



EDID-GHDI

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

ANNUAL REPORT
2024–26



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Message from the Project Director

Welcome to the fourth EDID-GHDI Annual Report! This report covers years 5 and 6 (April 2024 to March 2026) of our 7-year partnership.

Since our last Annual Report, the EDID-GHDI partnership has been productive, with South Africa's Policy Forum taking place in July 2024 followed by our first in-person Partnership Team Meeting, as well as an online Partnership Team Meeting in November 2025. The University of Guelph hosted several events under the series Countering Policy Exclusions, and the South Africa, Haiti, and Vietnam teams have held a number of events in support of women and girls with disabilities.

The shared leadership approach of EDID-GHDI has generated significant interest around the world, and we have addressed this interest by creating an Affiliate Membership category and funding for thematic initiatives. New partnerships in Cameroon, southern Benin, Morocco, and northern Uganda enabled local research on and with women with disabilities. At the United Nations, EDID-GHDI teams brought forward insights from their research on the representation of women with disabilities in international bodies and their involvement post conflict and in peacebuilding. These actions have engendered new global initiatives with further opportunities for collaboration.

The Country teams continued their work with partner organizations to advocate for the rights of women and girls with disabilities. From January 2025–January 2026, we took on a new postdoctoral researcher, Hiwot Mekuanent, who focused on barriers to leadership for women with disabilities.

To support researchers and civil society partners in mobilizing knowledge about the valuable work that is being done, we established [Author Guidelines](#) on our website with a variety of publication options for authors to write about and reflect on their work. So far we have published several working papers and reports, and in early 2026, we announced an EDID-GHDI Blog for contributions on topics of interest to the EDID-GHDI partnership.



A number of country and thematic researchers in our partnership worked hard over the last couple of years writing chapters for a book to be published in 2026 by Palgrave Macmillan. This collection, *Approaches to Making Change with Women and Girls with Disabilities*, identifies three approaches to change for and with women and girls with disabilities and discusses how these approaches are used by women with disabilities to make changes in their lives.

In our last report, we mourned the loss of two trailblazing disability rights activists, Judy Heumann on March 4, 2023, and Steve Estey on September 11, 2023. 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. In 2026, we established the Honouring Judy Heumann and Steve Estey Memorial Fund, held a call for proposals, and awarded funding to four disability-led initiatives that strengthen the leadership and participation of women and girls with disabilities. These projects will continue to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of these two leaders in disability rights.

With hope and warmth,

Deborah Stienstra

EDID-GHDI Project Director
University of Guelph

Partnership Updates: Years 5 and 6

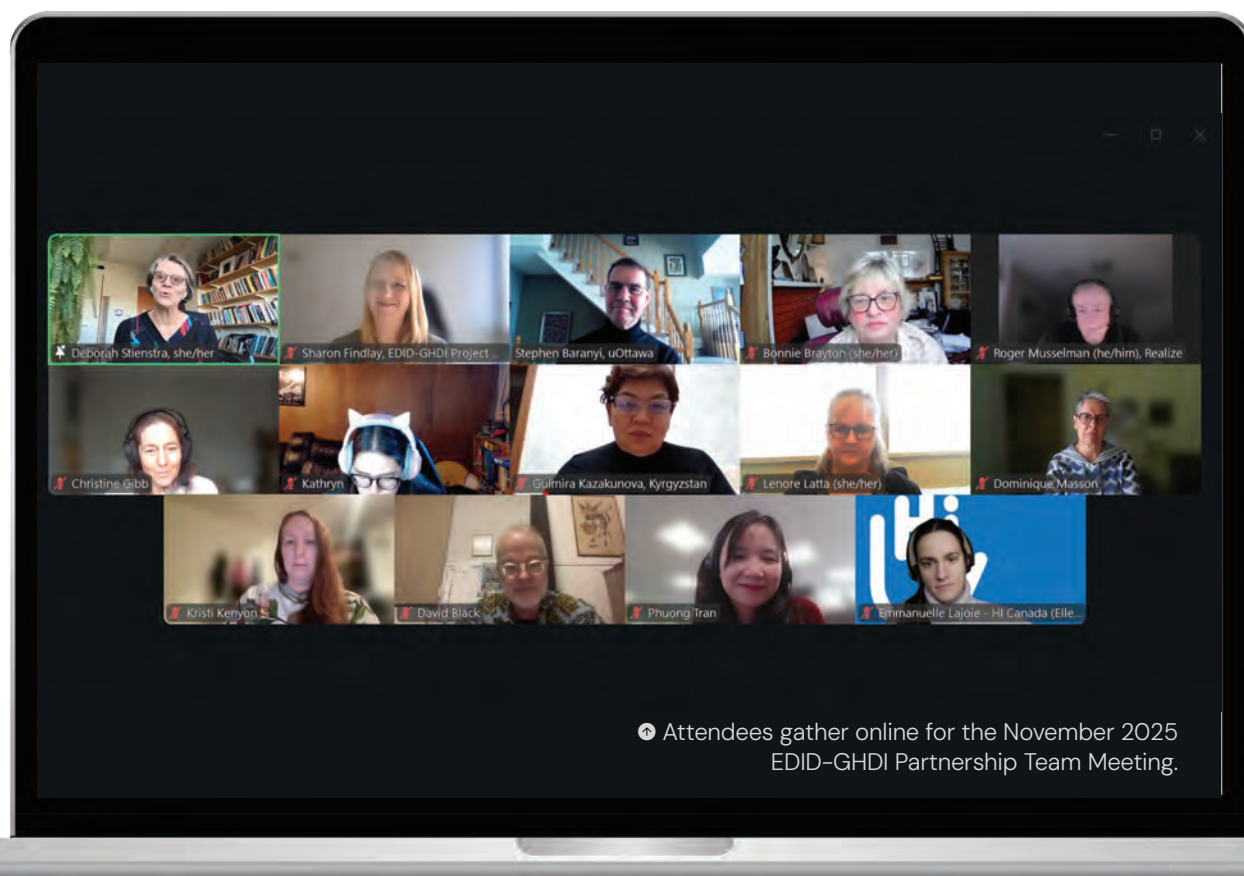
Members of the EDID-GHDI partnership met in 2024 and 2025 for **Partnership Team Meetings**.



In July 2024, members of the EDID-GHDI partnership gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the second EDID-GHDI Partnership Team Meeting. The South Africa hybrid event was attended by about 40 participants, 23 of whom attended in-person. The meeting took place over 3 days, and featured reports, presentations, and discussions, as well as time for networking. Two professional videos ([90 seconds](#) and [5 minutes](#) long) created from the meeting provide a glimpse of the energy, connection, and shared commitment of EDID-GHDI partners, members, and friends as they reflect on the journey so far and continue to build a future rooted in disability inclusion and justice.

📍 Activities at the EDID-GHDI Partnership Team Meeting in South Africa in 2024.

In November 2025, 38 partners and affiliates in EDID-GHDI gathered online for the third Partnership Team Meeting. The meeting comprised three panel discussions on Country Teams / Research; Student Network; and Civil Society Caucus. A video recording of the meeting has been made available online for partners and members who weren't able to attend.



Summary notes and materials from both meetings are available on the password-protected **Partnership Resources page** of the EDID-GHDI website. EDID-GHDI members or affiliates who wish to obtain the password can email edid-ghdi@uoguelph.ca.

Research Hub Updates:

Years 5 and 6



Haiti

The grave governance and security crisis in Haiti presents major challenges for women with disabilities. Despite this, Haitian organizations of women with disabilities are working in concert to continue the fight for their rights, with EDID-GHDI support. The Haiti country team has continued to fund or conduct research, to organize events, and to maintain or establish relationships with community partners.

Between April 2024 and March 2026, the team hosted nine workshops with graduate students and partner organizations (see select details in Other KMb Activities).

In Fall 2024, the Haiti country team said goodbye to Ilionor Louis as coordinator and welcomed his replacement, Marjorie Brutus, a professor at the State University of Haiti and a passionate advocate for persons with disabilities.

In Fall 2025, the team held a funding competition and selected RAFHAH (*Réseau des associations de femmes handicapées d'Haïti* – Network of Associations of Women with Disabilities in Haiti) and MIEFH (*Mouvement pour l'intégration et l'émancipation des femmes handicapées* – Movement for the Integration and Emancipation of Women with Disabilities). These two leading networks and organizations of women with disabilities were chosen for deeper research and advocacy for full political participation of women with disabilities in 2026.

The Haiti country team has supported a number of graduate students researching topics of interest to women and girls with disabilities. In January 2025, Venadia Dessipe and Malyssa Baltazar presented the results of their Master's theses on *The Sexual Agency of Haitian Women with Physical Disabilities* and *The Sexual and Reproductive Experience of Disabled Women in Haiti: Between Rights and Reality*, respectively. PhD candidate Nancy Saint Louis received an EDID-GHDI research scholarship for her work on *Access to justice and protection for women with disabilities* and received ethics clearance from the University of Ottawa to begin her fieldwork. PhD candidate Jean Clarck Charles has received an EDID-GHDI grant to conduct research on access to healthcare.

