Grantees Feedback Report

2018

Disability Rights Advocacy Fund / Disability Rights Fund

Introduction

Since the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) was founded in 2008, DRF/DRAF has practiced a participatory approach to our grantmaking. We provide grants to Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) to advance the United Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We could not do our grantmaking without listening to the voices of those with disabilities.

We wanted to hear from you, our grantees, on what your progress was over one year as well as what challenges you faced. Which is why we request your feedback in the Grantee Survey that is sent out each winter. Your responses not only give us a chance to look back with you on all that you have accomplished but also helps DRF/DRAF make informed decisions about how we can best support grantees and the disability rights movement for the future.

In the past, we collected this data for internal use and donor reporting. DRF/DRAF is pleased to provide grantees with a first-ever summary report of survey responses. We value what you had to say and wanted to report back to you what you told us.

Who gets the survey?

The 2018 survey was sent in December 2017 to DRF/DRAF grantees who received funding from 2016 Round 2 and 2017 Round 1 or more specifically those who received funding from DRF/DRAF between June 2016 – July 2017. These grantees came from 19 different countries and 53% of you responded. We provided the survey in Bahasa Indonesia, English and French. The survey was conducted through Survey Monkey and an accessible Word version of the survey was provided via email for those who requested this.

What does the survey measure?

The survey asks grantees over the course of one year their perspectives relative to their:

1. confidence in CRPD knowledge
2. skills in rights advocacy
3. confidence in skills for human rights monitoring
4. confidence in building partnerships with other organizations (movement building)
5. experiences of support from DRF/DRAF staff
6. participation in development strategies
7. participation in data collection processes
8. participation in implementation of the SDGs

# Below you will be able to read what grantees had to say on the above areas.

1) Organization’s confidence in CRPD Knowledge

Key Points

* Several grantees responded that confidence in CRPD knowledge varies between rural and urban communities within their country, and that there is a need to support more awareness of the CRPD at the grassroots/rural level.
* Grantees that rated their confidence as “a little confident” did so stating that, while knowledge on the CRPD is increasing, members were “passive” and still lacked confidence in advocating and convincing decision makers and other stakeholders on prioritizing the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, *we still lack skills to convince the decision makers on how [to add] disability on top of their plans. Based on knowledge we have at least [we have] enough on what our beneficiaries need but still engagement of other stakeholders is still an issue for us*.

Overall, Grantees responded that their increased confidence in CRPD knowledge has helped them to:

* Gain the confidence and trust of their members due to their CRPD knowledge
* Build understanding of the CRPD among the disability movement and other stakeholders
* Use the CRPD in their advocacy to create changes in legislation, policies and programs
* Monitor CRPD implementation and participate in human rights processes
* Diversify the disability movement by including more marginalized groups
* Be recognised by broader stakeholders as the “go to” for knowledge on the CRPD and be invited to take on various advisory roles

Many Grantees noted the value of the multi-faceted support provided by DRF/DRAF that has supported them to gain visibility and credibility with Government. For example, *Capacity increase provided by DRF / DRAF make our organization "trusted" by the government of the Republic of Indonesia to participate as well as supporting and providing input to development policies with a perspective of disabilities (Indonesia).*

# 2) Organization’s Skills in Rights Advocacy

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# Key Points

* A number of DPOs representing the marginalized such as persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism, women with disabilities and persons with DeafBlindness remarked that their work progress and growth in confidence was due to DRF/DRAF support which had helped to give their work credibility, visibility, and encouraged their inclusion in the larger disability rights movement.

Grantees responded that their increased skills in rights advocacy has led to enabled them to:

* Greater confidence in themselves, knowledge and experience to speak out for change
* Identify and use a diverse range of advocacy strategies to influence change
* Influence political leaders and decision makers
* Influence changes in local and national government processes, legislation, policies and services/programs
* Increase the voice and recognition in society of more marginalized groups

# 3) Organization’s Skills to participate in Human Rights Monitoring Processes

Key points

* Grantees from Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia, Malawi, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, and Uganda all noted their participation in UPR, CEDAW, CRC, and CRPD monitoring processes.
* Half of the grantees responded that they have not been involved in human rights monitoring even in countries where there was an alternative report in development.
* Those who rated ‘little confidence’ or ‘do not know’ indicated that awareness and knowledge about the process, the opportunity to engage was limited or non-existent and/or language and education were reasons for their lower confidence levels. For example, *our organization has not been taught about the rights monitoring process* and *We do not yet understand deeply about the economic, social, culture, UPR, etc. except CRPD.*
* On one occasion confidence to participate in human rights monitoring over the year decreased in the organization due to staff and volunteers who had the knowledge leaving the organization.

