

# Independent Evaluation of the Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

(April 2019 – December 2022)

EVALUATION REPORT | AUGUST 2023



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***“The more diverse the disability movement, the better we can have an inclusive society.”***

*“Funding. That is what really helps us in the work that we do. Also, partnership is extremely important. We cannot do this work alone.”*

*“Overall, the increased diversity within the disability movement has brought about a greater sense of solidarity, collaboration, and empowerment for our organization.”*

*“The collaborative environment fostered by the disability movement has provided us with opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing best practices with other organizations and advocates. Through these interactions, we have been able to broaden our perspectives, gain new insights, and enhance our approaches to supporting individuals with psychosocial disabilities.”*



# Acknowledgements

Universalia would like to express our gratitude to those who have contributed towards this evaluation.

We especially acknowledge and thank all those who participated in the evaluation for their time and generosity in sharing their experiences and views on the Disability Rights Fund. Special thanks go to the Disability Rights Fund staff for their kind collaboration and assistance throughout the evaluation process, and to the Disability Rights Fund grantees for the time set apart to meet with the evaluation team.



# Executive Summary

## Background

This evaluation provides an in-depth examination on the Disability Rights Fund (DRF)/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF)<sup>1</sup>'s contributions to the disability movement from April 2019 to December 2022 in three select countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. Its purpose was to provide evidence, in the three countries, of DRF's contributions and the potential impact of DRF's technical assistance (TA) on the disability movement at different levels (individual, organizational, systemic/movement), and of their work towards the diversification of disability movements, including but not limited to gender diversification. The evaluation also aimed to identify DRF's specific contributions to a sample of key advocacy achievements in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

This evaluation was conducted by the Universalia Management Group, with the evaluation team comprised of international and national evaluators in each of the three countries and persons living with disabilities. The evaluation was commissioned with the support of the United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Rights & Labor (DRL) and the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), two donors to the Fund.

## Methodology

The evaluation was guided by participatory, disability-inclusive, and utilization-focused approaches; the evaluation team engaged DRF grantees, staff and key funders in co-designing the evaluation objectives and scope, in shaping the evaluation main questions, methodology and deliverables, and in analyzing data.

The evaluation drew on both quantitative and qualitative data, which were collected through key informant interviews, workshops, and document review. To further validate the interpretation of data collected and clarify any gaps, sense-making workshops were held with grantees.

The evaluation faced a couple of limitations, namely: i) reaching targeted samples for certain stakeholder groups (i.e., organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Fiji, and government officials in Fiji and Nigeria), and ii) a compressed data collection timeline. Mitigating measures for these limitations included sense-making workshops, triangulation of data across different sources, and an online session with the DRF Evaluation Committee to further triangulate and validate data.

## Evaluation Findings

DRF's approach to TA has evolved over the past couple of years. It began with a focus on support for advocacy and now encompasses broader organizational strengthening as a response to the recognition of the strong linkages between organizational capacity and effective advocacy (**Finding 1**). DRF's TA modalities have been accessed to varying degrees across the three countries and types of grantees, with data indicating that grantees in Nigeria, located in urban areas and with a cross-disability focus, have accessed TA the most (**Finding 2**). Grantees note that DRF staff's direct support is timely, responsive, and reliable (**Finding 9**). Through their various TA modalities (and other forms of support), DRF has contributed to empowering processes among grantees, with impacts both at the individual and organizational levels. Grantees, including marginalized grantees, have gained confidence to fight for their

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<sup>1</sup> Note that all subsequent mentions of "DRF" in this report refer to both the DRAF and DRAF funds, unless specified otherwise.

rights, network with other actors and access international fora and events, and have carried out successful advocacy efforts (**Findings 3 and 4**). In the three countries, interviewed grantees have become partners of national and local authorities and key players in the development of disability-inclusive initiatives. As shown in the report section **Key Advocacy Achievements (also referred to as “key wins” or “advocacy wins”)**, DRF’s punctual technical assistance at critical moments was instrumental in supporting grantees in advocacy achievements that represent milestones in the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, like the case of the passage of the Sexual Violence Law in Indonesia or the National Disability Act in Nigeria. These achievements have also become a platform and a positive precedent for future inclusive initiatives and policies (**Finding 8**). Enabling and hindering factors affecting key achievements relate to disability movement capacity, government capacities, and deeply rooted – but gradually changing – social norms, beliefs, and attitudes (**Finding 10**). Grantees noted the following challenges – some linked to structural barriers – in accessing and using DRF TA, including communication around TA’s purposes, objectives, expected results and delivery modalities; language limitations; and the shortage of disability-inclusive TA providers at the country and regional levels (**Finding 5**).

A key objective of DRF grantmaking has been to increase inclusiveness of persons with disabilities and expand the diversity and geographic reach of OPDs involved in advancing the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), especially at grassroots levels. Guided by their Strategic Plans and Gender Guidelines, DRF has applied a gender transformative lens to grantmaking, technical assistance and advocacy work by investing in dedicated funding to marginalized groups, such as Deafblind and women-led OPDs, and increasingly reflecting the interests of marginalized and grassroots grantees. The evaluation showed that these efforts contributed to increased awareness among grantees of the intersectionality of disability, for example in considering the intersections of gender, Indigenous identities, or sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) with disability. Grantees in all three countries shared that there is increasing visibility and inclusion of OPDs focusing on intellectual disabilities and mental health, with different degrees of progress towards gender diversification and the representation of women-led OPDs, and less consistent progress regarding the inclusion of SOGIESC dimensions. Several good practices and effective strategies emerged from the evaluation in terms of DRF’s contribution to the diversification of the disability movement, including the support to the registration and strengthening of emergent OPDs, the use of coalition grants that include emergent OPDs, and the participation of persons with ‘less visible’ disabilities in grantee convenings and other fora (see also the report section **Lessons Learned**). DRF’s approach on diversification has also been instrumental to the development of more frequent and stronger collaborations between intersecting groups within the disability movement and, to some extent, with other social justice movements. Grantees in the three countries, particularly in Indonesia, reported growing awareness of other diverse persons with disabilities and their specific challenges. Diversification has also been exemplified by the expanded scope of grantees’ disability advocacy agendas, which include elderly with disabilities, children with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) with disabilities, the deaf-blind community, psychosocial disabilities, children in conflict with the law, persons with disability living with Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDs), leprosy, and those in emergency or disaster risk reduction (DRR) contexts. With this expansion in scope, DRF has also supported important collaborations on cross-cutting issues with non-disability focused organizations and ‘non-OPDs’ (**Finding 6**).

Diversification of the disability movement is a long-term process and DRF is contributing towards it with their group of grantees. Several barriers and points of division remain within the disability movement and among grantees, including rivalry among OPDs, non-recognition of some types of disabilities, limited knowledge of intersectionality, and limited awareness of the challenges faced by the most marginalized



groups. This is compounded by external factors that challenge collaboration among grantees and more broadly OPDs and other organizations (**Finding 7**).

### **Conclusions**

The importance of leaving no one behind through sustained, multidimensional, flexible and unrestricted support required for change is underscored by this evaluation. This evaluation confirmed that DRF's support between 2019 and 2022 contributed to impacts at the three levels; individual members of grantee organizations acquired confidence and self-esteem to begin or continue advocacy work, OPDs strengthened their organizational capacity, and governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other societal actors are slowly changing their beliefs, attitudes and actions towards disability and persons with disabilities.

This evaluation also confirmed that DRF's trust-based approach with their grantees is key to supporting them in their advocacy and organizational strengthening processes: grantees developed strong relationships and diverse networks of allies, exercised the knowledge acquired, and continued to build their confidence and capacity for advocacy.

Participation and accessibility have been principal commitments for DRF, who have avoided the 'one-size fits all' approach. However, balancing donors' requirements with the diverse realities on the ground still represents a challenge for intermediary funds like DRF, who aim to avoid transferring the burden from donors to grantees. Indeed, this burden oftentimes translates into strict administrative requirements and paperwork that ultimately reduce OPDs' capacity to access funds and thereby participate in advocacy efforts.

While achievements of the DRF grantees and the broader disability movement are noteworthy, there is still an enormous amount of work expected from persons with disabilities and their organizations, as they receive very little support in the current funding landscape which does not prioritize persons with disabilities or OPDs. DRF is a small partner and their contributions alone cannot address the enormous structural and external barriers that still hinder advancing truly disability-inclusive societies. For change to happen and be sustainable, it needs to be at the systemic level, which would require – among other things – financial and non-financial support that moves away from project-based approaches, stronger coordination among development partners and national actors at all levels, mainstreaming of disability in all interventions, and increased resource mobilisation for disability.

### **Summary of Recommendations**

#### ***Overarching recommendations***

**Recommendation 1:** DRF should provide more frequent and regular opportunities for grantees to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other and from others. In doing so, DRF should maintain an intersectional lens to support diversity within the disability movement and the renewal of OPDs' leadership.

*Context:* This recommendation is based on recurrent requests from grantees across the three countries to have more meetings and exchanges with other grantees, and to participate in regional and international conferences and learning events. DRF could do so by leveraging the regional and multi-country scope of their work and presence. This requires funding agreements with DRF's donors that allow DRF flexibility to meet different organizational needs and finance learning exchanges among grantees.

**Recommendation 2:** DRF should maintain – and wherever possible, strengthen – their current participatory and grantee-led approach in grantmaking, technical assistance, and advocacy.

*Context:* As pointed out in **Finding 9**, grantees most value DRF's trust-based approach, which relies on grantees' decisions and no intention of influencing their agenda or setting their priorities. This is a recurrent finding in other evaluations of the work of DRF. As the organization develops a new strategic plan, it will be important that it maintain this approach and, whenever possible, strengthen it to ensure that its grantees and the disability movement in each country are the ones defining their advocacy and capacity strengthening priorities.

**Recommendation 3:** As DRF shapes their new Strategic Plan, special consideration should be given to make aspects of their grantmaking model and other support increasingly fit for purpose.

*Context:* The evaluation raises the need for DRF to consider how the grantmaking model can be increasingly fit to support advocacy, technical assistance, and diversification of the movement. In terms of supporting advocacy, potential options include creating a contingency fund that can be used by grantees for advocacy initiatives as needed, the provision of multi-year grants, and continuing to make the reporting requirements less onerous for grantees. For technical assistance, DRF may consider using a more long-term approach by de-linking it from the needs of a specific project, and instead linking it to the objective of strengthening the capacity of grantees and of the whole disability movement in each country (see also Recommendation 4 on the shortage of disability inclusion TA providers). In terms of diversification, if this is to remain a priority in the new strategic plan, additional efforts should be invested to ensure the accessibility of their processes, tools, and communication for the diverse range of their grantees with various disability types, English-language fluency, and technological capacities.

**Area of Priority: Technical Assistance**

**Recommendation 4:** As DRF reviews their new TA strategy, they should make sure that the strategy clarifies the expectations for TA, including the objectives, purposes, expected results, and modalities for accessing TA. They should also ensure that the approach to TA is consistent with the expected results. Once the strategy is adopted, it should create regular spaces for its socialization among staff and grantees. It should also focus on the priorities identified so far in the draft TA Strategy 2.0.

*Context:* As shown in **Findings 1** and **5**, there have been blurred lines between TA and organizational strengthening, with confusion among grantees and different understandings among the DRF staff as to what constitutes TA and how to access it. The new TA Strategy shall communicate – in clear and simple language – the purpose, objectives, modalities, and expected results. Some concrete measures for the socialization of the TA strategy may include simplified guidelines provided in relevant languages, quarterly or biannual learning exchanges about grantee's access and utilization of TA, and webinars per country or region to further explain calls for expressions of interest when they are released.

**Recommendation 5:** To address the shortage of disability inclusion TA providers, in the short term, DRF should keep building a roster of TA providers to be identified among their grantees. In the long term, DRF together with their grantees and their long-standing funders may consider developing strategic partnerships with a wider range of actors to collectively strengthen national capacity on disability inclusion.

*Context:* **Finding 5** pointed out the shortage of disability-inclusive TA providers across the three countries. Meanwhile, **Findings 3** and **4** showed that grantees and OPDs are becoming key partners for governments in developing disability inclusion solutions. **Finding 4** also showed that some grantees have acquired the knowledge and experience over time to take on that role and become TA providers within the disability movement. This pool is still very small compared to the needs, but the potential is big as many grantees have been working on CRPD-related advocacy for years in many different areas. DRF is already identifying grantees who may provide disability-inclusive TA. With a view towards generating more sustainable, long-term and systemic change, DRF together with their grantees and funders should foster multi-stakeholder

partnerships, with the long-term objective of building national technical capacity on disability inclusion that would include a cohort of TA providers at the country- or, at least, at the regional-level.

**Area of Priority: Diversification of the Disability Movement**

**Recommendation 6:** To invigorate the momentum in the diversification of the disability movement, DRF can accompany their support for awareness-raising with support for further capacity building on diversity and intersectionality of OPD leaders down to the grassroots level.

*Context:* As indicated in **Finding 6**, there have been positive strides in diversifying the disability movement so that it is more inclusive of a wider array of groups. However, this is an ongoing process that requires invigorated and concerted efforts by all duty bearers with support from development actors to sustain momentum and leverage initial shifts in mindset that are occurring thanks to awareness-raising activities. To support this process, DRF should further prioritize the provision of targeted capacity building support to organizations working towards diversification. As part of this effort, it will be critical to continue to strengthen understanding among OPD leaders and civil society on the intersectionality of disabilities with other social identities, such as gender, race, and socio-economic status, and how multiple forms of discrimination intersect. Moreover, DRF can invest in research and documentation efforts that shed light on the experiences and challenges faced by underrepresented disability groups. This can help build a stronger evidence base and support advocacy efforts that prioritize the needs and concerns of diverse disability communities.

**Recommendation 7:** Diversification of the disability movement could be enhanced by greater cross-movement collaboration with hard-to-reach and excluded groups, such as rural populations, SOGIESC identifying groups, young people with disabilities as self-advocates, and other marginalized disability types.

*Context:* DRF can support grantees in their advocacy efforts by providing resources and guidance on how to address the specific barriers and issues faced by diverse disability groups identified in **Finding 7**, such as through awareness raising and messaging, learning exchanges, mentorship, communities of practice, and investing in intersectional advocacy initiatives and research activities. These initiatives could facilitate cross-learning and collaboration and inspire innovative approaches to diversification within the disability movement. DRF should keep deploying innovative strategies to bring in hard-to-reach groups, namely those in rural areas, and assist grantees through the whole process in forging the pathway to building and establishing organizations (e.g., by supporting the development of OPD's policies and registration and leveraging umbrella organizations to support the inclusion and integration of marginalized OPDs), and invest in peer support programs that connect mainstream OPDs with marginalized groups. Finally, DRF is highly encouraged to support the professional development of young disability advocates and intergenerational knowledge transfer of disability advocacy, to equip young people as the next generation of disability champions.

**Recommendation 8:** To extend cross-movement collaboration between the disability movement and other social justice movements, DRF can invest in advocating for mainstreaming disability further in spaces that are not yet inclusive, for example within women's rights movements and in climate change forums.

*Context:* While there is a rise of women-led OPDs, women and girls with disabilities are still not fully represented or meaningfully included in feminist movements. Interviews also reported very few if any OPDs working in the climate sector, with a lack of awareness on the impacts of climate change on persons with disability. Without this awareness, OPDs are not yet positioned to demand their rights to meaningfully participate and contribute to climate justice or environment-related decision making. There is a need for stronger awareness-raising on the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities to

increase this demand. This requires further investment in mainstreaming disability into climate change forums, such as the inclusion of OPDs in climate change advisory councils.

### **Summary of lessons learned**

**Investing in emerging organizations is critical for movement diversification:** DRF's investment in emerging organizations, including organizational strengthening, has helped to diversify the disability movement by consolidating marginalized groups as more established entities and strengthening disability leaders. DRF is encouraged to continue to invest in marginalized OPDs, particularly in scaling-up and expanding their success in supporting women-led OPDs.

**Capacities of disability organizations and advocates to work intersectionally are crucial to further diversify disability movements.** This includes promoting cultural competency, fostering inclusive practices, and providing training and resources that address the specific needs of different disability types and marginalized groups. The evaluation identifies cross-movement collaboration as a best practice, sharing resources and aligning efforts to foster a stronger and more unified voice to drive positive change. Raising public awareness about the rights, needs, and capabilities of individuals with disabilities is a vital first step that plants fruitful seeds for transformative processes. Educational campaigns and initiatives that challenge stereotypes, combat stigma, and promote a more inclusive understanding of disability can further contribute to the diversification of the movement.

DRF's approach to diverse and inclusive engagement has also been considered successful; actively involving individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds and disability types in decision-making processes is essential. Additionally, DRF's flexibility to have a more tailored approach (rather than one-size-fits-all) was also considered as best practice in this area, as it recognizes that the disability landscape is dynamic and evolving. The movement should be flexible and adaptable to address emerging issues, changing needs, and evolving social contexts.

**Sustained multidimensional support, diversification of the strategies to engage in advocacy efforts, and the timely availability of flexible resources are crucial for advocacy success.** The key advocacy achievements in the three countries were the result of repeated learning from small successes and failures that built up over a long period of time. The journeys that brought about those achievements started over ten years ago and were marked by the relentless advocacy of OPDs supported by a wide range of allies including other CSOs, funders, governments, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and international development partners. What made this support effective -particularly in the case of DRF's support — are the diversity of its forms (financial support, technical assistance, networking, organizational capacity building), the values upon which it relied (trust, participation), and its repeated nature. This support has enabled grantees to build their knowledge and experience over time, to build and develop key relationships both within the disability movement and outside it, to learn from successes and failures and adapt their advocacy strategies and messages consequently, to frame and refine their narrative, to get to know their advocacy targets and the extent of their influence on them. Other important aspects of this support have been its flexibility, with the possibility of repurposing grants, and the availability of extra resources – like the case of the special opportunity grants provided by DRF to support strategic activities at key advocacy moments.

**Limited participation by diverse groups also limits the success of advocacy.** The evaluation showed that while the advocacy wins in the three countries were considered key achievements for persons with disability and the disability movement, their effects were somewhat limited to the OPDs involved in the efforts, often located in urban areas. This is particularly the case of the disability inclusive Coronavirus Disease (COVID)-19 responses in Nigeria and Fiji. It is also the case with the CRPD, which is still often

unknown among the most marginalized groups. The importance of leaving no one behind in the work towards the fulfillment of fundamental human rights has been reaffirmed through this evaluation.

**Disability-inclusive participatory approaches to evaluation are invaluable to maximizing the relevance and ownership of the process.** As per DRF's principles in grantmaking, the evaluation team applied a strong participatory and disability-inclusive approach throughout all phases of the evaluation. Engagement was pushed beyond the 'traditional' approach of providing the opportunity to participate in the evaluation only as part of data collection interviews as key informants; instead, the DRF grantees were involved in the evaluation process as intended users of the evaluation and, therefore, they played a role in shaping the evaluation design. This extent of participation helped the evaluation team to gain an early, clear perspective on what OPDs deemed to be the top priorities for the evaluation. In addition, it helped with the continuity of communication throughout the process, establishing a relationship of trust with the evaluation team, thus opening the door to frank conversations between grantees and evaluators. The way in which some grantees engaged in the process showed that they felt that the evaluation was an opportunity to influence DRF's work. Other grantees were keener on knowing the lessons and recommendations from the evaluation in order to use them in engaging donors and external partners. The disability-inclusive participatory approach did have some hiccups, namely the underestimation of the level of effort and time to engage with the various intended users, but overall, it provided invaluable learning to the evaluation team on how to better carry out evaluations that leave no one behind.

# Acronyms

<b>ALDIN</b>	Association of Lawyers with Disability in Nigeria
<b>CBM</b>	Christian Blind Mission
<b>CCD</b>	Centre for Citizens with Disabilities
<b>CDC</b>	Children’s Developmental Centre
<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>COSP</b>	Conference of the States Parties
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>DFAT</b>	Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>DINABI</b>	Disability not a Barrier Initiative
<b>DKI</b>	Daerah Khusus Ibukota
<b>DPH</b>	Disability Pride Hub
<b>DRAF</b>	Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
<b>DRF</b>	Disability Rights Fund
<b>DRL</b>	Bureau of Democracy, Rights & Labor (of the United States Department of State)
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EQ</b>	Evaluation Question
<b>FCDO</b>	Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office
<b>FDPF</b>	Fiji Disabled People Federation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GT LG</b>	Gender Transformation Learning Group
<b>HWDI</b>	Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia

<b>IDA</b>	International Disability Alliance
<b>IMHA</b>	Indonesia Mental Health Association
<b>INGO</b>	International non-governmental organization
<b>JONAPWD</b>	Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
<b>KII</b>	Key informant interview
<b>KPI</b>	Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia (Indonesia Women's Coalition)
<b>LGBTQI</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>NAB-FCT</b>	National Association of the Blind- FCT-Abuja Chapter
<b>NCPWD</b>	National Commission for Persons with Disabilities
<b>OPD</b>	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
<b>PDF</b>	Pacific Disability Forum
<b>PELITA</b>	Perkumpulan Tuli Buta Indonesia
<b>PERSANI</b>	Perkumpulan Tuna Daksa Kristiani
<b>PERTUNI</b>	Persatuan Tunanetra Indonesia
<b>PERWADI</b>	Perkumpulan Warna Disabilitas
<b>PIC</b>	Pacific Island Country
<b>RUU TPKS</b>	Rancangan Undang-Undang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (Sexual Violence Crime Law)
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SOGIESC</b>	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expressions, and Sex Characteristics
<b>SWW</b>	She Writes Woman
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference

<b>UMG</b>	Universal Management Group
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDIS</b>	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>WHER</b>	Women Health Equal Rights

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# 1 Introduction

1. The Evaluation Team is pleased to present the Evaluation Report to the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF).<sup>2</sup> This Evaluation Report presents the findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons from the evaluation, as agreed in the Final Inception Report that was submitted to DRF on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
2. The evaluation was conducted with the support of the United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Rights & Labor (DRL) and the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), two donors to the Fund. The purpose of this independent evaluation was to provide evidence, in **Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria**, of DRF's contributions and the potential impact of DRF's technical assistance (TA) on the disability movement at different levels (individual, organizational, systemic/movement), and of their work towards the diversification of disability movements, including but not limited to gender diversification. The evaluation also aimed to identify DRF's specific contributions to select key advocacy achievements in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.
3. The evaluation team conducted an in-depth examination on DRF TA and DRF's contribution to the **diversification of the disability movement**, with a focus on the organization's support to grantees from **April 2019 to December 2022** in the three select countries. The evaluation also aimed to contribute to a better understanding of how persons with disabilities have managed to further their rights achievement through a **deep-dive on selected key advocacy wins** in each country.
4. To maximize the relevance and utility of the evaluation, the evaluation was guided by a participatory and disability-inclusive approach; the evaluation team engaged intended users of the evaluation, including OPDs, DRF staff and key funders in defining the evaluation objectives and scope, and in shaping the evaluation key questions, methodology and deliverables.
5. Following this Section 1, this document is structured in the following way:
  - Section 2 provides an overview of the evaluation context
  - Section 3 briefly describes the evaluation purpose and approach
  - Section 4 presents the evaluation findings on technical assistance, diversification of the disability movement in the three countries, and selected key advocacy achievements
  - Section 5 provides the conclusions emerging from this evaluation
  - Section 6 shares recommendations and lessons
6. This report includes the following appendices:
  - Appendix I: Terms of Reference
  - Appendix II: List of Interviewees and Consulted Organizations
  - Appendix III: Evaluation Questions
  - Appendix IV: Evaluation Matrix
  - Appendix V: Evaluation Context
  - Appendix VI: Evaluation Methodology
  - Appendix VII: Evaluation Team: Roles and Responsibilities
  - Appendix VIII: Bibliography

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<sup>2</sup> Note that all subsequent mentions of "DRF" in this report refer to both the DRAF and DRAF funds, unless specified otherwise.

- Appendix IX: DRF Pathway to Change
- Appendix X: Interview Protocols

## 2 Evaluation Context

### 2.1 Context for Rights of Persons with Disabilities

7. An estimated 1.3 billion people (or 1 in 6 of us) globally, experience significant disability.<sup>3</sup> Persons with disabilities globally experience a range of barriers to education, healthcare, basic services, and human rights, while also facing disproportionate levels of poverty, discrimination, violence, and marginalization.<sup>4</sup> Women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics (SOGIESC) face increased rights violations due to compounding factors of ableism, sexism, social stereotypes, and biases. Discrimination and rights abuses are also further compounded by other factors, including but not limited to age, race, nationality, economic status, and refugee/migrant/asylum status. The Coronavirus Disease (COVID)-19 pandemic put persons with disabilities under major injustices – including enhanced institutionalisation, breakdown of essential services in the community, multiplication of intersectional harms, and denial of access to healthcare, and they were once again left behind in the responses provided by institutions and civil society organizations to the pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

8. Momentum on addressing the rights and diverse needs of all persons with disabilities has grown since the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) came into force in May 2008.<sup>6</sup> There are now direct references to persons with disabilities in the Agenda 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations (UN) adopted a Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)<sup>7</sup> in 2019. The UNDIS provides a foundation for transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the UN: peace and security, human rights, and development. In addition, the Global Disability Summit, held for the first time in London in 2018 and subsequently in Norway in 2022, has been a central space for the convergence of actors in the disability movement, and has generated concrete commitments to action to help deliver Agenda 2030's vision to 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB). A commonly used motto of the disability rights movement is 'Nothing about us without us', which is increasingly put into practice through the active participation of OPDs and persons with disabilities in disability rights advocacy, and through the motto's "legal translation" into Article 4.3 of the CRPD, which sets a general obligation to actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.<sup>8</sup>

9. Despite the many successes of the disability rights movement, there is still much progress that needs to be made for persons with disabilities to participate fully in society and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

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<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, 2023

<sup>4</sup> Examples of particularly 'marginalized' groups of persons with disabilities, according to the online DRF Glossary, include: "little people, persons with albinism, women with disabilities, youth with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with deaf blindness, Indigenous people with disabilities, and in some cases, rural Deaf people."

<sup>5</sup> Disability Rights during the Pandemic. A global report on findings of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, 2008

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, 2019

<sup>8</sup> Global Disability Summit, 2022

## 2.2 Overview of DRF

10. DRF was formally launched in 2008 under the fiscal sponsorship of the Tides Centre, with the explicit goal of supporting organizations of persons with disabilities in the Global South to participate in advancement of the CRPD at national, state, and local levels. In 2011, DRF officially began their operations as an independent non-profit organization from the Tides Centre. Since their inception, DRF has expanded their work from an initial seven countries to 38 countries across six regions of the world, primarily in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean.

11. DRF provides resources to OPDs to use global rights and development frameworks, such as the CRPD and SDGs, to advocate for the promotion and respect of persons with disabilities' rights. DRF's resources and support include grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance (see **Section 2.2.1 DRF Technical Assistance** for further details on TA). DRAF specifically supports lobbying projects, strategic partnerships, and other special advocacy projects. DRF also organizes grantee convenings at the national level and on a regular basis (every one or two years), which include CRPD/SDG training, grantee learning and information exchange, and opportunities to dialogue with government or national human rights and development officials and with other donor representatives.

12. DRF has several policies and plans that recognize the diversity of the disability rights movement, commit to leaving no one behind, and strive to protect everyone from abuse and exploitation; these include the Gender Guidelines and Implementation Plan, the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy, and the Child Protection Policy. From a grantmaking perspective, DRF funds have also targeted marginalized OPDs.<sup>9</sup>

13. The period covered by the evaluation (April 2019-December 2022) overlaps with two DRF Strategic Plans: The 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and the Bridge Strategic Plan. The Bridge Strategic Plan was originally developed to guide DRF through the pandemic period from July 2020 through December 2021 and was subsequently extended to 2022, and will cross over into 2023 "to grant time for the new Executive Director to coordinate development of the next multi-year Strategic Plan."<sup>10</sup>

14. The ongoing Bridge Strategic Plan outlines a Pathway to Change in which the support that DRF provides to OPDs contributes to i) building and strengthening disability movements, ii) putting persons with disabilities at decision-making tables to drive the agenda, and iii) achieving rights through systems change (e.g., changes in legislation, policies, etc.). The Pathway to Change illustrates that DRF is committed to promoting intersectional human rights, gender equality, and ensuring persons with disabilities' participation across these stages. The goal is for all persons with disabilities to participate fully in society and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

15. Between 2019 and 2022, DRF's expenses have amounted to over US\$ 27 million, 83 percent of which went to grantmaking and program, and the remaining to administration and fundraising. **Table 1 DRF and DRAF Revenue and Expenses Combined 2019-2022 (US\$)** below presents data on DRF and DRAF

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<sup>9</sup> This denotes organizations representing marginalized groups of persons with disabilities including: little people, persons with albinism, women with disabilities, youth with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with deaf blindness, Indigenous people with disabilities, and in some cases, rural Deaf people. Other groups may be marginalized in particular country circumstances. From DRF/DRAF Glossary [available here](#)

<sup>10</sup> Strategic Planning Consultant: Terms of Reference. [DRF website](#)

combined annual revenue and expenses and the percentage of expenses that went into grantmaking and program.

*Table 1 DRF and DRAF Revenue and Expenses Combined 2019-2022 (US\$)*

YEAR	REVENUE	EXPENSES	% OF EXPENSES ON GRANTMAKING/PROGRAM
2022	\$6,838,252	\$7,752,885	81%
2021	\$8,523,708	\$7,349,954	81%
2020	\$12,208,513	\$6,122,368	84%
2019	\$6,669,347	\$6,573,236	86%
<b>2019-2022 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,239,820</b>	<b>\$27,798,443</b>	<b>83%</b>

Source: DRF Annual Reports from 2019 to 2022

### 2.2.1 The DRF Technical Assistance

16. Technical Assistance is one of DRF’s three strategies to advance disability-inclusive development and rights. It aims to equip OPDs and the disability movement with the knowledge, skills, partnerships, and resources to achieve their rights advocacy goals through mutually agreed, tailored, and contextually appropriate activities.

17. DRF launched their first [technical assistance strategy](#) in 2017.<sup>11</sup> According to this strategy, TA has four focus areas: knowledge on the CRPD and the SDGs, skills for advocacy on CRPD and SDG implementation, knowledge and skills to monitor human rights and inclusive development processes, and knowledge and skills to form alliances within and across movements. The strategy also identifies three delivery modalities for TA:

- **Direct TA:** Direct TA is facilitated or provided by Program Officers and/or other DRF personnel (e.g., the DRF TA Director) and consists of facilitation, brokering of knowledge or other resources, and technical advice. This TA modality is provided in addition to any grants and is meant to respond to priorities coming up outside a grant round or to equip grantees with new knowledge that would be useful for them.
- **National Umbrella TA Grants:** DRF can provide TA grants to national OPD umbrella organizations to support them in their coordination role and to facilitate TA for the disability movement in key priority areas. Examples include training of OPDs on the CRPD and SDGs and their respective monitoring and reporting mechanisms, or on disability-inclusive budgeting. In general, and when possible, DRF tries to work through the umbrella organizations, with some exceptions made when context requires it and to provide opportunities to build disability movement’s capacity.
- **Embedded TA:** This TA modality is used to support grantees in the implementation of their projects. It consists of an amount within the project grant that is set aside specifically for TA activities. In this case, TA is usually sourced through technical experts based either in the country

<sup>11</sup> Parasy, 2018

or region of the grantees. Examples may include, but are not limited to, sourcing a local subject matter expert to deliver a training on a specific topic or paying an organization for services to be available at key points in the project to support Grantees in technical reviews of policies or legislation. While the Strategy does not establish a range for the amounts of embedded TA, in Fiji, Indonesia and Nigeria the TA portion of the project grants have ranged from US \$264 to US \$7500, with the majority amounting to than US \$1500.

