# ADDC Bulletin: Special edition for IDPD 2022

Today we recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities in our communities, organisations and around the world. Through our collective work in the ADDC network, this year there is much to celebrate!

We celebrate and welcome the Minister for International Development and the Pacific’s [announcement](#NewDIStrategy) on Tuesday this week for Australia to develop a new disability rights and inclusion strategy as well as committing disability inclusion to be central to the new international development policy currently in development. This comes after an [increase to central disability funding](https://www.addc.org.au/federal-budget-2022/) in the October Federal Budget as well. Thank you to you our members and partners who have tirelessly been advocating for this for over months and years!

We celebrate the vision and achievements of disability rights advocates around our region, a number of whom we are sharing their vision for a more inclusive world via ADDC’s social media throughout this week. Join us in [marking IDPD online](https://www.addc.org.au/idpd/) as well. We encourage you and your organisation to do the same to share how you are working in partnership with people with disabilities to build a more inclusive world. [See below](#SMAction) for more information.

We celebrate the incredible group of disability rights advocates from the Asia-Pacific region who are in Canberra this week bringing their message of equity and inclusion straight to Parliament. ADDC with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DRF/DRAF and CBM Australia have partnered to bring a group of women with disabilities from four countries in our region to Canberra for a week of connecting with politicians, DFAT teams and wider international development sector. More on this [below](#WomenDelegation).

We celebrate our network as ADDC and our collective work to build a more inclusive and equitable world throughout our international development efforts. Thank you to those who contributed to our submission to the Australian Government on their new development policy as well as those who have amplified our recommendations. There is much work ahead, however this week we take note and thank you for being on this journey with us.

For a more inclusive world,

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# New disability inclusion strategy commitment

The Australian Government have committed to developing a new disability rights and inclusion strategy. The Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, at the opening of the Australasian Aid Conference on Tuesday this week affirmed Australia’s commitment to inclusion of people with disabilities in the heart of Australian international development program and the development and release of a new strategy to direct disability inclusion.

In his speech, the Minister outlined that disability with gender and climate change would be integrated across the new international development policy being developed now. He continued;

*On disability, I’m proud that under the last Labor Government, Australia was the first donor country to develop a disability inclusion strategy, which led the way for many others to follow. Yet 13 years on, it’s clear that people with disabilities are too often excluded and left behind. With that in mind, I’m pleased to announce here today that Australia will develop a new disability strategy for our development program. This will follow the launch of our new development policy.*

Read the text of his speech [here](https://devpolicy.org/towards-a-new-development-policy-20221130/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=towards-a-new-development-policy-20221130).

Read ADDC and CBM Australia’s media release welcoming this announcement [here](https://www.cbm.org.au/media-release/an-important-day-for-australia-in-leaving-no-one-behind-in-our-development-program).

# Women’s Delegation in Canberra this week

This week a group of disabilities rights advocates from the Pacific and Asia have brought their message of inclusion straight to Parliament. They will be here all week in Canberra talking about the need to alleviate women with disabilities to lead transformative change in their country. The delegation met with the Minister for International Development and the Pacific on Monday this week (see below for more) and will meet with the Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Mr McCormack today.

Thank you Sovaia Coalala from the Pacific Disability Forum, Melvina Voua from People with Disabilities Solomon Islands, Maselina Iuta from the Deaf Association of Samoa, Purwanti Purwanti from Centre for Inclusion and Disability Advocacy Movement, SIGAB and Revita Alvi from Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI). It is an honour for ADDC to work with you in Canberra this week and beyond to support the realising of the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

ADDC has been working together with DFAT, Disability Rights Fund/Disability Advocacy Fund and CBM Australia over the past weeks to unify this incredible group of disability rights advocates in Canberra and take their messages to Parliament.

# Roundtable with Minister Conroy

A delegation of disability advocates from Asia and the Pacific met with the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, on Monday this week. During the Roundtable, the women shared the barriers to realising rights of women with disabilities in their countries and ideas on how to partner with Australian aid to overcome them to build a more inclusive world.

