# ADDC Bulletin: September 2021 edition

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Welcome to our September edition. At ADDC, we are gearing up for the biannual election of our Executive Committee taking place in October. Nominations for the committee are now open until Wednesday 13th October. If you know of someone with the expertise and experience to serve on our executive, or you are interested yourself check out the [ADDC election webpage](https://www.addc.org.au/addc-executive-committee-elections-2/) for details on how to nominate and for more information on the election process.

As the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine continues across Australia, we join our voice with [People with Disability Australia](https://pwd.org.au/disability-royal-commission-report-backs-push-to-speed-up-covid-vax-rollout-for-people-with-disability/) (PWDA) echoing the Disability Royal Commission’s latest call for improved vaccination measures to protect the lives of people with disability before states start to open up from lockdowns. PWDA CEO Sebastian Zagarella: “Without giving people with disability and the workers who support them sufficient time and opportunity to access vaccinations, we risk leaving people with disability behind, making them second-class citizens, endangering their lives and putting them in lockdown limbo.” It is imperative that people with disabilities everywhere be prioritized in accessing these vaccinations so that no one is left behind.

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,

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# ADDC NEWS

## ADDC Executive Committee seeking nominations

Our network is governed by the ADDC Executive Committee that is elected by Australian-based members. After a remarkable two years serving on the Executive Committee, we thank our current elected members and open nominations for the committee.

Interested in nominating a member or being nominated? See [here](https://www.addc.org.au/addc-executive-committee-elections-2/) for more information and the nomination form. Nominations are open to all members from now until Wednesday 13th October.

There are three categories for elected roles on the Executive Committee:

* Representative of an Australian aid and development organisation
* Representative of other organisation
* Individual members.

Elected positions are appointed for two years. See the [ADDC election webpage](https://www.addc.org.au/addc-executive-committee-elections-2/) for details.

Questions? Contact Kerryn on kclarke@addc.org.au

Not sure of your membership status? Contact Linda on lmunoz@addc.org.au to confirm.

Let’s continue to build a more inclusive world. Every initiative makes a difference. Join our work through the Executive Committee and be nominated for a role today.

## Thank you to our elected Executive Committee members

Our current Executive Committee has strategically directed ADDC to advocate, engage and educate on disability inclusive development over the past two years. Thank you to all those who have served in elected roles over the past two years, including our current elected members: Louise Coventry, Sabene Gomes, Fifi Rashando, Alexandra Kay, Christina Parasyn, Kate Moss and Alex Robinson. Thank you for sharing your expertise, time and passion for building an inclusive world.

Interested in the Executive Committee? Nominations open now! [See here](https://www.addc.org.au/addc-executive-committee-elections-2/) for more information.

## Welcome DFAT increase to core disability budget for FY20/21

We welcome the recent news from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) that the FY2020/21 Central Disability Allocation, the core budget for disability inclusion work through DFAT, was increased to 12.1 million at the end of the financial year. After being cut from 12.9 million to 9.6 million in the October 2020 budget announcement, additional funds were retrospectively allocated to the core budget increasing it to 12.1 million for last financial year.

Following much advocacy from ADDC and partners on the need to ensure the Central Disability Allocation is appropriately resourced to be able to continue Australia’s commitment to disability inclusion, this increase is welcomed. However, the 25% cut on previous years to the current FY2021/22 budget is unfortunately still sustained with the core budget currently allocated 9.6 million. Our efforts continue to see this budget reach 14 million annually this financial year and next.

To be a part of our ongoing advocacy effort, [become a member of ADDC today](https://www.addc.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/).

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

## 1 billion voices for disability inclusive and climate resilient WASH

2021 World Water Week was themed – "Building Resilience Faster." It covered issues such as the climate crisis, water scarcity, food security, health, biodiversity, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with Water Week, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) stressed that the accessibility of clean drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services are a human right, further reinforced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The IDA calls for:

* All WASH actors to identify organizations of person with disabilities (OPDs) and organizations of older persons to partner with inclusive WASH and climate change programs.
* Governments to consider ways that climate events and natural disasters disproportionately impact access to WASH for older persons and people with disabilities.
* Governments and WASH actors to identify barriers to inclusive WASH and work together with older people and people with disabilities to find solutions to design and implement resilient WASH interventions and adaptations that leave no one behind.

[Access the full article](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/1-billion-voices-disability-inclusive-and-climate-resilient-wash).

