

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

EDID-GHDI



Message from the Project Director

Welcome to the second EDID-GHDI Annual Report!

With the close of the second year of our partnership at the end of May 2022, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the work and activities of the project so far. Building from the research and relationships we developed in the first year, we have continued to learn and grow together through how-to sessions, team meetings, and through developing and refining our research and knowledge mobilization plans.

This report also includes key highlights from our first Partnership Team meeting, which took place both online and in person in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from June 22-24, 2022. This meeting reinforced the importance of our individual and collective efforts to address the struggles of diverse women and girls with disabilities worldwide. While this meeting gave us many opportunities to reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments to date, it also served as a reminder of how much work remains to create policies that promote the inclusion and participation of this globally underrepresented group.

As we continue to live and work within a time of complexity and change, it is more important than ever to support and lean on each other when needed, and to remember that we are stronger together. As always, I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with partners around the world towards the shared goal of disability inclusion and justice for girls and women. You all bring incredible strength, expertise, and commitment to this work, and I look forward to our future collaborations.

With hope and warmth,
Deborah

Deborah Stienstra
EDID-GHDI Project Director
University of Guelph





About the EDID-GHDI Partnership

Overview of the Partnership

The Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development – Genre, handicap et développement inclusif (EDID-GHDI) partnership builds relationships with civil society organizations, policy makers, and researchers to improve the lives of diverse girls and women with disabilities.

Country Studies

The EDID-GHDI partnership is doing four interconnected country studies in Vietnam, Haiti, South Africa, and Canada. All four countries have committed to important international human rights treaties including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The diversity in country studies allows us to explore women and girls' disability rights across geography, economy, and politics. Each country team is made up of local knowledge holders, including at least one disabled peoples' organization (DPO) and one country-based researcher. The country teams use community-based research approaches to decide what to study and how to conduct the research, ranging from analyzing census data or policies, to doing arts-based research.



Transnational & Thematic Studies

In addition to the four country studies, the EDID-GHDI partnership is engaging in transnational research studies related to gender, intersectionality, and disability-inclusive global development. We are also starting thematic studies to examine in-depth issues and questions separate from the transnational and country studies.

Project Hubs

This work is organized around three interconnected project hubs: a Research Hub, a Relationships Hub, and a Knowledge Mobilization Hub (Figure 1). These three project hubs work with the Leadership Team, along with the Council of Advisors (international disability leaders) and Disability Partners' Caucus (representatives from all disability-related partner organizations) to govern the project.

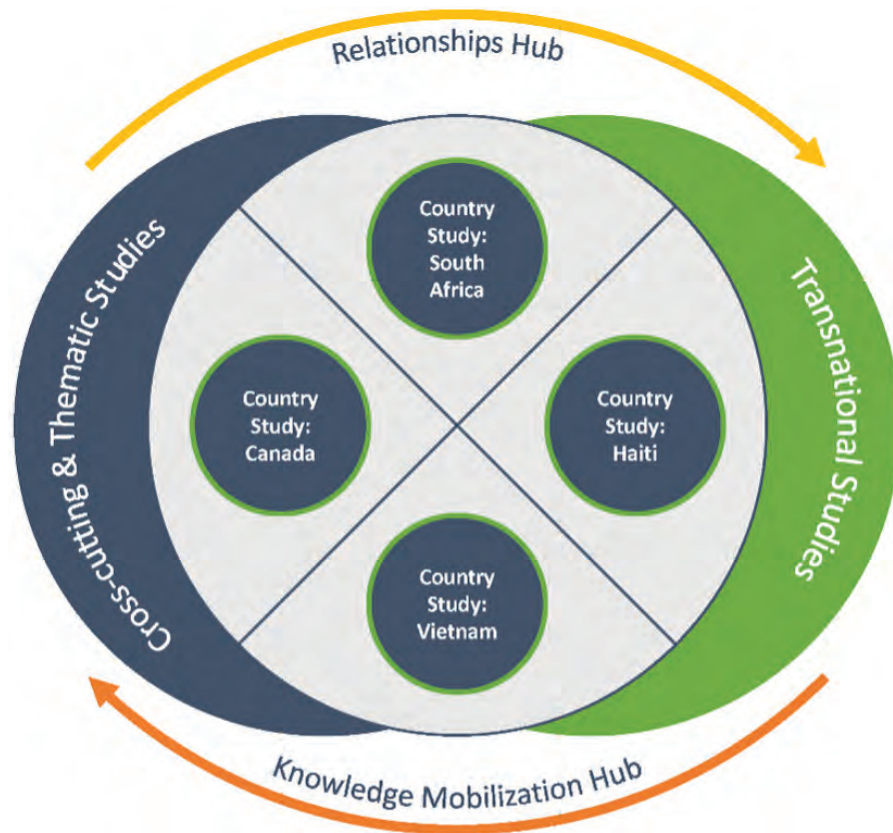


Figure 1: The graphic above shows an overview of the interconnected components of the EDID-GHDI partnership. It includes the three streams of the project that foster collaboration with international partner organizations: 1. Cross-cutting and Thematic Studies; 2. Country Studies, and 3. Transnational Studies. These project streams are organized around the three project hubs: 1. Research Hub; 2. Relationships Hub; and 3. Knowledge Mobilization Hub.



