Annual Report 2015

# A Movement to Change One Billion Lives

## Disability Rights Fund + Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

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# Letter

Is social justice an end result or a process or both? If rights are achieved, does it matter who initiated the process? At the Disability Rights Fund, we believe that HOW we do things is just as important as- and, in fact, is key to - achieving rights.

## Supporting the Disability Movement to Lead

**Diana Samarasan**

**Founding Executive Director**

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008 exemplified how important the powerful and unified activism of people with disabilities can be. The Disability Rights Fund, launched alongside the Convention in 2008, supports the disability movement in the developing world to raise their voices for change.

DRF does this by resourcing the movement and by including the movement in strategy design for funding and in grants decision-making. As such, DRF is one of a growing number of “participatory grantmakers,” who are turning traditional models of philanthropy on their head and ensuring that communities of people affected by funding participate in the funding structures themselves. This models a paradigm shift, demonstrates the power and contributions of people with disabilities, and builds leadership capacity within the disability movement.

By end 2015, 161 countries had ratified the CRPD, making legal commitments to protect and fulfill the rights of persons with disabilities. As you can see on the map, DRF and DRAF have supported numerous CRPD ratification campaigns. Beyond ratification, to make rights real, we have supported advocacy for changes in laws and policies and government programs, as well as grassroots and cross-movement rights campaigns to ensure persons with disabilities have access to education, healthcare, employment, justice, and more.

Note that throughout this report, except in sections on financials and in grantee lists, reference to the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) may also encompass activities of the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund.

## ****More to Do****

**Catherine Townsend**

**Co-Chair**

The map and the rest of this report illustrate examples of achievements from 2015. We are proud of our grantees who continue to make the world a better, more equal, place for persons with disabilities. Still, we know there is so much more to do.

We know this when we see people with psychosocial disabilities still being shackled in Indonesia; we know this when deaf women in Haiti are suspected of being witches and are lynched ; we know this when our own employee is asked to leave an airplane because she is in a wheelchair and traveling independently . Yet, we have seen the difference DRF can make in ending these practices.

Please help us continue to support leaders with disabilities around the world, leaders like Risnawati Utami, like the Ugandan delegation to Geneva, and like our own Dwi Ariyani.

## ****A Participatory Approach is Key****

**William Rowland**

**Co-Chair**

Help us ensure that these leaders - people with disabilities themselves - are at the forefront of the movement to change one billion lives. Help our participatory model lead the way to an inclusive society, one that recognizes the dignity of every human being.

# Deepening Impact

## 2x2x2 Cycle

Recognizing that advocacy for rights takes time, we work over the long-term in each of our target countries, and commit to support the disability movement for at least six years. Before deciding to enter a country, we look at factors such as political will to make changes to improve the lives of persons with disabilities and vibrancy of the disability movement. Once we have entered a country, our support takes two-year cycles.

First 2 Years; Assessment:

We make initial grants and review gaps in legal and policy frameworks and in the disability movement in order to develop a country strategy.

Second 2 Years; Implementation:

We implement our country strategy in partnership with the disability movement; and assess our progress towards objectives.

Third 2 Years; Exit/Extension:

Based on progress as well as external factors, we hone in and expand our work over a longer term or proceed towards exit.

## Dwi Ariyani

To deepen our work in Indonesia - and other places - we hire staff on the ground, people like Dwi Ariyani, our Grants Consultant in Indonesia. Local staff, who come from and understand, the disability movement and local politics are essential to our goals of strengthening grantee capacities and building joint advocacy strategies. Their expertise helps us identify key gaps in rights and heighten the call for inclusion of persons with disabilities in local development.

“The Disability Rights Fund’s support has reached the grassroots ... deepening inclusion in the disability movement so that persons with disabilities in rural areas are also empowered to advocate for their rights. I am really proud to be a part of this.”

Dwi Ariyani, Indonesia Grants Consultant

Dwi is no stranger to the disability rights movement. Growing up, she was the only woman in her university class studying computer technology and dreamed about becoming a computer scientist. After graduation, however, employer after employer refused to hire her because they believed she would not be able to perform since she is both a woman and has a disability.

Undeterred, Dwi started to advocate for persons with disabilities; she worked for over a decade as a researcher, trainer, writer, and activist with Indonesian organizations of people with disabilities. When the 2006 earthquake struck Yogyakarta - Dwi’s home province - and killed and injured thousands of people, Dwi was one of the many Indonesian citizens who volunteered to provide emergency response - outreaching to the disability community.

**75 Grants were distributed to 24 organizations since 2010**

**$1.5M In grants to disabled persons organizations in Indonesia since 2010**

This experience motivated Dwi to raise awareness among local and provincial authorities about the rights of persons with disabilities. Working for the Disability Rights Fund seemed like a natural progression, especially since the Fund has been supporting disabled persons organizations in Yogyakarta to advocate for laws and policies that address disability rights, including disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction.

## Uganda to Geneva

We build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to carry out effective rights advocacy, including through supporting rights monitoring and reporting to UN treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. This enables persons with disabilities to bring rights challenges to the highest international human rights authorities. Experience at this level sharpens their messages, deepens their connections with human rights actors, and unifies the movement to rally behind priority issues.

When the Disability Rights Fund started grantmaking in Uganda in 2008, the movement was elitist and divided. DRF was the first donor to specifically fund organizations at the margins of the movement - in rural areas and among marginalized groups. One of these grantees was an emergent organization of people with dwarfism: Little People of Uganda. At DRF’s first convening of grantees, held in the Ugandan Parliament in early 2009, members of the national disability movement jeered at this group, mocking their inclusion in the larger movement. A similar experience occured with the Ugandan Albinos Association and with HeartSounds, a group of people with psychosocial disabilities.

