

CONNECT TO ACT

Annual Report

2024





While political unilateralism, tensions and wars continued to dominate in 2024, Dbl remained on course as a network of networks and THE point of connection in deafblindness worldwide.

In doing so, we have further increased our capacity to be effective: in our organisational foundations, together with our members and key partners, in the Dbl Networks, with central projects, in communication and

financially. 2024 was indeed a year characterised by the short form of our vision: 'Connect to Act'.

This Annual Report 2024 provides an insight into the most important developments from the perspective of the Management Committee ManCom. Enjoy reading it and stay involved. Only together have we achieved so much and can continue to move forward.

Thank you very much for all your commitment!

On behalf of ManCom and the Board:

Mirko Baur, Dbl President



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The core values are what define Dbl from the perspective of its members. In 2024, **we took the time to clarify these values** in various stages, including individual Dbl membership stories and value statements on our communication channels. Ultimately, **a word cloud helped us** identify the most frequently used key terms. This resulted in the following **statement of values**, which was adopted by the Board in September 2024.



We believe in:

- **The Power of Social Connection.** Sharing and fostering a community where people come first.
- **Diversity.** Promoting integrity and inclusion for each and everyone concerned and involved worldwide.
- **Passion.** People working together in a welcoming, open and helpful way.

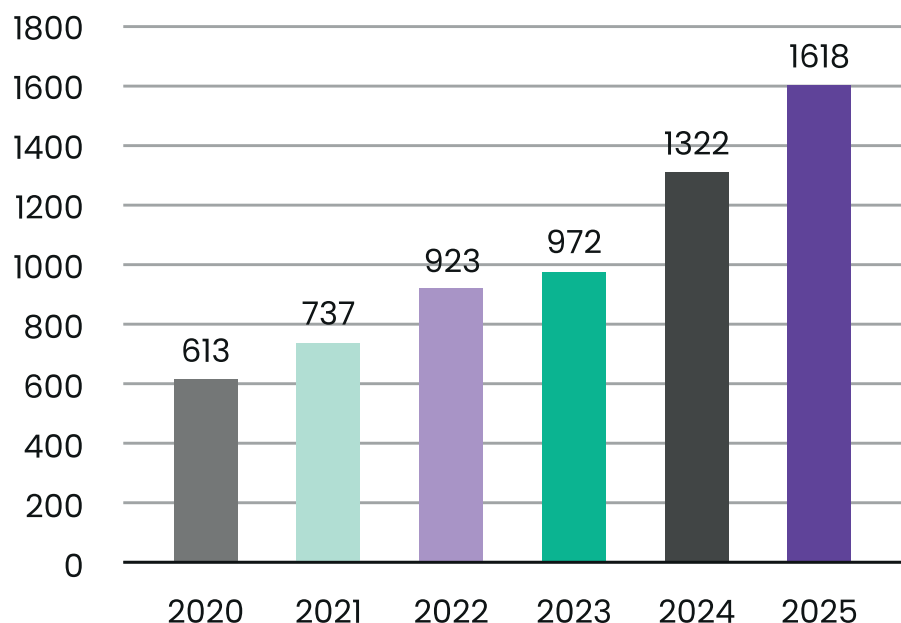
In line with this, the Board has also adopted strategies to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at Dbl. These include the creation of a new committee for DEI, known as DEICom. DEICom was successfully staffed with volunteer members in the first quarter of 2025 and will therefore feature prominently in the next Annual Report.

The same applies to the update of our organisational handbook under the leadership of Roxanna Spruyt, who was confirmed as Governance Officer and member of the Management Committee (Man-Com) in 2024. She succeeds Jackie Brennan, who is retiring after many years of outstanding work in this area and for Dbl. The draft of the revised version of the handbook, which was prepared in 2024, is open for feedback and proposed amendments from the Board until October 2025.



All Over the World and More and More: Our Members

Number of Individual Memberships by Year



The number of individual memberships processed has continued to increase, which is indeed very encouraging.

The Secretariat has processed an incredible 1,600 individual memberships! However, the actual number of members on 1 April 2025 was 1,454. This seems to indicate that we have lost some individual members over the years. That is why we began to focus on why members leave Dbl and what channels can be used to attract new members.

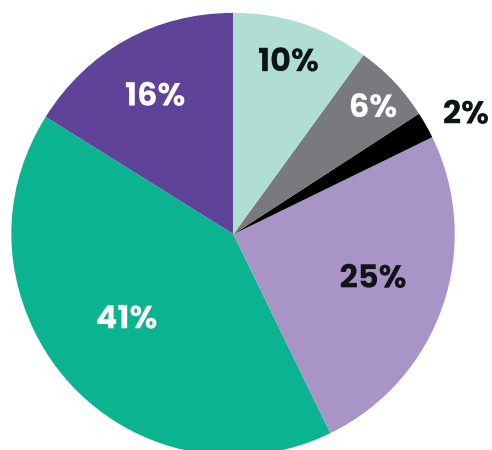
Answers from 40 individual members who had unsubscribed from our membership mailings showed us that loss of their loved one with deafblindness, and retirements were the main causes of members leaving. We also learned that while people did not want to cancel their memberships, they did not want to receive too many emails.

