

A n n u a l R e p o r t

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Easy English version



Towards
more diversity,
equity and
inclusion



Annual Report 2025

Overview of 2025

In 2025, many political issues affected human rights.
DbI stayed strong as a network for deafblindness.

Our Key Objectives

We made progress in recognizing deafblindness as a unique disability.
We became a key link for information in our field.
We became more inclusive and relevant.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, equity, and inclusion help DbI thrive and succeed.
The dove on the cover is a symbol of successful diversity.

Thank You

This report shares our most important developments.
We appreciate your commitment and support.
Together, we can continue to move forward.

Message from the President



Thank you for your support on behalf of ManCom and the Board.
Mirko Baur, Dbl President.



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Key objective #1: **Clear progress in recognition of deafblindness as a unique and distinct disability**

We want to show that deafblindness is a unique disability.
This means it is different from other disabilities.
We work to make this clear.



Global Education Campaign Overview

The Global Education Campaign focuses on children with deafblindness.
It aims to improve education and recognition of deafblindness.

These are the 2025 Campaign Developments:

Successful Conference in Nepal

The first Dbl Regional Conference in Asia took place in Pokhara, Nepal. It was held from 1 to 3 March 2025. 320 participants from 22 countries attended the conference. There were 68 presentations during the event. 60 participants joined an inclusive trek after the conference. Networking helped make the conference successful. Many organizations worked together for this event. Dbl thanks its sponsors for their support.

Launch of Dbl Asia Network

A new Dbl Asia Network was launched at the conference. It will be formally established in 2026.

Webinar and Training Success

The 1st Dbl South Asia Webinar took place on 19 June.
820 people registered for the webinar.
Latin America organized successful training sessions.

Global Initiatives and Research

The Global Education Campaign was featured at the Global Disability Summit.
The Research Initiative received 54 research proposals for education projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
30 projects were selected for funding by mid-July.

Challenges and Future Plans

Some national projects moved forward with sponsorship.
Efforts to raise funds from the Global North were not very successful.

Acknowledgments

Dbl thanks all dedicated people involved in the campaign.
Special thanks to regional leaders for their hard work.

Deafblindness Core Sets and Recognition

In 2025, we made progress on ICF Core Sets for deafblindness. ICF means International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. It helps us understand health and disability. We also worked on a global definition of deafblindness. This included studies and recognitions that highlight the importance of deafblindness awareness.

ICF Core Sets for Adults

We completed the ICF Core Sets for adults in early 2025. You can download three versions of the Core Sets for free. The brief Core Set has 33 ICF codes for clinical use. Link: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/NK29J> The intermediate Core Set has 137 ICF codes for communication. Link: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/627PF> The comprehensive Core Set has 218 ICF codes for all aspects. Link: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/A942K>

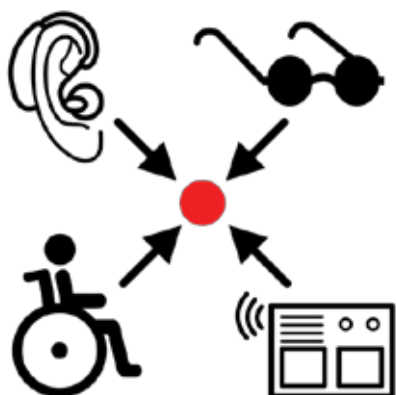
Walter Wittich and Ricard López received awards. They got these awards from Perkins for their ICF work.

ICF Core Sets for Children

We started developing ICF Core Sets for children and young people. Shirley Dumassais leads this project.



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Global Definition of Deafblindness

We made progress on a global definition of deafblindness in 2025.

A study with the World Federation of the Deafblind was completed.

The study showed how diverse deafblindness can be. We thank the Board members involved in this study.

International Day of Deafblindness

The World Federation of the Deafblind started a campaign.

This campaign was important for deafblind people.

The UN now recognizes the International Day of Deafblindness.

We supported this campaign and celebrated its success.

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Key objective #2: **Clear progress in becoming THE link to information and exchange in the field**

We want to be the main link for information.
We help people share ideas in our field.

Dbi's Core Identity

Dbi connects people and organisations.
Dbi Networks focus on different themes and areas.
Dbi is successful because of its members.
Members can be individuals or organisations.



Networks

DbI has 17 official Networks that connect members.
In 2025, they grew and added new roles.

They focus on collaboration.

They organize many activities.

A joint pre-conference will happen before the 2027 World Conference.

The pre-conference is on 18 and 19 July 2027.

Growth of Networks

An 18th Network, the Asian Network, started in 2025.

All Networks grew in membership this year.

We had ideas for 2 new Networks.

We can add new ideas to current Networks.

DbI is a vibrant network of networks.

Network Coordination

Trees van Nunen coordinated the Networks successfully.