Figure 2: In the EDID-GHDI logo, the magnolia flower has five petals to represent the five main teams that make up the partnership: one petal for each of the four country teams, and one petal for the transnational team. The ribbons below the magnolia represent how our relationships weave together so we all can flourish. The full name of the EDID-GHDI partnership is written below in both French and English to show our commitment to a bilingual partnership.

The EDID-GHDI Logo

The road to the EDID-GHDI partnership began in 2013, with a conversation between Deborah Stienstra and Steve Estey. Over the next seven years, we continued to build and strengthen the relationships that now form the foundation of the EDID-GHDI partnership.

In 2019, prior to receiving funding, several of our partners solidified their commitments to the EDID-GHDI project by braiding six colourful ribbons together as a symbol of our partnership. This symbol was inspired by the two-row wampum belt of the Haudenosaunee First Nations peoples to record their peace and friendship treaty with settlers in what is now Canada. The different rows showed equality between the different groups and demonstrated a commitment to respect each other's ways of living and how best to live together.

Each time we meet as EDID-GHDI, we will make our braided ribbon a little longer and stronger. These braided ribbons inspired the development of our logo (Figure 2). Our logo reminds us of the interconnectedness of our partnership, and how we are stronger together. It shows the strengths and contributions we all bring to create a partnership that is stronger than what we do individually.

Partnership Updates: Year 2

Partnership Team Meeting: June 22-24, 2022

After more than two years of living and working amidst the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, between June 22-24th, 2022, the EDID-GHDI Partnership Team gathered both online and in-person in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This meeting was an opportunity for the entire partnership team to share the work they have been doing and to communicate their plans for moving forward in partnership. In total, eight people attended in person in Ottawa, and over 30 people joined online from our partner countries, including participants from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

On the final day of the Partnership Team meeting, attendees were invited to reflect and offer a word that captured their feelings and experiences over the three days of meetings. Kaitlyn Hunter, a graduate student research assistant with EDID-GHDI, created a visual summary of what everyone shared. This visual summary is provided and described below (Figure 3).



Figure 3: A visual summary of reflections shared by participants on the final day of the EDID-GHDI partnership team meeting in June 2022.

2021-2022 Partnership Highlights

On the first day of the Partnership Team meeting, David Black (co-lead of the South Africa country study and co-lead of the Research Hub) presented highlights from the EDID-GHDI partnership over the past year. David Black described how the country and transnational studies are continuing to develop and deepen, although there have been unique experiences that have slowed down work in our different contexts. Despite these delays, EDID-GHDI members have acknowledged and expressed interest in exploring how these issues intersect with our respective topics and research interests.

The main highlights from the country and transnational studies over this past year, as outlined in David Black's presentation, are described below. More detailed research and knowledge mobilization updates from each team are provided in other sections of this report.

Highlights from Country Studies:

Each country study team is made up of an interdisciplinary group of researchers, community partners, and disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs) based in each country. The teams all work with students and research assistants as part of our commitments to training and mentoring.

While each country's needs and priorities are context-specific, the teams are all learning a great deal from one another in terms of shaping their respective research priorities and approaches. The main priorities for each team for 2021-2022 were as follows:

- **Haiti:** Developing and implementing community-based and community-focused workshops.
- **Vietnam:** Operationalizing decolonial approaches to research.
- **South Africa:** Examining understudied and invisible disabilities, as well as issues related to health, gender-based violence, and education.
- **Canada:** Understanding and developing disability-inclusive sustainable livelihoods frameworks.

The country study teams also all focus on government structures, collaboration, and establishing trust and problem-solving relationships in their respective contexts.



Highlights from the Transnational Team:

For the past year, the transnational team has been connecting women and girls with disabilities beyond country boundaries. Their work focuses on identifying and addressing gaps between treaties and conventions, and the implementation of inclusive development.

Overall, the transnational team is involved with articulating larger transnational and global processes and exploring how these processes play out at local levels. Further, the team is developing frameworks to track these processes so they can be measured and evaluated over time.

The transnational team is also adding new members based on project needs and priorities. For example, Erin Baines, a researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, has joined the transnational team to lead a thematic project focused on women and girls with disabilities in conflict situations.

Other Partnership Highlights

Other partnership highlights included the ongoing work led by Bonnie Brayton of DAWN Canada and the EDID-GHDI partnership liaison, which involves strengthening connections with EDID-GHDI partners to foster collaborations and connections across EDID-GHDI borders.

Additionally, in December 2021, the Decolonial Disability Studies Collective at Carleton University launched the ENGAGE project, a research and leadership-building initiative which aims to engage girls and young women with disabilities in India, Vietnam and South Africa. The project is led by Thuy Nguyen of the Vietnam team, with support from EDID-GHDI partners in Australia, India, Canada and South Africa. The project will support young women and girls living with disabilities to engage their leadership capacities and to support their activism for gendered disability equality, inclusion and respect.

Research Updates: Year 2

Haiti

The Haiti team works with women with disabilities to strengthen their knowledge and their capacity to influence public policy. Despite the context of an unelected and contested government, extreme insecurity, increased poverty and exclusion, and fragile infrastructure, the Haiti team has made several notable accomplishments, including:

- Published early research on international activism by women with disabilities.
- Established a Haitian Guidance Committee made up of the following organizations: Bureau du secrétaire d'état à l'intégration des personnes handicapées (BSEIPH); Réseau associatif national pour intégration des personnes handicapées (RANIPH); three smaller organizations led by women with disabilities; Université d'État d'Haïti (UEH); Égalité pour la connaissance, la communication et la liberté (ECCEL); and the University of Ottawa.
- Awarded scholarships to two Haitian master's students researching women with disabilities access to justice and microcredit.
- Hosted a research-based workshop in December 2021 with Haitian partners, focused on gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;
- Hosted a second workshop in July 2022 focused on disabled women's (limited) access to employment in Haiti.

