



ONE IN SEVEN

HOW ONE BILLION PEOPLE ARE REDEFINING
THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



DISABILITY
RIGHTS
FUND 10

DISABILITY
RIGHTS
ADVOCACY
FUND

Our Voices • Our Future



This Progress Report is an update to our 2013 “One in Seven” Report about our early years. This report lifts up the accomplishments of the past ten years, celebrates the voices of persons with disabilities, and offers a pathway towards building the future together.

June 2018

The Disability Rights Fund supports persons with disabilities around the world to build diverse movements, ensure inclusive development agendas, and achieve equal rights and opportunity for all.

The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund supports persons with disabilities in the developing world to advance legal frameworks to realize their rights.

DRF and DRAF resource organizations led by persons with disabilities, primarily in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean, that are leading efforts to secure rights for all. Through grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance, DRF and DRAF support Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) to use global rights and development frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – ensuring no one is left behind.

In 2017, Disability Rights Fund (DRF) donors included: The Ansara Family Fund of the Boston Foundation, the Ford Foundation, The Estelle Friedman Gervis Family Foundation, the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and individual donors. The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) was supported by the Australian Government and UK aid from the UK government. The views expressed in this communication do not necessarily reflect the official policies of any of our donors or the governments they represent.



For an accessible version of this report, please contact info@disabilityrightsfund.org

Cover photos:

Maria Alejandra Villaneuva, Sociedad Peruana de Síndrome de Down, Peru; Barbara Nandutu Fitzpatrick, African Youth with Disabilities Network, Uganda; Chakma Indigenous girl with disabilities, Bangladesh; Ana Nonovo, People with Psychosocial Disabilities, Fiji (photo credit: Andy Isaacson)

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

In 2007, global activists with disabilities and donors had a vision of working together to support the growing disability community with human rights funding. We sought to create a participatory grantmaking fund that reflected the disability community's mantra of Nothing About Us Without Us and centered people with disabilities in decision-making.

How could we co-create a funding process to inform and fuel grantmaking that advances the rights of persons with disabilities? What would genuine participation look like in practice, and how might donors accept and react to such a transformational participatory structure?

Fast forward 10 years and it's nothing short of astonishing to see what we, alongside the global movement of people with disabilities, have accomplished. Together, we have helped to move the narrative from one of charity to rights, and we have shifted the focus from medical interventions to disability-inclusive leadership and development.

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) have provided more than 1,000 grants totaling \$25 million to disabled persons organizations (DPOs) in 34 countries. Through grantmaking, technical assistance, and advocacy, DRF and DRAF are resourcing, strengthening, and connecting DPOs to achieve measurable, tangible progress for persons with disabilities around the globe.

We owe a debt of gratitude to numerous people, organizations, donors, and communities. Our unique participatory structure has been instrumental in our achievements. People with disabilities are part of our staff, our Grantmaking Committee and our Board of Directors, and are leading our strategies, reviewing the grantmaking and helping us to achieve our mission.

Building on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we've helped unify the disability community by acknowledging and celebrating the diversity and disparities within it. Disability movements around the globe are more cohesive and inclusive, and thereby more powerful advocates in the countries in which we work. Our work on gender and marginalized persons with disabilities, as well as cross movement work with the Indigenous People's community and others, shows how a commitment to diversity strengthens our impact and ensures that no one is left behind.

Won't you join us in expanding impact for ALL people with disabilities around the globe? One in 7 people belong to our community; we want all of them to have access to the same rights and opportunities as all other people.



Diana Samarasan
Founding Executive
Director



William Rowland
Board Co-Chair



Catherine Townsend
Board Co-Chair



Andrew Ferren
Board Co-Chair

NOTHING ABOUT US

Javier Diez Canseco was an activist, human rights defender, politician, and Peruvian Congressman. He fought for the human rights of all people in his home country of Peru until his death in 2013. We are fortunate to have benefited from his wisdom, tenacity, and commitment at the initiation of our work, including at our inaugural meeting on March 29, 2008.



As we celebrate our tenth year, we look back to the early thinking that informed the Funds, and see how much of that foundation is still solidly in place.