“The first and foremost outcome of [sending a] Uganda delegation to Geneva is that it united the national disability movement. It made us one. We focused on issues important to the entire movement and ... put [the] general disability movement above our individual disability needs.”

Ambrose Murangira, Executive Director, Ugandan National Association of the Deaf

Now, eight years later, representatives of all of these groups of people with disabilities sit on the Board of the national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities - the National Union of Persons with Disabilities of Uganda (NUDIPU) - and they are officially recognized as persons with disabilities by the government, giving them access to (the limited) rights and services that other groups of persons with disabilities have. Gaps in addressing their rights and needs have been recognized by the larger movement, including in the human rights reporting process.

In September 2015, reporting from the Ugandan disability movement to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) culminated in a historic and groundbreaking journey of a DRF-supported delegation of disability rights advocates from Uganda to Geneva. The multistakeholder delegation, led by NUDIPU, was the first delegation of civil society organizations from Uganda to present to the Committee.

For many of the delegates, their organizations and beneficiaries, this was a huge step forward in promoting Uganda’s disability rights movement to the international stage. For DRF and DRF grantees, this was a sign of growth and a victory in the long effort towards collaboration that began with DRF’s first grants.

“The trip was a game changer: Having worked on the CRPD alternative report for over five years, I’m stronger and better prepared to interpret the convention, and this puts me at another level of advocacy.”  
Esther Kyozira, Advocacy Program Director, National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda

Armed with rights knowledge and joint advocacy skills gained from years of DRF support, and with support from the International Disability Alliance, members of the national coalition presented findings from Uganda’s CRPD alternative report to the committee. The findings brought gaps in legislation and conditions to light, sparking a dialogue between the Ugandan delegates and the CRPD Committee’s group of experts that contributed to the List of Issues published on October 8, 2015 by the CRPD Committee.

From the CRPD Committee List of Issues to the Ugandan government: “Please provide information about the mechanisms for ensuring meaningful consultation with and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in relation to all matters concerning them.”

The Ugandan delegation returned home with the support of the international disability community and a new purpose: to use the lessons learned and the credibility gained from their experience in Geneva to ramp up their advocacy to government to solve the critical issues they identified. In 2016, they will return to Geneva to participate in the finalization of the CRPD Committee’s review of Uganda.

**Lessons Learned:**

* Supporting a diverse group of organizations of persons with disabilities - including grassroots DPOs and marginalized groups - to work collaboratively on rights monitoring builds the collective expertise of the disability movement.
* Organizations which report directly to human rights treaty bodies not only learn the mechanics of rights monitoring, but also learn how rights impact diverse groups of people with disabilities differently.
* Reporting with an aim to demand government accountability for implementation of human rights requires movement solidarity.
* Alternative reports are a mechanism for building joint advocacy strategies. Yet the process of writing reports isn’t enough; enabling activists to present rights challenges at the highest international level builds their confidence and validates their voice within the human rights arena. This has a ripple effect at the national level.
* Activists return from international human rights reporting with new perspectives on advocacy, stronger connections to other rights actors, and a commitment to working collaboratively because they see its impact.

# Increasing Influence

We recognize that systems change takes years of persistent advocacy. Political reform and changing mindsets require savvy activists who can unify diverse voices and apply lessons learned to deepen and broaden citizen demand for change across diverse populations and geographies. This is why supporting local activists with disabilities is so key. These activists understand local politics and cultural sensitivities and apply them when working with traditional and political leaders. One example is Risnawati Utami who used lessons learned in activism on disability rights in Yogyakarta to inform change in Bali.

## Risna Utami

Risna contracted polio when she was four years old. Although there were many moments when she was discouraged, she was determined not to let any barriers stop her from reaching her goals. She sought, instead, to promote equality. In her own words, “Being differently abled gives me a strong sense of social justice and a commitment to valuing diversity.”

“Now, we want to make sure any new legislation is in line with both the CRPD principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are especially focused on Reducing Inequality, SDG Goal 10”

Risnawati Utami, Founding Director, OHANA

Early on in her career, she recognized the need to fight for her fellow Indonesians with disabilities, many of whom are left behind because services and facilities are inaccessible or unavailable and discrimination is common. She founded and leads a civil society group OHANA, based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which works to strengthen the rights of people with disabilities so they can access justice and education.

Local laws are especially important in a country as large and diverse as Indonesia. Since Indonesia’s young democracy and decentralized governance system has allowed more participation by civil society groups, disabled persons organizations have been able to advocate for legal reforms at the local level.

Grassroots voices from villages and rural areas must be integrated into local level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and resiliency efforts.

**The Journey**

2011 - Yogyakarta, located close to a major active volcano, has its own specific priorities, including disaster risk reduction. Indonesia’s ratification of the CRPD in 2011 encouraged local-level disabled persons organizations like OHANA to bring together multiple stakeholders to develop disability-inclusive laws for the province. Working at the local level makes the impact more relevant and timely, not only for the residents, but also for local government agencies.

2012 - In part, thanks to the efforts of the Yogyakarta disability movement, the province now has one of the strongest local laws for disability inclusion in the country. In 2012, Risna participated as a legal drafter in the development of Yogyakarta Perda No 4/2012 on Fulfillment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Implementation, though, still remains a challenge because of lack of government commitment, lack of awareness of disability rights, and poor enforcement.

Learning from their experience in Yogyakarta, OHANA took these lessons to another province — Bali. In this province, some people believe disability is a curse, or a karmic result of wrong-doing. The stigma leads to feelings of shame, and results in many persons with disabilities being shut indoors and excluded from the community.

July 2015- the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund supported a Mid-level Coalition between OHANA, PUSPADI Bali, and the Indonesia Social Justice Network. The coalition’s goal was to build the capacity of persons with disabilities in Bali to formulate and advocate for local regulations to better protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

October 2015- the coalition celebrated their first big win with the passage of local legislation, Peraturan Daerah number 9/2015 on the Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Bali Province.