18. For several years, TA has been considered by DRF as a separate strategy from organizational strengthening, the first being focused on advocacy-related capacity and the latter having to do with OPDs' capacity as organizations. Indeed, the Strategy recognizes that "organizational learning and capacity building is important to Grantees and may be one way to support Grantees to achieve long-term rights advocacy efforts." It also recognizes that "organizational strengthening is outside the strengths and expertise of DRF and requires long-term (often on-the-ground) quality investment by people and organizations mandated to support organizational development."

19. However, DRF's view on organizational strengthening has changed over time. In 2020, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to increase organizational capabilities to mitigate risks relative to, for example, safeguarding and financial management, DRF introduced a new funding stream called OPD Strengthening Grants. In 2021, the DRF TA Director launched a review process of the Strategy, with a revised TA strategy expected by early 2024 to ensure alignment with DRF's new Strategic Plan. As part of this review process, consultations were held with grantees from across 16 countries<sup>12</sup> and a desk review of DRF key data was carried out. Among the observed trends and changes from the desk review is that advocacy successes are linked to strong organizations, and that organizational strengthening is consistently requested and regarded as an important foundation for growth. In December 2022, the DRF Board approved a key change in the 2023 Grantmaking Guidelines, namely the inclusion of OPD strengthening in TA. This was in recognition by DRF of "the strong link between organizational performance and advocacy effectiveness." OPD Strengthening support may include resources to improve financial policies and systems, safeguarding, project management, governance, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation.

### ***2.2.2 Diversification of the Disability Movement***

20. A key objective of the DRF grantmaking is to increase inclusiveness of persons with disabilities and expand the diversity and geographic reach of OPDs involved in CRPD advancement, especially at grassroots levels.<sup>13</sup> This is driven by a leading Output focused on diversification (Output 3), whereby "Disability movement in target countries is inclusive, reflecting the diverse voices of persons with disabilities." This is further reflected in DRF's latest Strategic Plan (Bridge Strategy), which emphasizes the application of an intersectional approach in all countries and regions to identify and resource OPDs representing diverse ethnic, racial, Indigenous, gender and SOGIESC identities for maximally diverse and inclusive grantee cohorts. The DRF Bridge Strategy aims to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within and beyond the disability movement, as well as efforts to diversify DRF's staffing, management and governance structure. The DRF Theory of Change is also predicated on the assumption that a diverse disability movement is essential for the realization of disability rights. This approach is complemented by

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<sup>12</sup> DMZ Partners in Sustainable Development. DRF Technical Assistance. Learning Review Summary. Draft 4 05/04/23. Written submissions were received from OPDs in 13 countries. An additional three countries chose to only participate in virtual consultations.

<sup>13</sup> This objective is included in most DRF/DRAF Country Strategies.



DRF’s Gender Guidelines, which applies a gender transformative lens to grantmaking, technical assistance and advocacy work. In line with these guidelines, DRF has invested in dedicated funding to marginalized groups, such as Deafblind and women-led OPDs, and increasingly reflecting the interests of marginalized and grassroots grantees.<sup>14</sup> DRF also works with cross-impairment OPDs to ensure a broader reach and more diverse disability movement.

### 2.2.3 DRF in Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria

21. Nigeria, Fiji, and Indonesia all have very strong civil societies of persons with disabilities and OPDs and have achieved concrete successes for disability rights. DRF’s grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance have supported those efforts.

22. In terms of grantmaking to OPDs in these countries, approximately US\$ 4.4 million were disbursed by DRF to 60 OPDs through small grants, mid-level and national coalition grants, technical assistance grants, special opportunity grants, OPD strengthening grants, and core support grants. Table 2 below provides the grantmaking amounts by country and the number of grantees in each country between 2019-2022. Indonesia received over half of the US\$4.4 million (31 grantees), Nigeria about US\$ 1.5 million (25 grantees) and Fiji just over US\$ 300,000 (4 grantees). Of all three countries, Indonesia received the largest proportion of total DRF grantmaking from 2019-2022 (15%), followed by Nigeria (9%) and Fiji (2%).

**Table 2 DRF Grantmaking to OPDs in Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria (2019-2022)**

COUNTRY	GRANT AMOUNT 2019-2022 (US\$)	% OF TOTAL DRF GRANTMAKING 2019-2022	NUMBER OF GRANTEES
Fiji <sup>15</sup>	\$ 323,354	2%	4
Indonesia	\$ 2,494,115	15%	31
Nigeria	\$ 1,543,861	9%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,361,330</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>60</b>

Source: DRF Excel “Indonesia-Nigeria-Fiji 2019-2022 Approvals” (internal document)

23. An overview of the disability context and DRF grantmaking in each of the three selected countries is provided below, as well as a non-exhaustive list of the key contributions made by the DRF grantees in the three countries in the creation of legislation, policies, and programs aimed to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. This is focused on the two key advocacy achievements (also referred to as ‘key wins’) that DRF staff had identified in each country during the Inception Phase as focus areas for the evaluation.

<sup>14</sup> See for example Finding 5 of the 2015 Learning Evaluation (Universalis)

<sup>15</sup> The grant amount and number of grantees calculated for Fiji only include the grants awarded to OPDs in Fiji. They do not include the grant awarded to the Association of Women’s Rights in Development, which is an international non-governmental organization, and the grants awarded to the Pacific Disability Forum, which is a regional organization in the Pacific.

## Fiji

### Disability in Fiji

24. On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2021, the Fijian Minister for Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation announced that about 113,595 people in the country were living with some form of disability (about 13% of the Fijian population at the time).<sup>16</sup> She further expressed the government's commitment towards an "inclusive, barrier free, and rights-based society for persons with disabilities."<sup>17</sup> Although Fiji ratified the CRPD fairly recently (in 2017), significant progress has been made for the rights of persons with disabilities in the few years since, often with the direct participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs (see below section on 'grantee achievements'). The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2018) was enacted to provide a domestic implementation of the CRPD and includes the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities in Fiji. However, a lack of clarity on the extent to which the Act is implemented has resulted in calls to further strengthen the practical protection on the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>18</sup>

25. The Pacific region has high rates of violence against women and girls (including intimate partner and non-partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking, exploitation, and other harmful practices); national-level data indicates the Fiji has a rate of 72% for violence against women and girls (over twice the global average of 35%). This puts women with disabilities at particular risk in Fiji<sup>19</sup>, as they face compounded barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services, most of which are not disability inclusive.<sup>20</sup> Children with disabilities in Fiji also experience challenges in accessing education, despite a strong commitment to early detection and early intervention in the Special and Inclusive Education Policy. With services mainly available in the capital Suva, children with disabilities in rural areas can struggle to access key support.<sup>21</sup>

### DRF Grantmaking in Fiji

26. DRF began grantmaking in Fiji in 2009. OPDs in Fiji – and PICs more widely – tend to be small and emergent, with limited organizational capacity. Women's rights issues are a cross-cutting issue for PICs OPDs and are integrated throughout OPDs' project portfolios. In addition, women are also the drivers of the work of national OPDs in the region, and the strengthening of their capacity has been prioritized by DRF through TA sessions. As a small island state, Fiji faces particular barriers related to geography, connectivity, and accessibility; grantees in the country have been working to overcome these barriers with DRF support.<sup>22</sup> An external evaluation of DRF programming in Pacific countries which covered the period from 2017 to 2019, found that the vast majority of stakeholders attribute the achievements for the rights of persons with disabilities in the region to the work of OPDs, in part funded through DRF.<sup>23</sup>

27. DRF's grantmaking in Fiji between 2019 and 2022 consisted of 12 grants totalling US\$ 323,354 awarded to four grantees. Out of these grants, four had an embedded TA component. One of the four

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<sup>16</sup> Kumar, 2021

<sup>17</sup> Kumar., 2021

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Population Fund et al., 2022

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Population Fund et al., 2022

<sup>20</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021b

<sup>21</sup> Sprunt et al., 2022

<sup>22</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021b

<sup>23</sup> Rhodes et al., 2020

grantees is an emergent OPD. The four grantees are national OPDs based in urban areas, with rural coverage provided through their branches.

### Grantee achievements in Fiji

28. Fiji ratified the CRPD on June 7, 2017, following years of advocacy by Fijian and regional Pacific OPDs including those supported by DRF. Concrete steps have since been taken in Fiji towards realising the rights outlined in the convention, through government budgeting and policymaking. OPDs are working together with government officials on national CRPD reporting and on policy development. Some successes include providing transport subsidies, including persons with disabilities in natural disaster preparedness and planning, and passing a national disability rights bill (the 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018').<sup>24</sup> In July 2019, the Fijian Government sent a delegation to New York to present their Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the SDGs; the delegation included OPD participation, supported by funding assistance from DRF. In 2021, a Terms of Reference (ToR) was signed between the Fijian Elections Office and the Fiji Elections Disability Access Working Group, committing the government to developing more inclusive and accessible election processes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, DRF's funding was used by grantees to advocate and implement a more disability inclusive COVID-19 response, for example, through disseminating public health messaging and guidelines in accessible formats (such as sign language) and conducting a field survey to capture COVID impacts on persons with disabilities. The survey results were then used to advocate with the government for inclusive decision-making in national and community responses to the pandemic.<sup>25</sup>

29. The two key wins in Fiji identified through the participatory process in the Inception Phase include the following:

- **Key Win: Terms of Reference Signing Between Fijian Elections Office, Pacific Disability Forum and National Council for Persons with Disabilities:** In 2021 (in view of the 2022 General Election in Fiji), a ToR was signed between the Fijian Elections Office and the Election Disability Access Working Group –[established in 2016](#)<sup>26</sup> and composed of 12 OPDs and the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons- to provide a platform for engaging with OPDs throughout the 2022 electoral process. As per the ToR, the Fijian Elections Office in collaboration with the Elections Disability Access Working Group committed to work towards an accessible election process by revising a section of the Fiji Electoral Act stipulating that persons with disabilities required support persons to cast a vote on their behalf. The revision of the Act upheld persons with disabilities freedom of choice and privacy in election processes.<sup>27</sup> The Working Group also provided their expertise in making election venues and materials accessible.<sup>28</sup>
- **Key Win: COVID-19 Disability Inclusive Response:** From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a coalition of OPDs led by the Fiji Disabled People Federation (FDPF) utilized the DRF grants to conduct research on the impacts of COVID-19 (related to employment, health, education, and gender-based violence impacts) on persons with disabilities, and an analysis of disability-related government expenditures and gaps. OPDs developed and disseminated recommendations to state and civil society actors based on their evidence and findings, contributing to a more

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<sup>24</sup> Rhodes et al., 2020

<sup>25</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021b

<sup>26</sup> Hickes, (n.d.)

<sup>27</sup> DRF Global Data for Logframe and Learning\_31Mar2022\_MASTER\_12July2022 (internal document)

<sup>28</sup> DRF's TA consultations, 2022

disability inclusive COVID-19 response. This included, for example, successfully advocating for interpreters and transcriptions for the deaf and hard of hearing during COVID-19 national announcements.<sup>29</sup>

## Indonesia

### Disability in Indonesia

30. Existing statistics on the number of persons with disabilities and related data in the various social areas (employment, education, health, etc.) in Indonesia reflect inconsistent definitions and inaccurate data, resulting in significant underreporting.<sup>30</sup> Official government data reports that 8.56% of people in Indonesia live with disabilities, in contrast to the global average of 15%.<sup>31</sup> Other recent research has found that more than 9% of the population is living with a disability.<sup>32</sup> Stigmatizing and discriminatory legal and political systems reinforce the exclusion of persons with disabilities in Indonesian society. In the Indonesian government, disability is covered under the Ministry of Social Affairs, rather than the Ministry of Human Rights. Existing laws on social welfare and disability (e.g., Law number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Welfare, and Law number 4 of 1997 concerning People with a Disability [Penyandang cacat]), give the mandate to the Ministry of Social Affairs for the provision of social assistance and maintenance of the level of social welfare for persons with disabilities. The Ministry's programs have been implemented based on a charity-based rather than a rights-based approach, thus not recognizing persons with disabilities as full-fledged citizens.<sup>33</sup> This systemic discrimination is also exemplified by the requirement that political candidates be "physically and mentally healthy".<sup>34</sup>

31. The Persons with Disabilities Act, which was passed in 2016 (Law 8/2016), has proven to be a valuable tool for OPDs to reform and issue laws at national and sub-national levels, in line with the CRPD.<sup>35</sup> Reflecting OPDs' advocacy, also supported by DRF, national regulations now stipulate that the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities is the responsibility of all parties, and further mandates the participation of persons with disabilities in development processes, including in planning and budgeting at national and sub-national levels.<sup>36</sup> This means that the ministries', private sectors', and community' program should ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are well addressed and fulfilled. Importantly, since the passing of Law 8/2016, language in laws as well as formal and informal forums can no longer use the term "penyandang cacat", which was previously the dominant terminology and means "people with defects". The term "penyandang disabilitas" which means "people with disabilities" is now to be used instead.<sup>37</sup> The term indicates the changing paradigm to be more rights and social model approach rather than charity model, and this was a big sifting of approach from the old law. See also the 2015 Learning Evaluation<sup>38</sup> for more details on OPDs' contribution to the making of Law 8/2016.

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<sup>29</sup> DRF Global Data for Logframe and Learning\_31Mar2022\_MASTER\_12July2022 (internal document)

<sup>30</sup> Saraswati, 2021

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Indonesia, 2022

<sup>32</sup> Siyaranamual & Larasati, 2020

<sup>33</sup> Yulianti, 2020

<sup>34</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021a

<sup>35</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021a

<sup>36</sup> PP/70/2019, 2019

<sup>37</sup> Yulianti, 2020

<sup>38</sup> Micaro et al. , 2015, pg. 47

32. It should be carefully noted that not all legal changes are fully applied in practice. This is reflected for example in the government’s pledge to abolish the practice of shackling persons with psychosocial disabilities in social care institutions in 2018<sup>39</sup>, a practice which remains prominent to this day.<sup>40</sup> Similarly, while the Ministry of Culture and Education has recognized BISINDO (Indonesian native sign language) as a national language, deaf Indonesians still fight for full acknowledgment of BISINDO as an integral part of Indonesian deaf culture, that is both a means of communication and a tool for information for the deaf community; as such, deaf Indonesians also continue to fight for their rights to reasonable accommodation and access to BISINDO. The community of persons with deafblindness and persons with intellectual disabilities face particular challenges accessing education, healthcare, and employment, while these challenges are compounded for persons with disabilities with other intersectional identities (such as Indigenous persons with disabilities and women with disabilities). Women with disabilities are amongst the most marginalized groups, facing barriers to a gender-sensitive healthcare, and high rates of sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>41</sup>

### **DRF Grantmaking in Indonesia**

33. DRF began grantmaking in Indonesia in 2010; since then, DRF has expanded their presence in terms of number and diversity of grantees in the country. The initial cohort of six grantees in 2010 has quadrupled in size (to 24 as of July 2023)<sup>42</sup>, reaching more geographic areas (including remote and underprivileged regions), disability types (e.g., persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or deaf blindness) and other intersectional identities (e.g., women with disabilities, Indigenous persons with disabilities, etc.). This can be attributed in large part to the outreach and inclusion efforts increasingly made by DRF, especially by their Program Officers (POs), including the diverse Grantee Convenings which have contributed to movement building. Indonesian OPDs have also increasingly accessed technical assistance to improve their advocacy skills and capacity. DRF’s grantmaking in Indonesia between 2019 and 2022 consisted of 123 grants totalling US\$ 2,454,115 awarded to 31 grantees. Out of these grants, one was a TA grant and 20 had an embedded TA component. Grantees included OPDs working in rural areas (10), women-led OPDs (9) and emergent OPDs (4).

### **Grantee Achievements in Indonesia**

The funding provided by DRF has supported grantees to secure concrete changes to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Indonesia. On November 30, 2011, Indonesia ratified the CRPD. In 2016, following advocacy by OPDs, it passed the National Persons with Disabilities Act and has implemented numerous regulations for further implementation of the Act. Some examples of regulations include reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities (No. 13/2020), social welfare for persons with disabilities (No. 52/2019), and monitoring and evaluating disability rights fulfillment (No. 70/2019).<sup>43</sup> In addition, local regulations referred to as *peraturan daerah* or “PERDA” – which align with national level laws – are being implemented in Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Bali among other regions, districts, and municipalities. OPDs also successfully influenced a sexual violence law to remove a discriminatory element which would have allowed sterilization of women with intellectual and/or psychological

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<sup>39</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021a

<sup>40</sup> CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1, 2022

<sup>41</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2021a

<sup>42</sup> Data from Zengine provided by DRF/DRAF on July 10, 2023. Zengine is a grant management software.

<sup>43</sup> FCDO, 2020

disabilities.<sup>44</sup> Further, OPDs have come together to establish a Working Group on Respect, Protection, Fulfillment, Enforcement and Promotion of Human Rights for Persons with Mental Disabilities.

34. The two key wins in Indonesia identified through the participatory process in the Inception Phase include the following:

- Key Win: Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in the Elimination of Sexual Violence Act** (Rancangan Undang-Undang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual, abbreviated as RUU TPKS): In 2010, Indonesia’s National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnasper) began discussing the need for a law on sexual violence to respond to escalating cases of violence against women. In 2012, Komnasper produced the first draft of the Elimination of Sexual Violence Act. This draft included Article 104, which legalized forced contraception and sterilization of women and girls with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities without their consent.<sup>45</sup> However, for several years persons with disabilities had been excluded from the drafting of the Bill and advocacy around it. Supported by DRF, OPDs managed to get involved in the making of the Bill. Numerous DRF grantees, led by Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI) and the Indonesia Mental Health Association (IMHA), together with women’s rights organizations advocated for the removal of the article and eventually succeeded in getting Article 104 removed. The disability-inclusive Bill passed into Law on April 12, 2022. Among other provisions, the Law recognizes the legal capacity of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities and ensures reasonable accommodation for women and children with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence.
- Key Win: Working Group on Respect, Protection, Fulfillment, Enforcement, and Promotion of Human Rights for Persons with Mental Disabilities:** The establishment of the cross-ministerial working group is the results of relentless years of advocacy conducted by IMHA – Indonesia’s first organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities that has been a DRF grantee since 2013 – responding to the needs of persons with psychosocial disabilities. After the signing of a cooperation agreement in July 2021, on September 2, 2021, the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights launched the Working Group on the Protection, Fulfillment, Enforcement, and Promotion of Human Rights for Persons with Mental Disabilities. The working group sits within the government and includes government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and OPDs. Its aim is the de-institutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities so that they can live independently and inclusively in the society.<sup>46</sup>

## Nigeria

### Disability in Nigeria

35. According to the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health survey, 7% of household members above the age of five (and 9% of those aged sixty years or older) have a disability.<sup>47</sup> In 2019, the Nigeria Population Census estimated that there are a total of 19 million people living with disabilities in the country (about 9.6% of the total population).<sup>48</sup> These statistics are lower than WHO’s estimate that 16%

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<sup>44</sup> Levine et al., 2020

<sup>45</sup> Disability & Philanthropy Forum, 2022

<sup>46</sup> Grant Recommendation Report, 2022.

<sup>47</sup> National Population Commission (Nigeria) & The DHS Program ICF (USA), 2018

<sup>48</sup> Ngozi Chuma Umeh, 2019

of the global population lives with a disability,<sup>49</sup> potentially reflecting underreporting and insufficient data on people with disabilities in the country; however, reporting seems to have been improved over the past couple of decades (Nigeria's last population census in 2006 recorded that only 2.32% of the population was living with disabilities).<sup>50</sup>

36. Disability issues were the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) until 2019 and have since been transferred to a new Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development (FMHDS). Although Nigeria ratified the CRPD in 2007 and its Optional Protocol in 2010, it did not submit its initial report to the CRPD Committee until 2021, when it did so with little to no involvement of persons with disabilities and OPDs. This pace reflects a general trend in Nigeria, in which progress on disability rights is slow and unprioritized by the government. OPDs in Nigeria often compete over scarce resources, affecting their organizational capacity and ability to deliver quality programming. Nevertheless, Nigeria's disability movement has managed to grow and diversify over the years, although work remains to be done towards creating a more cohesive and collective movement.<sup>51</sup>

### **DRF Grantmaking in Nigeria**

37. DRF began grantmaking in Nigeria in 2018, offering more opportunities for OPDs to access funding for rights-based programming and advocacy, especially for those who are particularly marginalized or are limited in size and capacity, and otherwise have difficulty accessing resources. DRF's portfolio in Nigeria has diversified substantially since 2018, increasingly supporting more regions of the country as well as persons with diverse disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)-diverse identities, and women with disabilities. In 2021, for the first time in Nigeria, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) persons with disabilities applied for DRF funding and are now being supported in their efforts to promote intersectionality and disability inclusion in the LGBTQI movement in the country. Many OPDs have received OPD strengthening support to build foundational institutional capacity in areas such as financial management, safeguarding, and governance. Increasingly, grantees are requesting TA to build advocacy and reporting skills.<sup>52</sup>

38. DRF's grantmaking in Nigeria between 2019 and 2022 consisted of 85 grants totalling US\$ 1, 564, 861 awarded to 25 grantees. Out of these grants, three were a TA grant and 31 had an embedded TA component. Grantees included OPDs working in rural areas (2), women-led OPDs (6) and emergent OPDs (7).

### **Grantee Achievements in Nigeria**

39. While DRF entered the country in 2018, prior to this OPD's in Nigeria have long worked towards increasing general awareness of disability rights issues in the country, such as access to justice, health care, and education for persons with disabilities. They have also contributed to a significant break in the "silence culture" around women and girls with disabilities who experience abuse (see also the 2017-2019 DRF Global Evaluation Report by Levine and others for more information).<sup>53</sup> In January 2019, the Nigerian government passed the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, and in August 2020, it established a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) that is led by persons

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<sup>49</sup> World Health Organization, 2023

<sup>50</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2022

<sup>51</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2022

<sup>52</sup> DRF/DRAF, 2022

<sup>53</sup> Levine et al., 2020

with disabilities, in response to OPDs' advocacy.<sup>54</sup> During the COVID-19 pandemic, OPDs in Nigeria also successfully advocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a priority population for COVID-19 vaccines.

40. The two key wins in Nigeria identified through the participatory process in the Inception Phase include the following ones:

- **Key Win: Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act:** In 2011 and 2015, the National Assembly passed the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill. However, at the time, former President Goodluck Jonathan declined to sign it into law. Following years of relentless advocacy by OPDs (especially within Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), and with the strategic advocacy and campaigning by DRF grantees, the Bill was eventually signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on January 23, 2019. The Act prohibits discrimination of a person based on their disability status, mandates government providers to make necessary provisions to enhance the accessibility of public premises, and guarantees the equal right to work, free education, free healthcare, and participation in politics. It also guarantees subsidized special education, reserved places, and provides a certificate of disability. As part of the implementation of the articles of the Act, NCPWD was established in 2020.
- **Key Win: Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response in Nigeria:** In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nigerian Government had a very low supply of COVID-19 vaccines (approximately enough to vaccinate only 2% of the total population). Persons with disabilities were not included on the list of groups prioritized. Advocacy from the disability movement pushed for greater consideration of the needs of persons with disabilities and a more disability-inclusive COVID-19 response, including making information on COVID-19 accessible to persons with disabilities, sensitizing them on the pandemic and prevention measures, distributing palliatives, and getting persons with disabilities on the list of prioritized groups for vaccine administration.

## 2.3 Evaluation Specific Context

41. This evaluation took place in a moment for DRF marked by major organizational processes and the opening of potential funding opportunities. These include, among others, the executive leadership transition at DRF, the new strategic planning process, the start of the first DRL-funded project, the Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) grant agreement coming to an end and development of the new business case on disability capacity development, combined with the review and update of the DRF TA Strategy. More information on these organizational processes and funding opportunities is provided in **Appendix V Evaluation Context**.

42. The independent evaluation may inform – to various degrees - these processes and opportunities by providing insights and lessons on what has worked well and what could be improved based on the assessment of DRF's work over the past four years.

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<sup>54</sup> FCDO, 2021



## 2.4 Disability Rights and DRF during the COVID-19 Pandemic

43. It is well documented that emergencies and disasters have historically disproportionately impacted the disability community, with the COVID-19 pandemic as no exception.<sup>55</sup> Worldwide, disability rights were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with COVID-19 responses further exacerbating pre-existing social and economic inequalities associated with disability.<sup>56</sup> DRF joined forces with a coalition of global organizations to call for action to protect the rights of persons with disabilities during the pandemic. According to the report *'Disability Rights during the Pandemic: A Global Report on Findings of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor,'*<sup>57</sup> persons with disability were differentially affected by the pandemic, with a greater risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and heightened severity of COVID-related outcomes. These risks are further compounded by limited access to health care services, basic services and social assistance, and a lack of inclusive COVID-19 responses.

44. Most OPDs' rights advocacy efforts were halted or derailed by COVID-19 restrictions (e.g., against bringing people together in-person gatherings). In response, DRF remained flexible to better support grantees during the pandemic in a more relevant way. This included allowing grantees to repurpose the DRF grants from advocacy projects to advocate for and support disability-inclusive COVID-19 measures, and allowing more grace in timelines to complete grants to account for delays. During the pandemic, several grantees requested to instead use project funds towards COVID-19 awareness (e.g., sign language interpretation of health measures, mental health and COVID-19 isolation), and DRF worked on individualizing project forms for grantees to submit their activity changes. The DRF Program Officers also supported grantees in ensuring activities are adjusted to be COVID-19 safe. During the COVID-19 period, DRF also allowed core support grants to allow the survival of OPDs, and supported grantees in successfully advocating for inclusive COVID-19 responses in the case of Fiji and Nigeria (see **Section 4.4 Key Advocacy Achievements** for more details on this key achievement and contributing factors).

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<sup>55</sup> Shakespeare et al., 2021

<sup>56</sup> United Nations, 2020

<sup>57</sup> Siobhan Brennan et al., 2020



## 3 Evaluation Purpose and Approach

### 3.1 Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

45. The purpose of this independent evaluation was primarily summative, evidencing DRF's contribution in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. It also combined a formative perspective in that it aimed to provide recommendations to inform DRF's future strategies. The evaluation was principally geared toward **learning** from what worked and what did not work so well, while also supporting DRF's **accountability** towards their grantees and funders.
46. The evaluation had a strong disability-inclusive participatory approach, whereby DRF grantees from the three representative countries, staff and funders actively informed the evaluation. Stakeholders were engaged in all phases of the evaluation with the aim of enhancing the relevance and utility of evaluation findings and the quality of the evidence supporting them. The evaluation involved these stakeholders in co-designing the evaluation objectives and scope, and in shaping the evaluation key questions, methodology and deliverables. Grantees were engaged during the Inception Phase through online design workshops to provide input on key evaluation questions and approaches, as well as the format of the easy-to-read deliverable of the evaluation. DRF Program Officers from the select countries informed the selection of key advocacy achievements for the evaluation team to focus on in each country. In the data collection and analysis phases, grantees were engaged not only through the interview process as key informants, but also through online sense-making workshops. These workshops, led by each national consultant with the grantees in the respective country, were used to validate a preliminary analysis of collected data, identify gaps, and add nuances or raise any questions or concerns. As for DRF staff, in addition to being interviewed during the Inception and Data Collection phases, they were also engaged in the feedback process on the evaluation deliverables and data analysis (e.g., during an online Zoom call and, in the case of POs and Co-Directors of Programs, also during the sense-making workshops with grantees).
47. The evaluation objectives were:
- To assess DRF's contributions to selected key achievements and whether and how their technical assistance and efforts for the diversification of disability movements supported the key achievements;
  - To identify the impacts of DRF's technical assistance on grantees' organizational capacity and in other areas as applicable, and factors having affected grantees' access to and utilization of it, and;
  - To assess DRF's contribution to the diversification of disability movements.
48. A participatory approach was applied throughout this evaluation, with the DRF staff, grantees and funders being engaged through different modalities to inform the evaluation's objectives, methodology, and deliverables.
49. The evaluation drew on both quantitative and qualitative data, which were collected through key informant interviews (KIIs), design and sense-making workshops, and document review. A sampling strategy was applied to select grantees and other stakeholders to interview.
50. A total of 86 stakeholders were consulted through the different steps of the evaluation. Stakeholders included the DRF grantees in the three countries, the DRF staff and key funders, government

officials in the three countries, TA providers, grantees' fiscal sponsors, and NGOs working in the climate change and gender equality areas.

51. To further validate the interpretation of data collected and clarify any gaps, sense-making workshops were held with grantees in Nigeria and Indonesia (though not in Fiji, see **Section 3.2 Limitations and Mitigation Strategies**). The evaluation team further complemented this by sharing data highlights through an online session where preliminary areas for recommendation were shared with the DRF Evaluation Committee for further feedback and nuancing of the evaluation findings.

## 3.2 Limitations & Mitigation Measures

52. While the evaluation team was successful in reaching nearly all sampled KIIs in Nigeria and Indonesia, there were significant challenges reaching the targeted sample in Fiji due to difficulties in identifying the correct representatives to be interviewed and limited stakeholder availability. Overall, it was more challenging to interview external actors, particularly government officials. This demanded persistence on behalf of the national consultants to regularly follow-up with key informants. For example, in Nigeria only one of the four target government interviewees were available for interview, and this one interview required three visits to their office before achieving success. However, in Indonesia securing these interviews was facilitated by the strong existing relationship established between the government and OPDs. In Fiji, due to the initial delay in interviewing OPDs, who subsequently approached government stakeholders, no government representatives were available in the short timeframe.

53. A compressed data collection timeline partly contributed to these challenges, with limited time to schedule interviews which constrained the ability to provide ample advanced notice, particularly for government officials and their limited availability. Data collection also demanded the dedication of more time being afforded for each interview, to account for example for sign language interpretation or the use of assistive technology, but also to allow for respondents to share their stories and express their perspectives openly and freely.

54. As a mitigating measure for some of the above limitations, the evaluation relied on Sense-Making Workshops in Nigeria and Indonesia, complemented by the online session with the DRF Evaluation Committee to further triangulate emerging data. The evaluation also built on available documentation to complement any gaps. This included both DRF's documentation (e.g., Learning Journals, TA consultations, the annual grantee surveys, grantees' reports, DRF evaluations) and external data sources (e.g., media articles, grantees' webpages, CRPD State reports and shadow reports, press releases).

## 4 Findings

### 4.1 Structure of This Section

55. This section presents the key findings from the evaluation organized according to the three agreed-upon priority areas for the evaluation. **Section 4.2 Technical Assistance** includes the findings on the access and use of the DRF TA and on key factors affecting them. This section also presents successful TA examples. **Section 4.3 Diversification** presents findings on the contributions made by DRF on the diversification of the disability movement in the three countries, highlighting what the diversification looks like, the extent of the diversification, and DRF’s specific contributions to it. **Section 4.4 Key Advocacy Achievements** (also referred to as ‘key wins’) explains how the selected key wins represent key achievements for persons with disabilities, identifies DRF’s specific contributions, and factors having affected their achievements by distinguishing between enabling and hindering factors.