The partners within the Haitian Guidance Committee have highlighted the need to address the access to research awards for women with disabilities (i.e., expanding eligibility to women with disabilities in the fourth year of an university undergraduate program) and creating internship opportunities to work within organizations of women with disabilities. Following this feedback, the Haiti team plans to offer one scholarship to a fourth-year student in 2023, with preference given to women with disabilities.

In terms of policy development, the challenging political climate after the assassination of Prime Minister Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 and the current unelected government has stalled policy dialogues in Haiti for the time being. Despite these challenges, Soinette Désir of Union des femmes a mobilité réduite d'Haïti, has recognized the importance of EDID-GHDI activities in Haiti and hopes that current challenges may also lead to new opportunities in the future.

South Africa

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities rooted in colonial legacy, the South Africa team is optimistic about their ongoing work with the partnership. In the past year, this team has identified key themes they plan to investigate over three phases:

- **Phase 1** will explore underrepresented groups of women and girls with disabilities, such as those living with invisible disabilities;
- **Phase 2** will shift the focus to health, gender-based violence, and femicide experienced by women and girls with disabilities in the nation; and
- **Phase 3** will examine how women and girls with disabilities experience education and training, and employment and economic independence.

Each phase will prioritize policy and governance and a research process co-designed with civil society and disabled peoples' organizations. The South Africa team has also made it a priority to undergo a cross-country comparison and synthesis based on partnership findings in these three key areas.

The South Africa team works closely with South Africa Disability Alliance (SADA), an umbrella organization for most national disability organizations that strives to advance the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in South Africa. SADA has been involved in the following research activities:

- Baseline policy and thematic research;
- A case study focused on Cape Town's quest for accessible transportation;
- A pilot survey of the social development staff of Epilepsy South Africa on the key challenges facing, and available supports for, women and girls with disabilities. This is to be followed in September by a full survey of SADA member organizations;
- Research on elderly women with disabilities;
- Litigation to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities; and
- Development of the *Disabled Women Rise Up* application.

SADA is also currently finalizing a report that identifies and makes recommendations for intervention regarding challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and their needs, based on a survey of their member organizations. Preliminary findings have identified key areas for intervention, including: safety and security; poverty and food security; and service delivery during the pandemic.

The South Africa team is also planning a workshop for government, civil society, and private sector representatives on the challenges and capacities of South African women and girls with disabilities, to be held this coming November in Johannesburg.

Vietnam

The main research objectives of the Vietnam team are as follows:

- Identify systemic barriers that prevent women and girls with disabilities from participating in socio-political spaces;
- Identify changes to promote their participation and representation; and
- Mobilize knowledge across local, national, and international borders.

The Vietnam team is using a decolonial disabilities studies approach to their research, and is using a collective body of theories, knowledges, and practice that engage with the lived experiences and conditions of people with disabilities in the Global South. Their work resists colonial systems by creating alternative spaces for knowledge production with, from, and across the Global South. These alternative spaces include focus groups, in-depth interviews, and interactive arts-based methods with women and girls with disabilities.

Alongside their continuous work to decolonize research, the Vietnam team is also engaging in an ongoing partnership approach to build relationships and share knowledge between the research teams, the Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi), and other local and transnational disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs).

Despite anxiety about re-opening during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vietnam team started field work in April 2022 and continues to build on its strong relationships with women and girls with disabilities. They will be doing one-on-one and small group interviews with women and girls with disabilities, as well as interviews with policymakers in Vietnam. A steering committee of Vietnamese girls and women with disabilities is currently being formed to guide their research.

Through its pre-existing relationships with DPOs in the nation – including DP Hanoi – the Vietnam team engaged with five diverse girls and seven diverse women with disabilities from Hanoi and three other Northern provinces. Findings from these preliminary interviews are showing that d(D) eaf women appear more disadvantaged in access to education, communications, and resources. Further, girls appear to have less access than women due to the unavailability of age-appropriate spaces and activities.

The Vietnam team has also observed unequal power relations, resources, and organizational capacities between universities and DPOs, as well as between DPOs and non-governmental organizations. To address these inequalities, the Vietnam team acknowledge the importance of recognizing that as a research team, they are inherently embedded in colonial structures. It is therefore important for all researchers to continue to reflect on their own privileges while conducting research in and with the Global South. The Vietnam team will also continue to engage DP Hanoi and other DPOs in their research processes, and will work together with these organizations to identify strategies and solutions to problems as they arise.

Canada

The Canada team aims to understand how diverse women and girls with disabilities meet their needs and achieve their dreams and identify strategies to facilitate these dreams. This team is made up of researchers, students, and partner organizations, including: British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, DisAbleD Women's Network Canada, the Live Work Well Research Centre, and Realize.

