

# Annual Report 2023



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# Foreword

## Message from our Chair, Dom Haslam



### I'm introducing the IDDC Annual Report 2023 with a real mix of optimism and caution.

Optimism building from the discussion, agreement and adoption of a new strategic framework, signifying our future direction and strengthening our resolve to address disability rights globally.

And from several key moments during the year: formalising our partnership with the World Health Organisation, a significant stride towards enhancing health equity for persons with disabilities worldwide; our election onto the Global Action on Disability Network Steering Committee; our role in the Civil Society Reference Group for the Global Disability Summit cemented; and the many specific achievements of our task groups, including being encouraged to co-chair several linked Global Action on Disability Network working groups. More on which form the main body of this report and of course, all achieved by IDDC members, working together.

Looking to the future, we also pledged to develop an environmental policy, reflecting our dedication to sustainability. And acknowledging the digital shift, we emphasised the importance of digital engagement and intensified our advocacy for inclusive climate action policies.

But I also feel a real concern over the health of the disability inclusion and development sector more widely. Headwinds against inclusion, as demonstrated so painfully by the Covid-19 pandemic, remain potent and if anything, with the general move away from multilateralism and Official Development Assistance focused on poverty and inequity and towards migration,

security and national interest. In my view, the International Disability Alliance must continue its ground-breaking work.

Without the International Disability Alliance, there would be no Global Disability Summit; without the International Disability Alliance, there would be no Global Action on Disability Network; without the International Disability Alliance, there would be no United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and so many other things besides.

As partners, IDDC and the International Disability Alliance need to be working together even harder, to protect the gains already made and to generate new momentum.

I say all this here because the last few months of my time as IDDC Chair after a little over six years, have been a chance for reflection. As those of you who know me will know, I'm a fan of celebrating achievements, and we have had many in the last few years. But that should never take the place of the serious commitment to our mission, which I know you all share.

As I bid farewell, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to IDDC's mission. Despite the challenges we face, I think we're in as good a place as we've ever been to face them. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Chair, I have learned an incredible amount from all of you and I will most certainly miss it, very much.

A handwritten signature of Dom Haslam in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

**Dom Haslam**  
Chair, IDDC

# IDDC in numbers



# 35

members working with partners in over 150 countries



# 4

publications



# 5

policy statements

# 8

major events



# One

call to action launched

# One

new strategic framework introduced for 2023+



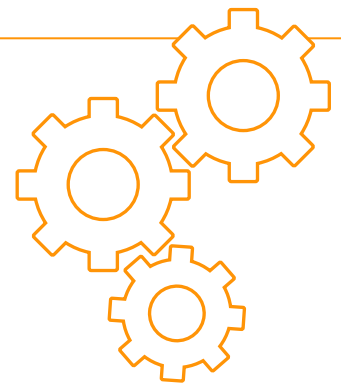
# 9

dedicated task groups



- **35 members** operating in over 150 countries globally, demonstrating the breadth and reach of our network in advocating for and taking action for disability inclusion.
- **Four publications** that contribute to the body of knowledge on disability and development.
- Circulation of **five policy statements**, reflecting our active engagement in shaping policies for disability inclusion.
- Organisation of and participation in **eight major events**, facilitating dialogue, learning, and advocacy on disability inclusion.
- Launch of **one call to action**, mobilising stakeholders towards concerted efforts for disability inclusion.
- Introduction of a **new strategic framework**, guiding our actions and priorities towards a more inclusive world.
- Co-chairing of **three Global Action on Disability Network working groups**: Disability-Inclusive Climate Action, Inclusive Education, and Inclusive Health, underlining our leadership in these critical areas.
- **Fourteen commitments** made at the 2022 Global Disability Summit, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to tangible actions for change.
- Successful hosting of a Conference of States Parties side event on meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, drawing **over 80 participants**, highlighting the importance of inclusive dialogue.

# Our task groups



IDDC has nine task groups, each dedicated to a specific area of disability inclusion within international development and humanitarian action.

