



Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund Independent Evaluation Terms of Reference

Summary

The Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRF/DRAF) seek an evaluator (team) to conduct an evaluation on the organization's global grantmaking portfolio from 2017- 2020. The review is being conducted with the support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), two donors to the Fund, but applies to all DRF/DRAF stakeholders, particularly the disabled persons organizations (DPOs) who receive grants from the Fund.

The timeframe for the evaluation, including completion of the report, is January 2019 to April 2020.

The total budget should be in the range of \$125,000 USD (inclusive of fees, travel, office, printing, meeting, and any and all other costs). Note that payment will be outcome rather than output related (based on quality of report).

Background Information

A marginalized minority, persons with disabilities make up a disproportionate percentage of the poor in the developing world (80% of all people with disabilities live in the developing world and there, make up 20% of the world's poorest people). Still, disability is absent from many national or international poverty reduction strategies (e.g., disability is not mentioned in many Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and until recently, was not included in international development frameworks). This has changed with direct references to persons with disabilities in Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Because human rights and poverty are deeply connected¹, and "addressing exclusion in all its aspects is key to eliminating poverty,"² enhancing the participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the realization of rights can have both a direct and indirect impact on poverty within the disability community.

¹ The UN Office of High Commission of Human Rights, the UN General Assembly, and numerous experts and governments have recognized the direct connection between human rights and poverty. See, for example, A/RES/63/175 Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, 20 March 2009.

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

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. DRF provides resources to organizations led by persons with disabilities, primarily in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean, that are leading efforts to secure rights and inclusion in development. DRF was launched in March 2008 under the fiscal sponsorship of the Tides Center and started operations as an independent nonprofit organization (IRS 501(c)3) in April 2011. Its sister fund, the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (IRS 501(c)4), supports lobbying projects, strategic partnerships, and other special projects.

Through grantmaking, advocacy, and technical assistance, DRF/DRAF supports DPOs to use global rights and development frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the SDGs.³ In most target countries, DRF/DRAF has also conducted regular Grantee Convenings (which include CRPD/SDG training, grantee information exchange, and opportunities to dialogue with government or national human rights or development officials and with other donor representatives), aimed at strengthening national disability rights movements.

The DRF/DRAF pooled fund has three funding streams: Small Grants, Mid-Level Coalition Grants, and National Coalition Grants. The average small grant has been in the range of USD 20,000; coalition grants have been close to the maximum (USD 80-100,000 over two years). DRF/DRAF funding has targeted DPOs and DPO-led collaborations (at local and national levels) in 6 regions and 33 countries: in the Pacific – fourteen Pacific Island Countries (PICs); in Asia – Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, and Myanmar; in Africa – Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda; in Latin America and the Caribbean – Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru; in the Middle East – Lebanon; and in Eastern Europe – Ukraine. Between 2008 and June 2018, DRF and DRAF have provided more than 1,000 grants totaling \$25 million to DPOs.

DRF/DRAF have developed a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system that began with a year-long participatory process, completed in June 2011. The first independent [evaluation](#) was finalized in November 2012, and the second [learning evaluation](#) was completed in 2015.

Scope of the Evaluation

This evaluation will cover all grants given between April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2020 as shaped by the DRF/DRAF [2017-2020 Strategic Plan](#) in following target countries that will represent a sample of DRF/DRAF's global grantmaking:

1. Bangladesh (grants given through December 31, 2018),
2. Ghana (grants given through December 31, 2018),

³ DRF/DRAF utilizes a model featured in the 2018 GrantCraft publication on [participatory grantmaking](#) and further described by Founding Executive Director Diana Samarasan [here](#).

3. Indonesia,
4. Nigeria, and
5. Uganda.⁴

The evaluation consists of the following task:

- 1) Conduct an evaluation, which will assess the extent to which outputs and outcomes as defined in our logframe are being reached, as well as operational aspects, such as value for money, and efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, sustainability, and impact. The review should focus on recommendations to DRF/DRAF to better ensure interventions achieve the desired impact (as measured by proxy indicators in the logframe).

The evaluation will not cover activities considered outside the boundaries of the evaluation including: impact level changes, the short-term impact of the DRF/DRAF technical assistance strategy or Gender Guidelines, and the global advocacy efforts supported by staff.

Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is both summative and formative. DRF/DRAF has committed to its key stakeholders to conduct an independent evaluation of its pathway of change as a guide for its ongoing and future operations. The objectives for the evaluation are as follows:

- Provide an update on progress made towards the achievement of output- and outcome-level results in DRF/DRAF's logical framework;
- Identify DRF/DRAF's contributions to results achieved by paying special attention to: i) capturing the mechanisms that have brought about reported changes and the assumptions behind them, particularly strategies that were the most effective; and ii) capturing DRF/DRAF's specific contributions to building diverse disability movements in the target countries;
- Make an overall assessment of DRF/DRAF's value for money;
- Identify internal and external (to DRF/DRAF) factors affecting performance, at both the programmatic and organizational levels;
- Review how DRF/DRAF's participatory approach contributes to achievements;
- Provide DRF/DRAF staff with a clear set of recommendations to improve current interventions and guide future ones.