Together with their partners, the Canada team has identified two main research questions that prioritize the experiences and voices of diverse women and girls with disabilities:

1. What are the supportive and hindering factors shaping paths to livelihoods of diverse women and girls with disabilities across the life course?
2. How do legislative, jurisdictional, and human rights frameworks facilitate or limit paths to livelihoods for diverse women and girls with disabilities?

The Canada team is collecting data from six Canadian regions – Atlantic Canada, Québec, Ontario, the Prairies, British Columbia, and Northern Canada – in an overlapping three-phase process:

- **Phase 1** (Summer/Fall 2022) involves arts-based focus groups with girls with disabilities aged 12-17.
- **Phase 2** (Summer/Fall 2022) involves focus groups and interviews with 5-8 diverse women and girls with disabilities in each of the six Canadian regions. Key informant interviews with disability leaders were conducted by students in the IDEV 3300 course at the University of Guelph.
- **Phase 3** (Winter 2023) involves an intersectional policy analysis on provincial and national legislations, as well as international conventions.

Across all their work, the Canada team is applying intersectional analyses, livelihoods framework analyses, and life course analyses to identify key themes. The team anticipates sharing preliminary findings at the Canada Policy Forum on December 3, 2022.

Transnational

The transnational team was established in March 2021, in partnership with DisAbleD Women's Network (DAWN) Canada. Together with DAWN, the transnational team is focused on addressing the following research priorities:

1. Understanding and addressing how diverse women and girls with disabilities are involved in international treaty body meetings and other international events, and exploring who is represented in these settings;

2. Investigating the extent to which women and girls with disabilities are engaged in the process of implementing and monitoring disability rights transnationally; and
3. Exploring transnational experiences of violence against women and girls with disabilities, and women and girls with disabilities in post-conflict situations.

To address these priorities, the transnational team is using a few different research methods and approaches. Preliminary findings are helping the transnational team establish foundations for their research moving forward.

For instance, the transnational team is gathering and reviewing literature on organizing led by women with disabilities. This literature focuses on topics such as disability organizing, analytical literature, and grey literature published by organizations and institutions.

The team is also scanning archives from international treaty bodies and events to explore how women and girls with disabilities are represented as political actors. Preliminary findings from these scans show a significant presence of women and girls with disabilities at the Global Disability Summit, with more sporadic engagement in online human rights forums as well as at the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

In addition to the scans of these international treaty body and event archives, the transnational team is also scanning archives of key international civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and UN Women to better understand the landscape of transnational organizations that address key issues related to women and girls with disabilities.

Finally, the transnational team is also working on collecting data from annual treaty body meetings and other international events. With the shift of many events being online, the EDID transnational team was able to attend various side events for international and treaty body meetings specifically tailored to women and girls with disabilities and immediately related issues. Preliminary findings observed themes of intersectionality and LGBTQ+ issues.



Upcoming Thematic Work

We would like to introduce and welcome Erin Baines from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada as part of the EDID-GHDI transnational team. Erin will be leading a new thematic study on women and girls in conflict in Uganda, starting in 2022.

Knowledge Mobilization Updates: Year 2

The Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Hub is hosted by the Live Work Well Research Centre at the University of Guelph, and 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.

Highlights from the Partnership Team Meeting

On Day Three of the Partnership Team meeting in June, the KMb facilitated a concurrent session to reflect on and refine our KMb goals for the EDID-GHDI partnership. Together, we discussed the types of KMb products we wanted to create, both as individual teams and in collaboration with the larger partnership. We also discussed the types of KMb strategies that work well in each country's context, and how our partners want to engage, share and communicate with the research teams. Finally, we identified the need to use our KMb outputs to influence policy and funding decisions. In particular, community-based KMb outputs led by our partners can be especially helpful in applying pressure and advocating for policy change.

Other key highlights from the KMb concurrent session included:

- Several members showed interest in developing collaborative KMb products that identify common themes within each study context, such as gender-based violence, and that highlight each other's collective strengths in understanding and working on these themes.
- We need to continue working to identify and create resources and communications strategies that will support each team in achieving their KMb goals. Specifically, participants identified the need to create a repository of resources on how to be innovative and accessible when sharing KMb products.
- There is a need to develop a common practice for recording research outputs and integrating this into our KMb work. This practice will help increase communication throughout the partnership to document outputs, goals, and changes, and provide support as needed.
- EDID-GHDI should prioritize collaborations with our community partners to centre their voices, knowledge, and experiences, and give recognition to the important work they do.

Website Development

We thank you all for your patience and support with the EDID-GHDI website development process! The wait is almost over – we are aiming to launch the website before the end of this year. We are working on finalizing the content in both English and French. After the website development team finishes adding all the content to the website, we will share the link with the Leadership Team, and then the wider partnership, for review before releasing to the public.

Newsletters

The KMb Hub has led the development and publication of four newsletters since the EDID-GHDI partnership began in 2020, with two newsletters released since the 2020-21 Annual Report. These newsletters provide updates about what is going on across the partnership, and foster energy and engagement with our collaborative work.

The Fall 2021 newsletter emphasized the need to prioritize our wellbeing as we move through our new pandemic reality. As the ongoing complexities of the pandemic continue to challenge our lives and how we work, the Winter 2022 newsletter provided an opportunity to focus on the importance of coming together in times of these times of complexity and change.

Moving forward, the KMb Hub is planning on releasing three newsletters per year.



