# ADDC Bulletin: December 2022 edition

[ADDC news](#ADDC_News)

[In the news](#INTHENEWS)

[New resources](#_NEW_RESOURCES)

[Webinar recordings](#WebinarRecordings)

[Your input is needed](#YourInputIsNeeded)

[Upcoming events](#UpcomingEvents)

[Opportunities](#Opportunities)

Welcome to the last edition of our bulletin for 2022. This year is coming to a close on such a positive note - the Australian Government has now committed to developing a new disability and rights strategy in 2023! This long-awaited news has buoyed celebrations around International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD) this year, providing momentum for our continued advocacy on disability inclusion in international development. We thank you for advocating with us to ensure that this strategy remained a priority for the Government, and we encourage you to join us in an [action of thanks](#ActionOfThanks) to the Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific. We look forward to working with you and continuing our engagements with DFAT on the development of this new strategy in the coming year.

Turning our attention to IDPD, we were thrilled to feature some of our region’s leading disability leaders’ views on what a #MoreInclusiveWorld means to them across our social media platforms. Thanks to each and every one of you who shared our online content across your socials helping to create some noise for a #MoreInclusiveWorld - we welcome new members to ADDC that joined as a result of this activity! We also thank those who downloaded our [IDPD toolkit](https://www.addc.org.au/idpd/) and who gave us positive feedback on this resource. Our hope is that this toolkit becomes an ongoing resource for organisations looking to embed disability inclusion throughout their organization and their development work.

Though much hope is in the air, there’s still so much work left to do. For many of those living with disabilities, the effects of climate change, conflicts and COVID continue to be catastrophic and have only increased the inequality between those with and without disabilities. We must do all we can to address systemic inequalities and ensure no one is left behind.

Our team will be taking a break over December and the beginning of January. The first ADDC Bulletin for 2022 will be in your inboxes in late February. Huge thanks to our volunteer, Swornima Tuladhar, for all her help in drafting the Bulletin – we really appreciate your time and input!

On behalf of ADDC, have a healthy, safe and peaceful time enjoying the company of loved ones over this festive season. We thank you for being a part of our consortium, supporting our bulletin and for your contributions to making our world more inclusive.

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# ADDC NEWS

## 2022 highlights

ADDC is proud to recount some of our key achievements in progressing disability inclusive development as we look back on this year.

In March, ADDC Executive Committee members met in person in Melbourne for the first time since 2020 to plan and strategise for the years ahead. We joined over 70 leading Australian voices across business, aid and health in an [Open Letter on vaccine equity](https://endcovidforall.com/media) to the then Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

We focused ongoing advocacy efforts around securing the DFAT disability budget in this year’s Federal Budget, ensuring that Australia’s international COVID response and recovery work was inclusive of people with disabilities.

In handing down its budget, the [Federal Government retained cuts](https://www.cbm.org.au/media-release/federal-budget-funding-cuts-people-with-disabilities-sustained-third-year) to the aid budget’s central disability-inclusion allocation following years of devastating cuts. With CBM, [we launched a petition](https://www.cbm.org.au/about-us/what-we-do/advocacy) to the Australian Government to restore and increase the central allocation to support disability inclusion in Australia’s aid program to help build back a better world for all.

With the election of a Federal Labor government in May, ADDC welcomed their new strong commitment to rebuilding the Australian aid program pledging $1.052 billion in new funding. The Government committed to increasing ODA as a percentage of GNI every year beginning with the first budget in office due to be released this October and aiming to reach target of 0.5% of GNI.

In June, we welcomed Dunkan Yip to the ADDC Executive Committee as representative for ACFID. Dunkan is part of ACFID’s policy and advocacy team.

July saw ADDC join CBM Australia and a host of community and humanitarian organisations 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.

In August, our Executive Committee with CBM Australia released a [series of policy recommendations](https://www.addc.org.au/file/addc-cbm-policy-recommendations-2022/) to the new Australian Government to strengthen disability inclusion within the aid program including calling for a new disability inclusion and rights strategy as well as increases to disability inclusion funding. These recommendations formed the basis for our engagement with relevant politicians in the coming months. As part of revising our strategic plan for 2023-2026, we consulted with ADDC Members by asking for their input via a survey. We also developed our first Easy Read document – a draft of our strategic plan for member consultation!

In September, ADDC and CBM Australia representatives travelled 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. 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. Our ADDC Executive Committee member and representative of [People with Disabilities Australia](https://pwd.org.au/), Samantha French played a key role in building diversity and inclusion in the conference through DFAT’s Inclusion Reference Group. We welcomed the [announcement](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 of $15 million to help fight famine while advocating that more funding support is criticalto prevent a crisis of greater magnitude occurring.