These groups work collaboratively towards the realisation of a world where no person with disabilities is left behind, in alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## **Community-Based Inclusive Development Task Group**

Promoting a bottom-up approach for realising the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the inclusive development agenda, ensuring community inclusion of persons with disabilities through sustainable support systems.

## **Climate Action Task Group**

Advocating for disability-inclusive climate action, bringing together members active in or interested in climate issues to influence policy and share best practices for mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## **European Union Task Group**

Advocating for the systematic application of the European Union's commitments regarding disability rights in its external action, influencing policies and legislative proposals to ensure they are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

## **Inclusive Education Task Group**

Accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 by promoting inclusive and equitable quality education for all, especially learners with disabilities.

## **Inclusive Health Task Group**

Advocating for disability mainstreaming in health systems towards achieving universal health coverage and health equity for persons with disabilities.

## **Inclusive Safeguarding Task Group**

Promoting disability-inclusive safeguarding policies, procedures and programs, ensuring the protection of children and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect and harm.

## **Livelihood Task Group**

Exchanging knowledge on livelihood programming, and influencing policy where possible, with a focus on in-country programming experiences.

## **OPD Partnership Task Group**

Fostering dialogue about the meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in international cooperation work.

## **United Nations Task Group**

Influencing UN international development and humanitarian policies and processes to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

# Our strategic framework

In 2023, the network approved a new strategic framework and identified three priorities to guide our work.

- 1 The first priority recognises the importance of the Agenda 2030 and any future framework as an important vehicle for global development.



- 2 The second priority speaks to where we feel we can positively impact disability rights at national, global and international levels.



- 3 The third priority sets us on a track to unpack our relationship with the broader disability rights movement and how IDDC can fully embrace the call for 'nothing about us without us'.



- ✓ Underpinning all these priorities is a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and General Comment 7.



# IDDC Strategic Framework 2023+

**Mission:** To promote disability-inclusive international development and humanitarian action in the Global South



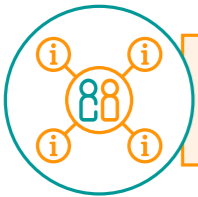
**Objectives:**



Promoting disability inclusion and appropriate disability-specific approaches in all development and humanitarian policies and practices



Collaborating and sharing experiences about policy and practice among members



Disseminating information and knowledge about inclusive development and humanitarian action

**Priorities:**

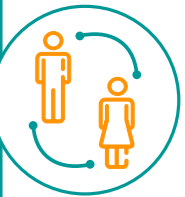
Be propositional for a fully-disability inclusive global framework beyond Agenda 2030 while continuing to support disability inclusiveness in the current Sustainable Development Goals



Better leverage our expertise, profile and access to key political structures and moments and deepen our connections to further support and influence the implementation of disability rights at the national, regional and global level



Prioritise meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs in IDDC by addressing power dynamics that hinder such participation and committing to consultation and alignment, where possible, with OPDs and their networks in advocacy and policy work



**IDDC priorities & objectives**



Sustainable development and social justice



Human rights for all



Diversity and inclusion



Partnership, participation and collaboration

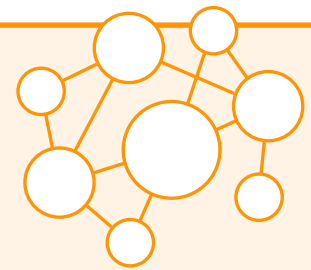
**iDDC**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Sustainable Development Goals

## Global Action on Disability Network: a multilateral approach to disability inclusion



In 2023, the Global Action on Disability Network continued to embody the spirit of collaboration and shared ambition at the heart of achieving truly inclusive international development and humanitarian action.

As a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors, agencies, public and private foundations, and key coalitions from the disability movement, the Global Action on Disability Network's ethos is to ensure that the promise of leaving no one behind is not just an aspirational goal but a practical reality in global development initiatives.

This year, with the International Disability Alliance, the United States Agency for International Development and the United States Government as co-chairs, the network has grown to encompass 48 members and three advisory members, creating a unique platform for exchange, advocacy and collective action.