The delegation discussed with the Minister the need to strengthen women with disabilities’ leadership throughout the region, to build strong networks of advocates to transform discriminative systems and support womens’ leadership at local, national and international levels. In particular:

* Sovaia Coalala from the Pacific Disability Forum advocated for the need for a gender lens on all efforts to meet the preconditions for inclusion for all people with disabilities.
* Purwanti from Centre for Inclusion and Disability Advocacy Movement (SIGAB) raised the need for judicial changes in Indonesia that discriminate against women with disabilities through supporting women leaders and actors with disabilities to be able to advocate for policies changes in their own context.
* Maselina Iuta from the Deaf Association of Samoa shared her story as a child growing up without access to sign language and the need to ensure all children with disabilities can access education.
* Revita Alvi from Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI) raised many women with disabilities in Indonesia face barriers to accessing education, legal and social protection and access to justice.
* Melvina Voua from People with Disabilities Solomon Islands shared recent research by the Pacific Disability Forum on the impact of climate change on people with disabilities in three Pacific countries and outlined steps Australia needs to take to deliver inclusive climate action.

A common theme raised throughout the meeting was the urgent need to address violence against women and girls, with specific inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all efforts. Minster Conroy committed to taking the messages and ideas he heard at the meeting to DFAT.

# My Start Counts: Join CBM Australia’s campaign

Children with disabilities in the poorest nations are among the most marginalised, excluded and vulnerable. They face barriers to health, education and support that so often bind them to a life of extreme poverty.

And too often they are overlooked and not properly accounted for in development efforts. That’s why CBM Australia’s theme for this year’s International Day is: My Start Counts - Let’s ensure children with disabilities count!

Together we can take action to help eliminate those barriers, so children everywhere get the strong start to life they deserve. And we can start by learning more about the situation facing young people with disabilities in our region, and how they are taking action.

Join CBM on Friday 2 December at 2pm AEDT to hear from Jane Edge, CEO of CBM Australia, and for the premiere screening of an interview of two emerging disability leaders from the Pacific.

This is a unique opportunity to learn from the lived experience of Maselina Iuta (Samoa) and Beia Temango (Kiribati). [Register here!](https://www.cbm.org.au/idpd-virtual-event?utm_source=EM2209&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email_1)

Together, we can amplify the voices of children with disabilities to ensure their needs are heard and action is taken so they can achieve their full potential.

# #MoreInclusiveWorld – Share with us!

Over the past week we have been sharing on social media leaders from our region’s response to what a more inclusive world means to them.

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.

We would also love to hear about how to are marking IDPD within your organization.

Remember to use the hashtags #MoreInclusiveWorld #IDPD2022.

We look forward to celebrating over social media with you leading up to and on December 3rd!

# Snapshot 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 #MoreInclusiveWorld and the ways they are marking IDPD.

Thank you for sharing and please keep spreading the word on an inclusive future for all!

## ChildFund building partnerships with OPDs

[ChildFund Australia](https://www.childfund.org.au/) are working in partnership with Organisations of People with Disabilities in Cambodia and Philippines to transform systematic barriers to all children accessing education and health care. Read about their work with Cambodian Disabled People’s Organisation [here](https://www.childfund.org.au/stories/cambodia-disabled-persons-organisation/) and their work with Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC) [here](https://www.childfund.org.au/stories/action-to-the-community-development-institute/).

## Good Return - Ven Ratana's story - Building his business and sharing new skills

“I’d like to see more persons with disabilities getting access to this kind of inclusive loan like I did, so that they can make their own business plans happen.” Ven Ratana, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

[Listen to Ven Ratana’s story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XNcb_fJFIY).

People with disabilities want to start their own business and build their livelihoods, but face physical and social barriers to accessing finance. With 10% of the population of Cambodia living with a disability, it is vital we create a more inclusive financial sector and provide more opportunity for people to be part of the economy.

