# ADDC Bulletin: September 2022 edition

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Welcome to our September Bulletin.

Last week, key leaders from our region from the disability movement gathered at the [Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](https://apmcdrr.undrr.org/) (APCMDRR) in Brisbane to share their expertise on inclusive disaster risk reduction, to ensure DRR initiatives leave no one behind. OPDs and other disability stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific developed an [official statement](https://apmcdrr.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Persons%20with%20disabilities%20Stakeholder%20Group_Statement_APMCDRR%202022.pdf) via online consultation before, and in person during the conference. Special thanks to Samantha French as representative of [People with Disabilities Australia](https://pwd.org.au/) and ADDC on her work in building diversity and inclusion in the conference through DFAT’s Inclusion Reference Group! You can follow key moments from sessions at the event by looking up the hashtags - #APCMDRR2022, #APCMCDRR and #ResilienceForAll on Twitter. We will also share the recordings from the conference when they are online soon.

Over the past few months, ADDC has joined the Australian international development and humanitarian community to call on the Australian Government to [help fight famine](https://www.fightfamine.com.au/) and urgently deliver $150 million to support the world’s hungriest countries, including the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria. We welcome the [$15 million announced last week](https://ministers.dfat.gov.au/minister/pat-conroy/media-release/humanitarian-assistance-horn-africa-and-yemen) by Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tim Watts to #HelpFightFamine but more funding support is *critical* to prevent a crisis of greater magnitude occurring. We encourage the Australian Government to include people with disabilities in this and all humanitarian responses.

This past month saw representatives from ADDC and CBM Australia travel to Canberra to meet with a series of politicians, advisors and DFAT officials, including Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific Michael McCormack as well as the development advisor to the Minister for International Development and the Pacific. You can read more about our recent trip to Canberra [here](#LobbyingTrip).

On behalf of ADDC, we thank you for being with us on this journey to a #MoreInclusiveWorld,

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# ADDC NEWS

## Lobbying trip to Canberra

On 6th – 7th September, representatives from ADDC and CBM Australia met with politicians and advisors to discuss [our policy recommendations](https://cbm365au.sharepoint.com/ADDC/ADDC%20Shared/Communications/Bulletin/2022%20Bulletins/ADDC%20Bulletin%20September%202022/bit.ly/3pZmN1n) on how to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities at all stages of the Australian aid development cycle and humanitarian response.  Meeting face to face was helpful in building relationship with key politicians and their advisors as there are a number of people in new roles since the Federal election.

Some of the key meetings included a meeting with Michael McCormack, Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific. Mr McCormack expressed enthusiasm for a bipartisan approach to disability inclusion in Australian aid and shared about our meeting across each of his social media channels that day! Our meeting with the Minister for International Development and the Pacific’s advisor focused on working together to advance Australia’s leadership in disability inclusion. We also met advisors to Senator Birmingham, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs that led to CBM’s CEO Jane Edge and ADDC representatives meeting with Senator Birmingham the following week, who similarly expressed bipartisan commitment to disability inclusive development within the Australian aid program

Stay tuned to upcoming Bulletins to read about developments coming from these meetings. You can read the recommendations we took to them in accessible and PDF forms [here](https://cbm365au.sharepoint.com/ADDC/ADDC%20Shared/Communications/Bulletin/2022%20Bulletins/ADDC%20Bulletin%20September%202022/bit.ly/3pZmN1n).

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

## CRPD holds meeting with State Parties on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held a meeting with State parties on the situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and in countries where they fled following Russian aggression. The Committee received worrying information indicating situations affecting the human rights of persons with disabilities in Ukraine in relation to Russian aggression against that country. The Committee, alarmed by the seriousness of these allegations, decided to make a call for written submissions to concerned State parties and invited them to participate in this public meeting.

[Access full article here](https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/committee-rights-persons-disabilities-holds-meeting-states-parties-situation-persons-disabilities-ukraine-and-countries-where-they-fled-following-russian-aggression-17-august-2022).

## Meeting Asia’s rising demand for disability devices

People with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific face difficulties as access to assistive technologies and services remains unaffordable and unavailable. According to a 2022 [UN report](https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/354357), access to assistive technologies in some low-and middle-income countries is as low as three per cent. Limited access to assistive technologies such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, mobility and communication devices, lack of trained workers, lack of suitable assistive products suited to the user, remain significant challenges in meeting the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly in these regions.

[Access the full article here](https://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/features/meeting-asias-rising-demand-for-disability-devices/).

