



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

*Rebuilding disability inclusion in
Australia's International Development Program*

In 2015, world leaders united behind an inspiring, ambitious and inclusive agenda which would leave no one behind in the journey towards sustainable development and a better future by 2030. Yet today, there are undeniably many who continue to be left behind.

People with disabilities comprise around 15% of the global population. They are women and men, boys and girls, they are young and old, they are all ethnicities, in all circumstances, all orientations and all characteristics. People with disabilities are also disproportionately represented in every under-served and vulnerable group and disproportionately impacted by crises and shocks.

COVID has derailed development efforts worldwide; it has been catastrophic for people with disabilities. They are some of the most marginalised, who due to higher rates of poverty, will also experience the reality of climate change through increased natural disaster, food insecurity and displacement. Australia must play its part to stem the tide of global poverty

and exclusion and achieve a sustainable, safe and prosperous future for all.

Australia's peak representative body on disability inclusion in the aid program, the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC), and leading disability-inclusive international development agency CBM Australia, welcome the new Government's commitment to rebuilding Australia's international development program and ensuring it addresses the 'empowerment of people with disabilities.' The 46th Parliament of Australia has an opportunity to ensure Australia's values of fairness and equality are reflected in its international development program. To do so, the inclusion of people with disabilities must be a central tenet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To meet Australia's obligations under Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and in line with obligations under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, disability inclusion and rights must be central in Australia's international development.

ADDC and CBM Australia urge the government to re-establish Australia's international leadership in disability inclusion, by implementing the 11 recommendations following.

A summary table is available at Annex 1.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

People with disabilities central to Australia's international development program

“Nothing about us without us” is the core principle of the disability movement. Supporting local, regional and global Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) is a key investment in universal application of disability rights now and in the long-term. Actively engaging and working with people with disabilities and funding OPD core costs is the most effective way to increase their social and economic participation and inclusion in aid programs. The Government has signalled its intention to develop a First Nations Foreign Policy. A key part of this should be partnering with Indigenous people, including Indigenous people with disabilities, within their countries to deliver our aid program. National, regional and local OPDs, incorporating Indigenous communities, are a critical link to achieving this effectively.

As experts in understanding their context and identifying their own priorities, needs and capabilities, OPDs have a valuable role to play in building innovative solutions. To effectively partner with OPDs, the Government must redefine its relationship with local partners from end-of-the-line service providers to authentic partners with valued local expertise and leadership. It must move beyond ‘consultation and participation’ to achieve truly empowered local leadership and decision making. This will include investing in productive dialogue and opportunities for engagement and learning from OPDs. Some mechanisms to explore include:

- targeted civil society organisation capacity building programming;
- using INGOs or peak bodies to mentor and build organisational capacity;
- creating more pooled funding arrangements to share risk;
- shifting the narrative around who has expertise by inviting more frequent dialogue between DFAT staff and OPDs and;
- having OPDs and disability inclusive businesses facilitate capacity building on disability rights and inclusion for DFAT staff.

Furthermore, together with the disability movement we have many shared success stories, which have not yet been collected and which could contribute to global discourse, evidence and best practice. There is great potential to use these stories to celebrate the achievements of Labor's legacy in disability inclusive development and as a baseline to inform future policy and programming.

ADDC and CBM Australia recommend DFAT uses both rights-based and strengths-based lenses in developing innovative programs with people with disabilities and includes partnering with people with disabilities and disability inclusive development as a core tenet of the new international development strategy.

Disability inclusive development – rebuilding a Labor legacy

The Australian Labor Party forged Australia's global leadership in partnering with and ensuring people with disabilities are included in Australia's international development work. Bob McMullan, as Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance (2007–2010), was the first politician to champion disability-inclusive development. He drove the development of the internationally acclaimed *Development for All strategy* in 2009, making Australia the first donor country to have a standalone strategy for disability inclusive development. This strategy created the foundation for the more ambitious *Development for All 2015–2020* furthering Australia's commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities. This framework, along with consistent core funding of around \$12.9 million per year (a large proportion of which went to global initiatives), and strong, visible international advocacy and influencing, provided the basis for Australian leadership at a global level. The significant impact of the *Development for All* strategies on the lives of people with disabilities in low and middle income countries and the subsequent standing of Australia as an international leader on disability inclusion is a proud legacy of past Labor Governments.