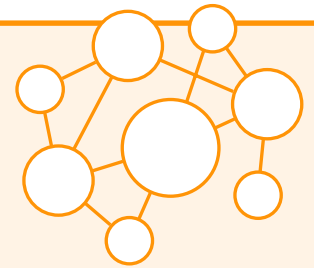
IDDC's role in co-chairing three of Global Action on Disability Network's working groups – the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Working Group, the Inclusive Education Working Group, and the Inclusive Health Working Group – underscores our commitment to steering the conversation and actions towards more inclusive practices across these critical areas of development.

In October 2023, a delegation comprising members of the IDDC Board, alongside representatives from various task groups, participated in the annual general meeting of the Global Action on Disability Network in Brussels.





## The Conference of State Parties



The Conference of State Parties (COSP) is a pivotal mechanism within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

This annual conference serves as a forum for State Parties to the convention to discuss and exchange experiences and strategies for implementing the CRPD's provisions.

The COSP aims to enhance the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities across the globe, by promoting full and equal participation in society. It facilitates collaborative efforts among member states, civil society organisations, and disability rights advocates to monitor, promote and ensure the comprehensive realisation of the convention's goals.

The conference is crucial for reviewing progress, setting future priorities and fostering international cooperation to address challenges in the protection of disability rights.

Through its resolutions, decisions and action plans, the COSP contributes significantly to advancing the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.



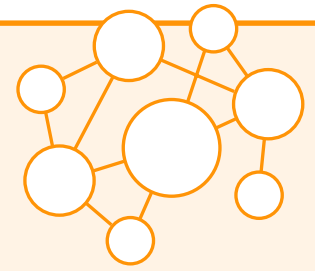
# In context

## Community 2030

The Community 2030 partnership works towards ensuring that the Post2030 Agenda includes community-based support systems and services as an essential function of development.

Community 2030 proposes to advocate globally, regionally and nationally for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their human rights in the care agenda. It also proposes to progressively create a care and support agenda that recognizes the diversity of needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities across the life cycle.

To this end, it will work on the three dimensions of support and care (provide support and care, receive support and care, and self-support/self-care), addressing persons with disabilities and women of all ages.



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# Global Disability Summit:

## IDDC's commitments and progress

In response to our pledges at the 2022 Global Disability Summit, IDDC has undertaken various initiatives across various sectors, demonstrating our commitment to advancing disability inclusion globally. Below, we have highlighted progress against a selection of our fourteen commitments.

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### Strengthening engagement with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, particularly in the Global South

#### Specific commitment

To deepen collaboration and engagement with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring their meaningful participation in development and humanitarian actions.

#### Actions taken

IDDC has taken significant steps to enhance engagement with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, including establishing partnerships for project implementations and consulting Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in policy formulation stages. Initiatives have included capacity-building workshops tailored to the needs of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the Global South and promoting leadership roles within IDDC activities.

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### Inclusive education

#### Specific commitment

To advocate for inclusive education systems that accommodate all learners, with a particular focus on children with disabilities, ensuring access to quality education.

#### Actions taken

IDDC has supported policy advocacy at national and international levels, contributed to developing inclusive education resources, and participated in global forums to promote the funding and implementation of inclusive education practices.

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### Inclusive livelihoods and social protection

#### Specific commitment

To promote inclusive livelihood opportunities and social protection measures that are accessible to persons with disabilities, ensuring economic empowerment and protection from poverty.

#### Actions taken

IDDC's efforts in this area have focused on advocating for inclusive employment policies, supporting entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities, and ensuring that social protection schemes are accessible and responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

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### Gender

#### Specific commitment

To mainstream gender perspectives in all disability inclusion efforts, ensuring that women and girls with disabilities are empowered and can fully exercise their rights.

#### Actions taken

IDDC has integrated a gender perspective across its task groups and activities, focusing on gender-specific challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities. This has included advocacy for gender-responsive policies, participation in campaigns to raise awareness of the double discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, and support for initiatives aimed at their empowerment.