The team also recently announced the approval of grants to OHAP (*Organisation des handicapés en action pour le progrès* – Organisation of Disabled Persons in Action for Progress) and CONAPH (*Coalition nationale des associations des personnes handicapées* – National Coalition of Associations of People with Disabilities) on the topic of access to education. Additional funding may also be allocated to UFMORH (*Union des femmes à mobilité réduite d'Haïti* – Union of Women with Reduced Mobility in Haiti) and FASHAA (*Femmes en action de la société haïtienne d'aide aux aveugles* – Women in Action, Haitian Society of Aid to Visually Impaired Persons) for their advocacy against violence against women with disabilities. This supplement to previous grants will enable these organizations to conduct advocacy work building on their previous research.





South Africa

The South Africa country team continues to feel the lasting impact of the successful Policy Forum and Partnership Team Meeting in July 2024 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Following these gatherings, the team led the transformation of the multilateral Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP), which was the focus of the Policy Forum, into the South African Intersectoral National Action Plan (SAINAP), now submitted to the government and awaiting Cabinet approval. This demonstrates the ability of a relatively small civil society organization like Epilepsy South Africa (SA) to shape national policy.

An interview conducted with Sharlene Cassel of Epilepsy SA will form the basis for a more accessible publication that reflects on the process of localizing the IGAP in South Africa. Another event, the EDID Indaba, was held on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3, 2025), with approximately 40 participants from disability rights organizations, women with disabilities, and members of the EDID South Africa team discussing the themes explored in our focus group research.

The team also completed their initial baseline survey, which has been developed into a [working paper](#). Based on the priorities identified in the baseline survey, focus group research has been conducted with women with neurological disabilities in two phases across four South African provinces, facilitated by branches of Epilepsy SA. Phase 1 focused on gender-based violence (GBV) and transport. Coding and analysis have been completed on both themes, with the resulting GBV paper submitted for publication, and the paper on transport completed in draft form. Phase 2 focused on Sustainable Livelihoods and Education/Training, with results currently being coded and analyzed. In addition to research articles, more widely accessible outputs highlighting the results of the focus group research have been completed and are ready for dissemination. They are also being translated into the main languages spoken in South Africa. In addition, a project on carers was implemented through the Epilepsy SA Development Hub, with thematic funding from EDID-GHDI; each workshop included 25–30 carers, yielding a robust and diverse sample. [Their final report](#) is available on the EDID-GHDI website.

The team also plans to analyze the unintended consequences of legislation encountered during the Team's GBV focus group research, describing gaps such as the tension between legal obligations (now that researchers are obligated to disclose experiences of violence and therefore are not able to ensure anonymity) and the lack of practical, structural supports for those affected (the state lacks the infrastructure—such as places of safety or economic support—to ensure that removal from abusive situations is viable).



Vietnam

These past two years have been a challenge for the Vietnam country team with a major structural reform of Vietnam's administrative divisions: governance for disability-related matters is shifting among various ministries, creating initial confusion and administrative difficulties. These significant governmental reforms have had a major impact on organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Vietnam. Some OPDs have been merged into larger organizations such as the Red Cross or associations for orphans and people with disabilities, raising concerns about their autonomy and identity.

Negative impacts on ongoing research activities for the Vietnam team included disruptions in local fieldwork and knowledge mobilization activities. In addition, the Vietnam team's civil society partner, DP Hanoi, has chosen to withdraw from the research team.

Despite these challenges, the Vietnam country team has adapted and found ways to support the work of local researchers and organizations within the rapidly changing political landscape, through consulting with women and girls with disabilities about the project's direction and planning; moving to online training and engagement with the local researchers; and working with participants and their organizations to identify an alternative partner following DP Hanoi's withdrawal. The research team organized several bi-weekly collaborative meetings with local researchers to co-create knowledge within an emerging case study focused on online gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities.





Canada

The Canada country team's goal is to understand the livelihoods of diverse girls and women with disabilities in Canada using a diverse team of partner organizations, researchers, and students, including Indigenous Disability Canada, the Canadian Council for Rehabilitation and Work, Realize, and the Disabled Women's Network of Canada. Data collection, focus groups, and interviews have been conducted across five regions, along with key informant interviews and intersectional policy analysis, guided by the central question, *What do women with disabilities hope to do to survive and thrive?*

The Canada team partners met in October 2025 to identify key directions including support for new research on caregiving and women with disabilities using existing Statistics Canada data as well as an infographic and [blog post](#) on livelihoods and women with disabilities in Canada.

Hiwot Mekuanent, the EDID-GHDI postdoctoral researcher since January 2025, conducted research into leadership and women with disabilities in both Canada and South Africa.

Several EDID-GHDI webinars were held in 2025 as part of a series titled Countering Policy Exclusions (see details under Other KMb Activities).





Transnational

One transnational project has focused on examining unequal access to international treaty body meetings. For some women with disabilities, international gatherings offer an opportunity to meet others with similar experiences and goals. But there are many for whom these international activities are inaccessible. Using an intersectional lens, the transnational team examined these inequalities among women with disabilities.

From that project, the Transnational team at the University of Ottawa has published two EDID-GHDI Working Papers, available on the EDID-GHDI website:

- » [*Representing women and girls with disabilities at the COSP and UN-CSW, 2021 and 2022: WHO REPRESENTS?*](#) offers theorizing, data, and analysis about the unequal self-representation of the diversity of women and girls with disabilities at the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2021 and 2022, and highlights obstacles to their significant and effective representation.
- » [*Representing women and girls with disabilities at the COSP and UN-CSW, 2021 and 2022: ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEWS*](#) documents a series of interviews with seven “frequent speakers” and eight “frequent organizers” of events on women, girls, and gender and sexual minorities at these meetings, aiming at uncovering their perception of advances and challenges, as well as changes required in relation to these arenas.

Another transnational project through Toronto Metropolitan University conducted research using eight in-depth interviews with leading international advocacy organizations across eight countries and international networks. This research investigated whether human rights still hold value for women with disabilities in their struggle for rights. A key finding was that only organizations like Disabled Women’s Network (DAWN) of Canada and Women with Disabilities Australia operate as national bodies feeding into transnational advocacy groups—many advocacy groups focused on gender-based violence (GBV) are more localized and work around national organizations that are often male-dominated and not gender-focused. Mainstream disability organizations tend to focus on general issues like inclusion and economic participation rather than addressing GBV specifically.

Thematic Research

Seven new thematic studies have been approved over the last two years, to add to the three thematic studies from previous years.

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

The final research/thematic report from this study, described in the previous Annual Report, has now been published on the EDID–GHDI website as [*Disability and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Learning from experiences in post-conflict northern Uganda*](#).

Gender-Based Violence and Women and Girls with Disabilities (2025–26)

Karen Soldatić and Naomi Phong of Toronto Metropolitan University are undertaking a collaborative and community-engaged research project to identify common threads in the experiences of violence and resistance for women and girls in the four country studies (Haiti, Vietnam, South Africa, and Canada). The study will examine commonalities, shared experiences, and learnings related to the experiences of gender-based violence by women and girls with disabilities.

Women and girls with disabilities globally are more likely to experience violence—and more types of violence—than are women and girls without disabilities. The forms of violence they experience include sexual, physical, financial, and psychological violence; reproductive control; as well as deliberate neglect, medical control, and institutional abuse. Experiences of violence are unique and heightened for women and girls with disabilities who are further marginalized and made invisible by systems of oppression, such as Indigenous, Black, and racialized women with disabilities, women with lived experiences of institutionalization, and women who live with poverty.

This study will map gender and disability-based violence research and actions shared across the four country sites of the EDID–GHDI partnership.



The Roles, Needs, and Experiences of Women Caregivers of People with Epilepsy and Other Neurological Conditions in South Africa (2025–26)

Karen Robinson and Sharlene Cassel of Epilepsy South Africa (Epilepsy SA), an EDID–GHDI partner organization, undertook a thematic study to explore the roles, challenges, and support needs of women caregivers supporting individuals living with epilepsy and neurological disorders. In addition to conducting qualitative interviews, the study used an online carer survey to gather quantitative data on demographics, economic status, caregiving duration, and access to support and training. This combination of survey and interview data allowed the study to triangulate statistical trends with lived experiences, providing a fuller understanding of caregivers' realities across provinces.

Caregiving for people living with epilepsy and other neurological disorders in South Africa is largely undertaken by women, most of whom are unpaid family members. Despite their crucial role in sustaining health and well-being, these caregivers remain under-recognized in policy and service delivery. Cultural norms continue to define caregiving as a woman's responsibility, leaving many exposed to economic vulnerability, emotional exhaustion, and social isolation. This study forms part of an ongoing effort by Epilepsy SA to document and understand the lived realities of women caregivers and to inform gender-responsive support interventions at community and policy levels.