Ven Ratana, who had polio as a child, expanded his detergent manufacturing business to generate more income after participating in our ‘Education and Access’ project. Ratana received training from Good Return to deliver financial coaching to other persons with disabilities. Using the skills and knowledge he gained, he took a tailored loan for persons with disabilities from our partner, Chamroeun Microfinance plc, to invest in his business. Ratana joined the project through his membership of the Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living (PPCIL). In the last year we have formed close partnerships with four organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Cambodia, including PPCIL, to provide financial education and access to finance for their members to catalyse their business activities.

## UNICEF Australia - “My ability is bigger than my disability”

## This year for IDPD two young people from Timor-Leste, Leo and Lucia, connected with UNICEF Australia Ambassador, disability advocate, and renowned writer, Tara Moss, to share their stories of living with disabilities and what makes an accessible, equitable and inclusive world for every child.

## Hear more about Leo and Lucia’s incredible stories [here](https://www.unicef.org.au/stories/disability-tara-moss).

## IWDA – Disability Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

IWDA has developed their Disability Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2027) that guides the implementation of their programming and other external facing work in support of the goal of their Strategy. Here’s a summary of IWDA’s approach to disability inclusion in their plan:

✔️ Commitment to a rights-based approach

✔️ Recognising #diversity and individuality

✔️ Applying a twin-track approach to disability inclusion (mainstreamed and targeted approaches)

✔️ Working in partnership with locally led Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and WROs (Women’s Rights Organisations)

✔️ Enabling active participation of #PeopleWithDisabilities

✔️ Commitment to ongoing learning and incremental implementation

[Access IWDA’s strategy and action plan](http://bit.ly/3Tzpjrp).

## CBM Australia – Bright Futures report released

CBM Australia have just released their [Towards Brighter Futures Research Report](https://www.cbm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FINAL-Towards-Brighter-Futures-paper-28-NOV-2022.pdf) in time for International Day. This paper provides a summary of research utilising publicly available data on the situation for children with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on what is knowable, based on the data available, in education and health. The paper identifies key recommendations for action by governments in the region, the Australian Government and other development actors.

## ACFID calls for disability inclusion in development

Member of the ADDC Executive, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) are marking IDPD this week on their social media sharing their work and member’s programs to build a #MoreInclusiveWorld and encouraging all to include people with disabilities. Check out their [social media](https://www.facebook.com/acfid) and here are some highlights: and here are some highlights:

* ACFID’s Disability Inclusion guidance is available for download from their website along with the Good Practice Toolkit and webinar that provide practical tips to develop and implement a disability inclusion policy for your organization.
* ACFID [welcomes](https://acfid.asn.au/acfid-welcomes-disability-inclusion-plans/?fbclid=IwAR33hvSD2qe12fhh7bEkJcC1bbLVJYBkwfe4gbRxXkmMVtak0qc95Y1o9QU) the Minister for International Development and the Pacific Pat Conroy's comments yesterday, in which he announced that Australia would develop a new disability strategy for our development program.
* Check out the RDI Network's mini-training for disability inclusion. Download a resource book, watch three short videos, and participate in a FAQ. Access it [here](https://rdinetwork.org.au/resources/skills-for-development-impact/inclusive-accessible-research/making-research-inclusive-of-people-with-disabilities/?fbclid=IwAR1yNRWAgYkYWXHgKd2ijQeOQE1mij2WSt-eB7InADMMXKBUvJmzIv1mk30).

## ActionAid partner for disability inclusion

[ActionAid](https://actionaid.org.au/) has supported members of the Khwisero Persons with Disability Group (KPDG) to receive training in leadership, human rights and business skills, which has enabled group members to speak up for their rights and have greater financial security. Grace, a member of KPDG in Kenya, made and sold more than 1,000 masks during COVID-19 pandemic, bringing her a steady income during tough times. “Before I joined the group, I didn’t know about my rights and didn’t have the confidence to speak in front of people. I couldn’t attend a big forum because of the stigma towards people with disabilities. [Now], I have learned about my rights and can go to any office in search of services.”