



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

An evolving organization in an evolving world

**DISABILITY
RIGHTS
FUND**

**DISABILITY
RIGHTS
ADVOCACY
FUND**

Dear Friends—

In a year that continued to challenge us all both personally and professionally, we are delighted to report that the work of DRF/DRAF has once again proved pivotal. Growth in our funding base enabled us to provide 306 grants totaling over \$4.5M USD to 136 organizations. Increasing numbers of grants went to organizations of women with disabilities and those of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics.

This support is more important than ever. Shockingly, the latest Human Rights Funders Network and Candid annual review of global foundation grantmaking found a decrease in funding going specifically to persons with disabilities. Our grantmaking, technical assistance, and advocacy have never been more critical and cutting edge. As the world undertakes its recovery from the global pandemic, our grantees are pursuing activities to ensure that their communities are more

tolerant and inclusive. There have also been major human rights challenges in Myanmar and Haiti where DRF/DRAF have been supporting grantees. The deteriorating situation in Myanmar resulted in our suspending grants due to safety concerns and relocating staff to a safe location, while in Haiti staff have also temporarily relocated. The shrinking space for civil society concerns us, but also makes us more determined to ensure that we provide the support that activists and advocates need to continue working.

For DRF/DRAF, this has also been a year of transition and evolution. We said farewell to our Founding Executive Director, Diana Samarasan, who, after fourteen years, is moving on to new opportunities. We've made sure this transition is going as smoothly as possible, and for that we must thank the staff for their patience, support, and leadership. An Interim Executive Director,

Jon Firger, is with us through the first part of 2022, when we will also be welcoming our new Executive Director. With the chance to manage a growing organization and lead the development and implementation of its new strategic plan, the new Executive Director will have plenty of exciting opportunities to embrace.

Those of us who are charged with carrying on Diana's legacy in the field of participatory grantmaking would be wise to heed her inspiring words: "Look for the iteration, the ongoing learning, the never knowing, and never being set on something. That's what participatory models do. If that process stops, the work is no longer participatory."

With gratitude and on behalf of our Board members,

Lorraine Wapling (Co-Chair)

Andy Ferren (Co-Chair)

What we're excited about for 2022...

Global advocacy events

such as the Global Disability Summit, Commission on the Status of Women, and the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

Growing our team

Being together in person

Watching grantee coalitions build and deepen work together

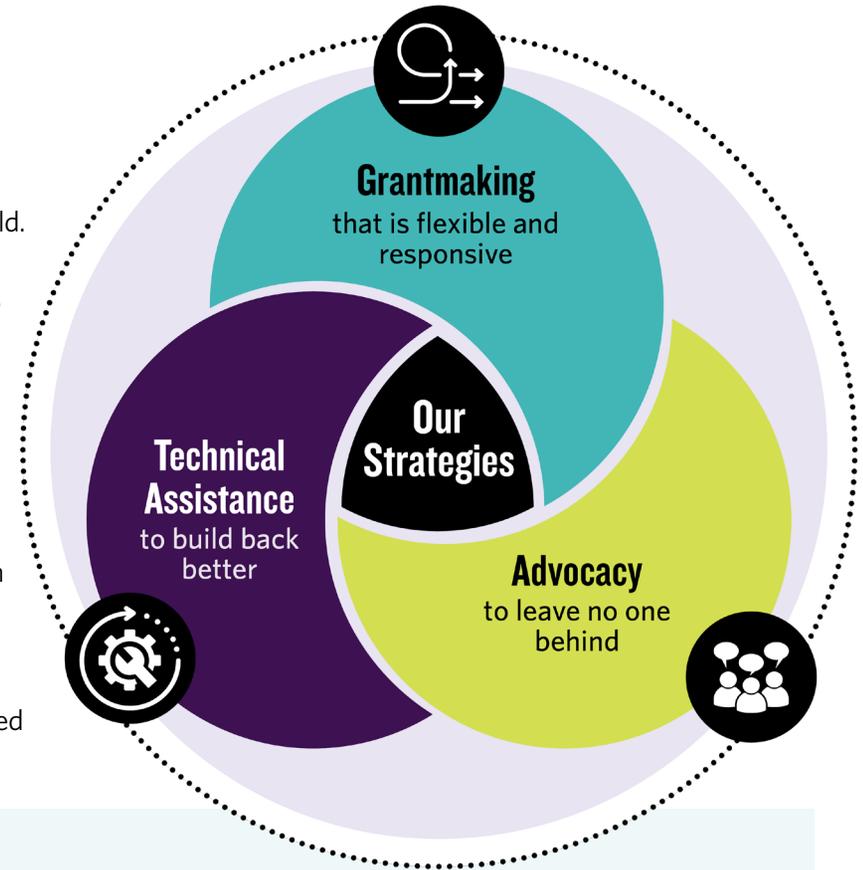
Getting to know our new grantees in Nepal

Our Strategies

Participatory grantmaking is the embodiment of “nothing about us without us.” From funding small grants to supporting coalitions through our pooled fund, our model is informed by the experience and expertise of disability rights activists from around the world. The self-advocates on our Grantmaking Committee work in collaboration with donors to decide on grants and help us ensure that our funding is responsive to movement priorities.