From this strong foundation, however, there has more recently been a decline in funding, disability performance and now a lack of strategic direction with the current *Development for All* having expired at the end of 2021, leaving a major policy gap in

Australia's international aid program. The launch of an ambitious third strategy, and the rebuilding of the disability inclusion budget, are critical next steps to achieving a truly disability inclusive international development program that ensures no one is left behind and enables Australia to reclaim its global influence in this space.

Restore and increase DFAT's central disability allocation with growth forecast in line with GNI

Recent cuts of 25% to the central disability allocation in the Australian aid budget have signalled that we are turning away from our commitment to uphold the rights of people with disabilities. The central disability allocation must be increased to a minimum of \$14 million per annum in FY2022–23 and slowly increase going forward. While a relatively modest amount in the overall aid budget, the central disability allocation is significant in providing core resources for disability inclusion across the aid program and globally.

TABLE 1: CENTRAL DISABILITY ALLOCATION FUNDING 2016–CURRENT

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21*	2021/22*	2022/23*
Disability inclusion central allocation	\$ 12.9m	\$12.9m	\$12.9m	\$12.9m	\$12.1m	\$9.6m	\$9.6m**
% of total ODA	0.32%	0.32%	0.29%	0.32%	0.28%	0.22%	0.21%

* includes temporary and targeted measures

** announced in Coalition's FY2022–23 budget



RECOMMENDATIONS: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

In order to reprioritise the empowerment of people with disabilities in Australia's international development program, ADDC and CBM Australia recommend the Australian government:

1. Launches a new, ambitious and multi-year Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy in 2022 by:

- a. Providing DFAT with immediate authority and funding to continue developing a new disability inclusion and rights strategy in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations, alongside Australian and global aid actors.
- b. Establishing leadership, partnership and empowerment of people with disabilities as a major priority in the new International Development strategy.
- c. Launching a new Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy in 2022 on International Day of Persons with Disability (December 3rd) and then implementing and monitoring the strategy.
- d. Establishing mechanisms for disability rights and inclusion-based budget planning and spending that upholds the 'do no harm principle' and does not further the segregation and exclusion of groups of people with disabilities, particularly people with cognitive disabilities.¹

2. Increases core funding for disability inclusion by:

- a. Increasing the central disability allocation to minimum of \$14m in FY2022–23 budget.
- b. Increasing central disability allocation to minimum of \$14.4m in FY2023–24 budget – and increase in line with GNI thereafter.



A group of students in Kenya participating in a CBM-supported school health club initiative.

TWIN-TRACK PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITISATION – MAINSTREAM AND DISABILITY INCLUSION SPECIFIC

It is critical Australia adequately prioritises and funds both disability specific initiatives and mainstream inclusion activities. The inclusion of people with disabilities across mainstream programs has been substantially decreased in recent years.

Funding in country and regional programs has fallen from \$125.8m in 2013–14 to \$97.7m in 2020–21 and now constitutes just 2.14% of total ODA.

Funding for disability inclusion is vital to maintaining Australia's strong credibility and reputation for being an ambitious global leader in disability inclusive development. The 2017 Office of Development Effectiveness evaluation confirmed that at the time Australia was seen as an influential and credible leader in this field.²

However, this report cautioned that ongoing investment in disability was required to secure Australia's hard-won wins and strong standing in disability inclusion. Now is the time to reverse the trend and rebuild an inclusive Australian aid program that works to break the cycle of poverty and disability.