The chart below depicts 6 categories that illustrate how 208 new individual members learned about us.

Social media/ Website/ Dbl Review	Agencies/ Workplace	Education	Dbl Members/ Networks	Conferences	Families/ Friends
32	52	50	13	50	11

The diversity of members has also increased along with the number of individual members. This is how membership shares are distributed by region as of 1 April 2025. The largest increase in terms of the proportion of individual memberships is visible in Latin America, from 9.76% in 2023/24 to 16% in 2024/25.

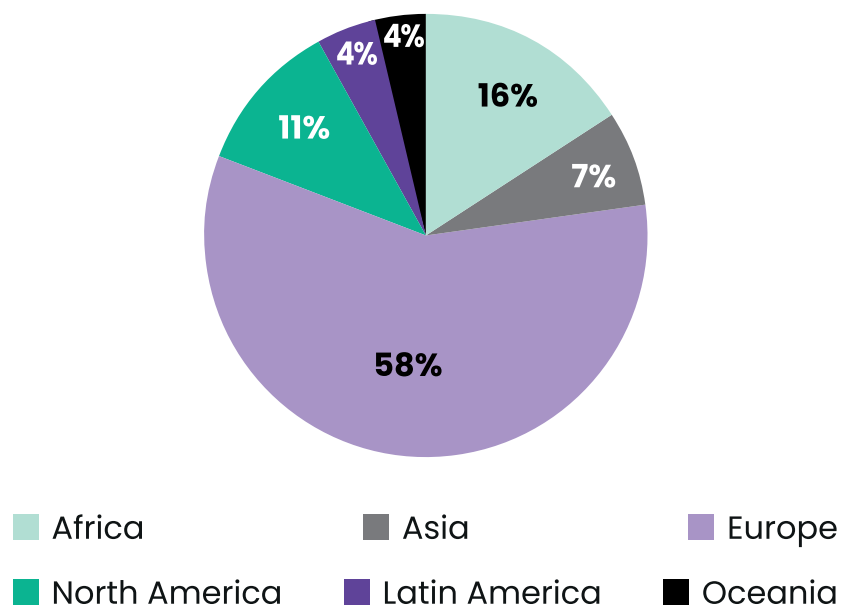
Percentage of Total Memberships by Region



■ Africa
 ■ Asia
 ■ Australia/New Zealand
■ Europe
 ■ North America
 ■ Latin/South America

The diversity of organisational members has increased as well. In terms of percentage, organisations in Africa were growing the most in underrepresented regions: from 7.6% in 2023/24 to 15.49% in 2024/25.

Percentage of Total Organisational Members by Region



77% of the current 13 mini corporate members are located in Africa. This organisational membership option for organisations in low- and lower-middle income countries is important for our diversity. It is available since 2025 with a further reduced annual membership fee of EUR 50.

In addition to the 13 mini corporate members, there are currently 15 large corporate members (13 from Europe and North America) and 42 small corporate members (76% from Europe and 10% from North America). This means that the total number of members has also increased. Dbl currently has 71 organisational members (66 at the beginning of 2024).

Moving Forward (and Upward) Together With Our Key Partners



View on Davos lake on a summer day

In line with our 2023–2027 objectives, Dbl played an active role in 2024 in the good cooperation with the World Federation of the Deafblind WFDB, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment ICEVI, and the International Commu-



Sanja Tarczay, WFDB President

nication Rights Alliance ICRA. The cooperation with IDDC was discussed again and it was decided to re-vive it in 2025 with participation in three IDDC task groups. Dbl is primarily represented in the IDDC by our Vice President Mary Maragia.



Cooperation with the WFDB was particularly important. A new Memorandum of Understanding was adopted in the first quarter of 2024. It laid the foundation for joint working groups and projects. In 2024, this came to fruition with the successful project on the Core Sets for Deafblindness within the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ICF, with the new project for a global definition of deafblindness (more information on the projects below) and with the joint development of a framework for the next World Conference.

In the last quarter, a separate conference agreement was drawn up and adopted, which clarified also the conference venue. The next World Conference will take place from 19 to 23 July 2027, for the first time as a joint World Conference of Dbl and

WFDB, for the first time with a joint pre-conference of Dbl Networks and for the first time in Switzerland: in the Davos Congress Centre, world-famous thanks to the World Economic Forum WEF, in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

With ICEVI, Dbl remained actively involved in the Board, very actively participating in the ICEVI World Conference in Ahmedabad, India, in November, and since then, Dbl Board member Akhil Paul has also served as second Vice President of ICEVI.

Cooperation is always an opportunity to learn from each other, allows for a wider audience for the respective mission, enables more and strengthens all those involved in the currently challenging contexts and situations.



