

# ADDC Bulletin

March 2026 Edition



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Welcome to the March edition of the ADDC Bulletin.

Last week I was in Canberra for the launch of the ACFID Report, Australian NGOs as Strategic Delivery Partners: A Sector Review which you can read about further below. I took the opportunity to meet with political and government contacts, including Senator Colbeck and members of the DFAT GEDSI team to discuss disability equity within Australian Aid.



It was instructive to be in Canberra and hear views about the upcoming budget (May 10) in this difficult period of global upheaval driven by the Middle East crisis as it continues to deepen, with devastating consequences for millions of people.

There was also much discussion about the global trend toward cutting aid budgets and the impact this has had on funding for disability inclusive programming. In this content we acknowledge the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to disability equity in its overseas development aid programming, particularly through the implementation of IDEARS through the Stronger Movements Stronger Future initiative.

In very significant news for the ADDC Secretariat, we farewelled Linda Munoz from her role as ADDC Support Officer. Linda has been an anchor for ADDC for almost 7 years and contributed to the strength and vitality of the organisation in many ways, not least of which has been the writing and dissemination of this Bulletin every month! We have included a tribute to Linda below.

In Linda's stead we are now recruiting a part-time Communications Officer to join our ADDC Secretariat. The role contributes to policy development, communications, and member engagement, helping strengthen ADDC's impact across Australia and the Indo-Pacific. We would appreciate if you could circulate this position to your networks. More details are included here and do reach out to me if you would like further information.

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.

In solidarity,

**Kathryn Bloom**

ADDC Executive Officer

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## Farewell and thank you Linda Munoz

It is with great thanks for her service, that I share we have farewelled Linda Munoz from her role as ADDC Support Officer. Linda has worked in the role for almost seven years, and she has made an enormous contribution to the work of ADDC over that time.

Linda coordinated ADDC communications to provide quality information to a growing number of ADDC members and her administrative skills ensured the smooth operation of ADDC. Including, Linda's work on our LinkedIn account has resulted in an impressive growth rate taking us from 50 to 1700 followers.

Linda's passion for disability rights and deep knowledge of the sector shone through her work and she will be sorely missed.



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## Meeting with Senator Colbeck

**ADDC's Executive Officer met with Senator Colbeck in Canberra on 23 March to encourage bipartisan support of Australian Aid.** The focus of the meeting was the importance of including disability equity in the development of the Liberal Party's International Development policy and the significant ongoing impact of continued implementation of the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy.

The meeting focused on highlighting the disproportionate impact of poverty and exclusion on people with disabilities, and the need for Australia to adopt an ambitious, accountable and well-resourced approach to disability equity and rights in its aid program. The significant impact of disability equity funding, particularly in the Pacific, was acknowledged.

It is important that all sides of parliament work towards disability equity in aid programs, and meetings like this are an important step toward achieving that goal.

## ACFID Report, Australian NGOs as Strategic Delivery Partners: A Sector Review

ACFID launched the ANGOs as Strategic Delivery Partners: A Sector Review in Canberra on 23 March.

The Minister of International Development Dr Aly attended as the keynote speaker along with other parliamentarians and many DFAT staff and representatives of international development agencies and coalitions, including ADDC. The report demonstrates how Australian NGOs act as strategic partners, contribute trusted expertise, long-term relationships, and locally led approaches that strengthen Australia's development and humanitarian engagement.

A full copy of the report may be accessed [here](#).



*A group of around 18–20 people stand together at the entrance of a grey building, smiling and waving toward the camera. The group is gathered on steps beneath a rectangular doorway framed by a decorative white border, with a banner above the entrance displaying text in a non-Latin script*

## Historic Climate Action Win: Disability Caucus Secures Official Recognition

**UN Climate Change has officially recognised the Disability Caucus. This significant milestone is a win for climate justice globally.** To address climate change effectively, the solutions must be inclusive.

People with disabilities face higher risks from the impacts of climate change, but they have not had a strong voice in global climate discussions. Recognising the Disability Caucus is a major step in making sure people with disabilities are a part of shaping global climate policies and decisions.

It gives them a clear platform for and avenue into negotiations, including to push for fair access to climate funding for people with disabilities, and be involved in Loss and Damage talks leading up to COP31.

For more detail, please follow the link: <https://lnkd.in/gtAjQDSY>

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## COSP19 Civil society registration announced

**Civil society registration for the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP19) is now open.** Marking 20 years since the adoption of the CRPD, COSP 19 will provide a key global forum for governments, OPDs, civil society and other stakeholders to review progress, share good practice and set priorities for the next phase of implementation in a rapidly changing world.