Pre-Recorded Workshops

The KMb Hub has been working on a series of four pre-recorded workshops focused on topics of interest expressed by the partnership team members. The plan for these workshops is to use them in a series of online events in the fall of 2022. These online events will be open to all EDID-GHDI study team leads, partners, and students, and will provide opportunities for intra- and inter-team discussion and collaboration.

This series is comprised of the following four workshops:

1. Engaging Development in Practice

The first workshop was released in June 2022, and captured a presentation put together by a team of students through a course at the University of Guelph called IDEV 3300: Engaging in Development Practice. The presentation focused on an analysis of Shadow Reports submitted to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by each of the partner countries, including Haiti, Canada, Vietnam, and South Africa. This workshop can be accessed on YouTube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTJJ56QEFFA>

2. Arts-Based Methodologies

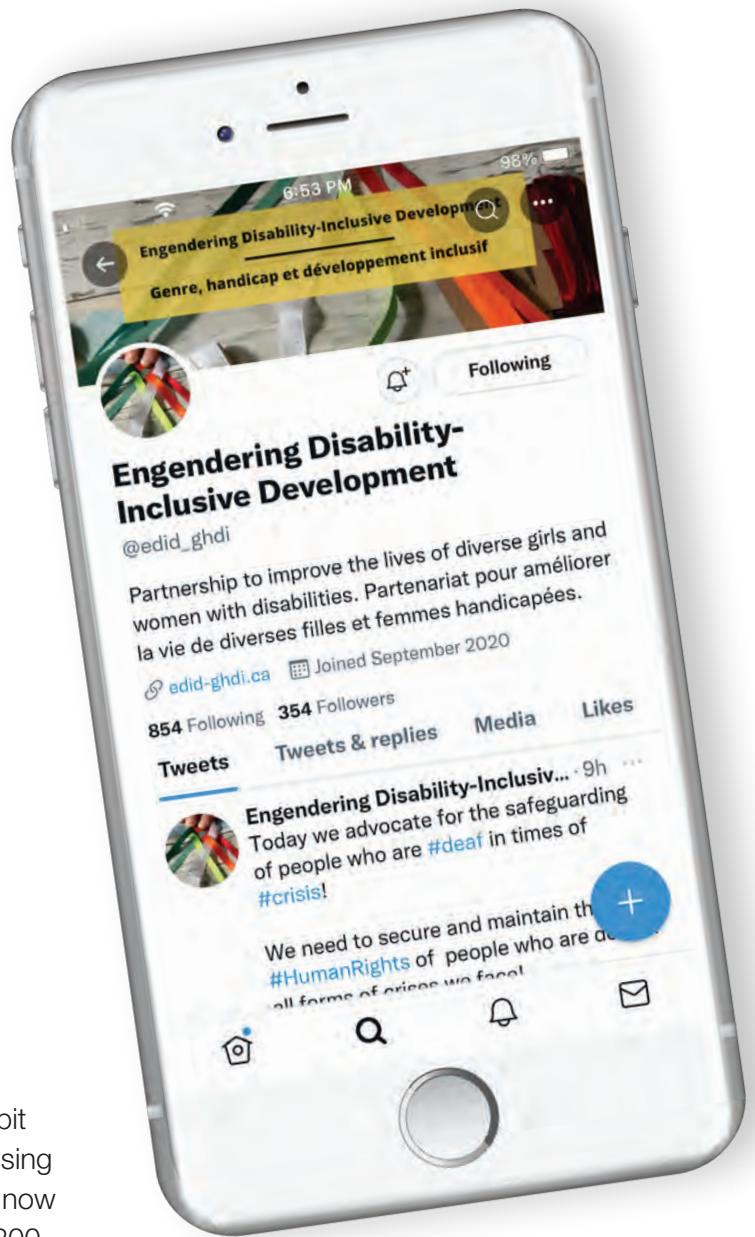
The second pre-recorded workshop focused on Arts-Based-Methodologies (ABM) and their potential to be used in the context of studies on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This workshop featured a conversation between two experts on ABM: Melissa Tanti (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Manchester), and Kanitha Nhek (Director of Outreach and Partnerships, DAWN Canada). Melissa and Kanitha offered a fascinating dialogue on the subject, and their workshop will be released in early November 2022.

3. Decolonizing Research Methodologies in Practice

The third pre-recorded workshop focuses on decolonizing research methodologies in practice. It featured a conversation between Xuan Thuy Nguyen (co-lead of the Vietnam country study, and Associate Professor at Carleton University), and Jacqueline de Matos Ala (co-lead of the South Africa country study, and Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand). This workshop will be released in November 2022.

4. Creating a Policy Forum

The fourth pre-recorded workshop will be released in December 2022 and will focus on questions related to how to create a policy forum, which will be helpful to partners as they move towards developing policy forums in each of their respective regions.



Social Media

EDID-GHDI's online presence has grown quite a bit during the last year! The KMb Hub has been focusing on growing the [EDID-GHDI Twitter account](#). We now have over 350 followers – an increase of around 200 since July 2021.

The EDID-GHDI Twitter account shares content in English and French related to the project's areas of research and goals. We retweet and highlight publications and events from our partners, such as DAWN Canada. In recent tweets, the team has shared resources such as podcasts that focus on the lived experience of people with disabilities. We want to keep growing on social media and we hope to share more EDID-GHDI specific content and research updates.

Our goals for the year ahead are to continue tracking and sharing our partners' activities and interesting intersectional events, 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.