Technical assistance equips grantees to advocate for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. Technical assistance contributes to grantee knowledge, skills, partnerships, and resources so organizations of people with disabilities can drive the agenda, build movements, and achieve rights.

Our advocacy supports a shift in power and resources to organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and their constituencies by influencing human rights, development, humanitarian, climate change, and philanthropic actors at the regional and global levels. We aim to address discriminatory policies and practices, promote rights-based policies and practices, and advance inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly marginalized groups within the disability movement, in decision-making spaces.



Listening to Grantees

Adjust funding systems to be flexible and meet our specific needs. Empower OPDs. We don't have all the systems that are expected in place, so strengthen our capacity and grow with us. Give us exposure and space to learn.

Gaudence Mushimiyimana
UNABU, Rwanda



To resource us effectively means building our capacities and amplifying our voices. We must mobilize OPDs and stakeholders to amplify our voices for strategic influencing to secure prioritization of government commitments in national planning and financing.

Rita Kusi Kyeremaa
Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations



OPDs are critical in influencing policy and development to be more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable. We've been in active partnership with national and sub-national governments to implement disability inclusion in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Sustainable Development Goals.

Risnawati Utami
OHANA, Indonesia





Spotlight on Haiti

In Haiti, COVID-19 complicated the response to the August 14 earthquake, alongside the ongoing crises of gender-based violence and political unrest. While these converging crises created additional challenges, grantees in Haiti have updated their work in response to these evolving contexts to ensure that their rights are protected and to take care of their communities. The Coalition Nationale des Associations des Personnes Handicapées, a national coalition of 10 OPDs, prepared reports on violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities, and collected information from people on the ground in the aftermath of the earthquake. Other Haitian grantees fought for accessible shelters and food distribution sites for persons with disabilities as required by international law. “Thank God we are still helping each other despite the chaos,” said Jocelyne Boniface of the Association des Personnes Handicapées d’Anse d’Hainault, a Haitian grantee, speaking of the aftermath of the earthquake.

ABOVE PHOTO: A man surrounded by rubble after the Haiti earthquake.

Dealing with Crises

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect most of the world in 2021; we were not immune. Many grantees, staff, donors, and movement partners were ill—and those who have not been directly sick have been affected in countless other ways. We also acknowledge the dual pandemic of gender-based violence affecting women and girls with disabilities at higher rates with increased isolation—these identities are core to our community. In addition to ongoing pandemic-related issues, many countries endured political and environmental upheaval over the past year.

Haiti experienced multiple crises—the assassination of the president, an earthquake that followed shortly after, ongoing insecurity due to unabated COVID-19 transmission, and intensifying political violence. Given the increasingly volatile circumstances and additional risks, we supported our Program Officer for Haiti to temporarily relocate to the U.S. On the other side of the globe, the coup in Myanmar dramatically changed the security and advocacy contexts confronting our in-country grantees and Program Officer; we relocated him for safety as well. Across our other target countries, we are witnessing the shrinking space for civil society, including restrictions on foreign funding. We are actively engaged with a risk management consultancy to navigate such situations and keep our staff and grantees safe.

Despite these very real challenges, we also celebrated some very real successes. When grantees in Indonesia successfully advocated to have sign language interpretation during briefings about the pandemic by the country’s President, Rwandan grantees were inspired to initiate a similarly successful campaign. Maulani Rotinsulu, Chairperson of Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia (HWDI) shared a sentiment we have heard many grantees express: “While COVID-19 has presented enormous challenges so far, it has also built solidarity and increased the effectiveness of partnerships that HWDI and others have been building.” Thanks in large part to the advocacy efforts of DRF/DRAF grantees, vaccination access in many of our target countries is increasingly inclusive of persons with disabilities.



PHOTO: Leaders of OPDs in Nigeria at the Stakeholders’ Forum on COVID-19 Vaccination and Citizens with Disabilities.

Spotlight on Grantee Wins

From learning across cultures and experiences to successfully advocating for inclusive, rights-based policy change, our grantees worked to build community across movements, elevate the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and overcome pandemic-related challenges.

Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia organized the first Indonesia Women’s Convening in partnership with 11 OPDs.

The goal was to advance cross-movement collaboration on reproductive health and rights, develop strategies for collective action, and expand the intersectionality of the women’s rights movement in Indonesia to ensure that no one is left behind. The effort has been successful in building and bridging networks (particularly with women’s rights activists), developing joint action, building momentum for continued work across movements, and celebration—an important piece of movement work that can so often be overlooked.

She Writes Woman, an OPD of women with disabilities, completed its first alternative report to the UN Committee Against Torture in Nigeria. The report highlights gaps in the treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Nigeria.

Malawi Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities hosted a cross-border virtual learning exchange to begin discussions on gender, disability, and sexuality.

They invited Out and Proud Minority Association from Uganda (another DRF grantee) to share the situation of LGBTQI+ persons with disabilities in Uganda and the advocacy strategies being used to advance their rights. Through this new model for building and sharing knowledge, our grantees are leveraging and scaling their expertise in building movements within their country and across borders.