The overarching theme, "CRPD at 20: celebrating and consolidating achievements and shaping the next phase of implementation in a changing world," will guide discussions across three roundtables: creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities; strengthening resilient care and support systems to promote empowerment, autonomy and independent living; and advancing from participation to genuine representation by enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

The following deadlines apply to civil society participants:

- 2 April: Application deadline for new non-governmental organisation (NGO) accreditation. This deadline does not apply for NGO's that have ECOSOC consultative status or were previously accredited to COSP. Organizations that do not fall under either of the above categories must fill out a form in order to register for future COSP sessions, at the link [here](#).
- 10 April: Application deadline for side event proposals. The application form is available [here](#).
- 8 May: Deadline for registration in Indico for COSP19. All civil society attendees at COSP19 must register with their Indico accounts at the link [here](#).

Participants must also be approved in Indico by their organization's conference focal point by the deadline. Detailed information and instructions on registration can be found at the official COSP 19 [website](#). This website will continue to be updated by the United Nations.

## Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED)

On 27 February 2026, disability rights advocates, humanitarian leaders, and disaster risk experts from around the world gathered for a dynamic and forward looking webinar on the emerging Treaty on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED).

With contributions from the International Disability Alliance (IDA), International Federation of the Red Cross, (IFRC), CBM Global, and regional Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) partners, the event highlighted a growing global movement: one that is determined to ensure people with disabilities are not only protected in disasters, but recognised as leaders in shaping safer, more inclusive societies. Read more about progress toward a treaty [here](#).



*A person stands on dry ground looking toward a damaged, elevated house made of wood and corrugated metal, with fallen roofing panels in the foreground and palm trees surrounding the area.*

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## Recognition Of Opportunity International for Disability Inclusive Finance

**Opportunity's work advancing disability inclusive financial services in Indonesia has been recognised by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs.** You can read the feature [here](#).

The story highlights Opportunity International's collaboration with partners such as KOMIDA, a women's cooperative that now serves 913,605 clients and 885,360 active borrowers, including 17,259 women with disabilities.

Our collective advocacy to promote disability equity and rights continues to build strong momentum across the region. This recognition underscores the meaningful impact of our shared commitment to strengthening disability inclusive practice within the financial sector. This work will form part of the content covered in the upcoming ADDC webinar on Disability Equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector on Wednesday 15 April. For further details see below.

## A Framework for Understanding Disability Support Systems in the Pacific

**The Nossal Institute for Global Health recently released a report investigating disability support services in the Pacific.** This study responds to a call from the Pacific Disability Forum to build a clearer, shared understanding of disability support services for Pacific Island countries.

The report uses Fiji and Tuvalu as examples, and the study looked at what support is currently available, how it is provided, and where the gaps are. This was done through a desk review of existing evidence, stakeholder workshops, and interviews people with disability and family members in both Fiji and Tuvalu.

The outcome is a practical framework and a set of illustrative stories for use by organisations of persons with disability (OPDs), governments, development partners, and service providers to guide advocacy, policy and action that strengthens disability support services for people with disability and their families.

The report was the work of a partnership of organisations and included:

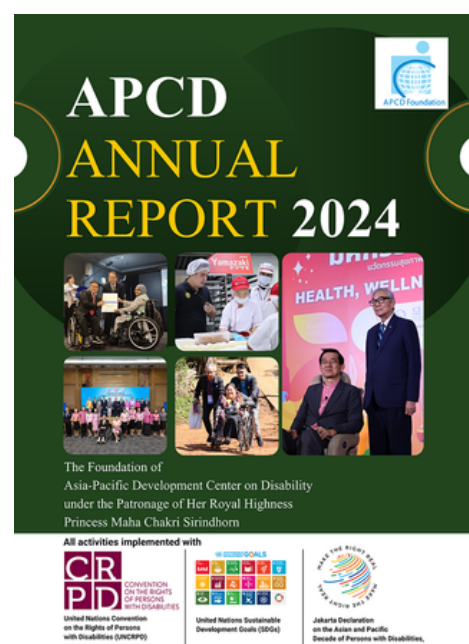
- Fleur Smith, Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Felix Kiefel-Johnson, Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Aleisha Carroll, CBM Australia
- Marion Faleasiu, Fusi Alofa Association Tuvalu
- Senimelia Bulouravuya Seru, Fiji Disabled Persons Federation
- Telesia Kobiti, Pacific Disability Forum
- Laisa Vereti, Pacific Disability Forum
- Sainimili Tawake, Pacific Disability Forum
- Dr. Alex Robinson, Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne

Please find a copy of the report [here](#).

## Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability's Annual Report

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) has released its annual report on activities. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

The APCD is a regional center for those with disabilities and development. APCD was established in Bangkok, Thailand as a legacy of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with joint collaboration of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Royal Thai Government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan.



## **Implementation of inclusive humanitarian assistance and safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of current humanitarian reform processes**

For her next report to the 81st session of the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur will be reporting on the implementation of inclusive humanitarian assistance in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and on how current humanitarian reform processes, including the Humanitarian Reset, can and must uphold States' and other duty-bearers' obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Special Rapporteur seeks to present information on the practical challenges to implementing inclusive humanitarian assistance in line with the CRPD; and measures, safeguards, and good practices that can ensure that humanitarian reform processes, including the Humanitarian Reset, strengthen rather than undermine the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.

