



## **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>1</sup>, and “addressing

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<sup>1</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.

exclusion in all its aspects is key to eliminating poverty,”<sup>2</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>3</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. 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

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<sup>2</sup> DFID, *Disability Equality Scheme: 2006-2009*, available at <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/diversity/disability-equality-scheme.pdf>

<sup>3</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](#).

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>4</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 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

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<sup>4</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.

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.