Handcycle being used in Gulu, Northern Uganda.
This report celebrates the 2013 achievements of the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF). As we reflect on the year, the DRF and DRAF Boards and staff applaud the collective work of our outstanding grantees led by and for persons with disabilities—209 of them in all, spanning 29 countries around the globe!

Through funding that emphasizes those on the margins, our unique participatory grantmaking model—led by and for persons with disabilities—is changing the lives of people with disabilities, their communities and their governments around the world.

Just a few examples of our impact:

• When new regulations about domestic violence were developed in Bangladesh, women with disabilities were specifically included.

• The Ugandan government acknowledged that Little People are part of the community of people with disabilities—opening up their access to services and legal protections.

• In Lebanon, a 3% employment quota that was ignored is finally providing meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

• In one of our newest countries, Haiti, we catalyzed the formation of the very first organization of women with disabilities in Southern Haiti (Les Cayes).

• Lastly, indigenous leaders with disabilities formed a disability caucus at the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, setting in motion their inclusion in global and national development planning in which they had previously been invisible.

Throughout this report, we share other examples of how our grantees are tapping the power of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Our structure, combining the skills of activists with disabilities and donors, allows DRF/DRAF to engage in efficient and informed grantmaking that has demonstrated tremendous impact—limited only by the resources we have available.

We share our many successes with you here—knowing that we have so much more to accomplish. We thank all of those who have supported our work, and invite others to join us as we seek to extend our impact.
Grantees Advancing Rights Around the World

GLOBAL
International Disability Alliance
DRAF Strategic Partnership Grant: To raise the voice of indigenous persons with disabilities globally by creating a caucus of indigenous persons with disabilities in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; establishing a global network of indigenous persons with disabilities; and participating in the September 2013 High Level Meeting on Disability and Development and the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

PERU
Sociedad Peruana de Síndrome de Down
DRAF Small Grant: To improve the ability of self-advocates with intellectual disabilities to defend their right to legal capacity and to advocate for implementation of this right through changes in legislation.

FIJI
Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation
DRAF Small Grant: To establish Fiji’s first national organization for parents of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities themselves to insure their inclusion in rights advocacy.

NIGERIA
Federación Nicaragüense de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad
DRAF National Coalition Grant: To ensure creation of the National Council on Disability, as mandated in the new national Disability Act, and to continue to advocate for the government to issue their State Report to the CRPD Committee.

SOLOMON ISLANDS
Disabled Peoples’ Association of Solomon Islands
DRAF Small Grant: To strengthen the capacity of self-help groups of people with disabilities at provincial level to participate in consultations on a draft Disability Rights Bill.

PAKISTAN
Access Bangladesh Foundation
DRAF National Coalition Grant: To advocate for the development and implementation of the new national Disability Act.

BANGLADESH
UGANDA
Uganda Albinos Association
DRAF Uganda Capacity Fund: To strengthen sustainability of this emergent organization of very marginalized PWsDs by supporting development of their District level offices as well as their financial and human resource policies.

GHANA
Inclusion Ghana
DRAF National Coalition Grant: To mainstream educational rights of persons with intellectual disabilities into the Ghana Inclusive Education Policy. The Policy will guide government implementation of education programs for children with disabilities. This Coalition project will also enhance partnerships between all organizations working with persons with intellectual disabilities in Ghana.

INDIA
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
DRAF National Coalition Grant: To strengthen the new national network of women with disabilities and support a submission, with other mainstream women’s organizations, to CEDAW, noting rights violations against women with disabilities.

LEBANON
Lebanese Association for Self Advocacy
DRAF Small Grant: To produce videos of self-advocates with intellectual disabilities and their family members and the rights violations they experience.

HAITI
Reseau Association National pour l’Integration des Personnes Handicapées
DRAF Mid-Level Coalition Grant: To promote implementation of inclusive education in the southern region of Haiti, as outlined in the new national Disability Act, and to establish an organization of women with disabilities to promote their rights in this region.