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Networking to the Power of 17: The Dbl Networks



In 2024, Dbl continued to offer 17 thematic or geographically specialised Networks. Individual Dbl members could be part of one or more Networks.

And they were doing so in increasing numbers: membership of the Networks also grew in 2024.

The Networks were successful in other respects as well:

- Most Networks have formed their own small leadership committee to offer possibilities to get more involved for more members, to become more transparent and participative and less vulnerable when there is a change of personnel.
- With expectations set out in writing, Dbl created greater clarity and transparency regarding what is expected from the official Dbl Networks.
- Network leaders or their representatives were consistently and actively involved in the Network leaders meeting with the Network Coordinator, Trees van Nunen, every 3 months. This has, for example, made it possible to discuss ideas from the Communication Committee ComCom or to launch the idea of a joint Network pre-conference for the next World Conference.
- Several Networks have published about their activities in the Dbl Review, contributed to ComCom's social media communications and/or strengthened their own communications.

There are, of course, Network-specific achievements. To name just a few:

- The Outdoor Network organised an outdoor week in Scotland and sought coordinators in various countries. It also decided to allocate part of its network funds to enable people with deafblindness to participate in the inclusive trekking tour following the 1st Regional Asian Dbl Conference in Nepal in 2025.
- The Communication Network launched its Facebook page and organised a series of webinars across different time zones.
- The Acquired Deafblindness Network (ADbN) also organised a series of webinars, set up an

ADbN YouTube channel and began sending out newsletters in various languages.

- The Ibero Latin America Network continued to organise webinars and send out bulletins. It also used part of the network funds to send a member of the Network to the Tactile Working Memory Scale (TWMS) supervisor course. This will enable this knowledge to be passed on in Ibero-American countries.
- The Research Network awarded five research grants to researchers working in low-income regions to address the current lack of diversity in research on deafblindness. It also provided the Communication Committee ComCom with five videos on various research projects. Each video featured three speakers – a researcher, a

participant and a service provider – who talked about the project and its significance.

- However, the main accomplishment of the Research Network and of the European Deafblind Network EDbN in 2024 was the completion of the ICF Core Sets for Deafblindness (more on this below).

Such wonderful “connecting to acting” has, unsurprisingly, increased the demands on the coordination of the Networks. Dbl has therefore decided to double the role of the Network Coordinator and seek a Co-Network Coordinator. This new voluntary role was advertised and, following a selection process, was very happily filled by Yvette Gallegos in early 2025.



Deafblindness Becomes Visible in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ICF



ICF Consensus Conference group picture in Salou, Spain. You could find more ICF pictures [here](#).

2024 will surely be remembered as the year in which the ICF Core Sets project completed its final stage

of development with the Consensus Conference in

Salou, Spain, and the first comprehensive version of the Core Sets was published.

This was indeed a very important step forward! The Core Sets make deafblindness much more visible as a unique and distinct condition within the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ICF of the World Health Organization WHO.

Given the heterogeneity of deafblindness, the ICF can serve as a common language. The Core Sets will prove to be helpful in standardizing the development and selection of outcome measures for service delivery with persons with deafblindness. They are a major support in advocacy, help standardize the identification of deafblindness and support the access to the right and specific services. Like that the Core Sets will contribute to actually having human rights as a person with deafblindness instead of having those rights just on paper.

The development of the ICF Core Sets took 4 years and was a global collaborative effort. The policy lead for this project was Ricard López, representing the European Deafblind Network EDbN. The scientific lead was Dr. Walter Wittich, based at the School of Optometry, Université de Montréal, Canada. Together with the World Federation of the Deafblind WFDB and Dbl, they brought together representatives and data from 54 countries across all six regions of the WHO.

The project encompassed a preparatory phase that included a systematic literature review, a qualitative study, an expert survey, an empirical study, and finally the international Consensus Conference. Click on the following weblinks to access the publications which reported on these studies and on the international Consensus Conference:

- [Protocol Publication](#)
- [Systematic literature review Part 1](#)



- [Systematic literature review Part 2](#)
- [Expert survey](#)
- [Qualitative study](#)
- [International Consensus Conference](#)

The work could be completed in the first quarter of 2025. Ever since you can access the free downloadable versions of the brief Core Set (33 ICF codes prioritized for individual clinical encounters), the intermediate Core Set (137 ICF codes chosen for interdisciplinary communication) and the comprehensive Core Set (218 ICF codes covering every aspect that is relevant, including those important for advocacy and policy) by clicking here:

[ICF RESEARCH BRANCH – ICF Core Sets for Deafblindness](#)

Dbl gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of all collaborators and supporters whose involvement has been essential to the success of

this project. We are especially grateful for the wonderful scientific and policy leadership of Walter Wittich and Ricard López and the excellent collaboration with the World Federation of the Deafblind WFDB.

You can find ongoing updates on the project at <https://whoisdeafblind.org/>. The project journey continues with the development of ICF Core Sets specifically for children with deafblindness.