“Balinese temples and the festivals and rituals around the religious ceremonies are one of the most important aspects of family and community life...With this law, we can now be included, and not shamed, in our own community’s customs.”

Gede Widiasa, PUSPADI Bali

## Indigenous Peoples' Movement

Everyone, including persons with disabilities, has multiple identities, and we all experience multiple forms of discrimination or privilege depending on these identities. Persons with disabilities are women; they are ethnic minorities; they are LGBTQI persons; they are indigenous; and they are impacted by numerous forms of discrimination. Our grantmaking cuts across silos and brings different rights movements together to address multiple forms of exclusion and the intersectionality of rights.

One example is our support for the emergent Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN). IPWDGN leads advocacy on the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities in global and regional policies and frameworks. The network was born as an idea in 2012 when DRAF supported the first group of indigenous leaders with disabilities to ever attend the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

“We share our story from two sides: Indigenous and disability. It is almost an identity crisis. We want to be seen, heard, and counted, and to have the resources to participate.”

Setareki Macanawai, CEO of Pacific Disability Forum (Fiji)

IPWDGN carries out advocacy on the rights of people with disabilities at international fora on Indigenous Peoples’ rights. Their advocacy led to the establishment of a Disability Caucus within the UNPFII and a call by the UNPFII Secretariat for a report on global conditions among indigenous persons with disabilities.

In 2013, an expert report - “Study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with regard to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development” - was drafted by members of the UNPFII Committee, Mirna Cunningham and Kanyinke Sena, together with indigenous and disability rights leaders.

Following IPWDGN advocacy at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the conference Outcome Document - which was one of the documents feeding into the post-2015 development process - made explicit references to persons with disabilities throughout the text calling for full inclusion.

In Bangkok, the IPWDGN with support from the International Disability Alliance, met to establish and set up regional chapters in Asia and Latin America so that activists can ensure indigenous persons with disabilities are on the agenda in regional platforms and policies.

The 2015 disability-inclusive Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was a milestone for persons with disabilities facing the threat of climate change. Two United Nations human rights experts – the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar – called for the full participation of indigenous persons with disabilities in the new global strategy and in national disaster risk reduction plans.

“All emergency and disaster risk reduction efforts should address the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities.”

Catalina Devandas, UN Special Rapporteur on the, Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**What activism looks like**

One woman’s fierce advocacy for inclusion

Olga Montufar Contreras is one of the leading activists working to ensure that the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, especially the rights of indigenous women and children with disabilities, are addressed within the Indigenous Peoples’ movement globally. Olga, who is of Mixtec and Nahua origin, can attest to the multiple layers of discrimination faced by indigenous women with disabilities, especially in the rural areas of Mexico: “Indigenous women with disabilities in my community face a high risk of sexual violence and, as they have extremely limited access to the legal system, it is even more difficult for them to seek justice.”

Olga’s advocacy runs from the grassroots to global levels where she led interventions at the UNPFII and participated in the Eighth Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) of the UN Human Rights Council. Through her work with the IPWDGN, she has seen greater recognition of indigenous persons with disabilities in international fora including commitment by EMRIP to dedicate a session to rights of indigenous persons with disabilities in 2016.

“Since our presence began at the UNPFII, we are included as part of the indigenous peoples’ agenda which means that we now have specific references to us [indigenous persons with disabilities] to build policies from.”

Olga Montufar Contreras, Founding Director, Paso a Paso

**What activism looks like**

Acting locally and globally

Pratima Gurung, an indigenous woman with disability, comes from a remote and hilly region of Nepal, an area that has not yet recovered from the massive earthquake in April 2015. She advocates at the local, national, regional, and global levels to gain recognition for indigenous persons with disabilities.

In Nepal, indigenous persons with disabilities are hit hard by natural disasters, internal conflicts, and the energy blockade, partially because they live in poverty in remote areas and rely on the land and forest resources. Advocacy work in the hill and mountain districts is hampered not only by difficult terrain, but also by the challenge of navigating the diverse ethnicities, cultures, and languages. Pratima says of the situation, “Indigenous persons affected by the earthquake have lost their livelihoods, property, and families. A year after the disaster, many are still living in makeshift shelters and face psychosocial trauma. They’ve become disabled for the first time and because of their devastating losses, they are unable to admit they have a disability. They often don’t access government services, even if these services were available.”

Pratima’s organizations, the Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association and National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal use the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to advocate to district and national governments, as well as to other social movements.

She is also raising voices of indigenous persons with disabilities from the local to the global level. As IPWDGN Asia Coordinator, she highlights the need to include indigenous persons with disabilities in issues related to disaster risk reduction and climate change. She is working with the Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Pact to ensure they do so within their work on climate justice.

“Indigenous persons with disabilities are affected by impacts of climate change. This is a new issue. This is a human rights issue.”

Pratima Gurung, Asia Regional Coordinator, IPWDGN

# Partnerships

We believe in collaborating across boundaries to increase the demand for rights. Two of our three main funding streams support coalitions of organizations working together in joint advocacy. Our cross-movement work highlights partnerships between silos – and across identities. As we enter the post-2015 development era, now is the time to partner forward together!

## Bridge builders

One of the ways DRF integrates partnerships into our structure is through Bridge Builder advisors on our Global Advisory Panel. In addition to 9 leaders with disabilities from around the world, the Panel incorporates 3 leaders from other human rights movements, such as the women’s rights movement, the Indigenous People’s movement, and the LGBTQI movement. These Bridge Builder advisors bring best practices from other movements, and they also learn from the disability rights movement.

**35% of all of our grants have supported partnership projects**

**A Conversation with Diana Samarasan**

Q: This is Stephane Leblois. I'm here with DRF founding executive director, Diana Samarasan. We're here to talk about the importance of DRF’s participatory governance structure. Thank you, Diana, for being here and for answering the following couple of questions. My first question to you is how does DRF's Global Advisory Panel contribute to DRF goals?