The Disability Rights Fund was started as the result of conversations between philanthropic staff and activists with disabilities during Ad-Hoc Committee meetings leading up to the adoption of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006.

At the heart of our inaugural meeting was the Global Advisory Panel — nine activists with disabilities and three “Bridge Builders” who represented other rights movements. They debated core values and challenges and helped to identify funding priorities and inform strategic direction. They also helped us to figure out how to make our grantmaking accessible to a wide variety of people with diverse impairments.

The Panel prioritized three areas, which are still the core of our grantmaking:

- Increasing awareness of the CRPD among multiple stakeholders
- Strengthening the voice of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) by building coalitions and networks among DPOs, and with government, human rights organizations and with marginalized people with disabilities
- Increasing DPO participation in advocacy for the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the CRPD.

We knew early on that this scale of change requires a long-term strategy that supports people with disabilities in moving from the fringes of society into the mainstream as powerful self-advocates.

OUR PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING



WITHOUT US

Javier wisely said to us, “We have a saying: paper can support anything. The state can sign a lot of things, but compliance becomes an issue. That means budget, and political pressure — and when you speak about persons with disabilities, you’re talking about the lowest level of political influence in the country.”

The Fund started as a unique partnership between the global disability community and donors, reflecting the international disability community’s slogan, Nothing About Us Without Us. Our participatory structure is serving as a model for donors increasingly interested in redefining the relationship between grantmakers and grantee.

In our tenth year, we are solidifying this partnership by ensuring that - by 2019 - there will be a majority of persons with disabilities on our decision-making bodies - our Board of Directors and our Grantmaking Committee.

U.K. aid

has provided long-standing support to DRF and DRAF since funding our inaugural Global Advisory Panel meeting in 2008. Disability inclusion is a top priority for the UK Department for International Development. In July 2018, the UK Government, together with the Government of Kenya and the International Disability Alliance, will host its first ever Global Disability Summit. The Summit will address disability inclusion in the world’s poorest countries by raising global attention, bringing in new voices, mobilizing new commitments, and showcasing best practice and evidence from across the world.

WORKING ACROSS 10 YEARS



PATHWAY TO CHANGE

A decade after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities there is an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that persons with disabilities are at de

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund are resourcing, strengthening, and connecting disabled persons' organizations to contribute to development and the achievement of rights.

SUPPORT TO DPOs

To advance disability-inclusive development and rights



Grants



Technical Assistance



Advocacy

BUILDING MOVEMENTS

Disability movement strengthened to advocate for rights

- Persons with disabilities equipped with skills and knowledge
- Disability movement broad and diverse
- Disabled persons' organizations engage in other human rights movements

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IE AGENDA

Disabilities are at ng tables

ons' organizations
human rights and
processes at local,
global levels

ACHIEVING RIGHTS

Rights of persons with disabilities achieved through systems change

Legislation, policy, government
and development programs and
budgets in accordance with the
Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities,
ensuring no one is left behind

Persons with
disabilities
participate fully
in society and enjoy
equal rights and
opportunities



IMPACT

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Fund for Africa (DRF/DRAF) are connecting disabled persons' organizations

Our comparative advantage is the ability to support representative organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), including marginalized groups.

Illustrated below is a snapshot of where we—together with grantees—have been and where we aim to go in supporting and resourcing systemic changes.

FROM 2008-2017, DRF/DRAF AWARDED



1,057
GRANTS



\$25,140,761



310
DPO/PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS



34
COUNTRIES



OUTCOME: Rights (including right to development) of persons with disabilities are improved in target countries in accordance with the CRPD

OUTPUT 1: Legislation, policy and government programmes (including those addressing the SDGs) undergoing harmonization with the CRPD in target countries through the participation of DPOs

OUTPUT 2: Representative DPOs (DRAF/DRF grantees) from target countries participating in international and national human rights and SDGs monitoring processes

OUTPUT 3: Disability movement in target countries is inclusive, reflecting the diverse voices of persons with disabilities ^[i]

[i] For DRAF/DRF, marginalized groups refers to women with disabilities, children with disabilities, Deafblind and other specific impairment groups identified as marginalized in target countries

NOTE: The numbers for achievements are as of March 2018. The 2020 target is to reach 1,500 grants, \$30 million, 400 DPOs and 40 countries.

