



EDID-GHDI

Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development –
Genre, handicap et développement inclusif

ANNUAL REPORT
2022–24

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

Welcome to the third EDID-GHDI Annual Report! This report, coming halfway through our 7-year project, covers two years.

Since our last Annual Report covering September 2021–August 2022, the EDID-GHDI partnership has been productive, with Canada’s “More than a Footnote” Policy Forum taking place in December 2022 and the Vietnam Dialogue Forum in June 2023. I was able to travel to Iceland in June 2023 to present some of our work with EDID-GHDI and to network with a number of familiar as well as new contacts. We also held our Early Career Researchers Forum in November 2023 in Halifax.

Several new thematic studies have been carried out, including an arts-based research study in Uganda as well as a study to explore the utility of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. The Country teams continued their work with partner organizations to advocate for the rights of women and girls with disabilities. In September 2023, we took on a new post-doctoral researcher, Kirsten Van Houten, who will be exploring how disabled women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have organized individually and collectively to have their interests represented in peacebuilding and post-conflict development.

Much time over the last year has been dedicated to making sure the new EDID-GHDI bilingual website (www.edid-ghdi.ca) would be fully accessible, and we were pleased to be able to launch the website in Fall 2023. It provides us with a platform for sharing research and knowledge updates with the partnership and broader society.




Our Mid-term Report to our funding agency, the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), in Fall 2023 marked three and a half years of research under the partnership. It gave us an opportunity to summarize our work, reflect on highlights as well as challenges, and forecast where we are going. We were successfully reviewed and will continue for the second half of the partnership.

We are mourning the loss of two trailblazing disability rights activists, Judy Heumann on March 4, 2023, and Steve Estey on September 11, 2023. In addition to being an activist, Judy was an essential collaborator on the EDID-GHDI grant and a member of our Council of Advisors, and Steve was an EDID-GHDI partnership policy advisor. Using Judy and Steve as examples, we will continue to work for justice and rights for women and girls with disabilities.

With hope and warmth,

Deborah Stienstra
EDID-GHDI Project Director
University of Guelph



REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE

Judy Heumann

Judy Heumann, who passed away on March 4, 2023, was widely considered the "mother" of the disability rights movement due to her lifelong advocacy and professional work, as well as how she lived her life. She led by example, helping people with disabilities accept and take pride in their identities, while refusing to accept the status quo. Her work with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profits, and various other disability groups produced significant contributions since the 1970s to the development of human rights legislation and policies benefiting children and adults with disabilities. Through her work in the World Bank and the United States State Department, Judy led the mainstreaming of disability rights into international development. Her contributions extended the international reach of the independent living movement, a worldwide movement of disabled people working for equal opportunities, self-determination, and self-respect.

In our June 2023 EDID-GHDI newsletter, Deborah Stienstra described her connections over the years with Judy, as well as Judy's enthusiasm for being involved in the proposal for the EDID-GHDI partnership and for being a part of the Council of Advisors and a collaborator on the grant. Her response showed both her humility and eagerness to contribute: "Of course, what an honour! Send me the information.... Sounds like a great project."



Judy Heumann (front left) at lunch with students from the Masters program in Disability Studies at the University of Manitoba.

Steve Estey at the initial project development meeting in August 2019, where several EDID-GHDI project partners and leadership team members gathered to discuss plans for the project, and braided six colourful ribbons together as a symbol of their partnership.



Steve Estey

Steve Estey passed away on September 11, 2023. Steve dedicated his life to advocating for the rights and dignity of disabled people, and he significantly contributed to the development of disability rights in Canada. From doing groundwork with various grassroots organizations to testifying before parliamentary committees in Canada, Steve continually spoke about issues regarding human rights and people with disabilities. Steve previously worked as the former National Coordinator of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the former Human Rights Officer at Disabled Peoples' International. During his time as an advisor to the Canadian Government delegation to the United Nations (UN), Estey made essential contributions to the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, since 2010, has been devoted to implementing this convention around the world.

In our December 2023 EDID-GHDI newsletter, Deborah also wrote about her long-time relationship with Steve as well as his role in the early beginnings of the EDID-GHDI partnership. It was as far back as 2013 when Steve shared with Deborah, "I have a dream and I think you can help me make it a reality." That dream eventually became the EDID-GHDI partnership.

Both Judy Heumann and Steve Estey, along with their dedication, enthusiasm, and passion, will be sorely missed by the disability rights communities.

RESEARCH HUB UPDATES

YEARS 3 & 4

HAITI

Despite the grave security and governance crises in Haiti, the team has been reinforcing stakeholders' capacities to conduct and utilize community-based research. In 2021, the team established a Haitian Steering Committee and awarded scholarships to two Haitian Master's students. In 2023, the Steering Committee approved five more grants for two other Haitian MA students and for disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) to conduct research and organize events linked to emerging research. Topics addressed by that research include access to justice for women with disabilities who are victims of violence; access to micro-credit for women with disabilities who are entrepreneurs; the impact of the security crisis on women and girls with disabilities; and access to education by girls with disabilities. All those topics were identified as priorities by organizations of women and other persons with disabilities on the Haitian Steering Committee.

The Committee's expectation is that the transitional process on which Haiti country has embarked will bring more security and an elected government by 2026. In that context, organizations of women and other persons with disabilities should be able to use the research produced with EDID-GHDI's support to influence more inclusive public policies. In the meantime, the EDID-GHDI partnership remains in support and solidarity of the continued work of the Haiti team through extraordinary circumstances.



SOUTH AFRICA

In November 2022, the South Africa team worked with representatives of member organizations of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) to host an EDID-GHDI workshop in Johannesburg. The workshop celebrated the achievements of girls and women with disabilities in South Africa, raised awareness of barriers, and highlighted the many important issues they still experience as we move forward to take actions for equality. Deborah Stienstra delivered the opening address, and David Black presented an overview of the EDID-GHDI partnership.

The South Africa team has been conducting research on key issues facing women with disabilities, legislation on disability in South Africa, and ways of increasing access to disability rights in South Africa. Current activities include focus group research with women with neurological disabilities on issues related to transportation and gender-based violence, facilitated by our civil society partner, Epilepsy South Africa, and taking place in four different provinces of the country. Members of the team, including Epilepsy South Africa national director Sharlene Cassel, and co-leads Jacqui Ala (Wits University) and David Black (Dalhousie), are also tracking efforts to implement the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disabilities (IGAP), adopted in a World Health Assembly resolution, at the country level in South Africa. Sharlene Cassel has been deeply engaged in this effort along with Marina Clarke, retired Epilepsy SA National Director and now a consultant with Disability & Entrepreneurial Development. This work has included a major participatory exercise, with focus groups in nine provinces, and the drafting of a National Action Plan for implementation. Finally, the team's South African research assistant, Naefa Kahn, who is doing a PhD in international relations at Wits University, is working on efforts to use the legal system to hold the government accountable for the disability commitments it makes.