Grantees who responded with a rating of ‘very confident’ or ‘confident’ in human rights monitoring reported that they:

* Participated in the drafting of an alternative report and/or in other human rights processes such as the review;
* Participated in many UN treaty body processes; and/or
* Received training on or learned from the work of others drafting treaty reports.

Additionally, as a result of the human rights monitoring experience, Grantees reported they:

* Gained greater unity and collaboration between DPOs and broader civil society/other movements as a result of the monitoring process; and
* Gained information during the alternative reporting process that has given them direction and evidence for advocacy

It is important to note that Grantees reported the following DRF/DRAF funded activities that had made a contribution to their human rights monitoring skills:

* Data collection for and drafting of the Alternative Report
* Training, information sharing, access to technical specialists and coaching on human rights processes and how to participate in it
* Engagement with mainstream civil society human rights mechanisms
* Participation in the committee review process

# 4) Organization’s Skills in Movement Building

# Key points

* Those who rated their skills as ‘a little confident’ or ‘not confident’ stated that they do not know about movement building or have not had the opportunity to be involved in the broader movement. For example, *[Grantee] has limited resources and capacity…… has never had such engagement and opportunity*.
* Diversity of the movement and inclusion of more marginalized groups was identified as a limitation of the current movement. Particular mention was made about the need to consider and include the deaf and blind, LGBT and young communities across countries. More resources were needed to support the work of expanding and diversifying the movement.

Overall Grantees responded that their increased confidence was a result of:

* Positive working relationships with other DPOs
* Collaborating towards common goals of the movement
* Greater understanding about diversity
* Implementing activities and developing relationships to increase diversity of the movement
* Partnering with other movements and stakeholders to build the movement
* Ongoing opportunities to work together and strengthen the movement

Grantee responses highlighted that DRF/DRAF have contributed to their confidence in movement building skills by:

* Supporting persons with disabilities from marginalized groups to become leaders
* DRF/DRAF staff encouraging marginalized communities to participate
* Funding Grantees to ensure inclusion of diverse groups of persons with disabilities and providing resources and information to support movement building, particularly through coalition projects
* Linking Grantees with other DPOs, movements, stakeholders and creating opportunities to learn from and work with each other

# 5) Support from DRF/DRAF and its contribution to the effectiveness of Grantees’ work

# The following key strategies/actions by DRF/DRAF were reported to have contributed to Grantee effectiveness in:

* Funding
* Monitoring visits
* Regular information sharing via a range of communication methods
* Training and grantee convenings
* Customized one-to one online and phone feedback and guidance between the Grantee and DRF/DRAF staff as required
* Linkages with subject matter experts

Grantees reported that often the above strategies/actions worked in combination with each other towards greater effectiveness, for example, *all forms of DRF support beyond such funding mentioned above, are interrelated in building the ability of the DRF grantee to do the advocacy work because actual funding support will not be effective unless accompanied by support from other resources ... (Indonesia)*

# In their responses, Grantees also offered information about the broader impact of DRF/DRAF’s contribution through the above strategies/actions, noting that their organizations’ capacities, networks and ability to advocate at national and global levels had also increased.

# 6) Participation in Development Strategies

DRF/DRAF also asked grantees whether, in the last year, they or other DPOs have been involved in the drafting or monitoring of development strategies/plans/policies for the implementation of the SDGs at either the national or local level (these could also be poverty reduction strategies or national/local development plans). 56.67% of the grantees affirmed that they had been involved in development processes in the last year.

Across the Grantees the development strategies/plans/policies in which Grantees had been involved had a focus on:

* SDG planning (including at the regional level)
* SDG monitoring, including Volunteer National Reviews
* SDG CSO forums
* National development strategies
* National planning
* National budgeting and financial risk analysis
* Local and district level plans
* Poverty reduction
* Accessibility
* Health
* Education
* DRR and climate change
* Reasonable accommodation
* Removing stigma and stereotypes
* Human trafficking

# 7) National Data Collection

# DRF/DRAF asked grantees if in the last year, they knew of any national or sub-national (provincial, district) government census, household survey, or specific (education, employment, discrimination, etcetera) survey that has collected data on persons with disabilities. 78.33% said no. Of the 13 respondents who indicated “yes,” 2 of them noted that the data collection had used the Washington Group Questions.