Ability Rights Advocacy Fund are resourcing, strengthening, and actions to contribute to development and the achievement of rights.

2010 BASELINE INDICATORS	2018 MARCH ACHIEVEMENTS		2020 TARGET	
7: Number of national legislative, policy changes, or government programs addressing rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities secured (with grantee input)	68 national legislative or policy changes	39 national government programmes	90 national legislative or policy changes	52 national government programmes
11: Number of changes to local level legislation, policies, and government programmes secured or underway with grantee input	131		123	
0: Number of reports including grantee input submitted to international or national human rights mechanisms	27		34	
Number and type of reports including grantee input submitted to international or national SDGs mechanisms	5		5	
45%: Percentage of total pooled fund grants awarded to DPOs representing marginalized groups	53%		55%	
12%: Percentage of total pooled fund grants made to women with disabilities	13%		15%	

children and young people with disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, persons with albinism, little people, and people with physical disabilities in a target country. Marginalized groups to be disaggregated by group and country and aggregated globally for comparison.

Targets were projected in July 2017.

VOICES



RISNAWATI UTAMI

Ford fellow and Brandeis graduate, Risnawati Utami is a human rights lawyer and founder of DRF/DRAF grantee, Ohana, which works collaboratively across the disability movement to address change at legislative levels. Her successes have led the Indonesian government to put her forward as a candidate for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



WILLIAM ROWLAND

An active participant in the disability rights movement for the new South Africa and for the global adoption of the CRPD, William served as a global advisor at DRF's founding and is now co-chair of the board.

KERRY THOMPSON

A DeafBlind activist, upon graduating from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, Kerry Thompson was among the first staff of DRF/DRAF. Founder of Silent Rhythms, a nonprofit to promote inclusion in the arts for people with disabilities, Kerry never misses an opportunity to advocate — including at the Capitol.



SETAREKI MACANAWAI

As CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum, Setareki Macanawai was an early participant in DRAF's efforts to address the intersections between disability rights and Indigenous People's rights. He helped develop the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and is now a DRF/DRAF Grantmaking Committee member - working with other leaders with disabilities and donors to direct resources to the disability movement around the world.



DWI ARIYANI

Before joining DRF/DRAF's program team in 2014, Dwi Ariyani worked for over a decade as an activist with Indonesian DPOs. Today, she is a recognized expert as a BRIDGE CRPD-SDGs trainer and speaks both globally at the UN and nationally in Indonesia, especially on the rights of women with disabilities.



PAUL DEANY

Paul Deany, former DRF Program Officer for the Pacific and Asia, brought grantees and fellow DRF staff along on his journey towards advocacy as a person with psychosocial disability, raising the profile of this marginalized group of people with disabilities, including at the UN.



CATALINA DEVANDAS AGUILAR

Catalina Devandas Aguilar evolved from a frontline activist for adoption of the CRPD to one of the first DRF Program Officers, where she championed the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities. Today she serves as the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.



MYRNA CUNNINGHAM

A DRF/DRAF ally from the beginning, and a bridge-builder member of the Global Advisory Panel, Myrna Cunningham - who served as an expert in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and as Board Chair of the Association of Women's Rights in Development - has been an early interlocutor between the disability movement and the Indigenous Peoples' and women's rights movements.



KRISTEN PRATT

Over nearly 40 years of committed advocacy for persons with disabilities, Kristen initiated an early and significant partnership with DRF under Australia's first Disability Inclusive Development strategy, and played an active role as a donor representative on the DRF Grantmaking Committee. She joined the DRF/DRAF board in 2014.

PRATIMA GURUNG

Pratima Gurung, an indigenous woman with disability from Nepal, is a tireless campaigner for the rights of indigenous women and girls with disabilities and leads the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network. She is a member of DRF/DRAF's Grantmaking Committee.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

AUSTRALIAN AID

As one of the first donors to the Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, the Government of Australia has been a strong ally in supporting emerging Disabled Persons' Organizations and a growing disability movement, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

They began their support the same year they launched their first "Development for All" strategy, and have been an active and visible proponent of disability inclusive development at a global level since then.