It also inspires the project launched in 2024 to develop a global definition of deafblindness, in which Vice President Dr Meredith Prain is very actively involved. In 2024, we have once again teamed up with the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) for this project to conduct a study that examines the perspectives of people with deafblindness on the definition of deafblindness. After receiving ethical approval, the research interviews began. In addition, a literature review was launched with students from the Université de Montréal, Canada, and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.



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“LET ME IN”: The Global Education Campaign Opens Doors and Hearts



Core team of the Interministerial Meeting in Argentina enjoying the success with a breakfast in the sun

2024 was also an excellent year for the Global Education Campaign.

By April 2024, a viable network had been established to organise the 1st Dbl Regional Asian Conference.



The Cathedral of Córdoba, Argentina with the campaign's logo

It took place from 1 to 3 March 2025 in Pokhara, Nepal's official tourism capital, and will therefore be an important part of next year's Annual Report. But here is a little preview: The conference exceeded all objectives and expectations. Among other things, with



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320 conference participants from 22 countries with 68 presentations and an inclusive post-conference trek with 60 participants from 8 countries, including 14 with deafblindness from Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

Such success is, of course, based on a great deal of work in 2024, which was carried out in particular by the local hosts and the two Conference Committees. The Scientific Committee was delighted to welcome SEAMEO SEN, among others, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs.

As always with Dbl, the success is due to networking. The regional inter-organisational team was central to the work on site, with the Deafblind Association Nepal, the Society of Deafblind Parents Nepal, the Nepal Association of the Blind, the National Federation of the Deaf Nepal, and Sense International India. Dbl is also deeply grateful to the sponsors: cbm, Inclusive Futures, Kéti Kéti Avenir, and Sense International.

As part of the Global Education Campaign in Asia, one focus of the conference was, of course, education. And indeed, the conference proved to be an excellent platform for sending out the campaign message 'LET ME IN'.

This also applies to the Interministerial Meeting that was organised in Argentina at the end of May and beginning of June 2024 with the generous support of the Universidad Católica de Córdoba UCC as part of the Global Education Campaign focusing this time on Latin America. The report on the Interministerial Meeting has been published on Dbl's website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#) and then downloading the file: [Report](#). It covers the progress of the countries involved, government recommendations, international support, history of deafblind education in Latin America and the Caribbean, educational practices, ongoing research, insights from people with deafblindness, and future prospects.

One of the celebrated outcomes of the Interministerial Meeting was achieved in Paraguay. On 25 June



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2024, the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay approved in plenary session a declaration calling for the International Day of Deafblindness to be declared Day of National Interest. Government and private organisations were called to take action to support, recognise and make visible people with deafblindness in recognition of deafblindness as a unique condition with specific characteristics and needs.

In fact, 'LET ME IN' has set a lot of things in motion in many countries. In the first half of 2024, 22 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America drafted 23 concrete education projects. These projects generally last two years, focus on the greatest local needs, are based on national, inclusive networks and cost an average of just EUR 20,000.

The core team of the Global Education Campaign would therefore like to support all projects not only with expertise but also financially. This has triggered further developments in Dbl's Fundraising Committee FundCom (see below) and further emphasised

the culture of partnerships. These have emerged and continued to grow. To remain in Latin America, for example, with cbm, the ONCE Foundation for Latin America FOAL, the Latin American Universities Network, or ICEVI Latinoamérica. Nevertheless, there remained an urgent need for funding for many country projects.

However, the Research Initiative associated with the Global Education Campaign could already be adequately funded in 2024. Very encouragingly, 15 researchers with experience in the field were also found to serve on the volunteer Advisory Committee of the Research Initiative.

The Research Initiative primarily aims to contribute to the development of a qualitative and quantitative research base for evidence-based quality education for children and young people with deafblindness in the three focus regions of the Global Education Campaign: Africa, Asia and Latin America. To this end, the Research Initiative will fund and support up to 10 research projects in each of the three regions

in 2025 and 2026. The initiative will conclude with the presentation of the research projects and outcomes at the next World Conference in Switzerland in 2027. The research projects will be supported with EUR 500 each. In addition, financial support will be available for participation in the World Conference.

The Advisory Committee, led by the Chair and his deputy, Dr Pawlos Kassu and Professor Emerita Isabel Amaral, has done some awesome work. This

