



DISABILITY RIGHTS FUND AND DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2012



**Australian
Aid** 


UKaid
from the British people

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund are innovative grantmaking collaborations between the global disability community and donors, supporting the rights of the **one billion** people with disabilities around the world.

In 2012, DRF and DRAF gave more than \$2 million in grants to **109 organizations led by persons with disabilities in 16 countries**. With Fund support, these organizations use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to advance the rights of people with disabilities at both community and national levels. From CRPD ratification campaigns to advocacy for legislative change to rights monitoring and awareness raising, our grantees across the globe are making their voices heard and shifting the paradigm to **“nothing about us without us”**.

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund are proud of our grantees around the world who are shifting the paradigm to inclusion, upholding rights, and making themselves heard. Over the next years, we will continue to expand our grantmaking to support an increased demand from people with disabilities for equal opportunity for all, starting with Haiti and Rwanda in 2013. To do this, we need your help. Please join us in continuing to advocate for justice for all.

Sincerely,



Diana Samarasan,
Founding Executive Director

In 2012, DRF and DRAF grantees advocated for “Implementing Our Rights” for example:

In India, Chaitanya Vikalangula Hakkula Vedika created village level legal committees to act on rights violations against women and children with disabilities.

In Lebanon, a new organization of women with disabilities was initiated by the National Association for the Rights of Disabled People in Lebanon.

In Uganda, Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities trained grassroots leaders about enforcing rights and protecting persons with disabilities from human rights violations, increasing the number of cases brought forward by persons with disabilities.

In Mexico, a new General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities was adopted on November 30, 2012. National DPO coalition, COAMEX, also advocated for passage of amendments to the General Labor Law, forbidding discrimination on the basis of disability and mandating accommodations in the workplace.

In Peru, a new Disability Act, initiated by DRAF grantees, was passed on December 13, 2012, giving the National Council on Disability (CONADIS) responsibility for monitoring and implementation of the CRPD, and mandating formal participation of Disabled Persons Organizations.

The Disability Rights Fund is supported by an anonymous donor; the American Jewish World Service; the Foundation to Promote Open Society, part of the Open Society Foundations; the Leir Charitable Foundations; the Sigrid Rausing Trust; and UKaid. The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund is supported by Australian Aid. The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the official policies of any of our donors, or the governments they represent. Photography is by Andy Isaacson, photographer/journalist.

Cover Photos | Top: A young blind woman walks along a dike in coastal Bangladesh, where climate change is one of numerous challenges for persons with disabilities. Bottom: Youth from the African Youth with Disabilities Network march in a demonstration in Nairobi, Kenya.

Key achievements since launch of the Funds in 2008 include:

- More than \$10 million in grants for rights advancement to more than 500 projects in 25 countries across 6 regions of the world.
- More than half of these grants awarded to extremely marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, children with disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, and people with psychosocial disabilities.
- National level changes in legislation, policies and government programs to accord them with the CRPD influenced by grantee input in more than 17 countries.
- Support of the first expert report on global conditions for Indigenous persons with disabilities.

ADVANCING RIGHTS THROUGH GRANTMAKING



The Disability Rights Fund is a grantmaking collaborative that empowers persons with disabilities to advocate for equal rights and full participation in society. DRF funds disabled persons organizations in the developing world for activities such as documentation of rights violations,

advocacy for rights fulfillment and expansion of voice and visibility for marginalized sectors of the disability community. As a pooled fund, DRF also provides an effective way for donors to engage in this new area of rights.

“DFID is already incorporating disability into programmes across Africa and Asia, and recently committed £2 million towards an additional 3 years support to the Disability Rights Fund — the only grant-making organisation to solely and directly support disabled people’s organisations in developing countries.”

— **Lynne Featherstone,**

MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development



Street people with disabilities meet at a park in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DRF LIST OF GRANTEES

2012

Africa

Ghana

Empowerment Through Community Volunteering
Inclusion Ghana
Kekeli Foundation
Lakeside Cross Disability Self-Help Group
New Horizon Foundation of the Blind
Special Attention Project

Uganda

Action for Youth with Disabilities Uganda
Gulu Women with Disabilities Union
Heartsounds Uganda
Iganga District Action on Physical Disability
Integrated Disabled Women Activities
Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities Uganda
Lira District Disabled Women Association
Little People of Uganda
Moyo District Disabled Persons Union
National Association of the Deafblind in Uganda
National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
Uganda Association for the Mentally Handicapped
/ Inclusion Uganda
Uganda National Action on Physical Disability
Uganda National Association of the Deaf
United Deaf Women's Organisation
Youth with Physical Disabilities Development
Forum

