**Disability Rights Fund Annual Grantee Survey**

**2022 Findings Summary**

Each year the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) asks grantees to share their thoughts on changes to national disability movements and grantees’ advocacy knowledge and skills through the Annual Grantee Survey (AGS). In March 2022, 101 grantees provided responses to the 2022 AGS, administered by Includovate. This is an overview of several findings from 2022 AGS survey.

**Continued increase in the diversity of national movements – with more opportunities to grow**

Almost 80% of respondents said that marginalized persons with disabilities had more involvement in the wider disability community. Across the globe, OPDs mentioned greater inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in national and local policy review programs and workshops related to the reduction of gender-based violence, education or livelihood development. A smaller number of OPDs noted an increase in the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities, deaf persons, and youth with disabilities in national celebrations, advocacy visits, or dialogues coordinated by umbrella OPDs, large national OPDs, or NGOs.

However, more than 10% said they had not observed an increase in diversity and another 10% said they were not sure. Most respondents noted LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities were still underrepresented in the movement, particularly in Africa and Asia. One OPD described the progress made and need for more growth this way:

“Some women and youth [with disabilities] participate but in a limited number. Not to the extent that we can call it as inclusive. Only those in urban areas, and with some level education get a chance to participate. For LGBTI and other groups, they are totally underrepresented. If they get to attend events or meetings, it is represented anonymously.” (OPD in Africa)

**OPDs use skills and knowledge to progress disability rights across countries**

From village to national levels, OPDs noted their advancement of disability rights and mainstreaming disability inclusion. Using deepened skills and knowledge, partnerships, coalitions, and political influence, OPDs are furthering, for example:

* CRPD alignment into national and local policies in Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Rwanda, Uganda
* Built accessibility through building code implementation in Bangladesh and Uganda and public transportation accessibility programs in Myanmar
* Meaningful participation through the establishment of strategic partnership with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Haiti, human rights reporting in Indonesia and Uganda, and the development of national disability policies in Rwanda
* Political participation through the establishment of the National Committee for Disabilities in Indonesia, a new electoral bill granting more voting rights to persons with disabilities in Nigeria, election or appointing of persons with disabilities in national commissions in Nigeria, a State Minister for Disability in Uganda.

OPDs outlined a number of factors that have led to these changes, including:

* Improved knowledge of the CRPD and advocacy skills among OPDs as well as OPD collaboration
* Public awareness raising through social media, radio and TV talk shows and forums
* Intense and sustained evidence-based advocacy through meetings with government agencies and authorities
* An enabling political environment and increased awareness of the CRPD and Global Disability Summit commitments among duty bearers
* Support from government and funders, especially DRF

One OPD described a progression of causes:

“DRF funding is the main factor driving these changes. With funding from DRF, people with disabilities have built unprecedented leadership. They are more visible, more publicized and more present on social networks [and in political discussions].” (OPD in Haiti)

Another OPD listed these critical factors:

“First, [it is] the struggle of organizations of persons with disabilities who are members of the national coalition of organizations of persons with disabilities. [Second, the] struggles of persons with disabilities as a whole are relentless. Third, the cohesiveness between OPD at the national and regional levels.” (OPD in Indonesia)

**Global Disability Summit awareness and advocacy use**

The Global Disability Summits (GDS), which have been organized and hosted by the International Disability Alliance, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government, the Government of Kenya, the Government of Norway, and the Government of Ghana, have provided a new way to tailor CRPD implementation at the national level. Implementation of the CRPD in its entirety requires massive societal and governmental resources. The GDS commitments allow advocates, OPDs, and governments to prioritize localization of the CRPD in their own national and local contexts. Since 2018, DRF has provided support for OPDs to increase their knowledge of national GDS commitments and influence submission and fulfillment of government commitments. In 2022, DRF grantees successfully influenced the GDS22 government commitments Bangladesh, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda.

“[In 2022] the lead ministry-Social Welfare asked support from us to draft the commitments for GDS 22 and finally we were able to finalize 11 commitments for GDS22. It is an opportunity to work to promote implementation of the new commitments.” (OPD in Bangladesh)

Additionally, OPDs in Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda developed monitoring reports on the status of their respective governments’ GDS18 commitments. This allowed these national movements to strategically focus their advocacy around GDS22 commitments.

**Organizational risk management and safeguarding & Responding to Grantee Requests**

In the 2022 AGS, a little more than 70% of OPDs reported that their organizations made changes to their approaches to safeguarding because of the DRF funding and support and 64% said their organizations have made changes to financial policies due to DRF funding. OPDs also noted in the 2022 AGS that more support would be helpful in meeting risk management and safeguarding requirements.

These requests are similar to those made through external evaluations, previous annual grantee surveys, technical assistance consultations, final reports, or direct conversations with Program Officers and DRF staff. Across the DRF portfolio, grantees have requested more technical assistance, longer grant periods, more one-on-one support from DRF staff. As DRF has grown the organization has been able to provide more support to its grantees in the form of technical assistance, support to increase organizational safeguarding policies and practices or organizational strengthening and risk management. In 2023, repeat grantees will now be able to apply for 2-year grant periods, decreasing the need for annual applications and final reports.

Over the years, we have also noted the administrative and accessibility barriers grantees experience when applying for and reporting on grants. As a result, DRF has worked to reduce the length of application and reporting templates and change our application and reporting submission options. In 2023 and beyond, we will again revisit the content of our application and reporting forms. Our first reduction of administrative requests is a significantly shorter 2023 AGS questionnaire and the removal of questions related to safeguarding, risk management or organizational strengthening. We have heard your requests and look forward to learning how to improve our grantmaking and reporting processes.