Rwanda adopted a national policy to help ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full inclusion in society. Advocacy for this milestone policy began in 2018 and was led by the National Union of Disability Organizations of Rwanda (NUDOR). NUDOR convened several other grantees to provide significant input on the draft and final policy.



Gulu Women with Disabilities Union began working with the Resident District Commissioner to advance their disability-inclusive reproductive health program for women with disabilities. Their work in Gulu, Amuru, Omoro, and Nwoya districts in Northern Uganda amidst the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown led to additional reporting of sexual and gender-based violence, and subsequent convictions. Outreach benefited from engaging with radio talk shows (pictured above) and partnerships with traditional leaders.

Supporting Progress on the SDGs

The top five Sustainable Development Goals supported through our grantmaking and advocacy are:

<p>GOAL 5</p> <p>GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>GOAL 16</p> <p>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>GOAL 11</p> <p>SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>GOAL 3</p> <p>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING</p>	<p>GOAL 10</p> <p>REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>
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Transformation and Agency: An Interview with Disability Justice Project Fellow, Nissy Namuyomba

How do you describe what you learned as a fellow?

I got to learn so many things in media, journalism, and storytelling — how to use the camera, how to use the media for advocating for people with disabilities, and how to focus a story. Through the fellowship I became an advocate who amplifies people's stories in order to push transformation and agency. The fellowship was something that pushed me out, it showed me what to do.

What was it like to be in this kind of a program alongside persons with disabilities from other countries in Africa?

It was perfect, getting friends from other nations, connecting to them, talking to them, helping them out when they find particular challenges. I was happy when my fellow [program participants] were asking me for help, or explaining to me what I missed, it was really a good feeling. And I was grateful to meet them. We have a WhatsApp group; we keep on talking to each other, especially when someone has questions about their video or their article. If there are opportunities around the world, we share "have you seen this? Apply for this!" It's very good, it's extremely good.

Disability Justice Project (DJP) is a participatory media-making initiative that is a collaboration between international documentary filmmaker and journalism educator Jody Santos and DRF. Its inaugural fellowship engaged five women with disabilities from DRF's grantee organizations to learn how to present their stories to the media. Nissy Namuyombais is with the Masaka Association of Persons with Disabilities Living with HIV/AIDS (MADIPHA) in Masaka, Uganda. [Read more about Disability Justice Project.](#)

If funding were no obstacle, what could you do with your newfound training? What kind of change or impact could your storytelling achieve?

I would concentrate on women and girls. I would like to tell stories about their challenges. I believe when you tell a story about a person with a disability, so many people can extend help, extend any kind of assistance to that person. With telling stories about women and girls — the sexual violence they experience, when they lack rights for making decisions about sex by trade, sex by chance — I think people can come out and help them. I don't just want to concentrate on their challenges though; I also want to tell their stories and keep inspiring others, to let the girls know that every time you keep on trying, every time you keep on being different, every time you keep on pushing harder, you become someone different. I would like to make sure that I write stories that can change and inspire people and create a sense of agency.

Is there anything else that you would like to share?

I want to thank DJP for the support it gave me. I feel different. I'm an introvert; it is very hard for me to interact with other people. But DJP choosing people with disabilities without segregation, without discrimination, and uplifting



PHOTO: Nissy Namuyomba opens a DJP camera kit shipped to her office in Uganda.

us, without making us feel different, making us feel prioritized, making us feel like we are blessed and something unique... the whole project was a blessing to me. I just can't say enough thank yous.

During her fellowship, Nissy worked on projects related to MADIPHA's work and history, and barriers to healthcare experienced by persons with disabilities.

[Watch her film](#) on MADIPHA's disability-inclusive response to HIV in Uganda.

[Read her article](#) on MADIPHA's founder.

[Watch her film](#) on barriers to healthcare.

Centering Marginalized Voices for Intersectional Programming: UNABU's Advocacy at the Intersection of Gender and Disability

Though Rwanda has made great progress toward gender equality, women and girls with disabilities still face considerable stigma and exclusion, disproportionately higher rates of gender-based violence (GBV), and barriers to accessing inclusive support services and justice. Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga (UNABU), one of the few Rwandan organizations of women with disabilities, is working to change these outcomes.

In 2018, UNABU received DRF funding and technical assistance to lead a survey about the discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities. Of those surveyed, more than 40% had experienced violence, but could not access legal or support services at the government's Isange One-Stop Centers (IOSCs), which provide services and support to survivors. UNABU raised awareness based on the outcomes of this research, and the Rwandan government subsequently made a commitment at the 2018 Global Disability Summit to "ensure the IOSCs are accessible to people with disabilities... and collect and report disability and gender-disaggregated data on the experience of GBV."

Leveraging DRF funding dedicated to fostering coalitions, UNABU then developed an alliance with Haguruka, a national women's rights NGO focused on preventing and addressing GBV through legal assistance, psychosocial support, and referrals

for survivors; and Legal Aid Forum, a network of 38 NGOs, professional bodies, universities, and law clinics that provides free services to marginalized groups. The coalition organized a team of community mobilizers made up of women with disabilities, some of whom were survivors of violence, who received training on the Rwandan justice system, how to identify GBV, facilitating referrals to IOSCs, and providing support to survivors navigating the justice system.