## Transforming education is not possible without the inclusion of learners with disabilities. The time to act is NOW!

Learners with disabilities continue to be one of the most marginalized groups when it comes to access to quality, equitable education. Compared to children without disabilities, they are 16% less likely to read or be read to at home, 42% less likely to have foundational reading and numeracy skills, and 49% likely to have never attended school. The pandemic and related lockdowns, and armed conflicts have further exacerbated the situation for learners with disabilities. A survey by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) found that 17% of respondents dropped out during the pandemic. Of those who attended remote classes, only 29% found online platforms accessible.

[Access full article here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/transforming-education-not-possible-without-inclusion-learners-disabilities-time-act-now).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Article: Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in Asia-Pacific

Imagine if the only way to find out about a tsunami coming towards your seaside village was via a loud warning siren – but you are Deaf and cannot hear it. Or that the only buses to transport your community in the event of an evacuation could not carry your wheelchair, and you had to leave it behind.

One in six people across the Asia-Pacific have disabilities, and these are just some of the barriers they face.

Located in one of the most disaster-prone regions of the world, Australia is increasingly at the forefront of global conversations around disasters, and this month will host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

The APMCDRR is a chance to measure and reflect on progress towards the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–30, a 15-year agreement to reduce disaster risk, initiated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Read the [full article here](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-asia-pacific).

## Report: Disability and climate change in the Pacific - Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu

This report presents findings from research on climate change and disability coordinated by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF). From July 2020 to October 2021, researchers from PDF, together with in-country resource teams in three Pacific countries, undertook a study to capture the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities.

This research provides important insights on how climate change is affecting persons with disabilities in the Pacific. Findings and recommendations from the study will be used by PDF to build its future programming on the needs of persons with disabilities in relation to climate change impacts, adaptation, and policy mainstreaming.

The research was based on participatory and rights-based approaches to ensure full engagement and involvement of persons with disabilities.

Access the report [here](https://pacificdisability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PDF-Final-Report-on-Climate-Change-and-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf).

## Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022)

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently adopted guidelines on deinstitutionalization. These guidelines guide and support States parties to realise the right of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in their community. They also provide a roadmap for deinstitutionalization processes and prevention of institutionalization.

The guidelines draw on the experiences of people with disabilities before and during the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic, which uncovered widespread institutionalization, highlighting the harmful impact of institutionalization on the rights and lives of people with disabilities, and the violence, neglect, abuse, ill-treatment and torture, including chemical, mechanical and physical restraints, that some people have experienced in institutions.

The guidelines are the result of a participatory process, which included seven regional consultations organized by the Committee. Over 500 persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, girls and boys with disabilities, survivors of institutionalization, persons with albinism, grass-roots organizations and other civil society organizations participated.

Access the guidelines [here](https://cbm365au.sharepoint.com/ADDC/ADDC%20Shared/Communications/Bulletin/2022%20Bulletins/ADDC%20Bulletin%20September%202022/bit.ly/3eLYzp7).

## Report: Empowering People with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine

This study aims to provide quantitative evidence of the current realities of persons with disabilities in the oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, and presents actionable recommendations by which state, international donors and civil society can foster an enabling environment for their continued empowerment. The barriers obstructing persons with disabilities have been compounded in the context of the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, including on some of the most vulnerable groups—women and older persons with disabilities.

Actors seeking to solidify the empowerment of persons with disabilities should focus on combating intersectional discrimination, mainstreaming access to psychosocial supports that are sensitive to gender and sociodemographic characteristics and strengthening equal and inclusive education and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

[Access the full report here](https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/empowering-persons-disabilities-eastern-ukraine).

## Guidance Report: Partnerships for Transformation: Guidance for WASH and Rights Holder Organizations

This guidance report offers insights into effective partnerships between WASH sector organizations and rights holder organizations (RHOs). This guidance provides practical recommendations for effective collaboration in all types of partnerships and is designed to support organizations focused on building or strengthening partnerships to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The report is designed as a resource for WASH practitioners and researchers and for RHO representatives, particularly those from women’s organizations, organisations of people with disabilities and sexual and gender minority organisations.

[Access the full report here](https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/learning-and-resources/resources/KL/Publications/Water-for-Women-TT-Partnerships-for-Transformation-Guidance-for-WASH-and-RHOs-web.pdf).