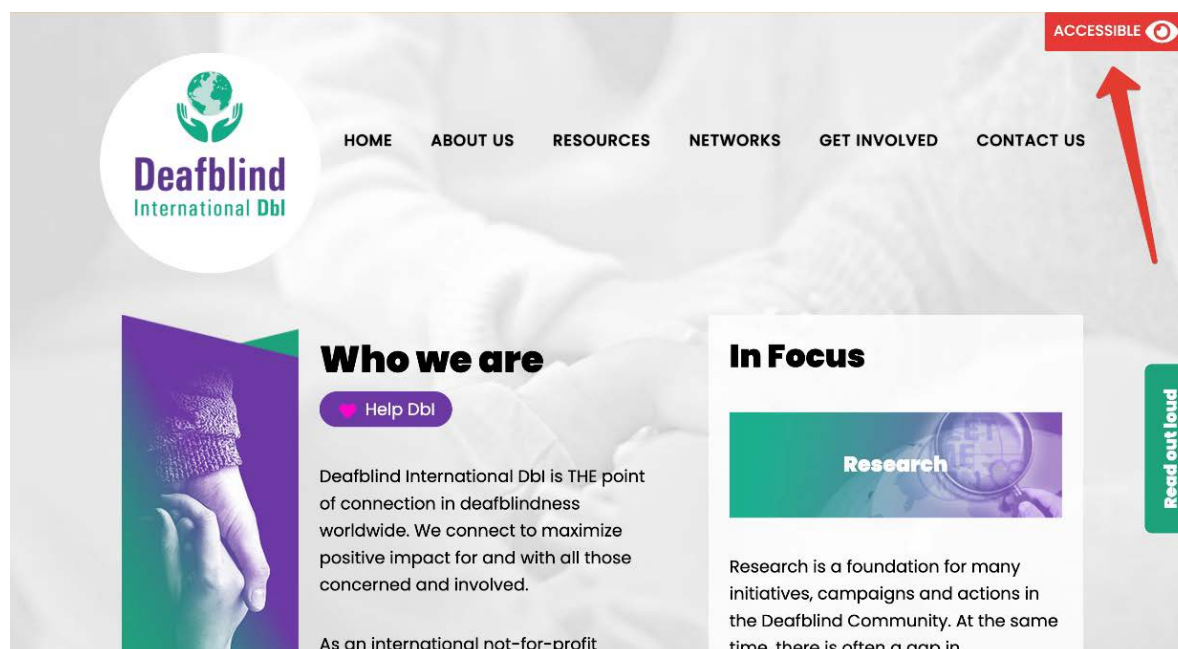
made it possible to launch the Call for Research Proposals at the end of 2024, which generated an incredible 54 submissions by mid-March 2025.

The Global Education Campaign will therefore continue to keep us busy in 2025, including further conferences or preparations for these – for example, with the exciting prospect of the very first Deafblind Africa Network Conference, which will be planned as a joint venture with ICEVI Africa for 2026.



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Nothing Without Communication



All these great developments in 2024 are, of course, based on communication. And they would not have been possible without constant communication.

Our Communication Committee ComCom and the Secretariat, which has also been part of ComCom since 2024, continued to play a key role in this.



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An important factor here was the further development of ComCom into a team of teams working on specific topics. While most ComCom members continued to work in pairs or threes on one or more of the two-month focus topics on our website and social media, permanent subgroups of individual ComCom members were formed for specific tasks such as accessibility issues, membership interaction, interaction with the Communication Ambassadors, the website, the Dbl Review or the communication with the Dbl Networks.

This has proven successful. For example, the Dbl website has been updated to make it more accessible. It now has more visible buttons that allow users to change the colours and increase the contrast of the page. At the same time, the design of the landing page has been adapted to match the light theme of all other pages on the website to enable smooth navigation for users with different visual abilities.

Dbl now communicates with its members not only via its website, social media and MailChimp mailings, but also with newly written welcome emails for new members and birthday greetings, via the new 'Community Connections' section in the Dbl Review and the new member newsletter 'Deafblind Connection'. In 2024, very popular processes for suggesting and selecting names were carried out for both of these new member platforms.

In total, the Secretariat ran 25 MailChimp mailings in 2024. After evaluating the analytics data, mailings related to seminars, self-advocacy, the Annual General Meeting and expressions of interest achieved the highest email open rates and click-through rates on links in the articles. This is another wonderful sign that people want to get more involved and are interested in learning more.

Of course, meetings remained an important form of communication at Dbl in 2024. On the one hand, AI-supported minute-taking was gradually introduced and, on the other hand, a switch was made



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to shared folders in Dbl's Google Workspace, initially with the Management Committee ManCom and then, in 2025, with the Board and the other standing committees. Appropriate training opportunities were important, and we are very grateful for the excellent cooperation between our Information Officer, Irina Moiseeva, and her team with the team at DeafBlind Ontario.

Overall, ManCom met online eight times, as in 2023, while the Board met online nine times, three times more than in 2023, thereby strengthening the Board's network and leveraging all its incredible individual resources.

When it comes to the performance figures for the website and social media, these are the relevant data:

Facebook: In February 2020 there were 3053 people following Dbl on Facebook, by mid-April 2025 5694, 71.5% of them female. The number of followers has only increased in the last 5 years.

The post on the ICF mini webinar in July 2024 achieved by far the greatest reach up to mid-April 2025, most liked were two promoted posts about the Global Education Campaign. Dbl continued to perform well in Facebook's benchmarking for the last 28 days. We had more followers and new followers in comparison with similar organisations.