To inform her report, the Special Rapporteur invites submissions from States, National Human Rights Institutions, UN entities, humanitarian actors, donors, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), civil society organizations, academics, and other relevant stakeholders. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on the context of the report and guidance on making a submission.

The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2026.



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## **Submissions for a draft General Comment on the Application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Situations of Armed Conflicts**

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have launched a call for submissions for a draft General Comment on the Application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Situations of Armed Conflicts.

The General Comment will address the entire conflict cycle: structural risk and prevention, active hostilities, occupation or effective control, stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction.

It will clarify how Covenant obligations continue across all phases, and how ESCR protection contributes to conflict prevention, humanitarian action, transitional justice, peacebuilding and sustainable recovery. This is an opportunity for organisations of people with a disability to contribute to the discussion.

Please note the deadline for submissions is 15 May 2026.

## ADDC Webinar: Disability Equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector

Join us online on **Wednesday 15 April from 14:00-15:00 AEST** to discuss how a disability lens is opening up financial services for women with disabilities in Indonesia. Live captioning will be available at the event. Other accommodations upon request.

### Speakers:

- Fifi Rashando is the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Safeguarding Manager at Opportunity International Australia.
- Tien Mulyanthi is the founder and Chair of TERALA Foundation.
- Alfaris heads the Social Performance Management Division at KSP Mitra Dhuafa (KOMIDA)
- Rahmatika Febrianti is a Manager at MSC (MicroSave Consulting Southeast Asia).

Register [here](#).

The graphic is a promotional banner for a webinar. It features a teal background with a white box on the left containing the webinar title, date, and time. Below this, a 'SPEAKERS' section lists four individuals with their names, titles, and organizations, each accompanied by a circular portrait. The right side of the graphic is a solid teal area with white geometric lines forming a large 'X' shape.

**Webinar**  
**Disability equity and systemic change in Indonesia's financial sector**  
April 15, 2pm - 3pm AEST

**SPEAKERS**

Name	Title	Organization
Fifi Rashando	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Safeguarding Manager	Opportunity Australia
Tien Mulyanthi	Founder and Chair	TERALA Foundation
Alfaris Amir	Head of Social Performance Management Division	KSP Mitra Dhuafa (KOMIDA)
Rahmatika Febrianti	Manager	MicroSave Consulting SouthEast Asia (MSC)

## Women Deliver 2026 Conference

From 27–30 April 2026, the Women Deliver Conference will be regionally hosted for the very first time—by the Oceanic Pacific—in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia, on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

WD2026 will centre the leadership, knowledge, and lived experience of feminists, First Nations leaders, and advocates across the Oceanic Pacific, creating a platform where diverse voices drive the agenda. More than 6,500 advocates, from grassroots organisers to global policymakers, will come together to share strategies, strengthen solidarity, and shape bold feminist futures.

The conference aims to advance gender equality movements regionally and globally through collective action, powerful dialogue, and inclusive leadership. [LEARN MORE HERE](#).

## ADDC Communications Officer

**CBM Australia is recruiting a part-time (0.6 FTE) Communications Officer for the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC).**

The role supports delivery of the ADDC work plan by coordinating communications, and monitoring disability and development issues across Australia, the Indo-Pacific, and globally. It helps shape evidence-based policy positions and ensures members receive high-quality, timely information.

Key responsibilities include managing the ADDC membership database and website, and providing admin and logistical support for daily operations, events, and meetings. This position plays a vital role in strengthening member engagement, raising ADDC's profile, and advancing disability equity within Australia's international development sector. [LEARN MORE HERE.](#)



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## CBM Policy and Advocacy Advisor

**CBM Australia has an exciting opportunity for an experienced part-time (FTE 0.8) Policy and Advocacy Advisor**, to advance CBM Australia's advocacy agenda by leading policy development, supporting government relations, and delivering evidence-based advocacy initiatives.

CBM Australia is Australia's only international development organisation focused on disability inclusion, our work improves the quality of life of people with disabilities living in the world's poorest communities. CBM Australia's mission is to end the cycle of poverty and disability. [LEARN MORE HERE.](#)



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## Volunteer Public Health and Governance Specialist

Australian Volunteers International is seeking a volunteer to advance policy advocacy for the classification of Type 1 Diabetes as a disability by conducting public health policy analysis and stakeholder engagement.

The assignment is with Humanity & Inclusion (HI), an international humanitarian organization based in Quezon City, Philippines. HI supports people with disabilities and vulnerable populations across the country through inclusive development, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian aid programs. For more information learn more [here](#).



# ABOUT US

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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.

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.

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**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.

**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.*

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Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

**Advancing disability inclusion in Australia's international development work**