Yvette Gallegos from Mexico became the new Co-Coordinator.

Four coordination meetings happened in 2025.

Network Activities

Many Networks were active in 2025.

They helped create content for the newsletter, Deafblind Connection.

Four Networks held webinars this year.

The Youth and Outdoor Networks organised activities in the Netherlands and Denmark.

The Research Network gave grants to researchers in low-income areas.

Thank You

Dbl needs its Networks to succeed.

Thank you to all members and leadership teams.



2025 Communication Update

In 2025, our communication improved significantly. We expanded campaigns and increased engagement with members.

We also saw growth in social media followers and website users.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work.



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Strengthened Communication

Our communication became stronger in 2025.

The Communication Committee and the Secretariat played key roles.

We coordinated with the World Federation of the Deafblind.

This was important for the International Day of Deafblindness.

Deafblind Awareness Campaign

The Communication Committee runs a campaign every June.

This campaign inspires members each year.

In 2025, we expanded the campaign to include all art forms.

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Community Connections

Since 2025, we have a new community section in the Dbl Review.
We also have a new newsletter.
Calls for proposals generated a lot of interest.

MailChimp Campaigns

The Secretariat ran 34 MailChimp campaigns from April 2025 to April 2026.
We achieved a 38.6% open rate for newsletters.
This shows members want to stay informed.

Meetings and Tools

Meetings were important for communication in 2025.
We used Zoom for online meetings.
The Board met 8 times and other committees met multiple times.

Social Media Growth

On Facebook, we grew from 3053 to 6000 followers.
The largest user group is aged 35-44.
Our posts about events got the most views.

Instagram and Other Platforms

On Instagram, we grew from 280 to 1720 followers.
We left X and opened accounts on Bluesky and LinkedIn.

Website Performance

The website had 29.2% more active users in 2025.
The most users came directly to the site.
The main language used was English, followed by Chinese.

Personnel Changes

There were changes in the Communication Committee.
Irina Moiseeva became the new chair in April 2025.



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Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their hard work.
Special thanks to Irina Moiseeva and her team.

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Membership Update for 2025

Individual Membership Growth

Individual membership increased to 1,872 members by April 2026.

This is a 15.7% rise from last year.

We need to check if all data is current.

Diversity among individual members is increasing.

Diversity from different regions decreased slightly.

Most new members joined from Europe and North America.

Asia and Oceania saw the largest relative membership increase.

The Regional Conference in Nepal likely helped this growth.

Organisational Membership Changes

Organisational membership fell slightly due to fewer mini-corporate members.

Mini-corporate members are from low-income countries.

Some data is missing due to political and financial issues.

After correcting data, total member organisations rose to 73.

Large corporate members stayed the same.

Small corporate members increased slightly by 2.8%.



Diversity of Organisational Members

Geographical diversity among organisations increased slightly.

Most organisational members are still from Europe. More organisations joined from Asia, Latin America, and North America.

Mini-corporate membership is important for diversity.

Most mini-corporate members are from Africa.

They make up 78.6% of these organisational members.

Key objective #3: **Clear progress in becoming more inclusive, participative and relevant**

We want to include everyone in our activities.
We want to make it easy for people to participate.
We want to be important to all community members.

Updates on Structures and Processes

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

In 2025, we formed a new committee called DEICom.
DEICom promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion.
The committee has 5 initial members from different countries.
Agnes Kivike left the committee and 2 new members joined.
The new members are Laura Ancilotto and Shirley Rodrigues Maia.

Data Collection Changes

DEICom created a data concept for collecting DEI data.
We now use Google Forms for data collection.
The data is securely stored in the Dbl Workspace.
This change started in early 2026.

Governance Measures

Since 2025, Dbl has four standing committees.
The first is the Management Committee, called ManCom.
The second is the Communication Committee, called ComCom.
The third is the Fundraising Committee, called FundCom.
The fourth is DEICom.
We updated the Management Handbook in 2025.
We now have a data protection policy based on EU standards.
This policy includes new consent forms for photos and videos.



Upcoming Changes

We will implement more governance measures in 2026.

These measures relate to upcoming Dbl elections. They also include evaluation processes for the Board. We will review our constitution.

This review will happen in the next four-year Board term.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone involved in these developments.
A special thanks to Roxanna Spruyt.
She is important to Dbl as the Governance Officer.



Collaboration with the World Federation of the Deafblind

We collaborate with the WFDB.

The WFDB stands for the World Federation of the Deafblind.

We are preparing for a conference in July 2027.

The conference will be in Davos, Switzerland.

Two committees were formed in 2025 for planning.

The committees are the Planning Committee and the Programme Committee.

Both committees have members from DbI and WFDB.

The Planning Committee has a strong Swiss presence.

Many people contributed great ideas for the conference.

The committees worked hard.