Instagram: Dbl started to use Instagram in November 2018. In February 2020 we had 280 followers, by mid-April 2025 1551, 80.8% of them female. The number of followers has only increased in the last 5 years.

Posts in October 2024 about the ICF Consensus Conference and in March 2025 during the Regional Asian Conference achieved most views and most content interactions, March came also with the highest reach up to mid-April 2025. The runner was the post about the Dbl Awards presented during the Regional Asian Conference. Dbl continued to perform well in Instagram's benchmarking for the last 28 days.



We had more followers and higher content interactions in comparison with similar organisations.

X: At the beginning of 2025, Dbl decided to leave X. Continuing to maintain a presence on this platform was no longer compatible with Dbl's clear commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Instead, new accounts were opened on Bluesky and LinkedIn. By mid-April 2025, they already had 35 and 62 followers respectively.

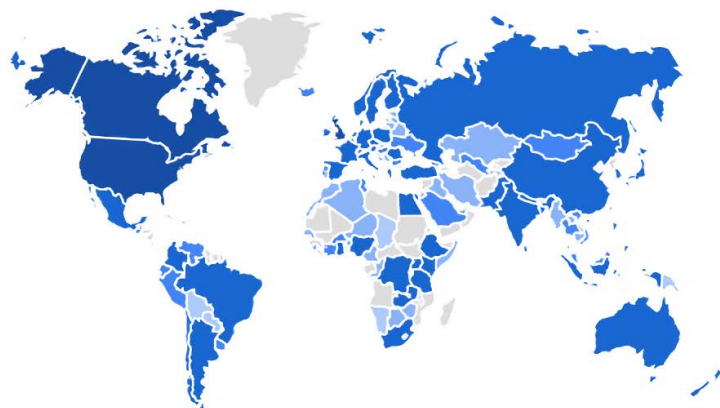
Website: Compared to 2023, the website had 17.4 % more active users in 2024, around 12,000 new users were registered, 18.5 % more than in 2023, and the average time spent on the site increased by 6.4 % to 1.42 minutes.

Most new users came from search functions or directly, however the relevance of referrals and social

media increased significantly in 2024. The most important page in terms of views and users was by far again the landing page, followed by the Dbl Review page that gained 145% views and nearly 100% active users.

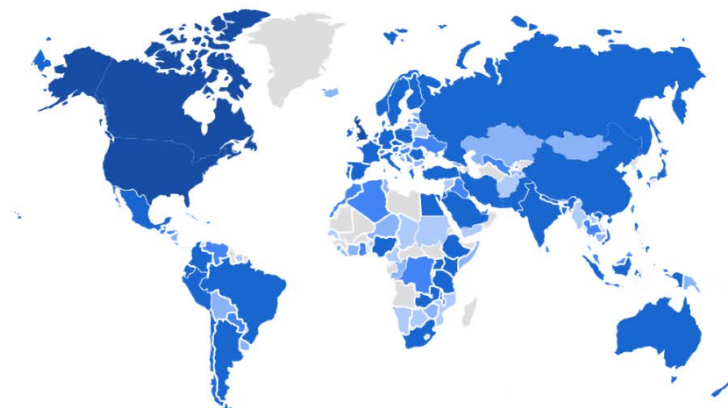
The positive trend of reaching more countries around the world continued again. Compared to 2023, more countries in Africa and Asia were reached, including the Arabian Peninsula. Encouragingly, with an increase of 102%, the website now has the fourth highest number of active users in India. The largest percentage increase was achieved in Nepal with 411%, undoubtedly reflecting preparations for the 1st Dbl Regional Asian Conference in Nepal.

2023



By the way: The main website user language in 2024 was still and by far English, followed by Spanish, German, Dutch, French, Portuguese and Chinese.

2024



Finally, some personnel changes in the Communication Committee ComCom: Roxanna Spruyt left ComCom in 2024 after five great years to focus on

her new role as Governance Officer on the Management Committee ManCom. DeafBlind Ontario remained actively involved in ComCom, with Sue Wookey since 2019 and Leslie Giesbrecht and Madison Smith joining in 2024. As mentioned, the Dbl Secretariat, with Cathy Proll and Lindsay Blasdell from Sensity, has joined ComCom in 2024 to strengthen the coordination and integration of ComCom's communication activities and those of the Secretariat. And then Graciela Ferioli also left ComCom in the second half of the year to focus on her PhD. Graciela had also been with ComCom since its in-

ception in 2019 and was already the uncrowned social media queen of Dbl.

Latin America remains actively represented in ComCom with a change in representation of the Dbl Networks from Trees van Nunen to Yvette Gallegos in 2025. More on this and other personnel changes will therefore be provided in the 2025 Annual Report. These changes were triggered, among other things, by ComCom's decision in 2024 to seek additional volunteer ComCom members, also from Asia, to help with the increasing communication tasks.