The primary intended users of the evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations are:

- DRF/DRAF, who will have additional evidence for strategic decisions;
- DRF/DRAF grantees; and
- DFID and DFAT, who will be able to report back to their respective taxpayers use of state funds; monitor their contribution to disability-inclusive development;

⁴ One additional country in East Africa may be selected in partnership with key stakeholders and the independent evaluator.

and strategize their future partnership with DRF/DRAF and, more broadly, the disability field.

Secondary users include other DRF/DRAF donors and any other organizations (DPO or not) working or interested in the disability rights and disability-inclusive development field.

Proposed Tasks and Deliverables

Phase 1: Planning and Preparation (10%)

- Before starting, be thoroughly familiar with DRF/DRAF (e.g., past evaluations, logframe, theory of change/pathway to change, strategies at organizational and country levels, M&E system, grants review and administration system, participatory model, disability rights context in countries where DRF works, etc.) through a desk review.
- Consult with DRF/DRAF management on how the work will best be conducted using a theory based approach to evaluation; how other staff and stakeholders (including grantees, board and committees, advisors, donors, etc.) will be involved; how the Advisory Group will be utilized; what the timetable is for fieldwork and reporting; and how feedback on conclusions will be organized.
- Agree with DRF/DRAF and main funding agencies on the methodology for the review and a plan for improvement of monitoring tools.
- Agree what the evaluation will address, for example, the relevance of DRF/DRAF's outputs, outcomes and goals for persons with disabilities in target countries, effectiveness, efficiency, value for money, and quality of participatory processes and support to grantee organizations.
- Deliverable: work plan with timeline and timing of deliverables.

Phase 2: Evaluation (90%)

- Assess results and progress towards impact, in terms of outcomes and outputs, based on the actual and potential impact on primary stakeholder groups (disabled persons organizations) in sample of target countries.
- Make an overall assessment of cost effectiveness or “value for money.”
- Identify where the organization's design needs adjusting/reorienting in order to increase its effectiveness in reaching target groups. This may include recommendations to adjust the objectives and strategy, activities, budget and inputs, and organizational set-up.
- Identify what is working well, DRF/DRAF's contribution to outcomes and outputs at national and local levels in sample target countries, and what could be improved and why/how. Produce a clear set of recommendations that improve current interventions and guide future ones.
- Deliverable: Evaluation Report.

Timeline and Management

The first phase of the work is scheduled to start in January 2019. The final product, the evaluation report, is due early April 2020.

The Executive Director and M&E Officer will jointly supervise the work, with the M&E Officer being responsible for the day-to-day management and communication, as well as providing all necessary documentation and orientation. An Evaluation Advisory Group will provide additional feedback and guidance.

To enhance the robustness and validation of the approach and to address any potential conflict of interest between design of data collection tools and conduct of the evaluation itself, we invite proposals to consider objective methods of scrutiny such as peer review at an appropriate proportionate level.

Expertise Required

A successful candidate (team) for the tasks outlined will be expected to have:

- A strong understanding and proven experience in evaluation, including the logical framework approach (required), M&E methods that examine causal relationships using quantitative and qualitative data such as process tracing or contribution analysis, and participatory, utilization-focused approaches that reflect DRF/DRAF's participatory grantmaking;
- A comprehensive background in working with civil society organizations in the field of international development, human rights, disability rights, advocacy, and/or international grantmaking and philanthropy;
- Knowledge of countries and regions where DRF/DRAF operates, including a solid understanding of participatory and inclusive processes for rights achievement and poverty reduction at national levels;
- Previous experience with DFID, other development agencies such as DFAT, or international grantmaker evaluations;
- English, with a preference for fluency in the official language(s) of target countries as well (note some grantees are not fluent in English); and
- Communication and report writing skills, including data visualization and data presentation to persons with visual impairments.

Process for Interested Parties

Interested parties should send their qualifications, with a brief proposal, timeline and budget, plus references (who are familiar with candidate's evaluation work), and a copy of a recent evaluation authored by the candidate to Melanie Kawano-Chiu, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, at mkawanochiu@disabilityrightsfund.org no later than 5pm Eastern Standard Time on Monday, December 17, 2018. The review of qualifications will include

expertise (listed above), team composition, and cost calculations (“value for money”). Please contact Melanie if you have any questions or require any background documents.