Once the EDID-GHDI website is available, the KMb team will also aim to use our Twitter account to amplify and increase the reach and impact of articles and resources published via the website.

Other KMb Activities

presentations and talks

Working with Girls and Women with Disabilities in the Global South

Xuan Thuy Nguyen was a guest speaker at the Vietnamese Humanities and Social Science Student's Association on March 22, 2022, where she discussed her experiences researching disability in the Global South. In the presentation, Thuy critically reflected on the use of participatory arts-based methods that involve young women and girls with disabilities in three disadvantaged communities in Vietnam.

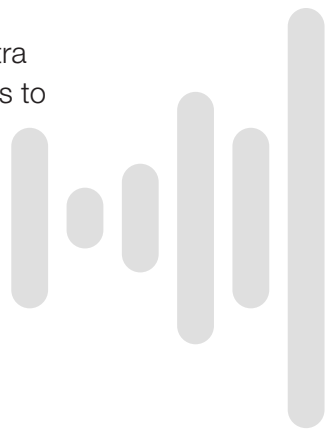
Presentations to Global Affairs Canada

Deborah Stienstra and other Canadian EDID-GHDI members were invited to participate in a newly created Working Group on Disability Inclusion led by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Deborah was a key speaker at several internal GAC meetings, raising the profile of both EDID-GHDI and disability inclusion in policy.

In particular, Deborah was part of a panel that included civil society organizations at GAC's commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2021. And, she presented at GAC's Global Gossip Innovation Discussions in March 2022, focusing on the ways disability inclusion can influence policy and programs.

International Studies Association Meetings

As part of building the conceptual foundations of EDID-GHDI, Deborah Stienstra presented a paper on the rights and justice for women and girls with disabilities to the March 2022 meetings of the International Studies Association.



podcasts

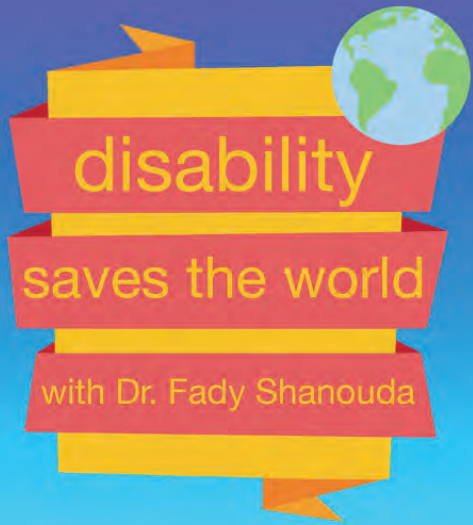


Women and Girls with Disabilities: Let's change how we approach inclusion – Podcast with Deborah Stienstra and Bonnie Brayton

Deborah Stienstra and Bonnie Brayton were guests on the Partnership for Inclusive Research and Learning (PIRL) podcast, hosted at the University of Toronto and released on March 10, 2022. On the podcast, Deborah and Bonnie talked about the initiation of the EDID-GHDI partnership, and its goals of identifying and addressing gaps around the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities.



[Listen to the Inclusive Research with PIRL podcast!](#)



Disability Saves the World with Fady Shanouda

Xuan Thuy Nguyen, co-lead of the EDID-GHDI's Vietnam country study and Associate Professor at Carleton University at the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, joined Fady Shanouda's podcast on September 20, 2021. Thuy talked about decolonial disability studies, the work of doing research in global south countries, and the impact of southern theories on the meaning of disability.



[Listen to the disability saves the world podcast](#)

Gender-Based Violence Workshop in Haiti

On December 7th, 2021, the Haiti team hosted an online workshop on gender-based violence and girls and women with disabilities. At the workshop, two studies on violence against girls and women with disabilities in Haiti were presented, by Sophie Mitra and Justine Hervé from Fordham University, and Esther Randiche and Sergine Pierre from Initiative pour un développement équitable en Haïti (IDEH). Presentations were followed by an engaging discussion on practical options open to stakeholders, including organizations of women with disabilities, their allies, international organizations and the state.

International Development Week at the University of Ottawa

Deborah Stienstra and Stephen Baranyi gave a workshop on their respective work with the EDID-GHDI partnership at the University of Ottawa's International Development Week in February 2022.

Workshop on Challenges and Priorities for Disabled Women and Girls in South Africa

In May 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the South Africa Team worked with representatives of member organizations of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) to host a workshop focusing on the EDID project and their perception of the biggest challenges and highest priorities for disabled women and girls in South Africa, as well as the challenges facing organizations in the Disability Sector. The workshop was led by team members David Black, Sharlene Cassel, and Karen Robinson.

Disabled Women's (Limited) Access to Employment in Haiti

In June 2022, the Haiti team hosted another workshop with their Haitian partners, this time focused on limitations to disabled women's access to employment in the country.

student engagement

Training and Mentorship

The EDID-GHDI partnership is 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.

To date, each country study has engaged Canadian and country-based students each year, and the project's hubs, transnational team, and the thematic studies have also engaged graduate and undergraduate students. These students have had opportunities to build skills in community-based research and engage in knowledge mobilization and team-specific activities.