### 4.2 Technical Assistance

56. Previous evaluations have identified technical assistance as one of the key modalities that DRF uses to support grantees in their advocacy efforts. The extensive consultations held with DRF grantees, staff and funders through online design workshops and interviews during the Inception Phase to jointly shape the evaluation objectives, key questions, and deliverables highlighted the interest among the DRF intended users to better understand the modality of Technical Assistance, including what has worked well and what not so well. Specifically, stakeholders expressed a desire for the evaluation to examine the access to and utilization made of this modality of support, factors affecting access and use, and the results that can be associated with TA. More information on the participatory process held during the Inception Phase can be found in **Section 3 Evaluation Purpose and Approach**.

57. Specifically, this section addressed the following questions:

- What has been the use of the DRF TA by grantees in the three countries? How has TA been useful and for whom? What have been successful examples of TA?
- What factors have affected grantees’ access and utilisation of the DRF TA?

#### Evolution and use of TA

**Finding 1:** DRF’s approach to TA evolved over the past couple of years. It began with a focus on support for advocacy and now encompasses broader organizational strengthening.

58. The DRF TA Strategy launched in 2017, currently being revised, focused on technical assistance as a tool to equip grantees in their advocacy for the realization of their human rights as stated in the CRPD articles. The strategy recognizes that long-term rights advocacy efforts may require additional types of support strategies, like organizational strengthening, though for many years the latter has been considered by DRF as a distinct strategy to support grantees that is beyond DRF’s areas of expertise. As articulated by DRF in the 2017 TA Strategy “We recognize that organizational learning and capacity building is important to Grantees and may be one way to support Grantees to achieve long-term rights

advocacy efforts. Capacity building is particularly relevant to newer and emergent Grantees. We also recognize that organizational strengthening is outside the strengths and expertise of DRF and requires long-term (often on-the-ground) quality investment by people and organizations mandated to support organizational development.” As such, DRF made an intentional investment in rights advocacy knowledge and skills, which at the time was largely underfunded, and offered small *ad hoc* support for organizational strengthening activities on a case- by-case basis. Over time, that perspective was nuanced by DRF staff based on emergent evidence from grantees’ successes and new evidence emerging that linked organizational performance with advocacy effectiveness.<sup>58</sup> Following successful DRF advocacy with their funders for increased support to OPDs’ organizational strengthening, combined with the opening of new funding streams to respond to the changing context and support grantees in difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic, DRF’s support for their grantees’ organizational strengthening became more frequent and visible, thus contributing to blurring the lines between what constitutes or not TA, with some DRF staff and grantees considering organizational strengthening activities as part of TA and others clearly differentiating between the two support strategies.

59. During both the Inception and the data collection phases, when asked about the TA accessed via DRF, most grantees and some DRF staff kept referring interchangeably to TA and organizational strengthening, thus making it difficult to disentangle the two types of support, their respective usefulness, and their linkages with key achievements. When asked about TA, its usefulness and contribution to advocacy efforts, consulted grantees have oftentimes conflated TA with the organizational strengthening support received from DRF. Indeed, this type of support (i.e., organizational strengthening) is very much appreciated by grantees, as it was also highlighted by the learning review conducted by DRF<sup>59</sup>, which found that the second proudest achievement identified by most consulted grantees relates to ‘internal’ organizational strengthening.

60. The organizational strengthening support accessed by grantees in the 2019-2022 period has been aligned with the overall objective of the DRF TA Strategy of equipping grantees to advocate on the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts at all levels. As also recognized by the 2023 DRF TA Learning Review Summary, this ‘internal’ organizational strengthening “opens doors for partnerships which can contribute to stronger advocacy,”<sup>60</sup> by increasing OPDs’ credibility. As an example of the connections between organizational strengthening and advocacy – additional to those provided by the learning review – an interviewed grantee reported that by updating organizational policies and training staff on them, its staff now lives the values of the organization and translate policy into practice. As a result, this grantee got its certification renewed by the government, thus allowing it to continue its advocacy work on inclusive education. The support of DRF in organizational strengthening was noted by both grantees and DRF staff members. In one of the three countries, emerging grantees spoke of how DRF’s support early into their journey, whilst they still require a fiscal sponsor, helped them to develop their policies and strengthen their mandate. This has allowed emerging groups to be able to ensure important representation of intersectionality within the country.

*“One of our main aims is reaching out to marginalized groups. But we cannot do that if we only work with fully registered OPDs” – DRF staff*

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<sup>58</sup> Willem Elbers & Jelmer Kamstra, 2020

<sup>59</sup> DMZ Partners in Sustainable Development, 2023, pg. 14.

<sup>60</sup> DMZ Partners in Sustainable Development, 2023, pg. 14.

**Finding 2:** Access to DRF’s TA support has varied across countries and types of grantees, with data indicating that grantees in Nigeria, located in urban areas and with a cross-disability focus have accessed TA the most. However, the quality and availability of data reduce the accuracy and completeness of the picture of the access to TA among grantees.

61. While all the grantees in the three countries accessed the DRF TA in one form or the other, the overall number of instances of access and the access to its different modalities varied, with data indicating that Nigeria is the country that accessed it the most in the period 2019-2022, despite Indonesia’s highest number of grantees. **Table 3 TA Access by Modality and by Country and OPD Strengthening Grants** below provides the data on TA access across the three countries according to the different modalities. The last row provides the number of OPD Strengthening grants in the three countries, to show the uptake of this grant modality. In the case of Fiji, the smaller numbers in Indonesia and Nigeria of TA access to embedded TA grants and direct TA can be explained by the small number of grantees (4 in total).

**Table 3 TA Access by Modality and by Country and OPD Strengthening Grants**

TA MODALITY	FIJI	INDONESIA	NIGERIA
Embedded TA grants (2019-2022)*	4	20	31
TA grants (2019-2022)	0	1	3
Direct TA instances (2019-2021)	89**	145	250
OPD Strengthening grants	1	29	21

Sources: DRF Excel file “Representative Grantee Sample External Eval 2019-2022\_ALL”, 2021 TA Learning Journal Analysis

\* According to DRF’s grantmaking data, no embedded TA grants were provided in 2019 and 2020.

\*\* In the case of Fiji, data on the number of instances of direct TA cover the whole Pacific region.

62. For the embedded TA grants, access differed by geographic location and disability focus of grantees, with most instances of access being among grantees based in urban areas (34 out of 60) and by grantees having either a cross-disability or a physical disability organizational focus (over 70 percent). While in part this reflects the fact that most DRF grantees are based in urban areas and have either a cross-disability or physical organizational focus, interviews conducted also pointed to factors related to linguistic capacity, ways of communication, and level of formal education and literacy skills as affecting access to the DRF TA, in particular in relation to the TA embedded modality. These factors are further explained in **Finding 5**.

63. With regards to direct TA, this was accessed by all interviewed grantees, and grantees acknowledged the key role played by POs in strengthening their organizations and their advocacy capacity. Previous DRF evaluations<sup>61</sup> also identified the key role played by DRF staff in facilitating access to policy makers, networking with other grantees and actors, drafting alternative reports, expanding national disability movements by increasing grantees’ awareness on the diversity of persons with disabilities, and

<sup>61</sup> Levine et al., 2020

developing press releases, just to name a few of the different ways POs support grantees through their projects.

*“DRF also provides information sharing. Whether it's in the form of flyers, books, or website information or anything else. We want to know about an issue. They share information, like that. So, we ask questions, they can answer. They can provide the information we need.” - Grantee*

64. Given the blurred lines between TA and organizational strengthening pointed in **Finding 1**, the numbers around actual use of the DRF TA – especially of the embedded modality – may not provide an accurate picture of grantees’ actual access to the DRF TA. In addition, due to some inaccessible features of the grant management software used by DRF (called Zengine), some information was either missing from or inconsistent in the grants database (e.g., information on whether grants had an embedded component, some descriptive data on the grantees), thus reducing the completeness of the picture of TA access through the embedded grant modality.

**Finding 3: TA has supported grantees at the individual and organizational levels. It has helped them to gain confidence to fight for their rights, network with other actors, access international fora and events, and carry out successful advocacy efforts.**

65. The data collected suggests that accessed TA contributed to grantees’ advocacy in three ways:

- **directly to specific ongoing advocacy efforts** by, for instance, supporting grantees in conducting legal reviews of specific draft laws, policies or regulations
- **directly to broader advocacy efforts** by, for instance, providing grantees with the knowledge on the CRPD and other human rights legal framework and related monitoring and reporting systems and spaces, and on human rights-based advocacy, this being knowledge that grantees would then use across their advocacy work
- **indirectly to broader advocacy efforts** by strengthening grantees’ organization systems and practices, which contributed to grantees being able to access new resources or better aligning their work with the organization’s values

66. In Fiji and Indonesia, in the case of emergent OPDs representing traditionally marginalized groups, TA has been more than an additional component of DRF support and has become an enabler of transformation at the individual and organizational levels. For individual members of the grantee organizations, TA accessed in the form of training around the CRPD articles was helpful to gain knowledge around their human rights as individuals equal to all other citizens and human beings. In the case of these individual members of the grantees, this knowledge and its exercise translated into a sort of “boost,” a term used by a grantee, to their self-esteem and confidence in sharing their perspectives (oftentimes for the first time), thus enabling them to be part of consultation processes with other grantees or other actors – whether the government, family, community, or the disability movement – and raise their awareness. In Fiji, for example, interviewed OPDs noted that accredited training and long-term capacity development opportunities<sup>62</sup> to become CRPD experts themselves have strengthened opportunities and capacity for them to be seen as important partners in national and community initiatives. This had

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<sup>62</sup> In the Pacific, TA specific to OPDs is often a collaboration between PDF, IDA, DRF and CBM Australia who partner in TA delivery.






impacts at the organizational level since these grantees became more visible and credible from the perspective of other grantees and actors (e.g., governments) who not only became aware of their existence, but also started to invite them in consultation processes. Accessed TA was also helpful to expand grantee connections with other actors, to “open horizons” and remain up to date on new developments and thinking around disability. Two DRF strategies to equip grantees for rights advocacy were effective in this sense: 1) supporting grantees’ participation in national and international meetings or conferences; and 2) organizing training activities in group settings. The opportunity to participate in these spaces provided grantees with exposure and the opportunity to make new connections, which turned out to be useful during key advocacy moments and for getting information that otherwise they would not have access to. It also helped them to be in contact with persons with other types of disabilities, thus contributing to their awareness around the diversity existing in the disability movement and among persons with disabilities.


67. At the organizational level, accessed TA contributed to some of grantees’ key wins (see **Section 4.4 Key Advocacy Achievements** for more details), supported them in carrying forward their projects, and provided them with the knowledge and skills to hold their government accountable for the implementation of the CRPD.

68. The quotes (indicated by quotation marks) and examples provided below exemplify the main ways in which DRF’s TA support has been helpful to and used by grantees.

	<p><b>Networking:</b></p> <p>“The DRF network of contacts and partners has also proven to be indispensable in allowing us to make contact with key stakeholders in various institutions related to our efforts regarding legislative advocacy”</p> <p>“DRF has expanded us a lot with networks at home and abroad to support our advocacy work during this time... We leverage and follow up on the network provided by DRF. At the national level, we have been greatly helped by DRF's assistance in opening a network of OPDs at the local level in the formulation of social protection policy papers. At the international level, we are greatly helped to contact several international experts in providing input on our advocacy.” (TA Learning Review Summary)</p> <p>“We were part of the [DRF] Talanoa sessions and we even had a session where we led the discussion. They were really good. And after learning from there we have our own sessions with members [i.e., other OPDs representing the deaf community] from the [name of the region removed] community.”</p> <p>“I would say that DRF was our first coalition program. And it also opened opportunities for how we approached our other grantees. And we like following the same concept, because we see that it has a solid and very equitable program. Where we see all the initiative comes together rather than focusing on one initiative.”</p>
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	<p><b>Raising awareness of legal rights by gaining or deepening knowledge on the CRPD and other human rights frameworks and systems</b></p> <p>“Because, friends [i.e., other members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) disability community] are still very unfamiliar with information about HIV/AIDS, stigma, discrimination so what we offer to DRF [i.e., the project funded by DRF] is that we give them [i.e., to the members of the LGBTQI disability community] basic knowledge about HIV / AIDS, about stigma discrimination, gender then we also give them an understanding of CRPD, basic advocacy, how to use social media.[...] they also don't understand what CRPD is, so with this training, this year they have started to be able to advocate for themselves. [...] They have started to have the courage to voice their needs.”</p> <p>“Then we also wrote the CEDAW and CRPD reports. At that time, we formed a working group to develop and write the UNCPRD shadow report.”</p>
	<p><b>Reviewing policies, programs, draft laws, local regulations with a disability-inclusive perspective</b></p> <p>Part of the TA helped the Association of Lawyers with Disabilities in Nigeria (ALDIN, (a DRF grantee) to get training on conducting some in-depth legal analysis, which has in turn helped to advocate for some legal reforms.</p> <p>As a result of the improved capacity received through the TA which has better enabled the organization to conduct strategic advocacy, government has now institutionalised some disability inclusion service such as employment of sign language interpreters in [name of the State removed for confidentiality] state university teaching hospital and state broadcasting service.<sup>63</sup></p>
	<p><b>Strengthening organizational systems (policies, tools, budgeting, monitoring, reporting, etc.)</b></p> <p>“ [...] with the support from DRF, we started to think that it was very important for us [to have organizational policies on child protection and on prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment]. So finally, we allocated [DRF] funds for the training [on the policies]. Now we have the policy.”</p> <p>As a result of the increase in organizational capacity and its staff, the grantee's organizational policies were updated and the government officials were able to issue a new quality assurance certification to the grantee. This helps to show to the government that the grantee is stronger and improving its quality to adhere to best standard practices.</p>

<sup>63</sup> Disability Not A Barrier Initiative (DINABI), 2023

	<p>Through DRF's support, the grantee strengthened proposal writing skills and put in place some needed institutional mechanisms (effective financial management and partners relations) which have successfully contributed to the portfolio growth of the organization. The grantee recently received two additional grants.</p> <p>"And with a grant, we have activities to hold workshops to be able to hear from our members and be able to review and amend our constitution and policies. With technical assistance from DRF, we have had tremendous support ... who have been there with us along the way. [In addition] we have had really good talanoa sessions and they have been really good and really supportive."</p>
	<p><b>Enabling disability-inclusive processes by supporting grantees with accessibility measures and exchanges</b></p> <p>Provision of reasonable accommodation and accessibility: sign-language interpreter or typists, which make meetings with other actors possible and grantees' participation possible.</p> <p>Thanks to DRF annual grantee convening, grantees in [name of the country removed] learned about persons with deafblindness. One of the participating grantees considered this transformative for their organization in terms of advocacy approach and capacity building and awareness.</p>

### Successful TA cases

**Finding 4: Successful cases of TA were found in each of the three countries. These cases relate to the CRPD shadow reporting in the case of Nigeria, the provision of legal expert in the case of Indonesia, and the creation of safe spaces for conversations among grantees in the Pacific region.**

69. Cases of successful TA were identified by grantees in each of the three countries. However, the list of "success cases" presented below is not exhaustive since the 1.5-hour interviews held with grantees also covered the other evaluation areas and, therefore, there was limited time for grantees to share all their experiences with successful TA.

*"Through the grant convening meeting, we learnt a lot on how to facilitate alternative reporting, what exactly disability rights approach means in line with CRPD and how to track policy and harvest outcomes." - Grantee*

70. In Nigeria, building on the knowledge gained through DRF's TA support on how to conduct research through a methodology expert back in 2018, the Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) conducted a research study on the access to COVID-19 palliatives for persons with disabilities. This research was then used by CCD to advocate for a disability-inclusive COVID-19 response<sup>64</sup> by disseminating the report and then conducting research on the accessibility of COVID-19 vaccine centres. The organization is also deploying the skills to conduct additional research on universal human rights and persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

<sup>64</sup> Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), 2020

71. CCD also deployed a DRF TA grant to build the capacity of the DRF grantees and other OPDs on the CRPD, alternative shadow reporting, and rights-based advocacy using CRPD principles through a [1-week training held in October 2021](#).<sup>65</sup> This was the first training for the DRF grantees in Nigeria on CRPD alternative reporting and on how to interact with the CRPD Committee. As a result of this training, She Writes Woman (SWW) – a DRF grantee who attended the training – was able to contribute to the Nigeria CRPD shadow report (which was in drafting stage at the moment of writing this evaluation report) with focus on issues affecting persons with psychosocial disabilities, as well as to develop a position paper on the effects of CRPD implementation on persons with psychosocial disability, which was then presented at the UN Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD side event, in addition to having its Executive Director and Founder to deliver an opening statement at the 14th UN COSP.<sup>66</sup> In addition, with the support from the DRF Program Director, SWW also completed its first [alternative report](#),<sup>67</sup> which was then submitted to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) in Nigeria in November 2021. This report highlights gaps in the treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Nigeria. The knowledge and exposure gained by SWW through this process contributed to position this grantee as a key OPD in Nigeria representing and promoting the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Eventually, SWW was registered with NCPWD as the first organization of women with psychosocial disabilities. What is fundamental is the relationship born between SWW and NCPWD; thanks to this relationship, a desk has been set up at the NCPWD to provide social services and information on available support service for the public and for persons with psychosocial disabilities. This desk could also refer people for help on psychosocial-related facilities and more.

*“We will ensure that the dehumanizing treatment by the psychiatric hospitals and even the society is put to an end”. “We will partner with She Writes Woman Initiative, the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders to get the bill on psychosocial disability before President is signed into law so that the group can be protected by law” -Executive Secretary of NCPWD*

72. Finally, SWW has used the CRPD training to train people with psychosocial disabilities to make them hold authorities accountable for the implementation of the CRPD.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Ogwu, 2021

<sup>66</sup> United Nations Headquarters, 2021

<sup>67</sup> She Writes Woman Mental Health Initiative, 2021

<sup>68</sup> DRF/DRAF TA consultations.

73. In Indonesia, DRF jointly facilitated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disability Gerard Quinn in the Judicial Review of Article 433 of the Indonesia's Civil Code as the international legal expert to



support IMHA in this review. In this process, DRF also supported IMHA through amicus curiae from Human Rights Watch and from an OPD from South America. Article 433 discriminates against persons with mental disabilities by stating that all persons with mental and intellectual disabilities should be put under guardianship. This article deprives persons with mental disabilities of their legal capacity and, thereby of their rights. The provision of the UN Special Rapporteur was considered as a key contribution to the process by being one of the three key factors<sup>69</sup> determining the success of a judicial review. The judicial review was submitted to the Constitutional Court in September 2022<sup>70</sup> and 11 hearing sessions have been held as of 3 May 2023.<sup>71</sup>

74. Another case of successful TA provided in Indonesia is the case of HWDI, who used the DRF funds to hire a TA consultant to capacitate its sub-national offices in the monitoring of the implementation of the Disability Law and local regulation.

75. In the case of Fiji, one of DRF's forms of technical assistance was through the organization of *talanoas* with grantees, who had asked DRF to support the creation of spaces for them to come together to learn from each other and share each other's expertise. *Talanoa* is a term shared by Tongans, Samoans, and Fijians that refers to a conversation, chat, and sharing of ideas that was introduced to Western methods by Konai Helu Thaman.<sup>72</sup> These *talanoas*, which started during the COVID-19 pandemic, were considered by the DRF staff and one of the interviewed grantees as a very good initiative as they turned out to be a supportive space to share about and raise awareness on the diversity existing within the disability movement.

76. Finally, HWDI (Indonesia), the Disability Rights Advocacy Centre and CCD (Nigeria), and FDPF (Fiji) were also identified by the DRF staff as successful cases of TA as members of these organizations have become TA providers. This is indeed one of DRF's intentions around TA: that the provided TA support translates into sustainable knowledge transfer so that grantees can reduce over time their reliance on external consultants for their advocacy work and eventually become TA providers. Limited internal resources in DRF to develop a sequenced and systemic strategy to support OPDs evolve as TA providers, OPDs' staff turnover, OPD shortage of staff, reduced sharing of learning opportunities within OPDs, and the approach to TA as an ad hoc short-term activity have made it unrealistic for grantees in Indonesia and Nigeria to be able to become independent from outsourced TA. However, consulted grantees expressed a strong appetite to be able to take on much of the technical support of disability inclusion themselves.

<sup>69</sup> The other two factors being the strength of the argument made to support the case and the existence of fact witnesses.

<sup>70</sup> Risalah Sidang, 2022

<sup>71</sup> *Tracking Perkara*, 2022

<sup>72</sup> Helu-Thaman, 1997

## Factors affecting the access and use of TA

**Finding 5:** In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, other common factors to the three countries that negatively affected access to and use of the DRF TA include insufficient communication by DRF on TA and limited availability of TA providers with disability-inclusive experience in the countries. Among the most marginalized groups, language is another factor that affected access.

77. This evaluation covers part of a period that was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions to mobility and social distancing. In many cases grantees – thanks to the flexible support from DRF – switched from the originally planned advocacy activities to service delivery type of activities to provide livelihood support to their members. They also conducted awareness-raising activities to inform persons with disabilities about protective measures and vaccination. This certainly affected access to TA since advocacy – except for COVID-19 related advocacy for disability-inclusive responses – was not the priority during the pandemic. Data collection in the three countries highlighted the following additional factors affecting access and use of TA:

- Inadequate communication by DRF around TA, which caused limited knowledge among grantees of TA’s objectives and purposes:** The communication provided by DRF to grantees appears insufficient, not clear enough, and not regular enough. Indeed, TA-related information has usually been shared with grantees only at the time of the application for funding, with limited or no prior information session or material shared with them to explain the different modalities of the DRF TA, depending on country and years of being a DRF grantee. In addition, the information available on TA in the application template was considered by some of the interviewed grantees as unclear thus requiring – in most cases – back-and-forth between the grantees and the Program Officers to get further clarification on what TA is, its purpose, and how to access it. There has also been very limited sharing by DRF around TA experiences and learning during grantee convenings. Compounded by the fact that grantees have also experienced staff turnover and that first-time applicants to DRF have limited familiarity with the range of their potential support and processes, the existing communication has proven to be inadequate, thus contributing to a lack of clarity among grantees on the DRF TA and with some grantees not having used the embedded TA for advocacy-specific purposes.

*“Whenever there is a question, I prefer not to answer. Usually there are forms [referring to application forms] that must be filled in. I often don't fill them in because I'm confused. What does this mean. Like what was the assistance earlier. Is it reinforcement training or something like that... I'm still confused. What do I think we need. I'm sure other friends [i.e., other grantees] are also like me. Confused too. I think DRF needs to socialize what TA is.” - Grantee*

*“At the beginning we felt like strangers because it was the first time. So maybe my friends in other organizations, I don't know what they are like, but for us personally is still new. So we were still confused about what to do, how to contact the right people to provide this training, what the people should be like, where the facilitators should come from and what kind of experience they should have, what kind of CV they should have. So it takes a lot of thinking too. I have to find a good network; I have to find good facilitators. Because if we don't find the*

*right facilitator, it will be difficult for people with disabilities. Because for example, the delivery of language must be simple, easy to understand. This is what [name of the interviewee] had difficulty within the beginning.” - Grantee*

- Shortage of disability-inclusive TA providers:** In the three countries, the shortage of disability-inclusive TA providers was pointed out as an important barrier to using TA support. Even those grantees equipped with national and international connections recognized the challenges of accessing disability-inclusive experts to support them in their initiatives due to the shortage of these experts at the local and regional levels and the limited time availability of the existing ones (given that they are in high demand). In addition, the type of expertise required by some grantees has also become more specialized with time – from “simple” CRPD-informed legal analysis of laws, policies, and regulations to disability-inclusive proposals or solutions specific to thematic areas and attentive of intersectionality – thus making it even more difficult to find TA providers with the required profile. As highlighted by a grantee, it is like having children, one project bringing to another project which may bring the grantee to work in new areas where it doesn’t have expertise. In addition, even when expertise has been gained, there is a need to remain up to date with new developments. This issue was also identified by the World Bank in a rapid assessment made in Nigeria<sup>73</sup>, where it stated that “With the current drive for disability-inclusive programming, occasioned by Nigeria’s increasing commitment to disability inclusion, there will likely to be a surge in the demand for expertise in disability-inclusive works. There is currently a dearth of such expertise in the country. It will therefore be crucial to develop the capacity of individuals with disabilities, their parents and caregivers, and organizations of persons with disabilities in terms of disability inclusion. Specifically, they can receive training to become trainers for disability awareness, rights, and inclusion, ensuring a pool of knowledgeable trainers who can collaborate with other stakeholders, such as the duty bearers, service providers, and development actors.”
- Limited accessibility of the English and written languages:** For some interviewed grantees, particularly those whose first language is not English, who have low literacy skills or low levels of formal education, and/or who are deaf or deafblind, there are additional challenges in accessing the information provided by the DRF on TA – and more broadly on their support.

*“So this is our difficulty when we open the portal, everything is in English, sir. Maybe everything is already set in English. This is what makes it difficult to us. Difficulty when we have to translate what the question means first.” - Grantee*

*“So there are many high language terms [used by DRF and other actors]...it's high language that is difficult for friends [i.e., grantee individual members] to understand. So there are still many terms that are not understood...So many have difficulty understanding English...Because yes, there are some emails sent by DRF that must be*

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<sup>73</sup> World Bank, 2020

*recognized that the language, for friends, is difficult to understand.” -  
Grantee*

78. One respondent pointed out other factors that may have affected TA access and include: i) the fear among grantees that the embedded TA component could increase the overall grant amount, thus reducing the likelihood of getting the funding support from DRF; and ii) the change in DRF’s reporting system, which moved from a flexible email-based system to a stricter web portal system not allowing the possibility of asking for TA support at a later stage of the project implementation. These factors were not mentioned by interviewed grantees, though we believe it is important to reference them as they are likely to have affected access to the DRF TA and, therefore, they may need to be considered by DRF moving forward.

### 4.3 Diversification of the Movement

79. The evaluation also examined the diversification of the disability movement, assessing DRF’s specific contribution in response to the following evaluation question:

- How has DRF’s support contributed to diversification within the disability movement?

**Finding 6:** DRF is contributing to the diversification of the disability movement, with evidence of growing grantees’ awareness of other diverse OPDs and expanding the range of thematic issues addressed in advocacy. This has allowed for stronger collaborations between intersecting groups within the disability movement and to some extent with other movements that impact OPDs.

*“The more diverse the disability movement, the better we can have an inclusive society.” –Grantee*

*“Diversification ensures that a broader range of perspectives, experiences, and needs are represented within the disability movement. This allows for a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. By amplifying diverse voices, the movement becomes more representative and can effectively advocate for the rights and well-being of all individuals with disabilities.” - Grantee*

80. The increase in inclusivity of the disability movement reflecting diverse perspectives of persons with disabilities is evidenced at a global level through DRF’s available results reporting that illustrates progressive growth since 2020 in this area.

81. As a target, DRF aims to maintain a minimum percentage of grants awarded to OPDs, and in practice this goal has been consistently met and/or exceeded. Since DRF began measuring their engagement with marginalized persons with disabilities after 2020, DRF reported a total of 56 grantees identifying as a marginalized group across their entire portfolio, which more than doubled the following year to 134 grantees in 2022, exceeding targets for both years.<sup>74</sup> Since 2021, DRF has awarded 54% of

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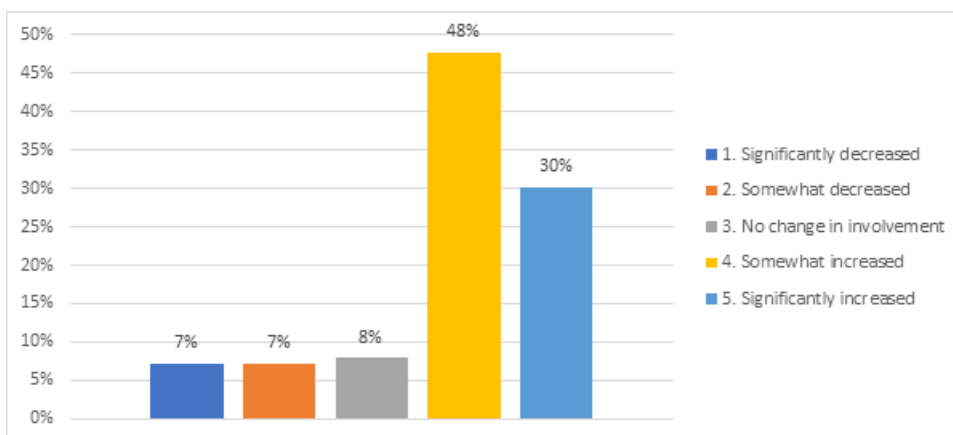
<sup>74</sup> DRAF-DRF 2020-2024 Logframe\_with31Mar2022achievements (internal document)



grants awarded to OPDs with a focus on marginalized groups across all target countries.<sup>75</sup> As part of their strategy to maintain a diverse portfolio, DRF has balanced the funding to marginalized OPDs while also simultaneously including repeat grantees and more well-established organizations to support a movement-building approach. This progress is aligned with intended goals set as part of the Gender Guidelines Implementation Plan and progress being tracked against these targets. For example, as part of outreach, in 2021 (Year 2) DRF added a gender priority area to grantmaking guidelines, which reflected 37% of pooled fund grants awarded that year. This was complemented by beginning to offer and encourage gender auditing as part of TA and OPD strengthening support that was embedded in grants.

82. According to latest DRF Annual Grantee Survey data available for 2023, ninety-eight OPDs (i.e., 78% of the OPDs completing the survey) reported an increase in involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities in the wider disability community, with 48% of OPDs reporting that their involvement had ‘somewhat increased’ and 30% reporting that their involvement had ‘significantly increased’. In contrast, 14% of OPDs reported a decrease in involvement, with 7% reporting that the involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities had ‘somewhat decreased’ and 7% reporting that their involvement had ‘significantly decreased’.

**Figure 1: Percentage of OPDs reporting change in involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities**



Source: DRF Annual Grantee Survey 2023.

83. Positive trends of increasing diversification are reaffirmed at the country level in the three selected countries. Stakeholders consulted shared the view that the disability movement as a whole is diversifying, with noted support from DRF for that diversification. There is a perceived shift from a more siloed focus on specific impairment groups to broad advocacy efforts that include all persons with disabilities. This has been bolstered by DRF’s support for increasing awareness of different ‘disability types’ and the visibility of excluded groups, as well as facilitated cross-movement collaboration between OPDs. This is supported by previous independent evaluation findings (global and Pacific Island countries [PICs] evaluations) which have cited positive impacts of growing diversification, with disability movements in countries where DRF is not present notably not as diverse as in the DRF target countries.

<sup>75</sup> This trend of a maintaining a consistent percentage might signal that DRF/DRAF have met a ceiling in the percentage of grants that can be given to marginalized groups while maintaining a diverse portfolio that simultaneously includes repeat grantees and more well-established organizations to support a movement building approach.