The South Africa team is busy planning for their two-day Policy Forum in July 2024. They will also be hosting the three-day EDID-GHDI partnership meeting shortly after, and we look forward to a gathering of the partnership members for the first time since June 2022.



VIETNAM

The Vietnam team has been meeting with Vietnam partners such as UNICEF Vietnam and the Ministry of Education and Training to agree on the principles of accessibility, inclusion, and the participation of women and girls with disabilities. As a result of amendments to the Vietnam government's disability and inclusion laws, an ongoing process is underway that involves consulting on how to identify levels of disability and provide support.

We congratulate Huyen Do on her appointment in January 2023 as the chair of the Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi). DP Hanoi was one of 100 recipients from around the world to be awarded a Rehabilitation International (RI) Centennial Award of Significant Contributions as part of RI's centennial anniversary celebrations (1922–2022) in May 2023. It commends individuals and/or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to or have had profound impact on the equal participation and inclusive development of persons with disabilities. Huyen Do, as the new chair of DP Hanoi, received this award in Beijing on behalf of DP Hanoi.

The EDID Vietnam Dialogue Forum took place on June 23 and 24, 2023, in Vietnam. (See the summary under Knowledge Mobilization Hub Updates.)

In preparation for the fourth year in 2024, the research team consulted women and girls with disabilities to develop the activities for the upcoming fieldwork. Their valuable input helped to develop a fieldwork agenda. The focused theme chosen by women and girls with disabilities is media communications and the role of women and girls with disabilities in communicating to make social changes.

CANADA

Together with their partners, the Canada team has identified research questions that prioritize the experiences of diverse women and girls with disabilities. Team members have been collecting data from six Canadian regions: Atlantic Canada, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut. They are interviewing women with disabilities and conducting arts-based workshops with girls with disabilities. Across all their work, the Canada team is applying an intersectional livelihoods framework, and using life course analysis to identify key themes. The Canada team also co-hosted the “More than a Footnote” Policy Forum in December 2022. (See Knowledge Mobilization Hub Updates.)

The Canada team's project involves regional research coordinators across the six regions, and has engaged undergraduate students in some of the research. Research coordinators have conducted focus groups in Hamilton, Montreal, and Nunavut, as well as interviews with women in the different regions. Some of the themes that have emerged in the data collection from women with disabilities concern parenting children and childcare; social attitudes and employment opportunities; sources of pride, strength, and identity; barriers to access to health care; and support and burnout in relationships.

In May 2023, Deborah Stienstra spoke at the 16th research conference of the Nordic Network on Disability Research in Reykjavík, Iceland, to present results from Canada's "More than a Footnote" Policy Forum. Deborah represented EDID-GHDI, Bonnie Brayton of DAWN (DisAbled Women's Network) Canada, and Ruvimbo Chidziva of Global Affairs Canada. Researchers, policy makers, activists, and practitioners were invited to the conference to share their research and ideas for increasing collaboration in the field of disability research.



TRANSNATIONAL

The Transnational team's work engages in three different aspects of transnational research related to gender, intersectionality, and disability-inclusive global development. The first is related to the Global Forum on the Leadership of Women with Disabilities, to be held in 2024 in partnership with DAWN Canada; the second is researching the unequal and intersectional representation of women and girls with disabilities in international treaty body meetings and other international events; and the third is understanding the potential impact of global partnerships.

Global Forum on the Leadership of Women with Disabilities (GFLWD)

The Global Forum on the Leadership of Women with Disabilities (GFLWD), co-led by DAWN Canada and STEP (Pakistan), is a diverse collective of women leaders with disabilities and a multi-stakeholder forum to advance practical solutions in global priority development. Dedicated to real inclusion and results at the global, regional, national, and local levels, the Global Forum ensures self-advocates, especially in the Global South, are involved in decision making and supports their action on the ground.

In 2023, the Global Forum began building a network of women experts with disabilities, with representation from 15 countries and various intersecting identities. In its first year, the GFLWD provided a platform for targeted conversations, like supporting women with disabilities displaced by floods in Pakistan. The GFLWD also developed accessible communication protocols to ensure equal and meaningful participation between experts despite uneven technological access. In 2024, the GFLWD will move forward as a united front of women leaders with disabilities and allies in human rights and development as it launches its flagship activities in line with this new accelerated phase of action toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

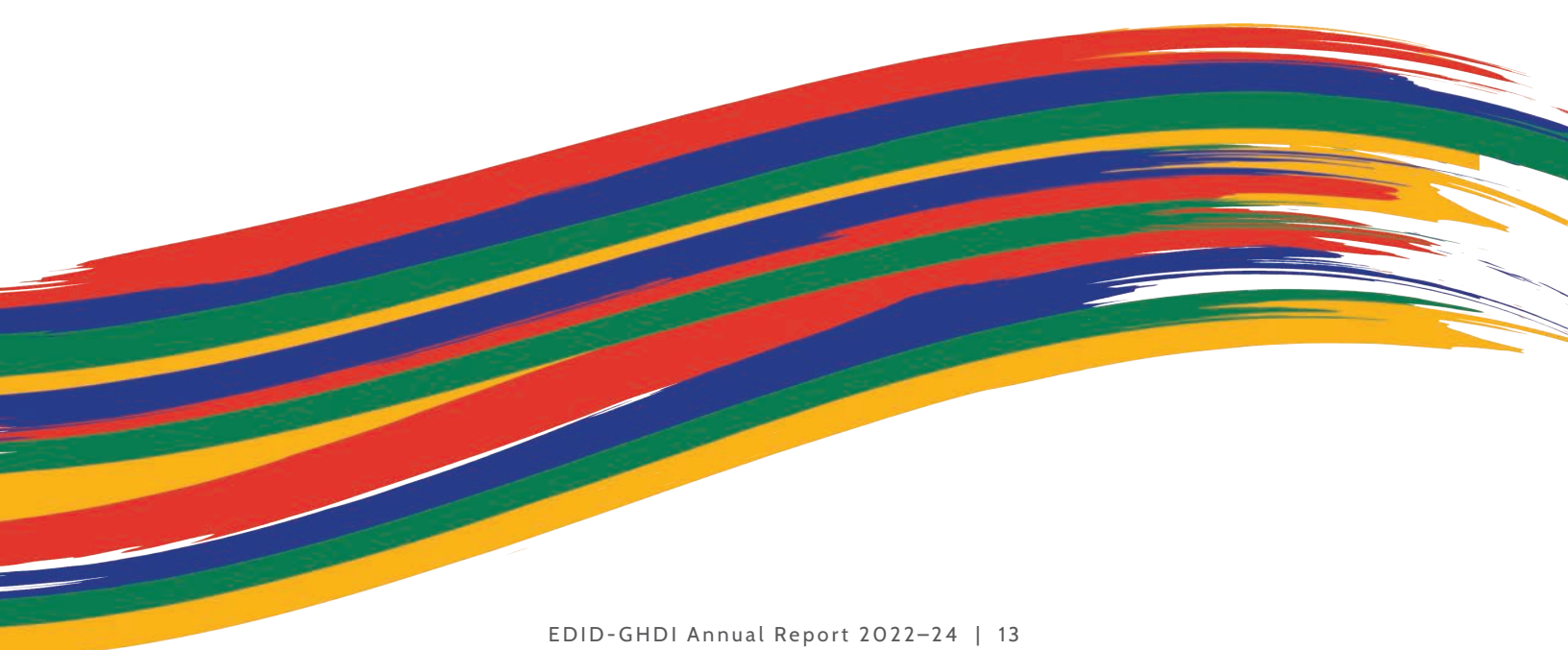
EDID-GHDI, together with our partner organization DAWN Canada, will develop relationships and engage in activities with the GFLWD to help us learn directly about priorities for women with disabilities.

