from COVID-19 to support their recovery and build sustainable resilience to future shocks. These guidelines are based on the findings from three complementary research projects. The event provided the opportunity to reflect on how persons with disabilities will access vaccinations and ways to ensure participation of OPDs as essential actors to ‘rebuild’ more inclusively.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHe3naJgcCY)

## GDS 2022: Where are we going? (June 17)

The COSP side event provided an update on national consultations taking place informing the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2022 agenda and provided examples of achievements made against GDS 2018 commitments. It presented learnings from experiences of Global Action on Disability members who have advanced in the commitments and the challenges they have faced. The event highlighted the involvement and engagement of organizations of persons with disabilities in creating of commitments, and their implementation, monitoring and follow up. Panelists were invited to reflect on their ongoing commitments that are to be carried in the next summit and GLAD members were encouraged to evaluate the achievement of their commitments.

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Government of Norway will be hosting the Global Disability Summit in February 2022. The aim of the summit is to mobilize the efforts for the implementation of the CRPD and the principles of leaving no one behind.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEoXznBlmS0)

**COVID-19 research findings from Bangladesh, Bolivia and Nigeria (June 22)**

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities hosted its fourth webinar in the series leading up to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). This event focused on COVID-19 research findings on the experiences of people with disabilities from Bangladesh, Bolivia and Nigeria. Findings from the study conducted in these three countries were presented in the webinar.

[Access the video recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEaNcASQV0w).

## Bullying involving children and young people with disabilities (July 6)

This webinar, hosted jointly by UNESCO and the World Anti-Bullying Forum, focused on the extent and nature of bullying in schools involving learners with disabilities and the factors increasing their vulnerability to bullying. This meeting also summarized the main findings of the UNESCO commissioned report, *Violence and bullying in educational settings: the experience of children and young people with disabilities* and provided examples of targeted responses to violence and bullying.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE5E-fvFfPA)

[Access the full report.](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000378061?posInSet=1&queryId=66d5f7f9-94e2-4253-9cc9-eba3d7b7ee8a)

## Lessons learned from COVID-19 crisis: Moving towards inclusive social protection for persons with disabilities (July 9)

This online event held by UNICEF, ILO, IDA, DFAT and the UNPRPD centered around social protection in support of people with disabilities. The event covered lessons learned based on case studies and focused on consultation and engagement with social protection professionals and organizations of persons with disabilities.

[Access the video recording.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7wrg-GPK6k)

[Access the presentation.](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/webinar-presentation-lessons-learned-covid-19-crisis-moving-towards-inclusive)

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

## Survey on Organizations of People with Disability (OPDs)

The IDA seeks to understand how OPDs take part in policy making and programs of governments and international partners. With this survey, the IDA will be able to monitor participation of OPDs and use the results to hold decision makers accountable in line with Articles 4.3 and 32 of the CRPD. It will also help the IDA understand how governments and international partners are including people with disabilities in their work.

[Access the survey](https://idata.tools/survey/-MU8bAznBuV-HwlwRxUw/welcome).

## TCI calls for memberships

Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) is calling for memberships from people with psychosocial disabilities, organisations, NGOs, INGOs of people with psychosocial disabilities and cross-disability organizations.

TCI are an independent, global organisation of persons with disabilities (OPD). They are focused on monitoring and the implementation of all human rights for people with psychosocial disabilities. They aim to mobilise people with psychosocial disabilities and advocate for their inclusion within the fields of disability and development.

[Apply for individual membership.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCpNz3YTmyL28sk4NOf_rG7cTWzeaZkHqm4ENd0pR1SRhKZA/viewform?fbzx=-6400111936179248969)

[Apply for organisational membership.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX7ivxLh9ppjw29NJqi4v3VnndRp7btGBurZNvcXduqgS0tw/viewform)

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## 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)

## 2021 Symposium: EdTech to accelerate foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN), particularly in low resource contexts

 My Education Alliance| September 27-30

[LEARN MORE](https://meducationalliance.org/2021-symposium/) & [REGISTER HERE](https://meducationalliance.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=565d15340cfdaedbeb6479abd&id=1191a7d5ff)

## 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/)

## The 4th International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf

World Federation of the Deaf | Bangkok, Thailand| 20-22 April 2022

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](https://wfdbangkok2021.com/)

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Inclusive Development Director

CBM Global Disability Inclusion | August 2

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/who-we-are/work-for-us/inclusive-development-director/)

## WFD Expert Work Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

World Federation of the Deaf | August 10

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhXoyHBalepylWgGb8drlfeAEKrhFKuy6glSgcv8E92DeqxQ/viewform)

## Digital Accessibility Rights Education Academy Scholarship Fund Program

DARE Academy, G3ict | 15 August

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VWZXYKJ)

# 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.