## Increasing Awareness & Visibility of Excluded Groups

*“...In the last 5 years (DRF) has accommodated a wider variety of disabilities as well as intersectional issues, (such as) LGBTQI. This becomes important to add to the diversity of issues.” - DRF Staff*

84. Overall, there is an increased awareness of the intersectionality of disability,<sup>76</sup> for example in considering the intersections of gender, Indigenous identities, or SOGIESC with disability. According to progress tracked on the implementation of the Gender Guidelines, select training has been provided to some DRF staff members on gender, SOGIESC and disability intersectionality with experts from the disability, women’s and LGBTQI movements such as some staff attending a feminist conference in 2022. In 2020, training opportunities were provided for DRF Program Team members to learn about gender transformative approaches as part of the in-person Program Retreat, but this activity has not been carried over since.

85. The disability movement is progressively acknowledging and addressing the intersections of multiple identities, which has led to more nuanced and targeted advocacy efforts that consider the unique barriers faced by individuals with intersecting identities. There has been a shift from a one-size-fits-all approach to one that instead recognizes the diversity and heterogeneity of the disability movement.

*“Diversification promotes intersectionality by recognizing that individuals with disabilities may also belong to other marginalized groups based on factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.” - Grantee*

86. Diversification was consistent across all three country contexts, with some nuances in the extent and type of diversity. Grantees in all three countries shared that there is increasing visibility and inclusion of OPDs focusing on intellectual disabilities and mental health, with different degrees of progress towards gender diversification and the representation of women-led OPDs, and less consistent progress regarding the inclusion of SOGIESC dimensions. For example, current anti-LGBTQI legislation in Nigeria is a significant barrier to collaboration. In Indonesia, on the other hand, there have been important strides in advocating for those at the intersections of disability, SOGIESC and people living with HIV/AIDs, and growing acceptance of LGBTQI leaders in the disability movement following a history of harsh treatment and homophobic discrimination in Indonesia.<sup>19</sup> In the case of Kupang area, DRF grantee Perkumpulan Tuna Daksa Kristiani (PERSANI) have been approached by other organizations working on gender diversity to join the program as mentors to LGBTQI persons. In Fiji, there have also been efforts to diversify the disability movement with the inclusion of the Disability Pride Hub (DPH) as an emergent DRF grantee (with DRF emergent grants given to newly established OPDs). There is evidence of more DRF funding opportunities to create awareness around diversity and inclusion, such as awareness-raising on the barriers for the LGBTQI movement in Nigeria. For example, DRF supported Women Health Equal Rights (WHER) to conduct a needs assessment of LGBTQI persons with disabilities to understand their contextual situation (e.g., the legal context of harmful anti-LGBTQI laws), barriers and enablers.<sup>77</sup>

87. The evaluation revealed signs of gender diversification across all three contexts, both in terms of internal diversity within OPDs (e.g., through hiring and staffing) and an increase in women-led OPDs. Between 2021 and 2022, the percentage of DRF’s pooled fund grants to women-led OPDs increased by 1%

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<sup>76</sup> For example, see HWDI’s publication on the intersectionality of CEDAW and CRPD.

<sup>77</sup> The evaluation team was unable to get copy of the report during the timeframe of the evaluation.

passing from 15% to 16%. These percentages are higher than those in previous years; between 2008 and 2016, 13.8% of total grants made during this period had been awarded to women-led OPDs. Interviews with grantees emphasized DRF's deliberate efforts to fund women-led OPDs and support women in taking on more and more of a leadership role in the past few years. In line with communications and outreach goals outlined in the Gender Guidelines Implementation Plan, the DRF has showcased the stories and work of many women-led OPDs and on social media and e-blasts. For example, see the blog post on the three winners of the 2022 Diana Samarasan Disability Rights Advocacy Award to "powerhouse intersectional feminists" and all women with disabilities in Nigeria. These efforts have increased awareness on specific barriers affecting women with disabilities such as disability and gender-based violence, sexual reproductive health rights, as well as barriers for women with disabilities to become leaders in the disability movement. Women's leadership in the disability movement was especially prominent in Indonesia. In comparison to other country contexts that are largely dominated by male leadership, the disability movement in Indonesia is led by women, with a number of strong female disability activists and women-led OPDs supported by DRF.

*"DRF supports women leaders in the disability movement...in Indonesia, many of the leaders are strong women." – Grantee*

*"Many of our friends in this region have also become women activists... With confidence, and the capacity they already have from their activities and experiences [gained through DRF's support], they can be vocal. They can lead and can invite more people to carry out activities that are beneficial for the fulfillment of the rights of women with disabilities." - Grantee*

88. Grantees reported that OPDs supported by DRF increasingly represent a broader range of different types of disabilities that have been traditionally at the margins, or not recognized as disabilities. This has made those disabilities more visible at a national level. In particular, stakeholders highlighted increased awareness and representation of mental health and psychosocial disabilities among DRF grantees, resulting in achievements such as the Mental Health Bill in Indonesia and the psychosocial disability desk within NCPWD in Nigeria. This shift reflects a more comprehensive understanding of disability and the unique needs and challenges faced by individuals with different impairments.

*"The sharing of personal stories, data, and information by different organizations within the disability movement has helped us gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges, experiences, and needs of individuals with psychosocial disabilities. This knowledge has allowed us to tailor our programs, services, and advocacy efforts more effectively, ensuring they are responsive to the diverse circumstances and requirements of the individuals we serve." - Grantee*

89. Grantees highlighted that the lived experiences of the DRF staff contributed to the increased visibility of disability groups that have been historically marginalized by the mainstream disability movement. DRF has also modeled inclusive leadership with the inclusion of marginalized disabilities at the strategic level, and the recognition of those frequently not considered within the umbrella of disability. The DRF staff have also encouraged reflections on who is not represented at the table and encourage grantees to think critically about groups that are not yet brought into the movement; the DRF staff have used information about such gaps to inform who they reach out to and to think through how DRF can support them. For example, this motivated the inclusion of DPH in Fiji, who are now establishing themselves as strong advocates in the PICs region.

90. Interviews highlighted the importance of DRF's support to emerging OPDs (often representing marginalized groups), recognizing funding agencies are much less willing to fund emerging grassroots civil

society organizations. This is reaffirmed by previous reflections shared as part of the [2015 Learning Evaluation](#)<sup>78</sup> where DRF’s attention to marginalized groups was “highly valued” and contributed to the perception of DRF as “the only donor willing to ‘risk’ funding organizations that are viewed as weak (from an organizational standpoint) by other more traditional mainstream donors.” This dedicated focus is visible in looking at the number of pooled fund grants awarded to emergent OPDs not previously active in the public realm across DRF’s entire portfolio, where targets of prioritizing 13% of pooled fund grants to be allocated to emergent OPDs are met according to results reported for 2021 and 2022. This is intentionally crafted as part of a movement building approach where DRF necessarily balances their grant portfolios at country levels between more well-established OPDs and newer, more marginalized groups.<sup>79</sup>

91. As mentioned in **Finding 1**, grantees also shared that DRF’s OPD Strengthening grants contributed to improved institutional capacities of marginalized OPDs that allowed for their exposure, enhanced visibility, and participation in disability fora. Consequentially, these OPDs are better positioned to successfully seek out additional funding support and continue to grow their organizations. This was further supported by DRF’s intentional outreach efforts, both formally and informally, in encouraging marginalized OPDs to submit grant proposals. For example, this includes site visits and grantee convenings, as well as DRF Program Officers reaching out and responding to enquiries through phone calls.

92. Increased awareness has been made possible by DRF’s advocacy support, where OPDs have played a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and diversification by sharing data and personal stories to raise awareness. The DRF Coalition Grants have provided significant assistance in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities and lobbying for decision-makers to prioritize disability inclusion. Grantees also perceive that increased awareness has translated into more spaces for conversation around different dimensions of diversity. This has been facilitated by DRF supporting safe spaces and processes for empowerment, for example with DPH in Fiji and Perkumpulan Warna Disabilitas (PERWADI) in Indonesia. Interviews showed that grantees in Indonesia are now becoming more familiar with LGBTQI issues and the challenges faced by this group in accessing services like HIV/AIDS treatment or reproductive health services. DRF has further contributed by supporting cross-disability advocacy, such as the enactment of the Sexual Violence Law in Indonesia, the National Disability Act in Nigeria, or advocating for inclusive COVID-19 responses in Fiji and Nigeria, which banded together different disability groups through unity in purpose to achieve national-level action that is inclusive of all persons with disabilities, including marginalized groups.

## Increasing Collaboration on Cross-Cutting Issues

*“Overall, the increased diversity within the disability movement has brought about a greater sense of solidarity, collaboration, and empowerment for our organization.” (Grantee)*

93. Grantees reported that DRF has supported cross-movement collaboration by facilitating interactions among diverse OPDs through mechanisms such as the Coalition Grants and grantee convenings. Annual grantee convenings often served as a platform for OPDs representing marginalized groups to share their experiences on their work and create awareness on the plight of their communities and their achievements.

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<sup>78</sup> Micaro et al., 2015

<sup>79</sup> 2019-2020\_DRAF\_DFID Annual Review\_FINAL (internal document)

*“The collaborative environment fostered by the disability movement has provided us with opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing best practices with other organizations and advocates. Through these interactions, we have been able to broaden our perspectives, gain new insights, and enhance our approaches to supporting individuals with psychosocial disabilities.” - Grantee*

94. This exposure has gradually influenced mainstream OPDs to include underrepresented groups in their programs. For example, there has been increasing collaborations between OPDs and organizations for persons with deafblindness in Indonesia and to some extent in Nigeria, however there are currently no organizations working with this population in the Pacific. In Indonesia, in addition to the collaboration with its fiscal sponsor PPUA (Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Disabilitas), Perkumpulan Tuli Buta Indonesia (PELITA) reported several other instances of collaboration with OPDs and DRF grantees: with IDHOLA (Indonesian Deaf-Hard of Hearing Law and Advocacy) and Persatuan Tunanetra Indonesia (PERTUNI) Daerah Khusus Ibukota (DKI) Jakarta (Association of persons with visual disability-Jakarta office) in building the organizational capacity of PELITA in advocacy techniques, by assigning two resource persons; with IMHA in several activities, such as social protection, involving PELITA in the formation of PJS DKI Jakarta, and in participating in the committee that oversaw the launching of a book on forgotten people; with PETKI DKI Jakarta (Christian Organization of Persons with Visual Disability) who provided braille training to PELITA members; with the National General Accessibility Movement (GAUN -Gerakan Aksesibilitas Umum Nasional) to provide input on public transportation accessibility for persons with disabilities in the trial activities of the light rapid transportation. In Nigeria, Lionheart Ability Leaders International Foundation – an OPD and DRF grantee whose work focuses on deafblindness – worked with the Nigeria National Association of the Deaf (another DRF grantee) in advocating for sign language to be recognized as one of the official languages in the country. In addition, in Nigeria, the National Association for the Blind FCT chapter (NAB FCT) included the challenges faced by persons with deafblindness in their advocacy towards the passage of the Copyright Bill. The Bill was signed into law in 2023 and the advocacy conducted was successful in ensuring a provision in the law for books to be produced in an accessible format for the blind and persons with low vision or albinism.

95. In Fiji, DRF’s support with the Talanoa was another important opportunity for marginalized OPDs to share their experiences and advocacy, with the perception that the Talanoa *“shows how diverse the movement is becoming.”* The focus of PICs talanoa #3 focused on understanding SOGIESC diversity led by DPH in Fiji and contributed to the Gender Guidelines Implementation Plan (GGIP) goal of supporting TA priorities of emerging intersectional leaders in the disability rights, feminist and LGBTQI movements to become better equipped to advocate for intersectional advocacy.

96. In Nigeria, NCPWD has announced its upcoming partnership with SWW to try and bridge the gap to ensure the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Diversification has also enabled networking among different organizations, communities, and individuals within the disability movement. For example, WhatsApp groups of DRF grantees in Indonesia have been described as increasingly pluralistic, including a wider variety of different disability groups.

97. Diversification has been exemplified by the expanded scope in thematic areas for the DRF grantees, with greater diversity in the issues and organizations represented and consequentially greater reach of advocacy. Specifically, grantees reported working within the following range of disability agendas: elderly with disabilities, children with disabilities, LGBTQI with disabilities, the deaf-blind community, psychosocial disabilities, children in conflict with the law, people living with HIV/AIDs, leprosy, and those in emergency or disaster risk reduction (DRR) contexts. For example, in disaster-prone areas in Indonesia, OPDs such as PERSANI (in partnership with the Regional Disaster Management Agency

and DRR forums) are playing a growing role in raising awareness on the needs of persons with disabilities during disaster response.

98. With this expansion in scope, DRF has also supported important collaborations on cross-cutting issues with non-disability focused organizations and ‘non-OPDs’. For example, this has included collaborations between PERSANI (a DRF grantee) and a German international non-governmental organization (INGO) working on inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (Arbeiter Samariter Bund) in Indonesia, and an inclusive National Action Plan for the prevention of violence against women that considers Gender Equality, Disability, Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Fiji. In Nigeria, increased programmatic and institutional capacity has attracted opportunities for collaboration between Disability not a Barrier Initiative (DINABI) and other partners working on the intersection of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and disability, such as Female Genital Mutilation with women’s rights groups.

99. Growing diversification in addressing the intersection of disability and sexual and reproductive health rights has resulted in important cross-movement collaborations. For example, grantees report recent victories for reproductive rights for Indonesian women and girls with disabilities that were made possible by a dialogue supported by DRF in October 2018 that convened women with disabilities and other women’s rights activists in Jakarta. The convening resulted in concerted advocacy efforts through the DRF grants to prevent gender-based violence and promote inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights, successfully advocating for comprehensive legislation addressing sexual violence against *all* women to include women with disabilities. There was conservative push-back throughout this process (with the DRF staff supporting grantees to organize emergency meetings to respond), but the Bill was successfully passed into law in April 2022.

100. Additionally, DRF has supported emerging organizations like PERWADI in Indonesia working at the margins with disabled persons living with HIV/AIDS. Through these efforts there is the growing perception that the women’s rights movement is beginning to gradually mainstream disability considerations, with feminist groups more consciously and proactively and intentionally being inclusive of women with disabilities. For example, HWDI in Indonesia submitted a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) alternative report in 2020 focusing on issues faced by women with disabilities, which was informed by data collection conducted by women with disabilities on the situation of women with disabilities in 11 provinces (Central Java, East Java, Lampung, South Sumatera, Aceh, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Central Borneo, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, Bangka Belitung).<sup>80</sup>

*“What we have done in the past few years is very consciously include our friends and colleagues from the disability movement in our programs. We are very conscious about it... as much as we can try and be as inclusive as we can” - External Actor*

101. The increased awareness of diverse disability groups has also contributed to greater collaboration with government officials to integrate the inclusion of diverse OPDs and disability issues in government strategies, policies, and frameworks. Grantees noted government actors taking greater action to increase the representation of underrepresented groups. In Nigeria, NCPWD has partnered with SWW to set up a support desk purposely for persons with psychosocial disability. This desk is expected to provide information and input specific to persons with psychosocial disability to the Commission’s services and programs. This has enabled the movement to expand its policy priorities to address a wider range of disability-related issues and broaden the policy agenda. For example, this has included advocating for

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<sup>80</sup> DRF Global Data for Logframe and Learning\_31Mar2022\_MASTER\_12Jul2022 (internal document)

inclusive education, accessible healthcare, employment opportunities, social protection, and community-based support services. In Indonesia, the audience held by the [PELITA with the government](#)<sup>81</sup> has raised their awareness of the community of persons with deafblindness, thus potentially creating more opportunities to accommodate the needs of the community of persons with deafblindness.

102. Collaboration has facilitated the sharing of knowledge, resources, and best practices, contributing to collective learning and more effective strategies for advocacy, service provision, and social change. Moreover, grantees expressed that diversification through collaborative efforts have strengthened the overall impact and influence of the disability movement. Ultimately, strengthened collaboration among OPDs through joint awareness efforts has contributed to magnified visibility and amplified voices in the disability movement; as one grantee expressed “*amplified voices and consensus is key*” to advancing advocacy agendas.

**Finding 7: Diversification of the disability movement is an ongoing journey. Several barriers and points of division within the disability movement and hindering external factors remain, holding back the potential for further diversification of the movement.**

103. While there have been significant strides in all three country contexts, the evaluation findings underscore that the journey to diversification is not yet complete, and more investment is needed where barriers to diversification remain. Initial shifts in increasing awareness of other movements to mainstream disability are well underway (see **Finding 6** above), with more and more organizations recognizing the importance of inclusive dialogue and including disability stakeholders as part of consultations. However, this initial shift in consciousness needs to be accompanied by accessibility measures to make participation possible: there is the thought and offer for a seat at the table, but the table is not yet fully accessible. Moreover, there is a need to further mainstream intersectional issues (e.g., women’s rights, climate justice) *within* the disability movement, so as not to rely on other movements to mainstream disability. For example, inviting feminists into disability spaces as observers to listen to disability champions for greater learning exchange and cross-advocacy.

104. There has also been limited socialization of the DRF Gender Guidelines, with outreach on this interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with little to no awareness or reference to the Guidelines by grantees in the diversification of the disability movement.

105. Grantees also identified a few important areas where the needs and experiences of persons with disability are not yet mainstreamed across *all* intersecting movements, and not yet considered, nor consulted or included as part of the decision-making process; as a result, OPDs are restricted in their capacity to contribute to advocacy around these areas. Interviewees (including grantees and external stakeholders) reported very few OPDs working in the climate sector, with a lack of awareness on the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities.

106. Some interviewees expressed that there is still some persisting gatekeeping and impairment rivalry in competing for resources, which contributes to OPDs at times continuing to work in silos. There is also the need to reinforce advocacy within the disability movement to further increase the recognition of ‘non-visible’ disabilities, like psychosocial disabilities.

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<sup>81</sup> More Inclusive Access For Deafblind Communities, 2022

## Points of Division

107. Challenges remain in supporting the most marginalized OPDs, with the evaluation revealing important differences in the extent to which the disability movement has opened up to certain groups. There are still socio-demographic barriers in the movement based on geographic location (across and within countries between urban and rural groups), impairment groups, intersecting identity groups, and age groups. As a result, there are many marginalized groups that continue to be underrepresented, and these voices remain unheard.

108. Grantees noted key differences in the diversity of the disability movement in urban cities compared to rural settings, with rural areas significantly less diverse in OPD representation. Contributing factors include a lack of social exposure to and access to education and technology for example in rural areas that limit digital literacy.

*“(The) disability movement is much more vibrant in the urban cities. OPDs in the rural areas are still really not diverse” - Grantee*

109. Though DRF has been particularly supportive of emerging organizations that have applied for grants, it remains a challenge to bring in marginalized groups that are not yet established organizations or aware of grant application opportunities with DRF. There has been some discussion among the DRF staff on how to intensify the level of awareness raising so that grants are more accessible to emerging OPDs as part of DRF’s impact pathway towards diversification.

*“One of our main aims is reaching out to marginalized groups. But we cannot do that if we only work with fully registered OPDs. And that can cause some delays with supporting other emerging grantees.” – DRF Staff*

110. While there has been proliferation in women-led OPDs and a trend towards greater gender diversification, sufficient training for how to effectively integrate gender dimensions has not yet caught up with this growth. Interviews with grantees in Indonesia noted that further gender training is needed to equip OPDs with a deeper understanding of sources of gender inequality and how gender identity impacts the experience of disability. Currently, this awareness remains largely at the leadership level and has yet to trickle down to the grassroots level.

*“I see a gap in understanding and confidence as a woman with a disability. The gap between that and the grassroots is still very far... gender awareness of all kinds is still at the top, the top layer... there is still an uneven understanding of gender only among some leaders of organizations in big cities”- Grantee*

111. Additionally, (as mentioned above in **Finding 6**), there are more deeply rooted cultural or contextual barriers to diversification, such as related to harmful laws against LGBTQI in Nigeria that creates walls for collaboration and strengthening the work of LGBTQI OPDs in Nigeria. LGBTQI OPDs in Fiji also continue face stigma and discrimination. This is a common issue in Africa and Asia<sup>82</sup> more broadly, with either non-existent or harmful laws for LGBTQI. As such, continued investment is needed in raising awareness about persons with disabilities and SOGIESC.

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<sup>82</sup> ILGA, 2020



*“Some of us are openly supported, but for some of us, it is a challenge. We can get to the stage of being chased out of the house for being gay. So we are trying to find a way to work together, with the families and the communities.” - Grantee*

112. These cultural barriers are also accompanied by additional ethical considerations for DRF to do no harm in protecting grantees and ensuring their advocacy does not result in unintended harmful consequences. For example, in Fiji the DRF staff shared that supporting LGBTQI disability groups required a flexible approach to work with alternative fiscal sponsors (e.g., the Rainbow Pride Foundation, RPF) to support the safety and protection of persons (including grantees) who encounter structural and societal stigma and discrimination.

*“My goal is to ensure that the movement in Fiji can be more inclusive in terms of inviting that group – I am more concerned about their safety. I am worried about them not being in danger. I am having conversations about making sure their identity will not get them into violence or crisis and that they are protected.” - DRF Staff*

113. Another significant point of division within the disability movement relates to age, with a lack of age diversity within OPDs as well as among OPDs represented (e.g., children and young people with disabilities). Stakeholders in Nigeria flagged children with disabilities as a particularly marginalized group, with some challenges in working with parents, caregivers or even service-providers as intermediary advocates.

114. The evaluation also revealed limited opportunities for shared or distributed leadership, with a lack of intergenerational diversity in leadership positions of OPDs. There has been some stagnation in the leadership of OPDs, with very few ‘new faces’ emerging, which has been recognized as a field-wide challenge (see for instance the Global Disability Summit Discussion Paper by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) on how to build a stronger and more diverse collective voice).<sup>83</sup> While there have been emergent OPDs, these OPDs are often represented by disability champions that have been leading the disability movement for years. Intergenerational knowledge transfer and capacity building of young people is fundamental to advancing the diversity of the disability movement. This creates space for young people to become self-advocates and represent themselves in emerging OPDs instead of through an intermediary to speak on their behalf.

*“How do we ensure that we have the next generation of our families’ leaders ready to take up the mantle?” - External Actor*

## 4.4 Key Advocacy Achievements

115. During the Inception Phase, the evaluation team asked DRF to identify two key achievements per country where they knew that DRF had made an important contribution. As a result, the following achievements were identified by DRF:

- **Fiji:** i) Disability-inclusive COVID-19 Response; ii) Term of Reference signed between the Fiji Election Office and the Fiji Election Disability Access Working Group Committee.

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<sup>83</sup> IDA & NORAD, 2022

- **Indonesia:** i) Working Group on Respect, Protection, Fulfillment, Enforcement and Promotion of Human Rights for Persons with Mental Disabilities; ii) Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Rancangan Undang-undang tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (RUU TPKS) No 12/2022 (Sexual Violence Crime Law).
- **Nigeria:** i) National Disability Act 2019; ii) Disability-inclusive COVID-19 Response.

116. This section of the evaluation report addressed the following questions:

- How has DRF contributed to the selected key wins in the three countries?
- In what ways has the DRF TA contributed to the key wins identified?
- What factors have affected the achievement of the key wins?

**Finding 8: The “key wins” represent milestones towards the realization of persons with disabilities’ rights as they open up possibilities and set a positive precedent for future inclusive initiatives and policies.**

117. Interviews conducted with grantees and other actors confirmed the importance of the key wins the evaluation focused on for persons with disabilities in the three countries. Those wins were considered important for persons with disabilities in the three countries because they represent milestones towards the realization of persons with disabilities’ rights and, in some cases, also indications of transformative processes.

118. In Nigeria, the adoption of the National Disability Act has provided persons with disabilities and the disability movement with an additional legal framework to demand and enforce their rights and make CRPD articles a lived reality. It also provided them with an ally – NCPWD was created in line with Article 31 of the National Disability Act – to achieve full implementation of the Act. The adoption of the Act, [which is slowly being domesticated in some States of Nigeria](#),<sup>84</sup> was also leveraged by allies to the disability movement like Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International and the same Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the [Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan](#).<sup>85</sup> A light review of the humanitarian response plans from 2018 to 2022 showed, indeed, that specific targets to reach persons with disabilities have been included starting from the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan. As regards the disability-inclusive COVID-19 response, while data collection identified some limitation to the inclusivity of the response – focused on urban areas leaving behind the rural areas – it was considered an important achievement because it enabled access to protective measures to some persons with disabilities and was a demonstration of OPDs’ capacity to influence government’s actions.

*“The access to COVID vaccines helps to shift government plan to be more responsive to the plights of persons with disabilities, demonstrating that when we advocate and push hard, we can get result.”*

*“If not for some of the interventions from OPDs, the negative effect of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities would have been more disastrous in Nigeria.” - Stakeholders in Nigeria*

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<sup>84</sup> Africa Polling Institute, 2022

<sup>85</sup> OCHA, 2023

119. In Indonesia, the working collaboration between women’s rights organizations and organizations of women with disabilities in the passage of the sexual violence law is an important example of cross-movement collaboration which may shape future joint advocacy efforts. The DRF grantees – led by HWDI and IMHA and with DRF support – built bridges and connections with the women’s rights movement. In 2018, a Special Opportunity Grant from DRF funded a convening organized by HWDI, which brought together women from the disability and women’s movements. The convening was an important moment for the two movements to solidify their common goals and actively work together to achieve them; their subsequent joint advocacy efforts led to Article 104 successfully being dropped in 2019. Although the article was reinserted by the government in 2022 following pressure from conservative parliamentarians<sup>86</sup>, the two movements were able once again to quickly mobilize intensive joint lobbying before the law was officially enacted. Overall, this key win presented not only a significant achievement for women with disabilities in Indonesia, but it also created linkages beyond the disability movement, with the women’s and broader human rights movements in the country. At the same time, it fostered stronger inclusion and recognition of people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, diversifying the disability movement from within. As regards the sexual violence law and the removal of the discriminatory element which would have allowed sterilization of women with intellectual and/or psychological disabilities, this contributes to persons with disabilities’ right to bodily autonomy. Furthermore, the Sexual Violence Law is the first law recognizing that persons with any kind of disability, including psychosocial disabilities, have the same legal rights and legal capacity as other citizens. This is a very important step in a country where psychosocial disabilities were not recognized as a disability until 2016 and where [persons with psychosocial disabilities have been – and still are -subject to shackling and other inhumane treatments](#).<sup>87</sup> The Law also includes important points related to the protection of persons with disabilities who experience sexual violence, among which the provision of adequate accommodation for persons with disabilities, from the reporting process to the settlement of claims.<sup>88</sup> Finally, the Law is important because it guarantees that the testimony of persons with disabilities who have been victims or witnesses of GBV is of the same weight and value as the testimony of persons without disabilities. The signing of the law was praised by the United Nations as “reaffirming Indonesia’s commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.”<sup>89</sup> Regarding the working group on mental health, while its effects still have to materialize, it was considered an important achievement as it has enabled the development of a [roadmap for respecting, protecting, fulfilling, upholding and promoting human rights \(in the rehabilitation center\) for persons with psychosocial disabilities](#).<sup>90</sup>

120. In Fiji, the win related to the election working group was considered important because of its implications on persons with disabilities’ right to vote and thereby of the recognition of persons with disabilities’ legal capacity by national authorities. Regarding the disability-inclusive COVID-19 response, its importance relies on the acknowledgment of the specific needs of persons with disabilities in times of crisis, and on “the commitment of the government and relevant stakeholders to prioritize and protect the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, ensuring that they are not left behind during challenging times.”

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<sup>86</sup> Disability & Philanthropy Forum, 2022

<sup>87</sup> Sharma, 2016

<sup>88</sup> Organization of Persons with Disabilities on Reply to List of issues. 2022. Page 16. Available at the [UN Treaty Body Database](#).

<sup>89</sup> UN Women Asia and the Pacific, 2022

<sup>90</sup> Nabil Ihsan, 2022

121. The words used by one consulted grantee in Fiji illustrate the importance of these achievements in all three countries: “they signify progress towards a more inclusive society where persons with disabilities have equal opportunities, participation, and access to essential services and decision-making processes. These achievements pave the way for further advancements in disability rights, setting a positive precedent for future inclusive initiatives and policies.”

**Finding 9: DRF’s support to grantees has contributed to these achievements, with the DRF TA providing punctual technical support at key moments.**

122. As it is usually the case with achievements of this nature, several actors contributed over time to the fight and efforts that brought about the selected wins, including government agencies, national authorities, INGOs, and the media. Interviewed stakeholders also confirmed the key roles played by the DRF grantees in the achievement of these wins. These roles ranged from being lead advocates, convenors of strategic actors, providers of key evidence, coordinators of input from OPDs into proposals of laws, mobilisers of persons with disabilities and other OPDs, awareness raisers, and/or capacity providers of a disability-inclusive lens.

123. Data suggests that DRF’s support over time facilitated grantee capacity to take on these roles in advocacy. More specifically, across the various sources of data, the following characteristics of DRF’s support are particularly significant:

- **DRF’s trust-based approach to grantmaking**, which relies on trust in grantees’ decisions and no intention of influencing their agenda or setting their priorities. Words used by grantees to describe DRF’s support include “encouraging”, “not interfering, not bossy”, “pushing from behind”;
- Their **long-term sustained support**, which has made repeated grantees feel trusted and confident in their work, in addition to making it possible for them to learn by doing, by implementing projects one after the other, thus offering them the possibility of experiencing successes and challenges, making connections, building networks, and developing advocacy strategies;

*“I didn’t know what inclusion was like before. We didn’t know what the process of preparing the report was like. What the regulations mean. Then how do we dive into the habits of the government. For lobbying, we have to know the loopholes. Then we know how to document the process in a book. We get to know. There are many things” - Grantee*

- Their **flexibility and timeliness**, with a range of support modalities available to grantees and with the possibility of modifying activities (upon approval from DRF) and repurposing grants - as notably happened during the COVID-19 pandemic- to adapt to changing circumstances. Grantees also took advantage of strategic windows of opportunities through the Special Opportunity grants.

124. In addition to these broad but key aspects of DRF’s support that contributed to the selected key wins (and many other key wins), through the evaluation it was possible to identify specific contributions of the DRF TA provided between 2019 and 2022 to some of the key wins. These are presented in **Table 4 TA Contributions to Selected Key Wins** below. As mentioned in **Finding 1**, because of the challenges in disentangling TA from organizational strengthening, it is possible that TA contributed to the key wins in additional ways that the evaluation team was unable to capture.