Rwanda
Rwanda National Union of the Deaf
DRAF Small Grant: To build membership across Rwanda and strengthen members to use the CRPD to demand and defend their rights with district officials and police, including rights to life, justice, access to information, and freedom of movement.

FIJI
Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation
DRAF Small Grant: To establish Fiji’s first national organization for parents of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities themselves to insure their inclusion in rights advocacy.

INDONESIA
Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat
DRAF Small Grant: To use the media to address stigma, which often leads to detention of people with psychosocial disabilities in horrible conditions.

SRI LANKA
Sri Lanka Federation of Persons with Disabilities
DRAF Small Grant: To develop new advocacy strategies and to use the media to challenge stereotypes about persons with psychosocial disabilities.

SOLOMON ISLANDS
Disabled Peoples’ Association of Solomon Islands
DRAF Small Grant: To strengthen the capacity of self-help groups of people with disabilities at provincial level to participate in consultations on a draft Disability Rights Bill.

INDONESIA
Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat
DRAF Small Grant: To use the media to address stigma, which often leads to detention of people with psychosocial disabilities in horrible conditions.

UKRAINE
Generation of Successful Action—Volyn Branch
DRAF Small Grant: To identify gaps in accessibility in the Oblast transportation system and to establish the right of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with visual impairments, to access medical and social services.

JORDAN
Jordan Association for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DRAF Small Grant: To produce training workshops on the CRPD and the implementation of the new national Disability Act.
The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is a grantmaking collaborative that empowers persons with disabilities to advocate for equal rights and full participation in society. Fueled by the momentum of the landmark 2008 U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), DRF supports organizations of people with disabilities in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the Pacific to advance their rights. DRF pools funds from multiple public and private donors to support the participation of people with disabilities in grassroots and national advocacy to advance the CRPD.

Small and medium sized grants ranging from $5,000 to $50,000, enable organizations of people with disabilities to document rights violations, advocate for rights fulfillment, and expand visibility and inclusion in their community.

Growing Global Impact:
In five years, DRF has grown to become the second largest donor addressing disability rights internationally (according to a 2012 report by the Foundation Center and the International Human Rights Funders Group). Today, DRF supports diverse organizations led by people with disabilities in 29 countries, while advocating with the global donor community for greater inclusion of disability in their portfolios.

Empowering those on the margins, building a unified movement:
By focusing on marginalized sectors within the disability community, DRF empowers a more diverse and collaborative disability movement. To ensure that the disability movement is inclusive of persons with all types of disabilities and is able to articulate joint advocacy demands, DRF takes a movement-building approach. This is manifested both in two funding streams reserved for partnership/coalition projects, and through grantee convenings that bring grantees together every year in every country (or region) to build joint advocacy strategies.

In 2013 alone, DRF granted over $1.2 million to 64 organizations of people with disabilities. The majority of these were small grants to emergent and grassroots organizations.

Meeting of members of Psychiatric Survivors Fiji—the only organization of people with psychosocial disabilities in the Pacific.

51% of grants supported organizations made up of marginalized sectors of the disability community—such as indigenous persons, women, Deafblind, Albino and others.

Little person grantee representative in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh.
New countries and areas of focus

This year, DRF channeled more resources to building grantee organizational and advocacy capacity; expanded our reach to Haiti and Rwanda where disability is inextricably linked with poverty, and focused on key trending issues, such as youth with disabilities and the effect of climate change on persons with disabilities.

Featuring New 2013 Target Countries: Haiti and Rwanda

In 2013, DRF launched grantmaking in Haiti and Rwanda. Both countries’ governments have ratified the CRPD and have growing disability movements that are demanding changes in laws and policies in line with the CRPD, but which need funding to support their work. Systemic poverty, social inequities, violence against women, and under-development in both countries are closely linked with human rights abuses against persons with disabilities.

Special challenges in Haiti include addressing the rights of over 300,000 people disabled by the 2012 earthquake. DRF grantee, Federation Haitienne Des Associations Et Institutions Des Personnes Handicapees D’Haiti has begun to collect data on rights gaps among persons with disabilities in various regions of Haiti. This data will be used in a report to the CRPD Committee in Geneva.