Representation of Women and Girls with Disabilities

For the second aspect, Dominique Masson, co-lead of the Transnational team, and research assistant Clothilde Parent-Chartier have been analyzing how women and girls with disabilities are engaged and represented in those settings and events. Since the EDID-GHDI partnership meeting in June 2022, they have been developing theoretical and analytical tools for undertaking the analysis of “who represents” women and girls with disabilities at the annual meetings of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), on the basis of documents and observations collected in 2021 and 2022. This enabled them to move to a more in-depth analysis and to finalize a first Report in the fall of 2023, entitled “Representing women and girls with disabilities at the COSP and UN-CSW, 2021 and 2022—WHO REPRESENTS?” This report will soon be made available at www.edid-ghdi.ca. They also obtained a University of Ottawa Ethics Certificate for follow-up interviews with frequent speakers and main organizers, which they conducted between February and March of 2024.

Impact of Global Partnerships

We continue to monitor global partnerships including the Global Action on Disability Network and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, among others, to understand emerging priorities of state, transnational, and civil society organizations.



THEMATIC RESEARCH

Two thematic studies have been undertaken over the last two years.

Disability Activism, Gender, and the SDGs: Triangulating Dynamics in the International Sphere, in Haiti and in Canada (2022–23)

Stephen Baranyi and Axel Pueugue Simo of the University of Ottawa have conducted a thematic study to explore the activism of persons with disabilities, and debates within the movement including organizations of women with disabilities, regarding the utility of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically [SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions](#). Stephen and Axel documented why and how the International Disability Alliance and its partners lobbied for the integration of disability rights in the SDGs, what they gained, and debates within the movement about SDG implementation as it relates to the rights of persons with disabilities. Then, they compared the extent to which the SDGs are used by organizations of persons with disabilities to advance their rights in Canada and Haiti, two contexts selected for their differences. They concluded that, despite important advances at the international level, SDG 16 and other SDGs are rarely used by disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) and organizations of women with disabilities to advance their rights nationally, but for distinct reasons. In Canada, there are stronger legislative and other levers to advance disability rights at the federal level. In Haiti, where the multidimensional crisis has dramatically constrained DPOs' ability to do any advocacy since 2021, the SDGs have almost entirely dropped off the national agenda.



Read their analysis

Baranyi, S. (2023). [Disabled persons organisations' advocacy for SDG 16+: Levers for change and/or drops in a neo-liberal bucket?](#) In T. Donais, A.D. Edgar, & K. Van Houten (Eds.), *Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Global Governance of Violence: Critical Reflections on the Uncertain Future of Peace* (1st ed., pp. 83–100). London: Routledge.



Women with Disabilities in Conflict and Post-conflict Settings (2023–24)

Erin Baines, associate professor at UBC and a co-applicant on the EDID-GHDI grant, undertook thematic research for the partnership on the impact of war and displacement on women with disabilities in post-conflict northern Uganda. This research was co-sponsored by the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security at McGill University.

In Uganda in May 2023, the research group (Erin, UBC graduate student Liliane Umuhoza, two Ugandan students Fatuma Abiya and Alice Lakwech, and Ugandan team leader Dorcus Atyeno) completed 30 interviews and held a one-day body mapping workshop with 5 women with disabilities affected by conflict.

Their next steps are to write their results, as well as to run a small mentorship program in Uganda. They also plan to bring the group who participated in the body maps to Kampala to meet with Parliamentarians as part of knowledge dissemination.

To learn more about this research project, read [Erin's blog](#) *'I am like a garden that flourishes and grows': Women with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict settings.*



RESEARCH HUB WELCOMES POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

The Research Hub welcomed Kirsten Van Houten (she/her) in September 2023 as a post-doctoral researcher with EDID-GHDI, Political Science, and the Guelph Institute of Development Studies at the University of Guelph. Since completing her PhD in International Development Studies at the University of Ottawa, she has worked as an academic and practitioner at the human rights and peacebuilding nexus.

As part of the EDID-GHDI partnership, Kirsten is developing a new research program that explores the way disabled women and girls have organized individually and collectively to have their interests represented in peacebuilding and human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has established a research partnership at the University of Kinshasa with Dr. Eric Metho Nkayilu, with whom she will undertake fieldwork later in 2024. This project will complement her existing work documenting the contributions of Congolese civil society organizations to peacebuilding efforts in South Kivu.

In addition, Kirsten continues to conduct research and publication activities at the human rights and peacebuilding nexus. She is currently co-editing a book with Alex Neve on Canada's international engagement at the human rights and peacebuilding nexus, being published by Palgrave. The book will include contributions from a range of academics and civil society leaders, including a chapter by Deborah Stienstra and David Black on Steve Estey's contributions to disability rights activism. She also has a forthcoming journal article in the *Canadian Journal of Human Rights* which explores Canada's thin engagement with Canadian civil society organizations in the development and implementation of Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders. In March, she organized an event at the University of Guelph featuring an Afghan female judge who described her legal work in Afghanistan and her flight from the Taliban.