Table 4 TA Contributions to Selected Key Wins

KEY WIN	DRF'S CONTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN 2019 AND 2022	DRF'S TA SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS
<b>Nigeria – National Disability Act</b>	<p>Through a coalition grant, JONAPWD convened strategic stakeholders for an advocacy meeting; created awareness through social media and press conference; and amplified the voices of persons with disabilities at national meetings, including at the National Assembly.</p> <p>Through the DRF coalition fund led by JONAPWD, ALDIN invoked the Freedom of Information Act on the Attorney General and National Assembly which enabled the disability movement to know the status of the national disability bill as it was passed by the legislative arm of government but was not sent to the President for signing. They also lobbied the Attorney General who always legally advised the President to sign or reject a bill.</p>	<p>JONAPWD TA enabled them to work with a communication specialist who supported them with a public awareness plan and content deployed by their staff on the organization social media as well as for press conference. This contributed to the awareness creation that influenced the public to join the campaign for demanding from the National Assembly to pass the National Disability Act.</p>
<b>Nigeria – Disability-inclusive COVID-19 response</b>	<p>Through the DRF special opportunity grant, CCD organised a dissemination event for research on access to COVID-19 vaccine for persons with disabilities; lobbied NCPWD to invite key government stakeholders to this event. As a result of findings shared, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (both responsible for supply and distribution of vaccine) committed to including persons with disabilities in the vaccination mechanism.</p> <p>CCD and NAB FCT followed up through advocacy visit and organise a one-day stakeholders forum where persons with disabilities received their COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>ALDIN and NAB FCT also produced radio jingles, radio programs and other accessible information, education and communication (IEC) materials to create awareness on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities, on vaccination, and on accessible and inclusive sanitation. This happened in Oyo state and FCT respectively. Through the jingle, persons with disabilities were informed on the government COVID-19 guidelines, in which most information prior to then was inaccessible. As a result of this work, both</p>	<p>Through a TA provided in the 2018/2019 grant cycle, CCD hired a consultant whom they worked together with to conduct a research study on access to health services in Ekiti State. The learnings from this DRF funded project enabled them to conduct another research study – this time without the need to hire an external consultant - on access to COVID-19 palliatives for persons with disabilities funded by another donor. The findings and recommendations disclosed at the dissemination meeting (funded by DRF) led to key stakeholders to commit to including persons with disabilities in their health emergency planning and process.</p>

	<p>interventions by ALDIN and NAB FCT influenced government agencies in both locations to distribute palliative to persons with disabilities to alleviate their suffering.</p>	
<p><b>Indonesia – Sexual Violence Law</b></p>	<p>DRF supported the collaboration between women with disabilities and the Indonesia Women’s Coalition (KPI) by funding a convening in 2018 through a Special Opportunity Grant. This convening was one of the key moments for bridgebuilding between the two movements. This collaboration opened the opportunity for women with disabilities to speak out their needs on issue of GBV, and this led the draft of Sexual Violence Crime Law (RUU TPKS) to be more acceptable by the legislative (who before considered that the draft bill had been pushed by ‘liberal’ women). By bringing women with disabilities to speak about their experiences and the urgency for a law to protect women against GBV, the coalition reduced the reluctance of the legislative branch towards the draft until its adoption. The Sexual Violence Law recognizes the legal standing of persons with disabilities before the law, the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities conflicted with laws, and additional punishment if the victim is a person with disabilities.</p>	<p>While no embedded TA contribution in the period of 2019-2022 was identified by interviewed grantees in relation to this key achievement, the TA provided by DRF over time contributed to building the capacity of women with disabilities, strengthening their organizations, supporting their empowerment process, and facilitating their networking with other women with disabilities from the local to the international level. In addition, the 2018 grantee convening, which is a form of TA at DRF, was supported by the DRF staff in such a way to create a space for women with disabilities to identify their strategic priorities, which were then discussed with women’s rights organizations. All these forms of support – which contributed to making this achievement possible - were considered by one grantee as “inseparable from the support and assistance of DRF.”</p>
<p><b>Indonesia – Working Group on mental health</b></p>	<p>DRF’s support on the work that led to this achievement trace back to 2013. This achievement builds on years of successes, including raising awareness on the situation lived by persons with psychosocial disabilities in social care institutions and strengthening cross-disability movement collaboration, of collaboration with the women’s rights movement and other actors, and relentless advocacy by IMHA to put an end to these institutions.</p> <p>More recently, through a DRF coalition grant, IMHA and KPI conducted a research study, whose results were used to develop a position paper. This paper became one of the advocacy tools for the de-institutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities. After several meetings with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, a working group consisting of 17 ministries, CSOs and OPDs was formed with the role, among others, of monitoring</p>	<p>As part of the work around deinstitutionalization and ending the use of social care institutions for persons with psychosocial disabilities, in 2021, DRF put IMHA in contact with Alberto Vazquez, who shared the experience of the disability movement in Peru with changing substitute decision making to supportive decision making in Peru. This exchange informed IMHA’s decision to carry out the judicial review of Article 433 of the Civil Code that discriminates against persons with mental disabilities (instead of using indirect matters such as having the right to vote). In 2022, DRF facilitated the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disability (Prof. Gerard Quinn) as international legal expert to support IMHA in the judicial review. Prof. Quinn acted as expert witness in the judicial review. Expert witness is one of the three key things that a judge looks at during a judicial review (the other two being the argument provided for the lawsuit and fact witnesses). The influence of the expert witness</p>

	<p>the institutions in targeted cities. The field visits conducted by IMHA with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, other relevant ministries, and local government representatives were an eye-opener for them on the current situation and practices in the mental institutions.</p> <p>A roadmap of de-institutionalization was developed and delivered before appealing the judicial reviews of the articles 433 of Indonesia Civil Code.</p>	<p>depends on the written statement by the expert witness and his/her credibility.</p> <p>The TA supported the DI process and the advocacy of the various regulations related to the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. These are on-going activities in 2022-2023 with the Center for Human Rights study/Center for the Law Studies at the Islamic University of Indonesia.</p>
<p><b>Fiji - Disability-inclusive COVID 19 response</b></p>	<p>Through a DRF grant in 2020, FDPF developed a survey of 112 questions which sought to gain insight into the health and socio-economic status of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Education and livelihood were key themes. The survey was conducted with 79 individuals across 3 major Fijian provinces.</p> <p>Questions also sought to understand how persons with disabilities were accessing COVID-19 information (60% listed social media) and whether they found the information to be accessible (68% said yes).</p> <p>The survey supported data-driven advocacy to increase inclusive decision-making in national and community response to the pandemic.</p>	<p>FDPD received TA support through the Pacific Disability Forum to develop the questionnaire for the baseline study.</p> <p>Building on the disability-inclusive COVID-19 response work conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022 FDPF required DRF's TA to build the coalition's capacity in legislative drafting with the aim of aligning the Public Health Amendment Act 2020 to the CRPD articles.</p>
<p><b>Fiji – Access Elections Working Group</b></p>	<p>Through a coalition grant, DRF grantees in Fiji established a Working Group in partnership with the Fijian Elections Office to review legislative contradictions that promoted discrimination and exclusion, impacting persons with disabilities' ability to vote.</p> <p>The grant supported the initial establishment of the Working Group which continues to exist today.</p> <p>The Working Group directly led to the inclusion of postal voting as an option in the 2022 National Election as an alternative for persons with disabilities who were unable to access the polling stations.</p>	<p>No specific TA contributions from DRF in the period of 2019-2022 was identified by the evaluation team in relation to this achievement.</p>

**Finding 10: Factors affecting the key achievements relate to disability movement capacity, the governments' capacity and the deeply rooted – but gradually changing - social norms, beliefs, and attitudes.**

125. Through the different sources of data consulted, the evaluation team has identified several factors affecting directly or indirectly the achievement of the key wins. Some factors pertain to the disability movement's capacity in the country, others pertain to governments' capacity (including but not limited to the understanding of disability inclusiveness), and some others to the still prevailing cultural beliefs and social norms that stigmatize and discriminate against persons with disabilities. We present the enabling and hindering factors pertaining to these three areas in **Table 5 Key Wins- Enabling and Hindering Factors**.

*Table 5 Key Wins - Enabling and Hindering Factors*

AREA	ENABLING FACTORS	HINDERING FACTORS
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## Disability movement's capacity

1. **Strategic advocacy capacity:** Interviewed stakeholders in the three countries recognized that the disability movement has increased its advocacy capacity over time. In Nigeria, it was noted that some OPDs (including DRF grantees) have learned how to work together with the government constructively to bring about change. In the three countries, the disability movement has learned how to take advantage of electoral periods to leverage their influence on key political actors. For instance, in Nigeria, the President signed the National Disability Act in the build-up to the 2019 general election after challenged by an OPD at a public media chat.
  2. **Resourcing ecosystem:** According to interviewed stakeholders, more and more INGOs and funders are working with and supporting OPDs' capacity and are increasingly mainstreaming disability in their work and strategies.
  3. **Capacity to relate and work collectively with other OPDs:** Collaboration among OPDs has facilitated the sharing of knowledge, resources, and best practices, contributing to collective learning and more effective strategies for advocacy, service provision, and social change. In Indonesia, several [instances of collective actions among women-led OPDs](#)<sup>91</sup> suggest that there may be a more collaborative environment within the disability movement, at least among women-led organizations, than in other countries.
1. **Capacity to build rapport with government actors:** In Nigeria, interviewed stakeholders noted that many OPDs still have a confrontational approach with the government that, according to them, is not conducive to bring forward successfully their demands.
  2. **Governance within the disability movement:** In Nigeria and Fiji, challenges with OPDs' leadership and governance were identified as affecting the disability movement's capacity to innovate, to speak in representation of its diverse members, and take advantage of key opportunities.
  3. **Resourcing ecosystem:** Rivalry and competition among OPDs for the limited available resources reduce the likelihood of a more unified disability movement. In addition, chronically limited learning and training opportunities and resources to OPDs have reduced their capacity to learn about the interconnections across 'topics' (e.g., LGBTQI, HIV/AIDS, and disability) and develop intersectional solutions to existing problems. They have also limited their exposure, and therefore connections with actors outside of the disability movement (other CSOs, the media) or even with parts of the disability movement that are more marginalized or 'distant'. This has consequences in their capacity to conduct strategic advocacy by bringing in key actors at key advocacy moments.
  4. **Attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours around equality and inclusion within the disability movement:** Limited recognition and stigma within the disability movement towards certain types of disabilities and other forms of discriminations (like the gender-related ones) reduce the representativeness of umbrella organizations and of leading OPDs, and reduce instances of collective actions.

<sup>91</sup> Dewi & Wongkar, 2022

<p><b>Governments' capacity</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Collaborative attitude towards OPDs:</b> Capacity to work collaboratively with OPDs exist in many parts of the governments, who oftentimes rely on OPDs to develop and adopt disability-inclusive measures.</li> <li><b>2. Changes in attitudes towards disability:</b> In the three countries, a listening attitude, willingness and commitment to work towards a disability-inclusive society among some government representatives and other public institutions is present.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Decentralized government structures:</b> In Nigeria and Indonesia, the decentralized nature of the government structure makes it slow and, in some cases, more challenging and uneven across the country the domestication of the CRPD and the implementation of laws related to persons with disabilities.</li> <li><b>2. Technical capacity among government and national/local authorities on disability inclusion:</b> In the three countries, interviewed stakeholders noted that even when the government shows political will in promoting and protecting persons with disabilities', yet the technical capacity to translate the political will into concrete measures and the required understanding of what disability and disability inclusiveness entail are still limited or lacking.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Social norms, beliefs, attitudes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Slow but incremental change towards non-discriminatory notions and disability-inclusive legal frameworks:</b> Concepts around disability are being reviewed and expanded— also thanks to the continued and relentless advocacy by the disability movement – so are legal frameworks, thus slowly supporting a transformative process in the existing beliefs and attitudes towards persons with disabilities and disability. In Indonesia, for instance, mental health and psychosocial disabilities are getting increasing attention by authorities and concrete measures are being taken to promote persons with psychosocial disabilities' rights and eliminating inhumane treatments like shackling. The language used to indicate persons with disabilities and disability is also being revised, with the word disability not being referred anymore with the word 'defects' and with the condition of chronic disease being slowly associated to the concept of disability.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Deeply-rooted beliefs around disability:</b> Deeply rooted and widespread cultural beliefs around disability and persons with disabilities make changes in behaviours and actions slow. This affects not only governments and other authorities (including those officially in charge of disability who may show, like in the case of Indonesia, resistance to change), but also the same persons with disabilities and their families thus building an additional barrier to change.</li> </ol>

*“Awareness is needed, but the real game changer to influencing government officials (for example) is building their capacity to understand the key concept of disability. When people don’t understand what is in it for them, they will not champion or run with it.” -External stakeholder*

## 5 Conclusions

126. Through this evaluation, the importance of leaving no one behind and of the sustained, multidimensional, flexible and unrestricted support required for change has emerged once again. It is a journey at multiple levels: at individual, organizational and systemic level. It is not just about persons with disabilities and their organizations becoming stronger, but it is also about changing the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours permeating an entire society, who needs to be educated on diversity, inclusiveness and equality and their interconnections. This evaluation confirmed that DRF's support contributed to impacts at the three levels: individual members of grantee organizations have acquired confidence and self-esteem to start or continue advocacy work, OPDs have strengthened their organizational capacity, and governments, CSOs and other societal actors are slowly changing their beliefs, attitudes, and actions towards disability and persons with disabilities.

127. This evaluation has confirmed that DRF's trust-based approach with their grantees is key to supporting them in their advocacy and organizational strengthening processes. What differentiates DRF from many other funders – if not all the other funders – is their commitment to disability, a commitment that stems from the lived experiences of their staff, whose solidarity, trust, and relentless accompaniment of grantees have provided OPD members with a sense of validation of themselves as persons with the same rights as any other citizen, thus making a fundamental – but difficult to measure – contribution to the successful advocacy by and diversification of the disability movement.

128. DRF's support, including but not limited to technical assistance, has helped grantees to develop strong relationships and diverse networks of allies and has provided them with opportunities to exercise the knowledge acquired over time. The direct experiences to exercise advocacy and lobby with policymakers and other relevant stakeholders have built their confidence and capacity for advocacy over time.

129. Participation and accessibility have also been instrumental to successful advocacy and diversification in the three countries, not as mere technical measures, but as political commitments. DRF has supported participation and accessibility in various ways, trying to avoid the 'one-size fits all' approach, and closely accompanying and "pushing from behind" grantees in their projects and work according to their priorities. However, balancing donors' requirements with the diverse realities on the ground still represents a challenge for intermediary funds like DRF, who want to avoid transferring the burden from donors to grantees. Indeed, this burden oftentimes translates into strict administrative requirements and paperwork that ultimately reduce OPDs' capacity to access funds and thereby participate in advocacy efforts.

130. Despite significant achievements to date, there is still an enormous amount of work expected from persons with disabilities and their organizations with very little support. Change takes time because it is about changing deeply rooted beliefs, attitudes and norms, but certainly under the current funding conditions – which do not prioritize persons with disabilities or OPDs – it will keep being slow. DRF is a small partner and their contributions alone cannot address the enormous structural and external barriers that still hinder advancing truly disability-inclusive societies. For change to happen and be sustainable, it needs to be at the systemic level, which would require – among other things – financial and non-financial support that moves away from project-based approaches and is more and better coordinated among development partners and national actors at all levels, mainstreaming of disability in all interventions, and increased resource mobilisation for disability.

131. Building on DRF's accomplishments to date and grounded in the findings of this evaluation, the following section presents recommendations and lessons for DRF and their grantees to consider to further strengthen their work going forward.

## 6 Recommendations & Lessons

132. This section provides recommendations and lessons stemming from the evaluation. The recommendations and lessons are based on the findings and were guided by the following questions in the evaluation matrix:

- Moving forward, how can DRF increase grantees' access and utilisation of their TA?
- What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF's work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways?
- What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins for DRF and their grantees?

### 6.1 Recommendations

133. The recommendations are structured into the following categories: a set of overarching recommendations on how DRF works and specific recommendations on technical assistance and diversification of the disability movement.

#### Overarching recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** DRF should provide more frequent and regular opportunities for grantees to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other. Similarly, it should provide them with more opportunities for networking and learning in disability-specific and non-disability specific forums. In doing so, DRF should maintain an intersectional lens to support diversity within the disability movement and the renewal of OPDs' leadership.

134. A recurrent request made from grantees across the three countries throughout the evaluation process (starting from the Inception Phase) and in all consultations held by DRF with grantees (whether the TA consultations, the annual grantee surveys, or the independent evaluations) is about more frequent and regular opportunities to meet and exchange with other grantees, and to participate in regional and international conferences and learning events. **Findings 3** and **9** have shown the important role that connections have played in key advocacy achievements and more broadly for grantees to carry out their work. Connections have helped grantees to get the right input at the right time, to be part of broader advocacy efforts or to get support from other actors in their advocacy efforts, to be sensitized and increase their own awareness and others' awareness on diversity, to have access to resources, to break isolation, to learn, and to open their horizons. Connections and social interactions are what social movements are made of and help to break social isolation and exclusion while facilitating solidarity and collective action. Some grantees – because of their disability compounded by other identities – experience high level of isolation also within the disability movement, as shown in **Finding 7**. Leveraging the regional and multi-country scope of their work and presence, DRF through their regional and country-based staff should provide more frequent and regular opportunities for their grantees to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other. While doing so, they should always apply an intersectional lens to support diversity within the disability movement and the renewal of OPDs' leadership. Some concrete measures may include:

- Spaces that bring together (in person and/or virtually) grantees from the same country, from the same region, across regions, and/or working on similar themes

- Spaces that bring together (in person and/or virtually) grantees with sensory, psychosocial, or intellectual disabilities, and/or grantees from diverse SOGIESC, or grantees led by young persons with disabilities as these groups are oftentimes underrepresented among established OPDs and have limited connections with the more mainstreamed OPDs
- A regional version of the biannual Reflection Discussions currently held by the Evaluation and Learning Director with DRF Program Officers that include grantees
- Quarterly or biannual meetings for grantees (potentially with the participation of DRF staff), alternating online and in-person modalities
- In the case of coalition grants, integrating a requirement on holding an exchange meeting among the partners towards the end of the collaboration to identify learnings and exchange on challenges and successes
- Including such regular learning/movement building exchanges into all subsequent funding requests for coalition grants

**Recommendation 2:** DRF should maintain – and wherever possible, strengthen – their current participatory and grantee-led approach in grantmaking, technical assistance, and advocacy.

135. As pointed out in **Finding 9**, grantees most value DRF’s trust-based approach, which relies on trust in grantees’ decisions and no intention of influencing their agenda or setting their priorities. This is a recurrent finding in other evaluations of the work of DRF. As the organization develops a new strategic plan, it will be important that it maintain this approach and, whenever possible, strengthen it to ensure that their grantees and the disability movement in each country are the ones defining their advocacy and capacity strengthening priorities.

**Recommendation 3:** As DRF shape their new Strategic Plan, special consideration should be given to make aspects of their grantmaking model and other support increasingly fit for purpose.

136. Disability is still a drastically underfunded area, with most OPDs receiving short-term project-oriented financial support from development partners, which comes with many different reporting requirements and conditions. While there has been resounding appreciation by grantees for the support received from DRF over the years, nonetheless their financial support is also short-term and mostly project-based. This is a factor that reduces grantees’ prospects for developing sustainable, adequately staffed and resourced organizations guided by well-developed strategic directions. In doing so, the approach puts the grantee organizations’ and its individual members’ well-being at risk and reduces their capacity to respond to or take advantage of brief/unexpected windows of opportunity for strategic advocacy. Indeed, the somewhat unpredictable nature of advocacy results requires a high degree responsiveness to changing circumstances and processes, which is possible only if funding resources are both timely and flexible. To better support advocacy efforts, DRF may consider several options: including a contingency fund in their grants (i.e., an amount of money readily available as part of the awarded grants) that can be used by grantees as needed; the provision of multi-year grants (2 years or more); continuing to make the reporting requirements less onerous for grantees. These measures would free up grantees’ and Program Officers’ time spent on administrative requirements, allowing them to use that time for more strategic conversations and exchanges.

137. Similarly, DRF may consider using a more long-term approach to technical assistance by de-linking it from the needs of a specific project, and instead linking it to the objective of strengthening the capacity

of grantees and of the whole disability movement in each country (see also Recommendation 4 on the shortage of disability inclusion TA providers). This may have implications, among other things, on the definition of technical assistance and its objectives, the range of delivery modalities, and the level of resources allocated to it (e.g., more funds than the current level of funding and either more staff or increased staff capacity development on technical assistance).

138. Finally, if DRF's objective of diversification remains a priority in the new Strategic Plan, additional efforts should be invested to ensure the accessibility of their processes, tools, and communication for the diverse range of their grantees, from persons with physical disabilities, to persons with sensory, intellectual, and/or psychosocial disabilities, from persons with disabilities with limited or no English fluency to persons with disabilities with uneven technological capacity.

### Area of priority: Technical Assistance

**Recommendation 4:** As DRF review their new TA strategy, they should make sure that the strategy clarifies the expectations for TA, including the objectives, purposes, expected results, and modalities for accessing TA. They should also ensure that the approach to TA is consistent with the expected results. Once the strategy is adopted, they should create regular spaces for its socialization among staff and grantees. They should also focus on the priorities identified so far in the draft TA Strategy 2.0.

139. As shown in **Findings 1** and **5**, there have been blurred lines between TA and organizational strengthening, with confusion among grantees and different understandings among DRF staff as to what constitutes TA and how to access it. The new TA Strategy shall communicate – in a clear and simple language – the purpose, objectives, modalities, and expected results. The priorities identified by DRF in the process of revising their TA Strategy to date - namely i) supporting more opportunities to promote, engage, learn and share expertise from within the movement, ii) prioritizing inclusion and active participation of marginalized groups, and iii) making accessible information, communication and tools central to TA support (through accessible formats, languages, virtual platforms, translated documents), fully aligned with the gaps identified by this evaluation. If in the new TA strategy DRF maintain the objective of using TA to strengthen grantees' capacity and have grantees becoming TA providers, then the approach to TA should go beyond one-off training events to encompass more long-term form of support to grantees.

140. Once the new TA strategy is approved, it will be important to accompany it with a socialization process among staff and grantees that will clarify DRF's expectations regarding TA. This will help with a more consistent approach to TA among both staff and grantees. Considering staff turnover both within DRF and the OPDs, and changes in the portfolio of OPDs supported, it will be important to ensure that the socialization process is not designed as a one-off event, but rather as an ongoing, regular process integrated into DRF's support and communications to grantees. Some concrete measures may include:

- A simplified (and translated into relevant languages) clear guideline on what, how and when to access and utilize TA
- Quarterly or biannual learning exchange meetings showcasing success stories and challenges of grantees' access and utilization of TA
- When the calls for expressions of interest are released, a webinar could be organised by DRF per country or region to clearly explain to intended applicants the definition, intended objectives and outcomes of a TA



**Recommendation 5:** To address the shortage of disability inclusion TA providers, in the short term, DRF should keep building a roster of TA providers to be identified among their grantees. In the long term, DRF together with their grantees and with the support of their long-standing funders may consider developing strategic partnerships with a wide range of actors, with the objective of collectively strengthening national capacity on disability inclusion.

141. **Finding 5** pointed out an important factor negatively affecting access and use of TA among grantees, namely the shortage of disability-inclusive TA providers across the three countries. **Findings 3 and 4** showed that grantees and OPDs are becoming key partners for governments in developing disability inclusion solutions. The demands on them to support governments and other actors are likely to increase over time as commitments to disability inclusion and disability mainstreaming are multiplying. **Finding 4** also showed that some grantees have acquired the knowledge and experience over time to take on that role and become TA providers within the disability movement. This pool is still very small compared to the needs, but the potential is big as many grantees have been working on CRPD-related advocacy for years in many different areas, from inclusive education to accessible infrastructure, from access to GBV protection measures to the intersections between LGBTQI, HIV/AIDS and disability. DRF is already identifying grantees who may provide disability-inclusive TA. The compilation of a list of potential TA providers among grantees is certainly a measure that can bear some fruits, though DRF should not underestimate the level of effort for managing, updating, and keeping the list accessible over time.

142. With a view towards generating more sustainable, long-term and systemic change, to support and further expand the disability movements in the various countries where it works, DRF together with their grantees and long-standing funders should foster multi-stakeholder partnerships with various actors, from IDA and BRIDGE CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative to existing regional TA providers (e.g., Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in Fiji), from the UN system (leveraging the momentum and requirements created by the recently adopted disability inclusion strategy) to government and universities, with the long-term objective of building national technical capacity on disability inclusion that would include a cohort of TA providers at the country or, at least, at the regional level.

### Area of priority: Diversification of the Disability Movement

**Recommendation 6:** To invigorate the momentum in the diversification of the disability movement, DRF can accompany their support for awareness-raising with support for further capacity building on diversity and intersectionality of OPD leaders down to the grassroots level.

143. As indicated in **Finding 6**, there have been positive strides in diversifying the disability movement so that it is more inclusive of a wider array of groups. However, this is an ongoing process that requires invigorated and concerted efforts by all duty bearers with support from development actors to sustain momentum and leverage initial shifts in mindset that are occurring due to awareness-raising activities. To support this process, DRF should further prioritize the provision of targeted capacity building support to organizations working towards diversification. These efforts should be integrated into the broader agenda of an approach that builds capacities not just of OPD leaders but all the way down through the grassroots. This can include trainings, workshops, discussion sessions, and resources on the key concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion and how to mainstream this approach into programming. In this way, strengthening the skills and knowledge of disability organizations can enhance the ability to effectively engage and support a broader range of individuals with disabilities.

144. As part of this effort, it will be critical to continue to strengthen understanding among OPD leaders and civil society on the intersectionality of disabilities with other social identities, such as gender,

race, and socio-economic status, and how multiple forms of discrimination intersect. In doing so, it is essential that DRF ensures that training on gender, diversity, inclusion and intersectionality are accessible, and that resources and information disseminated by DRF take into account the different needs of diverse groups and cultural sensitivities (e.g., in the Pacific where there are many gender identities). It is recommended that this be accompanied by supporting OPDs in ensuring their materials and overall work and knowledge-sharing strategies are accessible to diverse groups of people (e.g., persons with deafblindness, those with intellectual disabilities). Utilizing media can also play an important role in growing and expanding knowledge and awareness. DRF can bolster this further by affording greater weight to advocacy strategies that ensure inclusivity for all individuals with disabilities.

145. Moreover, collecting disaggregated data on disability, including information on marginalized disability groups and intersecting identities, helps to understand and address specific challenges faced by diverse populations. Research and data-driven approaches can contribute to evidence-based advocacy and policy development. DRF can invest in research and documentation efforts that shed light on the experiences and challenges faced by underrepresented disability groups. This can help build a stronger evidence base and support advocacy efforts that prioritize the needs and concerns of diverse disability communities.

**Recommendation 7: Diversification of the disability movement could be enhanced by greater cross-movement collaboration with hard-to-reach and excluded groups, such as rural populations, SOGIESC identifying groups, young people with disabilities as self-advocates, and other marginalized disability types.**

146. The evaluation also found that there remains a need to further support under-represented groups, particularly rural populations and the intersection of SOGIESC and disability. In response to the obstacles to diversification identified in **Finding 7**, DRF can support grantees in their advocacy efforts by providing resources and guidance on how to address the specific barriers and issues faced by diverse disability groups. This may include assistance in crafting contextually appropriate messages for example in navigating the intersections of SOGIESC and disability, and investing further in intersectional advocacy initiatives and research activities on the unique barriers and opportunities for specific disability types. This also requires increasing awareness raising efforts specifically tailored to these groups, complemented by opportunities for learning exchanges and mentorship. Beyond annual grantee meetings, DRF should consider mainstreaming a representation of marginalised groups on all their other platforms, including learning exchange platforms, and communities of practice. DRF can organize learning exchanges or other platforms for grantee organizations to share their experiences, successes, and challenges in promoting diversity and inclusivity. This can facilitate cross-learning, and inspire innovative approaches to diversification within the disability movement.

147. Diversification also demands creative and innovative strategies to bring in hard-to-reach groups, namely those in rural areas, and assist grantees through the whole process in forging the pathway to building and establishing organizations. This is to be complemented by DRF's organizational strengthening and by supporting the development of the OPD's policies and registration. However, this would also require different approaches and resources to overcome challenges related to connectivity, which could involve leveraging umbrella organizations to support their inclusion and integration into the disability movement. Another strategy could be to invest in peer support programs that connect mainstream OPDs (who tend to be in urban areas) and marginalized groups (who are often in rural areas).

*“Until these marginalized groups have their own associations, (and are) recognized at the national level, it would be difficult to amplify their voices into national disability agenda and conversation.” - Grantee*

*“There is no point if they are registered and then there are no staff to do the finance and administration. We (would be) setting them up to fail.” - DRF Staff*

148. Finally, DRF is highly encouraged to support the professional development of young disability advocates and intergenerational knowledge transfer of disability advocacy, to equip young people as the next generation of disability champions. There is the need for DRF to facilitate opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills for greater diversity in leading the disability movement. DRF can consider targeted support to young people with disabilities in becoming self-advocates (instead of service-providers for example on their behalf) to contribute to decision-making processes. To do so, DRF should invest in learning exchanges and mentoring initiatives for youth and girls with disabilities to be trained on the CRPD and disability rights through a Training of Trainers initiative. Ultimately, empowering individuals with disabilities to take greater ownership of the movement leads to more inclusive and representative outcomes, and a more diverse ecosystem of disability champions.

**Recommendation 8:** To extend cross-movement collaboration between the disability movement and other social justice movements, DRF can invest in advocating for mainstreaming disability further in spaces that are not yet inclusive, for example within women’s rights movements and in climate change forums.

149. Interviews reported very few if any OPDs working in the climate sector, with a lack of awareness on the impacts of climate change on persons with disability. Without this awareness, OPDs are not yet positioned to demand their rights to meaningfully participate and contribute to climate justice or environment-related decision making. There is a need for stronger awareness-raising on the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities to increase this demand. This requires further investment in mainstreaming disability into climate change forums, such as the inclusion of OPDs in climate change advisory councils.

## 6.2 Lessons

### Lessons learned: What has been learned from DRF experience?

150. The evaluation highlighted some valuable lessons derived from the DRF programming practice and operational approaches that could be promoted, avoided (if negative) or shared with others. Given the strong participatory process used throughout the evaluation, which saw the engagement of DRF grantees not only at the stage of data collection as key informants, but throughout the evaluation process as key intended users with the power to shape the evaluation objectives, methodology and deliverables, a lesson has also been identified in relation to this experience.

151. **Investing in emerging organizations is critical for movement diversification:** DRF’s investment in emerging organizations, including organizational strengthening, has helped to diversify the disability movement by consolidating marginalized groups as more established entities and strengthening disability leaders. DRF is encouraged to continue to invest in marginalized OPDs, particularly in scaling-up and expanding their success in supporting women-led OPDs.

152. **Capacities of disability organizations and advocates to work intersectionally are crucial to further diversify disability movements.** This includes promoting cultural competency, fostering inclusive practices, and providing training and resources that address the specific needs of different disability types and marginalized groups. DRF should continue to prioritize funding proposals that focus on promoting diversity within the disability movement. This can involve supporting organizations that work specifically with underrepresented disability groups, such as those representing individuals with psychosocial

disabilities, intellectual disabilities, LGBTQI with disabilities, or other marginalized communities within the disability spectrum.

153. The evaluation identifies cross-movement collaboration as a best practice, sharing resources and aligning efforts to foster a stronger and more unified voice to drive positive change. DRF can further facilitate networking opportunities and encourage collaboration among grantee organizations. By connecting organizations working on diverse disability issues, DRF can foster knowledge exchange, shared learning, and collaborative initiatives that promote inclusivity and diversity within the disability movement. Raising public awareness about the rights, needs, and capabilities of individuals with disabilities is a vital first step that plants fruitful seeds for transformative processes. Educational campaigns and initiatives that challenge stereotypes, combat stigma, and promote a more inclusive understanding of disability can further contribute to the diversification of the movement.