In December 2017, an independent evaluation of disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program reported, "People with disabilities represent some 15 percent of the global population and are over-represented in the 'bottom billion' of the world's extreme poor. Meeting the needs of people with disabilities is central to achieving inclusive growth, addressing inequality, and realizing the ambition to 'leave no one behind' that is enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals."

Australia also recognizes that women and girls with disabilities experience double discrimination

and stigma associated with their gender and disability. Mika Kontiainen, Director, Disability in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said, "The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund has an important role to play in breaking down the gender stereotypes and norms that exclude women with disabilities from economic opportunities. We hope this will lead to women with disabilities being more involved in the decision-making processes in their communities and being able to support themselves and their families."

Even with the achievements of the disability movement in the last decade, the 2017 evaluation concluded that, "There is still a long way to go before advances to date are translated into improvements in the daily lives of people with disabilities. Advocacy is still as necessary today as it was ten years ago."

The challenge for advocates and funders of disability rights and inclusion is to increase investment in persons with disabilities on the ground so they can ensure that global and national commitments are implemented and make a difference in people's lives.



Mika Kontiainen, Director, Disability (DFAT) at the UN Conference of State Parties to the CRPD, 2016

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

The Open Society Foundations (OSF) is one of our founding donors. Across the past decade, their engagement in our work at strategic levels has been invaluable. A donor member of our first Grantmaking Committee, they leveraged deep human rights expertise with other donor members and leaders from the disability movement, to support development of country strategies and participatory decision-making on grants.

“The Open Society Foundations has partnered with and relied on DRF since its inception for funding marginalized groups few other donors manage to reach. In addition to project support and training

delivered through grantee convenings, DRF provides small, less established organizations with discrete funds for capacity-building. The Fund also acts as a powerful advocate for grantees through its grant making and advocacy with other donors and stakeholders in the field, securing large grants from bilateral and private foundations to re-grant to the field, and helping to channel resources to local and national groups working to advance the CRPD. Without DRF, the field would be less representative, less diverse, and less well-prepared to fulfill the promise and purpose of the CRPD.”

We celebrate the first decade of DRF’s achievements, and look forward to many more years of partnership!

Kimberly O’Haver from OSF at a 2012 convening of African youth with disabilities leaders