Their final report, building on survey findings and follow-up interviews, highlights that caregivers navigate a complex intersection of love, faith, exhaustion, and resilience, often describing caregiving as both a calling and a burden. Their stories underscore the urgent need for structural support systems that recognize unpaid care as both social and economic labour. [Their final report](#) is available on the EDID–GHDI website.



The Movement of Women Living with Disabilities in Cameroon (2024–26)

Irène-Flore Chiewouo Kuetché, an EDID–GHDI Affiliate Member and a member of the *Association des Acteurs de Développement*, Cameroon, conducted thematic research to analyze the organizational structure of the female and feminist disability movement in Cameroon. Initiated in the early 1990s with the aim of promoting individual and collective liberties, the clustering of people with disabilities into networks and organizations in Cameroon has led to a real change in the representation and consideration of disabilities. The research focused on women’s activism and the political participation of women and girls with disabilities in Cameroon to assess the socioeconomic issues at stake and the impact of their actions on the life experiences of people with disabilities. This included analyzing the involvement of women and girls with disabilities in the overall decision-making process and their participation in the organization and running of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the local level.

This empirical research is part of their ongoing investigations into gender, public policy, and disability in Cameroon. The qualitative work involved a meticulous review of the existing literature as well as gathering data from interviews with a diverse group of people. The study population included leaders of civil society organizations, organizations of people living with disabilities, and organizations of women with disabilities based in Yaounde; and some institutional and organizational authorities (Ministry of Women and Family Promotion, Ministry of Social Affairs, PROMHANDICAM, etc.) directly involved in disability issues.

Outputs from this study include an upcoming academic article focusing on the social movement of women with disabilities in Cameroon and analyzing the evolution, organization, profiles, and impact of their actions; and a short policy brief aimed primarily at women with disabilities and focusing on their leadership, their participation in the social transformation process, and the improvement of the status of women through their involvement in the organization and running of the CSW. When finalized, this report and brief will be posted on the EDID–GHDI website.

Women with Disabilities in Benin: Humanity and Inclusion Canada and Making It Work (2025–26)

Humanity & Inclusion's Making It Work: Gender and Disability project (MIW) employs a feminist, intersectional, and anti-ableist rights-based approach, empowering women-led organizations to combat discrimination and violence. MIW and its women-led partner organizations in Benin, namely the *Organisation des femmes aveugles du Bénin* (OFAB) and the NGO Dédji, conducted a thematic study on the lived experiences of women with disabilities in southern Benin.

Fifty women with disabilities—of varying ages, places of residence, levels of education, and types of disabilities—were interviewed. A special and novel effort was made by OFAB and Dédji to interview 10 women living with intellectual disabilities, in partnership with a local association specializing in supporting them, because women with intellectual disabilities are often excluded and marginalized, even in the disability movement.

Their report on the experiences and realities of women with disabilities in Benin addresses:

- » participation (in family life, community life, and civic and political life)
- » access to services (health, education, justice)
- » economic activity
- » rights and GBV

The report also includes some “technical” inserts that OFAB and Dédji are keen to share (on the CRPD, on Benin's law promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, and on the definition of accessibility and barriers), following discussions with the women interviewed and resource people, in order to raise awareness—among authorities, CSOs, and anyone else reading the report—about these fundamental principles of inclusion.

One section is also dedicated to “the voice of the women investigators”: the women with disabilities who conducted the survey reflect on this unique experience and their new position, which has empowered them, while sharing an element or story that particularly touched or challenged them.

Their report [*Hear us out! Voices of women with disabilities from Benin*](#) (also available in French) is available on the Humanity & Inclusion Canada website.



👤 Women involved in the Making It Work project. Source: © P. Meinhardt / HI

Exploratory research into activism of organizations of women with disabilities in Morocco (2025–26)

Touria Houssam, of the National Institute of Social Action, Morocco, and an EDID–GHDI Affiliate Member, is conducting a thematic study to do exploratory research into the activism of organizations of women with disabilities (OWDs) in Morocco. The project will examine associations that fight/militate/advocate for the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Morocco, and on this basis, run workshops for disabled people's organizations, women's organizations, and OWDs to share results and raise awareness of the importance of OWDs in promoting the rights of women with disabilities.

Sensitization and Collaboration with Key Stakeholders on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for Women with Disabilities in Post–Conflict Northern Uganda (2025–26)



Participants at a workshop in northern Uganda.

Alice Kathleen Lakwech of the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA Uganda) and Docus Atyeno, with support from the Justice and Reconciliation Project, undertook a thematic study focused on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) for women with disabilities in northern Uganda.

Northern Uganda is a region marked by extraordinary resilience. While much of the country progressed in development, northern Uganda endured over two decades of armed conflict, the effects of which are still felt deeply today. As a result of war-related injuries caused by weapons such as guns and landmines, the region is home to a disproportionately high number of persons with disabilities.

Through community engagement, training, and sensitization activities, the project brought to light the often hidden and overlooked challenges faced by women with disabilities in relation to their sexual and reproductive health rights. Many women revealed that, prior to the project, they believed that sexuality, marriage, motherhood, and decision making were not meant for women with disabilities. However, through the

knowledge gained and the safe spaces created during the project, these perceptions began to shift. Women started to recognize their rights, voice their experiences, and see themselves as deserving of dignity, autonomy, and respect.

Overall, the voices and lived experiences documented through this project will continue to inform future advocacy efforts aimed at promoting inclusion, advancing dignity, and strengthening the SRHR of women with disabilities in northern Uganda.

View [their final report](#) on the EDID–GHDI Website.

Memorial Fund to Honour Judy Heumann and Steve Estey

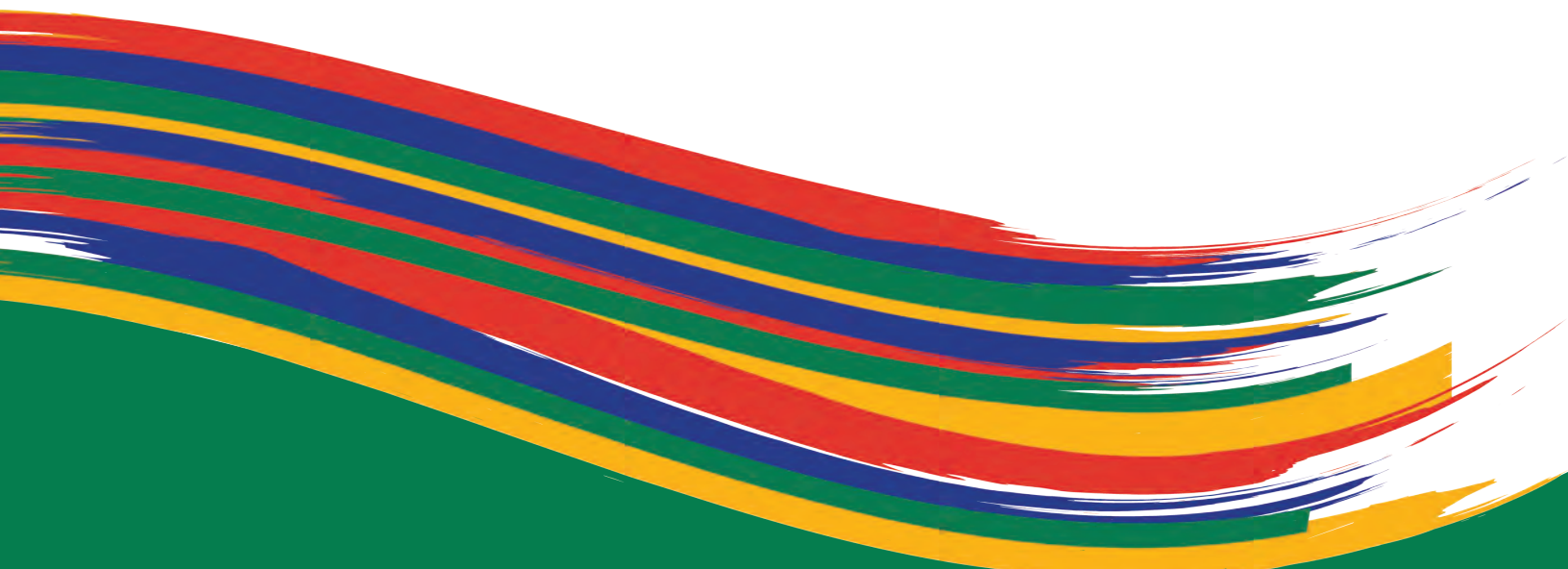
The EDID–GHDI partnership was pleased to receive more than 40 submissions for the [Honouring Judy Heumann and Steve Estey Memorial Fund Call for Proposals](#), created to celebrate the legacies of two extraordinary leaders in disability rights. Their lifelong advocacy for inclusion, participation, and justice continues to inspire this fund’s purpose: to advance disability-led initiatives that strengthen the leadership and participation of women and girls with disabilities. (See our tributes to [Judy Heumann](#) in the June 2023 EDID–GHDI Newsletter and to [Steve Estey](#) in the December 2023 newsletter.)

