

ADDC Bulletin

August 2026 Edition



Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the August edition of the ADDC Bulletin.

ADDC's new Executive Committee is off and running. Sally Cobb and Tim Harte were elected Chair and Deputy Chair respectively at the committee meeting earlier this month. We thank them both for taking on these positions and for their leadership.



The first major task of the Executive Committee is to lead the drafting ADDC's strategic plan for 2027-2030. We will be seeking the participation and engagement of ADDC members. To commence the process of working together to prepare ADDC's guiding document and chart the way forward, we will be circulating a membership survey to canvass reflections, ideas and aspirations of ADDC's membership in the next week, so please keep an eye on your inboxes! We would appreciate you taking the time to consider and complete the survey.

ACFID has released two important reports in the last month. *The State of the Sector Report* was launched on 6 August and provides an overview of the sector's size, composition, activities and trends, helping to build a clearer understanding of the work and impact of Australian development NGOs.

The second report *From the Field: Impacts of the US-Iran Conflict on Communities Working with Australian NGOs* has been prepared in response to the renewed escalation in the Middle East and highlights how rising fuel costs, disrupted supply chains and higher prices for essential goods are placing additional pressure on vulnerable communities. I encourage you to read both reports which are discussed and linked below.

If you have resources, reports, campaigns or projects you would like featured in our Bulletin, feel free to send through for our consideration. We would love to hear from you.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Bloom

ADDC Executive Officer

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A CALLOUT TO MEMBERS 12

Introducing ADDC's Chair and Deputy Chair

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Sally Cobb as Chair** and **Tim Harte as Deputy Chair** of the ADDC Executive Committee.

This marks Sally's third term as Chair, reflecting her ongoing leadership and commitment to advancing disability inclusion and rights across the region. Tim brings valuable experience to the role, having previously served on the Executive Committee.

We warmly congratulate Sally and Tim on their appointments and look forward to working alongside them and the rest of our Executive Committee members to advance ADDC's mission and strengthen our collective impact in the years ahead.

Save the Date – Deinstitutionalisation of People with Disabilities: 20 Years of the UNCRPD

Join us for a re-run of the COSP19 online side event, Deinstitutionalisation of People with Disabilities: 20 Years of the UNCRPD – From Rights on Paper to Community-Based Reality. Originally held during COSP19 in June 2026, this event was hosted by ADDC, the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), CBM Australia, Transitioning Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global, and the Psychiatric Survivors Association (PSA) Fiji, with support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The webinar will explore why deinstitutionalisation remains an urgent human rights issue, particularly for people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Speakers will examine the barriers that continue to limit autonomy and inclusion, and discuss the coordinated legal, policy and service reforms needed to advance community-based inclusion and fulfil the promise of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Date: 15 October 2026

Time: 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Speakers: TCI Global, PSA Fiji, CBM Australia and DFAT

Facilitator: Tim Harte GAICD, MRACI, DLI

From Lived Experience to Legislative Change: A Conversation with Sunita Thapa

What does it take to turn lived experience into lasting policy change?

In our first featured story for the year, we spotlight Sunita Thapa, Nepal's first hearing-impaired provincial legislator, whose journey from disability rights advocate to political leader is helping transform the lives of people with disabilities across Nepal.

During a recent visit with ADDC and CBM Australia, Sunita shared how her own experiences navigating barriers as a deaf woman inspired her to push for systemic change. Her advocacy contributed to a landmark achievement in Gandaki Province, the first province in Nepal to pass both a Disability Rights Act and its implementing regulations.



Photo from a meeting between ADDC, CBM Australia and Sunita Thapa discussing disability inclusion and international development. Photo taken at CBM Australia office.

Determined to see change beyond legislation, Sunita went on to establish **Suskera Foundation Nepal**, which advances disability inclusion through education, healthcare, advocacy, capacity building, and community empowerment. Her work demonstrates how disability leadership can create lasting impact, particularly for people facing poverty, geographic isolation, and limited access to services.