MILESTONES

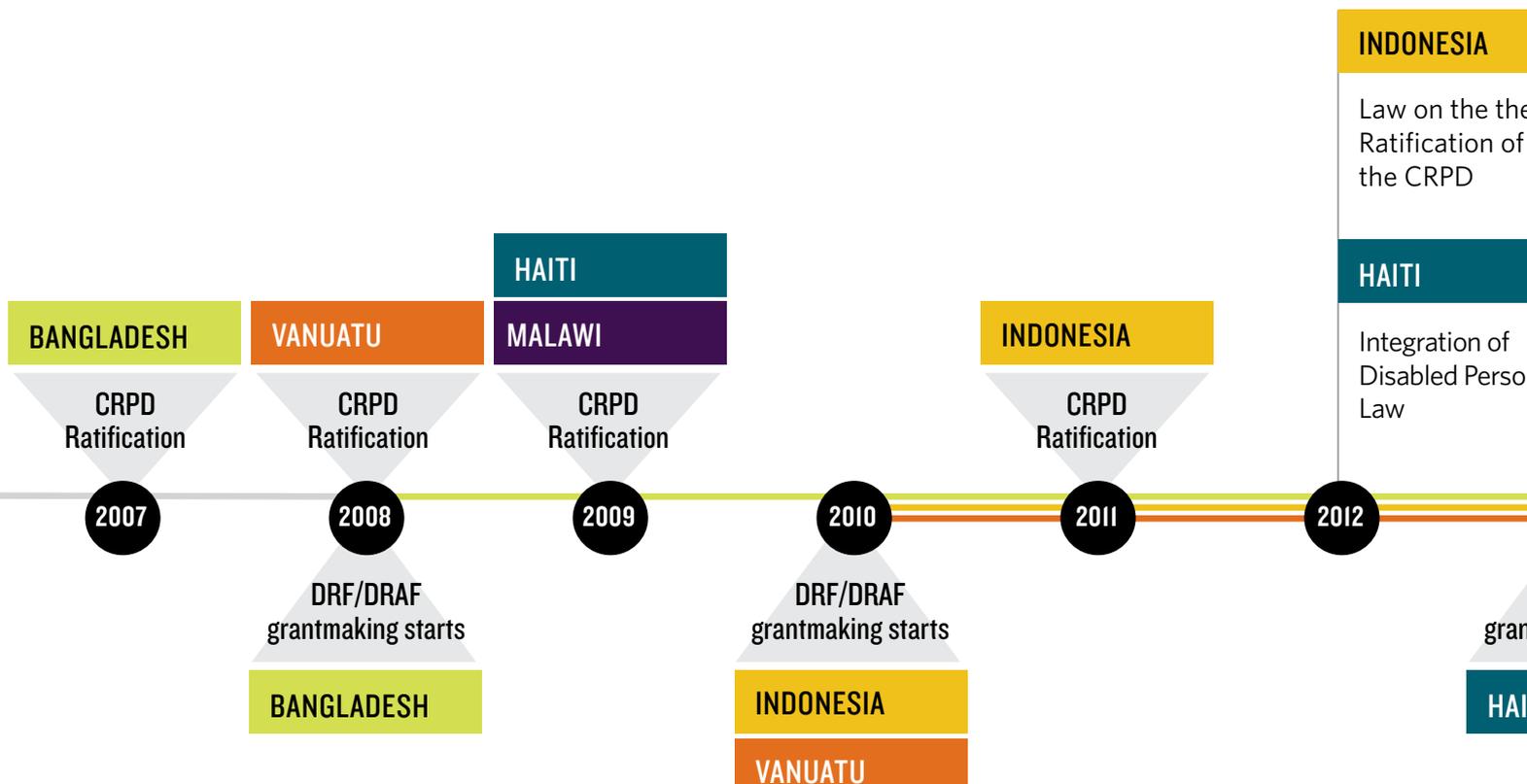
The Disability Rights Fund
to advocate for systems

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund are making a difference. We support Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) to advocate for legislation, policy, and programs that protect and promote their rights. Our work promotes shifts in attitudes and structures that support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We also support DPOs to advocate for the participation of persons with disabilities in national government and civil society mechanisms for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DPOs have also been instrumental in the preparation of reports to international human rights mechanisms.

In 2017-2018, DRF/DRAF are funding in: Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Pacific Island Countries, Rwanda, and Uganda.

The timeline below shows examples of major milestones achieved with grantee input across five of our target countries.



