# DRF Annual Grantee Survey 2024

# Executive Summary

In April 2024 DRF conducted the Annual Grantee Survey. The survey was sent out to 161 grantees, of which 117 responded, resulting in a response rate of 72%. Building on feedback received in last year’s AGS to make the questionnaire shorter and lighter, this year’s AGS is split into 4 sections:

1. About your organization (1 question)
2. Accessibility (1 question)
3. Strategic priorities (8 questions)
4. Diversity (4 questions).

Regarding accessibility, OPDs were asked to provide specific recommendations on improving DRF’s accessibility practices, in the context of the development of the organization’s new reasonable accommodation policy and accessibility policy. Eighty-four responses (or 72% of responses) to this question constitute recommendations directed to DRF with regards to its accessibility practices and for the design of its new reasonable accommodation policy and accessibility. An analysis of grantee recommendations can be broken down into the following categories, listed below from highest to lowest percentage:

* Design process of DRF’s policies on accessibility and reasonable accommodation (27% of responses).
* DRF templates used by grantees (25% of responses);
* Accessibility and reasonable accommodation needs of specific disability groups (21% of responses);
* Support to grantees via DRF’s policies on accessibility and reasonable accommodation (10% of responses);
* Input into DRF’s reasonable accommodation policy (8% of responses); and
* Grantee participation in the design of DRF’s policies on accessibility and reasonable accommodation (5% of responses);

The high quality and precision of recommendations made by grantees on this topic is captured in this quote:

“DRF/DRAF access to information and methods of disseminating information can be made in more accessible formats such as in audio or video recording with captions and if possible translated into different languages of each country to allow for underrepresented groups / OPDs to understand the DRF/DRAF grants so they can apply for funding as well.”

Regarding strategic priorities, OPDs were asked to describe activities they have implemented in the last year, in each of the 7 cross-cutting themes defined in DRF’s new strategic plan. Grantees reporting focusing on the following activities, listed below from highest to lowest frequency:

* 79% promoted gender equality and advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities, with activities focusing on trainings (53%), promotion of leadership and participation (20%) and advocacy (17%).
* 76% promoted rights and participation of young people with disabilities, with activities focusing on promotion of leadership and participation (45%), trainings (35%) and advocacy (16%).
* 68% tackled poverty and inequality in their contexts, with activities focusing on training (49%) and advocacy (33%).
* 45% addressed climate justice and strengthening the resilience and adaptative capacities of communities, with activities focusing on advocacy (43%), training (38%) and research (21%).
* 32% addressed racial discrimination and ableism, with activities focusing on advocacy (62%), training (32%) and organizational strengthening (14%).
* 29% advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples, with activities focusing on advocacy (47%), training (21%) and promotion of leadership and participation (21%).
* 27% advanced of the rights of persons with disabilities of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), with activities focusing on training (47%), advocacy (28%) and promotion of leadership and participation (16%).

OPDs were then asked to rank these areas of work as per their own priorities, of which the top 4 are listed here in lowest to highest frequency:

* **57%** of respondents ranked “Promoting gender equality to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities” as their top priority
* **27%** of respondents ranked “Promoting the rights and participation of young people” as their second priority
* **24%** of respondents ranked “Tackling poverty and inequality” as their third priority
* **21%** of respondents ranked “Demanding climate justice” as their fourth priority.

Reflecting on their own prioritization of these cross-cutting themes, here are some examples of what grantees had to say:

“Most women with disabilities are excluded in political participation and other leadership opportunities, hence their voices are not being heard, and discrimination exists for women with disabilities even among social feminists movements.”

“Climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities, exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.”

Across all questions on strategic priorities, there are 172 mentions of activities related to training and capacity development, 128 mentions of activities related to advocacy efforts, 71 mentions of activities focusing on increasing participation, visibility and leadership of marginalized persons with disabilities. These three areas of work represent the core of the work done by grantees with DRF support, based on three components: capacity development, advocacy, and inclusion of marginalized groups.

Regarding diversity, OPDs were asked about changes in involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities. Overall, 87% of respondents answered that the involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities in the wider disability community has somewhat increased or significantly increased. In contrast, 5% of respondents considered that the involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities had somewhat decreased in the last year, while 3% of respondents considered it significantly decreased. Four percent of respondents reported that there had not been a change in involvement. Moreover, OPDs noted higher involvement in the movement of persons who are blind or partially sighted (21%), deaf persons (21%) and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities (15% each). Looking at population groups, 77% of respondents noted that there is higher involvement of women and girls with disabilities in the movement, followed by youth with disabilities (54%) and older persons with disabilities (22%). Key factors mentioned by grantees as having a positive impact on changes in involvement of marginalized persons with disabilities are work done to promote visibility, participation and leadership from marginalized persons with disabilities and an increase in the quality and quantity of advocacy efforts in the last year, as shown in these responses by grantees:

“There have increased in advocacy organization of women with disabilities, building more networks of women with disabilities, Women with disabilities have been engaging more in national and international programs.”

“Representatives of these groups have been exposed to a wide range of advocacy and networking opportunities thanks to the DRF/DRAF grant and now they are raising their voices together.”