# ADDC Bulletin: Special edition

Today we recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities in our communities and around the world. This year’s theme focuses on the challenges, barriers and opportunities people with disabilities have experienced in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with this, see below a [new policy brief](https://www.addc.org.au/file/policy-brief-leavenoonebehind/) from ADDC and CBM Australia on the need for disability inclusion to be central to all COVID-19 development responses.

In this edition you can read about the [DFAT Roundtable with DID leaders](#_DFAT_Roundtable_with) to be held today, view and share [CBM’s new video for IDPD](#_CBM’s_new_video) also released today and hear from people with disabilities about their visions for an inclusive post-COVID world, as well as read stories of partnerships for inclusion between Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and INGOs.

Join us in marking IDPD by sharing the IDPD video on social media and encouraging your organisation to do the same, as well as sharing how your organisation is working in partnership with people with disabilities to build a more inclusive world. See our [IDPD Social Media action](#_Social_media_action) for more information and to cast a vision for a #BetterWorldForAll. We look forward to seeing and sharing with you over social media today. Remember to use the hashtag #BetterWorldForAll.

On behalf of ADDC, Happy International Day!

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# Launch of *Leave No One Behind* policy brief

ADDC and CBM Australia have released in time for IDPD a [new policy brief](https://www.addc.org.au/file/policy-brief-leavenoonebehind/) on disability inclusion in COVID-19 development responses.

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 vital to ensure everyone can build a #BetterWorldForAll in the face of the impacts of the pandemic.

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

# DFAT Roundtable with DID leaders

DFAT today will host a Roundtable with leaders of the disability movement from across our region and globally. The Roundtable discussion will focus on Australia’s role in investing in the leadership and participation of persons with disabilities to build an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world. We look forward to a fruitful and strategic discussion on the priorities of disability inclusive development for our region and world between 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.

Watch out for more information to come on our social media.

# Watch and share: CBM’s new video for IDPD!

Hear from people with disabilities across our region on the challenges they’ve faced during the COVID-19 pandemic in CBM’s 2021 IDPD video released today. In the video they explore their hopes and ideas for a more inclusive and how recovery efforts from the pandemic must include them to build back a #BetterWorldForAll.

Raise their voices for a #BetterWorldFor all and share the video far and wide! View and share the video from [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYYAvvhH6k4). The audio described version which can be accessed [here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbLDMtEJw4o75JNQ6aJg_pGgMeOqUR8b3).

# Social media action for IDPD

We encourage you to celebrate IDPD and to use this as an opportunity to raise awareness about disability inclusion within your organisation, by joining in our Social Media actions – see our [IDPD Resource kit](https://www.addc.org.au/file/international-day-of-people-with-disabilities-friday-3rd-december-2021-activity-toolkit/) for more details.

Show your support via our social media channels on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/addcnews/), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-disability-and-development-consortium/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/addcnews). Share the voices of people with disabilities in the 2021 IDPD video produced by CBM Australia that features people with disabilities from across our region talking about what building a better world for all during and after the COVID-19 pandemic looks like.

Add to the conversation and share how your organisation is working alongside people with disabilities to build a more inclusive world. For example, featuring a new disability inclusion initiative within your organisation from this year or an example of how your organization is partnering with people with disabilities in a development project.

Remember to use the hashtags #BetterWorldForAll #IDPD. We look forward to celebrating over social media with you on our flagship day!

# Stories from the Sector

This year we are encouraging our members to share how they are working in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations to build a #BetterWorldForAll. Thank you for sharing and please keep spreading the word on an inclusive future for all!

[Good Return](https://www.goodreturn.org.au/) together with their financial institution partner in Cambodia are delivering the ‘Education & Access: Responsible Finance for People with Disabilities’ project, supported by the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS) Program. ACCESS strives to improve the sustainability, quality, and inclusiveness of services for persons with disabilities and for women affected by gender-based violence (GBV) in Cambodia. Read more about Good Return’s work in Cambodia [here](https://accesscambodia.org/meet-miss-chanreaksmey-a-champion-supporting-persons-with-disabilities).

[Tearfund Australia](https://www.tearfund.org.au/) in partnerships with local organisations in India are supporting people with disabilities to receive practical support through access to food and medicines amidst challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full case study [here](https://www.addc.org.au/file/tearfund-case-study-partner-organisation-shifa-mental-health-and-disability-project-india/).

For [World Vision Australia](https://www.worldvision.com.au/) building a #BetterWorldForAll means partnering with local OPDs to ensure people with disabilities are prioritised during national emergencies and all health and emergency info is accessible for different impairments. Read more [here](https://www.addc.org.au/file/worldvision-case-study/) on their work in Vanuatu.

[CBM Australia](https://www.cbm.org.au/idpd) has been working with partners across the Pacific and Timor Leste to support people with disabilities to be included in COVID-19 responses, including in inclusive health message and advice. See [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/stories/people-with-disabilities-at-greater-risk-as-covid-19-grips-the-pacific-and-timor-leste) for more on their work.

[MSI Asia Pacific](https://msichoices.org.au/) and Marie Stopes Cambodia are working with people with disabilities to create equitable access for all to sexual and reproductive health services in Cambodia. Watch more about their work here in [this video](https://www.facebook.com/MarieStopesKh/videos/248023850246157/).

[Team Up](https://www.teamup.gov.au/programs/smash-down-barriers-fiji), an initiative of the Australian Government program supporting partnerships across the Pacific that use sport to bring people together, champion inclusion and create opportunity, is sharing a series of stories for IDPD this week featuring participants in their disability-focused programs, including a conversation with Akata Sabusa from Fiji [here](https://www.teamup.gov.au/stories/idpwd-stories-table-tennis-seriously-changed-my-life) on how table tennis changed her life through the program [Smash Down Barriers](https://www.teamup.gov.au/programs/smash-down-barriers-fiji).