With the release of the Federal Budget in October, we saw an increase of $3.3 million to the disability central allocation in the Australian aid program restoring it to $12.9 million. The [Australian Official Development Assistance Budget Summary October 2022-23](https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/australian-official-development-assistance-budget-summary-october-2022-23) outlined a $1.4 billion increase to the overall aid budget, with a clear and transparent positioning of disability inclusion in the narrative as a central component of the aid program going forward. The Government [announced a new international development policy.](bookmark://NewDevPolicy) to set the long-term direction for Australia’s international development engagement. ADDC began drafting our submission calling for both specific focus on disability inclusion in the policy as well as having disability inclusion woven throughout all Australian aid.

In November, representatives from ADDC participated in consultation processes run by the Government for the new international development policy. We launched our [IDPD toolkit](https://www.addc.org.au/idpd/), designed to help the international development sector to mark International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD) across online platforms on 3 December. We released our [ADDC Strategic Plan](https://www.addc.org.au/file/addc-strategic-plan-2023-2026/) covering 2023 to 2026 and welcomed [Alison Thornburn from Good Return](https://www.addc.org.au/who-we-are/executive-committee/#GoodReturn) to our committee and farewelled Fifi Rashando who previously held the position.

December saw months and years of advocacy from members and partners finally bear fruit. The Minister for International Development and the Pacific announced Australia will 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. ADDC with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DRF/DRAF and CBM Australia partnered to bring a group of women with disabilities from four countries in our region to Canberra for the week leading up to IDPD to connect with politicians, DFAT teams and the wider international development sector. ADDC and members of women’s delegation participated in the Australasian Aid Conference. We celebrate the incredible group of disability rights advocates from the Asia-Pacific region who brought their message of equity and inclusion straight to Parliament. Lastly, ADDC finalized its submission to the Australian Government on their new development policy.

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

## Action of thanks to Minister Conroy

CBM is encouraging supporters to take part in an action of thanks to Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, for committing to a new strategy to guide disability inclusion and rights in Australia’s international development program.

This news has come after years of advocacy by ADDC, CBM with individuals and Organisations of People with Disabilities - and by supporters like you. Thank you for the role you have played to support this, in being part of our community of changemakers and taking action with us.

This is a significant step in our journey to building equity and inclusion with people with disabilities. There is much more to do. ADDC will work together, with partners, and with you to continue engaging with the government as it develops the new strategy.

We will continue to advocate for it to be ambitious and fully resourced, and to span beyond the aid program to influence all of Australia’s foreign policy areas. At its heart must also be authentic partnership with Organisations of People with Disabilities who are a part of the development and delivery of the strategy.

This is work we will do together in 2023 but, for now, [please join us in writing to Minister Conroy](https://my.cbm.org.au/page.redir?target=https%3a%2f%2fwww.cbm.org.au%2fthank-minister-conroy%3futm_source%3dEM2211%26utm_medium%3demail%26utm_campaign%3demail&srcid=183180&srctid=1&erid=1205a6ca-7743-4522-a768-9960e2baf15c&efndnum=000000483140323&trid=1205a6ca-7743-4522-a768-9960e2baf15c)and thanking him for his leadership on this critical issue.

## CBM IDPD video: My Start Counts

On International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD), CBM launched its powerful [new video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85YbAAhnwQA) – My Start Counts.

Featuring three children with disabilities who are making the most of their education after barriers to inclusion were removed, together we can ensure their start counts – you can help amplify their voices by sharing [CBM’s video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85YbAAhnwQA).

In Asia Pacific region alone, there are 107.5 million children with disabilities, and they are among the most marginalised and excluded in the world. They face barriers to health, education and social inclusion that so often bind them to a life of extreme poverty.

We can and must do more – let’s amplify their voices to help more children with disabilities get a better start to life!

## 15 Pacific Island countries join hands to improve inclusive education

15 Pacific Island countries have launched the new Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Review yesterday to ensure all children, including those living with disability and out-of-school children, have equal access to quality learning.

The Review was designed to advance understanding of the situation of inclusive education in the Pacific, foster cross-country learning and sharing, as well as strengthen partnerships, planning, decision-making and action at both regional- and country-levels.

[Read more about the review](https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/press-releases/15-pacific-island-countries-join-hands-improve-inclusive-education).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## CBM Australia – Bright Futures report released

CBM Australia released their *Towards Brighter Futures Research Report* 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.

[Access the report here.](https://www.cbm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FINAL-Towards-Brighter-Futures-paper-28-NOV-2022.pdf)

## Report: The Cost of Raising Children with Disabilities in the Philippines

This study includes a nationally representative quantitative survey and qualitative in-depth interviews with households and health professionals. The survey fills a gap in national statistics in the Philippines, but it is also a unique survey globally.

Based on the data:

* A child with disabilities needs an expenditure that is 40 to 80 per cent higher than other children without disabilities.
* Poverty rates are 50 per cent higher in households with children with disabilities.
* Only 1 out of 5 children with disabilities in the Philippines has a disability ID card.
* Households with a disability card spent almost 3 times more than those of other households.

