

ADDC Bulletin

July 2026 Edition



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the July edition of the ADDC Bulletin.

I am pleased to report that polling closed for the election of the ADDC Executive Committee last Friday and we now have a new ADDC Executive Committee for the next two years.



We would like to thank the outgoing Executive Committee that has served since July 2024. Whilst many members have been re-elected, we have farewelled Fleur Smith from the Nossal Institute for Global Health, Lisa Johnson from the Fred Hollows Foundation and Fhon Williams from International Women's Development Agency.

We would like to sincerely thank them for the time, energy and expertise that they have contributed to ADDC over the last two years. We would also like to welcome our newly appointed members, Jayshree Mangubhai from ChildFund Australia, Mia Calabritto from the Fred Hollow Foundation and Wes Pryor from the Nossal Institute for Global Health.

The combination of new appointments and members who have taken on another term on the Executive Committee provides a great balance of experience and expertise. The complete line-up of the Executive Committee which is the driving force for ADDC to strategically champion disability equity, is provided in the article below.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Bloom
ADDC Executive Officer

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Introducing ADDC's New Executive Committee

We are pleased to welcome the new ADDC Executive Committee, who will commence their two-year term in August 2026. Representing our International Development Organisation, Individual and General Organisation Member categories, the Committee brings together a diverse range of expertise, perspectives and lived experience to provide strategic leadership and governance for ADDC over the next two years.

As a member-led network, ADDC's strength comes from the commitment, expertise and collaboration of our members. We look forward to working with the new Executive Committee as we continue advancing disability equity and rights and strengthening inclusive development practice.

We at ADDC thank all nominees who stood for election and to everyone who participated in the voting process. Your engagement helps ensure ADDC remains a strong and representative network.

Get to know the committee here:

[Our Executive Committee | Australian Disability & Development Consortium](#)



Ben Clare
Individual Member
Elected Member



Fifi Rashando
Opportunity International
Australia
Elected Member



Helen Freris
Blind Citizens Australia
Elected Member



Jayshree Mangubhai
ChildFund Australia
Elected Member



Kerry Clarke
CBM Australia
Fixed Member



Lisa Ira
People with Disability
Australia
Fixed Member



Mia Calabritto
The Fred Hollows
Foundation
Elected Member



Sally Cobb
Individual Member
Elected Member



Tim Harte
Australian Federation of
Disability Organisations
Fixed Member



Ujjwal Krishna
Australian Council for
International Development
Fixed Member



Dr Wesley Pryor
Nossal Institute for
Global Health
Elected Member

UN Committee Calls for Withdrawal of Draft Oviedo Protocol

On 1 July 2026, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities released an open letter urging the Council of Europe and its Member States to withdraw the draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention. The Committee reaffirmed that involuntary placement, forced treatment and other coercive practices are incompatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and called for greater investment in community-based, rights-based supports that respect the dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Read the statement: [Statements, declarations and observations | OHCHR](#)

IDA Annual Report 2025: Advancing disability inclusion through Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in an increasingly challenging global context

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has released its 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the impact of organisations of persons with disabilities in shaping global policies, strengthening national advocacy, and delivering practical community solutions.

In 2025, IDA and its partners contributed to improving the lives of an estimated 23 million people with disabilities, supported 203 OPDs, helped advance 109 disability-related laws and policies, and enabled 904 OPD-led initiatives across 67 countries. The report also highlights IDA's global advocacy impact, including influencing 116 UN resolutions and securing disability movement representation across 55 major global forums and events.

More than half of the OPDs supported were led by women, young people, or other underrepresented groups, demonstrating the growing strength and diversity of disability leadership worldwide. The report showcases how OPDs are driving meaningful change and creating more inclusive societies around the world.

View the IDA's 2025 Annual Report [here](#).



Humanity & Inclusion: New Factsheet on the Impact of International Aid Cuts

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) has released a new advocacy factsheet, *Funding Cuts Turn Inequalities into Permanent Exclusion*, highlighting the significant impacts of declining international aid on organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and the communities they serve.

Drawing on evidence from 177 OPDs across all regions, the publication reveals that shrinking aid budgets are leading to reduced services, disrupted programmes, and growing uncertainty for disability organisations worldwide. The findings show that 82% of OPDs report a high or very high negative impact on the wellbeing of persons with disabilities in their communities, while 79% have experienced severe funding cuts and 72% have been forced to suspend or cancel programmes.

Beyond the statistics, the factsheet shares the lived experiences of OPDs and calls on governments and donors to maintain investment in disability inclusion, strengthen local leadership, and ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision making. As aid reductions threaten to reverse years of progress on disability rights and inclusion, this resource offers valuable evidence for advocacy, policy engagement, communications, and fundraising efforts.