*“Partnership is extremely important. We cannot do this work alone. We would like to work in collaboration and be able to invite stakeholders, people from outside our community to be involved. We want to see other developed countries and how they have achieved that they have achieved and then we want to localize that work. We hope that no one is left behind. And no one goes through that suffering and violence.” - Grantee*

154. DRF’s approach to diverse and inclusive engagement has also been considered successful; actively involving individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds and disability types in decision-making processes is essential, and DRF is encouraged to continue to draw on the lived experiences and perspectives of persons with disabilities, including among DRF staff. DRF should continue to lead by example as a positive model of a disability employer. Additionally, DRF’s flexibility to have a more tailored approach (rather than one-size-fits-all) was also considered as best practice in this area, as it recognizes that the disability landscape is dynamic and evolving. The movement should be flexible and adaptable to address emerging issues, changing needs, and evolving social contexts.

155. These lessons and good practices can inform the continued work towards diversifying the disability movement, ensuring it remains inclusive, representative, and effective in promoting the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities.

156. **Sustained multidimensional support, diversification of the strategies to engage in advocacy efforts, and the timely availability of flexible resources are crucial for advocacy success.** The key achievements in the three countries were the result of repeated learning from small successes and failures that built up over a long period of time. The struggle that brought about those achievements started over ten years ago and was marked by the relentless advocacy of OPDs supported by a wide range of allies including other CSOs, funders, governments, INGOs, and international development partners. What made this support effective – particularly in the case of DRF’s support – are the diversity of its forms (financial support, technical assistance, networking, organizational capacity building), the values upon which it relied (trust, participation), and its repeated nature. This support has enabled grantees to build their knowledge and experience over time, to build and develop key relationships both within the disability movement and outside it, to learn from successes and failures and adapt their advocacy strategies and messages consequently, to frame and refine their narrative, to get to know their advocacy targets and the extent of their influence on them. Other important aspects of this support have been its flexibility, with the possibility of repurposing grants, and the availability of extra resources – like the case of the special opportunity grants provided by DRF – to support strategic activities at key advocacy moments.

157. **Limited participation by diverse groups also limits the success of advocacy.** The evaluation showed that while the advocacy wins in the three countries were considered key achievements for persons with disability and the disability movement, their effects were somewhat limited to the OPDs involved in the efforts, often located in urban areas. This is particularly the case of the disability inclusive COVID-19 responses in Nigeria and Fiji. It is also the case with the CRPD, which is still oftentimes unknown among the most marginalized groups, who do not exercise the CRPD rights because they are unaware of those rights. The importance of leaving no one behind in the work towards the fulfillment of fundamental human rights has been reaffirmed through this evaluation.

158. **Disability-inclusive participatory approaches to evaluation are invaluable to maximizing the relevance and ownership of the process.** As per DRF's principles in grantmaking, the evaluation team applied a strong participatory and disability-inclusive approach from the start of the process throughout all phases of the evaluation. Engagement was pushed beyond the 'traditional' approach of providing the opportunity to participate in the evaluation only as part of data collection interviews as key informants; instead, the DRF grantees were involved in the evaluation process as key intended users of the evaluation and, therefore, they played a role in shaping the evaluation design. This extent of participation helped the evaluation team to gain an early, clear perspective on what OPDs deemed to be the top priorities for the evaluation. In addition, it helped with the continuity of communication throughout the process, establishing a relationship of trust with the evaluation team, thus opening the door to frank conversations between grantees and evaluators. The way in which some grantees engaged in the process showed that they felt that the evaluation was an opportunity to influence DRF's work. Other grantees were keener on knowing the lessons and recommendations drawn from the evaluation to use them in engaging donors and external partners. The disability-inclusive participatory approach had some hiccups, namely the underestimation of the level of effort and time to engage with the various intended users, but overall, it provided invaluable learning to the evaluation team on how to better carry out evaluations that leave no one behind.

# Appendix I Terms of Reference



## Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund Independent Evaluation Terms of Reference

### Summary

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRF/DRAF) seek an evaluator (team) to conduct an independent, participatory evaluation on the organization's activities from April 2019 – December 2022. The review is being conducted with the support of the United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Rights & Labor (DRL), United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), and the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), three donors to the Fund, but applies to all DRF/DRAF stakeholders, particularly the organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) who receive grants from DRF/DRAF, and our [other donors](#).

The timeframe for the evaluation, including completion of the report, is January 2023 to May 2023.

The total budget should be in the range of \$125,000 – 175,000 USD (inclusive of fees, travel, office, printing, meeting, and any and all other costs). Note that payment will be outcome rather than output related (based on quality of report).

### Background Information

A marginalized minority, persons with disabilities make up a disproportionate percentage of the poor in the developing world (80% of all people with disabilities live in the developing world and there, make up 20% of the world's poorest people). Still, disability is absent from many national or international poverty reduction strategies (e.g., disability is not mentioned in many Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and until recently, was not included in international development frameworks). This has changed with direct references to persons with disabilities in Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Because human rights and poverty are deeply

connected<sup>92</sup>, and “addressing exclusion in all its aspects is key to eliminating poverty,”<sup>93</sup> enhancing the participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the realization of rights can have both a direct and indirect impact on poverty within the disability community.

DRF/DRAF support persons with disabilities around the world to build diverse movements, ensure inclusive development agendas, and achieve equal rights and opportunity for all. We believe that by mobilizing technical, human, and financial resources to support OPDs, we are better positioning persons with disabilities to lead the disability rights movements in their local and national contexts, and to bring disability to the fore of intersectional global conversations.

DRF/DRAF provide resources to organizations led by persons with disabilities, primarily in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean, that are leading efforts to secure rights and inclusion in development. DRF/DRAF were launched in March 2008 under the fiscal sponsorship of the Tides Center and started operations as an independent nonprofit organization (IRS 501C3) in April 2011. Its sister fund, the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (IRS 501C4), supports lobbying projects, strategic partnerships, and other special projects.

Through grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance, DRF/DRAF support OPDs to use global rights and development frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the SDGs.<sup>94</sup> In most target countries, DRF/DRAF have also conducted grantee convenings (which include CRPD/SDG training, grantee learning and information exchange, and opportunities to dialogue with government or national human rights or development officials and with other donor representatives), aimed at strengthening national disability rights movements.

The DRF/DRAF pooled fund has three main funding streams: Small Grants, Mid-Level Coalition Grants, and National Coalition Grants that range from USD 10,000 for one year to USD 120,000 over two years. For more information on the types of grants and priority areas, visit the [Funding Streams](#) page on the DRF website.

DRF/DRAF funding has targeted OPDs and OPD-led collaborations (at local and national levels) in 6 regions and 33 countries: in the Pacific – fourteen Pacific Island Countries (PICs); in Asia – Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, and Nepal; in Africa – Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda; in Latin America and the Caribbean – Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru; in the Middle East – Lebanon; and in Eastern Europe – Ukraine.

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<sup>92</sup> The UN Office of High Commission of Human Rights, the UN General Assembly, and numerous experts and governments have recognized the direct connection between human rights and poverty. See, for example, A/RES/63/175 Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, 20 March 2009.

<sup>93</sup> DFID, *Disability Equality Scheme: 2006-2009*, available at <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/diversity/disability-equality-scheme.pdf>

<sup>94</sup> DRF/DRAF utilize a model featured in the 2018 GrantCraft publication on [participatory grantmaking](#) and further described by Founding Executive Director Diana Samarasan [here](#).

Between 2008 and the end of 2021, DRF and DRAF have provided more than \$40 million in grants to OPDs.

DRF/DRAF have developed a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system that began with a year-long participatory process, completed in June 2011. The first independent [evaluation](#) was finalized in November 2012; the second [learning evaluation](#) was completed in 2015; the [third evaluation](#), with a global focus, was completed in early 2020; and the fourth evaluation focused on the [Pacific Island Countries](#) was completed in early 2020 as well. Across these evaluations, DRF/DRAF strategies have been shown to meet all OECD-DAC evaluation criteria.

### Scope of the Evaluation

This evaluation will cover all grants, technical assistance and global advocacy given between April 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022, as shaped by three active [DRF/DRAF strategies](#) in following target countries that will represent a sample of DRF/DRAF global grantmaking:

1. Indonesia,
2. Nigeria, and
3. Fiji.<sup>95</sup>

The evaluation consists of the following tasks:

- 1) Participatory and disability-inclusive evaluation design process that enables DRF/DRAF grantees and a representative set of stakeholders to shape the evaluation purpose and objectives.
- 2) Work with DRF/DRAF Learning & Evaluation staff to select relevant methods.
- 3) Conduct an evaluation, which will assess the objectives defined by the evaluation design process.
- 4) Develop a written report for DRF/DRAF management and external stakeholders and an accessible summary of relevant findings for DRF/DRAF grantees. The summary may take the form of an easy-to-read document, video, or alternative data presentation tool.

The evaluation will not cover activities considered outside the boundaries of the evaluation including impact level changes and the global advocacy efforts supported by staff.

### Purpose of the Evaluation

DRF/DRAF envision an evaluation that explore questions beyond the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria using methods developed through the grounding of [rights-based approach to data](#), which is reflected in [participatory evaluation approaches](#), [feminist evaluation principles](#) and [utilization-focused evaluation](#). For example, grantee defined a portion of the [2020 Pacific Evaluation](#) questions and purposes. This evaluation was unique for DRF in that critical evaluation design

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<sup>95</sup> Samoa may also be a possibility as a representative sample country in the Pacific. The decision to include Samoa instead of Fiji as a representative sample country would be made in partnership with key stakeholders and the independent evaluator during the design phase.



decisions were ceded to grantees and allowed us to use our evaluation funds more effectively by examining different evaluation criteria. The result was a more expansive evaluation scope – and accordingly the findings – that included factors for OPD success and capacity development, and the importance of regional collaboration and partnerships.

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide a baseline for a new DRL-funded initiative in West Africa as well as a formative for ongoing work in the rest of the global DRF grant portfolio through an in-depth examination of the following elements of the DRF/DRAF pathway to change:

1. A strategy area: [Technical Assistance](#), which previous evaluations have noted as contributing to social movement and OPD capacity; and
2. A focus area: Diversification of the disability movements, focusing particularly on our [Gender Guidelines](#) and its [Gender Guidelines Implementation](#).

The evaluation may also inform the next DRF/DRAF strategic plan.

DRF/DRAF have committed to its key stakeholders to conduct an independent external evaluation that further the understanding of how persons with disabilities have been able to further their rights achievement. This includes achievements captured in these stories:

- [Centering marginalized voices for intersectional programming: UNABU’s advocacy at the intersection of gender and disability](#)
- [WhatsApp and Advocacy: The Creative Way the Indonesian Disability Movement Fights for Their Rights](#)
- [Learn How the Ghanaian Disability Rights Movement is Influencing National Policy](#)

The primary intended users of the evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations are:

- DRF/DRAF, who will have additional evidence for strategic decisions and resource development;
- DRF/DRAF grantees; and
- DRL, FCDO and DFAT, who will be able to report back to their respective taxpayers’ use of state funds; monitor their contribution to disability-inclusive development; and strategize their future partnership with DRF and, more broadly, the disability field.

Secondary users include other DRF/DRAF donors and any other organizations working or interested in the disability rights and disability-inclusive development field.

## Proposed Tasks and Deliverables

### Phase 1: Preparation and Design (30%)

- Before starting, be thoroughly familiar with DRF/DRAF (e.g., past evaluations, logframe, theory of change/pathway to change, strategies at organizational and country levels, M&E system, grants review and administration system, participatory model, disability rights context in countries where DRF/DRAF work, etc.) through a desk review.
- Consult with DRF/DRAF on evaluation design process to determine the evaluation objectives, including how the Gender Transformation Learning Group and other relevant

grantee learning groups will be utilized, as well as preferred feedback mechanisms for grantees to learn from the evaluation.

- Develop evaluation work plan what the timetable is for fieldwork and reporting, including how feedback on conclusions will be organized.
- Agree with DRF/DRAF and main stakeholders on the methodology for the review and a plan for improvement of monitoring tools.
- Deliverables: Work plan with timeline and timing of subsequent deliverables and evaluation objectives determined by key stakeholders.

### Phase 2: Evaluation (60%)

- Assess results and progress towards impact, in terms of outcomes and outputs, based on the actual and potential impact on primary stakeholder groups (organizations of persons with disabilities) in sample countries.
- Make an overall assessment of cost effectiveness or “value for money.”
- Identify where the organization’s design needs adjusting/reorienting to increase its effectiveness or relevance to persons with disabilities. This may include recommendations to adjust the objectives and strategy, activities, budget and inputs, and organizational set-up.
- Identify what is working well, DRF/DRAF contribution at national and local levels in sample countries, and what could be improved and why/how. Produce a clear set of recommendations that improve current interventions and guide future ones.
- Deliverable: Evaluation Report.

### Phase 3: Feedback and Grantee Learning (10%)

- Develop accessible feedback mechanism with relevant information for grantees.
- Deliverable: Easy to read document, video, or alternative data presentation tool.

## **Timeline and Management**

The first phase of the work is scheduled to start in late January 2023. The final product, the evaluation report, is due in April 2023.

The Director of Learning and Evaluation will supervise the work and be responsible for the day-to-day management and communication, as well as providing all necessary documentation and orientation. The DRF/DRAF Gender Transformation Learning Group and DRF/DRAF Grantee MEL Reference Group will provide evaluation design input and guidance.

To enhance the robustness and validation of the approach and to address any potential conflict of interest between the design of data collection tools and the conduct of the evaluation itself, DRF/DRAF invite proposals to consider objective methods of scrutiny such as peer review at an appropriate proportionate level, do no harm evaluation practices and rights-based data collection principles.

## Expertise Required

A successful candidate (team) for the tasks outlined will be expected to have:

- A strong understanding and proven experience in evaluation, including the logical framework approach, M&E methods that examine causal relationships using quantitative and qualitative data such as process tracing or contribution analysis, and participatory, utilization-focused approaches that reflect the DRF/DRAF participatory grantmaking;
- A comprehensive background in working with civil society organizations in the field of international development, human rights, disability rights, advocacy, and/or international grantmaking and philanthropy;
- National evaluators who have first-hand knowledge of countries and regions where DRF/DRAF operate, including a solid understanding of participatory and inclusive processes for rights achievement and poverty reduction at national levels;
- Demonstrated experience facilitating accessible and inclusive evaluation processes that ensures active participation by diverse persons with disabilities;
- Previous experience with development agencies or international grantmaker evaluations;
- English, with a preference for fluency in the official language(s) of target countries as well (note some grantees are not fluent in English) and experience working with, or ability to work with, sign language interpreters; and
- Communication and report writing skills, including data visualization and data presentation to diverse persons with disabilities, for example, persons who are blind or partially sighted, persons with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities etc.

Teams with persons with disabilities in key leadership roles will be given greater consideration.

## Process for Interested Parties

Interested parties should send their qualifications, with a brief proposal, timeline and budget, plus references (who are familiar with candidate's evaluation work), and a copy of a recent evaluation authored by the candidate to Melanie Kawano-Chiu, Learning & Evaluation Director, at [jobs@disabilityrightsfund.org](mailto:jobs@disabilityrightsfund.org) no later than 9am Eastern Standard Time on Monday, January 9, 2023. The review of qualifications will include expertise (listed above), team composition, and cost calculations. Please contact Melanie Kawano-Chiu at [mkawanochiu@disabilityrightsfund.org](mailto:mkawanochiu@disabilityrightsfund.org) if you have any questions or require any background documents.

## Appendix II List of Interviewees and Consulted Organizations

*Table 6 DRF Staff Consulted*

#	First Name	Last name	Preferred Pronouns	Position/Title
1	Buyung Ridwan	Tanjung	He/him	Program Officer for Indonesia
2	Catalina	Devandas	She/her	Executive Director
3	Christina	Parasyn	She/her	Technical Assistance Director
4	Dwi	Ariyani	She/her	Co-Director of Programs, Asia
5	Faaolo	Utumapu-Utailesolo	She/her	Program Officer for Pacific Island Countries
6	Katiya	Sakala	She/her	Co-Director of Programs, Africa
7	Melanie	Kawano-Chiu	She/her	Evaluation and Learning Director
8	Theophilus	Odaudu	He/him	Program Manager, West Africa
9	Victoria	Lee	She/her	Rights Advocacy Director

**Table 7 DRF Funders Consulted**

#	First name	Last name	Preferred pronouns	Name of funding entity
1	Harriet	Knowles	She/her/hers	United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)
2	Daryl	Llyod	He/his	United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)
3	Allison	Colburn	She/her/hers	Bureau of Democracy, Rights & Labor (of the United States Department of State)
4	Eve	Nagel	She/her/hers	Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation

**Table 8 Gender Transformation Learning Group Consulted Members**

#	First Name	Last Name	Preferred Pronouns	Organization	Position/Title
1	Catalina	Devandas Aguilar	She/her	DRF	Executive Director
2	Andrea	Parra	She/her	Abolicion de Logicas de Castigo y Encierro (ALCE)	Co-Director
3	Jorge	Manhique	He/him	DRF	Senior Program Officer
4	Yetnebersh	Nigussie Nolla	She/her	UNICEF	Children with disabilities Program specialist
5	Melanie	Kawano-Chiu	She/her	DRF	Evaluation and Learning Director
6	Alberto	Vasquez	He/him	Centre for Inclusive Policy	Co-director
7	Christina	Parasyn	She/her	DRF	Technical Assistance Director
8	Faith	Lemon	She/her	DRF	Program Director

9	Katiya	Sakala	She/her	DRF	Co-Director of Programs, Africa
10	Jack	Kretzmer	He/They	DRF	Development Associate
11	Silvia	Salinas Mulder	She/her	EvalPartners	Co-Chair
12	Theophilus	Odaudu	He/his	DRF	Program Manager, West Africa
13	Victoria	Lee	She/Her	DRF	Advocacy Director
14	Katrin*	Wilde	She/her	Channel Foundation	Executive Director
15	Dan Christian *	Ghattas	Unavailable	Organisation Intersex International Europe	Executive Director

\* Written input provided asynchronously

**Table 9 DRF Grantees in Nigeria Consulted**

#	Name of the grantee organization	# of grantees' representatives attending the design workshop <sup>96</sup>	Grantee interviewed (yes/no)	Grantee attended the sense-making workshop on June 9 <sup>th</sup> (yes/no)
1	Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD)	1	Yes	Yes
2	Disability Rights Advocacy Center	1	No	No
3	Children's Developmental Centre	2	Yes	Yes
4	The IREDE Foundation	1	No	No
5	Network of Women with Disabilities	2	No	No

<sup>96</sup> Individual grantees are not named nor listed to maintain confidentiality.

6	Nigeria Association of the Blind	1	No	No
7	Nigeria Association of the Blind – FCT chapter	0	Yes	Yes
8	Lionheart Ability Leaders International Foundation	1	No	Yes
9	Disability Not a Barrier Initiative	1	Yes	Yes
10	She Writes Woman Mental Health Initiative	1	Yes	Yes
11	Deaf Women Aloud initiative	1	No	No
12	Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)	3	Yes	Yes
13	Hope Inspired Foundation for Women and Youths	2	No	No
14	Nigeria National Association of the Deaf	1	No	No
15	Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative (WHER)	1	Yes	Yes
16	TAFAFRICA (The Albino Foundation)	1	No	Yes
17	Association of Lawyers with Disabilities in Nigeria	0	Yes	No
	<b>Total # of Grantees consulted in Nigeria (all OPDs)</b>	<b>20</b>		

**Table 10 Interviewed External Stakeholders- Nigeria**

#	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position/Title
1	James	Lalu	National Commission for Persons with Disability	Executive Secretary
2	Samuel	Omoi	CBM International	Head of Programme
3	Niri	Goyit	Action Aid	Program Manager – Women's right
4	Adebukola	Adebayo	Disability Inclusion consultant	TA provider
5	Anthony	Adejuwon	Urban Alert	Team Lead

*Table 11 DRF Grantees in Indonesia Consulted*

#	Name of the grantee organization	# of grantees' representatives attending the workshop	Grantee interviewed (yes/no)	Grantee attended the sense-making workshop on May 30 <sup>th</sup> (yes/no)
1	Center for Improving Qualified Activities for People with Disabilities (CIQAL)	1	Yes	Yes
2	Movement for the Well-Being of Deaf Indonesians (GERKATIN-National)	1	Yes	Yes
3	Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI)	2	Yes	Yes
4	Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA)	3	Yes	Yes
5	OHANA Indonesia	1	Yes	Yes
6	Pelangi Disabilitas Yogyakarta	1	No	No
7	Association of the DeafBlind (PELITA)	2	Yes	No
8	Persutan Tunanetra Indonesia (PERTUNI)	1	No	No
9	PERWADI	2	Yes	Yes
10	PUSPADI BALI	2	No	No
11	SEHATI Sukoharjo	1	No	No
12	Indonesian Down Syndrome Care Foundation (YAPESDI)	1	Yes	No
13	YOGASMARA Autism Foundation	2	No	No
14	PERSANI	0	Yes	Yes
	<b>Total Number of Grantees in Indonesia</b>	<b>20</b>		



**Table 12 Interviewed External Stakeholders- Indonesia**

#	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position/Title
1	Mimi	Lusli	Mimi Institute	Consultant -supporter (PERWADI)
2	Deni		ARK	Director/Financial Sponsor to PERWADI
3	Ari		PUZZLE (information and education center related to public health, especially HIV and AIDS)	
4	Bahrul	Fuad	Komnas Perempuan/ National Commission on Violence Against Women	Commissioner
5	Mike V.	Tangka	Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia/Indonesia Women's Coalition	General Secretary
6	Farida	Wahid	Kemenkum HAM/Ministry	Coordinator of the rights of economic, social and culture cum rights of marginalized group

**Table 13 DRF Grantees in the Pacific Island Countries Consulted**

#	Name of the grantee organization	# of grantees' representatives attending the workshop	Grantee interviewed (yes/no)
1	Disability Pride Hub	2	Yes
2	Fiji Association of the Deaf	1	Yes
3	Te Toa Matoa (TTM)	1	No
4	Tonga National Visual Impairment (TNVIA)	1	No
5	Samoa Blind Persons Association (SBPA)	1	No
6	United Blind Persons of Fiji	1	No
7	Fiji Disabled Peoples' Federation (FDPF)	1	Yes

8	Psychiatric Survivors Association	0	Yes (via email)
	<b>Total Number of Grantees' representatives in PICs</b>	<b>8</b>	

**Table 14 Interviewed External Stakeholders- Fiji**

#	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position/Title
1	Nalini	Singh	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Executive Director
2	Abdul	Mufeez Shaheed	Rainbow Pride Foundation	Program Manager

## Appendix III Evaluation Questions

### **Evaluation Priority Area 1: The impacts of Technical Assistance and factors affecting its access and use by grantees<sup>97</sup>**

- 1.1. What has been the use of DRF's TA (provided between 2019 and 2022) by grantees in the three countries? How has TA been useful and for whom? What have been successful examples of TA?
  - a) Which DRF's delivery modalities<sup>98</sup> and types<sup>99</sup> of Technical Assistance have grantees used? In relation to which focus areas<sup>100</sup>? (*document review/grants database analysis*)
  - b) What has been the range of support<sup>101</sup> provided by DRF in relation to the technical assistance provided? (*document review/interviews with grantees and DRF staff*)
  - c) How has the access to DRF's TA varied across grantees<sup>102</sup>? (*document review/ grants database analysis, interviews with grantees and DRF staff*)
  - d) How has TA been useful for them? (*interviews with grantees*)
  - e) What constitutes successful TA for DRF and their grantees? (*interviews with grantees and DRF staff*)
  - f) What have been successful examples of TA for them (DRF and grantees)? (*interviews with grantees and DRF staff*)
  - g) What are examples of TA supporting transformative processes<sup>6</sup> at the individual, organizational, and/or system levels? (*sampled grantees only*) (*interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors*)

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<sup>97</sup> Access to technical assistance across grantees will be analysed according to the following variables (depending on the accuracy of data in the DRF/DRAF grant database): rural/urban, type of disability (physical, psychosocial, mental), type of OPD (women-led or gender diverse, non-women led/gender diverse), emergent/non-emergent, new/repeated grantees, first time user of TA/repeated user of TA.

<sup>98</sup> By delivery modalities the evaluation team refers as to whether TA was outsourced to external consultants/TA providers, was provided by DRF/DRAF staff, or was provided by another OPD.

<sup>99</sup> By types of TA the evaluation team refers to TA embedded in grants, National Umbrella TA Grants, and Direct TA (as per DRF/DRAF's 2017 TA Strategy).

<sup>100</sup> By focus areas the evaluation team refers to the four focus areas identified in the 2017 DRF/DRAF Technical Assistance Strategy, namely: Increasing Grantee technical knowledge on the CRPD and the SDGs, Increasing Grantee skills for advocacy on CRPD and SDG implementation, Increasing Grantee knowledge and skills to monitor human rights and inclusive development processes, and Increasing Grantee knowledge and skills to form alliances within and across movement.

<sup>101</sup> By range of support, the evaluation team refers to both the qualitative aspect (i.e., types of activities/expenses allowed under TA, like training, mentoring, coaching) and the quantitative aspect (i.e., dollar amount of TA provided, frequency of TA)

<sup>102</sup> Access to technical assistance across grantees will be analysed according to the following variables: rural/urban, type of disability (physical, psychosocial, mental), type of OPD (women-led or gender diverse, non-women led/gender diverse), emergent/non-emergent, new/repeated grantees, not accessing TA/TA user.

- 1.2. What factors have affected grantees' access and utilisation of DRF's Technical Assistance<sup>103</sup>?
  - a) How relevant has DRF's TA been for grantees? For whom has it been most relevant? Why? *(interviews with grantees and DRF staff)*
  - b) What factors have affected grantees' access and utilization of TA? How? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
  - c) Which needs of the most marginalized grantees have been met by DRF's TA? Which needs have not been met? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff)*
  - d) In what ways has the DRF supported opportunities for grantees to exchange knowledge and learn from each other around TA? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff)*
- 1.3 Moving forward, how can the DRF increase grantees' access and utilisation of its TA? (Analysis from the answers to the previous questions)

### **Evaluation Priority Area 2: DRF's contributions to the key achievements by the disability movement in the three countries**

- 2.1 How has the DRF contributed to the selected key wins in the three countries?
  - a) How do the selected wins represent key achievements for the different parts of the disability movement in each country? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
  - b) What role has the disability movement played in the achievement of those wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
  - c) What was DRF's contribution to the key wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, document review)*
  - d) What other actors played a key role in the achievement of those key wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
- 2.2 In what ways has DRF's TA contributed to the key wins identified?
  - a) What was DRF's TA contribution to the key wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
  - b) Which aspects of TA (i.e., delivery modalities, types, range of support) have worked well and under which conditions? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
- 2.3 What factors have affected the achievement of the key wins?
  - a) Which internal factors (to DRF and grantees) have affected the achievement of results? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, document review)*
  - b) Which external (i.e., country context) factors have affected the achievement of results? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
  - c) In what ways, if at all, have cross-movement collaborations supported the achievement of key wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*

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<sup>103</sup> The evaluation team will assess whether grantees' understanding of DRF/DRAF's modalities, types, and purposes of Technical Assistance, and the relevance of the modalities, types, and/or focus areas of DRF/DRAF's TA affected access and utilization. The evaluation will also try to uncover other factors that may have affected TA access and utilization by grantees.

- d) How, if at all, has the diversification of the disability movements supported the key wins? *(interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors, document review)*
- 2.4 What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins for the DRF and the grantees? (Analysis from the answers to the previous questions)

**Evaluation Priority Area 3: The DRF’s contributions to the diversification of the disability movements**

- 3.1 How has DRF’s support contributed to diversification within the disability movement?
- a) What type of support has the DRF provided to the most marginalized groups? *(document review/grants database analysis, interviews with grantees, DRF staff)*
  - b) How has DRF’s support to the most marginalized groups – especially but not only women-led OPDs and OPDs led by persons with disabilities with diverse SOGIESC- contributed to the diversification of the disability movements? *(document review, interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors)*
  - c) In what ways have the disability movements diversified? (e.g., transformative processes at individual/collective/system level, shifts in power –in terms of access to resources, relations, spaces) *(document review, interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors)*
  - d) What factors have supported and what factors have hindered the diversification of the disability movements? *(document review, interviews with grantees, DRF staff, other actors)*
- 3.2 What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF’s work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways? (Analysis from the answers to the previous questions)

## Appendix IV Evaluation Matrix

<p>1.1 What has been the use of DRF's TA (provided between 2019 and 2022) by grantees in the three countries? How has TA been useful and for whom? What have been successful examples of TA?</p>	<p>a. Which DRF's delivery modalities<sup>[1]</sup> and types<sup>[2]</sup> of Technical Assistance have grantees used<sup>[3]</sup>? In relation to which focus areas<sup>[4]</sup>? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Range of TA delivery modalities used by grantees</p> <p>Range of TA types used by grantees</p> <p>List of focus areas</p>	<p>Statistical analysis of grant database</p> <p>Review of grant reports (for sampled grantees only)</p> <p>Grant Rec Memos</p>
	<p>b. What has been the range of support<sup>[5]</sup> provided by DRF in relation to the technical assistance provided? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Description of the range of support provided by DRF</p>	<p>Grant database</p> <p>Grant reports (for sampled grantees only)</p>
	<p>c. How has TA been useful for them? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Ways in which the TA has been helpful as reported by the grantees</p>	<p>Interviews with sampled grantees</p> <p>Document review (annual grantee surveys, TA consultations)</p>
	<p>d. What constitutes successful TA for DRF and their grantees? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Types of characteristics/conditions/results associated to successful TA as identified by grantees and DRF</p>	<p>Interviews with sampled grantees</p> <p>Interviews with DRF staff</p> <p>Document review (annual grantee surveys, TA consultations)</p>
	<p>e. What have been successful examples of TA for them (DRF and grantees)? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Examples of successful TA (e.g. instances of DRF-supported Technical Assistance provided by marginalized groups within the disability movement)</p>	<p>Interviews with sampled grantees</p> <p>Interviews with DRF staff</p> <p>Document review (annual grantee surveys, TA consultations)</p>
	<p>f. What are examples of TA supporting transformative processes<sup>[6]</sup> at the individual, organizational, and/or system levels? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i></p>	<p>Examples of TA contributing to power shifts, empowerment processes</p>	<p>Interviews with sampled grantees</p> <p>Interviews with DRF staff</p>

			Interviews with other actors (TA providers, government officials, CSOs, etc.)
1.2 What factors have affected grantees' access and utilisation of DRF's Technical Assistance <sup>12</sup> ? <i>(sampled grantees only)</i>	a. How relevant has DRF's TA been for grantees? For whom has it been most relevant? Why?	Grantees' views on the relevance of the received TA Data on access to TA (as per previous analysis)	Interviews with sampled grantees Grant database Document review (grant reports, annual grantee surveys)
	b. What factors have affected grantees' access and utilization of TA? How?	List of factors affecting, positively or negatively, grantees' access and utilization of TA	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders (e.g., TA providers) Document review (annual grantee surveys, TA consultations, learning journals)
	c. Which needs of the most marginalized grantees have been met by DRF's TA? Which needs have not been met?	Degree of alignment between grantees' needs and TA offer	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Data from the Design workshops
	d. In what ways has DRF supported opportunities for grantees to exchange knowledge and learn from each other around TA?	List of mechanisms put in place by DRF to support exchange and learning among grantees around TA	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Document review (DRF annual reports) Data from the Design workshops
1.3 Moving forward, how can DRF increase grantees' access and utilisation of their TA?	a. Moving forward, how can DRF increase grantees' access and utilisation of their TA?	Analysis from the answers to the previous questions and considering recommendations made by interviewed stakeholders	

**Evaluation Priority Area 2: DRF's contributions to the key achievements by the disability movement in the three countries**

KEY QUESTIONS	SUB-QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	METHODS & DATA SOURCES
2.1 How has DRF contributed to the selected key wins in the three countries?	a. How do the selected wins represent key achievements for the different parts of the disability movement in each country?	Grantees' perceptions on the selected key wins	Interviews with sampled grantees Document review (grantees' reports, learning journals)
	b. What role has the disability movement played in the achievement of those wins?	Type of roles played by the grantees (advocate leaders, mobilizers, subject experts, agenda setters, advisors)	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (grantees' reports, learning journals, Grant Rec Memos)
	c. What was DRF's contribution to the key wins?	Plausibility of the linkages between DRF's support and the key achievements Perceived significance (among grantees and DRF staff) of the contribution made by the DRF's support	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Document review (annual reports, grantees' reports, TA consultations)
	d. What other actors played a key role in the achievement of those key wins?	List of other actors beyond grantees	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (grantees' reports, learning journals, external sources e.g., articles, reports, etc.)