In 2009, Port-au-Prince had only two schools that included children with disabilities and both collapsed in the earthquake. Most schools and public facilities that are being reconstructed with international funding are not physically accessible.

The Association Generale des Handicapes du Rwanda (AGHR) is working to promote the implementation of Article 9 (Accessibility) of the CRPD by conducting an accessibility audit of public buildings, government facilities, schools, sports and cultural centers, and health centers to ensure equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. AGHR disseminated information about universal access and easy-to-read materials among persons with disabilities and decision makers, including government authorities, the Ministry of Education and construction enterprises, to raise awareness about accessibility as a human right. It is also expected that, due to the efforts of DRF grantee AGHR and other partners, voting booths will be made accessible to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in the next general election to take place in 2015.

Building Organizational Capacity

DRF provides technical assistance to strengthen the rights advocacy work of organizations of people with disabilities for legislative reform and rights monitoring. Yet, many grantee organizations need additional capacity-building. In 2013, DRF launched the Uganda Capacity Fund (UCF), to support the organizational development of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) in areas such as financial management, strategic planning, fundraising, communications, board and staff development, and monitoring and evaluation. The UCF also strengthens DPO capacity to collaborate with other human rights organizations addressing issues, such as reproductive rights, environmental rights, children’s rights and others. This support is essential for building a global disability rights movement that is inclusive, strong, and effective.

Featuring Uganda Capacity Fund Grantee—Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum (YPDDF)

In Uganda, Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum (YPDDF) is advancing the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education in line with Article 24 of the CRPD. With support from DRF over the past five years, YPDDF has successfully promoted the inclusion of children with disabilities—including children with intellectual disabilities—within mainstream schools in Mukono and Wakiso districts.

By using the CRPD as a tool for advocacy and awareness-raising with school authorities, teachers, parents and local officials, YPDDF helps to put inclusive education policies into practice. In 2013 alone, 30 children with disabilities were newly enrolled into 4 mainstream schools, and another 17 applied for enrollment. YPDDF works with the schools to ensure that these children enjoy the same quality of education as other students, and with sub-county youth committees to advocate for improved delivery of other services to children with disabilities.

With a grant from the Uganda Capacity Fund, YPDDF developed an organizational strategic plan and a monitoring and evaluation system that will enable them to expand and track their impact. They also developed their capacity to work with other youth-focused organizations and donors outside the disability community to promote inclusive education.

In 2013, the new Uganda Capacity Fund provided a total of $115,000 to strengthen six organizations of people with disabilities in Uganda.

2013 Uganda Capacity Fund Grantees

- Action for Youth with Disabilities Uganda
- National Association of the Deafblind in Uganda
- Spinal Injuries Association
- Uganda Albinos Association
- United Deaf Women’s Organisation
- Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum
Addressing the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities

Many of the countries where DRF works are struggling to adapt to the effects of climate change. Rising sea level, increased force of cyclones, flooding, land erosion, salinity intrusion, and shifting temperature patterns are disrupting communities and habitats, and threatening livelihoods. Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable, with limited abilities to see or hear early warning communications and limited mobility. Shelters are often inaccessible or unsafe, leaving displaced women with disabilities especially vulnerable to sexual violence. In some settings, the lack of information and assistive technology poses a challenge to effective disaster relief and sustainable development efforts.

DRF is working with DPOs like the Coastal DPO Alliance in Bangladesh to build their capacity to involve their members in local and national responses to climate change, natural disasters, and sustainable development more broadly.

“Persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable because they are among the poorest of the poor and are often illiterate. They are often hit hardest because of their badly constructed housing, inaccessible transportation and communication systems, and lack of accessible cyclone shelters.”

