# ADDC Bulletin: December 2021 edition

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Welcome to the last edition of our bulletin for 2021. We are leaving this year with a bang, recently celebrating International Day of People with Disabilities, joining so many others to share the vision of a more inclusive #BetterWorldForAll. Part and parcel of this day was an exciting [DFAT meeting](#DFATRoundtable) with global and regional leaders in disability inclusive development, where a special announcement was made. See below!

Though hope is in the air, we acknowledge and reflect on the challenges of this year – where the world continues to grapple with COVID-19. For many of those living with disabilities, this pandemic has been and continues to be catastrophic and has only increased the inequality between those with and without disabilities. As we consider how to recover from and rebuild in a COVID impacted world, we must do all we can to address these systemic inequalities and ensure no one is left behind.

Our team will be taking a break over December and January, starting 2022 with our Executive Meeting in person in early February. The first ADDC Bulletin for 2022 will be in your inboxes in late February. Until then, have a healthy, safe and peaceful time enjoying the company of loved ones.

On behalf of ADDC, we thank you for being a part of our consortium, supporting our bulletin and for your contributions to making our world more inclusive.

In hope,

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# ADDC NEWS

## DFAT Roundtable on IDPD

On International Day, DFAT hosted a Roundtable discussion with leaders of the disability movement from across our region and globally. Natasha Smith, First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Policy Division, DFAT and representatives from International Disability Alliance, Pacific Disability Forum, Transforming Communities for Inclusion, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ADDC and CBM Australia engaged in the meeting.

The Roundtable provided an opportunity for the Minister for International Development and the Pacific Zed Seselja to announce that Australia in partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum and other regional stakeholders will be hosting a regional summit in lead up to Global Disability Summit (GDS) in February 2022. This will ensure a strong Pacific voice at the GDS and further driving inclusion across the region.

The Roundtable focused on Australia’s leadership in partnering with people with disabilities to build an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world.

Bethany Brown, Human Rights Advisor at International Disability Alliance shared DFAT’s strategic, political, technical and financial support has enabled unprecedented progress to advance rights of people with disabilities globally and in Asia Pacific, expressing that a strong partnership with DFAT is needed to champion and accelerate change by example.

Natasha Smith commented that there has been an increased focus on the quality of disability inclusion in DFAT; investments evaluated as 'effective' in addressing barriers and creating opportunities for people with disabilities has increased from 41% in 2018 to 54% in 2021.

Setareki Macanawai, CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum, shared priorities for an inclusive Pacific: preconditions to inclusion to all levels of society; strong leadership and deepening partnerships across OPDs, strong accountability measures to people with disabilities need to be in place, OPDs need to be as effective and efficient in all they do.

Bhargavi Davar, Executive director of TCI said that inclusion needs to be in every aspect of the development post-COVID agenda. Communities need robust psychosocial systems of support and investments are needed to strengthen local communities’ systems around the world to be fully inclusive. Bhargarvi highlighted the need to support strong mental health services has been made evident throughout the global pandemic.

Jane Edge, CBM Australia CEO expressed that DFAT needs to secure a specific policy within the Australian development program to ensure disability inclusion continues to advance.

## Leave No One Behind policy brief

ADDC and CBM Australia launched a new policy brief on disability inclusion in Australia’s COVID19 development response in time for International Day of People with Disabilities, 3rd December.

People with disabilities are not prioritised in current responses to the pandemic despite being catastrophically and disproportionately impacted. This brief provides recommendations for a more inclusive response, advocating for a comprehensive and coordinated approach that partners with people with disabilities and Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) from the outset.

Taking such an approach is necessary to ensure everyone can build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a better world for all.

[Access the brief here](https://bit.ly/3ozK8FU).

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

## Vale Aliimuamua Malaefono Ala Taua Faasalaina

UN in Samoa received sad news of the passing away of Chief Statistician Aliimuamua Ala Taua Faasalaina, who was a great professional of the Government of Samoa and a dedicated partner of all UN agencies with which she worked with outstanding professionalism for many years. The UN pays tribute to Aliimuamua Ala Taua Faasalaina for her respect for the UN values and her tireless work with the UN across many important programmes, extending their most sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family and the Samoan Government. Her voice and contribution to the debate in the UN Statistical Commission will be greatly missed.

[Access the full article here](https://samoa.un.org/en/158596-aliimuamua-malaefono-ala-taua-faasalaina-great-professional-government-samoa-and-dedicated).

Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities

UNICEF data, the United Nations Children’s Fund focused on collecting data about the needs of children, announced that it is launching a Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with disabilities. The Centre was formed due to the lack of data about children with disabilities worldwide causing an increase in marginalization and violation of the rights of children and adult with disabilities. It aims to help fill the gaps and meet the growing need for coordination, quality oversight and technical expertise in the field. It also seeks to provide support broad range of activities to build the capacity of data producers and data users by facilitating the development of new methods and tools, and support data collection, data analysis, data interpretation and use, and knowledge generation.

The Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with disabilities is currently in its inception phase which will last through 2022 and during this period it seeks support for new and innovative projects to foster utilization of data on children with disabilities.

[Access the full article.](https://data.unicef.org/resources/centre-of-excellence-on-data-for-children-with-disabilities/)

## Launch of UNFPA Disability Inclusion strategy

UNFPA launched, *We Matter. We Belong. We Decide. UNFPA Disability Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 2025* on International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The UNFPA Disability Inclusion Strategy puts persons with disabilities at the very centre of everything UNFPA does. Disability inclusion means making the work of UNFPA stronger by ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all.

Focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the principle of “leaving no one behind” and “reaching the furthest behind” (RFB), this strategy aligns with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) as well as the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. Disability inclusion matters because it contributes to all UNFPA transformative results.

Access the strategy [here](https://bit.ly/3rMnrkO) and the Easy Read Version [here](https://bit.ly/306dymC).

## Prolonged COVID-19 pandemic deepens hardship for over 12 million forcibly displaced people with disabilities

UNHCR estimates at least 12 million people with disabilities are forcibly displaced worldwide and their situation is becoming more difficult as the pandemic drags on. Forced displacement affects people with disability disproportionately as they are often at higher risk of violence, discrimination, neglect, gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, and face barriers to services and opportunities. UNHCR is urging national authorities to do more to secure the rights of forcibly displaced and stateless people with disabilities and to counter all forms of discrimination.

[Access the full article here](https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/12/61aa3eb74/prolonged-covid-19-pandemic-deepens-hardship-12-million-forcibly-displaced.html).

## How to include organizations of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action- ISAC Guidelines

A video has been launched, inspired by the ISAC guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. The guideline is an initiative by the VIVID-T project consisting of Abilis Foundation, CBM Global, Viatores Christi Limited, Tearfund Ireland, CBM Ireland, EDF and Associazione Solidarieta Paesi Emergeni. It aims to create a global community of practice working towards disability inclusion in humanitarian action and volunteering. The video has been developed as a tool to support organizations to raise awareness on the importance of involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in humanitarian action.

[Access the full video here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1T3ZIjMHmw)

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Report: Disability in Australia – Shadows, struggles and successes

This research report by the Disability Royal Commission looks at different cultural and social factors that have impacted the lives of people with disability in Australia over time.

It explains how, for hundreds of years, society viewed people with disability as different and told them they didn’t fit in. This influenced the way the community and government treated people with disability regarding access and needs.

The report says that after the First World War things slowly started to change. When the disability movement started in the 1970s and ‘80s, it influenced laws and reforms of things like discrimination, guardianship and forced sterilisation.

It says the 21st century has marked a more inclusive approach towards people with disability in Australia, but they still struggle against attitudes such as racism, stigma and exclusion.

[Access the report here](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/research-report-disability-australia-shadows-struggles-and-successes).

## Article: Disability data collection in a complex humanitarian organization - Lessons from a realist evaluation

In recent years, global attention to disability inclusion in humanitarian and development contexts, notably comprising disability inclusion within the Sustainable Development Goals, has significantly increased. As a result, UN agencies and programmes are increasingly seeking to understand and increase the extent to which persons with disabilities are accounted for and included in their efforts to provide life-saving assistance. To explore the effects and effectiveness of such measurement, this paper applies a complexity-informed, realist evaluation methodology to a case study of a single measurement intervention.

[Access the full article here](https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/19/10334/htm).