While the potential subsidy from the Government is for everyone who has a disability ID card, only relatively well-off households benefited from the concessions. 43 per cent of the subsidy was received by the richest quintile, while the poorest quintile received less than 6 per cent of the subsidy.

The report was produced in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Special Advisory Reference Group, with support from the Australian Government.

[Access the report here](https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/cost-raising-children-disabilities-philippines).

## Brief: Access to Justice for Women with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

The brief has been developed under the ‘[Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific’ Regional Programme](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/governance/womens-access-to-justice), jointly implemented by UN Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Commission of Jurists, with generous support from the Government of Sweden.

Women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are among the most marginalized of the estimated 690 million persons with disabilities living in Asia and the Pacific. They face numerous barriers to full and equal participation in society. This marginalization has given rise to a complex set of barriers for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to access justice. This brief analyses the key barriers women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities face in accessing justice and proposes targeted actions to close the justice gap.

[Access the brief here](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/11/access-to-justice-for-women-with-intellectual-and-psychosocial-disabilities).

## A fairer justice system for women with disabilities: What we learned at our event at the World Justice Forum 2022

Women with disabilities are among those who encounter the greatest justice obstacles yet have some of the most significant justice needs. Women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities face a complex set of barriers to justice due to restrictions on their legal capacity, lack of equal recognition before the law, and questions about their credibility by justice actors and community members.

This document highlights the key learnings and recommendations discussed during the joint event ‘Access to Justice for Women with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities,’ led by UN Women in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway and the International Disability Alliance, during the [World Justice Forum 2022](https://worldjusticeproject.org/world-justice-forum-2022).

[Access the brief here](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/11/a-fairer-justice-system-for-women-with-disabilities).

## Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities

The report calls on WHO Member States to take action to advance health equity for persons with disabilities. It also invites civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and other health partners, to collaborate and advocate for the implementation of the recommendations included in the report and achieve the highest attainable standard of health for all. It offers 40 targeted and comprehensive actions that countries can take to strengthen their health systems and reduce health inequities for persons with disabilities. Regardless of context and resources, all governments and health sector partners need to commit to firstly including health equity for persons with disabilities at the centre of health sector actions; secondly empowering and including persons with disabilities; and thirdly monitoring the outcomes for persons with disabilities.

[Access the report here](https://www.who.int/activities/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities#:~:text=The%20World%20Health%20Organization%20is,Headquarters%20(Geneva%2C%20Switzerland)).

## Disability-inclusive WASH: Practice within Water for Women

Launched this International Day of Persons with Disabilities, this brief consolidates learnings by Water for Women around what it takes to engage meaningfully with people with disabilities in their full range of diversity and highlights how more marginalised people with disabilities can be successfully reached, even when disability inclusion is relatively new to an organisation or team.

To enable all people with disabilities to participate and benefit from WASH processes and services on an equal basis with others requires:

* a combination of mainstream actions and disability-specific actions in and outside the WASH sector
* a transformative framework that engages with power dynamics and supports the social empowerment and inclusion of people with disability well beyond the sector’s traditional approaches
* staff capacity building to understand the needs and interests of people with disabilities.

[Access the learning brief here](https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/news/disability-inclusive-wash-practice-within-water-for-women.aspx).

## Missing Billion Report: Reimagining Health Systems That Expect, Accept and Connect 1 Billion People with Disabilities

This new report builds the evidence-base that people with disabilities are being excluded in health. This includes shocking disparities in mortality and life expectancy, with people with disabilities on average living 10 to 20 years less than people without disabilities. The report presents a vision of inclusive health informed by the perspectives of people with disabilities and a roadmap and the 4 Million Targets aimed to mobilise change amongst health leaders and advocates. SDG health targets including universal health coverage cannot be met without an overhaul of our health systems globally.

[Access the report here](https://www.themissingbillion.org/the-reports).

## Advancing disability-inclusive action on internal displacement

IDMC has led the production of the first collaborative report on internally displaced persons (IDPs) with disabilities in situations of conflict, violence and disasters. The report brings together inputs from CBM, the European Disability Forum, Humanity & Inclusion, the Inclusive Data Charter, IMPACT Initiatives, Ruhr University Bochum - Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and UNHCR.

This report represents a first step toward addressing the paucity of data on IDPs with disabilities. Its findings highlight the differentiated and multi-dimensional impacts of displacement on the lives of persons with disabilities and the intersecting challenges they face before, during and after displacement.

[Access the report here](https://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/advancing-disability-inclusive-action-on-internal-displacement).