— Utpal Barua  
Coastal DPO Alliance

Featuring—the Coastal DPO Alliance, Bangladesh

The coastal belt of Bangladesh where the Coastal DPO Alliance works is particularly prone to flooding and cyclones. CDA mobilizes persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas to ensure that they are included in disaster preparedness planning. In villages at high risk of flooding and river erosion, CDA is supporting village DPOs to identify persons with disabilities, many of whom are shut-in and isolated in remote areas, and to facilitate the production of accessible disaster guidance materials in local language.

“We are especially affected by climate change, as we are the first to suffer the effects of displacement. We also have less access to natural resources, and are directly affected by the exposure to hazardous waste from the mining and agro-chemical disposal. We are vulnerable to natural disasters and armed conflict.”

— Ms. Ipul Powaseu  
Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons

Persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable because they are among the poorest of the poor and are often illiterate. They are often hit hardest because of their badly constructed housing, inaccessible transportation and communication systems, and lack of accessible cyclone shelters.”

— Utpal Barua  
Coastal DPO Alliance

A young blind woman walks along a dike in coastal Bangladesh, where climate change is one of numerous challenges for persons with disabilities.
Addressing the link between disability, gender, poverty and human rights.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty than those without disabilities, due to social exclusion, lack of access to education, and limited employment opportunities. Women and girls with disabilities are doubly disadvantaged, particularly where inequitable gender and social norms prevail. For example, in countries where girls’ access to education is already limited, a girl with a disability is at an even greater risk for a lifetime of poverty, sexual violence, and social exclusion.

DRF targets grantmaking to the least developed countries to advance a rights-based approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities in development. Although it is now widely recognized that disability is both an outcome and a cause of poverty, disability-inclusive development that goes beyond the charity approach is relatively new. By focusing on countries where progress on rights for persons with disabilities has been minimal, DRF links the advancement of rights to poverty alleviation and social equity.

In Bangladesh, participants in a training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities hold a banner.

DRF GRANTEE LIST

BANGLADESH
- Access Bangladesh Foundation
- Coastal DPO Alliance
- Dishary Protibondhi Sangstha
- Federation of DPOs, Satkhira
- Jatiyo Trinomol Protibondhi Sangstha *
- National Council of Disabled Women
- Protibondhi Kalyan Sangstha
- Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users
- Women with Disabilities Development Foundation

FIJI
- Fiji Association of the Deaf
- Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation
- United Blind Persons of Fiji

GHANA
- Empowerment Through Community Volunteering
- Future Hope International
- Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled
- Inclusion Ghana
- Kekeli Foundation
- Lakeside Cross Disability Self-Help Group
- New Horizon Foundation of the Blind
- Voice of People with Disability Ghana

HAITI
- Federation Haïtienne des Associations et Institutions des Personnes Handicapées d’Haiti *
- Réseau Association National pour l’Intégration des Personnes Handicapées (Les Cayes)

INDIA
- Chattanai Vikalangula Haikula Vedika
- Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre

INDONESIA
- Center for Improving Qualified Activity in Life
- Gerakan Untuk Kesejahteraan Tunanetra Rungu Indonesia
- Himpunan Warta Pemasyarakatan Cacat Indonesia
- Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat
- Persatuan Pemasyarakatan Cacat Indonesia
- Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akesi Untuk Pemasyarakatan Cacat

LEBANON
- Lebanese Association for Self-Advocacy

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
- Marshall Islands Disabled Persons Organization

NAURO
- Nauru Disabled Peoples Organization

NICARAGUA
- Federación Nicaragüense de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Gulf Province Disabled Persons Organisation

RWANDA
- National Union of Disabilities Organizations of Rwanda
- Rwanda National Union of the Deaf

TONGA
- Namau’a e ‘Alamaite Tonga Association Incorporated

TUVALU
- Fusi Alofa, Inc.