RELATIONSHIPS HUB UPDATES

YEARS 3 & 4

The Relationships Hub has continued to facilitate reflection among team members as a source of learning, and work with team members to develop and deliver capacity-building initiatives. The Relationships Hub is also supporting the participation of EDID-GHDI partners and students through the Disability Partners' Caucus and Student Network, respectively.

DISABILITY PARTNERS' CAUCUS

The Relationships Hub hosts the Disability Partners' Caucus (DPC), which aims to meet twice per year and is chaired by Bonnie Brayton (DAWN Canada), EDID-GHDI's partner liaison. The DPC includes representatives from all disability-related partner organizations connected to EDID-GHDI. The DPC seeks to enable project partners to contribute to the direction of the EDID-GHDI partnership, highlight community-based work, and facilitate communication across country contexts.

STUDENT NETWORK

As part of the EDID-GHDI partnership's commitment to student development and inclusion within the project, we have developed a student network. The goal of the student network is to provide students with a shared space to build their knowledge and capacity of disability and development through reflection, skills building, and professional development activities.



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION HUB UPDATES

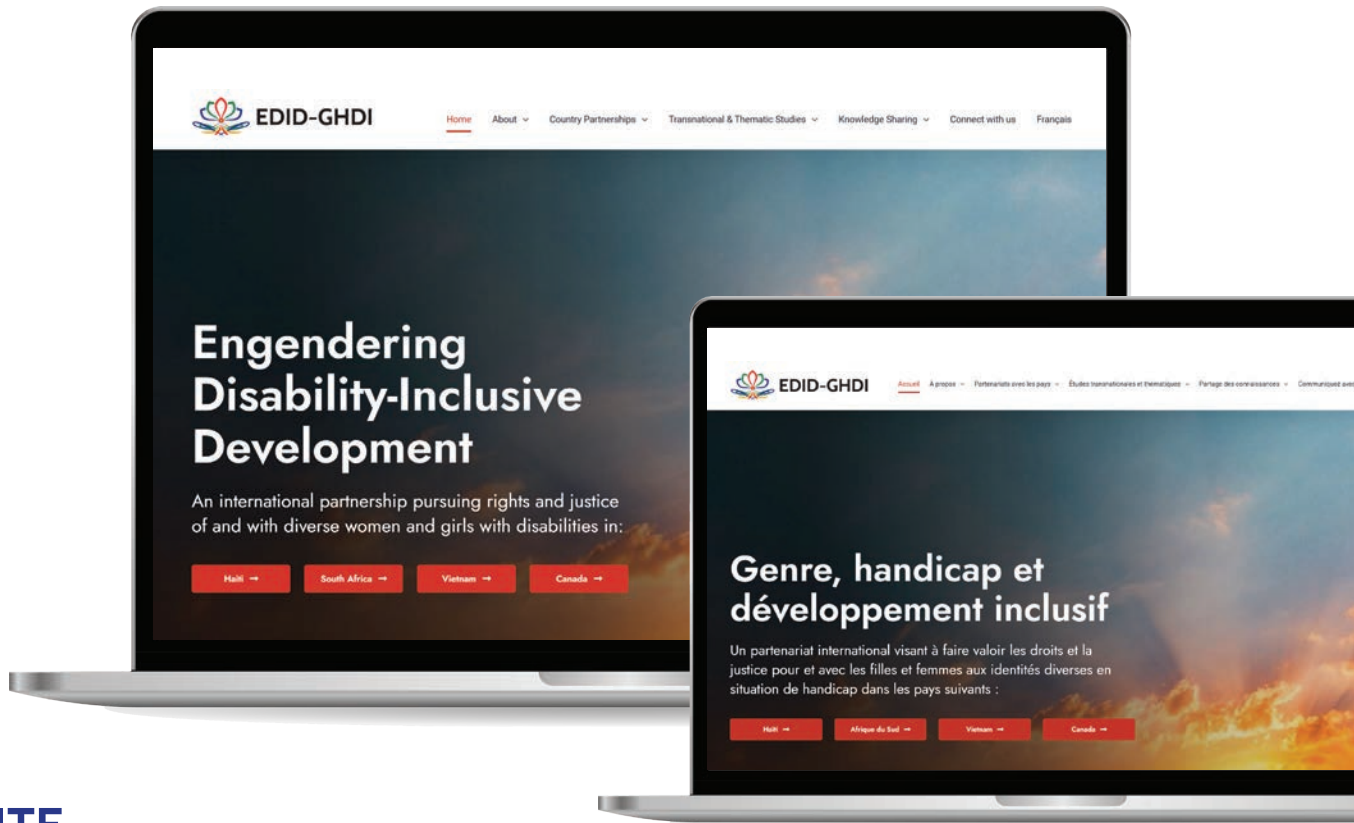
YEARS 3 & 4

The Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Hub, hosted by the Live Work Well Research Centre at the University of Guelph, seeks to mobilize knowledge that identifies and addresses the experiences of diverse women and girls with disabilities. The KMb Hub supports the EDID-GHDI partnership in engaging with policy makers; engaging in peer-to-peer civil society and DPO learning; building experiential learning opportunities with students; and publishing research in interdisciplinary, discipline-specific, and community-engaged scholarship venues.

NEWSLETTERS

EDID-GHDI newsletters provide updates about what is happening across the partnership, and foster energy and engagement with our collaborative work. The KMb Hub has led the development and publication of eight newsletters since the EDID-GHDI partnership began in 2020, with three newsletters released since the last 2021–22 Annual Report.

The December 2022 newsletter announced our new EDID-GHDI logo and looked forward to the launch of our pre-recorded workshop series as well as the Fall 2022 Canada Policy Forum. The June 2023 newsletter remembered Judy Heumann who passed away in March 2023, and looked forward to the upcoming Vietnam Dialogue Forum in June 2023 and the Early Career Researchers Forum in Fall 2023. The December 2023 newsletter remembered Steve Estey who passed away in September 2023, announced the EDID-GHDI website launch, and welcomed Kirsten Van Houten as a post-doctoral researcher with the partnership.