The call was launched December 3, 2025, in recognition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and closed February 1, 2026. The fund provided grants of 5,000–25,000 in Canadian dollars to eligible organizations and partnerships in Canada and internationally.

After a rigorous selection process, funds were awarded in March 2026 to proposals for year-long projects from the following four organizations:

01. **Union of People with Disabilities “Ravenstvo” in Kyrgyzstan for a project entitled “Voices without barriers: Leadership and participation of women and girls with disabilities who survived violence.”** The project aims to strengthen the leadership, safety, and participation of women and girls with disabilities who have experienced gender-based and/or domestic violence in the Kyrgyz Republic. The initiative is disability-led, survivor-centred, and grounded in a rights-based and feminist approach, with a strong focus on participatory research, capacity building, and accessible knowledge production.
02. **The Women Advocacy Network (WAN) in Uganda for a project entitled “Pi Waa Tek (We Are Important): Storytelling and healing through tapestry with women with disabilities in the Acholi Sub-Region.”** The project aims to promote healing, dignity, leadership, and inclusion for women affected by conflict. Using community-based and creative approaches such as storytelling, dialogue, and tapestry-making, this initiative creates spaces where women with disabilities can heal together and strengthen their collective voice for advocacy and social change.

03. **Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ–EHAQ) in Canada for a project entitled “A health–equity–led initiative advancing gender equity, leadership, and systems change for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS).”** Funds will be used to launch a Leadership Lab that—through facilitated Story Circles, co–designed storytelling tools, and supported leadership roles—allows participants to develop skills, confidence, and collective grounding to articulate their experiences, shape shared narratives, and translate lived realities into policy–relevant insight. The Lab prioritizes accessibility, consent, and participant control, ensuring that leadership development is not extractive but empowering.
04. **Empower NL in Canada for a project entitled “Peer Power NL: Training women and gender–diverse individuals with disabilities as community peer leaders.”** This leadership training program allows women and gender–diverse people with disabilities, including queer women, youth, and seniors, to become peer leaders who organize and lead community–based groups for women with disabilities. Participants learn how to design, organize, and facilitate inclusive group activities such as attending community events, peer–support gatherings, gardening or wellness activities, and information sessions in community.



We congratulate the recipients of this funding and look forward to receiving reports from these projects, when completed. These reports will be published on the EDID–GHDI website.

Funding to Support Graduate Students' Accessibility Needs

In January 2025, the EDID–GHDI Leadership Team developed a dedicated funding pool to support accessibility needs for up to two graduate students per year for conducting field research that aligns with the EDID–GHDI partnership.

In 2025, Paul Okpanachi, a third-year doctoral candidate studying at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) at the University of Ottawa, received funds for accessibility-related expenses covering three months of field work in Nigeria (February–May 2025) for his EDID–GHDI-related project, *The Puzzle of Disability Activism, Legislative Progress, and Institutional Stasis in Nigeria*.

Funding is still available for 2026. To apply, students should review the [Guidelines for the EDID–GHDI Accessibility Fund for Graduate Students 2026](#) and email edid-ghdi@uoguelph.ca.

Postdoctoral Researchers

Kirsten Van Houten (she/her) was a postdoctoral researcher with the EDID–GHDI partnership from September 2023 to December 2024. Following that, Kirsten accepted a tenure track position in the School of Social Justice and Global Stewardship at the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. Kirsten's SSHRC Insight Development Grant to conduct research on the contributions of women with disabilities to peacebuilding internationally and in a specific case context will continue to contribute to EDID–GHDI's exploration of gender and disability in fragile and conflict-affected states.

Hiwot Mekuanent (she/her) completed a one-year postdoctoral researcher position with EDID–GHDI in January 2026. Hiwot holds a Master's degree in Human Rights Law from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and earned her PhD in Law from Queen's University, where she researched the participation of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia's law-making process. Her primary area of interest is disability rights, having dedicated both her undergraduate and postgraduate theses to this field. Hiwot has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Live Work Well Research Centre under the EDID–GHDI project since January 2025, focusing on barriers to leadership for women with disabilities. Looking ahead, she plans to continue advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, with a strong focus on equity, human rights, and inclusion. She is also an Affiliate Member of EDID–GHDI.

Relationships Hub Updates: Years 5 and 6

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.



Members of the student network meet in a hybrid format at the 2024 South Africa Partnership Team Meeting.

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. The network, under Kathryn Reinders' leadership, continues to encourage ongoing peer-to-peer conversations and exchange of information. Members submitted a proposal in June 2025 to the EDID-GHDI leadership team which identified their desired contributions to facilitate deeper integration across the partnership by creating additional touch points between the students, researchers, and civil society partners; to enable students to meet the needs of the partnership in a robust way, through focusing on research skills training, professional development opportunities, and knowledge mobilization products; and to create opportunities for students to maintain relationships post EDID-GHDI, with the aim of building a community of future scholars, civil society members, and policy professionals.

Students continue to be involved in EDID-GHDI through research with country, transnational, and thematic teams. Many participate in the Student Network and share insights on their experience in working with civil society organizations and researchers in EDID-GHDI activities. Three students presented their insights to the November 2025 online Partnership Team Meeting. In June 2026, six student and early career researchers from EDID-GHDI will present at the Canadian Political Science Association meetings.

Knowledge Mobilization Hub Updates: Years 5 and 6

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 learning with civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities; building experiential learning opportunities with students; and publishing research in interdisciplinary, discipline-specific, and community-engaged scholarship venues.

As we enter the seventh year of the partnership, to date the KMb Hub has created and shared new knowledge in English and French, contributed to policy discussions and development in four countries, and developed curriculum and resources for building capacity and ensuring gendered-disability inclusive practices.

Specifically, the partnership created new knowledge from its research in over 53 publications and reports, over 63 presentations to conferences and events, and a 2026 edited open access book. To share knowledge with diverse audiences, the partnership also contributed 15 videos in multiple languages, 9 podcasts, an infographic, 12 webinars, 6 blog posts, 11 newsletters, and 3 working papers. Team members worked with policy makers to host 3 policy forums to date (Canada in 2022, Vietnam in 2023, and South Africa in 2024) where policy recommendations from the research were shared. In addition, CSOs and researchers developed 18 policy briefs and fact sheets to highlight critical areas for policy action. To enable gendered disability-inclusive practices in the co-creation of knowledge and training of students, researchers, and CSOs, the partnership developed a research database with over 700 resources, 5 how-to videos, and 3 guides for developing accessible knowledge products. Team members have also addressed the troubling silence about disability in global development research by developing and teaching new courses at three universities, offering student internships with CSOs, and initiating community-engaged research opportunities for students. The partnership hosts a regular community of practice to share curriculum and effective teaching practices related to gendered-disability inclusive global development.

Following are some specific KMb activities from the last two years.

