

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Looking back

DCDD's 2023 annual report reflects our broad range of activities in the field of lobby & advocacy, expertise and networking for disability inclusion. We are proud to share our results.

Our cause – mainstreaming disability inclusion in development programmes – brings together individuals and organisations from the Netherlands and across the globe. People with disabilities in complex contexts such as war or natural disasters are often the last to receive support or are stigmatised by society. Many of our participants have a personal and professional connection to our cause.

As an organisation, we see a growing need for practical input on how to become disability-inclusive. Therefore, we have also in the past year reflected on our ambitions and put forward a new strategy.

One of the critical questions for DCDD's future strategy was how to organise the expertise in our network to become more inclusive, more readily available and visible in the development sector whilst enhancing disability inclusion and inspiring other stakeholders.

It's a trend within the development sector in the last couple of years to start engaging more and more in the area of inclusion and from an intersectionality perspective. As DCDD, we want to ensure that we make this expertise available for the development sector to draw from, to find tools or resources, connections with other people and organisations. DCDD's goal is to serve the sector as a Disability Inclusion Expertise Hub, to meet the growing need for expertise.

Ultimately, we seek to ensure that Dutch development policies as a whole become geared towards disability inclusion.

Thanks for your continued support to DCDD!

Erik Ackerman
Chair (per April 1st 2024)

Lobby & Advocacy

The resignation of the Dutch government in July limited the space to lobby for disability inclusion in 2023. The Dutch election results in November 2023 have raised concerns within the international development sector, because of expected budget cuts on international development cooperation. Despite the political uncertainties, DCDD's joint lobby and advocacy efforts contributed to the following developments at policy level:

Prior to the Humanitarian Aid debate in the Dutch Parliament on May 11, DCDD, in collaboration with WO=MEN, Rutgers, Save the Children, SeeYou Foundation, SOFT tulip and War Child Holland, sent out the ['Response to the Netherlands' Humanitarian Aid and Diplomacy 2023'](#). We urged the government to align its humanitarian aid policies with the feminist principles outlined in the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy. Dialogue with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) is ongoing regarding inclusion of marginalized groups in humanitarian action.

The Foreign Feminist Policy has continued to offer space for dialogue around inclusion. After DCDD was invited for a consultation on this by the MoFA in 2022, we have this year provided [input to the Feminist Foreign Policy](#) and handbook. Our letter about the need for an intersectional approach, and the [intersectional policy analysis tool](#) we developed with other NGOs, received a positive response from MoFA.

On November 1 & 2, The Netherlands hosted the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference 2023 in The Hague. At the marketplace of the conference, DCDD shared expertise from across its network on the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in SRGR, food security and humanitarian aid. We also presented 'SDG 10: reduce inequalities' in braille and sign language to Peter Derrek Hof, director social development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Jim Monkel, the youth ambassador for SRHR.



Other engagements with MoFA have included: providing response to MoFA's new Africa Strategy, collaborating with Jim Monkel on several occasions regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in SRHR, our attendance at the Ambassadors' Conference, and attendance by MoFA of our Power of Disability Inclusion sessions (read more under We Are Able!).

DCDD also participated again this year in the *Adopt an SDG campaign*, organised by Building Change, whereby DCDD supports the implementation of SDG 2 and 10. The transfer of SDGs to a few Members of Parliament was attended by representatives from We Are Able! and DCDD.

Looking back at 2023, [MoFA has increasingly acknowledged disability inclusion](#), which is especially notable in how MoFA discusses inclusion within humanitarian aid and the Feminist Foreign Policy, expanding beyond the previous focus on women's rights and LGBTI issues. Additionally, MoFA has invited DCDD several times for input. However, there remains a need for concrete commitments and significant investments to support these discussions. We continue advocating for stronger actions that support the promise to leave no one behind.

We Are Able! programme

The [We Are Able! programme \(2021/2025\)](#), which focuses on amplifying voices of persons with disabilities for improved **access to food and basic resources**, continued steadily in its third year. This advocacy programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (MoFA). It takes place in six African countries, is led by ZOA, and includes the African Disability Forum, The Leprosy Mission, SeeYou Foundation, The Hague Academy, VNG International and leder(in). DCDD has been subcontracted since 2021 and plays a key role in advocacy in The Netherlands.

As part of this programme, DCDD continued the series of Power of Disability Inclusion learning sessions, in which over 10 consortium programmes as well as the Ministry consistently participate. The mailing list for these sessions

now consists of around 140 people (mostly NGO programme staff).