Download the fact sheet [here](#).



Cover of a 2026 factsheet on the impacts of international aid cuts, featuring a sewing workshop with people working among sewing machines and colourful fabrics.

New OPD-Led Resources Launched for Inclusive Education in Emergencies

A new suite of global resources has been launched to support more inclusive education for children with disabilities during emergencies and crisis situations. Developed by Inclusion International and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) in partnership with ASDOWN Colombia and the Fédération Nigérienne des Personnes Handicapées (FNPH), the initiative aims to help ensure that children with disabilities are not left behind when disaster, conflict or displacement disrupts learning.

Funded through Education Cannot Wait's (ECW) Acceleration Facility, the project ran from 2023 to 2026 and produced a range of practical tools and methodologies designed to build capacity, address systemic barriers and strengthen disability inclusive education in emergencies. Resources include the Learning Through Crisis report, interactive learning tools, an Accessibility Audit Toolkit, and family companion resources.

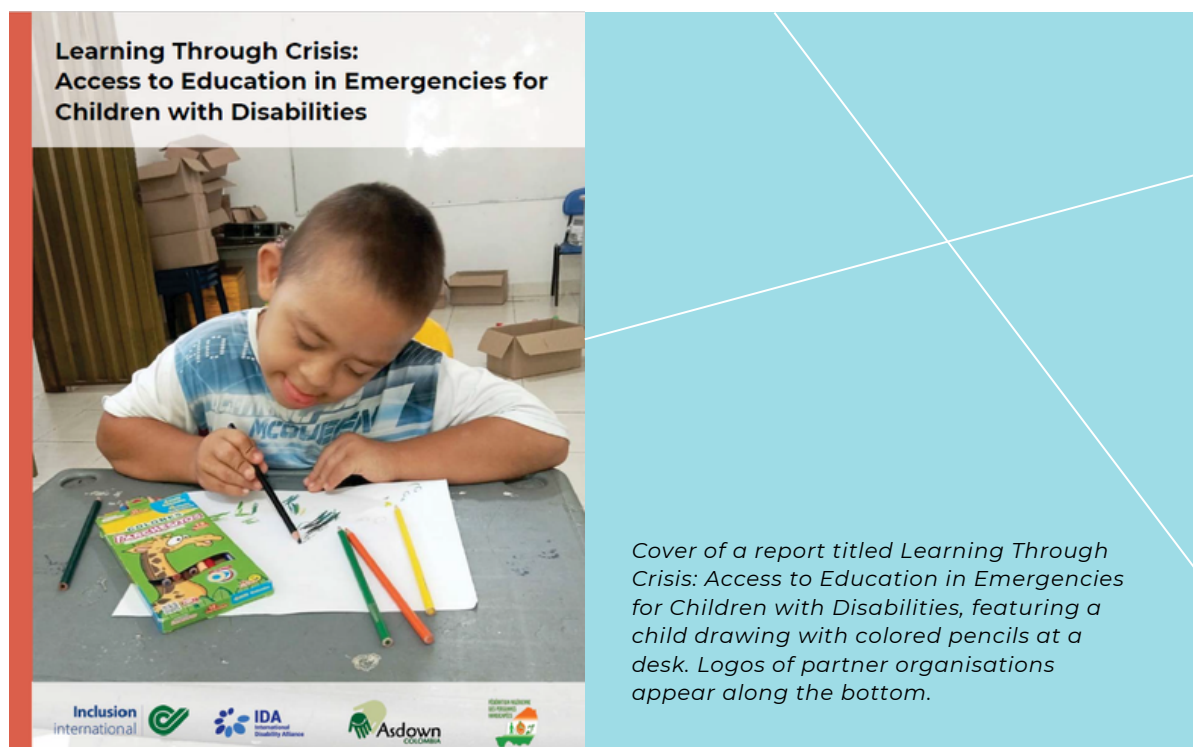
The resources draw on lessons from pilot projects in Colombia and Niger and are intended to support humanitarian organisations, OPDs, educators and policymakers to translate inclusive education commitments into meaningful action.

Access the resources:

Learning Through Crisis: Access to Education in Emergencies for Children with Disabilities

An Introduction to Inclusive Education in Emergencies (EiE): A Learning Tool for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

More resources from Inclusion International [here](#).



Cover of a report titled *Learning Through Crisis: Access to Education in Emergencies for Children with Disabilities*, featuring a child drawing with colored pencils at a desk. Logos of partner organisations appear along the bottom.