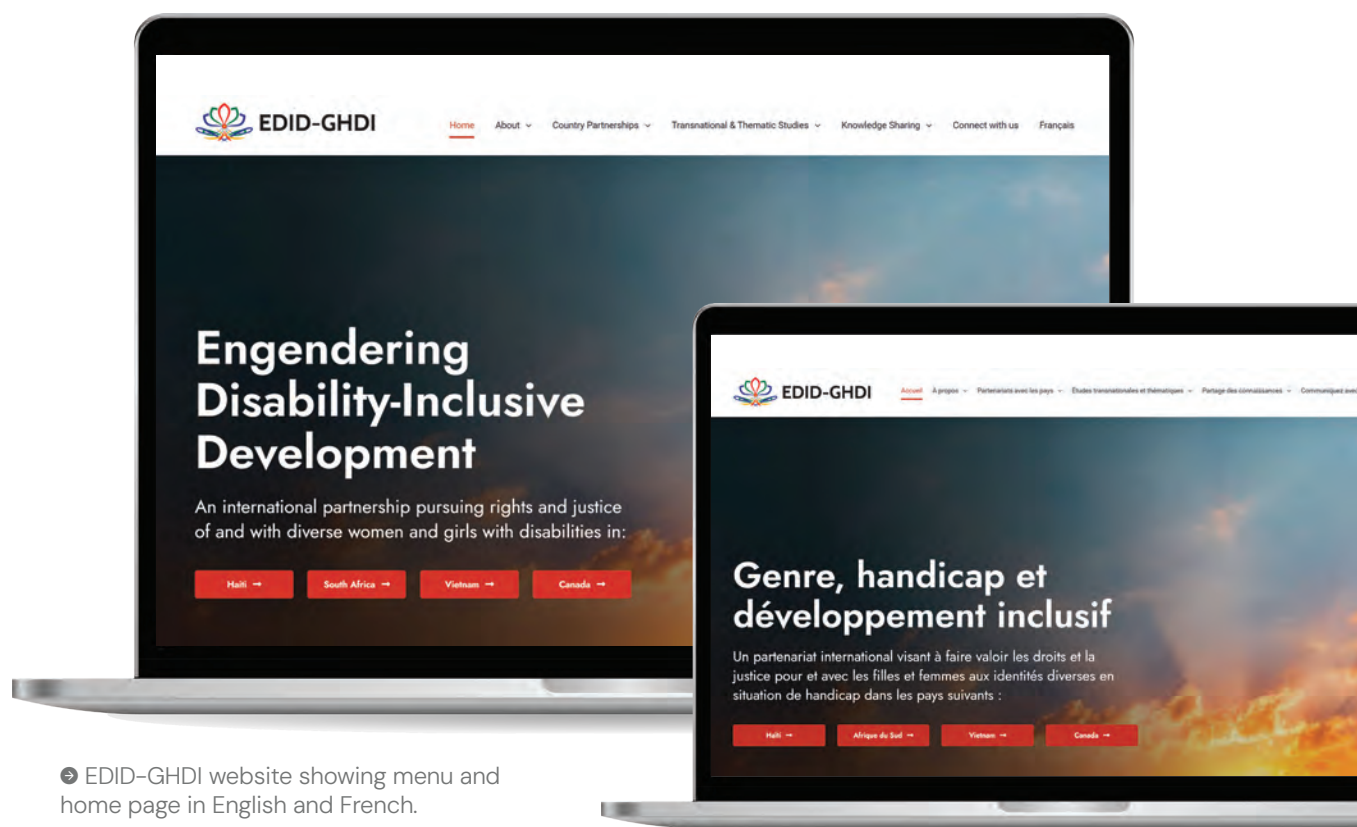
Website

We continue to build the website (edid-ghdi.ca) so that it provides information of value to the partnership as well as the public. The password-protected Partnership Resources section houses information and resources for the partners and members. We've added an Author Guidelines section as well as a Blog to highlight topics of interest to EDID-GHDI members.

In the first year of this report (April 2024–March 2025), the EDID-GHDI website had 15,300 views, an 89% increase from the previous year. There were 1,700 visitors to the website, which represents a 269% increase.

In the second year of this report (April 2025–March 2026), although website views decreased to 8,800, there was an increase in visitors to 2,700.

Together, this totals 24,000 website views in the two years from April 2024–March 2026, a 197% increase from the previous two years.

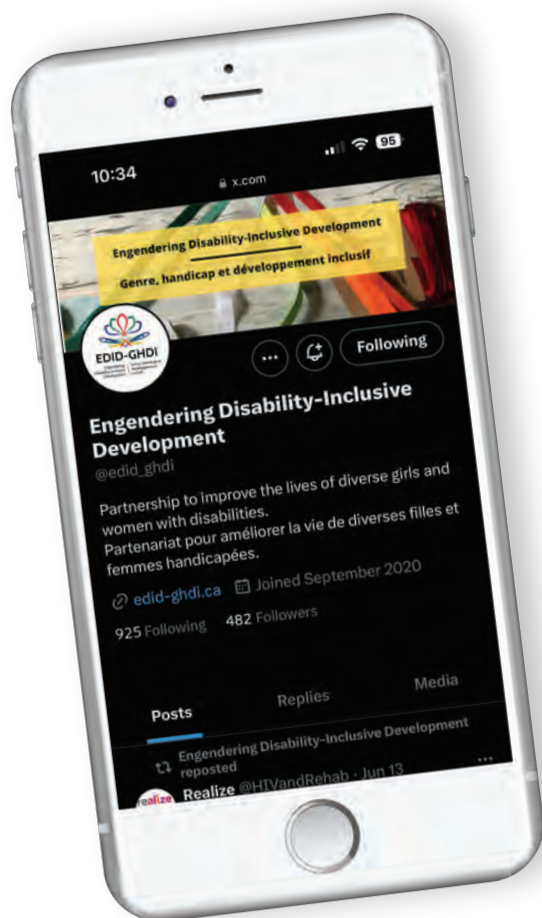


➔ EDID-GHDI website showing menu and home page in English and French.

Newsletters and Outreach

EDID-GHDI newsletters provide updates about what is happening across the partnership, and foster energy and engagement with our collaborative work. We also use the newsletter communications platform (MailChimp) to reach out to the membership with announcements of upcoming activities and events. The KMb Hub has led the development and publication of 13 newsletters or outreach messages since the EDID-GHDI partnership began in 2020, with five newsletters or outreach messages since the last 2022–24 Annual Report.

The December 2024 newsletter reported on our July 2024 Partnership Team Meeting in South Africa, introduced the new Affiliate Membership category, announced the start of work on an EDID-GHDI edited collection to be published by Palgrave Macmillan, and said goodbye to postdoctoral researcher Kirsten Van Houten. The December 2025/January 2026 newsletter announced the Save the Date for the final 2027 Partnership Team Meeting to be held in Canada, provided information for partners and Affiliate Members about publishing guidelines with EDID-GHDI, and said hello and goodbye to postdoctoral researcher Hiwot Mekuanent.



Social Media

EDID-GHDI's X/Twitter account has grown during the last two years to over 480 followers. We have expanded our platforms and plan to continue growing on social media. We shared the first post on the EDID-GHDI LinkedIn page in July 2025 and currently have 28 followers. The first post to the EDID-GHDI Bluesky account was also made in July 2025, where we have 23 followers. We encourage readers of this Annual Report to follow us on any or all social media accounts! The EDID-GHDI social media accounts share content in English and French related to the project's areas of research and goals. We also 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 through these platforms in order to increase the reach and impact of their work. 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 also uses our social media accounts to amplify and increase the reach and impact of articles and resources published on the EDID-GHDI website.

Other Kmb Activities

01. Podcasts and Interviews

Disability from a human rights approach and with an intersectionality perspective

Stephen Baranyi and Dominique Masson were featured on the news webpage of the National Institution for Human Rights and the Ombudsman's Office (INDDHH), Uruguay. They met with the INDDHH on November 20, 2024, because of their focus on disability and intersectionality issues, and within the framework of their academic exchange activities with the Department of Social Work of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of the Republic (Udelar). Both spoke at the November 19 conference, "Disability from a human rights approach and with an intersectionality perspective"; Stephen spoke about fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to disability from the intersectional perspective and Dominique spoke about representation of women, girls and sexual and gender minorities in situations of disability in international organizations.



02. Presentations and Talks



☛ From left to right: Xuan Thuy Nguyen, David Black, Deborah Stienstra, and Karen Soldatić at the CPSA Conference in 2024.

Canadian Political Science Association Conference (CPSA) 2024

At the CPSA conference in June 2024, Deborah Stienstra and Kathryn Reinders presented on using a Feminist Intersectional Livelihoods Analysis to understand experiences of historically marginalized women and girls with disabilities in Canada, and Dominique Masson and Clothilde Parent-Chartier presented on representing women and girls with disabilities in United Nations arenas.

CERC Health Equity and Community Wellbeing Speaker Series 2024

On September 18, 2024, EDID-GHDI graduate student Valérie Grand'Maison presented *Transnational Policy Responses: Gender-Based Violence and Women and Girls with Disabilities*.

Canadian Sociological Association, Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress 2025

Valérie Grand'Maison and Karen Soldatić spoke as part of a panel at Congress on intersectional perspectives on redefining access to healthcare from the margins at George Brown College on June 2, 2025.



Canadian Political Science Association Conference 2025

Members of the EDID-GHDI partnership presented an in-person roundtable discussion at the June 2025 CPSA conference. Their presentation, titled *Shifting the Frame: What Happens When We Include Women With Disabilities in Research?*, was chaired by Leah Levac (University of Guelph) and included presentations from Hoa Bui (Carleton University), Kirsten Van Houten (University of Guelph), and Deborah Stienstra (University of Guelph).

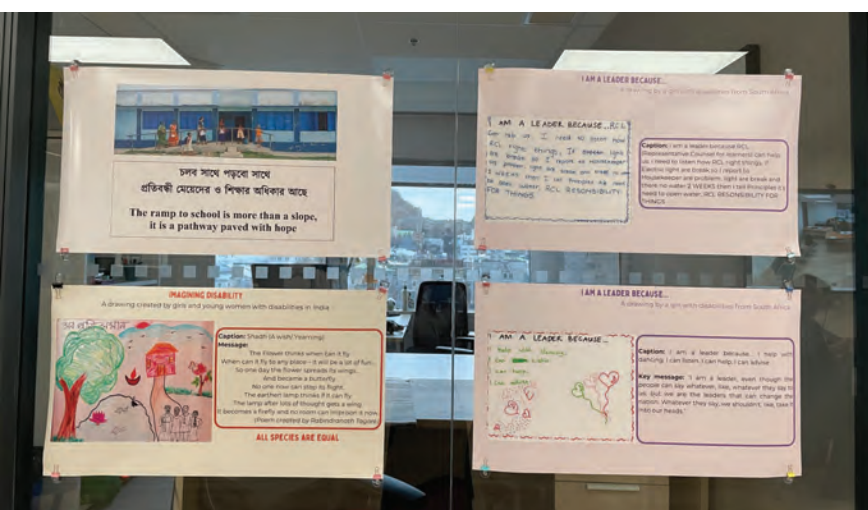
Presenters and attendees at the 2025 CPSA session led by EDID-GHDI members.