A: Thanks, Stephane. The Global Advisory Panel was initially started as a way to bring expertise from the disability rights community and the disability community in the global south into the strategic thinking about how we were going to do the work that we're doing and into the decision-making of the fund. Why that was important is because when we started the fund back in 2008, the initial donors to the fund really had very little experience with the disability movement in the global south.

They weren't clear on who the organizations were, what their priorities were, how the movements were different from country to country. We really needed expertise in order to decide where we were going to begin to work, what we were going to work on and what kinds of grants we could make and how to make our funding accessible.

Q: There are a total of 12 advisors, nine of which are from the disability community. Could you talk about the three others who we consider to be bridge-builders and how they contribute to DRF's overall work?

A: The three bridge-builders are people who come from other human rights communities such as the women's rights community, the Indigenous People’s community, the economic and social rights community, et cetera. They bring in expertise from those other rights movements and experience from the other rights movements in terms of what has worked and what hasn't worked in advancing rights in those movements.

They also take from the experience with the disability rights fund and with the other global advisors, expertise in disability-inclusive approaches. They bring those back to their rights movements. The idea is that it is a two-way street. They bring in and they take expertise away in order to ensure that all rights movements are disability-inclusive.

One example of such an advisor is Mirna Cunningham Kain who is the ex-chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and also the current board chair of the Association of Women in International Development. She has been fantastic in terms of helping us in our work with indigenous people with disabilities to connect them to critical players and fora, for example, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and has also more recently worked with us and AWID on how to better integrate women with disabilities into the women's rights movement.

Q: Shifting gears here, I wanted to ask you about the global development community in general. Specifically, I wanted to talk about how the global development community is shifting its focus to the sustainable development goals. Why is it even more important now to talk about bridging movements?

A: As you know, this is the first time in history that a global development framework has included people with disabilities. The Millennium Development Goals did not mention people with disabilities at all. This is really an opening for people with disabilities and the disability movement to be included in development efforts moving forward.

As you are also aware, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is going to be really critical to take cross-sectorial approaches and to bring in new partners. Our approach to building partnerships between different movements is really important in this new development era.

## NCDW in Bangladesh

Creating Partnerships to Promote Change

In recent years, we have encouraged grantees to increase their impact and promote disability rights by forging partnerships with mainstream human rights organizations. One specific area where partnerships have yielded positive results is in access to justice for persons with disabilities. Many persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, face significant barriers to justice and legal redress due to inaccessible court systems, social stigma and lack of awareness about rights and legal processes. DRF grantees in Haiti, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Malawi and Uganda have been working side-by-side with local and national-level human rights law groups to provide rights education and access to legal aid to confront these barriers.

In Bangladesh, as elsewhere in the world, women with disabilities experience high rates of sexual violence and abuse but have difficulties seeking justice due to their lack of understanding and knowledge of legal processes; inaccessible legal services; prohibitively expensive legal fees; and institutional discrimination in male-dominated societies and justice systems. As a result, most cases of violence against women with disabilities go unreported or are dismissed by members of the community and justice sector.

**6 partnership grants, 4 Countries, Increase access to justice for people with disabilities**

Responding to this gap, the National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) formed a partnership in 2009 to fight for the right of women with disabilities to access justice. Their collaboration to date has yielded important results, including:

* A mechanism for collecting data on the prevalence of gender-based violence and abuse against women with disabilities
* A method for documenting rights violations against women with disabilities.
* A collaborative effort to litigate rights abuses in court.

**Collecting Data to Inform Change**

One main outcome is a collaborative study conducted across seven of Bangladesh’s most remote districts to determine the level of awareness about rights and access to justice issues among women with disabilities who have been abused. Approximately seven hundred people with disabilities and family members took part in a series of surveys and focus groups, which yielded the following information:

* 50% of those surveyed were unaware of any legal aid available to persons with disabilities
* 93% of those who had been victimized said they faced pressure or coercion to settle outside of court
* 41% said that when a case of violence was reported to police, investigating officers did not bother to interview victims with disabilities
* 73% of respondents stated that intellectually disabled women are routinely denied inheritance rights

**Working Together to Protect the Rights of Women with Disabilities**

Recognizing the need to provide a legal solution, NCDW and BLAST have created a pro-bono legal aid service for women and girls with disabilities who have been abused - the first such service in Bangladesh. Thus far, in addition to educating the community on the rights of women and girls to access justice through workshops, information sessions and promotional materials, they have documented over 20 cases, and successfully litigated 3 of them in court, including 2 cases of rape in which the perpetrators both received sentences.

**The global rate of violence against women with disabilities is 3-4 times higher than for other women**

These two successful cases are unprecedented in Bangladesh, where perpetrators of sexual violence against women with disabilities have not previously been held accountable.

# Inclusion & Results

We recognize that advocacy takes time. Yet, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been the most rapidly ratified treaty in history; since 2008, ratifications have grown from 20 to more than 160. This has opened opportunities for change around the world. Our grantees are stepping in to this space and creating a better world for all.