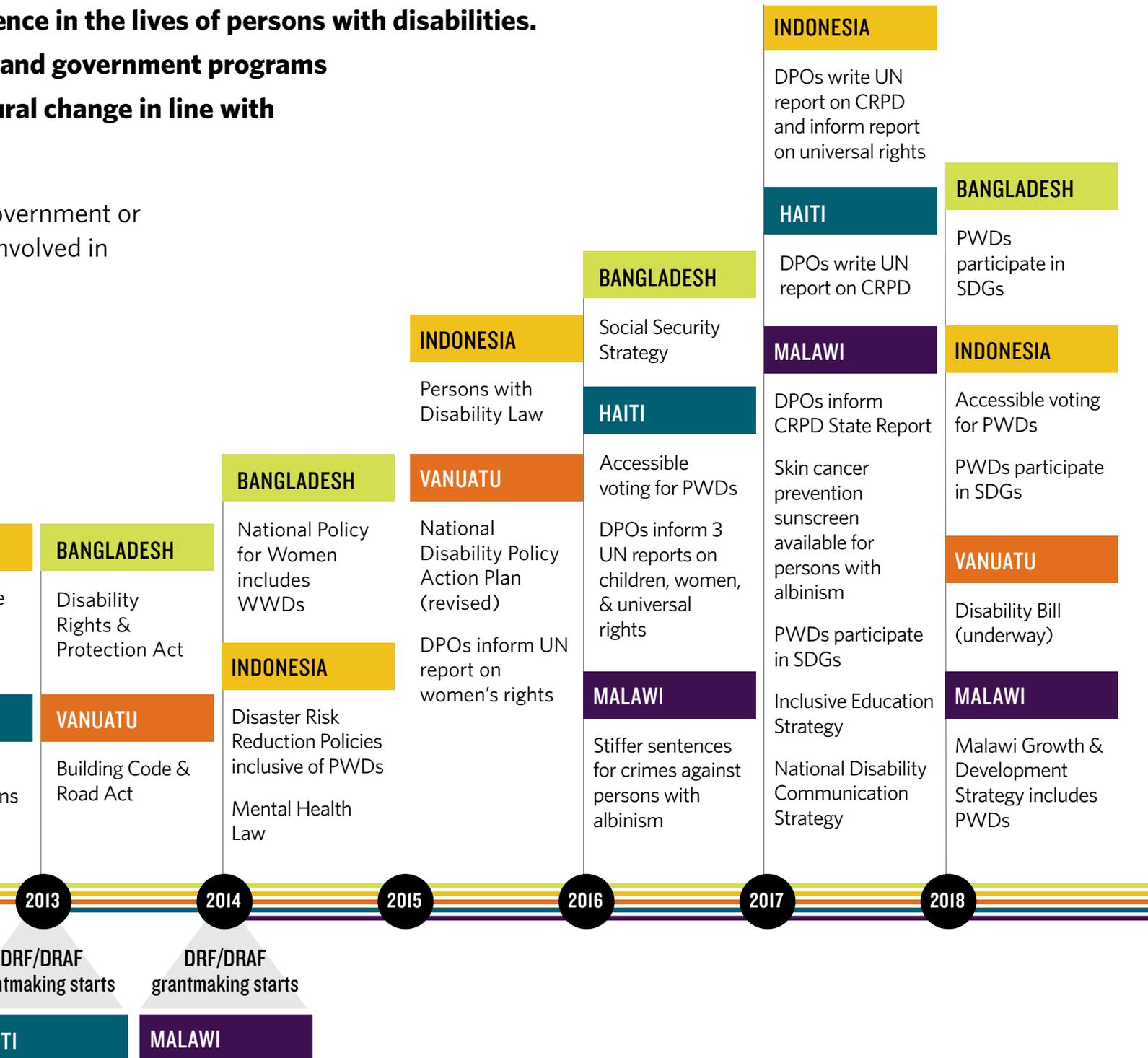
United Nations Development Programme and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund support DPOs to bring about change.

Improvement in the lives of persons with disabilities.

Through government programs

and legal change in line with

Government or
involved in



COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

INDONESIA: THE ROAD TO UNITY

“Penyandang cacat” or “people with defects” was a term in Bahasa Indonesia that was commonly used just ten years ago for persons with disabilities. The road to ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities accelerated a debate among disability activists to change this terminology and its accompanying world view. Now, the commonly used terms are rights-based and people-first — “penyandang disabilitas” (people with disabilities).

Shifting the paradigm from a charity or medical approach is starting to change the perception of persons with disabilities.

Eight years ago, in 2010, when the DRF and DRAF first started grantmaking in Indonesia, the landscape of disabled persons organizations (DPOs) consisted primarily of Jakarta-based national organizations led by men with disabilities and working in a fragmented way with limited resources. In rural areas and outside of Jakarta, DPOs are still characterized as low capacity and unfamiliar with the rights-based approach or how to access foreign funding.

With increased activism of the disability movement funded by DRF and DRAF, there have been significant milestones. At the national level, the CRPD was ratified in 2011 and a new Persons with Disabilities Act was passed in 2016. DPOs are advocating for necessary budgetary allocations to implement the Act and to raise the level of urgency and political will. In 2017, an Alternative Report was submitted to the CRPD Committee by a team funded by DFAT’s Australian Indonesian Partnership for Justice.

DPOs are engaging with the government as reliable and informed stakeholders, including in official



Grantee Convening
in Jakarta, 2012

working groups on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a member of the SDGs NGO Forum, DPO Ohana has been provided expertise on disability and the SDGs to national and local governments, as well as provided training to other DPOs from across the country.

