

# Independent Study of The Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

Study report August 2023  
and the response by  
Disability Rights Fund managers

Study by Universalia.  
Montreal, Canada.



Easy read version



## What the words mean

### **Disability movement**

The actions by people who have a disability to make sure they have their rights. The actions help other people and governments understand and make the changes needed. It also challenges how people think about disability.

### **Discrimination**

Treating someone unfairly because of who they are, such as their gender, sexuality, race or disability.

### **Diversity**

Making sure people from different backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, ages, and abilities are all included.

### **Grant**

Money given to an organization that does not need to be paid back. The money is used to help organizations to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

### **Grantee**

Organizations run for and by people with disabilities who receive a grant from Disability Rights Fund.

## LGBTQI+

It stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, and the “+” represents all other identities and people who stand with them.

## Recommendation

The suggested best way to do things in the future

## Universalia

A company based in Canada that looks at the work of other organizations to help them to do their work better. Disability Rights Fund asked them to do this study so they can support their grantees better in the future.

## What the study was about



The study by **Universalia** looked at the difference that the Disability Rights Fund is making in Fiji, Indonesia and Nigeria.



The study looked at their work from April 2019 to December 2022.



The study found out how Disability Rights Fund was helping all people with disabilities to enjoy their rights.



The study was done by interviewing people, running workshops and looking at reports.

## What the study found out



Because of the Disability Rights Fund, more organizations did advocacy work. The **grantee** organizations grew stronger. Governments are changing how they see and support people with disabilities.



Help for organizations was given quickly when it was needed.



Disability Rights Fund was better at helping women with disabilities and people from groups who are seen as less important and don't get the same chances.



Disability Rights Fund has also supported working together with non-disability organizations on important issues that affect everyone like climate change.

## The main recommendations from the study report and what Disability Rights Fund say in response



### **The study report says**

Disability Rights Fund should give more opportunities for organizations who receive a grant to connect with others. They can share experiences and learn from each other.



Disability Rights Fund agrees and they already support organizations to connect with each other, both in person and online. In the future Disability Rights Fund will pay for a new staff member to help develop peer support work.



### **The study report says**

Disability Rights Fund should keep how they work with the organizations who receive their **grants**. They give grants and support the **grantee** organizations, but they don't tell them how they should work.



Disability Rights Fund say this way is an important part of their work. They practice 'nothing about us without us!'. It is a big part of Disability Rights Fund's plans for 2024 to 2029.



### **The study report says**

The new Strategic Plan should make grant easier to apply for, so it helps organizations do their work better.



Disability Rights Fund says that they will do this, for example giving different types of **grants**, giving **grants** for many years.



### **The study report says**

Disability Rights Fund should explain better about what help it can give organizations.



Disability Rights Fund will make this help clearer in the new help plan. So everyone will know what help there is and how organizations can ask for it. It will make sure organizations can learn from and get more help from each other. Organizations will help to make the new help plan.



### **The study report says**

There should be more help given by other organizations of people with disabilities. They should make a list of which organizations can help.



Disability Rights Fund says it does have a list. It will find more organizations of disabled people who can help. But everyone must work together too, both those inside and outside of the disability movement.





### The study report says

To make sure the **disability movement** includes all groups, Disability Rights Fund can support the leaders of organizations of disabled people in the community. So they can do awareness-raising about **diversity** and support to include everyone.



Disability Rights Fund have started to do this by working with the leaders of organizations who are run by and for people with disabilities from less included groups. They are supporting them to make sure everyone is included.



### The study report says

Disability Rights Fund should make sure that organizations who get **grants** include all people with disabilities. This includes people living in rural areas, people with more than one disability, and people from the **LGBTQI+** community.



Disability Rights Fund know there have been a lot of changes in the **disability movement** in the last 15 years. Diversity and including everyone is now an important part of their help.



### The study report says

There should be more working together between the **disability movement** and other social justice movements working to change things. For example organizations working on climate change and women's rights.



Disability Rights Fund say organizations who give money and other social justice movements need to be better at including people with disabilities. Disability Rights Fund will work hard to help this change.

## What has been learned – main messages



It is important to support new organizations, especially organizations who support people with disabilities who sometimes miss out. It is important to leave no one behind.

## Thank you from the Disability Rights Fund managers



Disability Rights Fund say thank you to Universalia for their report and to all the organizations who took part.



The staff and Board at Disability Rights Fund are fully committed to their plans for the future and to the organizations of people with disabilities and activists.