For ADDC, opportunities to connect with leaders such as Sunita and facilitate knowledge exchange with members like CBM Australia strengthen partnerships, spark new ideas, and support our collective efforts towards disability-inclusive development across the region.

Read Sunita's inspiring story: [From Lived Experience to Legislative Change: How Sunita Thapa is Turning Disability Rights into Reality in Nepal's Gandaki Province and Beyond - Australian Disability & Development Consortium](#)



Sunita Thapa marches alongside people with disabilities and community advocates, raising awareness of disability rights and inclusion in Nepal.

ACFID releases State of the Sector Report 2026

The State of the Sector Report 2026 is now available, providing a comprehensive snapshot of Australia's international development and humanitarian sector. It builds on the baseline established by the inaugural 2018 report, and examines how the sector has changed and evolved over the past eight years.

Drawing on insights from ACFID members, the report examines the current operating environment, emerging challenges and opportunities, and the collective priorities shaping the sector's future. While the sector continues to demonstrate resilience, collaboration and strong accountability, the findings also point to growing financial pressures, a decline in public giving, and workforce contraction across many organisations.

The report highlights important progress in areas such as localisation, partner-led capacity strengthening, gender diversity in leadership, and collaboration across the sector. It also establishes new baseline measures for locally led development, providing valuable insights into how NGOs are investing in local leadership and shifting power to partners and communities.

Read the report: [State of the sector - ACFID](#)



From the Field: Impacts of the US-Iran Conflict on Communities Working with Australian NGOs

In response to the renewed escalation in the Middle East, ACFID has released *From the Field: Impacts of the US-Iran Conflict on Communities Working with Australian NGOs*. Drawing on evidence from Australian NGOs and their local partners in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Afghanistan and South Sudan, the report highlights how rising fuel costs, disrupted supply chains and higher prices for essential goods are placing additional pressure on communities already facing poverty, food insecurity, displacement and fragile health systems.

The report also warns that disruptions to global trade routes are affecting access to medicines and medical equipment, increasing the cost of delivering aid, and threatening essential services such as healthcare, emergency response and food security. These impacts are being felt most acutely by vulnerable and remote communities, where rising costs can limit access to healthcare, education and other basic services.

Read the report [here](#).

Read ACFID's media release [here](#).



IDA Online Learning Academy – New Course

This course is a primer on the core articles (Articles 3–33) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Articles 3–33 outline the rights of persons with disabilities and the responsibilities of governments to protect, promote and fulfil those rights.

The course is designed for anyone looking to understand these articles clearly and to become familiar with how they are interpreted and applied in practice.

Whether you are new to the CRPD or building on existing knowledge, this course allows you to engage at your own pace and depth, offering a clear foundation while also opening pathways to explore the jurisprudence, interpretation, and real-world application of each article.

To enrol, please register here: [CRPD A to Z](#)

IDA: Advancing equity in sexual and reproductive health and rights for persons with disabilities

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) released its new paper which outlines practical recommendations for governments, health systems, donors and organisations of persons with disabilities to make sexual and reproductive health and rights a reality for everyone.

Access the paper here:

[Advancing equity in sexual and reproductive health and rights for persons with disabilities v3.pdf - Google Drive](#)



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](#)

OHCHR: Annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities – twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is seeking contributions to a study marking the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The study will examine lessons learned, progress achieved, and ongoing challenges in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities over the past two decades.

OHCHR invites submissions from civil society organisations, including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, national human rights institutions, regional organisations, academia, international organisations, and other relevant stakeholders.

Contributions may address topics such as accessibility, equality and non-discrimination, legal capacity, independent living and community inclusion, education, health, employment, access to justice, and participation in political and public life, among other rights covered by the Convention.

Deadline: 1 September 2026, 6:00 PM (Geneva time)

Submit to: ohchr-registry@un.org.