## Map of Laws + Policies Passed

**2008 - Ratified the CRPD**

* Bangladesh
* Croatia
* Cuba
* Ecuador
* Egypt
* El Salvador
* Gabon
* Guinea
* Honduras
* Hungary
* India
* Jamaica
* Jordan
* Mali
* Mexico
* Namibia
* Nicaragua
* Panama
* Peru
* Philippines
* San Marino
* Slovenia
* South Africa
* Spain
* Tunisia

**2015 - Ratified the CRPD**

* Afghanistan
* Albania
* Algeria
* Andorra
* Angola
* Antigua and Barbuda
* Argentina
* Armenia
* Australia
* Austria
* Azerbaijan
* Bahamas
* Bahrain
* Bangladesh
* Barbados
* Belgium
* Belize
* Benin
* Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
* Bosnia and Herzegovina
* Brazil
* Brunei Darussalam
* Bulgaria
* Burkina Faso
* Burundi
* Cabo Verde
* Cambodia
* Canada
* Chile
* China
* Colombia
* Comoros
* Congo
* Cook Islands
* Costa Rica
* Côte d'Ivoire
* Croatia
* Cuba
* Cyprus
* Czech Republic
* Democratic Republic of the Congo
* Denmark
* Djibouti
* Dominica
* Dominican Republic
* Ecuador
* Egypt
* El Salvador
* Estonia
* Ethiopia
* [European Union](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en#EndDec)
* Finland
* [France](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en#EndDec)
* Gabon
* Gambia
* Georgia
* Germany
* Ghana
* Greece
* Grenada
* Guatemala
* Guinea
* Guinea-Bissau
* Guyana
* Haiti
* Honduras
* Hungary
* India
* Indonesia
* Iran (Islamic Republic of)
* Iraq
* Israel
* Italy
* Jamaica
* Japan
* Jordan
* Kazakhstan
* Kenya
* Kiribati
* Kuwait
* Lao People's Democratic Republic
* Latvia
* Lesotho
* Liberia
* Lithuania
* Luxembourg
* Madagascar
* Malawi
* Malaysia
* Maldives
* Mali
* Malta
* Marshall Islands
* Mauritania
* Mauritius
* Mexico
* Mongolia
* Montenegro
* Morocco
* Mozambique
* Myanmar
* Namibia
* Nauru
* Nepal
* Netherlands
* New Zealand
* Nicaragua
* Niger
* Nigeria
* Norway
* Oman
* Pakistan
* Palau
* Panama
* Papua New Guinea
* Paraguay
* Peru
* Philippines
* Poland
* Portugal
* Qatar
* Republic of Korea
* Republic of Moldova
* Romania
* Russian Federation
* Rwanda
* San Marino
* Sao Tome and Principe
* Saudi Arabia
* Senegal
* Serbia
* Seychelles
* Sierra Leone
* Singapore
* Slovakia
* Slovenia
* South Africa
* Spain
* Sri Lanka
* St. Vincent and the Grenadines
* State of Palestine
* Sudan
* Swaziland
* Sweden
* Switzerland
* Syrian Arab Republic
* Thailand
* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
* Togo
* Trinidad and Tobago
* Tunisia
* Turkey
* Turkmenistan
* Tuvalu
* Uganda
* Ukraine
* United Arab Emirates
* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
* United Republic of Tanzania
* Uruguay
* Vanuatu
* Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
* Viet Nam
* Yemen
* Zambia
* Zimbabwe

**2015 Achievements**

Malawi

* Disability rights monitoring unit - Malawi Human Rights Commission

The establishment of this unit is one achievement of an ongoing National Coalition project funded by DRAF and led by the national umbrella organization of people with disabilities, FEDOMA, in partnership with Malawi Law Society & National Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation.

* College Department - education of Deafblind persons

As a result of advocacy of DRF grantee, Visual Hearing Impairment Membership Association (VIHEMA), a stand-alone department was established in the Special Needs Education College of Montfort College-Chiladzulu to train teachers to address educational needs of Deafblind students.

* Anti-Discrimination Policy - Kamozi Referral Hospital, Lilongwe

As a result of advocacy of DRF grantee, Registered Trustees of the Disabilities HIV AIDS Trust (DHAT), this policy and a reporting process were established to protect persons with disabilities against discrimination by health care workers.

Bangladesh

* Regulations for Disability Rights and Protection Act of 2013

With advocacy from all DRF and DRAF grantees in Bangladesh, regulations to implement Bangladesh’s new Disability Act were adopted in November 2015.

* Increased access to justice for Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons

With ongoing advocacy by DRF grantee, the Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), 60 cases were referred to courts in Dhaka, Netrokona, Tangail, and Gazipur Districts via victim assistance centers and provision of Sign Language interpretation.

Cook Islands

* National Plan for Disaster Risk Management

With successful advocacy of DRAF grantee, Cook Islands National Disability Council (CINDC), this plan recognizes CRPD Article 11 and ensures equal access to services and support for persons with disabilities during disasters.

Ghana

* National Inclusive Education Policy

With advocacy of a DRF-funded National Coalition led by Inclusion-Ghana, the Minister of Education signed this national policy, ensuring inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in education.

Haiti

* Accessible voting for persons with disabilities

Before the 2015 elections, DRF grantee RANIPH CENTRAL advocated, in partnership with the Haitian Secretary of State’s Office and the International Foundation for Election Systems, to the electoral council for accessible voting for persons with disabilities as stipulated in the Elections Law of 2013. As one result, the first-ever team of persons with disabilities participated as election observers.

Indonesia

* National Human Rights Action Plan disability-inclusive

With the involvement of DRAF grantee, HWDI, the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities was integrated into the National Human Rights Action Plan (2015-19), regulated by Presidential Decree No. 75/2015.

* Provincial regulations to protect rights of persons with disabilities - West Sumatra and Bali

Provincial regulations to protect the rights of persons with disabilities were passed in West Sumatra and Bali, thanks to advocacy of DRAF grantees, PPDI Kota Padang and HWDI West Sumatra and OHANA and PUSPADI-Bali, respectively.

* Yogyakarta Province allocates USD 680,000 for health insurance for persons with disabilities

With advocacy from DRF and DRAF grantees, SAPDA, CIQAL, and OHANA, the Yogyakarta provincial government agreed, for the first time, to allocate USD 680,000 for health insurance for persons with disabilities as part of their implementation of the new Yogyakarta Regulation on the Promotion and Fulfillment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

* South Sulawesi regional mid-term development plan - disability-inclusive

With advocacy from DRF grantees, PPDI-SS and HWDI-SS, this development plan for 2015 to 2019 is disability inclusive. This plan is the basis for guidelines and references for formulating annual plans and budgets. These plans are intended to reflect the diverse community’s aspirations, including for persons with disabilities.