UGANDA
- Action for Youth with Disabilities Uganda *
- Elgon Foundation for Persons with Albinism
- Integrated Disabled Women Activities
- Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities Uganda
- Little People of Uganda
- National Association of the DeafBlind in Uganda
- National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda *
- Spinal Injuries Association *
- Uganda Albinos Association
- Uganda Association for the Mentally Handicapped/ Inclusion Uganda
- United Blind Women’s Organization *
- Wako Action on Physical Disability Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum *

UKRAINE
- Generation of Successful Action - Velm Branch

VANUATU
- Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association

*Received 2 Grants in 2013

DRF Financials

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DRF Revenue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private Foundations</td>
<td>588,451 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Charitable Foundations</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Program/Re-granting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>373,527 (18%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>80,158 (4%)</td>
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The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) supports persons with disabilities in the developing world to advance legal frameworks to realize their rights. As the sister organization to DRF, DRAF is a 501(c)4 organization that focuses grantmaking on ratification campaigns and lobbying for changes in national and sub-national laws. DRAF also supports cross-movement work between different human rights movements, and networks of organizations of people with disabilities working at regional and international levels to advance rights. DRAF is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

DRAF cross-movement grantees face multiple layers of discrimination. Take the experience of indigenous people with disabilities, exemplified by Olga Montufar Contreras from Mexico. As a woman with disability of Mixtec and Nahua origin, she provided moving personal testimony to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She explained that not only do indigenous women in her community face a high risk of sexual violence, but they have extremely limited access to lawyers, making it even more

difficult for them to seek justice. With support from DRAF, indigenous persons with disabilities are coming together to create an emergent global network to raise their voices in critical international human rights and development fora. In May, an expert report on conditions for indigenous persons with disabilities—funded by DRAF—was presented at the UNPFII, the beginning of recognition of this group.

We used to think that laws belong to members of parliament. But now the articles are at our fingertips.”

—— Disability Rights Advocacy Fund Grantee

In 2013, the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund provided $1,098,697 in grants to 37 organizations to strengthen advocacy by persons with disabilities for CRPD ratification and legal reform.
Building strategic partnerships. The DRAF Strategic Partnership grant program supports strategic initiatives to promote cross movement collaboration and regional organization networking to advance the CRPD. These initiatives seek to include persons with disabilities in other social movements, including those of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and to strengthen partnership among organizations of persons with disabilities regionally. Grants under this program in 2013 supported the work of international and regional networks such as the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the African Youth with Disabilities Network.

Featuring COAMEX—the Mexican Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
In Mexico, DRAF support of COAMEX (the Mexican Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—the Coalicion Mexico por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad) enabled people with disabilities to develop an alternative report to submit to the CRPD Committee in Geneva. The COAMEX report highlighted major rights challenges for Mexican people with disabilities—access to justice, legal capacity, and multiple forms of discrimination, such as that faced by women and indigenous persons with disabilities. Since submitting the alternative report in December 2012, COAMEX has been using it to lobby for legislative changes to bring Mexican laws into accordance with the CRPD. To date, they have succeeded in getting a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability into the General Labor Act, and in eliminating Mexico’s interpretative declaration on Article 12 of the CRPD regarding legal capacity.

Disability is an emerging issue in the region that has only been addressed in the last ten years…and the situation of indigenous people with disabilities in the Pacific is unique for several reasons—geography, climate, and cultural norms all limit access to services and education, and increase the vulnerability of disabled persons — many of whom are living in isolated rural areas, and are further isolated by family and society norms.”
——Setareki Macanawai  CEO, Pacific Disability Forum