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# IDDC-World Health Organisation project collaboration agreement: A landmark achievement in 2023

**In 2023, IDDC achieved a significant milestone by officially signing its first-ever project collaboration agreement with the World Health Organisation.**

This landmark agreement formalises a constructive partnership, led by the Inclusive Health Task Group, that has evolved over many years.

The partnership between IDDC and the World Health Organisation marks an important moment in advancing health equity for persons with disabilities.

Throughout the partnership, IDDC has engaged in various collaborative initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of health services.

Key activities have included organising information sessions on the World Health Organisation Global Report on “Health equity for persons with disabilities”, targeting members of IDDC and the International Disability Alliance, and providing technical inputs for the implementation toolkit on the World Health Organisation-International Telecommunication Union telehealth accessibility standards.

Moreover, IDDC has taken a proactive role in mapping inclusive health programmes led by its members to better visualise their impact across different regions and countries, thus promoting joint advocacy and collaboration.

This effort is crucial for understanding the landscape of disability-inclusive health initiatives and identifying opportunities to enhance their effectiveness and reach.

The partnership also saw IDDC’s support in organising an in-person Conference of States Parties side event on health equity for persons with disabilities, highlighting the importance of inclusive health policies and practices. This event was an important platform for raising awareness and advocating for the health rights of persons with disabilities internationally.

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# Our strategic priorities and task groups highlights



# Priority 1

## Support disability inclusiveness in the sustainable development goals



### The United Nations Task Group

- Coordinated with the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to provide feedback from a civil society and development perspective.
- Influenced relevant UN processes in New York and Geneva as they relate to IDDC's strategic objectives.
- Presented an IDDC statement at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Participated in United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee meetings and influenced Member States and Committee Members where relevant.
- Contributed to consultations for the 2023 High-level Political Forum, regional sustainable development forums, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2023, and consultations for the Summit of the Future via the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.
- Coordinated with other IDDC task groups around Summit of the Future consultations.
- Coordinated with IDDC members to prepare for the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the civil society forum to influence Member States.
- Influenced background papers, presenters, and themes of the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties.
- Supported newer members in engaging with the Conference of States Parties and other UN processes.

### The Community-Based Inclusive Development Task Group

- Chairing role with the Community 2030, which includes the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance. The group published the [Community 2030 narrative](#) on sustainable support systems for community inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- Submitted a contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights call for inputs on care and support systems.
- Published a [statement](#) for the International Day on Care and Support.
- Developed and disseminated a slide deck linking Community-Based Inclusive Development, Community 2030, and the care and support agenda through the task group membership.

### The Inclusive Education Task Group

- Worked with UNESCO and Inclusion International to co-host an event at the Conference of States Parties focused on "Ensuring education is inclusive of those at highest risk of being excluded".
- Participated in a [webinar panel](#) organised by Inclusion International, IDDC, the Catalyst for Inclusive Education and the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Team, entitled "Promoting access to education for students with disabilities through inclusive technologies".
- Worked through the Global Action on Disability Network to develop a joint statement to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to end the disability gap in education.

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## Support disability inclusiveness in the sustainable development goals

- Partnered with the International Disability Alliance and the Global Campaign for Education, in hosting the webinar “A Call to Action to Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education” to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event, which drew over 160 participants, focused on discussing the impact of Disability Inclusive Education. It featured speakers from the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education, the International Disability Alliance, the West African Federation of Disabled People’s Associations, IDDC and its members, highlighting diverse perspectives on inclusive education.
- As part of the Disability Inclusive Education Collective, worked with the International Disability Alliance and others on a [Champions Brief](#) to accompany the Call to Action on [Disability Inclusive Education](#), which has been shared with a range of stakeholders, including the Minister of Education in Sierra Leone and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom. This action encourages governments and other stakeholders to champion inclusive education.
- Continued to promote the Call to Action, leading to its [endorsement](#) by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom in December 2023. Through this endorsement, it committed to ensuring all education programmes and grants mainstream disability and include disability inclusion criteria and targets, as well as to set a longer-term target to ensure that all learners with disabilities are reached in all education programmes.