* Budget secured for Regulation on Fulfillment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Makassar, South Sulawesi

With the advocacy of DRAF grantees, PPDI-SS and HWDI-SS, technical guidelines and a budget for increasing accessibility of government offices and public service providers were secured towards the implementation of the new Makassar regulation on Fulfillment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Makassar is the provincial capital of South Sulawesi province and the fifth largest city in Indonesia.

* Regulation on Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Bantul Regency

With advocacy of DRAF grantees, CIQAL, PPDI, and HWDI, local regulation No. 11 on Fulfillment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was enacted in Bantul Regency located in the Yogyakarta Special Region. Bantul Regency was the region most affected by the disastrous earthquake in 2006.

* Municipal  regulations on rights of persons with disabilities - Padang Municipality

With advocacy of DRAF grantee PPDI Kota Padang and other DPOs, Padang Municipality adopted the legislation on the Fulfillment and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Padang is the capital of West Sumatra province; the municipality incorporates rural villages.

Myanmar

* Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law

With the involvement of DRAF grantee, Myanmar Council of  Persons with Disabilities and other DPOs, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law was enacted by the Myanmar government.

Peru

* Pension for persons with severe disability in poverty

With the involvement of DRAF grantee, SODIS, Supreme Decree No. 004-2015-MIMP was published in August 2015, securing a non-contributory pension for persons with severe disabilities living below the poverty line.

Tuvalu

* National Youth Policy inclusive of youth with disabilities

With the advocacy of DRF grantee Fusi Alofa, the National Youth Policy, endorsed by Parliament, is inclusive of youth with disabilities.

* Ministry of Health Strategic Plan - disability-inclusive

With the advocacy of DRF grantee, Fusi Alofa, the Ministry of Health of Tuvalu’s Strategic Plan (2016-19) is disability-inclusive.

Uganda

* Electoral Commission made responsible for voting for representatives with disabilities

A court case, taken by DRF grantee, Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities (LAPD), made the Electoral Commission (and not the national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities) responsible for management of voting for persons with disabilities representatives.

* Mubende and Kabarole District budget processes - disability-inclusive

Advocacy by DRF grantee, SIA, has led to inclusion of  persons with disabilities representatives in budget processes at district and sub-county levels in Mubende and Kabarole districts.

* Lira District Education Ordinance protecting rights of persons with disabilities

With the involvement of DRAF grantee, LIDDWA, the Lira District Education Ordinance protects the rights of persons with disabilities to an education.

## Inclusion Ghana

So that Children with Intellectual Disabilities Can Attend School

Following ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at national levels, it is critical for disability movements to stay the course and ensure that rights are implemented. DRF-funded National Coalitions, often led by an umbrella organization of people with disabilities, can join voices to effectively demand government accountability and drive progress in participation, including for very marginalized sectors of the disability community.

All too often, persons with intellectual disabilities are left behind – hidden, abused, or excluded from the rest of their communities. They are unable to access adequate health services and education due to the stigma and discrimination they face.

With Disability Rights Fund’s support, Inclusion Ghana led a National Coalition to advocate for the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in Ghana’s first Inclusive Education Policy, which was adopted and signed by the Minister of Education in November 2015.

Inclusion Ghana built a self-advocacy movement of persons with intellectual disabilities and mobilized 150 parents’ groups in different regions of Ghana. For the first time, persons with intellectual disabilities had a voice in decision-making that affected them.

“Many children with intellectual disabilities have been turned away, laughed at, and met with suspicion and fear. Others who have been enrolled in school are not receiving adequate support to ensure that education is meaningful.”

Parent of child with intellectual disability, Inclusion Ghana Parent Group

**150 mobilized parents’ groups in different regions in Ghana**

Surveyors fanned out across Ghana to collect quantitative and qualitative data that tell the stories of children with intellectual disabilities. An innovative scorecard assessed enrollment numbers and school practices nation-wide. Stories from parents told of the barriers and discrimination they faced when enrolling their children in mainstream schools.

**Only 10% of children with disabilities in developing countries attend school**

As in many other countries, many school age children with disabilities in Ghana remain out of school. The new policy targets and supports children who experience barriers that prevent them from achieving optimal progress in their learning and development. It has a rights-based framework that states: Every child has the right to quality education; thus all children should have equal opportunity to access education.

Recognizing that large-scale system change takes time and relentless advocacy, Inclusion Ghana formed a national coalition to ensure that the policy was adopted and budgetary allocations are in place for implementation.

The National Coalition led by Inclusion Ghana included: Services and Advocacy for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Awareness Care and Training, Kekeli Foundation, and Mission of Hope for Society Foundation.

For the last few years, the advocacy and mobilization of these organizations have created a strong foundation to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities are not left behind in schools countrywide. The policy goes beyond education to societal change, as stated in one of the principles: Regular schools with an inclusive orientation are the most effective means of combatting discrimination, building an inclusive society, and achieving education for all.

# Our Financials

We enable donors to connect with each other and give to marginalized, emergent and grassroots organizations in the disability movement in developing countries. The majority of our resources are granted directly to local organizations of people with disabilities.