As a person with disability from Indonesia, I can feel a lot of change happening at the UN system at this moment. During the UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development, I can see a lot of the UN bodies like WHO, UNICEF, UNDESA—they talk a lot about disability and development. For me, this is a new era when disability is included in the process of a global development agenda.”
——Risna Utami  Founder of OHANA & Chair of the Indonesian National Consortium for Disability Rights
BANGLADESH  
Action on Disability and Development  
Society for Education and Inclusion of the Disabled
FIJI  
Psychiatric Survivors Association
GHANA  
Ghana Federation of the Disabled
INDIA  
National Disability Network  
Network of Persons with Disabilities Organizations  
Socio-Legal Information Centre
INDONESIA  
Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia  
Perhimpunan Organisasi Handicapped Nusantara  
Perkumpulan Orang Tua Anak Disabilitas Indonesia  
Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia  
Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan  
Persatuan Tunanetra Indonesia
LEBANON  
National Association for the Rights of Disabled People in Lebanon  
Palestinian Disability Forum  
Youth Association of the Blind
MEXICO  
Coalición México por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
Pohnpei Consumer Organization
NICARAGUA  
Federaciones Nicaragüense de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad
PALAU  
OMNEKESANG
PERU  
Asociacion de Usuarios de Servicios de Salud Mental  
Confederación Nacional de Discapacitados del Perú  
Federacon Departamental de Personas con Discapacidad de Puno  
Sociedad Peruana de Síndrome de Down  
Sociedad y Discapacidad
RWANDA  
Association Générale des Handicapés du Rwanda
SOLOMON ISLANDS  
Disabled Peoples’ Association of Solomon Islands
SWITZERLAND  
Strategic Partnerships International Disability Alliance
UGANDA  
Mbarara District Association of the Deaf  
Uganda National Action on Physical Disability  
Uganda National Association of the Deaf  
United Deaf Women’s Organization  
Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum
UKRAINE  
All Ukrainian NGO Coalition for People with Intellectual Disabilities  
Creavita  
*Received 2 Grants in 2013

DRF Financials

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program/Re-granting</td>
<td>1,680,104</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>298,978</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>81,605</td>
<td>4%</td>
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Grantee at Indonesia grantee convening stands in front of “About DRAF” Disability Rights Advocacy Fund poster.
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund grantees gather in Indonesia.
Introducing DRF Program Officer, Medi Ssengooba

In 2013, DRF and DRAF welcomed Medi Ssengooba to the position of Program Officer for Africa. Through his journey from child polio survivor in Uganda to international human rights lawyer, Medi understands first-hand the challenges faced by the grantees that DRF works with in the region, especially those who seek equal educational opportunity.

Reflecting on the significance of a new Disability Policy at Makerere University in Uganda that DRF grantee, Association for Youth with Disabilities Uganda helped secure, Medi writes, “As a student, it was next to impossible to access basic university facilities that any other law student could freely access. There was not a single wheelchair-accessible toilet … and two of my four years of law school were taught in lecture theatres only accessible via a set of stairs. The discomfort of being carried up and down on a daily basis was no help to any student using a wheelchair, like me, to focus on their studies….the new Policy therefore is a fulfillment of Uganda’s commitment to respect, promote and fulfill the right to education for all.”

Medi received a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Makerere University and qualified for admission to the Uganda Bar with a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Center in Kampala. With a scholarship from the Ford Foundation, he went on to receive a Masters of Laws degree from American University Washington College of Law, specializing in international human rights law. Before joining DRF, he co-founded and worked at Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities of Uganda, a DRF grantee that offers legal aid and mediation services to indigent persons with disabilities. As a Finberg Fellow at Human Rights Watch, Medi documented human rights abuses against persons with psychosocial disabilities in hospitals and in private religious institutions commonly known as prayer camps, in Ghana.

Meet the DRF and DRAF Team

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Sara Minkara, Operations Manager
Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Consultant, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

*This list reflects current DRF and DRAF stakeholders. For a complete list of previous Global Advisory Panel and Grantmaking Committee members and staff with their biographies, please see the Disability Rights Fund website (www.disabilityrightsfund.org).
Help DRF advance human rights:
At its core, DRF is a partnership between the global disability community and a widening circle of supporters. We are extremely grateful to the members of our board, other individuals, and the family foundations who have recently joined our core institutional donors. Their collective generosity sustains our operations, fuels our mission, and strengthens our work.

DRF must respond to increased demand from people with disabilities around the world for resources to advocate for inclusion. Please partner with DRF in continuing to build and run a robust grantmaking program for advancing rights. With your support, DRF will expand to new areas and seek new partnerships that enable people with disabilities to be leaders in the achievement of rights. Please make your donation or pledge to DRF today!

Thank you for your support.