With ongoing financial support and technical assistance from DRF to implement COVID-19-safe advocacy, the coalition expanded its work to dismantle barriers to GBV prevention and response, and to empower women and girls with disabilities to demand justice. Initial data indicates that these efforts have led to substantially enhanced knowledge and confidence among girls and men with disabilities and increased access to justice and support services for survivors of GBV. Dozens of new GBV cases have been reported by women and girls with disabilities with the help of UNABU's community mobilizers.

"DRF invested in technical assistance, supported UNABU to collect evidence on the issue of GBV against girls and women with disabilities, linked us to new funding and technical assistance opportunities, and gave us exposure to global events," said UNABU Co-Founder and Executive Director Gaudence



PHOTO: UNABU's inspection visit to Shyira District Hospital as part of their assessments of accessibility of the Isange One-Stop Center.

Mushimiyana. **"These investments have increased our visibility and led to national and international recognition of UNABU as an effective advocacy organization for the rights of girls and women with disabilities."**

With the right investment of financial and technical support, UNABU and partners have been able to sustain operations and grow activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that women and girls with disabilities in Rwanda have a leading voice in addressing barriers and seeking justice. Seven years after DRF's first grant, UNABU's staff have deepened their advocacy skills and knowledge while building relationships with government officials and key societal actors — and women with disabilities have led the way.

To read more about UNABU, please visit their [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Grantee
Impact Story



Change and transitions are hard. Even though I've decided it is time to leave, it's hard to step away, to let go. This is a lesson on leadership. The hardest and most important part is knowing when to let go, and actually doing so. The DRF/DRAF of today is a groundswell of change and ready for the next chapter. We've come a long way. But don't worry! There is still lots to do!

Diana Samarasan

Founding Executive Director, DRF/DRAF

A Toast to the Present and Future of DRF/DRAF: Celebrating the Legacy of Diana Samarasan

DRF/DRAF would not exist without the vision and commitment of our founding Executive Director, Diana Samarasan. The staff, Boards, and advisors express deep gratitude for the many years she devoted to imagining, designing, implementing, and iterating on resourcing for disability rights movements. Diana's 14-year tenure made long-term investments possible, and her commitment to evolving long-held beliefs and practices has accelerated paradigm shifts — from top-down philanthropy to participatory grantmaking, and from treating persons with disabilities as objects of charity to recognizing their full agency over their own lives. We look forward to celebrating Diana's next chapter as she participates as a fellow in the Narrative Initiative's Changemaker Authors Cohort, collaborating with founding Board co-chair and funder representative, Catherine Hyde Townsend, to write a book about the history of DRF/DRAF and its leadership in disability rights and philanthropy. Thank you, Diana, for all you have done, and for all you will do!

Diana Samarasan Disability Rights Advocacy Award

In 2021, the staff and Boards of DRF/DRAF established the Diana Samarasan Disability Rights Advocacy Award. The inaugural award was presented to Diana Samarasan by her daughter Alina at a special celebration in Boston.

The Diana Samarasan Disability Rights Advocacy Award will be given annually to an activist showing outstanding leadership in advancing disability rights. The awardee will demonstrate perseverance, empathy, and outstanding moral character, and a past, present, and future commitment to disability rights, particularly for women and other marginalized identities. The award itself is an art piece reflecting a sunbeam, representing



PHOTO: Diana holds her award and stands with team members and her daughter.

the awardee's work lighting the way for others, and shining in all they do, spotlighting disability rights with brightness and fire. The awardee will also receive some direct financial support to invest as they see fit for their own well-being and nourishment.

Thank You

Donors, grantees, movement partners, and staff offered tributes to Diana during a virtual celebration of her legacy on December 2, 2021 (pictured here). Many from the DRF/DRAF community joined to toast our founder and our journey together over 14 years. It was a celebration of accomplishments so far and all of the opportunity that lies ahead.



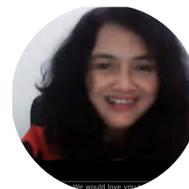
Many people with disabilities have emerged as leaders under Diana's administration. I am one of the success stories of her time. Not only as a committed activist, but also the one who managed to occupy the post of Secretary of State at the government level, the highest public and national position dedicated to the cause of persons with disabilities. Diana, persons with disabilities in Haiti, through my own voice, are telling you we are very grateful to you and we thank you for having undertaken such a noble yet difficult fight. Through our actions, we will try to do our best to carry this torch you have held for so long.

Soinette Désir, Founder, Union of Women with Reduced Mobility and Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Haiti



Diana and DRF have changed the whole landscape of the Indonesian disability movement. Before, organizations tended to work separately, we did not move together as a movement. Many did not see themselves as a disability rights activist, and many still have the charity mindset and approach. But that changed since Diana entered our life. In the last 10 years there is a huge acceleration of self-identity among persons with disability and the disability movement in Indonesia because Diana trusted us and that we know what to do. DRF never forced us to do their agenda or take on a topic. It's up to us what we deem important. Because of that trust, we grow. In the last 10 years we've grown so fast, from being marginalized to being a very respected movement.