TCI Global COSP19 side event: Centering Youth, Women, and Gender Diverse Communities of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in the Deinstitutionalization Agenda

More than 100 participants from around the world joined this COSP19 side event hosted by Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI), in partnership with the Center for Independent Living Kathmandu and supported by the Disability Rights Fund. The event was co-hosted by Women Enabled International, the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalization, the Korean Disability Forum, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Bringing together people with psychosocial disabilities, OPDs, advocates, donors and development partners, the discussion explored how deinstitutionalisation efforts can better reflect the experiences, priorities and leadership of young people, women and gender-diverse communities of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Participants shared grassroots approaches, lessons from community-led advocacy and ideas for strengthening partnerships, technical support and funding to advance inclusive, rights-based deinstitutionalisation.

Missed the event? Watch the recording here:

[TCI Side-Event at Conference of the State Parties – TCI Global](#)

GC-DI: How to Use International Complaints to Challenge Institutionalization under the CRPD

This Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalization (GC-DI) webinar brought together disability rights advocates from Mexico, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Australia and Taiwan to share practical experiences of using UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) mechanisms to challenge institutionalisation and advance accountability. Speakers explored how state reviews, inquiries, and other CRPD pathways can support advocacy, strategic litigation and broader disability rights movements.

Formed in 2021, the GC-DI brings together leading disability rights organisations committed to advancing the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. The Coalition works to promote rights-based approaches to deinstitutionalisation and support global advocacy aligned with Article 19 of the CRPD.

Read more about and access the webinar [here](#) via TCI Global's LinkedIn page.

For more information about the GC-DI, visit their [website](#).

IDA Global Survey: Life 20 years after the CRPD

To mark 20 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Disability Alliance (IDA) has launched a global survey to gather the experiences and perspectives of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

The survey aims to explore the progress made over the past two decades, identify ongoing barriers, and help shape priorities for the future of disability rights. Responses will contribute to a global evidence base to support advocacy and action. IDA encourages members of organisations of persons with disabilities from all regions to participate and share the survey through their networks.

The survey is available in **English, French and Spanish**, and will remain open until **30 August 2026**.

Take the survey here: [iData](#)

Call for Expression of Interest: Collaboration with UNFPA APRO to address Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), alongside NGOs, academic institutions, youth and women's networks, and private sector technology leaders, are invited to submit Expressions of Interest to collaborate with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) on addressing Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV).

As online spaces increasingly become sites of violence against women and girls in all their diversity, UNFPA APRO is seeking partners with proven expertise in digital safety and survivor centred responses. Selected partners will contribute across four workstreams: response, prevention, enabling environment, and research, data and evaluation. The initiative aims to strengthen prevention efforts and improve support for survivors of TFGBV across the Asia Pacific region.

Applications close 14 August 2026. Learn more about the selection criteria and submission requirements [here](#).



ACFID National Conference 2026 — October 12 - 14

ACFID National Conference 2026 will bring the sector together in Canberra on October 12 - 14 to share ideas, challenge thinking, and strengthen collaboration.

With the theme Mobilising the Collective: Reshaping Systems for a Just Future, the conference is your moment to connect, get inspired, and be part of shaping what's next for the sector.

Explore more information on conference, program details, accommodation options and more [here](#)

Register [here](#) .

Australasian Aid Conference December 2-4

The Australasian AID Conference (AAC), will be held from Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 December 2026 at the Australian National University in Canberra. The AAC is held annually in partnership with The Asia Foundation, and it has become an integral part of the Australian and regional aid calendar.

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia, and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy (the AID in the conference title) to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community.

The call for paper is now open and closes on **21 August 2026 at 11.59pm**.

Please see this [link](#) for more information.



Five children stand outdoors in a leafy village setting, looking up at something above them. One child is holding a red tablet while another points toward the sky.

Work with CBM: Communications Lead, Advocacy and Policy

CBM Australia is seeking a Communications Lead, Advocacy and Policy to help amplify its advocacy agenda and international development work.

This role is suited to a strategic communicator with a passion for human rights, disability inclusion and social impact. The successful candidate will understand the power of policy, advocacy and storytelling to drive meaningful and lasting change. Working as part of a collaborative and high performing team, the Communications Lead will help connect the Australian public, sector leaders and decision makers with the stories, issues and opportunities shaping a more inclusive world for people with disabilities.

Apply through this link:

[Communications Lead, Advocacy and Policy Job in Richmond, Melbourne VIC - SEEK](#)



Do you have a resource, report, campaign, project, event or opportunity you'd like to share with the ADDC network?

We're always looking for member contributions to feature in our Bulletin. If there's something you'd like to promote or a resource you think would benefit our community, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your submission to mgabuya@addc.org.au.



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.

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.

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 contained within the Bulletin.

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Connect with us



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

Advancing disability inclusion in Australia's international development work