

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is a leading catalyst for disability rights movements across the Global South. We invest in grassroots organizations led by persons with disabilities to advance meaningful change through participatory grantmaking, peer learning, and advocacy. Our work opens doors for disabled leaders across human rights efforts, ensuring disability perspectives play a key role in systemic change.



### Disability by the Numbers

- **1 in 6** people globally have a disability
- **80%** of people with disabilities live in the Global South
- Women with disabilities face the **highest levels** of violence and exclusion
- Yet only **4%** of human rights funding from foundations supports disability rights

### Since 2008:



**\$60.8M** granted to 636 organizations in 62 countries



**7,500+** activists trained through peer and collective learning



**379** inclusive laws, policies, and programs advanced



**100+** UN reports submitted to multilateral bodies

**Why DRF, Why Now:** Our approach positions local organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) as the leaders, with DRF serving as a partner to propel community-based solutions. A majority of DRF's staff are persons with disabilities, women, and rooted in the communities we serve.

DRF strengthens disability rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia, Haiti, and the Pacific Island Countries through participatory **grantmaking**, peer **learning**, and inclusive **advocacy**.

## ➤ Grantmaking

DRF funds grassroots OPDs through participatory grantmaking. Local DRF program officers provide ongoing guidance and support. DRF prioritizes funding for the most marginalized and underserved groups within the disability community, including women, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ individuals, and persons with intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, or multiple disabilities.

## ➤ Advocacy

DRF advances disability advocacy through local disability-led organizations, providing strategic guidance and amplifying their voices in spaces where they are often absent. By connecting disability advocates to broader human rights and social justice movements, DRF ensures the disability community can shape laws, policies, and programs to be more inclusive and accessible.

**“DRF’s work strengthens movements and catalyzes change globally. DRF is deeply committed to grassroots groups and activists, which is evident in their deep relationships, strategic advocacy, and participatory grantmaking model.”**

–Juliana Velez Uribe  
Foundation for a Just Society

## ➤ Learning

DRF strengthens disability-led organizations through peer and collective learning. We bring OPDs together to lead their own learning, share experiences, and connect with other knowledge sources. DRF hosts convenings, webinars, workshops, mentorship, advocacy networks, and storytelling platforms to amplify strategies, lessons, and successes.

## Spotlight: Impact in Indonesia



Since 2010, DRF has invested over \$6.5 million across 185 grants to OPDs in Indonesia, mostly led by women and youth with disabilities. This sustained investment has directly contributed to major national victories, including Indonesia’s ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2011 and the historic 2022 Sexual Violence Crime Bill, Indonesia’s first inclusive anti-gender-based-violence law guaranteeing equal protections for survivors with disabilities.

## Connect with Us



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