TABLE 2: TOTAL DFAT SPEND PROGRAMS WITH 'SOME LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS'³

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
\$125.8m	\$127.2m	\$106.4m	\$106.0m	\$110.1m	\$109.2m	\$102.3m	\$97.7

Facilitate the establishment of a regional partnership for disability inclusion in the Pacific to accelerate the implementation of the *Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016–2025 (PFRPD)*

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have expressed commitment towards addressing the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Governments in the region have jointly adopted the 2016–2025 Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD). Different countries have made some progress in a range of areas but as noted in the latest *Pacific Disability Forum SDG-CRPD Monitoring Report 2018*:

“Most countries have prioritised only few issues and there has been to date little steps taken towards the comprehensive regulatory changes, service development and public resource allocations

required to ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.”

A Pacific partnership to accelerate implementation of the PFRPD would provide greater coordination of resources and priorities, better sharing of lessons from examples of good practice, and economies of scale for service provision. A strong partnership approach – seeking buy-in from a range of donors, implementing partners and PIC governments – will enhance coordination, scale and efficiency in how resources are allocated and further the rights realised for people with disabilities in the Pacific.

Impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities

The COVID-19 pandemic had a catastrophic impact on people with disabilities. The World Health Organisation, along with OPDs, report that people with disabilities are among the hardest

hit by the pandemic: experiencing higher rates of job losses and food insecurity, and face immense challenges in protecting themselves from the virus.⁴ Furthermore, women and children with disabilities, particularly girls, faced increasing rates of violence and food insecurity.⁵ Without increasing strategic intervention, the inequalities widen by the pandemic will continue to push people with disabilities and their families deeper into poverty.

The pandemic has validated the logic of focusing on *preconditions* to inclusion or on specific interventions with and for people with disabilities. This means laying the foundations for people with disabilities to be included in mainstream services and all aspects of community life, such as the provision of assistive devices (e.g. a wheelchair, walking cane), access to information and communication in accessible formats, and accessible health and transport infrastructure.

Outside of a time of crisis or pandemic people with disabilities in low-income countries face additional barriers to finding work and are unemployed at higher rates than people without disabilities. In Asia and the Pacific the unemployment rate of people

with disabilities is usually double that of the general population and often as high as 80% or more.⁶ Women with disabilities face significantly more difficulties accessing employment than men.⁷

There is an urgent and critical need for increased investments in economic inclusion for people with disabilities to strengthen their livelihoods and resilience as part of the region's economic recovery from COVID-19. Investment in social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities advances the human rights of people with disabilities, supports localisation, and makes aid programs more effective.

People with disabilities are asking for opportunities to identify their strengths to contribute to, and grow, their local economy, and not just be seen as aid recipients but as economic agents. They are the actors with lived experience of what approaches do and do not work with respect to tackling inequality, as well as in international and local public and private sector investments that aim to advance social and economic inclusion. By not including people with disabilities as actors, informants and decision makers, we remain uninformed.



Som, 57 years old, from Nepal, accessed essential supplies through CBM and our partners that kept him and his family going despite the devastating pandemic.

RECOMMENDATIONS: TWIN-TRACK PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITISATION – MAINSTREAM AND DISABILITY INCLUSION SPECIFIC

In order to reprioritise the empowerment of people with disabilities in Australia's international development program, ADDC and CBM Australia recommends the Australian government:

3. Increases mainstream programming which is marked as focussing on including people with disabilities by:

- a. Committing to establishing a target for disability inclusion in Australia's international development and humanitarian program.
- b. Increasing mainstream spend from 2.14% of ODA (FY2020–21) to 3% in FY2022–23 – and by 1% annually thereafter.
- c. Exploring additional capacity building and funding mechanisms for partnering with local OPDs.

4. Together with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), establish a *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific (PIP)*, a regional group of key partners to coordinate action and mobilise financial resources to accelerate the implementation of the *Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016–2025 (PFRPD)*. First steps include:

- a. Establishing together with PIFS and PDF a scoping study to guide action on a regional group of key partners to enhance and coordinate support for increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian action across the Pacific. This was a part of [Australia's suite of commitments at the 2022 Global Disability Summit](#).
- b. Leading coordination of donors to fund programs under the PIP, including piloting the DFAT-funded and PIFS-endorsed Accessibility Blueprint in one Pacific nation.