WEBSITE

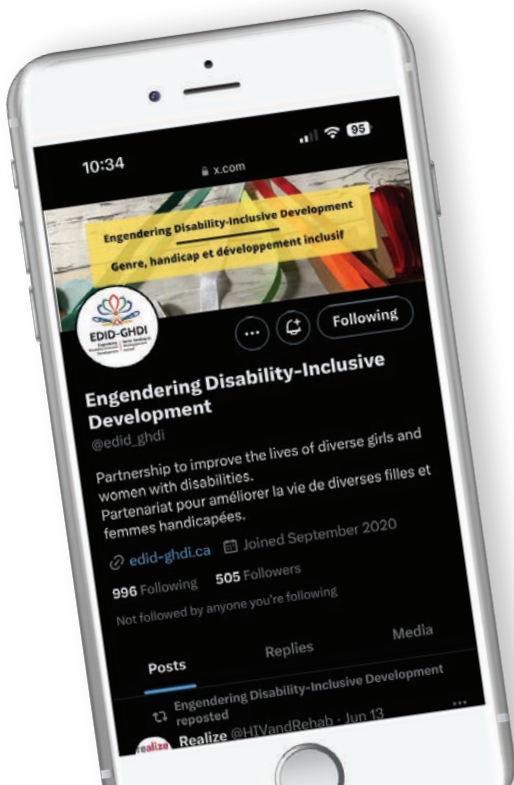
The fully bilingual and accessible EDID-GHDI website (www.edid-ghdi.ca) officially launched on December 3, 2023, to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Three years in the making, this website will be an important resource for both research collaboration and knowledge mobilization, not only for the partnership, but also for others outside EDID-GHDI. We encourage visitors to explore the website to learn more about aspects of the partnership and about the important research being conducted on the struggles of diverse women and girls with disabilities for, and progress towards, disability-inclusive development.

SOCIAL MEDIA

EDID-GHDI's online presence has grown during the last year to over 500 followers, and we plan to continue growing on social media. The EDID-GHDI X (Twitter) account shares content in English and French related to the project's areas of research and goals. We re-post and highlight publications and events from our partners, such as DAWN Canada.

Our goals for the year ahead are to continue tracking and sharing our partners' activities and interesting intersectional events in order to increase the reach and impact of their work through this platform. We are particularly keen on featuring the work of community-based organizations, which allow us to connect the work EDID-GHDI does with lived experiences.

The KMB team will also aim to use our X (Twitter) account to amplify and increase the reach and impact of articles and resources published on the newly launched EDID-GHDI website.



OTHER KMB ACTIVITIES

a. podcasts and interviews

Feminist Shift Podcast on the Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition

In May 2023, Deborah Stienstra was interviewed for an episode in the podcast series by Feminist Shift, a committee supported by YW Kitchener-Waterloo and YWCA Cambridge as well as other feminist groups in the Waterloo Region. The goal of the podcast series is to bring an intersectional feminist analysis to important social, economic, and community issues in the region. In the episode "[Percolating Systemic Change: Disability Justice with Dr. Deborah Stienstra](#)," Deborah speaks about the Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition (CFDC) and how its projects ensure that the voices of women living with disabilities are kept not only at the centre of the work but in the administration of it.

Interview on Understanding the Lives of Women with Disabilities

Dominique Masson was interviewed in the fall of 2023 by the Quebec magazine *Paraquad*, which resulted in a feature article on the benefits of intersectionality for understanding the lives of women with disabilities. In the interview, Dominique discusses the contributions of the EDID-GHDI partnership. Read [the article \(in French\)](#) or listen to an [accessible audio version \(in French\)](#) of the interview.

Archambault, Virginie. (2023). QU'EN DIT LA RECHERCHE? Mieux comprendre la réalité des femmes handicapées par l'intersectionnalité - Entretien avec la Professeure Dominique Masson. *Paraquad. Le magazine de Moëlle épinière et motricité Québec (MEMO-Qc)*, 161 (27–30).





b. presentations and talks

Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development Workshop Programme

In November 2022, Deborah Stienstra and David Black presented on the EDID-GHDI partnership at the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development Workshop Programme in South Africa, held on the theme of Celebrating Girls and Women with Disabilities.

Including Diverse Young Women with Disabilities

In November 2022, Deborah Stienstra, Yasemin Tuncer, and Kathryn Reinders gave a presentation on the topic of Including Diverse Young Women with Disabilities. They discussed their research into how livelihoods interact with experiences of diverse young women with disabilities in Canada.

International Studies Association Annual Conference 2023

In March 2023, Deborah Stienstra, Stephen Baranyi, Andrea Paras, Jacqui Ala, and David Black shared their work from the EDID-GHDI partnership in a roundtable at the International Studies Association Annual Conference in Montreal.

Nordic Network on Disability Research Conference

Deborah Stienstra presented in May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland, on behalf of herself, Bonnie Brayton (DAWN Canada) and Ruvimbo Chidziva (Global Affairs Canada) on the topic Changing Policies with Women with Disabilities: Reflections on “More than a Footnote” Policy Forum.

Canadian Political Science Association Conference

Stephen Baranyi, Leah Levac, Laura Pin, Kathryn Reinders, David Black, and Deborah Stienstra presented at a roundtable on Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development: The Praxis of Partnership in May 2023.

c. forums

Canada Policy Forum, December 2022: Summary

The “More than a Footnote” Policy Forum took place on December 1 and 2, 2022. This forum, hosted by DAWN along with partners EDID-GHDI and Global Affairs Canada (GAC), brought together more than 100 participants both in-person and online, fostering a multilingual environment with support for English, French, ASL, LSQ, and captioning. They have produced a [Forum Report](#) documenting the event.

The aim of the forum was to address the problem—in federal, provincial, territorial, and local governments and their policies, programs, and funding approaches—that women with disabilities have usually been footnoted or ‘ungendered,’ and referred to as ‘people’ instead of as women. Women with disabilities represent more than one quarter of all women in Canada, so they are indeed more than a footnote in terms of representation. As described in the Forum Report, the forum marked “an important milestone as the inaugural biennial event and served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the collective pursuit of inclusive policies to empower marginalized communities.”

The panelists and attendees were a diverse group of individuals and experts that included civil society representatives, government officials, and researchers. The event also welcomed high-level policy makers, notably the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities and the Director-General of Economic Development from GAC.

Three panels delved into critical topics:

- **Livelihoods, Housing and Childcare:** This panel explored the intersections of livelihoods, housing, and poverty, shedding light on the challenges faced by marginalized communities.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Participants engaged in discussions about gender-based violence, addressing its widespread impact and potential avenues for change.
- **Canada’s International Assistance:** This panel dissected international assistance policies, examining their effectiveness and proposing innovative approaches for improvement.