2.2 In what ways has DRF's TA contributed to the key wins identified?	a. What was DRF's TA contribution to the key wins?	Plausibility of the linkages between DRF's TA support and the key achievements Perceived significance (among grantees and DRF staff) of the contribution made by the DRF's TA support	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Document review (annual reports, grantees' reports, grantee annual surveys, TA consultations, learning journals)
	b. Which aspects of TA (i.e., delivery modalities, types, range of support) have worked well and under which conditions?	Aspects of TA supporting key achievements	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (TA consultations)
2.3 What factors have affected the achievement of the key wins?	a. Which internal factors (to DRF and grantees) have affected the achievement of results?	List of factors affecting, positively or negatively, key achievements	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Document review (grantees' reports, learning journals)
	b. Which external (i.e., country context) factors have affected the achievement of results?	List of country-related (or other) factors affecting, positively or negatively, key achievements	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (grantees' reports) Document review (annual reports, grantees' reports, learning journals)
	c. In what ways, if at all, have cross-movement collaborations supported the achievement of key wins?	Existence of cross-movement collaborations in relation to the key achievements	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders

		Roles played by actors from other movements in relation to the key achievements (supporters, mobilizers, advocacy leaders, advisors, subject experts)	Document review (grantees' reports, learning journals)
	d. How, if at all, has the diversification of the disability movements supported the key wins?	Ways in which marginalized grantees have been involved in the key achievements	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF staff Interviews with other stakeholders
2.4 What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins for DRF and the grantees?	a. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins for DRF and the grantees?	Analysis from the answers to the previous questions and considering recommendations made by interviewed stakeholders	

### Evaluation Priority Area 3: The DRF's contributions to the diversification of the disability movements

KEY QUESTIONS	SUB-QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	METHODS & DATA SOURCES
3.1 How has DRF's support contributed to diversification within the disability movement?	a. What type of support has DRF provided to the most marginalized groups?	Types of support provided to the most marginalized grantees (or representing the most marginalized groups) Type of support provided to 'mainstream' grantees to be inclusive	Interviews with DRF Interviews with sampled grantees Document review (Grant Rec Memos)
	b. How has DRF's support to the most marginalized groups – especially but not only women-led OPDs and OPDs led by persons with disabilities with diverse SOGIESC- contributed to the diversification of the disability movements?	Reported changes in the way 'mainstream' OPDs operate to be more inclusive	Interviews with DRF Interviews with sampled grantees

		Instances of access by marginalized grantees to new resources, relations, spaces, opportunities of being consulted, gained visibility	Document review (DRF annual reports, annual grantee surveys, learning journals)
	c. In what ways have the disability movements diversified?	Instances of advocacy efforts led by or including marginalized OPDs/groups Instances of cross-movement collaborations Stakeholders' perceptions on the ways the disability movement has diversified since 2019	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (DRF annual reports and external sources)
	d. What factors have supported and what factors have hindered the diversification of the disability movements?	List of factors supporting diversification List of factors hindering diversification	Interviews with sampled grantees Interviews with DRF Interviews with other stakeholders Document review (learning journals, external sources)
3.2 What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF's work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways?	a. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF's work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways?	Analysis from the answers to the previous questions and considering recommendations made by interviewed stakeholders	

<sup>[1]</sup> By delivery modalities the evaluation team refers as to whether TA was outsourced to external consultants/TA providers, was provided by DRF staff, or was provided by another OPD.

<sup>[2]</sup> By types of TA the evaluation team refers to TA embedded in grants, National Umbrella TA Grants, and Direct TA (as per DRF's 2017 TA Strategy).

<sup>[3]</sup> Access to technical assistance across grantees will be analysed according to the following variables (as available from the documentation shared with the evaluation team and depending on its quality): rural/urban, type of disability (physical, psychosocial, mental), type of OPD (women-led or gender diverse, non-women led/gender diverse), emergent/non-emergent, new/repeated grantees, first time user of TA/repeated user of TA.

<sup>[4]</sup> By focus areas the evaluation team refers to the four focus areas identified in the 2017 DRF Technical Assistance Strategy, namely: Increasing Grantee technical knowledge on the CRPD and the SDGs, Increasing Grantee skills for advocacy on CRPD and SDG implementation, Increasing Grantee knowledge and skills to monitor human rights and inclusive development processes, and Increasing Grantee knowledge and skills to form alliances within and across movement.

<sup>[5]</sup> By range of support, the evaluation team refers to both the qualitative aspect (i.e., types of activities/expenses allowed under TA, like training, mentoring, coaching) and the quantitative aspect (i.e., dollar amount of TA provided, frequency of TA)

<sup>[6]</sup> By transformative processes we refer to changes in power dynamics and structures that serve to reinforce inequalities and discriminations.

<sup>[7]</sup> The evaluation team will assess whether grantees' understanding of DRF's modalities, types, and purposes of Technical Assistance, and the relevance of the modalities, types, and/or focus areas of DRF's TA affected access and utilization. The evaluation will also try to uncover other factors that may have affected TA access and utilization by grantees.

## Appendix V Evaluation Context

This evaluation took place in a moment for DRF marked by the following major organizational processes and the opening of potential funding opportunities. These include, among others, the executive leadership transition at DRF, the new strategic planning process, the start of the first DRL-funded project, the FCDO grant agreement coming to an end and development of the new business case on disability capacity development, combined with the review and update of DRF’s TA strategy. This evaluation also occurred amidst the second grantmaking round of 2023. Further details on each of these specific contexts is provided below:

- **Executive leadership transition:** in 2021, the Founder and DRF Executive Director Diana Samarasan stepped down after having led the organization for thirteen years and in August 2022, a new Executive Director – Catalina Devandas (former DRF program officer) - was appointed by the DRF Board. Soon after this executive leadership transition, the newly appointed Executive Director initiated a review of DRF’s internal organizational arrangements and processes so that the organization could respond to external stakeholders’ current and future needs and demands and to adopt measures to improve the internal processes’ efficiency. Recommendations from the review are currently being considered for implementation.
- **New Strategic Planning process:** the 2017-2020 (extended to 2023) Strategic Plan coming to an end, DRF is developing - under the guidance of the new Executive Director - a new multi-year Strategic Plan covering the next five years. The process, supported by an external consulting firm, is expected to come to an end at mid-September 2023 when the final Strategic Plan document will be submitted to the DRF Board for approval.
- **Start of the first DRL-funded project:** in 2022, DRF obtained their first grant (of the value of 1 million USD) from the DRL as part of the DRL’s funding opportunity “Increasing the Agency of Women with Disabilities in West Africa” to position women with disabilities in leadership roles within the disability movement and mainstream women’s rights organizations. The duration of this project is 30 months and is implemented in Nigeria and Ghana in its first phase.
- **Coming to an end of the FCDO grant agreement and development of the new business case on disability capacity development:** In 2020, DRF obtained a grant from the FCDO as part of the FCDO’s 2020-2024 Disability Capacity Building Programme. FCDO will soon start (in summer 2023) developing the new business case, which may represent a new funding opportunity for DRF moving forward.
- **Review and update of DRF’s Technical Assistance Strategy:** Originally launched in 2017, the [Technical Assistance](#) strategy, which previous evaluations have noted as contributing to social movement and OPD capacity, is being reviewed to enhance its relevance to grantees and its effectiveness. The review process started in 2021 and encompassed extensive consultations in 2022 (through different modalities) with grantees from across

16 countries.<sup>104</sup> A revised TA strategy is expected to be developed by early 2024 once the Strategic Plan has been completed to ensure alignment.

- **The 2023 round of grantmaking:** A grantmaking round of applications will be launched in 2023. As per every round, specific priorities will be determined by DRF.

The independent evaluation may inform – to various degrees - these processes and opportunities by providing insights and lessons on what has worked well and what could be improved based on the assessment of DRF’s work over the past four years.

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104 DMZ Partners in Sustainable Development. DRF Technical Assistance. Learning Review Summary. Draft 4 05/04/23. Written submissions were received from OPDs in 13 countries. An additional three countries chose to only participate in virtual consultations.

# Appendix VI Evaluation Methodology

## Inception Phase

### *Introduction*

This section describes the activities conducted during the Inception Phase (February-April 2023) and explains how they informed the evaluation scope, objectives, and methodology applied to the evaluation.

### *Inception Activities*

The ToR for the independent evaluation included the following parameters for the evaluation scope, objectives, and deliverables:

- **Scope:** Temporal focus on DRF's work conducted between April 2019 and December 2022; geographic focus on three sample countries (Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria); and 'thematic' focus on: i) the technical assistance resourced by DRF to the grantees (either directly by DRF, through embedded TA, or through a grant to a national umbrella organization), ii) DRF's support to diversify disability movements – in particular through the implementation of the DRF Gender Guidelines and related Implementation Plan.
- **Objectives:** Assess the progress made in the three sample countries.<sup>105</sup>
- **Deliverables:** An evaluation report and another deliverable whose format and content would be determined during the Inception Phase consultations.

The ToR (see **Appendix I** for the full Terms of Reference) also provided some general evaluation questions to consider, but no specific evaluation criteria and rather had an expectation for the evaluation to 'go beyond' the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria given the track record of good performance DRF registered from all the previous evaluation exercises that had been guided by those criteria.

This evaluation is intended to be used by DRF as an opportunity to deepen their learning on other aspects that may not adequately – or not at all – emerge from an evaluation guided by the OECD-DAC criteria. Moreover, in alignment with the DRF's participatory grantmaking approach, DRF wish to be guided by their grantees in the selection of what the organization needs to learn.

Thus, the key objective of the Inception Phase was to define, through a participatory and disability-inclusive process which was also informed by a feminist lens and utilization-focused approach, the evaluation objectives, key questions, and the format and/or content of the evaluation deliverables.

To this aim, throughout March and April, the evaluation team (see **Appendix VII Evaluation Team: Roles and Responsibilities** for a full description of evaluation team roles and responsibilities) conducted consultations with those identified by DRF as key intended users of the evaluation, namely:

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<sup>105</sup> During the inception phase, it was agreed with the DRF/DRAF that the evaluation scope would not include cost-effectiveness or detailed analysis of value for money.

- **Sampled grantees in the three countries/regions through online design workshops:** A virtual workshop, 2-hour long, was conducted with sampled<sup>106</sup> grantees from each of the three countries (Fiji<sup>107</sup>, Indonesia, and Nigeria) between the end of March and the first week of April 2023. The design workshops aimed to gather grantees' input on the key evaluation questions (within the originally defined scope in the ToR) and the format and content of one of the two evaluation deliverables.
- **The members of the DRF Gender Transformation Learning Group (GT LG) through an online design workshop:** DRF have recently established a Learning Group that brings together internal and external DRF stakeholders deeply involved and committed to disability rights and gender equality "to inform and advise on the implementation of the DRF [Gender Guidelines](#), which is intended to steer our gender transformation in all areas of the Funds' work, including but not limited to grantmaking, technical assistance, advocacy, communications, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)".<sup>108</sup> The evaluation team took part in the first GT LG meeting held on March 30, 2023, to gather GT LG members' perspectives on how the evaluation can identify gender transformative processes in the context of DRF and capture DRF's contribution to those processes within disability movements.
- **The DRF staff through individual interviews:** Nine staff members (out of 26) were interviewed as the intended users of the evaluation. These are staff members closely linked to the scope of the evaluation and for whom the evaluation will represent a key input for their learning and decision-making around new strategies and ways to support grantees.
- **The DRF funders through individual interviews:** Three funders were interviewed (out of the six originally identified as key intended users<sup>109</sup>). These funders include longstanding and new DRF funders with a special interest in the selected countries.

All these consultations have informed the evaluation methodology in the following ways:

- **Evaluation objectives:** the evaluation objective of assessing cost-effectiveness/"value for money" was dropped as this was not something that reflected intended users' interest.
- **Evaluation scope:** the DRF TA support and their work around the diversification of disability movements were confirmed as priority areas for the evaluation. Specifically, the consultations stressed the importance of identifying the factors affecting, either positively or negatively, the access and utilization of the DRF TA by grantees. Regarding the diversification of disability movements, the consultations highlighted the need to expand the look at the diversification to include not only a gender and SOGIESC perspectives but also a disability-inclusive perspective (i.e., considering the different types of disability)

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<sup>106</sup> For more details on sampling, see **Section Sampling Criteria**.

<sup>107</sup> Following consultation with the DRF, a regional design workshop was held for input in consideration of the cultural dynamics in the region, and considering the way the disability movement operates in the Pacific Island countries. Upon consultation with the DRF/DRAF Program Officer for the Pacific region, the evaluation team had originally planned to hold two virtual workshops with selected grantees in the region to accommodate the different time zones. While the first workshop was well attended, only one grantee showed up at the second workshop and, therefore, the second workshop was cancelled.

<sup>108</sup> DRF Gender Transformation Learning Group. Terms of Reference. February 2023.

<sup>109</sup> The evaluation team invited all six funders for an interview, but the interviews were possible only with three of them because of availability issues.



- **Evaluation questions and indicators:** the evaluation questions and sub-questions included in the evaluation matrix were either directly taken from the questions formulated by the consulted intended users or were developed from their questions. Similarly, indicators were informed by the users' questions, reflections, and hopes (e.g., OPDs becoming TA providers).
- **Evaluation deliverables:** in the case of the evaluation report, consultations highlighted the importance of having a report that 'tells the stories' by zooming in or diving deep in concrete cases. In the case of a second deliverable, both the format and content have been primarily informed by the consultations with the sampled grantees, who expressed their preference for a two-page summary on the evaluation highlights.<sup>110</sup>
- **Evaluation methodology:** the consultations confirmed the importance of having intended users involved throughout the evaluation process. During the design workshops, grantees requested to review the draft report, and funders to have the report made publicly available. In addition, the consultations highlighted the need to have, during the data collection process, a safe and confidential space to address questions related to the DRF technical assistance and support to the diversification of disability movements.

The Inception Phase was also a key moment to ensure the streamlining of the evaluation process with the concurrent Strategic Planning process (conducted by another consulting team). The results of this streamlining process included: joint interviewing of key funders during the Inception Phase and inclusion of key questions for the SP process into the interview protocols developed for the evaluation; scheduling of a touch-base point between the evaluation team and the SP team towards the end of May to share highlights emerging from the two processes; and reducing double interviewing for some categories of key stakeholders.

Throughout the Inception Phase, the evaluation team held regular check-in calls and email exchanges with the DRF Evaluation and Learning Director and the West Africa Program Manager. This ensured ongoing communication around the evaluation and fast troubleshooting as required.

## Evaluation Purpose, Objectives, Users, Uses, and Scope

### *Evaluation Purpose and Objectives*

The purpose of this independent evaluation was primarily summative, evidencing DRF's contribution to key achievements in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, the impacts of the DRF TA at different levels (individual, organizational, systemic/movement) and on OPDs' capacity to be, to act, and to relate, and to the diversification of disability movements in the three countries. It also combines a formative perspective in that it aims to provide recommendations on how the DRF TA and support to the diversification of disability movements could be made more relevant, effective, and contextually appropriate, thus informing DRF's future strategies.

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110 A learning forum and a webinar to present the evaluation results were the other two most voted choices by the design workshop participants. The two-page summary on the evaluation was the top choice across the three countries.

The evaluation was principally geared toward **learning** from what worked and what did not work so well in DRF’s support over the period 2019-2022. The evaluation also aimed to support DRF’s **accountability** towards their grantees and funders.

The evaluation objectives (all related to the three countries) are: i) to assess DRF’s contributions to selected key achievements and whether and how their technical assistance and efforts for the diversification of disability movements supported the key achievements, ii) to identify the impacts of DRF’s technical assistance on grantees’ organizational capacity and in other areas as applicable, and factors having affected grantees’ access to and utilization of it, and iii) to assess DRF’s contribution to the diversification of disability movements.

### *Intended Users & Uses*

The Inception Phase activities outlined in **Section Inception Activities** homed in on identifying intended users and uses of the evaluation, including exploring the utility of the evaluation process and its products. Primary users of the evaluation include DRF staff (specifically the staff members who were consulted during the Inception Phase), interviewed funders, and grantees in the three countries/regions. Secondary users of the evaluation are the GT LG members, who may find in the evaluation products useful insights to support them in their role as GT LG for DRF and beyond that, for their work in the field of social justice (whether in relation to disability rights, disability-inclusive development, women's rights, or gender justice).

A summary of the identified internal and external intended users and uses of the evaluation are provided in Table 3 below:

*Table 15 List of Intended Users & Uses*

INTENDED USER	INTENDED USES
<b>DRF Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access evaluation evidence and learning to inform strategic decisions;</li> <li>• Inform resource mobilization</li> <li>• Fulfill accountability requirements towards grantees and funders</li> </ul>
<b>DRF Grantees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor DRF’s contribution to the disability movement;</li> <li>• Learn from grantees’ success stories and related success factors;</li> <li>• Inform DRF’s strategic decisions through feedback shared</li> </ul>
<b>Funders (DRL, FCDO and DFAT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting-back to respective taxpayers on use of state funds;</li> <li>• Monitor contribution to disability-inclusive development;</li> <li>• Strategize future partnerships with DRF, and the disability field more broadly</li> </ul>
<b>GT LG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share learning back with own constituencies</li> </ul>

### *Evaluation Scope*

As defined by the ToR, and reconfirmed during the Design Phase, the scope of the evaluation was defined as follows:

- **Temporal Scope:** The evaluation covered DRF’s activities conducted within the time period of April 1, 2019 until December 31, 2022.
- **Geographic Scope:** Consultations during the Design Phase further confirmed that the evaluation would focus on the work carried out by DRF in three select program countries as a sample of DRF global grantmaking. The countries selected by DRF are Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. This selection was made to provide a ‘representative’ (in terms of grantmaking, length of DRF presence in the country, size of the country, regional location) sample of countries in which DRF operate. In addition, the following considerations to guide the selection were made by the DRF:
  - **Fiji:** The country has a small but vibrant disability movement that has made important achievements in the past few years. During the temporal scope of this evaluation, DRF have also supported their first LTGBQI grantee from Fiji.
  - **Indonesia:** The country has a long list of significant achievements made by OPDs, in which women-led OPDs have often played an important role. Given DRF’s interest in further enhancing the diversification of disability movements, the work conducted by DRF-supported OPDs in the country is likely to provide important lessons in this respect. DRF grantmaking in the country has been considerable since it started providing support in 2010.
  - **Nigeria:** In 2022, DRF received their first grant from the DRL for the implementation of projects in West Africa countries to support women with disabilities’ participation in advocacy towards CRPD implementation. Nigeria is one of the two countries where DRF has started implementation in a first phase of the DRL grant (the other country being Ghana). This is a relatively new country for DRF, which started providing support to Nigeria OPDs in 2018.
- **Thematic Scope:** Thematically, the evaluation focused on DRF’s supported initiatives in the areas of technical assistance, the diversification of the disability movement (including gender equality). It also looked at progress towards the rights of persons with disabilities in the three selected countries by examining two key wins in each country, identified by the DRF staff during the Design Phase.
- **Evaluative Scope:** In examining DRF results, the evaluation considered output and outcome levels, with the impact level beyond the scope of the evaluation.

## Evaluation Approaches

The evaluation was informed by the four interlinked ‘approaches’ described in the Technical Bid submitted to DRF by Universalia in January 2023, namely being grounded in a rights-based approach that is disability inclusive, a participatory approach, feminist evaluation principles, and utilization-focused evaluation. The following bullet points explain how these approaches informed data collection, analysis, and reporting.

- **Utilization-Focused:** The notion of utilization-focused evaluation is a well-tested and widely used approach developed by Patton (2008) and reflects the intent to design the evaluation process and products in a way that maximizes relevance and practical use to its intended users. This was a key focus of the Design Phase of the evaluation, with consultations and workshops with grantees and other intended users conducted to inform the design of evaluation questions, approaches, and

products. The evaluation team continued to engage intended users throughout the evaluation, shaping the assignment according to the envisaged uses of evaluation findings and recommendations by its intended internal and external users to the extent possible within the timeline. Moreover, data collection tools, such as interview protocols, focus group facilitation guides, and evaluation deliverables were written in accessible and user-friendly language and formats.

- **Rights-Based and Participatory Approach:** All members of the evaluation team conformed to the norms and standards outlined in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality Perspectives in Evaluations and the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. In particular, the evaluation was guided by UNEG's principles of integrity, accountability, respect, and beneficence (minimizing harm, ongoing consideration of risks and benefits, mitigation strategies) for ethical evaluation. All team members took responsibility for being aware of power relations with other stakeholders, particularly the team's own positioning, at all times during the evaluation process. Care was taken to establish fertile ground in communication for allowing stakeholders to express their own views and share information freely. Protocols were developed to ensure the confidentiality of information and to obtain consent from each respondent. Team members prepared all respondents with a clear explanation of the purpose of the evaluation and of their contributions.
- **Disability-Inclusive:** The evaluation took measures to ensure accessibility in its approach, as well as in the delivery of all evaluation products. The evaluation was premised on the recognition of the diversity of the disability movement as a non-homogenous group, with intersectional marginalized identities with different priorities and needs within the disability movement. As with the planning and implementation of the Design Workshops as part of Inception, the evaluation considered the representation of different disability groups during data collection, and the support needs and accessible formats required for different groups. This was guided further by the accessibility resources and guidance provided by DRF. The evaluation also assessed the extent to which DRF were disability-inclusive in the support they provided during the period under review.
- **Feminist Evaluation & Intersectional Lens:** The evaluation was grounded in core feminist tenets around equity, intersectionality, systemic gender-based inequalities and their link with social injustice. The evaluation team ensured that beyond its findings, the evaluation process and products considered intersectionality, providing a platform for the most marginalized groups to ensure the inclusion of voices often unheard. For example, grantees were selected based on various identities and dimensions, and engaged in co-defining the evaluation questions rather than being driven by independent international evaluation 'experts'. The evaluation also aimed to facilitate reflection and learning that supports social change both internally and externally.

To implement the above approaches, the evaluation took the following measures:

- Evaluation questions were formulated to capture the human rights, gender equality and inclusion dimensions of the issue.
- Selection criteria for sampling were done with full transparency and in respect of inclusion, gender equality and human rights. In stakeholder mapping and analysis, rights holders, duty bearers, and rights defenders were included, with particular emphasis on rights holders.
- Type of disability, gender, and geographical location that were important to the examination of respect and fulfilment of human rights (e.g., SOGIESC) were used as selection criteria to sample grantees to engage in the design workshops and interviews.

- Transparency in all data processes, especially in the use and analysis of qualitative data, were a guiding principle. The team also explained any data gaps or limitations affecting data quantity or quality and how this affected the validity or credibility of findings.
- Internal discussions among evaluation team members included self-reflection on the power dynamics with stakeholders to ensure a sense of power sharing, accessibility, inclusiveness, gender sensitivity and equity, and cultural sensitivity.
- The evaluation process included participatory and inclusive sense-making workshops with grantees in Nigeria and Indonesia and a presentation to DRF Evaluation Committee to validate emerging themes, address any discrepancies and fill any gaps following data collection.

## Ethical Considerations

In addition to the measures listed above, the nature of the subject evaluated demanded an approach that emphasizes the importance of informed and voluntary consent. The evaluation team:

- Ensured informed consent of all individuals invited to contribute to the evaluation (i.e., ensuring that they understand the evaluation purpose, how their responses would be used, and the status of the evaluation team as independent third party);
- Respected the right of all individuals to choose whether they wished to participate in the evaluation or not, including the right to not answer any question they did not feel comfortable addressing and to withdraw at any time from the interview process;
- Ensured anonymity of participants and confidentiality of information shared by stakeholders;
- Conducted data collection that involved stakeholders in way that was responsive to and respectful of cultural, including linguistic, sensitivities;
- Brought together, in the evaluation team, consultants from both the global North and South, who are proficient in relevant local cultures and languages;
- Ensured that stakeholders had equal opportunities to be represented and heard in the evaluation with due attention to factors that could impede such access such as type of disability, gender, language, location, and age. For instance, the evaluation provided and covered the costs associated to sign language interpreters, tactile sign language interpreters, CART service providers, English/Bahasa interpreters;
- Ensured that data collection activities did not cause adverse effects for informants. Specifically, the evaluation considered potential risks and benefits for respondents and the broader community, adapting methodology and mitigation measures to minimize risks. Data was collected anonymously, with confidentiality assured through data protection measures and the removal of any identifying information;
- Together with DRF, developed strategies for sharing relevant evaluation findings with stakeholders in meaningful ways. This included ensuring that evaluation reports and other relevant documents produced during the evaluation were available to stakeholders, and were written in clear and understandable language;

- Based data analysis and formulation of evaluation findings on a rights-based perspective that keeps the overarching question in mind, to what extent program goals, activities and strategies were relevant and effective in view of making positive changes in persons with disabilities' lives.

## Evaluation Framework and Questions

Unlike most evaluations, this evaluation will not be guided by the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria of relevance (Is the intervention doing the right things?), coherence (How well does the intervention fit?), effectiveness (Is the intervention achieving its objectives?), impact (What difference is the intervention making?), sustainability (Will the benefits last?) and efficiency (How well was the intervention managed?) given DRF's request to explore other aspects that may not emerge through the application of these criteria. While this doesn't mean that the evaluation questions do not relate to these criteria, these criteria will not be the basis for judgment.

As described in **Section Inception Activities**, the evaluation questions were identified through a participatory and disability-inclusive process that involved the identified intended users of the evaluation. Through this process, three overarching priority areas - each related to one of the thematic areas of the evaluation scope- were identified, namely:

- The impacts of DRF Technical Assistance and the factors affecting its access and use by grantees
- DRF's contributions to the key achievements by the disability movement
- DRF's contributions to the diversification of the disability movements

**Appendix IV** includes the Evaluation Matrix. For accessibility purposes, we list here below the key evaluation questions for each priority area:

### The impacts of the DRF Technical Assistance and the factors affecting its access and use by grantees

- 1.1. What has been the use of the DRF TA (provided between 2019 and 2022) by grantees in the three countries? How has TA been useful and for whom? What have been successful examples of TA?
- 1.2. What factors have affected grantees' access and utilisation of the DRF TA?
- 1.3. Moving forward, how can DRF increase grantees' access and utilisation of their TA?

### DRF's contributions to the key achievements by the disability movement

- 2.1. How have DRF contributed to the selected key wins in the three countries?
- 2.2. In what ways has DRF TA contributed to the key wins identified?
- 2.3. What factors have affected the achievement of the key wins?
- 2.4. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins for DRF and the grantees?

### DRF's contributions to the diversification of the disability movements

- 3.1. How has DRF's support contributed to diversification within the disability movement?
- 3.2. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF's work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways?

As a result of the data analysis conducted by the team and through sense-making workshops with grantees and DRF staff, the evaluation team shared lessons learned and recommendations pertaining to the three priority areas presented above.

## Data Collection Methods

The evaluation collected both quantitative and qualitative data through the various methods described in the following paragraphs. More specifically, quantitative data related to the DRF grantmaking and TA support, and qualitative data consisted in the stakeholders' perceptions, lived experiences, and types of impacts and results.

### Sampling Strategy

Given the resources available to conduct the evaluation- which did not allow the evaluation to provide a comprehensive assessment of all the key achievements and work supported by DRF in the period under review, the evaluation team applied a sampling strategy in relation to the key achievements to assess and grantees to interview.

In terms of key achievements, the evaluation team asked DRF staff to identify two key achievements per country (Fiji, Indonesia, Nigeria) to which they believed/knew that DRF had made an important contribution. As a result, the following achievements were identified:

- **Fiji:** i) Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response; ii) Term of Reference signed between the Fiji Election Office and the Fiji Election Disability Access Working Group Committee
- **Indonesia:** i) Working Group on Respect, Protection, Fulfillment, Enforcement and Promotion of Human Rights for Persons with Mental Disabilities; ii) Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Rancangan Undang-undang tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (RUU TPKS) No 12/2022 (Sexual Violence Crime Law)
- **Nigeria:** i) National Disability Act 2019; ii) Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response

In terms of grantees to interview, the evaluation team included both grantees who led the identified key achievements, and grantees who had not a leadership role – to the evaluation team's knowledge - to those achievements. The latter were consulted for the purposes of: i) gathering their perspectives on the key achievements (are they aware of them? In what ways are those achievements important for them?); ii) assessing the impacts of DRF technical assistance for them in terms of capacity to be, capacity to act, and capacity to relate, and at the various levels (individual, organization, network/system); and iii) identifying the factors that affected their access and utilization of DRF TA. While sampling was not required in the case of Fiji because of the small number of grantees, in the case of Indonesia and Nigeria the following criteria – informed by the feminist tenets and disability-inclusive evaluation approach applied by this evaluation - guided the selection of grantees to be interviewed about the TA component:

- **Intersectionality:** grantees from different geographic locations (rural or remote area versus urban area), different types of disabilities (physical, sensorial, intellectual, psychosocial), and diverse SOGIESC identities (or with projects related to diverse SOGIESC identities)
- **Recipient of DRF TA:** the sample included both recipients and non-recipients of (embedded) technical assistance, first-time recipients and repeated recipients

- **Emergent OPDs:** the sample included both emergent OPDs (i.e., OPDs who have recently been established and they have received only one grant from DRF) and repeat grantees.

Based on the characteristics of the disability movement in each country context, additional considerations were used for the sampling strategies of grantees, like whether, in the case of Indonesia, the OPD is member based or not (or is NGO alike).