Yeni Rosa Damayanti, Chair, Indonesian Mental Health Association



I was privileged to be among those who welcomed Diana when she stepped into the leadership of the Disability Rights Fund and it's a privilege to be among those who congratulate 14 years of transformative, field-changing contributions. Under Diana's leadership, the Funds have far exceeded the vision of the original donors. Diana has appreciated the beauty and importance of a patient and inclusive process, building trust among the fund stakeholders, bringing the participatory model to life, and ensuring the effective deployment of resources.

John Taylor, President, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund



[**Watch the event recording**](#)

Looking back at a Legacy

Celebration is a core value for DRF/DRAF, and 14 years gives us a lot to cheer!

Here are just a few examples of wins to celebrate over the course of our history.

Uganda

DRF/DRAF's presence in Uganda has led to a lot of change. They funded advocacy for a decade that led to the passage of a new national persons with disabilities act, which upgraded our legal protections. We now have accessibility commissions and audits involving OPDs through the Building Control Act. And they've invested in leadership and growth of marginalized groups within the disability movement, like me!

Esther Kyoziira,
Executive Director,
National Union of
Disabled Persons of
Uganda



Vanuatu

Vanuatu was one of the first Pacific Island Countries to report to the CRPD committee. With our support, Vanuatu Disability Promotions and Advocacy Association developed a civil society alternative CRPD report and also an alternative report to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Increased OPD voice and participation in monitoring processes adds powerful perspective and leadership, and also can help activate future partnerships and advocacy.



PHOTO: A May 2018 article from the Vanuatu Daily Post on Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association's report submission to the CRPD.

Our Safeguarding Efforts

As a high-risk funder, safeguarding is an essential commitment for DRF/DRAF. Safeguarding covers not only sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) issues but also financial risks that need to be prevented and mitigated. Over the years, we have organized trainings for OPDs on SEAH safeguarding measures and fraud prevention, performed assessments and audits, led a multi-agency investigation, and created new funding streams focused on strengthening and capacity building of our grantees. We have enhanced our due diligence throughout the grantmaking lifecycle, created an internal Safeguarding Team, frequently collaborated with other donors and partners to share learnings, and have simplified the process for grantees — and others — to report potential issues. We're also a new member of the Funder Safeguarding Collaborative because we believe deeply in the importance of this work.



Indonesia

DRF/ DRAF have awarded over \$4M across nearly 200 grants to Indonesian OPDs since 2010. With this funding, grantees — many led by women with disabilities — have secured fundamental changes that advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including ratification of the CRPD in 2011 and enactment of national level regulatory frameworks and policies. Our grantmaking in Indonesia models the implementation of our Gender Guidelines and prioritizes the inclusion of especially marginalized groups, such as Indigenous women with disabilities and others who experience multiple layers of discrimination. We continuously support coalition-building between movements to encourage and facilitate dialogue, including between the disability rights movement and human rights, Indigenous rights, and women's rights movements. I've also seen significant improvements in grantees' institutional capacity, safeguarding, financial management, governance, and network development with our support.

Dwi Ariyani, Regional
Head of Programs-Asia,
DRF/DRAF and Woman of
Distinction for Asia, 2020



Peru

DRF/DRAF supported the disability rights movement in Peru to draft, advocate for, and achieve critical legal reforms to implement the CRPD. For example, the 2012 General Law on Persons with Disabilities is the result of four years of advocacy work carried out by a national coalition of organizations of persons with disabilities, funded by DRF/DRAF, which not only drafted the bill but also proposed it as a citizens' initiative and actively advocated for its adoption. In 2014, DRF/DRAF also supported **Sociedad y Discapacidad** — to advocate for the creation of a Congressional special committee concerning the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, which initiated a process that led to the elimination of guardianship and the implementation of supported decision-making schemes in Peru — a reform that is internationally recognized as a milestone for CRPD-compliant legal capacity reform. The advocacy work that led to these milestones strengthened the collective voice and leadership of the national disability rights movement.

Alberto Vásquez, Society and Disability (SODIS); DRF/DRAF Board Member



Since 2008, DRF/DRAF have made:



\$40M+ in grants to



408 organizations of persons with disabilities across



39 countries



Bangladesh

Our support in Bangladesh led to the passage of a national disability act and also a legal aid partnership that supports bringing cases of violence against women with disabilities to court. Pictured is a recent meeting led by Access Bangladesh Foundation discussing engagement of OPDs in the upcoming census.

The formation of the Global Network of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities

Through our funding and advocacy, this group formed and now raises the visibility, recognition, and awareness of, and supports protections for, Indigenous persons with disabilities.

Rwanda

The Rwanda Organization of Women with Disabilities (UNABU) has grown dramatically in size, funding, and influence since we gave them a first grant of \$10,000 in 2015. They've secured an MOU with the government to ensure that resources for addressing violence against women are accessible to and inclusive of women with disabilities, and created peer networks across the country to bring women with disabilities out of isolation and into the spotlight.