A Resource for Dbl Too: Finances 2024



Dbl is primarily based on voluntary commitment. Nevertheless, sufficient financial resources are important. This applies on the one hand to fixed expenses, which we have in particular with lump-sum payments for services provided by Sensity for the

secretariat, Royal Kentalis for treasury and Yaseneva Poliana for information. Although the amounts are modest (and correspondingly generous on the part of the organisations involved), they are nevertheless necessary. On the other hand, we need fi-

nancial resources for our mission, for the activities of our official Networks, for example, or for projects and conferences.

In 2024, membership fees from organisational members (individual membership is free) continued to be the main source of income. At the same time, the Fundraising Committee FundCom, led by our Treasurer Esther van Dijk, has developed a stable and creative collaboration. New additions to the team include executives and experts from Deafblind UK and Lega del filo d'oro: Nikki Morris and Alex Bizzarri.

In 2024, FundCom was very active in collecting membership fees. With regard to debtors, they successfully used their personal contacts to request payment of outstanding invoices. FundCom was also successful in supporting the Interministerial Meeting in Argentina and the ICF Consensus Conference in Spain, among other things, and contributed to financial networking for the 1st Dbl Regional Asian Conference. Working tools were developed,

instruments discovered, applications submitted and a first attempt made at ongoing crowdfunding for the Global Education Campaign.

This has led to initial fundraising successes. Among other things, Dbl 2024 was awarded the iF Social Impact Prize for the Global Education Campaign. The jury stated in the winner certificate: "The project is positively targeting and assisting those who are not by choice less involved in the society. Educating and including the deafblind children in society, gives a purpose to grow and thrive even in such a difficult reality".

We were deeply grateful for this recognition, for the one by the Swiss Eilinger Foundation and for all other donations, contributions in kind and costs covered personally or by member organisations. We would also like to give special mention to organisations and individual members who sponsored the membership of organisations in low and lower-middle income countries.

Without all those heartfelt contributions, our work would not be possible. **Thank you so very much!**

And now to the formal financial statement for 2024, including the Audit Report.

Thanks to FundCom's success, we achieved a significantly better result than expected: a positive result of EUR 9,654. For 2024, Dbl had estimated income of EUR 72,000 and expenditure of EUR 75,000, which would have resulted in an expected result of

EUR -3,000. However, Dbl actually took in EUR 82,300 and spent EUR 72,646, resulting in a surplus of EUR 9,654. In addition to the higher-than-expected income, the official Dbl Networks have only used 75% of their budget, with the African Deafblind Network not using its budget at all. So apart from everything you have already read, 2024 was also a very good year for Dbl financially! Below you find the figures of the last 5 years for comparison. Our reserves and funds have grown to EUR 128,224.

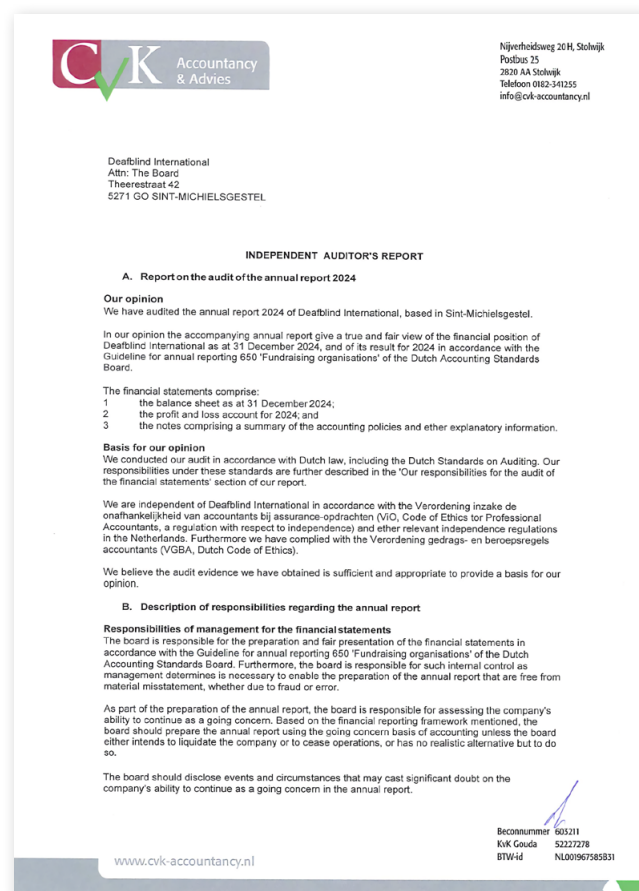
Figures Annual Report	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Balance as at January 1	€ 105.186	€ 113.532	€ 126.872	€ 125.964	€ 118.570
Income (fiscal)	€ 62.713	€ 61.325	€ 61.725	€ 79.522	€ 82.300
Expenditures (fiscal)	€ 54.368	€ 47.895	€ 62.633	€ 86.916	€ 72.646
Surplus / deficit (- for the year)	€ 8.345	€ 13.340	€ -908	€ -7.394	€ 9.654
Balance as at December 31 (Reserves and funds)	€ 113.532	€ 126.872	€ 125.964	€ 118.570	€ 128.224

Please go to [this link](#) to download our comprehensive Financial Report 2024.