5. Furthers the implementation of the CRPD across the Pacific by working with partners to improve the availability, choice, affordability and quality of assistive technology across the region by:

- a. Committing to investing in the three recommendations of the [Pacific Assistive Technology Procurement Study](#).
- b. Supporting the establishment of an assistive technology resource facility in the Pacific, with the initial step of co-hosting discussions with stakeholders, as outlined in the Pacific Assistive Technology Procurement Study.

6. Invests in socio-economic livelihoods for people with disabilities by:

- a. Committing to an additional \$10 million over the forward estimates in livelihoods and resilience for people with disabilities as part of the recovery from COVID-19.
- b. Setting an ambitious target for socio-economic disability inclusion in Australia's international development and humanitarian program.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES – PROGRAMMING

Increase prioritisation of people with disabilities in humanitarian crises and disaster risk reduction and recovery

Close to 200 million people globally are affected by disaster events each year.⁸ This is increasing due to climate change. Everyone deserves to have equal access to safety during disasters, yet people with disabilities are often the worst affected when a disaster strikes. People with disabilities are at higher risk of being injured or losing their lives during a disaster. They may not be able to get to safety on their own and may be left behind by their families. People with disabilities also face additional barriers that can make it harder for them to recover from a disaster event and rebuild their homes and livelihoods. People with disabilities are also particularly impacted by disasters because they are more likely to experience higher rates of poverty, which impacts their ability to prepare for, and recover from, disasters.

A combination of factors increases the risk and vulnerability of people with disabilities in disasters including:

- The impact of their impairments;
- Barriers within their environments and communities; and
- Local laws and policies.

People with disabilities need to be meaningfully represented in decision-making on disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programming and that their needs are included in all stages of DRR planning and activities.

Increase support for women and girls with disabilities

As an integral part of the new international development commitment to target 80% of all aid programming toward women and girls, disability inclusion must be front and centre. Women and girls with disabilities face compounded and intersectional marginalisation together with multiple barriers to inclusion. An intersectional analysis should underpin our aid program and must be applied to all social

inclusion, as the identities that make up individuals and communities are multilayered, interdependent and can define their experience. For example, it is difficult to address violence against women with disabilities without understanding how disability affects gendered social roles. Understanding power and the systems of marginalisation that perpetuate inequality is critical to intersectional analysis. Investing in intersectional research and analysis is a valuable and highly progressive way for Australia to engage in and lead global fora.

Furthermore, globally, gender-based violence against women with disabilities has increased during the pandemic and substantial increased investment is the first step to addressing these urgent and heightened risks to human and community development.

Increase support to mitigate the impact of climate change on people with disabilities

People with disabilities, especially those living in poverty, are among those hardest hit by climate change. There has already been an increase in the frequency and severity of humanitarian crises like floods, hurricanes and droughts due to climate change. People with disabilities are more likely to live in areas prone to disasters because they are more likely to be poor. They are four times more likely than those without disabilities to lose their lives because of natural disasters.⁹

The greatest threat and burden of climate change will fall on the world's poorest people – who have done the least to cause it. [Some estimates have suggested 20% of those most vulnerable to climate change are people with disabilities.](#)¹⁰ People with disabilities – especially women and children – and their representative organisations must be supported to be included in global, national and local responses. This is particularly important when investing in policies and plans for the physical and social infrastructure needed for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. People with disabilities and their representative organisations need to be partners in these conversations and in planning and delivery. All Australian climate change policy, programming and finance should be directed towards mitigation and adaptation actions that are inclusive of, and accessible to, people with disabilities.



RECOMMENDATIONS: THEMATIC PRIORITIES – PROGRAMMING

In order to reprioritise the empowerment of people with disabilities in Australia's international development program, ADDC and CBM Australia recommends the Australian government:

7. Increases prioritisation of people with disabilities in humanitarian crises and disaster risk reduction and recovery by:

- a. Resourcing Australian Humanitarian Partnership *Disaster Ready* to scale up engagement and participation of OPDs.
- b. In FY2023–24 bolstering resources to the World Food Program to ensure people with disabilities are not left behind in food security efforts.