Montréal Health Ethics Lecture Series 2025: Ethical issues related to women's health and well-being

On June 12, 2025, Valérie Grand'Maison presented *Promoting the Rights of Women with Disabilities: Between Local Transformation and Essentialism*, at the Montreal Clinic Research Institute.

ENGAGE Knowledge Mobilization Event Series 2026: Re-imagining from the South: Girls and Women with Disabilities Advocating for Change

The Engaging girls and young women with disabilities across Southern spaces (ENGAGE) Project, a research project from the [Decolonial Disability Studies Collective](#) (DDSC), hosted two knowledge mobilization events in 2026 to create opportunities for conversations around disability, gender, leadership, and activism. These events were anchored by an exhibition, *Re-imagining from the South: Girls and Women with Disabilities Advocating for Change*, featuring artwork, photovoice, cellphilms, and manifestos created by 54 young women and girls with disabilities from Vietnam, India, and South Africa.



On February 26, 2026, an online session was held with youth leaders from each of the involved countries: South Africa, India, and Vietnam. The young leads spoke about the artwork they created, as well as their journeys and hopes for the future. View the [February 26 video](#).

On March 11, 2026, at McGill University, Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Co-Lead of the Vietnam Country Team, her Research Assistant, Thuy Linh Dang, and Professor Claudia Mitchell, Distinguished James McGill Professor, participated in a panel discussion on topics such as the importance of centring girls and women with disabilities and how transnational collaboration can support decolonial learning networks and strengthen collective action for social change. View the [March 11 video](#).



Top: Four pieces of artwork about imagining disability and leadership from the exhibition, *Re-imagining from the South: Girls and Women with Disabilities Advocating for Change*.

Bottom: Panelists and audience members participated in a hybrid panel discussion on March 11, 2026. From left to right at the table: Professor Claudia Mitchell, Thuy Linh Dang, Xuan Thuy Nguyen.

Canadian Political Science Association Conference 2026

Members of the EDID-GHDI partnership will be presenting panel and roundtable presentations at the annual CPSA conference to be hosted at the University of Ottawa in June 2026.

Part one of two panels titled *Disability, Gender, and Inclusive Development: The Next Generation* includes presentations from three early career researchers (Hoa Bui, Fabian Garcia, and Hiwot Mekuanent) exploring the intersections of gender, disability, and inclusive development. Deborah Stienstra, Director of the EDID-GHDI partnership, will be the Chair for the panel and David Black, the South Africa Team Lead, will be the Discussant.

Part two of the panel will include three additional presentations from early career researchers (Kirsten Van Houten, Madi Fillmore, Paul Okpanachi, and Kathryn Reinders). Deborah will be the Chair and Discussant.

Members of the EDID-GHDI partnership will also participate in a roundtable titled *Approaches to Making Change with Women and Girls with Disabilities*. Deborah will be the Chair, and five other researchers will be participating: Xuan Thuy Nguyen (Carleton University), Karen Soldatić (Toronto Metropolitan University), David R. Black (Dalhousie University), Stephen Baranyi (University of Ottawa), and Kathryn Reinders (University of Guelph). All participants contributed to a new edited collection titled *Approaches to Making Change with Women and Girls with Disabilities*. The roundtable presentation will explore their learnings from this research and identify shared insights and strategies.

Deborah Stienstra and David Black will also participate in a roundtable presentation titled *Critical Understandings of Canada in the World at a Time of Radical Uncertainty I*.

Canadian Association for the Study of International Development 2026

The Vietnam country team has organized a roundtable discussion on *Co-Creating Knowledge with and from the Global South: Young Researchers Reflect on Research Praxis*, with EDID Vietnam local researchers and research assistants, to take place within the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development in June 2026. The representation and engagement of local researchers are critical for ensuring that local knowledge is valued and important for decolonial knowledge generation and mobilization.

03. Forums and Events

Research on Disability Activism and Public Policy: Cross-Country Perspectives from Canada, Haiti, and Morocco

A colloquium took place on July 9–11, 2024, at the University of Ottawa to discuss disability activism and public policy in Canada, Haiti, and Morocco. In addition to presentations by Stephen Baranyi, Deborah Stienstra, Ilionor Louis, and Dominique Masson, EDID–GHDI graduate students Mackendy Alcius Gaty, Nancy Saint Louis, and Frantz Hyppolyte presented on their research. Affiliate Member Touria Houssam spoke on the emergence and political influence of the disability movement in Morocco. Touria and Stephen had conducted primary research on this topic in 2024–26, with a view to submitting a manuscript to a respected international journal in mid-2026.

EDID–GHDI–South Africa Policy Forum

The 2024 EDID–GHDI–South Africa Policy Forum, held July 11–12, 2024, in Johannesburg, South Africa, was an engaging and purposeful two-day meeting. It involved 25 participants from national and international non-governmental organizations representing and/or engaging with disabled people; academics from South African and Canadian universities; South African government (the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD)); and representatives of international organizations in South Africa (notably the World Health Organization).

It was organized by Epilepsy South Africa on behalf of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA), and in collaboration with the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and the multi-national and multi-sectoral EDID–GHDI project supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSRHC).

The Forum had a focused and concrete purpose: to understand and advance the steps required for the adoption and implementation in South Africa of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) for Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders, adopted by the World Health



🕒 Presenters and attendees at the South Africa Policy Forum in 2024.

Assembly in May 2022 as the South African Intersectoral National Action Plan (SAINAP). In other words, it sought to advance the “localization” of the IGAP in South Africa, thereby promoting equity and inclusion for the millions of South Africans affected, directly or indirectly, by epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

The Forum concluded with a series of breakout groups seeking to develop the elements of a concrete roadmap of steps required for successfully adopting and implementing the IGAP in South Africa. All participants gained a new understanding of the various roles that must be played, and challenges that must be met, to achieve this important outcome.

The Sexual Life of Women with Disabilities in Haiti

A virtual workshop was held January 27, 2025, on the sexual life of disabled women in Haiti. Venadia Dessipe, an EDID–GHDI graduate student with the Haiti country team, presented her MA thesis, *The Sexual Agency of Haitian Women with Physical Disabilities*, which sparked conversation among activists. Graduate student Malyssa Baltazar also presented on the topic *The Sexual and Reproductive Experience of Disabled Women in Haiti: Between Rights and Reality*.

SAINAP Inclusive Stakeholder Forum

The event on March 31, 2025, opened by the Deputy Minister of DWYPD, drew broad representation from various departments, including Health and Social Development. Participants were divided into working groups aligned with their departmental roles to provide targeted feedback on the draft of the South African Intersectoral National Action Plan (SAINAP).

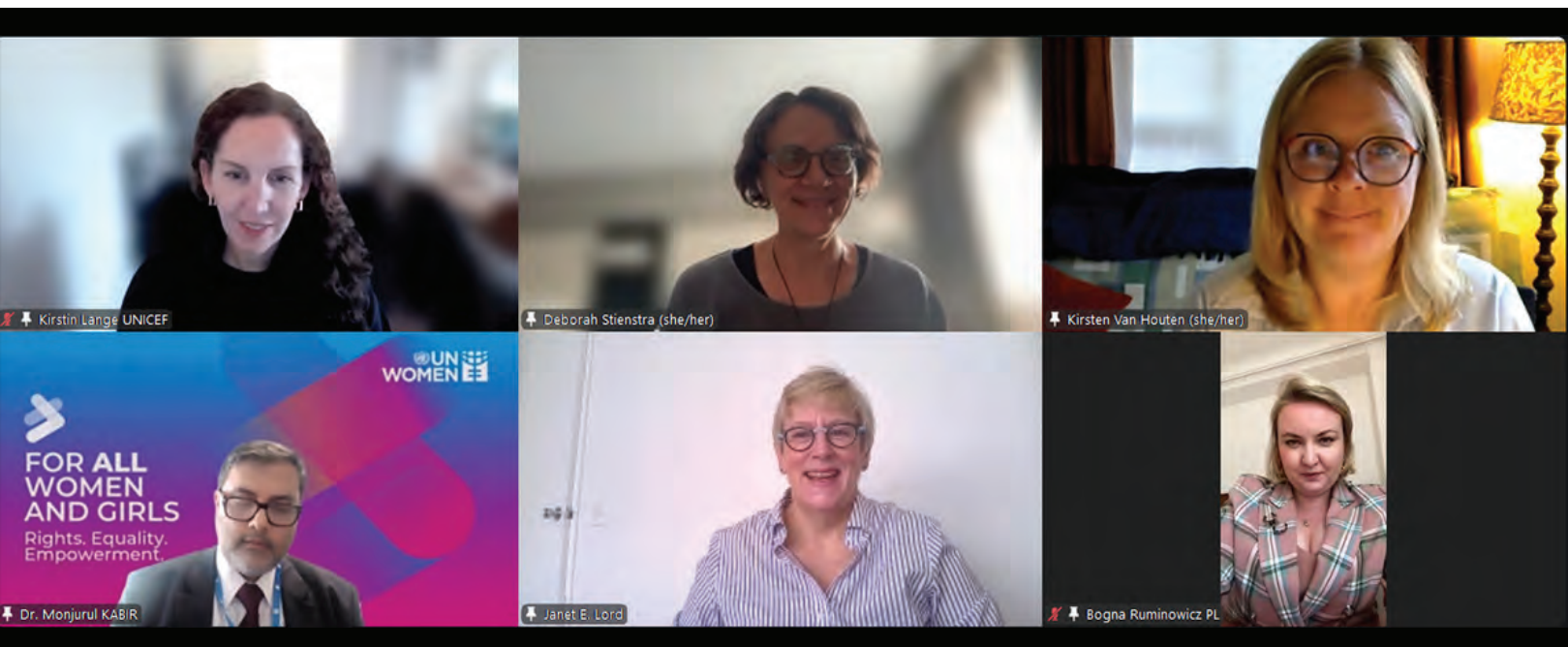
Organized by the DWYPD alongside Epilepsy SA, the event brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and international partners to advance the SAINAP.