## More than words: RedR Australia’s approach to disability inclusive humanitarian practice

In this article, RedR’s Kylie Harrington identifies and explores the barriers that RedR faces as an organization in achieving disability inclusive development. She reflects on the missteps, learnings, turning points and power of transforming words into action.

[Access the full article](https://acfid.asn.au/blog-post/more-words-redr-australia%E2%80%99s-approach-disability-inclusive-humanitarian-practice).

## *Billion Strong*: A Global Disability Movement

*Billion Strong* is an identity and empowerment organization designed to bring the billions of voices of people with disabilities together, to find their collective voices to fight for their rights, and highlight other activities locally, nationally, and globally.

It seeks to illustrate what people with disabilities can do and is a way of recognizing and honoring the varied dimensions of intersectionality that are represented within this community. It seeks to embrace and support the community with professional development opportunities from across the world. It will create and share an accessible platform and app that offers value to our entire community.

[Access the website’s blog](https://www.billion-strong.org/blog/).

## Afghan disability activists’ message to the world - “Don’t forget people with disability in Afghanistan”

A disability rights advocate living in Kabul has appealed to the international community not to forget people with disabilities in Afghanistan. He addresses the compounding challenges faced by people with disabilities under the Taliban rule. People with disabilities are facing economic, physical, institutional, and attitudinal barriers and they are stuck at home with no jobs or access to education. No specific program from the international community exists to support people with disabilities or help to evacuate them. He advocates for the international community to act now and allocate a special quota to support people with disabilities to escape the current situation.

[Access the full article](https://disabilitycrossesborders.com/2021/08/30/afghan-disability-activists-message-to-world-dont-forget-people-with-disability-in-afghanistan/).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Guidance note: Menstrual health and hygiene for girls and women with disabilities

Girls and women all over the world are denied the right to manage their monthly menstruation in a dignified manner, and girls and women with disabilities face even greater challenges in managing menstruation as they face double stigma due to both social norms around gender and menstruation and having a disability.

This guidance note offers a framework for supporting menstrual health and hygiene and practical entry points for meeting the needs of women and girls with disabilities.

A 2019 systematic review of menstrual hygiene management requirements, its barriers, and strategies for women and girls with disabilities found that menstruation challenges were a source of shame for women and girls with disabilities, with consequences including social isolation and even forced sterilization.

[Access the full article](https://www.unicef.org/documents/menstrual-health-hygiene-girls-and-women-disabilities).

## WASH Framework: Equality, Inclusion and Rights Framework

WaterAid has developed a WASH framework that defines their position, approach, and program standards for all their areas of work, covering:

a) cross-cutting principles – human rights, sustainability, equality and inclusion, and partnership;

b) core program approaches – systems strengthening and empowerment, WASH in other sectors, and hygiene behavior change;

c) thematic/geographic work – water, sanitation, hygiene, and urban WASH.

The framework points to accompanying guidelines, toolkits, and resources to provide more detail on how to apply the framework in practice.

[Access the full document.](https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/equality-inclusion-and-rights-framework)

## Policy Brief: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the education of persons with disabilities - Challenges and opportunities of distance education

This policy brief is part of the Global Program Supporting Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response and Recovery at National Level, funded by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

This brief addresses the difficulties in accessing educational opportunities for children with disabilities, and the impact of COVID-19 in this context. It highlights existing and emerging learning opportunities and problems, such as technology competence development for teachers working with students with disabilities.

[Access the policy brief.](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000378404)

## Article: Disability and COVID-19 - Ensuring no one is left behind

This journal article from the *Archives of Public Health* argues that people with disabilities are in a disproportionately vulnerable situation in public health emergencies. Using the example of COVID-19, it seeks to explain why that is and calls for the systematic consideration of the needs and rights of persons with disabilities during the response to the outbreak and during the recovery phase. It contends that if it is not considered, equity will continue to be merely an aspiration or a concept during this COVID-19 emergency - as it will in future health emergencies.

[Access the full article.](https://archpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13690-021-00656-7?fbclid=IwAR04H28YZrR4EVhkBMLccyONnX0V93_rmxnIMqWE4L356mZxXHNWcLABnbg)

## Report: UN Special Rapporteur’s report on rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict

This report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Gerard Quinn examines the protection of the rights of people with disabilities in the context of armed conflict. The report seeks to advance discussion shedding light on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and international humanitarian law.