## Report: What’s stopping women with disabilities from reporting gender-based violence

CBM Australia’s partner, the Cameroon Baptist Convention recently undertook a research project to better understand what stops women and girls with disabilities in the northwest region of Cameroon from reporting incidents of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Women with disabilities are more likely to experience violence than women without a disability and are less likely to disclose incidents of sexual violence and domestic abuse. This report highlights what they found and offers recommendations for civil society groups, and local and international humanitarian actors responding to gender-based violence. The recommendations are relevant in many developing country contexts, including in emergencies.

[Access the full report here](https://www.cbm.org.au/resource/gender-violence-cameroon).

## Applying CRPD standards to programmatic processes: A look at inclusive programming in practice

This paper is informed by this journey of OPDs progressively negotiating a more meaningful place at the decision-making table, and partners transforming their ways of working and the roles typically assigned to Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs). It is complemented by learning and recommendations around meaningful OPD engagement that International Disability Alliance and its allies engaged in during the past few years, through the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network and the 2022 Global Disability Summit. This paper is addressed to development and humanitarian practitioners, international organizations, OPDs, and donors. It gives practical examples on how to operationalize CRPD based inclusive programming in the context of the project cycle.

[Access the full report here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_crpd_based_inclusive_programming_iw_experience_aug_2022.pdf).

## Time for a human rights based approach in Australia’s overseas development assistance program

With a change of government, there is scope to reinvigorate Australia’s aid program to focus on the needs of the most marginalised and adopt a human rights based approach (HRBA).

Hallmarks of an HRBA include that all development programs must aim to realise human rights as established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties. In addition, development programs should assist ‘duty bearers’ (such as the government) to fulfil their human rights obligations, and citizens to claim their rights.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) states that human rights are important and that “Australia is strongly committed to advancing human rights globally”. However, Australia is yet to adopt an HRBA in its overseas development assistance program.

[Access the full article here](https://devpolicy.org/human-rights-based-approach-in-australias-development-assistance-20220830/).

# Webinar recordings

## Day of General Discussion on racial discrimination and the right to health organized by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

During the general discussion by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the intersectionality between disability and race was acknowledged. In the opening remarks to the discussion, the OHCHR representative also emphasized the importance of providing mental health services to persons with psychosocial disabilities calling on ‘States Parties to guarantee access to community services by persons with psychosocial disabilities.’ The discussion highlighted how health care inequalities adversely impact women with disabilities from racial minorities and that persons with psychosocial disabilities from racial minorities are overrepresented among those forcibly institutionalized in inpatient care. Several recommendations were made to recognize the intersectionality between disability and race in health outcome and health-care services.

[Access the webinar here](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1fm1s2f9g).

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

## TCI Call for Memberships

Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI), an independent global OPD focused on the monitoring and implementation of all human rights, for persons with psychosocial disabilities. It is guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), with a special focus on Article 19 (Living independently and being included in communities). It aims to mobilize persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organizations to advocate for inclusion within disability and development. There are two types of membership, and it calls for membership applications from

* Persons with psychosocial disabilities.
* Organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities run by themselves.
* NGOs, INGOs, Cross-Disability Organizations, friends of TCI & technical support agencies who provide a range of support functions for the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the development process.

Types of Memberships

Individual Memberships for self-advocates – [**Click here to apply**](https://forms.gle/Vc9uanMaQ9D9Jwps8)Organizational memberships – [**Click here to apply**](https://forms.gle/cdtPrBc2r1Pi1fSd7)

[Access here for more information.](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/call-memberships-transforming-communities-inclusion-tci)

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## Australian Volunteers Program Connections Hybrid Event

October 18, 2022, 6pm-8.30pm AEDT

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/building-connections-in-hobart-with-the-australian-volunteers-program-tickets-410266446987).

## ACFID National Conference 2022: Healthy Planet, Healthy Communities - Acting with evidence, equity, and inclusion for a resilient future

ACFID | October 26-27, 2022

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](https://acfid.asn.au/content/conference-2022).

## Australasian AID Conference 2022

Development Policy Centre | November 28-30, 2022

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/annual-australasian-aid-conference/2022).

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## ACFID online course 'Introduction to Disability Inclusive Development'

This course is for anyone working in the development sector. It can be used as introductory training or as a refresher course. ‘Introduction to Disability Inclusive Development’ will help you understand:

* Definitions and models of disability.
* Disability inclusion principles and approaches.
* Implementing disability inclusion in development organizations and programs.
* Where to find information and resources on disability-inclusive development.

[Register for this free course](https://learnwithacfid.com/).

# 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 recognizes 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.