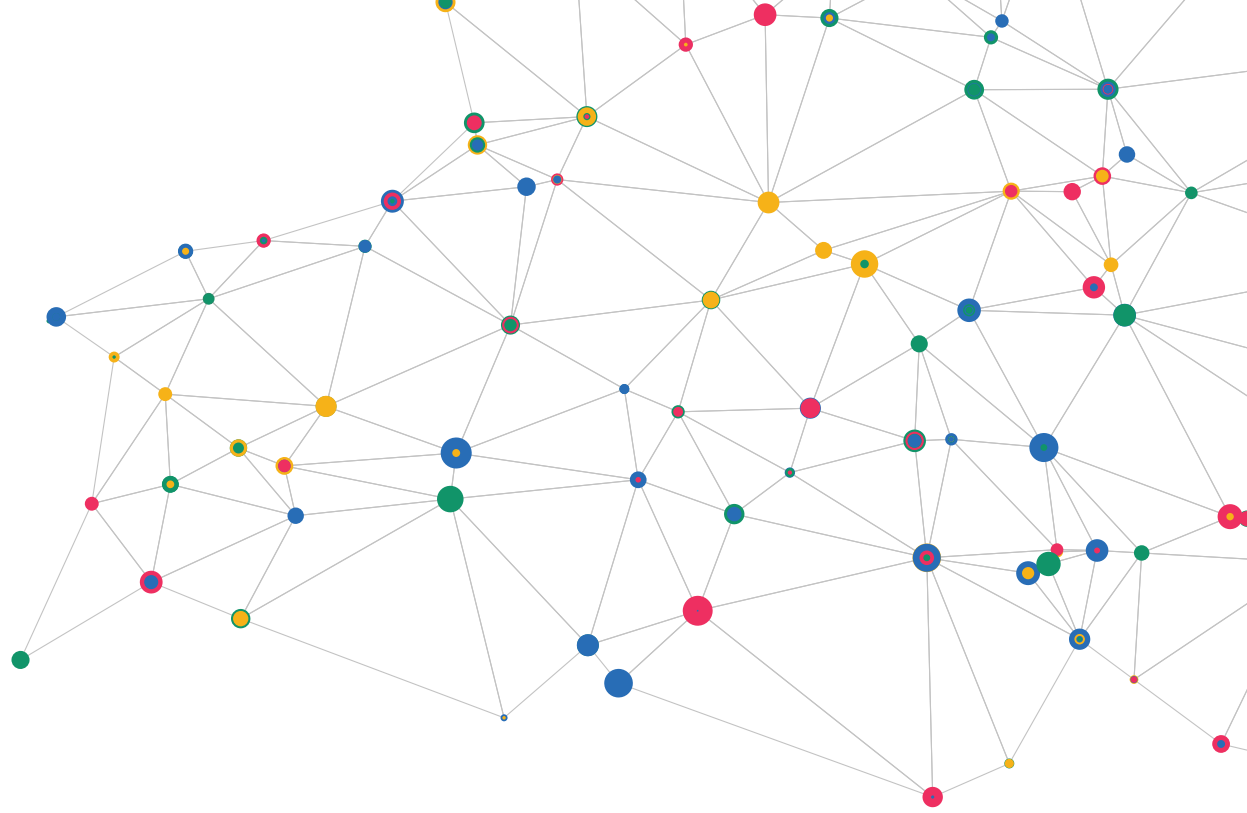
Relationships Hub Updates: Year 2

Over this past year, 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 Disability Partners' Caucus (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.

The DPC met once between 2021-2022. This meeting provided space and opportunities to discuss and disentangle the challenges and opportunities that arise when working within the tensions between academic and advocacy work. Specifically, DPC members emphasized the importance of ensuring knowledge gained from lived experiences is equal with knowledge gained from academic research, and restructuring research frameworks to be intersectional, anti-oppressive, and rooted in communities. These frameworks must acknowledge local politics and realities, while also apply to our work at national and international levels. The DPC also met during the 2022 Partnership Team meeting.



Student Network

As part of the EDID-GHDI partnership commitment to student development and inclusion within the project, we have been working on developing 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. The student network met for the first time during the June Partnership Team meeting in Ottawa, and included students studying in the global North. During this meeting, Kathryn Reinders, a graduate student research assistant with EDID-GHDI, led a reflection and relationship building activity based on the Critical Multicultural Pavilion's awareness activity "exchanging stories – names."

In this activity, students were asked to consider what the story of their fullest name is – including the story of any nicknames, preferred names, significance, ancestry, cultural aspects, identities, and origins which feel meaningful. Students were then encouraged to share as little or as much of their stories as they would like, taking note of what it felt like to decide what to share or not. After sharing stories, students engaged in group reflection around how it felt to be in control of our own stories, what themes or stories we did or did not choose to tell, and what control over our own stories can teach us about understanding voice and power relations in research. This discussion was rich and nuanced, including themes around identity, the freedom to be oneself, and how to be more attentive to power dynamics in research.

Following this discussion, students shared different articles, reports, and documents created by members of the EDID-GHDI partnership around voice and power in research. Moving forward, the student network is seeking to create more opportunities to connect and support students from the global South, to ensure their voices and experiences are represented in these discussions and in our work more broadly.

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 (Figure 4), and that we operate from our six guiding principles. These principles include: equitable and reciprocal relationships; inclusive research practices; valuing diverse experiences, ways of knowing and being; knowledge co-creation and sharing; open communication; and working cooperatively for best solutions.