## Disability Rights Fund

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Revenue\*** | **USD** |
| Public | 951,224 |
| Private | 753,208 |
| Government | 1,336,108 |
| **Total** | **3,040,540** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expenditure** | **USD** |
| Grantmaking/Program | 2,642,257 |
| Administration | 327,613 |
| Fundraising | 133,288 |
| **Total** | **3,103,158** |

## Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Revenue\*** | **USD** |
| **Total** | **1,233,573** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expenditure** | **USD** |
| Grantmaking/Program | 1,239,419 |
| Administration | 82,663 |
| Fundraising | 17,508 |
| **Total** | **1,339,590** |

\*Under US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the organizations are required to use accounting that recognizes revenues on the full amount of a contract as they are signed but release the money over multiple years as the money is spent down. Due to the difference in timing of how revenue and expenses are recorded for US GAAP, this can result in numbers that look like deficits when in fact the organizations have positive increases in their bottom line. More information is available as needed.

The FutureWe work in multiple arenas tied to disability rights

## Climate justice

Climate change poses a great threat to persons with disabilities - especially in the case of natural disasters. DRF and DRAF provide a number of grants to DPOs in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and Haiti to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction planning and climate justice.

* Number of grants / amount given: 15 grants / $238,000
* Association des Sourds de Leveque - Haiti / 2015 Small Grant / $18,000 – To advocate for adoption by government of an action plan on inclusion of Deaf, hard of hearing and DeafBlind people in disaster risk reduction planning in Haiti.
* Join the movement to promote a healthier planet and climate justice for persons with disabilities worldwide.

## Health

Access to basic health services continues to be an unsolved issue for many persons with disabilities, especially women and children.  DRF works with grantees in Haiti, Indonesia, Rwanda, Uganda  and Malawi to promote increased access to basic health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.

* Number of grants/ amount given: 34 grants / $563,000
* Grant example: Future Hope International (FHI) - Ghana / 2015 Small Grant / $17,000 – To support women with disabilities to advocate for access to sexual and reproductive health services in Agortime Ziope District, in partnership with women’s rights groups.
* Join the movement to promote access to health for persons with disabilities.

## Education

It is estimated that 90 percent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school, and that only one percent of women with disabilities are literate. DRF’s grantees work to advance disability-inclusive education policy and eliminate stigma among teachers and parents to improve access to education.

* Number of grants/amount given: 69 grants / $1,313,100
* Gerakan Untuk Kesejahterann Tuna Rungu Indonesia (GERKATIN) - Indonesia / 2015 Small Grant / $16,000 – To promote government recognition of BISINDO (Indonesian Sign Language) as a national language, to increase access to education for the Deaf.
* Join the movement to support our grantees’ work in creating inclusive education policy and fighting discrimination in schools.

## Democracy & Justice

In countries across the world, persons with disabilities are denied their basic rights to vote, hold political office, engage in civic activity and seek justice. DRF supports organizations who seek to create inclusive political ecosystems and increase access to justice for persons with disabilities.

* Number of grants/amount given: 63 grants / $1,246,145
* Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) - Malawi / 2015 Mid-Level Coalition / $30,000 (Year Two) - To continue to work with the justice sector to increase awareness and protections for women with disabilities and albino people who are victims of violence.
* Join the movement to make the rights to vote, hold office and seek justice, real for persons with disabilities.

## Women’s Rights

Women with disabilities suffer physical, sexual and emotional violence at a rate 3-4 higher than non-disabled women and are also denied their rights to economic, political and social participation. DRF’s grantees not only work to protect the rights of women with disabilities, but also promote leadership and agency in the disability rights movement.

* Number of grants/amount given: 74 grants / $1,544,860
* National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda – NUWODU - Uganda / 2015 National Coalition / $35,000 (Year One) - To advocate for the rights of refugee women with disabilities in camps in Central and Western Uganda.
* Join the movement to protect the rights and encourage leadership among women with disabilities.

## Inequality

80 percent of the one billion persons with disabilities live in developing countries, and there, make up 20 percent of the poorest. DRF and its grantees promote dignity, economic empowerment and social inclusion by promoting better social protection services and disability-inclusive employment policies.

* Number of grants/amount given: 47 grants / $857,900
* Bangladesh Visually Impaired People’s Society - Bangladesh / 2015 Small Grant / $15,000 – To increase access to banking services for Blind and visually-impaired people.
* Join the movement to fight inequality and promote dignity for persons with disabilities.

“Take a risk to bring our issues to the forefront. Tell our stories to benefit those who are locked up in their houses, that cannot access school services. Invest in marginalized communities. At the end of the day, we are human beings and we want to enjoy life.”

Setareki Macanawai, CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum

## Who We Are

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Pacific Disability Forum (Global Advisor)

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## Our Supporters

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## ­DRF Grantees

## Africa

Ghana

* Empowerment Through Community Volunteering, $12,000
* Foundation for Integrated Development and Empowerment, $15,000
* Future Hope International, $17,000
* Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled, $16,000
* Inclusion Ghana, $50,000
* Lakeside Disability Rights Advocacy Initiative, $30,000
* MindFreedom Ghana, $15,000
* Voice of People with Disability Ghana, $30,000

Malawi

* Disabled Women in Africa, $30,000
* Disabled Women in Africa, $20,000
* Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi, $40,000
* Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi, $20,000
* Registered Trustees of the Disabilities HIV AIDS Trust, 20,000
* Registered Trustees of the Forum for the Development of Youth with Disabilities, $17,000
* The Registered Trustees of Disabled Women in Development, $8,000
* The Registered Trustees of the Association of the Physically Disabled of Malawi, $8,000
* The Registered Trustees of the Malawi National Association of the Deaf, $20,000
* Visual Hearing Impairment Membership Association, $10,000

Rwanda

* Initiative for Refugees Living with Disability, $15,000
* Rwanda Union of Little People, $6,400
* Umuryango Nyarwanda w’Abagore Bafite Ubumuga, $11,000
* Uwezo Youth Empowerment, $20,000