Haiti

Women-led OPDs in Haiti have grown in strength and power, starting with DRF support for reporting and a presentation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Geneva, and continuing through to the appointment of SoINETTE Désir, the head of one of our grantees, as Secretary of State for Persons with Disabilities. Pictured here is the Haitian delegation after their presentation to the CRPD committee in 2018.

Influencing Women's Rights Funders

Women with disabilities have often been excluded from women's rights movement work — and funding. We are continuously working to bridge gaps with feminist donors to drive more resources to persons with disabilities, diversify women's and LGBTQI+ rights movements, and promote greater inclusion in their grantmaking processes and outcomes.



Grantees

- * = This organization also received an OPD Strengthening grant
- ▶ = This organization also received a Core Support grant

Disability Rights Fund

Africa

Ghana

Global Disability Summit

- Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations
- Lakeside Disability Rights Advocacy Initiative

Malawi

- * Registered Trustees of Persons with Albinism in Malawi
 - Small Grant
 - * Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi
 - * Human Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities
 - * ▶ Mental Health Users and Carers Association
 - * Registered Trustees of Community Support for Persons with Albinism
 - * ▶ Registered Trustees of Disabled Women in Development
 - * Registered Trustees of Epilepsy Warriors Foundation
 - * Registered Trustees of Spinal Injuries Association of Malawi
 - * Registered Trustees of the Voice of Women with Disability
 - * ▶ Rumphu Self Help Initiative of the Visually Impaired
 - Mid-Level Coalition
 - * Registered Trustees of Disabled Women in Africa
 - * Registered Trustees of the Association of the Physically Disabled of Malawi
 - * Registered Trustees of the Disabilities HIV/AIDS Trust
 - Grantee Convening
 - * Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi
- #### Nigeria
- Small Grant
 - * Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiatives
 - * Children Developmental Centre
 - * ▶ Deaf Women Aloud Initiative
 - * Hope Inspired Foundation for Women and Youth

- * ▶ Lionheart Ability Leaders International Foundation
- * The Albino Foundation
- * ▶ TheseAbilities Women and Youth Empowerment Multi-Purpose Co-Operative Society, Ltd.
- * ▶ Voice of Disability Initiative
- * Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative
- Mid-Level Coalition
- * Disability Rights Advocacy Center
- * Nigeria Association of the Blind
- * The IREDE Foundation
- National Coalition
- * Centre for Citizens with Disabilities
- Special Opportunity
- Centre for Citizens with Disabilities
- Technical Assistance
- Centre for Citizens with Disabilities

Uganda

Small Grant

- * ▶ Albinism Umbrella
- * ▶ Buliisa District Union of Persons with Disabilities
- * ▶ Epilepsy Support Association Uganda
- * ▶ Gulu Women With Disabilities Union
- * ▶ Kiboga Disability Rights Initiative
- * ▶ Lira District Disabled Women Association
- * ▶ Luwero District Disabled Women Association
- * ▶ Masaka Association of Persons with Disabilities Living with HIV & AIDS
- * Mpigi Women with Disabilities Association
- * ▶ Out & Proud Minority Disability Support Association
- * ▶ Show Abilities Uganda
- * ▶ Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
- * ▶ Uganda Federation of the Hard of Hearing
- * ▶ Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy
- * Women with Albinism Association
- * ▶ Youth with Physical Disability Development Forum
- Mid-Level Coalition
- * Integrated Disabled Women Activities
- * Triumph Uganda Mental Health Support and Recovery Program
- National Coalition
- * National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
- Uganda Capacity Fund
- Albinism Umbrella
- Association of Refugees with Disability
- Buikwe Disabled and Vulnerable Empowerment Association
- Foundation of Persons Affected by Dwarfism
- Kiboga Disability Rights Initiative
- Lyakirema Albino Group
- National Association of the Deafblind in Uganda

- One Voice Heard 4 Disability Uganda
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness and Network - Uganda
- Uganda Federation of the Hard of Hearing
- Vitiligo Association of Uganda, Ltd.
- Technical Assistance
- National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda

Rwanda

Small Grant

- * ▶ Collectif TUBAKUNDE
- * ▶ First People Disability Organization
- * Hope for Single Mothers with Disabilities
- * ▶ Initiative for Social Development
- * ▶ National Organization of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Rwanda
- * ▶ Organisation d'Intégration et de Promotion des Personnes Atteintes d'Albinisme
- * Organization of Women with Disabilities for Health Promotion and Development in Rwanda
- * Rights For All
- * ▶ Rwanda Union of the Blind
- * ▶ Rwanda Union of Little People
- Mid-Level Coalition
- * Rwanda National Union of the Deaf
- * Umbrella des Personnes en situation de Handicape Luttant contre le VIH/ SIDA et pour la Promotion de la Santé
- * Umuryango Nyarwanda W'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga

Asia

Bangladesh

Global Disability Summit

- Women with Disabilities Development Foundation

India

Global Disability Summit

- Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre

Indonesia

Small Grant

- * Gerakan Untuk Kesejahteraan Tuna Rungu Indonesia
- * ▶ Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia Sulawesi Selatan
- * Ikatan Disabilitas Purworejo
- * Perkumpulan Penyandang Disabilitas Klaten
- * ▶ Perkumpulan Sehati Sukoharjo
- * ▶ Perkumpulan Tuli Buta Indonesia
- * Perkumpulan Tuna Daksa Kristiani
- * Yayasan Yogasmara
- * Yayasan Cahaya Inklusi Indonesia
- * ▶ Yayasan CIQAL

- * ▶ Yayasan Peduli Sindroma Down Indonesia
- * ▶ Yayasan Sentra Advokasi Perempuan Difabel Dan Anak

Mid-Level Coalition

- * Perkumpulan Penyandang Disabilitas Indonesia
- * Sasan Inklusi dan Gerakan Advokasi Difabel Indonesia

National Coalition

- * Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat
- * Perkumpulan OHANA
- Special Opportunity
- Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia
- * Perkumpulan OHANA

Nepal

Small Grant

- * Access Planet Organization
- * Blind Women Association Nepal
- * Himalayan Education And Development
- * Pahichan Nepal
- National Coalition
- National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal

Caribbean

Haiti

Special Opportunity

- ▶ Coalition Nationale des Associations des Personnes Handicapées

Global

United Kingdom

Global Disability Summit

- * Commonwealth Disabled Peoples' Forum
- Strategic Partnerships
- We Are Purposeful, Ltd.

United States

Strategic Partnerships

- Disability Justice Project
- Women Enabled International

Disability Right Advocacy Fund

Africa

Malawi

Small Grant

- * Registered Trustees of the Visually Impaired Workers Platform
- Mid-Level Coalition
- * Registered Trustees of the Forum for the Development of Youth with Disabilities

- * Registered Trustees of the Visual Hearing Impairment Membership Association

Nigeria

Small Grant

- * Network of Disabled Women
- * ▶ She Writes Woman Mental Health Initiative
- National Coalition
- * Nigeria National Association of the Deaf

Rwanda

Small Grant

- * ▶ Rwanda Organization of Persons with Deaf Blindness National Coalition
- * National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda

Uganda

Mid-Level Coalition

- * Hoima District Union of Persons with Disabilities
- * Uganda National Association of the Blind
- National Coalition
- * Uganda National Action on Physical Disability

Asia

Indonesia

Small Grant

- * Perkumpulan Penyandang Disabilitas Indonesia

- Provinsi Kalimantan Tengah
- * Perkumpulan Persatuan Tunanetra Indonesia
- * Yayasan Muara Hati
- National Coalition
- * Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia
- * Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Disabilitasur

Nepal

National Coalition

- * KOSHISH
- * National Federation of the Deaf Nepal
- Strategic Partnerships
- * National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal

Technical Assistance

National Federation of the Deaf Nepal

Pacific Island Countries

Autonomous Region of Bougainville,

Papua New Guinea

Small Grant

- * ▶ Bougainville Disabled Persons Organization

Federated States of Micronesia

Small Grant

- * Kosrae Consumer Organization

Fiji

Small Grant

- * Disability Pride Hub
- National Coalition
- * Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation

Kiribati

Small Grant

- * Kiribati Association for the Blind and Vision Impairment
- * Kiribati Deaf Association
- * Te Toa Matoa

Papua New Guinea

Small Grant

- * PNG Blind Union, Inc.
- * Women with Disabilities Network PNG, Inc.
- Mid-Level Coalition
- * NCD Disabled Persons Association, Inc.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Small Grant

- * ▶ Deaf Flourish

Samoa

Small Grant

- * ▶ Deaf Association of Samoa

- * ▶ Persons with Physical Disabilities Association Samoa
- * ▶ Samoa Blind Persons Association

Solomon Islands

Small Grant

- * Blind Visually Impairment Solomon Islands Trust Board, Inc.
- * ▶ Disabled Peoples' Association of Solomon Islands

Tonga

Small Grant

- Lavame'a Ta'e'iloa Disabled People Association, Inc.
- * Tonga National Visual Impairment Association

Tuvalu

Small Grant

- * ▶ Fusi Alofa, Inc.

Vanuatu

Small Grant

- * Vanuatu Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association Committee, Inc.

Global

Canada

Strategic Partnerships

Association for Women's Rights in Development

In 2021, DRF/DRAF made:

306
grants totaling
\$4,589,725

70%
of grants went to OPDs
of marginalized groups

18%
of grants went to
emergent OPDs



Grantmaking Committees

Our Grantmaking Committees make all pooled fund grantmaking decisions, and critically inform our grantmaking priorities. Committee members are a mix of disability rights activists and donor representatives — and in some cases, both! The members are:

Nikki Brown-Booker
Rebecca Cokley
Nandini Ghosh
Lu Han (non-voting)
Harriet Knowles
Waqar Puri
Sanja Tarczay
Myroslava Tataryn
Ishumael Zhou

Board observers (non-voting):

Sikelelwa Alexandrina Msitshana
Michael Njenga
Alberto Vasquez

We would also like to extend a special thank you to outgoing committee members, Jenipher Akinyi and Robyne Leven.