We list below the final sample of selected grantees in Indonesia and Nigeria:

- **Indonesia:** GERKATIN-National (emergent OPD, representing persons with sensory disabilities, Jakarta-based, embedded TA), IMHA (involved in key achievement, with a project focusing on diverse SOGIESC identities, member base, Jakarta-based, no TA), OHANA (involved in key achievement, women-led, outside Jakarta, no TA), PELITA (emergent OPD, representing a marginalized group – the deafblind-, member base, Jakarta-based), YAPESDI (the only grantee representing youth with intellectual disabilities, Jakarta-based, embedded TA), PERSANI (women-led, outside of the main island/remote area), PERWADI (representing diverse SOGIESC identities, outside of the capital city of Jakarta), CIQAL (women-led OPD, outside of the capital city, no TA), and HWDI (involved in key achievements, women-led umbrella OPD, based in Jakarta, embedded TA).
- **Nigeria:** JONAPWD (involved in key achievement, based in Abuja, repeated grantee, embedded TA), CCD (involved in key achievement, urban location outside the capital city, repeated grantee, embedded TA, and TA grant for alternative report training for the disability movement) NAB-FCT, ALDIN (involved in key achievement, urban location outside the capital city, no TA<sup>111</sup>), WHER (urban location outside the capital city, the only grantee DRF has in Nigeria representing diverse SOGIESC identities), SWW (urban location outside the capital city, representing persons with psychosocial disabilities, embedded TA), CDC (urban location outside the capital city, representing persons with intellectual disabilities), DWAI (based in Abuja, representing persons with sensory disabilities, and it's led by women)

In the case of Fiji, the evaluation team aimed to interview the following grantees: DPH, FDPF, Psychiatric Survivors Association of Fiji (PSAF), Fiji Association of the Death (FAD), and PDF. Based on the preliminary document review, FDPF and PDF were the lead OPDs in the selected achievements. Eventually, the evaluation team managed to consult DPH, FDPF, PSAF and FAD.

## Document Review

The selection of documents to review was guided by the results of the sampling strategy of key achievements to assess and grantees to interview. In relation to each key achievement, the evaluation team reviewed related grantees' project reports and related evidence provided to DRF. In relation to TA, the focus was on the grantees' responses to the DRF/DRA TA consultations that took place in 2022 and other documentation related to the TA consultation process. The evaluation team also reviewed DRF's country strategies for Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria (valid during the period under review), funders' reports, learning journals (only in relation to selected grantees), and the two most recent independent evaluations

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<sup>111</sup> According to the information available to the evaluation team at the time of writing this report.



commissioned by DRF. Finally, the team reviewed the Grant Recommendation Memos<sup>112</sup> for selected grantees. To seek for external validation of the key advocacy achievements, in addition to interviewing key informants, the evaluation team also consulted available articles and other relevant documentation available on the Internet.

## *Key Informant Interviews*

At the data collection stage, the evaluation team privileged individual or grouped interviews over focus group discussions to better explore the impacts and contributions of DRF's supported work. Interviews were conducted with actors in the three countries by using semi-structured interview protocols. The interviews lasted between 30 minutes (in the case of some government representatives) and 2 hours. In the case of selected grantees, appropriate accessibility measures (e.g., sign language interpreters, support persons or mobility aid persons as needed, sharing in advance of simplified interview protocols), were taken to ensure their effective participation in the interviewing process.

Interviews were conducted either in person or virtually, depending on the location of the stakeholders to be interviewed and their access to reliable internet. We planned for up to 18 consultations to be carried out per country, divided in the following way:

- **Grantees:** up to eight interviews with grantees, between those who had a key role in the key achievements (based on the preliminary document review and the preliminary information shared by DRF, we estimated up to 3 grantees per key achievement) and those selected based on the sampling strategy provided above (we estimated between 3 and 6) and who were interviewed specifically in relation to the technical assistance support accessed (or not). This means that in Nigeria, approximately 36 percent of grantees who received a grant from DRF in the period 2019-2022 were consulted; in Indonesia, approximately 20 percent.
- **Actors engaged by the grantees in relation to the key achievements:** up to 6 interviews were planned to be conducted with this category of actors, who were identified by grantees. This category includes national/local government authorities, other OPDs, CSOs, TA providers and other actors who took part in grantees' activities related to the key achievements. Their input was used to validate and triangulate the information provided by the grantees and in the DRF documentation.
- **Representatives from other social justice movements:** up to 2 interviews were planned to be conducted with actors in this category. These actors were identified by national consultants based on their knowledge of the national context and included actors the grantees had collaborated with in relation to the key wins (Indonesia) and actors working on gender justice and climate change (Nigeria, Fiji) to identify challenges and opportunities for future cross-movement collaborations.
- **DRF staff:** up to 2 interviews were conducted with the DRF staff overseeing and managing the work in the three countries, namely the Co-Directors of Programs and the relevant Program Officers.

Interviews were kept confidential, and the evaluation report only included the list of consulted OPDs without providing the names of the representatives who were interviewed.

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<sup>112</sup> Once an OPD is funded by DRF/DRAF, these track how many grants they received from DRF over whole lifespan and the progress made.

## Data Management

To maximize the quality of data and mitigate the risks and constraints inherent in each individual data collection tool, the evaluation team used several processes to check and clean the data. These included: (i) during interviews, the evaluator recorded the interview (provided the interviewee gives permission to do so) and reviewed written interview notes immediately after the conversation to identify areas requiring clarification or follow up; (ii) document review/desk study data were excerpted directly from the sources as much as possible to ensure accuracy; (iii) data aggregation was guided by clear questions and criteria and was quality controlled by the team leader. The evaluation team shared – among the team members- interview notes in a timely manner, uploading to a secure shared platform (MS Teams) to enable real-time collaboration and sharing.

Following the completion of data collection, the evaluation team gathered (through in-person and virtual, synchronous and asynchronous modalities) for a joint data analysis process to discuss and cross-reference the results of each evaluation priority area, identify patterns and outliers, and developing the summary findings in response to the evaluation questions and sub-questions. This joint data analysis process included both international and national consultants.

Data management is essential to ensure confidentiality of data, and consistency and quality of the data analysis conducted within the evaluation team over the duration of this evaluation. Data collected was safely stored on the shared MS Teams platform. This ensured both easy and secure access for the assessment teams as well as confidentiality for individual respondents. Within three months of the approved final evaluation report, the evaluation will remove all files from the shared MS Teams platform.

To analyze data, the evaluation team employed several analytical techniques, including descriptive analysis, content analysis, quantitative analysis, comparative analysis, and contribution analysis.

## Data Analysis

### *Sense-Making Workshops*

As part of the data collection validation and analysis process, and as per the participatory approach and feminist tenets guiding this evaluation, the national consultants in Indonesia and Nigeria ran a sense-making workshop with the grantees, DRF Program Officer and co-Director of Program from their respective country. The objectives of these sense-making workshops were: i) to validate – with a larger group than the one interviewed - the data collected by presenting highlights and emerging observations; ii) to make collective sense of the data and validate the contribution story on key achievements; and iii) to identify areas for recommendation for DRF and other actors (e.g., funders, other social justice movement actors in the country).

The workshops were held online through a Zoom session and lasted between 1 hour (Indonesia) and 3 hours (Nigeria) depending on grantees' availability and the quality of internet. No workshop was held with grantees in Fiji because of their limited availability.

## *Descriptive Analysis*

Descriptive analysis was used as a first step, before moving on to more interpretative approaches, to describe relevant internal and external contexts at country, regional and global levels, and map the nature and scope of the DRF grantmaking and activities during the evaluation period. This included mapping the type of activities related to the “key wins” in each country.

## *Content Analysis with an Intersectional Lens*

Content analysis was the core of the qualitative analysis, focusing on answering the agreed evaluation questions. As part of its content analysis the team developed a simple excel- based framework for data chunking and analyzing all interview data and data emerging from document review. This framework was closely aligned with the evaluation matrix to ensure consistency. An intersectional lens was applied throughout content analysis to identify trends across different categories of respondents based on the intersectionality of the criteria guiding the sampling strategy described in **Section Sampling Strategy**. An intersectional lens was applied in analyzing the sets of actors involved, the dynamics among actors, and the different pathways to the key wins, for example.

## *Quantitative Analysis*

Quantitative analysis was used to interpret quantitative data such as related to financial resources invested into different activities and different types of OPDs. Quantitative analysis was also employed to identify trends emerging from stakeholder consultation data.

## *Comparative Analysis*

Comparative analysis was used to study and contrast findings emerging from different countries, different OPDs or population groups as well as views expressed by different stakeholder (sub-) groups.

**Triangulation** was used to ensure the reliability of information and to increase the quality, integrity and credibility of the evaluation findings and conclusions. The evaluation team attempted – to the greatest extent possible – to base individual findings on several lines of inquiry and different data sources. The evaluation report indicated when triangulation was not possible.

Data analysis and reporting were further enriched by feedback provided by stakeholders during the sense-making workshops and the sharing of emerging highlights with the DRF Evaluation Committee. Reporting focused on presenting clear and understandable messages. The evaluation report presented key data and findings for each question. Where appropriate, the evaluation report utilized visual tools, such as graphics and diagrams to enhance clarity and readability, all the while remaining committed to the accessibility of all evaluation products.

## **Limitations, Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present ongoing health and safety concerns globally. The evaluation was conducted in a hybrid manner, both remotely and in-person. For in-person interviews and workshops,

there was a risk of Covid-19 infection. This risk was acknowledged and assessed by the evaluation team and DRF.

Remote aspects of the evaluation posed some limitations for the participation of stakeholders, such as for those who have connectivity issues or for whom the technology being used is less accessible. Mitigation strategies for Zoom design and sense-making workshops included: i) offering the option to contribute verbally or through the Zoom chat, ii) offering the option to use of Jamboard, a free and engaging online brainstorming tool, iii) offering live captioning, and iv) including interpreters to meet the accessibility needs of participants. These multiple methods supported participants to engage in the evaluation.

It should also be noted that DRF was involved in many other organizational processes over the same period as the evaluation, the most important of which is their strategic planning process. Grantees were also engaged in DRF strategic planning, as well as other obligations. This limited DRF's timely provision of the contact information of selected grantees to the evaluation team and grantees' availability, particularly in Fiji. These limitations were mitigated by extending the data collection period, providing as many 'timeslot' options for interviews and workshops as feasible, providing the possibility of answering questions asynchronously, and engaging in timely communications with DRF to identify further support that could be provided to the evaluation team. For instance, DRF supported the data collection by sending introductory emails to selected grantees to encourage their participation in the evaluation and by sharing with the evaluation team an introductory letter to be used with external stakeholders. The evaluation also built on available documentation to complement gaps. This included both DRF's documentation (e.g., Learning Journals, TA consultations, the annual grantee surveys, grantees' reports, DRF evaluations) and external data sources (e.g., media articles, grantees' webpages, CRPD State reports and shadow reports, press releases). Despite all these strategies, the evaluation team was unable to interview some stakeholders (this was particularly in the case of Fiji).

## Appendix VII Evaluation Team: Roles & Responsibilities

The evaluation team comprised both international evaluation consultants under Universal Management Group (UMG), and national consultants in each of the three country contexts. Together, each team member brought diverse yet complementary skillsets and expertise that are relevant to this final evaluation. A summary of each team member's role in the evaluation is provided in **Table 16** below.

*Table 16 Summary of Roles & Responsibilities*

TEAM MEMBER	ROLE	RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Ms. Elisabetta Micaro (UMG)</b>	Team Leader	Overall responsibility for all aspects of the Evaluation, including the quality and timely submission of deliverables; Organized meetings and maintain communication with the client; Facilitated communication and ensure coordination with evaluation team members.
<b>Ms. Meaghan Shevell (UMG)</b>	Evaluation Consultant	Contributed to all stages of the evaluation, including data collection, analysis, management, and synthesis; Participated in the preliminary presentation of results; Actively participated in the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report
<b>Ms. Maria Fustic (UMG)</b>	Evaluation Analyst	Contributed to all stages of the evaluation, including data collection, analysis, management, and synthesis; Participated in the preliminary presentation of results; Contributed to the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report
<b>Ms. Katrina Rojas (UMG)</b>	Quality Assurance Advisor	Ensured quality assurance of all deliverables
<b>Ms. Annika Tierney Lemisio</b>	National Consultant (Fiji)	Conducted in-country data collection; Facilitated Sense-Making Workshop; Contributed to and provided contextualized feedback on all evaluation deliverables

<b>Mr. Belly Lesmana</b>	National Consultant (Indonesia)	Conducted in-country data collection; Facilitated Sense-Making Workshop; Contributed to and provided contextualized feedback on all evaluation deliverables
<b>Mr. Rasak Adekoya</b>	National Consultant (Nigeria)	Conducted in-country data collection; Facilitated Sense-Making Workshop; Contributed to and provided contextualized feedback on all evaluation deliverables

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# Appendix IX DRF Pathway to Change

## PATHWAY TO CHANGE



# Appendix X Interview Protocols

## *Interview Protocol for DRF Grantees Who Did Not Have a Lead Role in the Key Wins – Abridged Version for Grantees*

### **Introduction**

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is conducting an external evaluation of their activities during the period 2019-2022 in three countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide lessons learned and recommendation to DRF on how to best support their grantees to work towards the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

As part of the evaluation, we are asking your input to the evaluation by participating in a 1.5-hours long interview. Please be reassured that anything you will share during the interview will remain confidential and anonymous. We will ask your consent to share the notes with another consulting team hired by DRF for their strategic planning process.

### **Questions**

The questions we would like to ask you are around three areas: 1) DRF's technical assistance, 2) DRF's contribution to the diversification of the disability movement in your country, and 3) DRF's contribution to recent key wins made by the disability movement in your country.

This is what we would like to ask you about each one of these areas:

#### **DRF's technical assistance:**

- What type of DRF's technical assistance you accessed and for which purposes;
- How it was helpful for you and your organization;
- What has helped you to access and use DRF's technical assistance support
- What has been challenging in accessing and using DRF's technical assistance support
- What successful technical assistance looks like for you
- Any recommendation you may have for DRF on how to improve its technical assistance support to grantees like you.

#### **The diversification of the disability movement in your country:**

- Whether you have observed a more diverse disability movement in your country in the past 5 years and if yes, how it is more diverse now than before;
- What factors and actors supported the diversification;
- Whether DRF contributed to it and how;
- How you perceive the increased diversification and what implications has had for you and your organization;
- Any at recommendation you may have for DRF on how to further support the diversification of the disability movement in your country in appropriate ways.

**Recent key wins in the country, namely [insert name of the wins]**

- Whether you are aware of these wins and if so, in which ways they represent key wins for persons with disabilities in your country;
- Whether you or organization played any role in the efforts that led to the key wins

We will also ask about your interest and availability in joining us in a sense-making workshop in the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> and your views on who would be important to invite in the workshop.

*Interview Protocol for DRF Grantees Who Did Not Have a Lead Role in the Key Wins - Long Version*

**Introduction**

Universal Management Group, a Canadian consulting firm specializing in monitoring and evaluation, has been hired by the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Advocacy Rights Fund to conduct an independent evaluation of their activities during the period 2019-2022 in three countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide lessons learned and recommendation to DRF on how to best support their grantees to work towards the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The evaluation focuses on the technical assistance provided by DRF to its grantees, the DRF's support to the diversification of the disability movement in the three countries, and on two recent wins made by the disability movement in each country during the period 2019-2022.

As part of the evaluation, we are asking your input to the evaluation by participating in a 1.5-hours long interview. Please be reassured that anything you will share during the interview will remain confidential and anonymous. Quotes we will use in the report and in any other evaluation deliverable will not be associated with the person or grantee organization who said it. Also please be assured that you can withdraw from the interview at any moment.

We would like to ask you your consent on sharing the notes we will take during this interview with the consulting team who is facilitating the strategic planning for DRF, who also will keep the notes confidential and will ensure anonymity. The notes will not be shared with any other actors beyond the evaluation team and, depending on your consent, the strategic planning consulting team. You are free not to provide your consent and, in such case, we will not share our interview notes with the strategic planning consulting team.

Finally, I would like to record the interview for internal purposes to have a backup in case my notes get lost or become inaccessible. I would share the recording only with the evaluation team, who will keep the recording safely stored and will delete it once the evaluation is over. If you would prefer not to have the interview recorded, please don't hesitate to let me know and I will not record the interview.

**Questions**Access and utilization of DRF technical assistance (TA)

1. How did you learn about the existence of DRF's TA support?



2. How clear was it for you what DRF's TA support was about and how to apply for it?
3. Please briefly describe how you accessed DRF's TA by telling us more about who had the idea of accessing DRF's TA (your organization or DRF suggested it to you), how supportive DRF was throughout the process, what worked well in the process, what didn't work so well.
4. In which ways has DRF TA been helpful for your organization? For you?
5. Have you had experience of 'successful' TA with DRF?

**If the answer is 'yes', ask question 6 to 8 and then skip to 10**

**If the answer is 'no', ask question 9 and then move to 10**

6. Could you please provide one or two examples of successful TA with DRF?
7. What has made it 'successful'? (e.g., expected results were achieved, TA was timely and relevant, etc.)
8. What results do you associate to these examples of successful TA?
9. Why do you consider that it was not successful? What could be improved?
10. Does the current 'offer' of DRF's TA in terms of focus areas<sup>113</sup> and modalities of support<sup>114</sup> respond to your organization's needs? Are there needs that are not currently met by DRF's TA? Do you meet them through the support from other funders or organizations?
11. Has DRF ever provided you with the opportunity to learn about TA from other grantees, whether from your country or other countries? Would this be helpful for you? How?

#### Diversification of the disability movement

12. Looking back to 5 years ago, would you say that the disability movement in your country is now more diverse?

**If the answer is 'yes' ask questions 13 to 15, then skip to 18**

**If the answer is 'no' ask questions 16 & 17, then move on to 18:**

13. In what ways is it more diverse? What is different from before?
14. What or who has made it possible?
15. Has this diversification impacted your organization in any way?
16. What has not changed since 2019? In what aspects could the disability movement be more diverse? What would it be needed to make it more diverse?
17. What are the challenges and opportunities to further diversify the disability movement in your country?
18. How do you think that this diversification is or could be helpful for the disability movement in your country?

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<sup>113</sup> The four focus areas are: technical knowledge on the CRPD and the SDGs; skills for advocacy on CRPD and SDGs implementation; knowledge and skills to monitor human rights and inclusive development processes; and knowledge and skills to form alliances within and across movements.

<sup>114</sup> The modalities of support are: TA embedded in grants (specific TA for project); TA grants to National OPDs (movement TA priorities); and direct TA.

19. What are the lessons learned, good practices or recommendations that can be drawn from the work that brought about this diversification?

How can DRF support diversification in contextually appropriate ways?

Contribution to key wins

20. Two of the most recent wins in your country when it comes to the rights of persons with disabilities are **[insert name of the wins]**. How do these wins represent an achievement for persons with disabilities in your country?
21. Did your organization play any role in relation to those wins?

**If the answer is ‘yes’ ask questions from 22 to 26, otherwise skip to question 27:**

22. Which roles did it play? *(for instance: advocacy leader, mobilizer, subject expert, agenda setter, advisor)*
23. Was DRF’s support to your organization instrumental to contributing to those wins? Please explain
24. What other actors played a key role in making those wins possible? *(as relevant, ask for contact information and for support in facilitating first contact)*
25. From your perspective, what were key factors that made those wins possible? In answering the question, please think about:
- The factors related to the disability movement
  - Other factors
26. What are the lessons learned, good practices or recommendations that can be drawn from the work that brought about these key wins?

Sense-making workshop

We are planning to organize a sense-making workshop with interviewed grantees with the aim of validating data, collectively analyzing data, identifying gaps, identifying areas for recommendation and lessons learned that could be shared with the whole disability movement in your country and from other countries where DRF works.

The sense-making workshop will take place in the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> and will be last approximately 3 hours. The workshop will be conducted through the virtual modality (Zoom session).

27. Would you be willing and available to join the sense-making workshop?
28. Would you be comfortable in having DRF Program Officer and the DRF Co-Director of Programs [insert names] to join the workshop? Please explain.

Final Thoughts

29. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

## *Interview Protocol for DRF Grantees who Led Key Wins – Abridged Version for Grantees*

### **Introduction**

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is conducting an external evaluation of its activities during the period 2019-2022 in three countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide lessons learned and recommendation to DRF on how to best support its grantees to work towards the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

As part of the evaluation, we are asking your input to the evaluation by participating in a 1.5-hours long interview. Please be reassured that anything you will share during the interview will remain confidential and anonymous. We will ask your consent to share the notes with another consulting team hired by DRF for its strategic planning process.

### **Questions**

The questions we would like to ask you are around three areas: 1) DRF's contribution to recent key wins made by the disability movement in your country and in which your organization played a key role; 2) DRF's contribution to the diversification of the disability movement in your country, and 3) DRF's technical assistance.

This is what we would like to ask you about each one of these areas:

#### **Recent key win in the country, namely [insert selected key win the grantee worked on]:**

- The story about the key win, how the work around it started, who was involved, what was DRF's contribution to it, and what factors and/or actors made it possible in addition to your organization
- In which ways the key win represents a key win for persons with disabilities in your country;
- Lessons learned through the journey to the key win that could be helpful for other organizations

#### **The diversification of the disability movement in your country:**

- Whether you have observed a more diverse disability movement in your country in the past 5 years and if yes, how it is more diverse now than before;
- What factors and actors supported the diversification;
- Whether DRF contributed to it and how;
- Whether the diversification supported in any way the key win discussed above
- How you perceive the increased diversification and what implications has had for you and your organization; and
- Any at recommendation you may have for DRF on how to further support the diversification of the disability movement in your country in appropriate ways.

**DRF's technical assistance:**

- What type of and how DRF's technical assistance you accessed was helpful to achieve the key win discussed above;
- In what other ways was DRF's technical assistance helpful for you and your organization;
- What has helped you to access and use DRF's technical assistance support
- What has been challenging in accessing and using DRF's technical assistance support
- What successful technical assistance looks like for you; and
- Any recommendation you may have for DRF on how to improve its technical assistance support to grantees like you.

We will also ask about your interest and availability in joining us in a sense-making workshop in the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> and your views on who would be important to invite in the workshop.

### *Interview Protocol for DRF Grantees who Led Key Wins- Long Version*

#### **Introduction**

Universal Management Group, a Canadian consulting firm specializing in monitoring and evaluation, has been hired by the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Advocacy Rights Fund to conduct an independent evaluation of their activities during the period 2019-2022 in three countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide lessons learned and recommendation to DRF on how to best support their grantees to work towards the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The evaluation focuses on the technical assistance provided by DRF to its grantees, the DRF's support to the diversification of the disability movement in the three countries, and on two recent wins made by the disability movement in each country during the period 2019-2022.

As part of the evaluation, we are asking your input to the evaluation by participating in a 1.5 hours long interview. Please be reassured that anything you will share during the interview will remain confidential and anonymous. Quotes we will use in the report and in any other evaluation deliverable will not be associated with the person or grantee organization who said it. Also please be assured that you can withdraw from the interview at any moment.

We would like to ask you your consent on sharing the notes we will take during this interview with the consulting team who is facilitating the strategic planning for DRF, who also will keep the notes confidential and will ensure anonymity. The notes will not be shared with any other actors beyond the evaluation team and, depending on your consent, the strategic planning consulting team. You are free not to provide your consent and, in such case, we will not share our interview notes with the strategic planning consulting team.

Finally, I would like to record the interview for internal purposes to have a backup in case my notes get lost or become inaccessible. I would share the recording only with the evaluation team, who will keep the recording safely stored and will delete it once the evaluation is over. If you would prefer not to have the interview recorded, please don't hesitate to let me know and I will not record the interview.

**\*\*Note for the National Consultant:** Please make sure to have background information on the grantee in terms of when the OPD was established, main focus area, since when it's a DRF grantee, type of support received from the DRF. As required, please ask relevant questions to the grantee to fill any gap in relation to this background information.\*\*

## Questions

### Contribution to key wins

Two of the most recent wins in your country when it comes to the rights of persons with disabilities are [insert name of the key wins]. To our knowledge, your organization has been deeply involved in relation to the win [name of the win]

1. How does this win represent an achievement for persons with disabilities in your country?
2. What role did your organization play in relation to the win? *(for instance: advocacy leader, mobilizer, subject expert, agenda setter, advisor)*
3. What other actors played a key role in making that win possible? *(as relevant, ask for contact information and for support in facilitating first contact)*

Please tell us the story about the key win by thinking through the following questions:

4. When did the journey started, by who and with whom?
5. What have been the milestones in the journey?
6. What were key factors that made the win possible? In answering the question, please think about:
  - a. The factors related to the disability movement
  - b. Other factors
7. Was DRF's support to your organization instrumental to contributing to the win? If yes, how? What aspects of its support were instrumental? If not, why?
8. What are the lessons learned, good practices or recommendations that can be drawn from the work that brought about these key wins?

### Diversification of the disability movement

9. Looking back to 5 years ago, would you say that the disability movement in your country is now more diverse?

**If the answer is 'yes' ask questions 10 to 14, then skip to 16:**

**If the answer is 'no' ask question 15, then move on to 16:**

10. In what ways is it more diverse? What is different from before? What has changed?
11. What or who has made it possible?
12. Has the diversification contributed to the key win? Please explain.
13. Has this diversification impacted your organization in any way?
14. What are the lessons learned, good practices or recommendations that can be drawn from the work that brought about this diversification?

15. What has not changed in the disability movement in your country since 2019? In what aspects could the disability movement be more diverse? What would it be needed to make it more diverse?
16. What are the challenges and opportunities to further diversify the disability movement in your country?
17. How do you think that this diversification is or could be helpful for the disability movement in your country?
18. How can DRF support diversification in contextually appropriate ways?

#### Access and utilization of DRF technical assistance (TA)

19. (if the grantee accessed DRF's TA then ask): What has worked well and what not so well in the technical assistance support provided by DRF?
20. How has DRF's technical assistance been helpful?

#### Sense-making workshop

We are planning to organize a sense-making workshop with interviewed grantees with the aim of validating data, collectively analyzing data, identifying gaps, identifying areas for recommendation and lessons learned that could be shared with the whole disability movement in your country and from other countries where DRF works.

The sense-making workshop will take place in the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> and will be last approximately 3 hours. The workshop will be conducted through the virtual modality (Zoom session).

21. Would you be willing and available to join the sense-making workshop?
22. Would you be comfortable in having DRF Program Officer and the DRF Co-Director of Programs [insert names] to join the workshop? Please explain.

#### Final Thoughts

23. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

### *Interview Protocol for DRF Program Officers and Co-Directors of Programs*

#### Access and utilization of DRF technical assistance (TA)

1. How clear are to you the objectives and modalities of DRF's TA?
2. How well does DRF's current offer of TA align with grantees' needs, particularly of the most marginalized grantees?
3. Based on your interactions with the grantees, what factors have affected grantees' access and utilization of TA? How?
4. Based on your work with the grantees so far, what constitutes successful TA?
5. Could you please share one or two examples of successful TA, if possible related to the grantees that were selected for the evaluation?
6. In what ways has TA been supportive of transformative processes, whether at the individual, organizational, and/or disability movement levels?

7. In what ways has the DRF supported opportunities for grantees to exchange knowledge and learn from each other around TA?
8. Are there any lessons learned, good practices, or recommendations that you can draw from the work conducted so far in relation to DRF's TA?

#### Contribution to key wins

In Fiji/Indonesia/Nigeria, the following key wins were selected for the evaluation to focus on [insert name of key wins]. We would like to ask you a few questions in relation to those key wins.

9. Why are those key wins important for persons with disabilities in the country?
10. How were those key wins possible? What and who made them possible? Is there anybody we should interview in relation to them? (*ask for contact information as relevant*)
11. What aspects and/or modalities of DRF's support to grantees contribute to the key wins?
12. Which internal factors (to DRF and grantees) affected – positively or negatively - the achievement of the key wins?
13. Which external (i.e., country context) factors affected them?
14. In what ways, if at all, have cross-movement collaborations supported the achievement of key wins?
15. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from the evaluation of the key wins in the country for the DRF and the grantees?

#### Diversification of the disability movement

16. Compared to five years ago, do you see a more diverse disability movement in the country? If yes, in what way has it changed? What have been the implications or effects of the diversification?
17. What support has the DRF provided to the most marginalized groups in the country?
18. How has the DRF's support to the most marginalized groups – especially but not only women-led OPDs and OPDs led by persons with disabilities with diverse SOGIESC- contributed to the diversification of the disability movements?
19. Do you see a link between the diversification of the disability movement in the country and the achievement of the key wins?
20. What factors have supported and what factors have hindered the diversification of the disability movement in the country?
21. What are the lessons, considerations, and/or recommendations that can be drawn from DRF's work to diversify disability movements in contextually appropriate ways?

#### Final Thoughts

22. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

*Interview Protocol for Government Officials and Other Actors Involved in Key Wins***Introduction**

Universal Management Group, a Canadian consulting firm specializing in monitoring and evaluation, has been hired by the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Advocacy Rights Fund to conduct an independent evaluation of their activities during the period 2019-2022 in three countries: Fiji, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide lessons learned and recommendation to DRF on how to best support their grantees to work towards the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The evaluation focuses on the technical assistance provided by DRF to its grantees, the DRF's support to the diversification of the disability movement in the three countries, and on two recent wins made by the disability movement in each country during the period 2019-2022.

As part of the evaluation, we are asking your input to the evaluation by participating in a 1-hour long interview. Please be reassured that anything you will share during the interview will remain confidential and anonymous. Quotes we will use in the report and in any other evaluation deliverable will not be associated with the person or grantee organization who said it. Also please be assured that you can withdraw from the interview at any moment.

We would like to ask you your consent on sharing the notes we will take during this interview with the consulting team who is facilitating the strategic planning for DRF, who also will keep the notes confidential and will ensure anonymity. The notes will not be shared with any other actors beyond the evaluation team and, depending on your consent, the strategic planning consulting team. You are free not to provide your consent and, in such case, we will not share our interview notes with the strategic planning consulting team.

Finally, I would like to record the interview for internal purposes to have a backup in case my notes get lost or become inaccessible. I would share the recording only with the evaluation team, who will keep the recording safely stored and will delete it once the evaluation is over. If you would prefer not to have the interview recorded, please don't hesitate to let me know and I will not record the interview.

**Questions**Background information

1. When did you join the organization?
2. Please briefly describe your role in the organization.
3. Please briefly explain how the disability movement has been involved over the past five years by you/your organization and who from the disability movement you/your organization have worked with.

Contribution to key wins

4. When and how did the working relationship with [insert name of grantee(s) related to the key win] started and how does it relate to the [add name of the key win]?
5. What were the milestones in the journey to the [add name of the key win]?



6. What have been the hurdles and the opportunities in the process?
7. What role(s) did [insert name of grantee(s) related to the key win] play? What did the grantee(s) do that helped to get to the [add name of the key win]?
8. From your perspective, what factors contributed to the [add name of the key win]?
9. Who were other key actors in the journey? (*ask for contact information as relevant*)
10. In addition to [insert name of grantee(s) related to the key win], were there other actors from the disability movement in your country who played an important role in the achievement of [add name of the key win]?
11. Were there actors from other social movements who contributed to this win?
12. Are there any lessons or good practices that emerged from this journey?

#### Diversification of the disability movement

13. Based on your working experience with OPDs and knowledge of the disability movement, how do you see that the disability movement has changed over the past five years?
14. What implications has this diversification had for you/your organization?

#### Access and utilization of DRF technical assistance (TA)

15. Over time as you were working with [insert name of grantee(s) related to the key win], have you observed a change in their capacity to advocate and mobilize the disability movement? Please explain
16. Based on your working experience with OPDs, would you say that their capacity to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and to mobilize the disability movement in the country have increased over the past five to ten years? Please explain.
17. (If yes) To your knowledge, what has contributed to their strengthening?
18. What do you consider their strengths? What their main areas for improvement?

#### Final Thoughts

19. Is there anything you would like to share with us?