8. Increases support to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for people with disabilities by:

- a. Joining the disability-inclusive climate working group within the GLAD network.
- b. Pursuing a disability-inclusive, rights and strengths-based approach to climate action and adaptation with a focus on climate resilient livelihoods and disaster-preparedness working in partnership with OPDs and disability-inclusive business, to address key areas identified by local people with disabilities.

9. Increases support for women and girls with disabilities by:

- a. Committing to scaling up programming that protects women and girls with disabilities from sexual and gender-based violence and supports victim-survivors in partnership with OPDs.
- b. Rebuilding international development capabilities across DFAT that enables DFAT to take a leading role in designing, delivering and evaluating aid investments to inform policy and programming that take into account intersectionality.



Deu, 39 years old, from Nepal, was identified by CBM Partner, Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA), and offered sewing training along with other women with disabilities.

FOUNDATIONAL – DFAT EXPERTISE AND TRANSPARENCY

Widening and deepening DFAT expertise in disability inclusive development

For people with disabilities to be included in and benefit from Australian aid, DFAT must have long-term expertise in-house and on-going partnerships with OPDs. Such expertise and partnerships are core to Australia delivering aid through a human rights-based approach in line with obligations under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

While DFAT has a highly competent disability inclusion team, most resourcing and programming comes from other parts of the department who have limited expertise and experience in disability inclusion. A foundational understanding of disability-inclusive development remains critical. There is a lot of potential for widening and deepening expertise, for example by appointing disability advisors based in the Office of the Pacific and the to-be-established Office of South East Asia. Having expertise in these teams will ensure people with disabilities are central to any regional or country initiatives and tailored advice can be provided.

Transparent reporting of disability inclusion funding within the aid program

Fostering an evidence-based and transparent approach to disability inclusion will deepen understanding of the drivers of change in disability inclusion and provide avenues to see the cycle of poverty and disability broken for people with disabilities living in poverty, their families and communities. This must include supporting the development of knowledge products and evidence, building the capacity of local OPDs, and gathering and sharing internal practices and lessons learned. Australia must commit to restoring effective reporting of disability-inclusive aid expenditure, to provide an objective and measurable framework to guide progress.



RECOMMENDATIONS: FOUNDATIONAL – DFAT EXPERTISE AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to reprioritise the empowerment of people with disabilities in Australia's international development program, ADDC and CBM Australia recommends the Australian government:

10. Deepens DFAT expertise in disability inclusive development by:

- a. Committing to re-establishing regional disability inclusion expert advisors or units within DFAT to provide direction and coordinated advice to Posts (one disability inclusion advisor/unit each in Office of the Pacific and the new Office of South East Asia).
- b. Committing to re-establishing an advisory group to increase Australia's partnership with and accountability to people with disabilities, including diverse representation across a range of ages, identities, orientations and ethnicity, and drawn from both public and private sector organisations that represent people with disabilities (OPDs) in the Asia-Pacific.
- c. Increasing DFAT core departmental budget for staff and associated support costs to enable the effective implementation, monitoring, training and advocacy to support disability inclusion both in Canberra and at regional posts.
- d. Appointing a person with disabilities as Australia's first Global Ambassador for Disability Inclusion and Rights.

11. Increase transparency by:

- a. Committing to restoring transparent and timely public reporting of aid expenditure, including separate reporting of the central disability allocation and accounting against the OECD DAC Disability policy marker.
- b. Releasing a comprehensive Australian Aid Budget Summary, with central disability allocation as a separate budget line in FY2023–24 Federal Budget.
- c. Reporting on disability performance in Australia's international development program.



CBM partner, Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA) distributed Health Hygiene support at Nepal Disabled Association, targeting people with a spinal injury and wheelchair users.