### The Inclusive Health Task Group

This year, there was a strong focus on the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage which took place in September.

- Organised a Geneva Global Health Hub Policy Debate on advancing health equity for persons with disabilities and older people in the 2023 World Health Organisation and United Nations’ agendas ahead of the World Health Organisation Executive Board.
- Developed and distributed a [briefing paper](#) for member states to make the Universal Health Coverage declaration more inclusive.
- Developed joint statements on Universal Health Coverage at the World Health Assembly.
- Organised a stakeholder meeting with participants from UHC2030, World Health Organisation departments (Disability, ageing, assistive technologies, social participation), Neglected Tropical Diseases Alliance and others during the World Health Assembly 2023 with support of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism in Geneva.
- Led development of a joint IDDC-International [Disability Alliance statement](#) for the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage on achieving health equity for persons with disabilities and older people.
- Delivered an IDDC statement at the High-Level Meeting on the Universal Health Coverage.
- Wrote and disseminated an [IDDC reaction](#) to the High-Level Meeting and the Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage.
- Submitted a written statement to the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.

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## Support disability inclusiveness in the sustainable development goals

- In collaboration with the United Nations Task Group, helped organise a [side event](#) for the Conference of States Parties titled “Adopting an intersectional lens to advance health equity for persons with disabilities and older people in the new political declaration on Universal Health Coverage”. This event was a joint effort with UN Women, the governments of Luxembourg and Bangladesh, and disability organisations from Kenya and India. We shared insights through a blog post on the IDDC website and created a [video](#) featuring Smitha Sadasivan’s statements. This video was also used for advocacy at the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in September, aiming to influence discussions through concise video messages. More details can be found on [IDDC social media](#).
- As part of the Global Forum for Adolescents organised by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, supported planning for a session focusing on the inclusion of adolescents and young people with disabilities, in partnership with UNICEF, the United Nations Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence, and the Human Sciences Research Council.
- Provided technical inputs to the IDDC Climate Task Group for a paper focusing on the intersection of health equity and climate.

### The OPD Partnership Task Group

Hosted a [side event](#) for the Conference of States Parties titled “Meaningful Engagement of OPDs: Inclusive processes for reaching under-represented groups of persons with disabilities in programming”.

The goal of the side event was to provide a space for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities representing marginalised groups to share examples of partnerships with IDDC members where they felt they were meaningfully engaged as equal partners and to give the audience an opportunity to ask Organisations of Persons with Disabilities directly about best practices for meaningful engagement.

The six panellists coming from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities included Organisations of Persons with Disabilities representing people with intellectual disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, people with deafblindness, two organisations of women with disabilities, and one organisation of indigenous youth with disabilities.

Moderated by IDDC, representatives from the International Disability Alliance and the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office of the United Kingdom also spoke during the session. The virtual side event saw over 80 participants and a vibrant question-and-answer session. The full session recording is available on the [IDDC YouTube channel](#).



## Priority 2

# Influence the implementation of disability rights at various levels



### The Climate Action Task Group

- Facilitated a workshop incorporating climate into health at the health conference day organised during the IDDC General Assembly in May 2023. The session was well attended and had good discussions among the stakeholders.
- Published the article “Disability-Inclusive Health and Climate: Calling for Converging and Integrating Policies” in the Journal Disability and International Development, issue 2/2023. The article can be downloaded from [Bezev’s website](#).
- Developed a [joint advocacy brief](#) with the International Disability Alliance for the 28th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

### The European Union Task Group

- Monitored the European Union’s compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Although the EU’s review won’t happen until spring 2025, the EU shared its answers to preliminary questions in spring 2023. Before this, the IDDC European Union Task Group and the European Disability Forum provided [joint recommendations](#) focused on how the EU is applying the disability rights convention in its activities outside of Europe.
- Published a [joint statement](#) welcoming the new [European Union Guidance note](#) on Leaving no one behind – Disability Inclusion in European Union External Action. The Guidance Note is aimed at supporting European Union external action staff and partners to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities across their work, including in programming, the implementation and monitoring of actions funded by the European Union, and policy dialogues with partner countries.