Asia

Bangladesh

Access Bangladesh Foundation
Bangladesh Protibandhi Unnayan Sangstha
Coastal DPO Alliance
Dishary Protibandhi Sangstha
Jatiyo Trinomul Protibandhi Sangstha
Jatiyo Trinomul Protibandhi Sangstha
Society for Education and Inclusion of the
Disabled
Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users
Turning Point Foundation
Women with Disabilities Development Foundation

India

Akshaya Rehabilitation Trust
Chaitanya Vikalangula Hakkula Vedika
Chattisgarh Viklang Manch
Network of Persons with disabilities Organizations
Parivaar National Confederation of Parents
Organizations
People with Hearing Impaired Network
Prathibha Vikalangula Mutually Aided Cooperative
Thrift Society Limited
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
Tejaswi Mahila Vikalanula Network

Indonesia

Center for Improving Qualified Activity in Life
DPC Gerkatin Kota Surakarta
Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia
Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia
Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat
Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Untuk Penyandang
Cacat
UCP Roda Untuk Kemanusiaan Indonesia

Eastern Europe/FSU

Ukraine

All-Ukrainian Organization of Users and Survivors
of Psychiatry - National Branch
Cherkassy Youth
Creavita
Djerela 1
Generation of Successful Action - Kiev
Generation of Successful Action - Volyn Branch
Parents Club

Latin America

Mexico

Centro Transitorio de Capacitacion y Educacion
Recreativa El Caracol A.C.
Colectivo Chuhcan, A.C.
Estudiantes o Trabajadores Ciegos y Débiles
Visuales del Estado de Veracruz
Fundación Paso a Paso A.C.
Instituto Bilingüe Intercultural Para Sordos
Integración Social, Familiar y Educativa A.C.

La Pirinola: Actividades Culturales Educativas y de
Desarrollo para Educación Especial A.C.
Nexos y Soluciones A.C.
Planeta Inclusión

Nicaragua

Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad Físico
Motor
Asociación de Sordociegos de Nicaragua
Organización de Ciegos de Matagalpa "Luis
Braille"
Red de Asociaciones de Personas con
Discapacidad Psicosocial de Nicaragua

Peru

Abriendo Caminos para el Desarrollo e Inclusión
Social de Personas con Discapacidad y Demás
Grupos Vulnerables
Asociación de Usuarios de Servicios de Salud
Mental
Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de Personas con
Discapacidad Psicosocial
Federación Departamental de Personas con
Discapacidad de Puno
Federación Departamental en Pro del Desarrollo
de la Persona con Discapacidad
Federación Regional de Personas Con
Discapacidad de Junín
Sociedad Peruana de Síndrome de Down