## Report: Learners with disabilities and COVID-19 school closures: Findings from a global survey conducted by the World Bank’s inclusive education initiative

The pandemic has affected 1.5 billion young people all over the world, as schools remained closed in more than 50 countries. Governments have tried to respond to the unprecedented situation by employing remote learning initiatives using both digital and non-digital forms, however inadequate infrastructure or lack of trained teachers have limited the efforts made. The impact that COVID-19 has had on the education of learners with disabilities has revealed the multitude of shortcomings and misprioritizations of systems and institutions. The report suggests the programs and policies need to prioritize learners with disabilities in their design and implementation and ensure to accommodate diverse needs. It mentions the key strategy is to use the twin-track approach, 1) ensuring mainstream education programs are designed for all learners; and (2) developing targeted support to address the specific needs of children with disabilities. Additionally, it also suggests the first layer of support for learners with disabilities is to create an enabling a home environment, followed by supporting accessible teaching and learning materials and individualized instruction for remote learning and teaching. Lastly, it recommends that specialists, social workers, and teachers should work together with parents and special education teachers should support mainstream teachers.

[Access the full report here.](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36326)

## Document: UNICEF ESARO guidance on sign language for deaf children’s education and its use in accessible digital teaching and learning materials

Even though there has been growing awareness among policy makers in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region of the need to make education more inclusive especially for children with disabilities, data on children with disabilities, policies and funding to support their access to quality education remain a major issue. As part of the UNPRPD, UNICEF ESARO wishes to support efforts to improve schooling and learning opportunities for children with hearing disabilities by providing guidance on use of sign language. This document seeks to improve inclusive education for deaf learners by advancing:

* The use and official recognition of national sign languages as the first and most accessible natural languages. Sign language supports deaf children in their linguistic, cognitive, and social-emotional development.
* Consistent use of national sign languages in the development of accessible digital teaching and learning materials for deaf children.

[Access the full document here](https://www.unicef.org/esa/documents/guidance-sign-language-deaf-childrens-education-and-its-use-accessible).

## Report: Violence and bullying in educational settings - The experience of children and young people with disabilities

Learners with disabilities are disproportionately affected by school violence and bullying at all ages and in all learning settings. This has significant adverse impacts on their education, health and well-being. This UNESCO document aims to raise awareness of the problem and encourage action to ensure that children and young people with disabilities have access to a safe learning environment.

[Access the report here](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378061).

## Advocacy paper: Disability Inclusive Climate Action COP26

This paper, produced by the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network Disability Inclusive Climate Action Working Group, highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change and the possible adverse impacts of climate mitigation and adaptation activities on persons with disabilities and proposes measures to ensure the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in climate related decision-making. The paper also addresses:

* The impact of exclusion of persons with disabilities from climate governance
* Outlines the need for a disability inclusive approach to climate change
* Highlights the contributions that people with disabilities and their representative organizations can make to climate action, and
* Suggests key set of priorities and recommendations for stakeholders at all levels for meaningful inclusion and participation in climate action.

[Access the advocacy paper here](https://gladnetwork.net/search/blog/disability-inclusive-climate-action-cop26-advocacy-paper).

## Report/Guidance note: Political participation of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities

The genuine participation of all citizens – the right to vote and to be elected - is a fundamental democratic principle. Yet, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities are still often excluded from political processes. Through the framework of a joint programme funded through the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi Partner Trust Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Inclusion International have developed a new practical guide on how to strengthen the political participation of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

[Access the full note here](https://www.undp.org/publications/political-participation-persons-intellectual-or-psychosocial-disabilities).

# [Webinar recordings](#WebinarRecordings)

## Accessible Construction and Universal Design in Humanitarian Setting-MSF (November 4)

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) hosted a webinar on Accessibility and Universal Design in humanitarian settings. During the webinar, a number of tools produced by the MSF were introduced to promote disability inclusion, including accessibility guidelines and accessibility checklist.

[Access the webinar recording here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k04JIs89V-g)

[Access the accessibility guideline and checklist here.](https://disabilityinclusion.msf.org/inclusion-toolbox.html)

[Access the accessible and inclusive handbook here](https://disabilityinclusion.msf.org/assets/files/ACCESSIBILITY-GUIDELINES_ENG.PDF).

## TCI Asia Pacific: Building Community Support and Psychosocial Ecosystems (November 12)

Transforming Communities for Inclusion, in partnership with Inclusion International, Disability Rights Fund, Validity Foundation, Centre for Inclusive Policy, International Disability Alliance, BAPU Trust and Indonesian Mental Health Association is conducting a series of 4 webinars on De-Institutionalization. (TCI) is a global organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities [an OPD]. This webinar is the second in the series.

[Access the webinar here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h33kyHy2brY).