- Joint contribution with the Inclusive Education Task Group to the European Parliament’s own initiative report “the European Union development cooperation to enhance access to education and training in developing countries”. The contribution provided a disability-inclusion perspective, which led to seven amendments that reinforced the disability perspective in the final version of the [report](#).
- Supported the Inclusive Health Task Group in representing IDDC in a [public hearing](#) of the European Economic and Social Committee, Towards a European Health Union and European Global Health Strategy fully inclusive of Persons with Disabilities. IDDC spoke on the panel entitled Access to Health for Persons with Disabilities outside of the European Union. The presentation was built on the [joint IDDC-European Disability Forum input](#) to the European Commission’s consultation on the European Union Global Health Strategy consultation.
- Worked closely with the European Disability Forum to impact how the European Commission and the European External Action Service handle disability rights and inclusion in their foreign policies and programs. Together, we met with key contacts responsible for disability issues within the European Commission’s international partnership and humanitarian aid departments, as well as the European External Action Service. Our efforts also helped shape the annual meeting of the Global Action on Disability Network, which the European Commission co-hosted in Brussels in October 2023.

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## Influence the implementation of disability rights at various levels

### The Inclusive Health Task Group

- IDDC has officially signed its first-ever collaboration agreement with the World Health Organisation, formalising what has been a constructive partnership for many years.
- Worked with the World Health Organisation and the International Disability Alliance to organise a series of information sessions on the World Health Organisation Global Report on health equity for persons with disabilities, targeting members of IDDC and the International Disability Alliance.
- Provided technical inputs for the implementation toolkit on the World Health Organisation-International Telecommunication Union telehealth accessibility standards.
- Initiated a mapping of inclusive health programmes led by IDDC members to better visualise IDDC's footprint across different regions and countries and promote joint advocacy and collaboration among members.
- Supported the World Health Organisation in organising an in-person Conference of States Parties side event on health equity for persons with disabilities.
- Organised the [IDDC workshop](#) "Achieving health equity for all in global development" at the General Assembly in Copenhagen, focusing on the World Health Organisation Global Report with engagement of key stakeholders from the World Health Organisation, the International Disability Alliance and the Danish government.
- Continued to co-chair the Inclusive Health Working Group of the Global Action on Disability Network with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom and participated in the Global Action on Disability Network Annual Meeting in Brussels.

### The Livelihood Task Group

Invited to contribute resources to the Global Action on Disability Network working group on inclusive employment, with one of the task group coordinators representing the task group in the Global Action on Disability Network working group.

### The Inclusive Safeguarding Task Group

- Attended the Global Action on Disability Network Annual General Meeting to co-present a session on inclusive safeguarding with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom. This consisted of an information session where the members were encouraged to commit to inclusive safeguarding. We had great feedback, and the European Disability Forum, the International Disability Alliance, and UN agencies were interested in further training.
- Strengthened relationship with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom safeguarding team, working together on the Global Action on Disability Network session but also identifying future opportunities to influence others in this area.
- Published the updated [Inclusive Safeguarding Paper](#). This paper was presented in a learning session for private-sector safeguarding leads alongside a learning session for development and humanitarian safeguarding leads.
- Held regular community of practice sessions with presentations from The Leprosy Mission, ADD International, among others. These sessions provide a space for experts to share challenges and learn from each other.

## Highlight:

# Groundbreaking work in 2023 by the OPD Partnership Task Group



**In 2023, the OPD Partnership Task Group achieved groundbreaking work on the Guidance Note on Organisation of Persons with Disabilities' Engagement.**

In a project spanning 2023, the IDDC Task Group focusing on Partnership with Organisation of Persons with Disabilities, the OPD Partnership Task Group, worked on developing the IDDC Guidance Note on Organisation of Persons with Disabilities' Engagement. This comprehensive process began in January and culminated in December, marking a significant stride towards fostering meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

Early in the year, the task group assembled a diverse and dynamic Steering Group of 10 advisors from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, carefully selected to bring various perspectives and expertise. This team was representative, encompassing voices from every global region, operating in three languages, and including individuals from seven different impairment groups. The composition further ensured representation across disability spectra and included voices from organisations of women and youth with disabilities.