Countering Policy Exclusions: Canada, disability, and international commitments, Part 2

An EDID–GHDI webinar was held on May 12, 2025, with Canadian civil society partners who participated in Canada’s CRPD reporting at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as well as those who attended the Global Disability Summit, to discuss Canada, disability, and international commitments. A [video recording of the May 12 event](#) is available on the Live Work Well Research Centre YouTube channel.



Panelists and moderators at the May 12 event. Top row from left: Deborah Stienstra, Maureen Haan; Middle row from left: Leah Levac, Marijke De Pauw; Bottom row from left: Neil Belanger, Bonnie Brayton.



Panelists and moderator at the September 26 event. Top row from left: Kirstin Lange, Deborah Stienstra, Kirsten Van Houten; Bottom row from left: A. H. Monjurul Kabir, Janet E. Lord, and Bogna Ruminowicz.

Intersecting Agendas: Gender and Disability– Inclusive Peacebuilding at the UN

On Sept 26, 2025, attendees joined virtually to explore the emerging inclusion of persons with disabilities in United Nations peacebuilding policy and practice, in conversation with academics, practitioners, and policy experts in the field. This panel explored the specific challenges to engaging women with disabilities in peacebuilding practice and envisioned a future in which meaningful inclusion is possible. The event was moderated by Deborah Stienstra (University of Guelph), and panelists were Kirsten Van Houten (University of the Fraser Valley); A. H. Monjurul Kabir (UN Women); Kirstin Lange (UNICEF Headquarters); Janet E. Lord (University of Baltimore School of Law); and Bogna Ruminowicz (Republic of Poland).

This event was co-hosted by two SSHRC-funded projects: *Finding Their Place: The Contributions of Women with Disabilities to Peacebuilding*, and the EDID–GHDI partnership. A [video recording of the September 26 event](#) is available on the EDID–GHDI YouTube channel.

Advancing Disability Rights

A hybrid and bilingual event, Advancing Disability Rights, was hosted on October 3, 2025, by the University of Ottawa. Guest speakers were Sophie Mitra (founder of the Disability Data Initiative) and Deborah Stienstra. The panelists discussed how Canadian universities, and particularly the University of Ottawa, are enhancing accessibility and promoting excellence for people with disabilities.

Countering Policy Exclusions: Leading in Policy & Politics – Women & Girls with Disabilities

On November 10, 2025, a diverse panel of experts met in a hybrid format at the University of Guelph to discuss how women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities are providing leadership in policy and politics, and what helps and hinders their leadership.

The event was moderated by Hiwot Mekuanent, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Guelph. Panelists were the Most Honourable Kerryann Ifill (Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum); Rabia Khedr (Disability without Poverty and Disability Empowerment Equality Network (DEEN) Support Services); Jutta Treviranus (OCAD University and Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC)); and Margaux Wosk (People First of Canada).

On November 11, Kerryann Ifill also delivered the prestigious Hopper Lecture on the topic *Fostering Societal Growth: Exploring How Inclusion Drives the Development Agenda* at the University of Guelph on November 11 and the University of Ottawa on November 13.



➤ Hiwot Mekuanent, Kerryann Ifill, Deborah Stienstra, and Leah Levac (at the head table, right) present in-person at the November 10 event.



➤ From left to right: Deborah Stienstra, Kerryann Ifill, Leah Levac, and Hiwot Mekuanent at the November 10 event.

EDID-GHDI Indaba in South Africa

The EDID-GHDI Indaba was held on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3, 2025), with approximately 40 participants from disability rights organizations, women with disabilities, and members of the EDID-GHDI South Africa team discussing the themes explored in their focus group research.

04. Publications

A full list of publications can be viewed on our website at edid-ghdi.ca.

Below are some specific publications.

Blog

In early 2026, the EDID–GHDI partnership announced a new knowledge mobilization channel: The EDID–GHDI Blog, hosted by the Live Work Well Research Centre (LWWRC) blog, *Notes from the Field*. Blog posts on topics of interest to the EDID–GHDI partnership will be published on a regular basis. The blog posts can be viewed on an [EDID–GHDI blog page](#) or along with other LWWRC blog posts in the [main feed](#). By the end of March 2026, we had published five EDID–GHDI–related blog posts.

EDID–GHDI partners and members are invited to contribute blog posts of 500–900 words long on a topic related to the work of the EDID–GHDI partnership. The contribution will be evaluated by at least two other EDID–GHDI members looking at both content for relevance and style for quality assurance. Blog posts can be submitted in English or French, and will be published in their original language only. If you're interested in contributing a blog post, submit your proposal to edid-ghdi@uoguelph.ca.

Publishing Guidelines for EDID–GHDI Partner and Member Content

EDID–GHDI is committed to publishing meaningful content—including official reports, event/activity reports, working papers about ongoing research, research/thematic reports, briefing notes, insight and reflection notes, and blog posts—that can be of interest and use to our members, partners, and beyond. To ensure that all content is consistent with our values, mission, and vision, the EDID–GHDI Leadership Team developed Website Content Publishing Guidelines, available on our website under [Author Guidelines](#) along with a suggested MS Word template for working papers and reports.

All EDID–GHDI partners and members are encouraged to produce content in any of the above formats to document their research and contributions to the partnership. As we near the seventh year of our partnership, we are seeing the impact of years of work as country teams, the transnational team, and thematic initiatives produce their working papers and final reports.

In 2024, we published on our website the first EDID–GHDI working paper in the series “Toward rights and justice of and with women and girls with disabilities,” with a second following in March 2026. Several other working papers and research/thematic reports are in development, and will be available on the EDID–GHDI website under Publications.