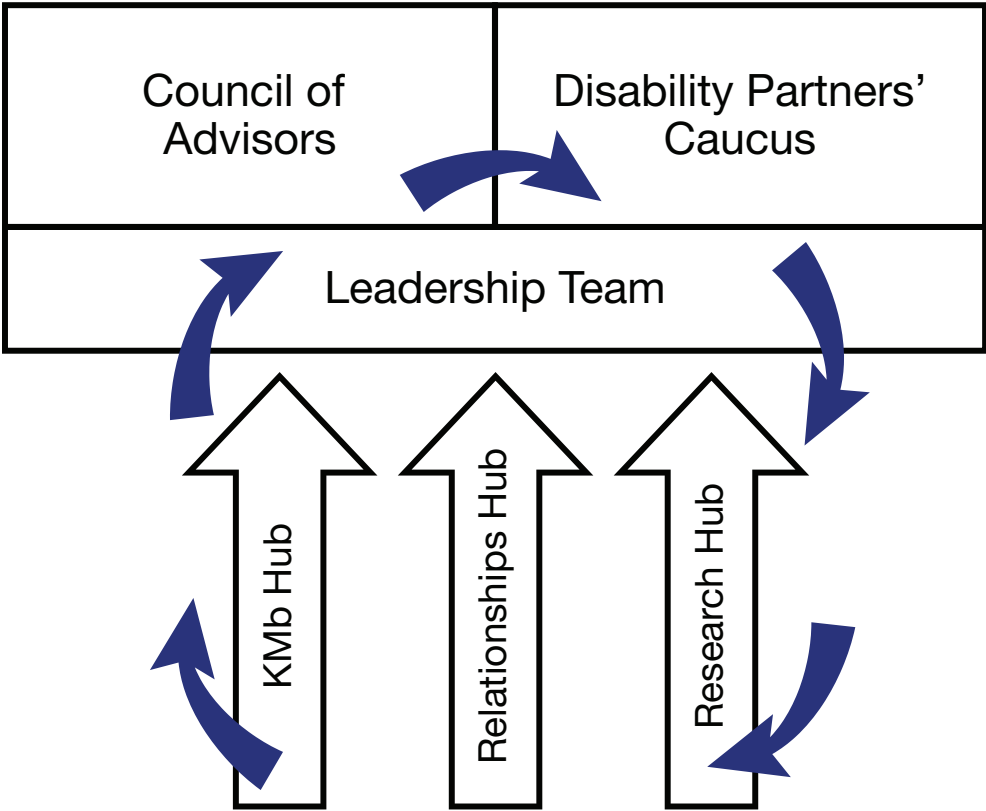


Figure 4: EDID-GHDI governance structure



This photo is from 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 ribbon together as a symbol of their partnership.

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team currently includes: Kate Ducak, Bonnie Brayton, Steve Estey, Elizabeth Jackson, Alex Sawatzky, David Black, and Deborah Stienstra

We gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to and supported the work of the Leadership Team over the past year, including Rana El Kadi and Jessica Lukawiecki.

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 international disability leaders: Shuaib Chalklen (African Disability Forum), Nora Groce (Director, Disability Research Centre, UCL), Judith Heumann (international disability rights activist), Stephen Lewis (AIDS Free World), and Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo (World Bank Disability Advisor).

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) • University of the Witwatersrand • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN) • Canadian Council on Rehabilitation & Work (CCRW) • British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) • 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">• The Critical Institute• National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda• Humanity and Inclusion Canada• Canadian National Institute for the Blind, World Blind Union• DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN)• Western Sydney University• University of Ottawa• University of Guelph

The Year Ahead

As we enter the third 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 (2024-25), and Canada (2026-27)

Regular Disability Partners' Caucus meetings:

We aspire for these meetings to take place at least twice a year, via phone and video call options.

Policy Forums:

Canada (December 2022), Vietnam (June 2023), Haiti (2024), and South Africa (2024-25)

Global Women with Disabilities Forum:

Canada (Fall 2023)

Early Career Researchers' Conference and Research Roundtable:

Canada (June 2023), South Africa (2024-25), and virtually (June 2025)

Capstone International Research Conference:

Canada (2026-27)

Where we aim to be by the end of Year 3 (May 31, 2023):

Research Activities

- Country, thematic, and transnational studies will all be started by mid-2023.
- We will create and use developmental evaluation frameworks to assess overall and interrelated project activities.
- We will continue to adapt research work plans and evaluation frameworks to suit our ongoing COVID-19 pandemic reality.

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.
- The KMb Hub is working on creating KMb tracking plans to document all EDID-GHDI KMb activities and outputs for the October 2023 midterm partnership review.
- The KMb Hub will also work with the Leadership Team, and each of the country, thematic, and transnational study teams to create KMb evaluation frameworks that are specific to each study context. By the end of Year 3, we will aim to have at least six months of data and information collected via the KMb tracking plans to assess and evaluate.

Training and Mentorship

- Many students (undergraduate, master's and doctoral) will continue to participate in the project by the end of Year 3.

Governance

- We will continue to use ongoing open communication, proactive planning, collaborative problem-solving, and trust to work through challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve shared goals.

Partner Engagement

- Through the work and support of the Relationships and KMb Hubs, members of disabled peoples' 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:



edid-ghdi@uoguelph.ca



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



Website coming soon!



Postal mail:

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