The development process for the Guidance Note was extensive and inclusive, featuring:

- Three content development sessions with our Organisation of Persons with Disabilities Steering Group, fostering a collaborative approach to content creation.

- Eight working group sessions aimed at refining and advancing the drafts of the Guidance Note, ensuring that every aspect was thoroughly considered and articulated.
- Two feedback and validation sessions with the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities Steering Group, alongside two additional feedback sessions for task group coordinators, and one each for IDDC board members and members in the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities Partnership Steering Group, reinforcing the iterative nature of the development process and the emphasis on inclusivity at every stage.

The process culminated in the finalisation of the Guidance Note in December 2023, following validation by the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities Steering Group.

This document stands as a testament to IDDC's commitment to meaningful engagement with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, embodying principles that ensure every stakeholder has the opportunity to contribute effectively.

(Highlight continues on next page)

## Influence the implementation of disability rights at various levels

(Continued from previous page)

Feedback collected after the final validation meeting highlighted the success of the process:

- 100% of the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities Steering Group members affirmed the process's inclusivity.
- All confirmed they were given adequate notice and preparation time.
- Feedback and ideas were consistently acknowledged, and everyone expressed a willingness to engage with IDDC in the future.

This project's conclusion not only delivered a vital resource in the form of the Guidance Note but also demonstrated the feasibility and value of a fully inclusive process. By adhering to the "Listen Include Respect" Guidelines

on Inclusive Participation developed by Inclusion International and Down Syndrome International, the task group ensured a participatory and respectful approach throughout, setting a high standard for future initiatives.

As we move forward, the recommendations and insights gleaned from this endeavour will guide IDDC's ongoing efforts to engage Organisations of Persons with Disabilities meaningfully. The Guidance Note on Organisation of Persons with Disabilities' Engagement emerges as a document and a sign of our collective commitment to inclusivity, collaboration, and the empowerment of all persons with disabilities in the development discourse.



## Priority 3

# Prioritise meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities



### The OPD Partnership Task Group

Completed IDDC's Guidance Note on Organisation of Persons with Disabilities' Engagement. The Guidance Note on Meaningful Engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities is available on the [IDDC website](#).

### The Livelihood Task Group

Well-received knowledge exchange led by the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda on its experiences in its iSave financial inclusion programme.

### The Inclusive Health Task Group

- Signed a collaboration agreement with the World Health Organisation, emphasising IDDC's role as a key stakeholder in promoting disability inclusion in healthcare.
- Organised sessions on health equity for persons with disabilities and advocated for inclusive health coverage at the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.



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# About us



IDDC is a global network of civil society organisations gathering around a shared vision: a world that leaves no persons with disabilities behind.

For the past 30 years, this vision has driven our action, and our mission is to promote disability-inclusive international development and humanitarian action in the Global South.

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## Composition of the Board

### Executive Board

Dominic Haslam, Chair  
Ina Lykke Jensen, Vice Chair  
Mary Keogh, Vice Chair  
Ruth Faber, Treasurer  
Monika Brenes, Secretary  
Elie Bagbila  
Estefania Mirpuri  
Martina Orsander  
Alison Marshall (until May 2023)  
Marit Sørheim (as of May 2023)

### Secretariat

Angélique Hardy, Coordinator  
Geneviève Piron, Finance and Administration

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## IDDC member organisations

The full membership are shown on the next page.

As a network, IDDC is fully committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and applies its principles in our actions.

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## Partners

International Disability Alliance  
WeThe15



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## Membership

The Global Action on Disability Network



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## Official relations

World Health Organisation

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## Finance

In 2023, membership fees fully supported the network, and Boekhoudkantoor Bladrand Comm. V. audited the accounts.


# IDDC member organisations



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