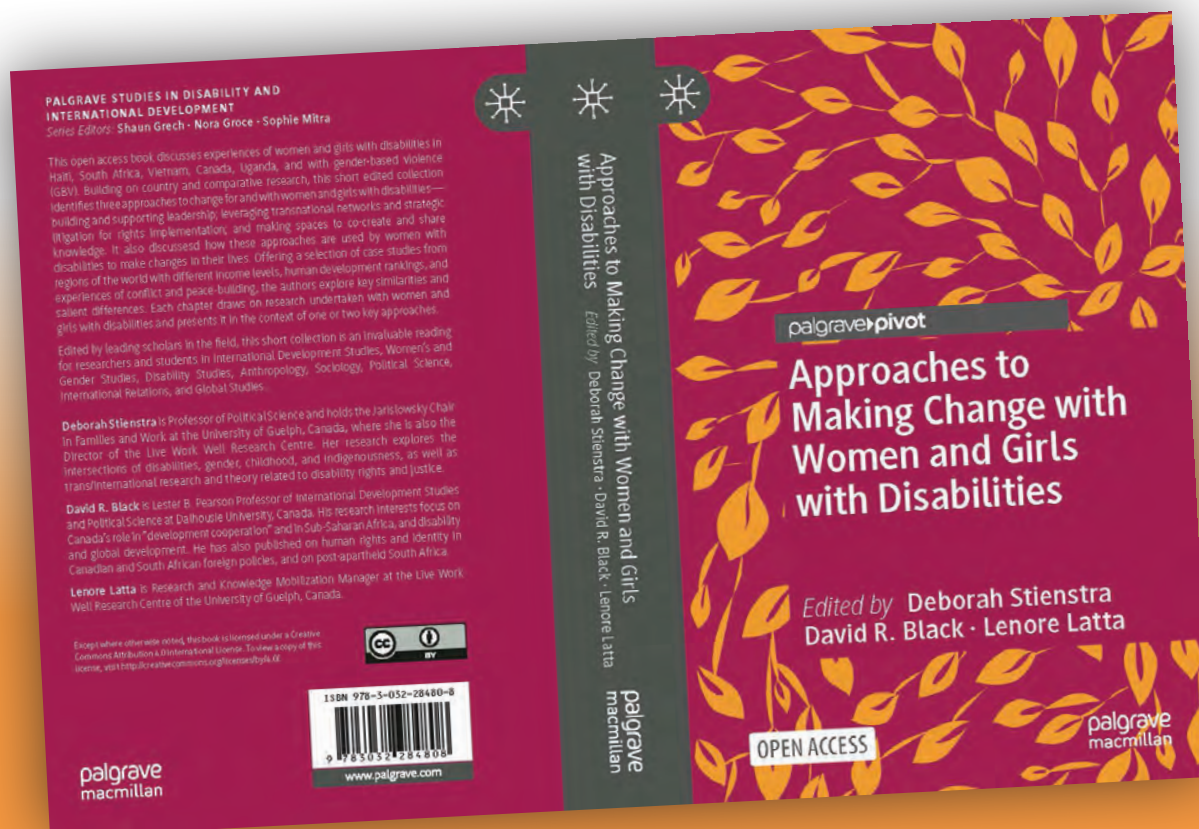
Edited Collection by EDID–GHDl Authors

Since January 2024, a number of EDID–GHDl authors have been developing a collection of chapters titled *Approaches to Making Change with Women and Girls with Disabilities*, edited by Deborah Stienstra, David R. Black, and Lenore Latta. This book, slated for publication in 2026, will be open access, published by Palgrave Macmillan as part of its Palgrave Studies in Disability and International Development series.

This book discusses experiences of women and girls with disabilities in Haiti, South Africa, Vietnam, Canada, Uganda, and with gender-based violence (GBV). Building on country and comparative research, this collection identifies three approaches to change for and with women and girls with disabilities—building and supporting leadership; leveraging transnational networks and strategic litigation for rights implementation; and making spaces to co-create and share knowledge. It also discusses how these approaches are used by women with disabilities to make changes in their lives. Offering a selection of case studies from regions of the world with different income levels, human development rankings, and experiences of conflict and peacebuilding, the authors explore key similarities and salient differences. Each chapter draws on research undertaken with women and girls with disabilities and presents it in the context of one or two key approaches.

This collection will be an invaluable reading for researchers and students and offers civil society organizations, governments, and the general public thoughtful reflections based in research on how to make change with women with disabilities.

➔ Book jacket
for upcoming
Palgrave Macmillan
publication.



Transport Canada Report

Demand for the expertise within the EDID–GHDI partnership was demonstrated when Deborah Stienstra was commissioned by Transport Canada, a branch of the federal government, to write a thinkpiece discussing the question: *What federal decisions or policy levers should Transport Canada consider if accessibility is understood as a contributor to economic growth and overall system performance?*

In the report published March 31, 2026, Deborah Stienstra and Catherine Hall (PhD candidate at the University of Guelph) investigated existing research on accessible transportation in academic databases and organizational websites. Despite the presence of accessibility in legislation, disabled Canadians who use transportation networks continue to face significant barriers. With this renewed context, Deborah and Catherine offer two sides of accessibility and economic growth in Canada:

1. Lack of accessibility → Can hamper economic growth
 - a. Inaccessible transport reduces access to employment, education, health care, recreation and leisure, and tourism, all of which have economic impacts
2. Increased accessibility → Can enhance economic productivity, performance, and growth
 - a. Increasing accessibility could create safer transit systems, reduce operating costs, save time, inspire accessibility innovations, and give Canadians with disabilities more opportunities to use their spending power

Deborah and Catherine also address the limitations of current research on accessible transportation.

Explore their research findings and recommendations in the report, [Transportation Accessibility as an Economic and Competitiveness Opportunity](#).

05. Student Engagement

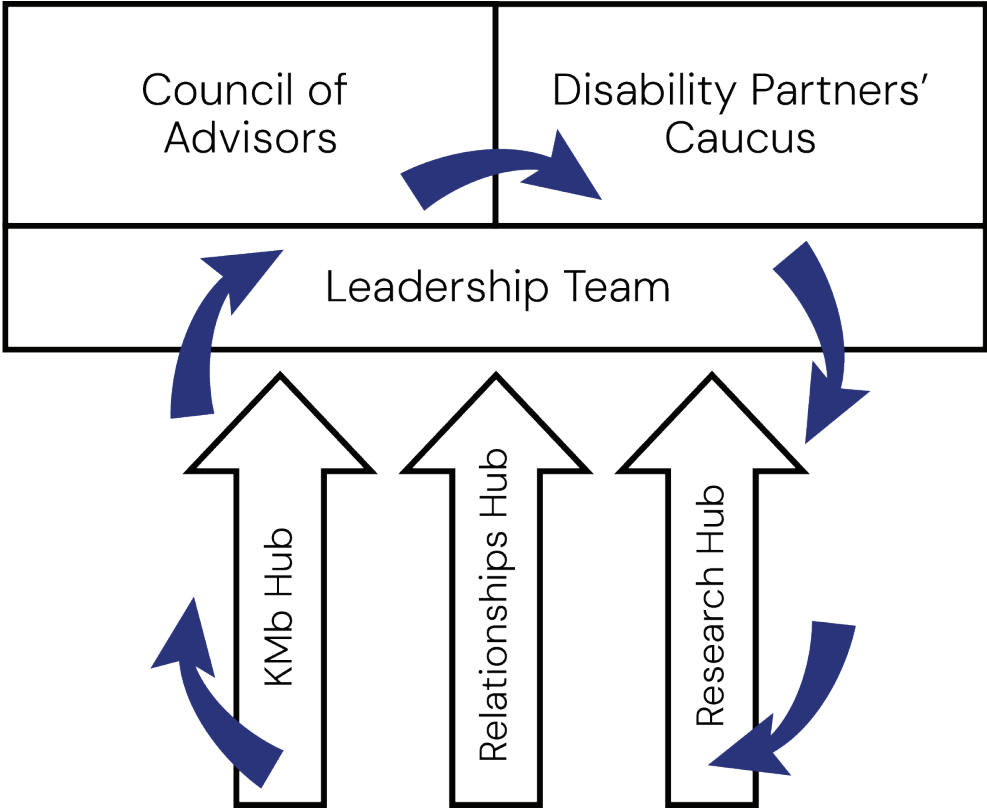
Training and Mentorship

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.

Over the last two years covered by this annual report, the partnership has supported 19 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-GHDI 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
Kathryn Reinders
Deborah Stienstra

In August of 2024, Kathryn Reinders accepted an invitation to become a member of the Leadership Team to represent the Student Network.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to and supported the work of the Leadership Team.





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	» Stephen Baranyi, University of Ottawa » Marjorie Brutus, Université d'État d'Haïti	» 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	» David Black, Dalhousie University » Jacqueline de Matos Ala, University of the Witwatersrand » Kristi Kenyon, University of Winnipeg	» Epilepsy South Africa » South African Disability Alliance (SADA) » University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg » University of Winnipeg » Dalhousie University
Vietnam	» Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Carleton University » Huyen Do, Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi)	» DP Hanoi » Carleton University
Canada	» Deborah Stienstra, University of Guelph » Bonnie Brayton, DAWN	» 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	Partners
» Dominique Masson, University of Ottawa » Deborah Stienstra, University of Guelph » Karen Soldatić, Toronto Metropolitan University	» Carleton University » The Critical Institute » National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda (NUWODU) » Humanity and Inclusion Canada » Canadian National Institute for the Blind, World Blind Union » Disabled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN) » Dalhousie University » Global Affairs Canada (GAC) » Toronto Metropolitan University » University of Ottawa » University of Guelph



The Year Ahead

As we enter the seventh and final year of our partnership in April 2026, 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 final year of the partnership:

» **Partnership Team Meetings**

Online (November 2026); Canada - Hybrid (May 11–13, 2027)

» **Research Day**

May 10, 2027

» **Regular Disability Partners' Caucus meetings**

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



Where we aim to be by the end of Year 7 (March 31, 2027):

Research Activities

By the end of Year 7, we will see most of the country, thematic, and transnational studies drawing to a close. 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.

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 7. 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 organizations of persons with disabilities 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)



[edid-ghdi.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/edid-ghdi)



linkedin.com/company/edid-ghdi/



edid-ghdi.ca



youtube.com/@EDID-GHDI



liveworkwell.ca/category/edid-ghdi



Postal mail:

Live Work Well Research Centre
University of Guelph
Attention: EDID-GHDI

501 MacKinnon Building
50 Stone Rd E
Guelph, Ontario
Canada N1G 2W1



EDID-GHDI

Engendering
Disability-Inclusive
Development

Genre, handicap et
développement
inclusif



Social Sciences and Humanities
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sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Project Support

EDID-GHDI is supported by a Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (2020–27) and by contributions from our project partners.