We are not just building disability rights movements, but diversifying them.

“Nothing about us without us” means that disability rights movements need to be representative of all persons with disabilities. Yet just as in other parts of societies, there are exclusions within the movement. As part of our mission to build disability rights movements around the world, we particularly focus support on investing in the most marginalized identities within the disability community, including women, Indigenous persons, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with Albinism, and persons with deafblindness. Our choice to

work in the Global South is also grounded in support for the most marginalized; few other U.S.-based funders resource the countries where we work, and even fewer fund grassroots OPDs.

This year, we launched our Gender Guidelines Implementation Plan and saw a 10% year-over-year increase in grantmaking to organizations of women with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics, which is now 28% of overall pooled fund grantmaking. We also added a gender priority to our grantmaking guidelines. Further, we featured grantees representing marginalized disabilities at global events such as the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Salzburg Seminar.

Read up

Research: [*Reflecting a Movement's Principles in Grantmaking Structure: Evidence of the Benefits of Participation from the Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund*](#)

Advancing Human Rights blog: [*Reversing the trend: The time is now to fund disability rights*](#)

SSIR article: [*Time for Philanthropy to Confront Ableism*](#)

Included in books: [*Modern Grantmaking*](#) and [*Letting Go*](#)

Robert Bosch Stiftung blog feature: [*Getting to the Table: Disability, Inequality and the Pandemic*](#)



“ We’re thrilled to partner with and support the Disability Rights Fund through Adobe’s new Equity and Advancement Initiative. Fighting for the protection and advancement of human rights is a priority for Adobe; we believe that disability rights are human rights. We are energized by DRF’s model and intersectional approach and look forward to helping to elevate the voices and priorities of persons with disabilities both inside Adobe and in our communities.

Amy White, Executive Director, Adobe Foundation



DRF continues to be a leading example of participatory grantmaking. We are now using it as a model for designing other Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) grantmaking programmes, which is a testament to the success it has had. It has very strong links to the grassroots disability movement and we are very grateful for the support DRF provided in helping us consult with OPDs for the development of FCDO’s new Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy. DRF and OPDs gave a clear direction about what people with disabilities in the Global South require from the FCDO strategy and ensured we would stay true to ‘nothing about us without us.’

Daryl Lloyd, Statistics and Results Adviser, Disability Inclusion, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK Government



2021 Financials

	Disability Rights Fund	Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
Revenue		
Restricted		
Government	\$2,377,648	\$1,601,767
Foundations	\$489,000	\$145,238
Unrestricted		
Foundations, Corporations, Individuals	\$ 3,910,055	\$ --
Total Revenue	\$6,776,703	\$1,747,005
Expenses		
Program		
Grantmaking	\$3,092,475	\$1,496,750
Other Program (TA, advocacy, etc.)	\$1,091,411	\$263,692
Administration	\$984,332	\$92,956
Fundraising	\$300,102	\$33,237
Total Expenses	\$5,468,319	\$1,886,635

81%

of expenses were program related (including grants)

[View financials](#)

Donors

Funding for DRF in 2021 was provided by the Adobe Foundation; The Ansara Family Fund at the Boston Foundation; the Channel Foundation; the Ford Foundation; the Foundation for a Just Society; the Foundation to Promote Open Society, part of the Open Society Foundations; the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation; Oak Foundation; Tambourine; U.K. aid from the U.K. government; WE Trust; Wellspring Philanthropic Fund; and individual and corporate donors.



DRAF is supported by Australian Aid and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

We are grateful for the support of all of our donors.

The views expressed in this communication do not necessarily reflect the official policies of any of our donors or the governments they represent.

[See current donor list](#)

Boards

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Charlie Clements

Aditi Juneja

Setareki S. Macanawai

Sikelelwa Alexandrina Msitshana

Beth MacNairn

Maria Ní Fhlatharta

Michael Njenga

Diana Samarasan (Ex-Officio)

Alberto Vásquez

We would also like to acknowledge with deep gratitude the contributions of former Board member Kristen Pratt. She played an integral role in helping us build the vision, growth, and sustainability of our work.

Management Team

Diana Samarasan, Founding Executive Director

Roger Falcón, Deputy Director

Jen Bokoff, Director of Development

Faith Lemon, Program Director

Christina Parasyn, Technical Assistance Director

Alice Phinizy, Finance Director

Kerry Thompson, Inclusion and Accessibility Development Manager

Arlene Wilson-Grant, Director of Grantmaking

Leadership was felt from every team member, and we are grateful to the full staff. [Read about our full team](#)

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 info@disabilityrightsfund.org

 [DisabRightsFund](https://twitter.com/DisabRightsFund)

 [DisabilityRightsFund](https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityRightsFund)

 [disability-rights-fund](https://www.linkedin.com/company/disability-rights-fund)



COVER PHOTOS: Participants at events for women and girls with disabilities on gender equality and sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual characteristics, hosted by Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities in Malawi.



The Disability Rights Fund is a 501c3 organization, EIN 27-5026293.

The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund is a 501c4 organization, EIN 27-5026463.