ABOUT CBM AUSTRALIA

CBM Australia works alongside people with disabilities in the world's poorest places to fight poverty and exclusion, and transform lives. Drawing on more than 110 years' experience, we are values driven and work with the most marginalised in society to:

- End the cycle of poverty and disability;
- Treat and prevent conditions that lead to disability; and
- Build inclusive communities where everyone can enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

CBM Australia is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing the Australian Government's aid program. CBM Australia receives support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) for 28 field projects and has held successive contracts to provide technical advice on disability inclusion to DFAT staff and implementing partners.

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ABOUT ADDC

The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) is the peak representative body for the Australian international development sector on disability inclusion. We represent organisations and individuals working across Australia, the Asia-Pacific and globally on disability rights and international development. Our Executive Committee includes key organisations from organisations of people with disabilities, domestic and international development sectors as well as academia.

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ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Immediate Action	2023
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP		
1. Launch a new, ambitious and multi-year Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy in 2022	<p>A) Provide DFAT with immediate authority and funding to continue developing a new disability inclusion and rights strategy in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations, alongside Australian and global aid actors</p> <p>B) Establish leadership, partnership and empowerment of people with disabilities as a major priority in the new International Development strategy</p>	<p>C) Launch new Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy in 2022 on International Day of Persons with Disability 2022 (December 3rd) and then implement and monitor the strategy</p> <p>D) Establish mechanisms for disability rights and inclusion-based budget planning and spending that upholds the 'do no harm principle' and does not further the segregation and exclusion of groups of people with disabilities, particularly people with intellectual disabilities</p>
2. Increase core funding for disability inclusion	A) Increase the central disability allocation to minimum of \$14m in FY2022–23 budget	B) Increase central disability allocation to minimum of \$14.4m in FY2023–24 budget – and increase in line with GNI thereafter
TWIN-TRACK PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITISATION – MAINSTREAM AND DISABILITY-INCLUSION-SPECIFIC		
3. Increase mainstream programming which is marked as focussing on including people with disabilities	A) Commit to establishing a target for disability inclusion in Australia's international development and humanitarian program	<p>B) Increase mainstream spend from 2.14% of ODA (FY2020–21) to 3% in FY2022–23 – and by 1% annually thereafter</p> <p>C) Explore additional capacity building and funding mechanisms for partnering with local OPDs</p>

Recommendation	Immediate Action	2023
TWIN-TRACK PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITISATION – MAINSTREAM AND DISABILITY-INCLUSION-SPECIFIC – CONTINUED		
4. Together with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), establish a Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific (PIP), a regional group of key partners to coordinate action and mobilise financial resources to accelerate the implementation of the <i>Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016–2025 (PFRPD)</i>	A) Establishing together with PIFS and PDF a scoping study to guide action on a regional group of key partners to enhance and coordinate support for increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian action across the Pacific. This was a part of Australia's suite of commitments at the 2022 Global Disability Summit	B) Leading coordination of donors to fund programs under the PIP, including piloting the DFAT-funded and PIFS-endorsed Accessibility Blueprint in one Pacific nation
5. Further the implementation of the CRPD across the Pacific by working with partners to improve the availability, choice, affordability and quality of assistive technology across the region	A) Commit to investing in the three recommendations of the Pacific Assistive Technology Procurement Study	B) Support the establishment of an assistive technology resource facility in the Pacific, with the initial step of co-hosting discussions with stakeholders. Note this initiative could be the first step of the regional partnership (as above)
6. Invest in socio-economic livelihoods for people with disabilities	A) Commit to an additional \$10 million over the forward estimates in livelihoods and resilience for people with disabilities as part of the recovery from COVID-19	B) Set an ambitious target for socio-economic disability inclusion in Australia's international development and humanitarian program