[Access the full report.](https://undocs.org/en/A/76/146)

# Webinar recordings

## The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (16th August- 14th September)

On 14th September 2021, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities closed its 25th session. The committee held two online constructive dialogues and adopted concluding observations on France and Djibouti.

[Access the recording for opening session.](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1yr4v22m5)

[Access the recording for closing session](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1v/k1vt57r2g9).

Access the recording for consideration of France ([part 1](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bv5fepmw)) | ([part 2](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14eaz3csx)) | ([part 3)](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10ggfoem0) sessions.

Access the recording for consideration of Djibouti ([part 1](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k11/k112j6oxvt)) | ([part 2](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1fttjcjxi)) | ([part 3](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1r/k1raa733dh)) sessions.

[Access the statements delivered in the sessions](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2504&Lang=en).

## Advancing the right to family life for all children: Reflections, practices and call to action in advance of the CRC’s Committee Day of General Discussions on children’s rights and alternative care (7th- 8th September)

Disability Rights International, the European Movement for Independent Living, Inclusion International, the International Disability Alliance, the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, US International Council on Disability and Validity Foundation held two online sessions on the Advancing the right to family life for all children.

The first session held on 7th September was on “Group homes for children with disabilities? Disability rights perspectives. Symposium”. The session shared the vision of rights of persons with disabilities, perspectives of young people with disability and a panel discussion. [Access the full broadcast](https://twitter.com/i/broadcasts/1BRJjBmXYnNJw).

The second session held on 8th September on “A call to action to protect the right to family life and prevent institutionalizations for all children: challenges and solutions”. This session suggested the need for urgent action and discussed around the issue of the human rights and policy imperatives, keeping families together, parental rights of mothers with disabilities and highlighted an experience from Bulgaria.[Access the full broadcast](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8QrifKL9OI).

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

## Call for abstracts: Universally accessible public spaces for all

Contributions are invited for an upcoming special issue of *The Journal of Public Space* to be launched at 11th World Urban Forum in Katowice on 26-30 June 2022. This issue, produced in partnership with the World Blind Union in line with the commitments in the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions, seeks to raise awareness and foster learning around universal design, accessibility, inclusion in public spaces.

Contributions are invited which evidence learnings and demonstrate levels of progress towards achieving public spaces that are accessible to and inclusive of all in line with development frameworks and human rights instruments.

[More information.](https://www.journalpublicspace.org/index.php/jps/announcement/view/30)

## Call for inputs: Statistics and data collection on persons with disabilities under Article 31, CRPD

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is calling for inputs for its study on statistics and data collection on persons with disabilities under Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2021, and inputs may be posted on the OHCHR website.

[More information](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15N78gauxskXRndLyVjgd6lwnzIBYHAWV/edit)

## Submission for narratives: Women Enabled International’s blog - “Rewriting the Narrative”

Women Enabled International’s blog, “Rewriting the Narrative” is seeking submissions from women, trans, and non-binary persons with disabilities, as well as from allies and activists working in the social justice field with specific experience at the intersection of gender and disability.

The blog seeks to highlight underrepresented voices, sharing their lived experiences and expertise. The blog focuses on highlighting the experiences of indigenous, disabled people and of young people living at the intersection of gender and disability.

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.

[More information on how to submit a piece for the blog.](https://medium.com/rewriting-the-narrative/who-should-submit-and-what-are-the-guidelines-ac49a6dd27c9)

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## 6th World Disability and Rehabilitation Conference 2021

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

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](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

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Disability Inclusion Advisor

CBM Australia | Based in Melbourne | Apply ASAP

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

## Disability Inclusion Advisor – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

CBM Australia | Based in Canberra | Apply ASAP

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

## E-learning: Collecting data for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action

Handicap International- Humanity and Inclusion | Free online course

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=1221)

## HR and Compliance Officer

Pacific Disability Forum| | Apply by 9 October

L[EARN MORE & APPLY](https://maxumise.com/job/hr-and-compliance-officer-pacific-disability-forum/)

## Program Officer

Pacific Disability Forum| | Apply by 9 October

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://maxumise.com/job/programme-officer-pacific-disability-forum/)

## Research Officer

Pacific Disability Forum| | Apply by 9 October

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://maxumise.com/job/research-officer-pacific-disability-forum/)

## Disability & Inclusion Advisor

World Vision Australia | Based in Burwood, Victoria | Apply ASAP

## [LEARN MORE](https://careers.worldvision.com.au/caw/en/job/497960/disability-inclusion-advisor) & APPLY

# 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.