

> **1:5** PEOPLE LIVING IN  
POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
IS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY



## REBUILDING DISABILITY INCLUSION *in Australia's International Development Program*

**People with disabilities in low and middle income countries, particularly women and girls, are often poorer and face higher levels of discrimination, exclusion and violence than the rest of the population.**

Further exacerbating this situation, the COVID-19 pandemic had a catastrophic impact on people with disabilities.

In this context and since 2020, the central disability allocation in the Australian aid budget has been cut by 25%, disability funding in country and regional programs has fallen by over 20% since 2013, and there is a lack of strategic direction with the disability inclusion strategy *Development for All* expiring at the end of 2021.

The government now has an opportunity to boost funding, lift disability performance and reassert disability as a policy and programmatic priority in Australia's international development efforts.

**The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) and CBM Australia are urging the Australian Government to take immediate action to rebuild disability inclusion in Australia's international development program by:**

**1** Establishing leadership, partnership and empowerment of people with disabilities as a major priority in the aid program by:

- Ensuring disability inclusion is a major priority in the new International Development strategy.
- Committing to establishing a target for disability inclusion in Australia's international development and humanitarian program.

**2** Providing DFAT with immediate authority and funding to continue developing a new disability inclusion and rights strategy in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations to ensure this is launched by the end of 2022.

**3** Increasing the central disability allocation to minimum of \$14 million in the FY2022–23 budget.

**4** Together with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Pacific Disability Forum, establishing a *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific (PIP)*; a regional group of key partners to coordinate action and mobilise financial resources for increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian action across the Pacific.

**5** Building disability expertise capacity in DFAT by:

- Re-establishing an advisory group to the Australian aid program to increase partnership with and accountability to people with disabilities, including diverse representation across a range of ages, identities, orientations and ethnicity, and drawn from both public and private sector organisations.
- Establishing a disability inclusion advisor/unit each in the Office of the Pacific and the new Office of South East Asia.

To meet Australia's obligations under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, uphold human rights for all and ensure that people with disabilities participate in their local economy and community, disability inclusion and rights must be central in Australia's aid program.

To discuss these recommendations or obtain more information:

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