Discussions yielded valuable insights, identifying significant policy gaps and offering thoughtful recommendations for addressing them.



Vietnam Dialogue Forum, June 2023: Summary

The Dialogue Forum in Vietnam took place June 23 and 24, 2023, on the topic of eliminating barriers for women and girls with disabilities. The event—held by the Ministry of Education and Training and the EDID-GHDI Vietnam country team with its partners, including the Hanoi Association for People with Disabilities and UNICEF Vietnam—was an opportunity for Vietnamese women and girls with disabilities and the Vietnam team to connect and share with the government and broader community. Some of the outcomes of this forum were included in a report submitted to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Through reflection on the process of organizing the forum, the research team explored insights into power dynamics among the team itself, the involved partners, and women and girls with disabilities.

In preparation, a local workshop gathered women and girls with disabilities for two days of collective work to identify the significant messages that they would want to bring to the forum. They transformed their messages into artwork products with meaningful manifestos. The workshop revealed the process by which women showcased their mentorship and leadership in supporting young girls to build their ideas about what needs to be changed and how to dialogue with policymakers. The collective work demonstrates the solidarity between women and girls with disabilities in their advocacy and knowledge mobilization in the forum.

During the two days of the forum, women and girls with disabilities in EDID-GHDI Vietnam actively participated in sharing their knowledge. They also questioned and made recommendations to representatives from the Ministry of Education and Training and other organizations on the solutions to existing issues.

Xuan Thuy Nguyen (Co-Lead of the EDID-GHDI Vietnam team), along with Hoà Bùi (Vietnam Research Coordinator with EDID-GHDI), shared that the initial phase of EDID-GHDI Vietnam research in the context of the CRPD found that the majority of women and girls with disabilities in the project have the opportunity to participate in more activities, programs, and projects related to people with disabilities than do other persons with disabilities in general, thanks to their participation in associations and clubs/groups for people with disabilities. However, participation and opportunities are not evenly distributed across regions, classes, and ages, as women with disabilities from ethnic minority groups face many barriers related to the intersection of gender, ethnicity, and disability. This limits their participation in cultural, political, and social spaces. Based on these initial studies, Thuy and Hoà recommended reviewing relevant documents, offering suggestions, and ensuring the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Vietnam.



Participants at the Early Career Researchers Forum

Early Career Researchers Forum, November 2023: Summary

A successful three-day hybrid Early Career Researchers Forum was held November 13–15, 2023, in Halifax, NS, hosted by Dalhousie University. This forum brought together senior and early career researchers, largely from the EDID-GHDI network.

The goals of the forum were to learn together, to create and enhance relationships, and to “bust binaries”—across generations, disciplines, countries, and sectors. Throughout the forum, early career researchers presented on their work in progress and received constructive feedback. Staged at the mid-point of the EDID-GHDI project cycle, the forum also gave us an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved and how we should move forward together.

d. publications

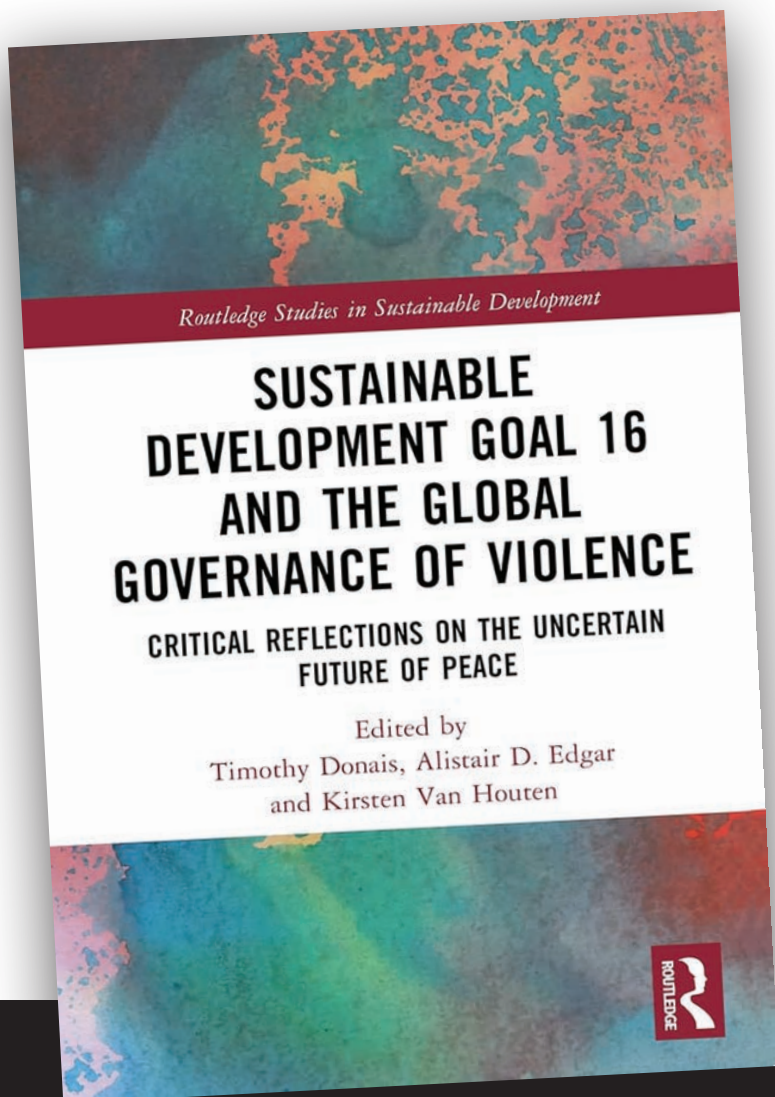
Shadow Report for United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Published in November 2022, this Shadow Report was written by Deborah Stienstra and Kaitlyn Pothier for the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). The report draws on an extensive search of the academic and community research and literature and is guided by an advisory committee to address 17 key issues faced by Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people with disabilities. [Read the final report.](#)

Additional publications can be viewed on our website at www.edid-ghdi.ca

Special issue of Global Affairs Canada's publication on Disability-Inclusive Development

Deborah Stienstra was invited to sit as a member of the editorial committee for a 2023 special issue of *Au Courant* on Disability-Inclusive Development. *Au Courant* is a Global Affairs Canada publication to support their officials. Several members of the EDID-GHDI research team also contributed articles to this special issue (Deborah Stienstra, Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Stephen Baranyi, and Ilionor Louis). The publication is available as an [English version](#) and a [French version](#).



Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Global Governance of Violence: Critical Reflections on the Uncertain Future of Peace

In September 2023, EDID-GHDI post-doctoral researcher Kirsten Van Houten launched the volume [Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Global Governance of Violence: Critical Reflections on the Uncertain Future of Peace](#), with her co-editors Timothy Donais and Alistair Edgar. The book reflects on major normative developments related to sustainable development, peace, justice, and inclusive institutions embedded in the goal; its inclusive aspirations; and its applications in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States. Stephen Baranyi, Co-Lead of the Haiti country team, also contributed a chapter to this book on the engagement of DPOs in Canada and Haiti.



Vietnam Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

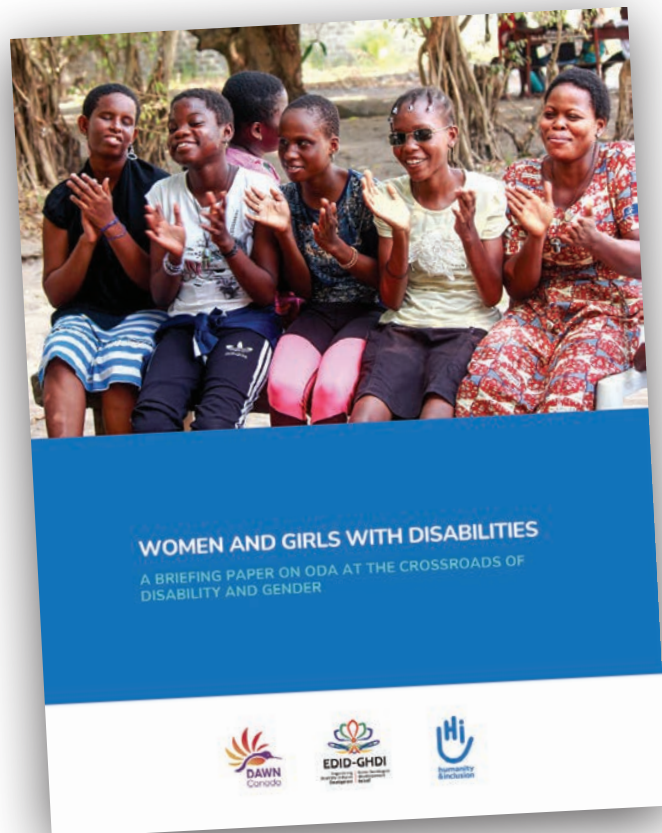
The Vietnam team submitted a document to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to respond to inquiries by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) about the Vietnamese government's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Vietnam team's researcher and PhD student, Hoà Bui, led this report, drawing in part on the EDID-GHDI Vietnam case studies. The Vietnam team's research indicates that the intersections of disability, gender, ethnicity, age, and geographical locations have created significant barriers for the participation of women and girls with disabilities in national programs and policies. In addition to barriers of intersectionality, COVID-19 had an impact on income and opportunities to access social services by women and girls with disabilities and their family. Regarding education, the report suggests that, despite some efforts by the government, systemic ableism persists in the educational management mechanism that restricts the right to education of girls with diverse disabilities.

Anglo-Saxon Feminist Theories of Disability

Dominique Masson of the Transnational team published in Fall 2022 an open-access article in French titled, "[Les théories féministes anglosaxonnes du handicap : Cartographie des Feminist Disability Studies](#)." The goal of this article is to present the theoretical contributions of anglophone feminist disability studies to a francophone audience. Dominique also hopes the piece will be used in graduate classes on gender and disability, specifically among her francophone colleagues working on disability.

Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Briefing Paper on ODA at the Crossroads of Disability and Gender

This [briefing paper](#) was written by Humanity & Inclusion in partnership with DAWN Canada, the Live Work Well Research Centre, and the EDID-GHDI partnership. It makes the case for recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are rarely taken into consideration or specifically targeted through humanitarian and development investment, and have been under-recognized by the women's rights movement and historically marginalized by disability rights movements. It describes approaches taken toward development funding, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), as well as best practices, and makes recommendations for ensuring that woman and girls with disabilities are taken into consideration in funding and policies.





e. student engagement

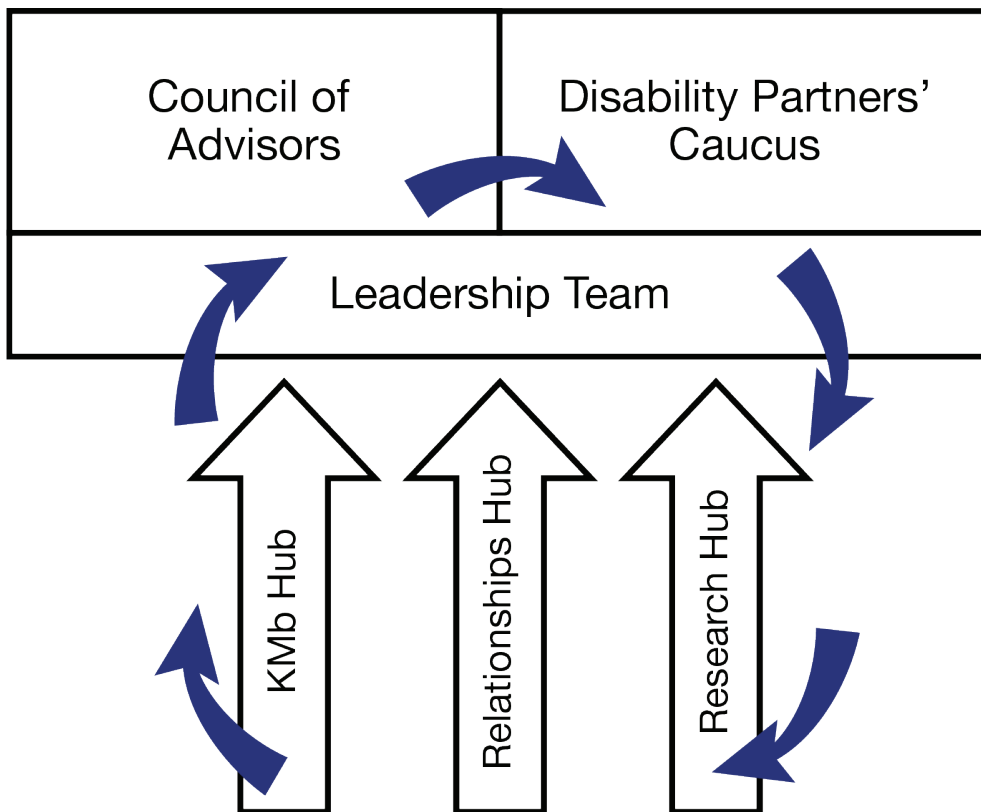
Training and Mentorship

The EDID-GHDI partnership remains committed to fostering a new generation of researchers and students with the knowledge and skills required for inclusion of people with disabilities. Undergraduate and graduate students are essential team members and are supervised and trained by partnership team members. These students have opportunities to build skills in community-based research and engage in knowledge mobilization and team-specific activities.