Another DPO, CIQAL, has been involved in provincial forums on the SDGs to train local government, village officials, and persons with disabilities, to combat the charity and welfare approach to disability.

New actors in the disability movement have emerged at the local level to advocate for accessible public infrastructure and access to education, justice, and health. A diversity of persons with disabilities, including women, youth, and indigenous persons with disabilities, are advocating for their rights with government officials during local development planning and budgeting processes.

Efforts of grassroots DPOs are now reaching villages where stigma and discrimination are hard to overcome.

In the disaster-prone areas of Jogjakarta, Aceh, Padang and Klaten, persons with disabilities and their families are advocating to their governments for disability-inclusive action plans so they are no longer left behind. Staff and volunteers from DPOs are going door-to-door so that children with disabilities who are hidden can be counted. One of these grantees, the FKM BKA, a cross-organizational forum of persons with disabilities in Aceh, was internationally recognized by the Zero Project for their work in inclusive evacuation practices.

The South Sulawesi Himpunan Wanita Penyandang Disabilitas Indonesia in partnership with AMAN Sulawesi are establishing self-help groups for Indigenous persons with disabilities in rural areas. Partnership with AMAN, the largest Indigenous Peoples network in Indonesia, has engaged new actors in the Indonesian disability movement.

Yeni Damayanti of Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat / Indonesian Mental Health Association (IMHA), the founder of the first organization of persons with

psychosocial disabilities in Indonesia, said, “Eight years of DRF and DRAF support in Indonesia has successfully transformed the disability movement and the issues faced by persons with psychosocial disabilities are integrated in the disability issues. Unlike a few years ago, advocates are now proud to say that they are disability activists and even the women’s movement recognizes the strength of the disability movement.”

“Unity” — “Bergerak untuk Disabilitas” — has been the slogan of the Indonesian disability movement as more and more women with disabilities are taking the helm. “Unity” means being inclusive of persons who have been left out, among them, persons with psychosocial disabilities, Deaf people, persons with intellectual disabilities, and others who have yet to be fully recognized by the disability movement.

Unity is also about becoming allies with the women’s movement and other movements, and with mainstream civil society organizations working for the betterment of all people. Just recently, in a force of unity, DPOs formed a coalition to advocate against a draft bill on gender-based violence that includes a discriminatory clause against women with psychosocial disabilities and women with intellectual disabilities.

In Indonesia, as in other countries, the disability movement continues to advocate for the rights of a diversity of persons with disabilities.



HWDI member teaching sign language to activists with disabilities, 2018

ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT

CATALINA DEVANDAS AGUILAR

Catalina Devandas Aguilar evolved from a frontline activist for the adoption of the CRPD to one of the first DRF Program Officers, where she championed the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities. Today she serves as the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

As one of the first Program Officers at DRF/DRAF, she paved the path for our programming and participatory structure. She believed in our fundamental value that the way we do our grantmaking models the inclusive society we aim to achieve. Growing up with a sister with an intellectual disability who was afforded little opportunity in life, and facing discrimination as someone with spina bifida, Catalina's work is still driven by a passion for social change and transformation. "For me," she said, "this is a matter of justice."

As a team member for five years, Catalina's work was crucial in building the technical capacity of DPOs at country levels to implement legal and policy changes in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She strengthened

disability movements at national and regional levels. She also initiated cross-movement partnership, especially between the Indigenous Peoples' movement and the disability rights movement.

In 2014, she took her passion to a new level and now serves as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. Her powerful voice is resonating among persons with disabilities, especially as she lifts up the voices of people who are rarely heard in high level fora like the UN.

She acknowledged that, since the CRPD took force in 2008, many States have introduced law reforms, but warned that these efforts were not yet fully complete and could become ineffective without systemic, comprehensive, and sustainable policy reform. She said:

We are witnessing significant policy innovations. The process of transformation may not be as fast as we wish, but the recognition that everyone — with or without disabilities — is equal before the law is a historical imperative that must be universally accepted.