Middle East/North Africa

Lebanon

National Association for the Rights of Disabled
People in Lebanon

Pacific Island Countries

Cook Islands

Cook Islands National Disability Council

Fiji

Psychiatric Survivors Association

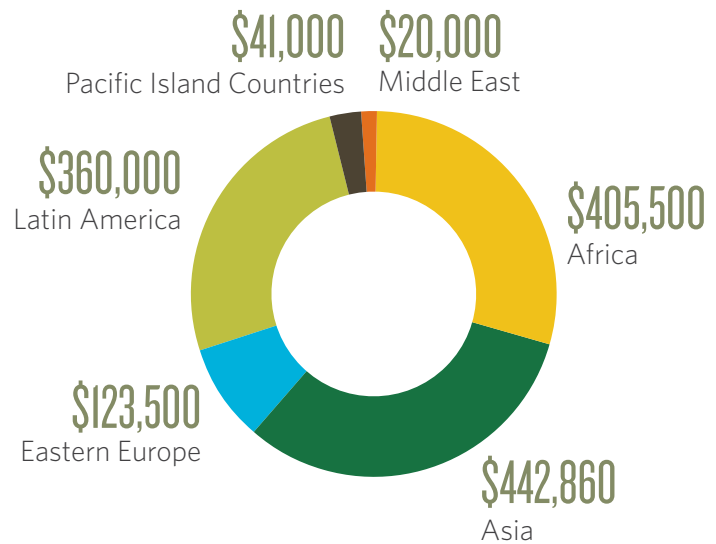
Vanuatu

Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association

**TOTAL GRANTS BY REGION
2012**

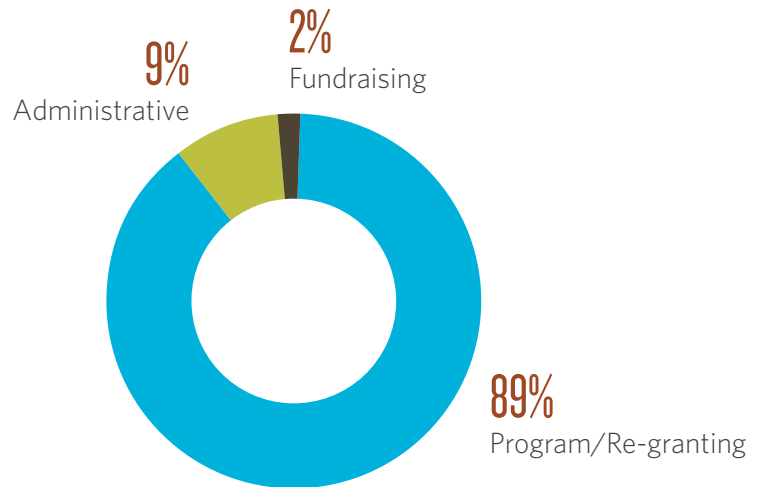
- Africa **\$405,000**
- Asia **\$442,860**
- Eastern Europe **\$123,500**
- Latin America **\$360,000**
- Middle East **\$20,000**
- Pacific Island Countries **\$41,000**

The Disability Rights Fund supported **79 grants** in 2012 for a total of **\$1,392,860**.



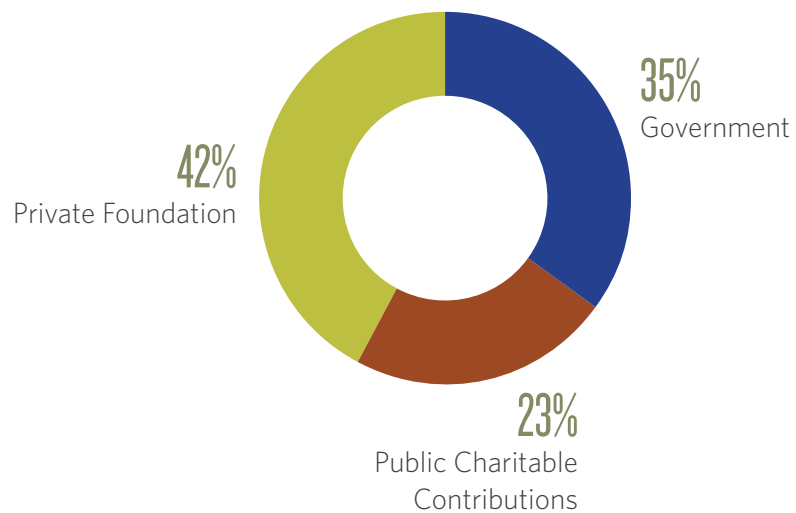
**DRF EXPENDITURES FOR
THE NINE MONTHS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2012***

- Program/Re-granting **\$1,803,324**
- Administrative **\$184,660**
- Fundraising **\$38,989**



**DRF REVENUE FOR
THE NINE MONTHS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2012***

- Private Foundation **\$1,043,088**
- Public Charitable
Contributions **\$564,544.46**
- Government **\$863,034.38**



*The Disability Rights Fund, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in February 2011 and started independent operations in April 2012.



Access Bangladesh Foundation has supported street hawkers with disabilities to access the right to work.

ADVANCING RIGHTS THROUGH GRANTMAKING AND ADVOCACY

**DISABILITY
RIGHTS
ADVOCACY
FUND**

The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) supports persons with disabilities in the developing world to advance legal frameworks to realize their rights.

DRAF, a 501c4 organization, collaborates with the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) to strengthen the advocacy of disability movements. Grants support Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) to participate in treaty ratification and legislative advocacy. In 2012, DRAF funded 31 organizations in 14 countries to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. DRAF also identifies and

supports other efforts to advance the rights of people with disabilities at regional and cross movement levels:

Strengthening the Movement of Youth with Disabilities

The first grant made in the area of Regional Networking in 2012 was to the emergent regional organization—African Youth with Disabilities Network (AYWDN). AYWDN is a continental network bringing youth with disabilities together to work towards inclusion at policy levels. The grant supported the staffing of a secretariat,

development of institutional structure and policies, and conception of strategic goals and outcomes.