Uganda

* Action for Youth with Disabilities Uganda, $40,000
* Brain Injury Support Organization, $10,000
* Hoima District Union of Persons with Disabilities, $23,000
* Integrated Disabled Women Activities, $40,000
* Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities Uganda, $20,000
* Mbarara District Association of the Deaf, $20,000
* National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda, $50,000
* National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda, $35,000
* Spinal Injuries Association, $30,000

## Asia

Bangladesh

* Access Bangladesh Foundation, $40,000
* Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society, $15,000
* Disabled Child Foundation, $18,000
* Disabled Women Development Organization, $7,000
* Federation of DPOs Sitakund, $20,000
* Jatiyo Trinomul Protibandhi Sangstha, $30,000
* National Council of Disabled Women, $20,000
* Panchari Upazila Protibandhi Kallyan Songha, $8,000
* Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users, $20,000
* Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, $20,000

Indonesia

* Forum Komunikasi Kelluarga Anak Dengan Kecacatan Kabupaten Aceh Besar, $12,000
* Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Berkebutuhan Khusus Aceh, $8,000
* Forum Peduli Difabel Bantul, $10,000
* Gerakan Peduli Disabilitas Dan Lepra Indonesia, $15,000
* Gerakan Untuk Kesejahteraan Tuna Rungu Indonesia, $16,000
* Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia, $35,000
* Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia, $40,000
* Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia Kota Makassar, $8,000
* Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Cacat Indonesia Sulawesi Selatan, $18,000
* Lembaga Sapda (Sentra Advokasi Perempuan Difabel Dan Anak) , $20,000
* Paguyuban Penyandang Cacat Klaten, $10,000
* Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia, $17,000
* Persatuan Tunanetra Indonesia, $16,000
* Sasana Integrasi dan Advokasi Difabel, $20,000

Myanmar

* Association of Myanmar Disabled Women Affairs, $15,000
* Disabled Development Initiative, $7,000
* Myanmar Council of Persons with Disabilities , $40,000
* Shwe Min Tha Foundation, $15,000

## Caribbean

Haiti

* Association des Femmes Handicapées du Sud, $8,000
* Association des Sourds de Leveque, Haïti, $18,000
* Association Filles et Femmes au Soleil, $20,000
* Association Parents des Personnes Handicapées du Sud, $8,000
* Centre Culturel et d’Action Pour les Personnes Handicapées, $20,000
* Fondation Zanmi Timoun, $20,000
* Organisation des Handicapes en Action pour le Progrès, $12,000
* Reseau Association National pour l'Integration des Personnes Handicapees, $40,000
* Reseau Association National pour l'Integration des Personnes Handicapees, $20,000
* Union des Femmes à Mobilité Réduite d’Haïti, $8,000

## Pacific Island Countries

## Tuvalu

* Fusi Alofa, Inc., $15,000

Republic of the Marshall Islands

* Marshall Islands Disabled Persons Organization, $20,000

Kiribati

* Te Toa Matoa, $17,000

## Uganda Capacity Fund Grants

## Uganda

* Bududa Deaf Women's Organisation, $10,000
* Mubende Women with Disabilities Association, $10,000
* National Association of the Deafblind in Uganda, $15,000
* National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda, $40,000
* Uganda Association for the Mentally Handicapped / Inclusion Uganda, $10,000
* Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy, $10,000
* Uganda Parents of Person with Intellectual Disabilities, $10,000

## Special Opportunity Grants

## Switzerland

* International Disability Alliance, $9,500
* International Disability Alliance, $5,110

## Donor-Advised Grants Uganda

* Youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum, $1,395

Off-Docket Grants  
Off-docket grants provide in-country support for annual convenings of DRF/DRAF grantees, donors, and regional stakeholders for purposes of movement building, joint advocacy, and technical assistance on the rights outlined in the CRPD. In 2015, the following off-docket grants were awarded from the Disability Rights Fund:

Bangladesh

* Access Bangladesh Foundation, $7,500

Malawi

* Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi, $16,000

Ghana

* Ghana Federation of the Disabled, $15,850

Indonesia

* Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas Indonesia, $36,000

Myanmar

* Myanmar Council of Persons with Disabilities, $3,000

Fiji

* Pacific Disability Forum, $16,000

Haiti

* Société Haïtienne d’Aide aux Aveugles, $13,500

## DRAF Grantees

## Africa

Ghana

* Ghana Blind Union, $40,000

Rwanda

* Human Rights First Rwanda Association, $20,000
* Rwanda National Union of the Deaf, $20,000

Uganda

* Uganda National Action on Physical Disability, $36,200
* Uganda National Association of the Deaf, $44,000
* Uganda Parents of Person with Intellectual Disabilities, $20,000

## Asia

Bangladesh

* Access Bangladesh Foundation, $30,000
* Bangladesh Protibandhi Unnayan Sangstha, $20,000
* Federation of DPOs Sitakund, $40,000
* Turning Point Foundation, $20,000

Indonesia

* Center for Improving Qualified Activity in Life, $40,000
* Lembaga Pemberdayaan Tunanetra, $10,000
* Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat, $20,000
* Perhimpunan Organisasi Handicap Nusantara, $35,000
* Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan, $35,000
* Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Untuk Penyandang Cacat, $33,000

## Caribbean

Haiti

* Société Haïtienne d’Aide aux Aveugles, $46,000

## Pacific Island Countries

Fiji

* Fiji Association of the Deaf, $15,000
* Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, $20,000
* Psychiatric Survivors Association of Fiji, $20,000

Papua New Guinea

* Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons Association, $40,000

Federated States of Micronesia

* Pohnpei Consumer Organization, $18,000

## Special Opportunity Grants

Peru

* Sociedad y Discapacidad, $25,000

## Strategic Partnership Grans

Indonesia

* Psychiatric Survivors Association of Fiji, $70,000

United States

* Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action, Inc., $71,000

Kenya

* Deaf Queer Self-Help Group, $23,000

Switzerland

* International Disability Alliance, $160,000