For full details and instruction on how to make a submission, see the OHCHR call for input:

[OHCHR | Call for input: Annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities – twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

From Commitment to Action: Financing Inclusive Education for Every Child

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), invites you to a webinar on financing inclusive education for children with disabilities.

As the major funding replenishments for the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) approach, this discussion will explore how education financing can better reach learners with disabilities, and the practical actions needed to strengthen accountability and inclusion.

Join representatives from donor governments, multilateral agencies, OPDs and development partners to discuss solutions for advancing disability inclusive education.

Date: 10 September 2026

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM GMT+1

Format: Online | Interpretation available

Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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.

Consultant Opportunity: Inclusive Climate Finance & Local Access

CBM Global Disability Inclusion Federation is seeking an experienced consultant or small team to lead a research project examining how global climate finance reaches national and local levels, and how access can be improved for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).

The research will inform advocacy at COP31 and beyond, supporting efforts to advance more accessible, accountable, and locally led climate finance. The assignment includes analysing climate finance mechanisms in Kenya, Indonesia, and Nepal, identifying barriers and enabling factors for local actors, and contributing to an accessible policy report on what inclusive climate finance looks like in practice.

Deadline for completion: 30 September 2026

Location: Remote consultancy

Indicative budget: EUR 20,000

CBM Global is particularly interested in candidates with experience in international climate finance, policy-focused research, governance and accountability mechanisms, and engagement with climate policy processes and stakeholders. Expertise in disability inclusion is not required, as this will be supported through collaboration with CBM Global and partners.

Apply here: [**Consultant Opportunity: Inclusive Climate Finance & Local Access | CBM Global**](#)

Australian Volunteers Program: Preparing for Your Volunteer Journey

Interested in volunteering overseas? Join the Australian Volunteers Program online on 27 August, Thursday, 6:30–7:30 pm AEST, for a practical session on navigating the volunteer journey, from strengthening your application to preparing for your first assignment. Hear from recruitment specialists Leanne Dowler and Mmasechaba Mabunda, who will share insights from their extensive experience supporting volunteers and partner organisations across Australia and Southern Africa.

The session is a great opportunity to ask questions, hear real stories, and learn whether international volunteering could be part of your next adventure. Registrations are now open.

Date: 27 August 2026

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM AEST (Melbourne)

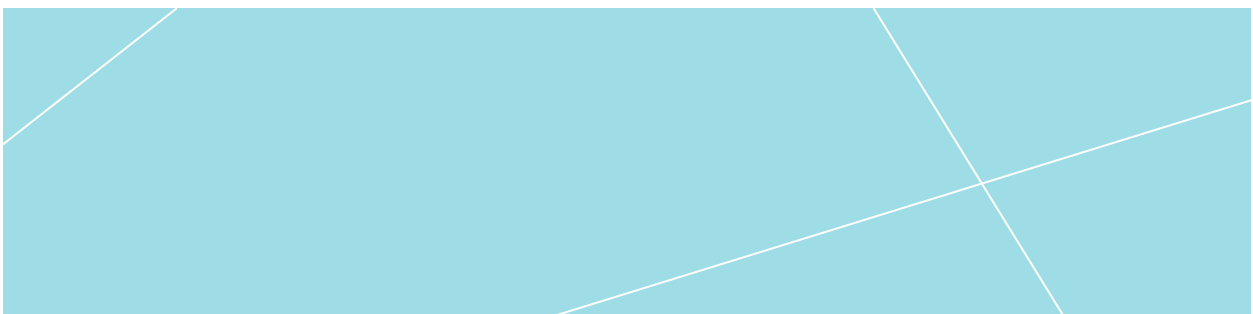
Format: Online

Register here: [**Australian Volunteers Program Online Session: How to Apply**](#)

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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Australian **Disability+Development** Consortium

Advancing disability inclusion in Australia's international development work