Bridging the *Indigenous and Disability Rights Movements*

In 2012, DRAF made its first grant in the area of Cross Movement work to the International Disability Alliance to promote the human rights of indigenous persons

with disabilities by raising awareness of their situation within both the indigenous community and the disability community, and by mainstreaming their rights in UN mechanisms. The grant included the drafting of a United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues expert report on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities around the world.

“Indigenous persons with disabilities experience multiple layers of discrimination and face barriers to the full enjoyment of their rights, based on their indigenous status and also on their disability status.”

— **Catalina Devandas,**
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund Program Officer

DRAF LIST OF GRANTEES

2012

Africa

Ghana

Ghana Federation of the Disabled

Uganda

Uganda National Association of the Deaf
Wakiso District Union of Persons with Disabilities

Asia

Bangladesh

Federation of DPOs Sitakund
National Council of Disabled Women

India

Centre for Action on Disabled Rights and Empowerment
Ganjam District Orthopaedically Handicapped Welfare Association
Socio Legal Information Centre

Indonesia

Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia
Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia

Eastern Europe/FSU

Ukraine

All Ukrainian NGO Coalition for People with Intellectual Disabilities
All-Ukrainian Civil Society Organization of People with Disabilities “Active Rehabilitation Group”

Latin America

Mexico

Coalición México por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad
Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en Favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual, A.C.

Nicaragua

Federación Nicaragüense de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad

Peru

Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad “Dignidad”
Asociación Femenina de Discapacitados del Perú
Asociación para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres y Niños con Discapacidad-Región Piura
Confederación Nacional de Discapacitados del Perú
Musas Inspiradoras de Cambios
Sociedad y Discapacidad

Middle East/North Africa

Lebanon

National Association for the Rights of Disabled People in Lebanon
Palestinian Disability Forum
Youth Association of the Blind

Pacific Island Countries

Federated States of Micronesia

Pohnpei Consumer Organization

Fiji

Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation
United Blind Persons of Fiji

Samoa

Nuanua O Le Alofa Inc.

Solomon Islands

Disabled Peoples' Association of Solomon Islands

Strategic Partnerships

African Youth with Disabilities Network
International Disability Alliance

For more information on DRAF Grantees please see our website www.drafund.org.

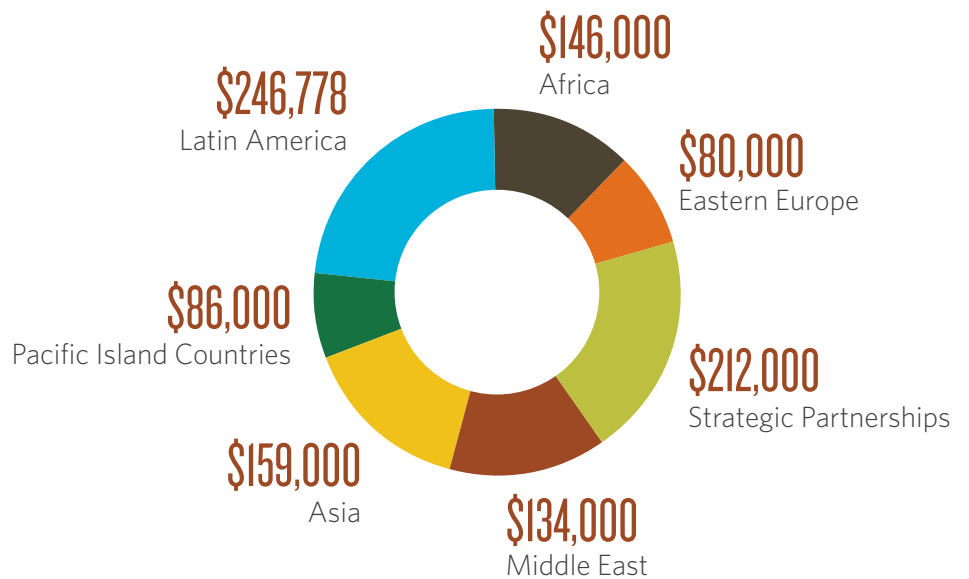
“Because of DRAF, there are changes in civil and political participation of persons with disabilities — there are evidences of equal rights and access to voting.”