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Auditor's Report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

A. Report on the audit of the annual report 2024

Our opinion

We have audited the annual report 2024 of Deafblind International, based in Sint-Michielsgestel.

In our opinion the accompanying annual report give a true and fair view of the financial position of Deafblind International as at 31 December 2024, and of its result for 2024 in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising organisations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024;
2. the profit and loss account for 2024; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and ether explanatory information.



Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Deafblind International in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

B. Description of responsibilities regarding the annual report

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

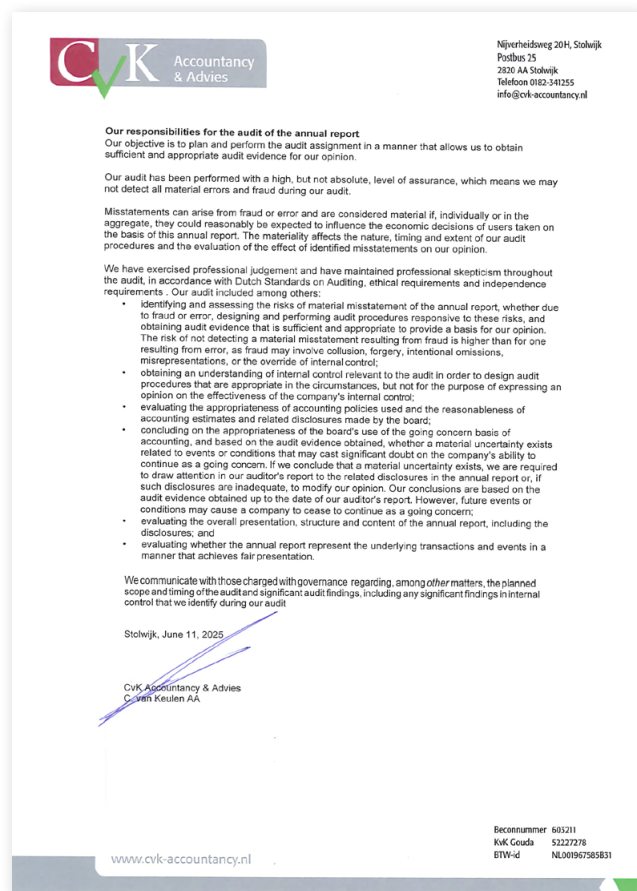
The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising organisations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. Furthermore, the board is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the annual report that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the annual report, the board is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the board should prepare the annual report using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the annual report.



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Our responsibilities for the audit of the annual report

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this annual report. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.



We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the annual report, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to these risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing

an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;

- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board;
- concluding on the appropriateness of the board's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or con-

ditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;

- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual report, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the annual report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Stolwijk, June 11, 2025

Nijverheidsweg 20 H, Stolwijk Postbus 25 2820 AA Stolwijk
Telefoon 0182-341255
info@cvk-accountancy.nl

Financial Donations 2024

Company/Institution	Sponsor (2024) for	Amount
Tanne, Schweizerische Stiftung für Taubblinde	Sponsorship Ed. Camp.	€ 2.031
Perkins School for the Blind	Sponsorship Ed. Camp.	€ 2.314
Eilinger Stiftung, Switzerland	Sponsorship Ed. Camp.	€ 5.000
iF International Forum Design Social Impact Prize	Sponsorship Ed. Camp.	€ 2.500
DeafBlind Inclusion, Switzerland (Donations Crowdfunding Global Education Campaign: All donors who have given their permission to be named are listed on our website. This is the corresponding link: Making a Difference Together: Our Donors – Deafblind International Dbl)	Sponsorship Ed. Camp.	€ 1.709
Senses Australia ICF Conference Sponsoring Barcelona	Sponsorship ICF	€ 3.041

Company/Institution	Sponsor (2024) for	Amount
ONCE Dbl Alojamiento	Sponsorship ICF	€ 1.020
		€ 17.614

Organisational Members Sponsored (2024)	Sponsored by	Amount
Asociacion de Sordociegos de Nicaragua	DeafBlind Ontario	€ 300
NIDA Society, Egypt	Tanne	€ 200
Society of Deafblind Parents, Nepal	Carolyn Monaco	€ 50



Deafblind
International Dbl

On behalf of Dbl, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Deafblind International Dbl is an international association registered in the Netherlands and recognized as a Public Benefit Organization (ANBI).

Our management structure comprises an active Board, which sets the direction for Dbl, and its standing committees: the Management Committee ManCom, which is responsible for implementing decisions and day-to-day business, the Communications Committee ComCom which handles com-

munications, the Fundraising Committee FundCom, which is responsible for securing sufficient financial resources, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee DEICom, which deals with precisely these issues.

The current composition of the Board and the standing committees is published on our website. Here is the link: [The Board](#).