# ADDC Bulletin: February 2023 edition

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Welcome to the first edition of our bulletin for 2023.

This year is a critical year for ensuring the rights of people with disabilities are central to Australian aid priorities and for the Australian government to deliver on its commitment to ensuring people with disabilities are not left behind in development efforts. Last year ended with the government committing to disability inclusion as a central theme and priority of their international development program. From an increase in the central budget allocation (a good start to advancing the resourcing of this crucial work again), commitment to disability inclusion as central element of the new development policy and thirdly commitment to design a new disability rights and inclusion strategy for the development program in 2023. This year will be a critical year for ensuring these commitments are realised through ambitious strategies designed, clear accountable targets set and resourcing committed. We look forward to working with you, our ADDC members, to advocate for these foundational pillars to building inclusion.

We have welcomed Rebecca Hamilton (ACFID) and Conor Costello (CBM Australia) to the ADDC Executive Committee who have stepped in for Dunkan Yip (ACFID) and Renee Dodds (CBM Australia). Thanks to both Dunkan and Renee for their service to ADDC! Darryl Barrett, the Technical Lead for Disability from the World Health Organization, also spent time with the committee, reporting on the recently released [Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities](#GlobalReportHealthEquity) and the statistic that now 16% of the world’s population experience a significant disability today. Much work is ahead of us to ensure that our health systems at all levels serve people with disabilities well. Please read and help share this report with your colleagues.

ADDC’s Executive Officer and a number of the Executive Committee will be participating in the 7th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability in Fiji next week. This conference, with the theme of "Nothing without us: Deepening partnership for an inclusive recovery for the Blue Pacific Continent in a post COVID world," promises to be a valuable opportunity for those engaged in elevating disability issues in the Pacific region.See our social media next week for updates from the conference.

You can access our submission to the Treasury for the Federal Budget 2023-2024 [here](https://www.addc.org.au/federal-budget-2023-2024-submission-to-treasury/) as well as our submission to the Government’s new international development policy [below](#NewIntlDevPolicy).

If you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin, do contact us. We would love to hear from you.

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

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# ADDC NEWS

## ADDC submission to the Australian Government’s new international development policy

Last year the Australian Government announced its plans for a new international development policy to be finalised in 2023. The policy will set the long-term direction for Australia’s international development engagement as well as deliver on Australia’s commitment to work in partnership with our neighbours to achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

A series of roundtable discussions involving a broad range of development actors from Australia and the region were held in November and December 2022. [Submissions were also invited](https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/calls-submissions-australias-new-international-development-policy) to inform the design of the new policy. Over 310 people participated in discussions across Australia and over 210 written submissions were received by DFAT. Representatives from ADDC participated in a number of the roundtable discussions.

ADDC’s submission to the new policy is available [here](https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/new-international-development-policy-submission-australian-disability-development-consortium.pdf).

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

## Consolidated Appeal Türkiye & Northern Syria

Devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria last week have caused untold damage and loss of life. There is an urgent need for humanitarian intervention. Aid and development groups will be critical to providing urgent support for affected people, including shelter, transportation, healthcare and food. ACFID members are already mobilising and organising their responses.

You can find these responses in ACFID's Consolidated Appeals Page [here](https://acfid.asn.au/consolidated-appeal-turkiye-and-northern-syria/?mc_cid=4c984432ee&mc_eid=8efe41c761).

The [Emergency Action Alliance has launched an appeal](https://emergencyaction.org.au/turkeysyriaearthquake?mc_cid=4c984432ee&mc_eid=8efe41c761) for people affected by the catastrophic earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. EAA unites 15 ACFID members that come together to help respond to humanitarian emergencies.

## Education Cannot Wait announces new US$ 1.2 million investment to enhance education opportunities for children and adolescents with disabilities

Around the world, children and adolescents with disabilities are 49% more likely to have never attended school – this number is especially high for those living in crisis-affected areas. To address this global challenge, Education Cannot Wait announced today a US$1.2 million grant to the International Disability Alliance (IDA). This grant will fund initiatives by the IDA to support the acceleration of equitable inclusive education in emergency for children with disabilities - including those from underrepresented groups, such as children with disabilities and indigenous children with disabilities. The program aims to enhance access and learning opportunities for girls and boys with disabilities through inclusive interventions, co-developed with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

[Access the article here](https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/press-releases/education-cannot-wait-announces-new-us12-million-investment-enhance).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## 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)).

## Barriers to Healthcare Access for Deaf Nigerian Women and Girls during Emergencies

This report presents preliminary research on the experiences faced in health care by deaf women and girls in Nigeria, highlighting the most recent emergency and disaster situation, the COVID-19 pandemic. The report will present several recommendations to reduce the inequities in the intersection of gender, disability, and linguistic minorities.

[Access the report.](https://cbm-global.org/resource/barriers-to-healthcare-access-for-deaf-nigerian-women-and-girls-during-emergencies)

## UNHCHR report: Support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including as a means of building forward better after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

In this report, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/12, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) examines the main elements of support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including as a means of building forward better after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Access the report](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5252-support-systems-ensure-community-inclusion-persons-disabilities?fbclid=IwAR2dQzbstJxpP-8thb_s_glV1yhY_G7xUrARA6aiBmfbz5uujl1zVBTNxaA).