Indigenous persons with disabilities and allies at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2012



RESPECT FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Our grantmaking **respects diverse perspectives** to address multiple forms of exclusion and **models the inclusive society** we aim to achieve. Over half of our funding is directed to those who are marginalized because of intersecting social identities, such as women with disabilities and Indigenous persons with disabilities. They bring important perspectives to social justice movements, but they are often discriminated against by the movements they represent and by broader society.

The Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) was launched by Indigenous leaders with disabilities who - with Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) funding - attended the largest global meeting of Indigenous Peoples at the UN in 2012. These leaders subsequently participated in development of a report, also funded by DRAF, highlighting the situation of Indigenous persons with disabilities worldwide. The report was drafted by Myrna Cunningham and Kanyinke Sena, members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with technical support from the International Disability Alliance (IDA).



Olga Montufar Contreras
at the UN women's rights
conference, 2017



Since DRAF seeded the network, Indigenous persons with disabilities have been speaking out for their inclusion and their rights in regional and global fora, such as the Human Rights Council and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Pratima Gurung, DRF's global advisor said, "We've embraced the diversity in the global disability and indigenous movements. Our work has opened spaces to claim and exercise the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities." To move forward, Setareki Macanawai, another global advisor, said:

Our global work must now be translated to the regional and local levels. For the next five to ten years, our work is also in our communities, in our countries. Having strong platforms at the regional and global levels will allow us to share how our cultures and struggles are similar with the Indigenous Peoples movement and how we can jointly advocate for our collective rights.

This work, bringing together the Indigenous Peoples and disability rights movements, is critical to continue. We welcome growing initiatives addressing intersections, such as climate change and gender equality, gender and disability, and underscore the importance of recognizing all people with all our identities.

OUR COMMITMENT TO GENDER

In the years following the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), international disability rights advocacy was mostly focused on getting on the human rights agenda. It was about getting into the room, becoming visible in places where persons with disabilities had been invisible, and participating in policy development. These were important targets and there was an important focus on uniting people with disabilities across impairment groups, but less attention was paid to the multiple identities people with disabilities hold.



Today, women and girls with disabilities have a critical role to play in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in order to leave no one behind. Funding this work requires taking some risks, fostering learning on the ground,

but most importantly listening to women with disabilities themselves about what they need and how they want to grow the movement. They have the most accurate assessments about what solutions

can work. And they're informed about the advocacy strategies that can really move this work forward.

In 2018, we finalized our Gender Guidelines, to build on our own work to lift up the voices of women with disabilities. The guidelines are an expression of our commitment to apply a gender lens to our work as well as to learn more about the issues facing women and girls with disabilities from more marginalized communities and those with non-majority identities and sexualities.

The next few years will be pivotal as we apply these Gender Guidelines to improve our current practices, communicate voices from the field, and understand the gaps in knowledge and experiences. As we review our institutional practices with a gender lens, we expect to come across tough questions of power and privilege and to have deeper discussions around values and the effectiveness of our work.

We look forward to expanding our partnerships with our allies as we embark on this path of learning and innovating around transformative and innovative practices



African young woman with disabilities at convening of African youth with disabilities, 2012

ENDER EQUALITY & EQUITY

Rwandan women with disabilities
at Rwanda /Uganda Grantee
Convening, 2017



DRF/DRAF GENDER GUIDELINES

GENDER AWARENESS

- Fight stigma and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities
- Foster participation of women and girls with disabilities
- Create and facilitate safe spaces for dialogue and learning

GENDER INCLUSIVE

- Include women and girls with disabilities in rights advocacy
- Increase their voice and visibility within human rights dialogue and disability movement
- Support more women and girls with disabilities in decision-making roles

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

- Challenge gender norms and stereotypes
- Transform power dynamics
- Address inequities between persons of different genders
- Create an enabling environment

Discover

Partner

Learn

Innovate

Share

GENDER EQUALITY & EQUITY

OUR FUTURE

We are witnessing some movement working to by country, persons w about persons with dis



Something monumental happening around the globe — a rapidly growing movement to translate international frameworks into grassroots impact. Countries with disabilities are claiming power by challenging long-held attitudes and capabilities and effecting change in government policy.





Our Voices • Our Future

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