

Funding Access to Justice

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Access to Justice



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About Us



- Pooled fund
- Collaboration between activists with disabilities and donors
- Resource disability rights movement (DPOs) in Africa, Asia, Pacific and Haiti
- 2008 - 2017:
 - **1,057** grants (\$5000 - \$50,000 / year)
 - **\$25,140,761.78**
 - **310** unique DPO/partner organizations
 - **34** countries
- Grants for rights advocacy (CRPD) & inclusive development (SDGs)
- More than 50% of grants to marginalized sectors of disability community
- 4 rights and goals consistently emphasized: education, social protection, accessibility, and **justice** (7% of total funding)

Access to Justice – in CRPD/SDGs

- **CRPD** - Article 13; first international human rights instrument enshrining explicit right to access to justice
 - *Equal and effective participation in justice system*
 - *Equal recognition before the law*
- **SDGs** – Goal 16 promotes rule of law and ensures equal access to justice for all, including persons with disabilities

DRF/DRAF Grants Addressing Access to Justice

- To address access to justice, must address barriers
 - Lack of legal standing or presumption of incapacity to stand as witness
 - *Ex: blind woman or girl with intellectual disability who has been raped*
 - Information, communication and physical barriers
 - *Ex: deaf persons who are victims of crime*
 - Lack of attribution of rights (by community or justice system) to PWDs
 - *Ex: land owners with disabilities*
 - Lack of access to legal aid

- Examples of projects funded across different countries follow



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Conclusion

What works?

- **Partnerships between DPOs and legal aid service providers** or police, judges, human rights organizations, etc. so DPOs get practical/technical support to access justice; human rights actors are informed on rights and needs of PWDs
- **Training members of the judiciary** to build understanding on the rights of PWDs to access justice on an equal basis with others (understanding discrimination & reasonable accommodations, dispelling myths)
- **Documenting human rights violations** to have evidence of high rates of violations to draw attention to the need for action and state accountability

Thank you!