## A three-decade journey toward inclusion: assessing the state of disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific

At the end of the third Decade, ESCAP conducted a final review of its implementation to assess the current state of disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific and renew the regional commitment to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities. The Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023−2032 was adopted at the high-level intergovernmental meeting on the final review of the third Decade held in Jakarta and online in October 2022. This Declaration provides further guidance for the region in meeting the pledge of leaving no one behind through disability-inclusive development.

The objective of this publication is to take stock of the progress made and remaining challenges with regard to disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific. The latest data and practices undertaken by governments, civil society organizations and international organizations have been collated to inform innovative policymaking and programming on disability-related issues.

[Access the report.](https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/three-decade-journey-towards-inclusion-assessing-state-disability-inclusive-development)

## International Review of the Red Cross: Persons with disabilities in armed conflict

Persons with disabilities constitute approximately fifteen percent of the global population – a figure that only rises during crises. Armed conflicts, in particular, generate new disabilities, exacerbate the existing barriers faced by persons with disabilities, and expose the whole community to greater harm. Yet, the experiences of persons with disabilities in armed conflict and the effects of armed conflict on this population are sorely understudied. In addition, discussions of the effects of armed conflicts on persons with disabilities have too often failed to include the voices and perspectives of that community.

This edition of the International Review of the Red Cross aims to reshape the landscape. Its thirty thought-provoking contributions, including many authored by persons with disabilities, jointly take stock of the legal protections (and lack thereof) for persons with disabilities in armed conflicts, and reflect critically how to move the legal and policy debates forward in the next few years.

[Access this resource](https://international-review.icrc.org/reviews/irrc-no-922-persons-with-disabilities-in-armed-conflict?ref=disability-debrief).

## UNESCO Issue Brief: Access to information (ATI) laws - a guarantee of inclusion and disability rights

This report provides an analysis of the inclusion of persons with disabilities or lack thereof in ATI legislation across the globe, based on the existing ATI laws in 132 countries. The report further presents a series of recommendations to advance the rights of persons with disabilities within the scope of the right to information. The report states that the importance of access to information has been recognized as a human right internationally, nevertheless it remains a challenge for people with disabilities. According to UNESCO data, the rights of persons with disabilities are absent from most ATI laws. Where reference is made to persons with disabilities and accessibility of information, the scope of the disabilities covered and the rights secured for persons with disabilities are rather limited, or not always clear. Of the 132 countries with ATI laws examined for this report, 37 explicitly refer to persons with disabilities and their rights to varying degrees. UNESCO suggests countries consider steps towards an inclusive and comprehensive legislative framework containing minimum mandatory accessibility standards that ensure access to information for persons with disabilities, without discrimination.

## [Access full report here](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/access-information-laws-guarantee-inclusion-and-disability-rights-issue-brief).

# WEBINAR RECORDINGS

## Capacity Strengthening of Youth with Psychosocial Disabilities – TCI Global

This webinar brings speakers from Asia, the Pacific, and the African region to call out the issues faced by young people with psychosocial disabilities and build on a common vision for inclusion. This webinar will be one of the instruments to work on the way forward for engaging youth with psychosocial disabilities in advocacy initiatives together.

[Access this webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DVDkMD11-w).

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

## Survey: Lived experiences on living through disasters

UNDRR is conducting a survey that has been designed for a person living with a disability or a caregiver to share their thoughts on living with disasters.

This is a 10-year follow-up to a 2013 survey done by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to ascertain the needs of persons living with disabilities and disasters. Those [survey results](https://www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr/documents/2013DisabilitySurveryReport_030714.pdf) are still cited today.

In this new survey, UNDRR is again inviting persons living with disabilities and other members of society to express their concerns, needs and recommendations.

The background to the survey is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It is the main international agreement aimed at reducing risk and harm from disasters and it mentions persons living with disabilities as key stakeholders.

The purpose of the survey is to review whether the one billion people who live with disabilities and disaster risk today are more involved in planning and decision-making processes to reduce risk or build resilience than they were in 2015, when the Sendai Framework was adopted.

The findings from this survey will be used to inﬂuence the remaining 7 years of the Sendai Framework’s implementation until 2030. In particular, it will help to inform a Mid-Term Review which is being done by countries, regional organizations and the United Nations.

The Mid-Term Review will conclude in May 2023 at a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. Its outcome will be important for future implementation of the Sendai Framework and how much priority is given to the needs of persons living with disabilities. It will also feed into other United Nations meetings and summits on sustainable development and climate change.

The [survey](https://www.preventionweb.net/news/2023-survey-persons-disabilities-and-disasters) will run until Friday 3 March 2023 and is currently available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Indonesian, Russian and Spanish.

Access the [survey](https://www.preventionweb.net/news/2023-survey-persons-disabilities-and-disasters).

## Survey regarding what questions would you like answered on disability inclusive development

The [Disability Evidence Portal](https://www.disabilityevidence.org/) is a platform that summarises current evidence on key questions for disability inclusion in low- and middle-income countries in short digestible briefs to inform the work of policy makers and implementers. However, the Portal needs more questions to answer on disability inclusive development.

Access their [survey](http://bit.ly/3iTY7ae).

The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and your input would be much appreciated!

# ****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****

## GEDSI Advisor

RedR Australia | Flexible and hybrid working environment

[LEARN MORE HERE.](https://redr.elmotalent.com.au/careers/external/job/view/364)

## Senior Human Rights Advisor

International Disability Alliance | Apply by 1 March 2023

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/opportunities).

# 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.