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS – CONTINUED

Recommendation	Immediate Action	2023
THEMATIC PRIORITIES – PROGRAMMING		
7. Increase prioritisation of people with disabilities in humanitarian crises and disaster risk reduction and recovery	A) Resource Australian Humanitarian Partnership <i>Disaster Ready</i> to scale up engagement and participation of OPDs	B) In FY2023–24 bolstering resources to the World Food Program to ensure people with disabilities are not left behind in food security efforts
8. Increase support to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for people with disabilities	A) Join the disability-inclusive climate working group within the GLAD network	B) Pursue a disability-inclusive, rights and strengths-based approach to climate action and adaptation with a focus on climate resilient livelihoods and disaster-preparedness working in partnership with OPDs and disability-inclusive business, to address key areas identified by local people with disabilities
9. Increase support for women and girls with disabilities	A) Commit to scaling up programming that protects women and girls with disabilities from sexual and gender-based violence and supports victim-survivors in partnership with OPDs	B) Rebuild international development capabilities across DFAT that enables DFAT to take a leading role in designing, delivering and evaluating aid investments to inform policy and programming that take into account intersectionality

Recommendation	Immediate Action	2023
FOUNDATIONAL – LEADERSHIP, CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRANSPARENCY		
10. Deepen DFAT expertise in disability inclusive development	<p>A) Commit to re-establishing regional disability inclusion expert advisors or units within DFAT to provide direction and coordinated advice to Posts (one disability inclusion advisor/unit each in Office of the Pacific and the new Office of South East Asia)</p> <p>B) Commit to re-establishing an advisory group to increase Australia's partnership with and accountability to people with disabilities, including diverse representation across a range of ages, identities, orientations and ethnicity, and drawn from both public and private sector organisations that represent people with disabilities (OPDs) in the Asia-Pacific</p>	<p>C) Increase DFAT core departmental budget for staff and associated support costs to enable the effective implementation, monitoring, training and advocacy to support disability inclusion both in Canberra and at regional posts.</p> <p>D) Appoint a person with disabilities as Australia's first Global Ambassador for Disability Inclusion and Rights</p>
11. Transparency	<p>A) Commit to restoring transparent and timely public reporting of aid expenditure, including separate reporting of the central disability allocation and accounting against the OECD DAC Disability policy marker</p>	<p>B) Release a comprehensive Australian Aid Budget Summary, with central disability allocation as a separate budget line in FY2023–24 Federal Budget</p> <p>C) Report on disability performance in Australia's international development program</p>

A close-up photograph of a young child, Afiz, who is nearly 2 years old. He is looking down at a pair of red-rimmed glasses he is holding in his hands. He is wearing a yellow and grey striped t-shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with dry, reddish-brown earth.

Afiz, nearly 2 years old, from Uganda, has undergone surgery to treat bilateral cataracts.

ENDNOTES

- 1 For further information see [Excluded from the Excluded \(2021\)](#), a report by Inclusion International on the lack of inclusion of people with cognitive disabilities and their OPDs in international development and aid and whether or not ODA project methodologies are inclusive and compliant with the CRPD.
- 2 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [Development for All: Evaluation of progress made in strengthening disability inclusion in Australian aid \(November 2018\)](#).
- 3 Figures from DFAT's annual Australia's Official Development Assistance Statistical Summary report. Each report notes "Estimates in this table reflect the value of all activities that provide some level of assistance to disabled persons. The level of assistance varies across all activities with some activities providing principal or significant focus and other activities moderate or minor focus (emphasis added).
- 4 Inclusive Futures, [Consequences of Exclusion: A Situation Report on Organisations of People with Disabilities and COVID-19 in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe \(2021\)](#).
- 5 World Health Organisation & UNICEF, [Disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination, WHO & UNICEF Policy Brief \(19 April 2021\)](#).
- 6 United Nations, Department of Economic, Social Affairs and Disability, [Disability and Employment](#).
- 7 United Nations, Department of Economic, Social Affairs and Disability, [Women and Girls with Disabilities](#).
- 8 UNDRR & CRED, [The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years \(2000–2019\)](#).
- 9 Quail, J et al, [Experiences of individuals with physical disabilities in natural disasters: an integrative review](#), Australian Journal of Emergency Management, Vol 33, No 3 (July 2018).
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Mary Keogh, CBM Global Disability Inclusion, [Climate Change: This Century's Defining Issue \(2020\)](#)

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