— Member of Parliament, Uganda

TOTAL GRANTS BY REGION 2012

Africa **\$146,000**
 Asia **\$159,000**
 Eastern Europe **\$80,000**
 Latin America **\$246,778**
 Middle East **\$134,000**
 Pacific Island Countries **\$86,000**
 Strategic Partnerships **\$212,000**

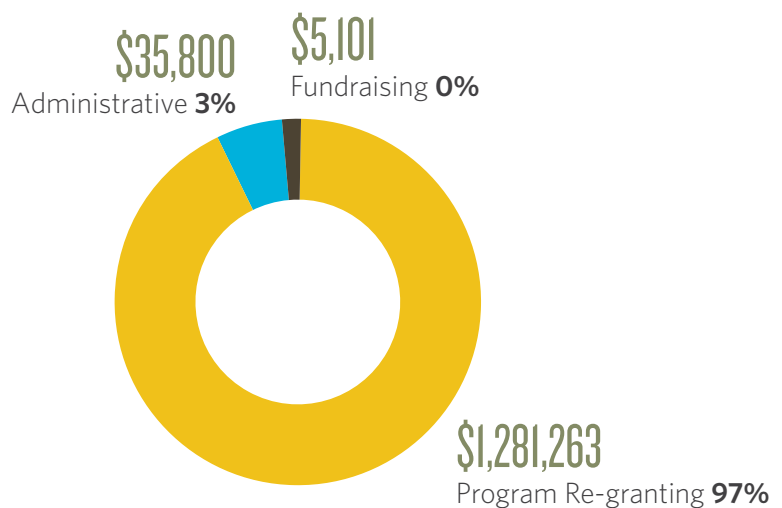
The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund supported **31 grants** in 2012 for a total of **\$1,064,278**.



DRAF EXPENDITURES FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012*

Program/Re-granting **\$1,281,263**
 Administrative **\$35,800**
 Fundraising **\$5,101**

The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund is supported by Australian Aid.



*The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in February 2011 and started independent operations in April 2012.

MEET OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ola Abu Al Ghaib, *Compliance Officer*

Michael Haroz, *Compliance Officer*

Emily Martinez, *Treasurer*

Vinay Mehra

William Rowland, *Co-Chair*

Diana Samarasan, *ex-officio member*

Catherine Hyde Townsend, *Co-Chair*

GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE

Ola Abu Al Ghaib, *Former Advisor*

William Rowland, *Former Advisor*

Karina Chupina, *Advisor*

Anne-Marie Robb, *Advisor*

Ian Bignall, *Australian Aid*

Jo Cooke, *UKaid*

Catherine Townsend, *Wellspring Advisors*

Emily Martinez, *Open Society Foundations*

Gitta Zomorodi, *American Jewish World Service*

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Karina Chupina

Anne-Marie Robb

Myrna Cunningham Kain

Shamima Ali

Kerryann Ifill

Edwin Osundwa

Fedi Behri

Setareki Macanawai

Ignacio Saiz

STAFF

Diana Samarasan, *Founding Executive Director*

Paul Deany, *Program Officer for Pacific & Asia*

Yolanda Munoz Gonzalez, *Program Officer for Latin America & Caribbean and MENA*

Catalina Devandas Aguilar, *Program Officer for Strategic Partnerships*

Med Ssengooba, *Program Officer for Africa*

Arlene Wilson Grant, *Grants Manager*

Kerry Thompson, *Operations and Program Associate*

Susan Kagan, *Development Coordinator*

*This list reflects current DRF and DRAF stakeholders. For a complete list of previous Global Advisory Panel and Grantmaking Committee members and staff, please see the Disability Rights Fund website (www.disabilityrightsfund.org).

Join us in continuing to advance rights:

There are currently one billion people with disabilities around the world - one in every seven people. 80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries and there, make up 20% of the poorest of the poor living on less than \$1 a day. Children with disabilities make up the single largest group of out of school children. Despite these numbers, only 3% of all foundation funding - and 3-4% of all development funding - goes to "disability," and much of this funding is addressed to services rather than empowerment.

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund put money in the hands of people with disabilities themselves, to increase their empowerment and raise their voices

at sub-national, national, regional and international levels to ensure that the needs and the rights of people with disabilities are visible and respected. Within the next few years, we aim to add additional countries in Africa or Asia to our grantmaking portfolio; add a Program Director to increase coordination of work between the six regions where we work; and, enable leveraging of financial resources to increase the visibility of the disability community. For information on how to support our work, please visit the DRF website at www.disabilityrightsfund.org.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/disabilityrightsfund

Twitter: [@dsamarasan](https://twitter.com/dsamarasan)

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/disabilityrightsfund/videos

“The DRF is a very important partner for AusAID as it helps us to reach small and emerging DPOs allowing them to have their voices heard, many for the first time.”

— **Rosemary Mckay,**

Former Director of Australia Aid’s Disability Inclusive Development Team

Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

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www.drafund.org