## Toolchest for professionals and victims with disabilities

The Toolchest aims to provide practical information and guidance to ensure that people with disabilities who are victims of crime are able to report the crime, understand what is happening during the investigation, and give testimony in their case. The right to be heard and understood, to participate and be informed about investigation and courtroom processes, and to have access to the justice system are rights that all people have in national and international law. The Toolchest identifies the barriers to accessing justice experienced by victims with disabilities, and the practices and support that can help overcome these.

Much of the information in the Toolchest is relevant to all the audiences, but some is targeted to particular professionals, including legal professionals such as judges and prosecutors, social and victim support workers, and others to help them understand and meet their specific obligations to victims with disabilities. Equally important is developing cooperation across professions, including multidisciplinary teams, so that victims with disabilities do not become invisible or fall through the cracks in the system. In that sense, the message of the Voices for Justice project to ‘humanise justice’ is the responsibility of all who work in the system or find themselves in contact with criminal justice.

[Download the Toolchest here in English.](https://validity.ngo/projects-2/voices-for-justice/toolchest-for-professionals-and-victims-with-disabilities/)

# Webinar recordings

## AAC2022 presentations and videos

Presentations and videos from the Australasian Aid conference (AAC2022) are available on the [conference website](https://devpolicy.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6ac2f42002877850c37072a5e&id=55b8ffbc5e&e=c23447a6f5).

[Livestreamed sessions](https://devpolicy.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6ac2f42002877850c37072a5e&id=442a670a8a&e=c23447a6f5) can be watched on YouTube including the Hon Pat Conroy MP’s opening address, ‘Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki’s Mitchell Oration, and the Great Debate.

Day 3 of the conference saw a panel chaired by Michaela Sargent, Chief Executive Officer, Exemplar International on Disability inclusive development: new research and practice insights as well as presentations below:  
  
*Mainstreaming disability issues in prison reform work: experiences and lessons-learned from the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice*  
Mohamad Doddy Kusadrianto, Director, Law Program, The Asia Foundation Indonesia, Eko Riyadi, Director, Center for Human Rights Studies of Islamic University of Indonesia  
  
*The case for disability inclusion in economic development: value for money evaluation of gender and disability inclusive economic development project in Sri Lanka*  
Dr Saba Mebrahtu Habte, Evidence Building Advisor, Viktoria Midelauri, ANCP Disability Advisor, World Vision Australia Prabani Perera, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Lead, World Vision Sri Lanka  
  
*Rethinking disability data in humanitarian shelter response*  
Dr Alex Robinson, Head Disability Inclusion and Rehabilitation, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Leeanne Marshall, Shelter Lead, International Programs, Australian Red Cross

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

## CEDAW Committee calls for inputs for upcoming discussion

At its 84th session (6 to 24 February 2023), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold a half-day of general discussion on “Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems” on 22 February 2023 in the lead up to a General Recommendation on the subject.

The CEDAW Committee welcomes written contributions (not more than 10 pages) and oral interventions (not more than 3 minutes; shared in written in advance), all by February 14th, 2023.

This is a great opportunity to engage and to stress the importance of ensuring women with disabilities' representation and participation in decision making to ensure that their issues are thoroughly considered and included in legislation and policy.

Find more information [here](https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2023/half-day-general-discussion-equal-and-inclusive-representation-women-decision)

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## 7th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability - “Nothing without us: Deepening partnership for an inclusive recovery for the Blue Pacific Continent in a post COVID world”

Fiji | February 27-March 3, 2023

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://pacificdisability.org/prcd/).

## 5th Asia-Pacific Community-based Inclusive Development Congress 2023

Royal Government of Cambodia & CBID/CBR Asia Pacific Network | March 15-17, 2023

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://cbid5.dac.gov.kh/). 

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Independent External Evaluator: Terms of Reference

Disability Rights Fund | Apply by January 9, 2023

[LEARN MORE & APPLY.](https://disabilityrightsfund.org/independent-external-evaluator-terms-of-reference/)

## HRDAP 2023: Apply now for ISHR’s hybrid training for human rights defenders

International Service for Human Rights | Apply by January 10, 2023

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/hrdap-2023-apply-now-for-ishrs-hybrid-training-for-human-rights-defenders/).

## “Stepping Into Program” for students with disability

The Australian Network on Disability runs an internship program which pairs university students with disability with executives in Australian organisations.

Twice a year the Australian Network on Disability recruits university students who meet employers’ job descriptions. The students complete an internship either during their winter or summer semester break to gain practical experience and confidence in the workplace.

Students do a minimum of 152 hours, either as a four-week full-time block or flexibly across a longer period. They work at the organisation’s head office or branch locations giving them a chance to experience a range of tasks and project challenges.

91% of interns reported that they felt better prepared for the workforce after doing the program and 98% of managers who supervised the interns said they would participate in the program again.

[Find out more about the program](https://www.and.org.au/students-jobseekers/start-an-internship/).

# 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.