## Disability inclusion mainstreaming in the financial sector to build inclusive economies (ACFID Conference 2021 recording)

In working towards mainstream disability inclusion within its programs, Good Return is making a commitment as an organisation to ‘leave no one behind’ (the central promise of the UN-SDGs). Listen to the recording of Good Return's workshop on its journey of disability inclusion mainstreaming in the financial sector at the 2021 Australian Council for International Development National Conference.

[Access the webinar here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCG10N55LYI).

## Disability, Development, Rights and Inclusion (December 3)

This talk is part of the Cutting Edge Issues in Development Thinking & Practice 2021/22 series, a high-profile lecture series run by the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics. Terhas Clark and Mosharraf Hossain discuss disability, development, rights and inclusion. British Sign Language Interpreters are present at the event.

[Access the lecture here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5FBGsvLPjI).

## Disability Resilience and Inclusion in our Cities (COP26 side event)

This webinar was hosted by the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), covering the issue of inclusivity and accessible design for climate resilient cities. The webinar brought a panel with unique expertise to address the issues that persons with disabilities face in low-resource urban areas, good practices on inclusion and sustainability and how inclusive design and innovation can advance climate resilience in cities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

[Access the full video recording here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5iVCekVyns)

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

## 2nd IDA Global Survey on OPD Participation

The IDA Global Survey is an accountability tool to monitor that “nothing is done about us without us”. This is a chance to voice your opinion about your engagement with governments and international partners: Is the participation of OPDs meaningful? What are the remaining barriers to our participation? What are your recommendations?

The survey can be completed by all members, volunteers and staff members of OPDs. The survey is individual, and it can be completed by more than one person per OPD.

The survey will be open until 31 December 2021.

Access the [survey here](https://idata.tools/survey/idaglobalsurvey?forcelatest=true) and Easy Read Version [here](https://idata.tools/survey/idaglobalsurvey?lan=en&easyread=true&forcelatest=true).

## Are you a user of assistive technology? Short survey from WHO and UNICEF

Do you use an assistive product (or products- like a wheelchair, hearing aid, white cane, prosthesis)? If so, we want to learn what your assistive product(s) means to you.

UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and partners are collecting quotes about the impact of assistive products on the lives of people of all ages to contribute to the first Global Report on Assistive Technology. Some of these quotes may be used in other reports about assistive products.

Your experience will help advocacy efforts to governments, donors, the private sector and others about the importance of improving access to appropriate assistive products for all.

The survey is linked below - there are just 7 questions to answer.

Access the survey [here.](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JY9GMTR)

## Good Return: Impact Investing data collection

Good Return encourages people with disabilities to participate in Impact Investing data collection. We welcome disabled and able-bodied photographers and videographers to offer their services. For more information on our inclusive data collection practice or on how to participate, please see the following [link](https://www.goodreturn.org.au/blog-1/2021/12/9/an-inclusive-collection-of-data).

## Call for submissions: Protocol for development of UNICEF disability inclusion policy and strategy and Global Research Agenda

UNICEF seeks to develop its first-ever disability inclusion policy and strategy, and as part of the process is consulting adolescents with disabilities aged between 14-18 years old, who have been affected by humanitarian emergencies to share their stories. Participants can either participate through focused group discussions or individual submissions. Disability Reference Group members working adolescents with disabilities in the humanitarian settings are invited to contribute to this process.

Submissions are due by January 17, 2022.

[Access here for more information](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1huRLeVM0uoY2sEePsG_-qeMqgHebE7RS/edit).

## Register GDS commitments

Suggested commitments to be made in the upcoming Global Disability Summit (GDS) have been released. The commitments were developed in consultation with the Global Action of Disability Network, the Disability Reference Group and disability experts including OPDs. The commitments made are intended to inform, inspire and incentivize ambitious commitments contributing to a successful GDS. Stakeholders are invited to register commitments by selecting from the menu and can register their own commitments.

[Access here to register commitments.](https://idata.tools/survey/-Mo3nwVn2HWVifpANkas/welcome)

## Survey: To advance the equitable inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of business

Australian Network on Disability (AND) is a purpose led organization and is seeking to reach its purpose “to advance the equitable inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of business”, it seeks to continue to grow and influence. To do so, and to develop disability confidence, it seeks to ensure that the brand is represented and seeks out to learn the value it adds for employers, job seekers and students through this short survey.

[Access the survey here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RB99X3N).

# 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.