They issued a call for abstracts in March 2026.

They secured many sponsors for the conference.

Main sponsors include Tanne, SNAB, and Lega del filo d'oro.

We are grateful for their support.

Collaboration helps everyone learn and stay motivated.

Other Important Partners

We have other important partners.

Dbl gained special consultative status with the United Nations in July 2025.

Dbl joined the Health Equity Network.

This network is part of the World Health Organisation.

Walter Wittich represents Dbl.

Our Vice-President Mary Maragia works with task groups of the the International Disability and Development Consortium.

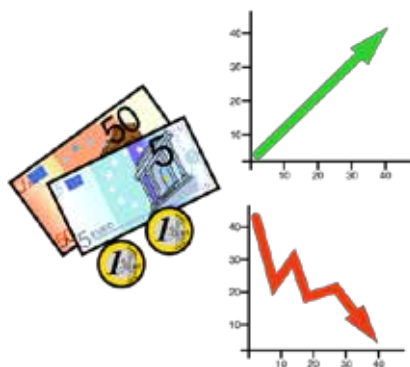
Our Vice-President Meredith Prain is active in the International Communication Rights Alliance.

We stopped our collaboration with the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment in September 2025.

We will reflect on this partnership for the future.

Financial and Volunteer Support for Dbl in 2025

Dbl needs financial and volunteer support in 2025.
The Fundraising Committee plays a key role.
They have created new funding guidelines and secured sponsors.
Dbl had a surplus in 2025 and its funds have grown.



Role of the Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee supported Dbl in 2025. They developed new funding process guidelines. These guidelines help Dbl get funding. They clarify roles for local partners and Dbl. The Board approved the guidelines. Alex Bizzarri and Nikki Morris helped create them. The Fundraising Committee revised donor stewardship procedures. They provided a Donor Badge for 2026. The Fundraising Committee started a trial for recording volunteer hours. This shows Dbl relies on volunteers. The Fundraising Committee worked with the Planning Committee for the World Conference.

They secured main sponsors for the event.
The Fundraising Committee found sponsors for membership fees in Africa and Latin America.
Six larger organisations helped with this.
Keerthi Uthappa joined the Fundraising Committee
We thank all members for their hard work.

2025 Annual Financial Statements

Dbl relies on voluntary work but needs funding.
We have fixed expenses for services from Sensity, Royal Kentalis, and Yaseneva Poliana.
These amounts are necessary for our operations.
We also need funds for our mission and activities.
In 2025, we had a surplus of 20,774 euros.
Our estimated income was 73,000 euros.
Our estimated expenditure was 81,140 euros.
In reality, we took in 85,706 euros.
This included grants and donations of 15,382 euros.
We spent 64,932 euros in total.
The Dbl Networks used only 51% of their budget.
Our reserves and funds grew to 148,998 euros.
Please go to [the link](#) for our Financial Report 2025.

Financial Donations 2025

This section lists donations for 2025.
It includes the sponsor's name, their support, and the amount they give.
We appreciate our sponsors very much.
Thank you for your support in 2025.



Grant/Donation	Donor	Amount
Refund of not needed Dbl contribution to ICF Core Sets project	Refund	€ 9.143
Sponsor World Conference 2027	DeafBlind Ontario	€ 6.122
PayPal Charity Donations	Diverse Donors	€ 117
TOTAL		€ 15.382



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Organisational Members Sponsored 2025	Sponsored by
Asociacion de Sordociegos de Nicaragua	DeafBlind Ontario, Canada
Kwale School for the Deaf, Unit for the Deafblind, Kenya	DeafBlind Ontario, Canada
NIDA Society, Egypt	Tanne, Switzerland
Society of Deafblind Parents, Nepal	CDBA, Canada
Socieven, Sordociegos de Venezuela	Sensity, Canada
African Federation of the Deafblind (AFDB)	Anonymous
Rwanda Organization of Persons with DeafBlindness (ROPDB)	Anonymous
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	Anonymous
VIWATA, ViziwiWasioona, Tanzania	Anonymous
Chetana Trust, India	Anonymous

More Thank You and Changes in Dbl

We thank Esther van Dijk for her service as Treasurer.
We also thank Peter Drijfhamer for his work as accountant.
Esther left her role in early 2026.
Carine de Waart is the new Treasurer.
Peter will continue to support Carine.

Changes in the Secretariat

The current Board will end its term in September 2027.
Sensity has been the secretariat for seven years.
Sensity will stop being Dbl's secretariat in 2027.
This change will happen with the end of the term.
Sensity will work with the new secretariat.
This work will happen before the change.
They are completing the Secretariat handbook.
We will publish the Request for Proposals in June 2026.
This document will help find a new Secretariat.
We thank Cathy Proll for her great work.
We also thank Lindsay Blasdell for her great job.