# 8) Knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals

We asked grantees to rate their organization’s confidence in understanding the SDGs, 55% said they were confident, and 13.33% said they were very confident.

While the question about the Sustainable Development Goals only asked about the organization’s knowledge, more than half of the respondents detailed their government’s work on the SDGs.

DPOs from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Rwanda, and Uganda were extremely positive about their government’s understanding and action plans towards implementation of the SDGs. Despite the positive view of DPOs in these countries, many of them did note that while the government is doing good work at the national level, it still needs to do more at the local and regional level.

In Haiti, DPOs were less optimistic about their government’s progress and knowledge on the SDGS, for example, *the Sustainable Development Goals are far from implemented by the Haitian Government, no one [gave] priority to the SDGs in the speeches or in the programs, that is why it is still urgent to continue to advocate for authorities to understand the importance of making SDGs a roadmap (Haiti).*

What else does the survey ask?

We wanted to know “who benefits?” The question may sound simple but the answers are certainly varied. People with and without disabilities can benefit from grantees’ advocacy and workshops, some directly and some indirectly. You told us that those who benefit includes staff with disabilities, women with and without disabilities, youth and children with disabilities, family members, government officials, educators, healthcare providers, judicial officers, and the police force.

While grantees could tell us who benefitted, the majority struggled with knowing how many

benefitted. It is recommended that grantees think about how they collect data on

beneficiaries.

DRF/DRAF released our Gender Guidelines in 2018 which states our commitment to advancing the rights of women – with and without disabilities. For that reason, we asked grantees how their grants benefitted women. Many grantees noted that they do not collect data on women beneficiaries. Moving forward, DRF/DRAF recommends that grantees gather this data as we work to uplift the voices of women in rights work. Those who gave details about women beneficiaries were from Indonesia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda.

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# What grantees are doing with new knowledge and skills gained through DRF/DRAF funding

In this year’s survey, DRF/DRAF asked Grantees to specify examples of how they are using any new knowledge and skills gained through DRF/DRAF funding, information and support. Grantees were also asked about what contributed to improving stakeholder knowledge of the CRPD.

Overall, Grantees are using new knowledge and skills to:

* Build the capacity of communities so that they better understand and apply the CRPD
* Increase the capacity of internal organizational staff and their members/networks to understand and use the CRPD in their advocacy across different sectors
* Improve the organization’s internal inclusiveness and work practices
* Conduct training on the CRPD and advocacy (such as budgetary advocacy) for members and persons with disabilities
* Build the disability movement by sharing information and conducting training on the CRPD and SDGs
* Influence policies and laws to consider and include the diversity of the disability community, for example, women and girls with disabilities
* Collaborate and coordinate advocacy efforts with other stakeholders
* Identify good practices to inform practice
* Transfer gained knowledge and skills to new areas, for example, to other human rights monitoring processes and national policies/sectors
* Seek other funding opportunities beyond DRF/DRAF

# Recommendations moving forward

The survey responses were also analysed for any advice, areas of improvement and recommendations for Grantees and/or DRF/DRAF moving forward. Grantees noted that in future there was a need for greater focus on:

* expanding the reach and ensuring the CRPD knowledge of persons with disabilities in regional and rural areas is increased
* increasing knowledge and skills in linking the CRPD and the SDGs
* increasing opportunities for all Grantees to learn about human rights processes and how they can be involved
* greater engagement and participation by local level and marginalized groups in human rights monitoring processes
* greater support to diversify the movement and increase skills in including diverse groups from national through to local level

Conclusion

Grantees agree that DRF/DRAF funding has helped them strengthen their knowledge and skills. Many grantees have shared their successes and milestones but it is important that we also learn what was difficult or unexpected. We want grantees to feel comfortable bringing their concerns to us. If you are uncomfortable bringing issues directly to your country’s program officer, you may email us at concerns@disabilityrightsfund.org or learn more about reporting abuse or fraud by visiting <http://disabilityrightsfund.org/about/report-fraud-abuse/>. If you have questions, feedback or would like to see a copy of the full survey questions, please email us at info@disabilityrightsfund.org.

There has been substantial progress in the disability rights movement, but there is still more work to be done. We look forward to working with grantees to build a more equitable future for the world’s one billion people with disabilities.