The exchange session on '[Cross-Movement Advocacy on Gender and Disability](#)' brought consortia together around the question how to strengthen their intersectional approach. Stories and experiences of women with disabilities were at the center as they formed the panel. We have seen intersectional collaborations emerge between consortia beyond this webinar thanks to the intermediary role of DCDD. The session on '[Food Security in Times of Climate Change](#)' was held in collaboration with We Are Able! partners as part of the World Disability Day celebration. The session was conducted in partnership with the World Food Programme and LFTW Uganda. This time also food security stakeholders were invited to attend, to increase awareness of disability inclusion within this sector.

Nearly two years after the launch of these learning sessions the progress was assessed in the [Power of Disability Inclusion Report](#). The report shows that among the participants of the sessions, there is an increase in awareness regarding disability inclusion, as well as increased use of disability inclusion tools and resources provided by DCDD, to make programme activities more inclusive in practice. On October 11, these outcomes were discussed at the [Power of Disability Inclusion Midterm Reflection Meeting](#) in Utrecht, which encouraged open discussions regarding the successes and challenges of inclusion interventions and plans for follow up activities.



Linking & Learning

Quick Guides

Making our resources, particularly the Quick Guides, as accessible and inclusive as possible has been an ongoing process. As a result, DCDD's Quick Guides have been digitized this year. Please find here DCDD's online Quick Guides on [Disability Inclusive SRHR](#), [Disability Inclusive Programme Monitoring](#) and [Disability Inclusive Education](#). In the new year, DCDD's Quick Guide on Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action will also be converted to an online format.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In 2023, DCDD contributed to the co-creation of a [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) trajectory](#) that is being facilitated

by the NGO network Partos. On March 9, 2023, DCDD was part of a great dialogue session, where DCDD coordinator Lieke Scheewe [shared her disability perspective](#) regarding working in the Dutch development sector. Several DCDD participants also shared their 'inclusive Human Resource' expertise to a session later in the year.

Participants

In 2023, we welcomed three new individual participants and one new participating organisation to the DCDD network. Welcome Nicola Deghaye, Sri Lakshmi, Patrick McKearney and VSO Nederland! Also, Sander Schot's individual participation was changed into CBM Global's organisational participation and Betteke de Gaay Fortman's individual participation was changed into Stichting Impaction's organisational participation. At the end of the year, the DCDD network consisted of a total of 18 individual participants and 14 participating organisations.

On October 11, the [DCDD Network came together](#) to reflect on [DCDD's multi-annual strategy for 2024-2026](#) that underpins the three goals that DCDD has for the coming years: 1) Growing collaboration on disability inclusion, 2) DCDD serves the development and humanitarian sector as a Disability Inclusion Expertise Hub and 3) The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation applies disability inclusion. There was a lot of enthusiasm to continue to make these goals a reality.

Team and board

DCDD was coordinated by Lieke Scheewe (0,6 fte), Ieke van Lammeren (0,2 fte) and Angela Frings (0,3 fte). The team had the privilege of getting support from in total three interns / volunteers, who mostly worked on our social media and website. We welcomed Marleen Nelisse as a new board member and the board and coordinator of DCDD came together 5 times for a board meeting and 3 strategy sessions took place.

This year, a lot of focus was given to the development of the multi-annual strategy for DCDD for the coming three years. This was initiated and led by DCDD's co-chairmen, Siebrand Wierda and Simon Henk Luimstra, who have passed the role of chair onto Erik Ackerman early 2024.

Simon Henk will stay on as a board member. We would like to conclude this Annual Report by giving a big thanks to Siebrand and Simon Henk for their contribution to DCDD and leaving their mark on the strategy that will guide us through the next years.



Lieke Scheewe
Coordinator & Policy
Advisor



Ieke van Lammeren
Policy & Programme
Officer



Angela Frings
Network &
Communication Officer

Budget & expenses 2023

DCDD's core activities

| Income | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Contribution core participants | 57.575 |
| Contribution other participants | 13.300 |
| Subtotal income | 70.875 |
| Expenses | |
| Employees | 61.236 |
| Activities, events & publications | 7.957 |
| Subtotal expenses | 69.193 |
| TOTAL | 1.682 |

We Are Able!

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Income | 57.948 |
| Expenses | 57.948 |
| TOTAL | 0 |

For a more in-depth overview of the expenses of 2023, please see DCDD's Financial Statement of 2023.

Plans for 2024

In 2024 DCDD will be developing new ways for participants to share their expertise with the Dutch development sector.

Want to know more about the [Annual Plan 2024](#)? Send us an email at dcdd@dcdd.nl.

Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development

the platform for lobby, linking and learning on disability inclusive development