To date, the partnership has supported over 65 students in a variety of programs in Canadian universities and in Vietnam, South Africa, and Haiti. Students are involved in every step of the research process and in partnership activities, and a priority has been to involve those who identify as women with disabilities.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

The EDID partnership is committed to ensuring that representative voices of people with disabilities are woven into the core of our governance structure, and that we operate from our six guiding principles: equitable and reciprocal relationships; inclusive research practices; valuing diverse experiences and ways of knowing and being; knowledge co-creation and sharing; open communication; and working cooperatively for best solutions.



EDID-GHDI governance structure

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team currently includes;

David Black
Bonnie Brayton
Sharon Findlay
Lenore Latta
Deborah Stienstra

We gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to and supported the work of the Leadership Team over the past two years, including Kate Ducak, Steve Estey, Elizabeth Jackson, and Alex Sawatzky.



COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Guidance from the Council of Advisors is integral to the work of the EDID-GHDI partnership. The Council of Advisors supports each team in building relationships that centre the positionality and experiences of women and girls with disabilities.

The Council of Advisors includes the following international disability leaders:

Abia Akram
(founder of the National Forum on Women with Disabilities in Pakistan)

Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo
(World Bank Disability Advisor)

Kerryann F. Ifill
(former President of the Senate of Barbados, Consultant on Disability Rights Issues and Assistive Technology Trainer)

Nora Groce
(Leonard Cheshire Chair of Disability and Inclusive Development,
Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London)

Shuaib Chalklen
(CEO, African Disability Forum)

Stephen Lewis and Judith Heumann were original members of the Council of Advisors. We are grateful for their contributions.

COUNTRY STUDY TEAM LEADS & PARTNERS

Country Study	Team Leads	Formal Partners
Haiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Baranyi, University of Ottawa • Ilionor Louis, Université d'État d'Haïti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau du secrétaire d'État à l'intégration des personnes handicapées (BSEIPH) • Réseau associatif national pour l'intégration des personnes handicapées (RANIPH) • Université d'État d'Haïti • University of Ottawa
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Black, Dalhousie University • Jacqueline de Matos Ala, University of the Witwatersrand • Kristi Kenyon, University of Winnipeg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African Disability Alliance (SADA) • Epilepsy South Africa • University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg • University of Winnipeg • Dalhousie University
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Carleton University • Huyen Do, Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP Hanoi • Carleton University
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Stienstra, University of Guelph • Bonnie Brayton, DAWN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN) • Canadian Council on Rehabilitation & Work (CCRW) • IDC/BCANDS (Indigenous Disability Canada/ British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society) • Global Affairs Canada • Realize • University of Guelph

TRANSNATIONAL STUDY TEAM LEADS & PARTNERS

Transnational Team Leads	Formal Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominique Masson, University of Ottawa • Deborah Stienstra, University of Guelph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carleton University • The Critical Institute • National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda (NUWODU) • Humanity & Inclusion Canada • Canadian National Institute for the Blind, World Blind Union • Dalhousie University • DisAbled Women’s Network of Canada (DAWN) • Global Affairs Canada (GAC) • Toronto Metropolitan University • University of Ottawa • University of Guelph



THE YEAR AHEAD

As we enter the fifth year of our partnership, all country, transnational, and thematic studies will continue with their knowledge sharing and research collaboration plans.

Here's a snapshot of meetings and activities over the next few years of the partnership:

- **Partnership Team Meetings:** South Africa (July 2024), and Canada (2026–27)
- **Regular Disability Partners' Caucus meetings:** Via phone and video call options. We aspire for these meetings to take place at least twice a year.
- **Policy Forums:** South Africa (July 2024), and Haiti (2025)
- **Global Forum on the Leadership of Women with Disabilities (GFLWD):** Canada (2024)
- **Research Roundtable:** South Africa (July 2024), and virtually (2025)
- **Capstone International Research Conference:** Canada (2026–27)



WHERE WE AIM TO BE BY THE END OF YEAR 5 (MARCH 31, 2025):

Research Activities

Country, thematic, and transnational studies will continue. We will create and use developmental evaluation frameworks to assess overall and interrelated project activities.

Relationships Hub Activities

The Disability Partners' Caucus and Student Network will continue to create opportunities to connect and reflect on relationships and goals. Both groups will aim to meet on a more regular basis to build trust and a shared commitment.

Knowledge Mobilization

The partnership will continue to create a variety of information tools to reach a range of audiences such as researchers, disability organizations, students, policy makers, other partners, and the general public.

Each team will continue to create presentations, publications, and other knowledge mobilization (KMb) products based on their work, with support from the KMb Hub.

EDID-GHDI partners are currently working on an edited collection of chapters focusing on approaches to making change with women and girls with disabilities, to be published with Palgrave MacMillan in 2025.

The KMb Hub is tracking all EDID-GHDI KMb activities and outputs for reporting and review purposes.

Training and Mentorship

Many students (undergraduate, master's, and doctoral) will continue to participate in the project throughout Year 5. The Student Network will further develop its goals and practices.

Governance

We will continue to use ongoing open communication, proactive planning, collaborative problem-solving, and trust to work through challenges and achieve shared goals.

Partner Engagement

Through the work and support of the Relationships and KMb Hubs, members of disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) and diverse women and girls with disabilities will continue to be included in all research and KMb activities.

All study teams will centre the perspectives and experiences of women and girls with disabilities in their work, to make sure methods, findings, and KMb products are practical, relevant, and reflective of lived experiences.

CONNECT WITH US!

Let us know your ideas for how we should keep in touch, such as email, letters, postcards, pictures, video clips, audio clips, and more. Also, please share what is working best for you. Your comments, concerns, and questions are always welcome.

Here is how you can connect with us:



www.edid-ghdi.ca



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[@edid_ghdi](https://twitter.com/edid_ghdi)



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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



EDID-GHDI

Engendering
Disability-Inclusive
Development

Genre, handicap et
développement
inclusif

