



Programme Results Report 2021

Development Cooperation Programme of Disability Partnership Finland

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Acronyms and abbreviations

- ANAD – Albania National Association of the Deaf
- APANH – Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Niños Hipoacúsicos
- BIH – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- CAN – Central Asian Network of Women with Disabilities
- CRPD – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- CSO – Civil Society Organizations
- DDI – Disability Development Initiative
- DDP – Maryknoll Deaf Development Programme
- DPF – Disability Partnership Finland (Vammaiskumppanuus)
- OPD – Organization of persons with disabilities
- ENAD – Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf
- ENADB – Ethiopian National Association of the Deafblind
- EWDNA – Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association
- F – Female
- FAD – Finnish Association of the Deaf (Kuurojen Liitto)
- FAIDD – Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Kehitysvammaliitto)
- FDUV – Inclusion Finland FDUV
- FENACIEBO – Federación Nacional de Ciegos de Bolivia (Bolivia National Federation of the Blind)
- Finnish Federation of Swedish Speaking Hard of Hearing (Svenska hörsselförbundet)
- FFVI – Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (Näkövammaisten liitto)
- FPD – Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (Invalidiliitto)
- GBV – Gender Based Violence
- Handikos – Association of Paraplegics and Paralyzed Children of Kosovo

HPD-O – Help for Persons with Disabilities Organisation
HRBA – Human Rights Based Approach
IC Lotos – Information Centre for Persons with Disabilities “Lotos”
KAD – Kosovar Association of the Deaf
KAIH – Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped
M – Male
MANAD – Malawi National Association of the Deaf
MFA – Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
PSEAH – Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
PWD – Person with Disability
PWID – Person with Intellectual Disability
RBM – Results Based Management
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
SEAH – Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
SRHR – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Threshold Association – Kynnys ry
UNAD – Uganda National Association of the Deaf
VIP – Vilole Images Productions (Women and Girls Disability Rights of Zambia)
ZAPDD – Zanzibar Association of People with Developmental Disabilities
ZNAPD – Zambia National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities
VET – Vocational Education and Training
WwD – Woman with Disability

Summary

Disability Partnership Finland's work is based on the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The targeted impact of the development cooperation programme is a world where the human rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) are realized and PWDs are active members of their societies. This is achieved by work towards the following five outcomes: 1) Able Organizations; 2) Advocacy for Inclusion; 3) Education and Learning; 4) Work and Livelihood; and 5) Gender equality. Each programme outcome is directly linked to a specific CRPD article.

Year 2021 was the fourth and last year of implementation of the programme period 2018–2021. The seven full members of Disability Partnership Finland (DPF) were implementing a total of 15 projects.

All 16 Southern partner organizations have reported results in increased organizational capacity (Programme Outcome 1). 62 % of the programme partners succeeded in increasing their donor base since the beginning of the programme period in 2018. In 2021, 14 new branches were established by different programme partners. Altogether 36 new branches were established between 2018–2021. Partner organizations have been growing their membership base steadily during the programme period. In 2021, membership-based partners (13 out of 16) had in total 96 961 registered members (54 % female).

In addition to their members, partner organizations reach a wide number of family members of PWDs, duty-bearers and other community members. The Programme reached over 33 000 direct beneficiaries in year 2021, of which 22 964 were rights-holders (60 % women and girls) and 10 313 duty-bearers (64 % women).

Some of the most significant results of the Programme were achieved in advocacy for inclusion (Outcome 2). Sign language interpreting during Government (Prime Minister and ministers) press conferences started to be provided in Kosovo. This enables deaf people to have direct access to public information. In addition, the National Council for Disability was re-functionalised, and the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2023 approved in Kosovo. After persistent advocacy, the curriculum for training of deaf sign language instructors was finalised for official approval in Albania. This was directly supported by the FAD expert and the Programme. The 8-month intensive VET programme with 5 students finally started in October 2021.

All 16 programme partners are represented in different disability relevant working groups and public institutions at local and national level, raising awareness on disability rights and human rights of PWDs. Partner organizations play an important role in the civil society of their respective

countries. They are part of various OPD and CSO networks and contribute to the strengthening of the voice and inclusiveness of the civil society more broadly. The participation of partner organizations in the CRPD monitoring committees and parallel reporting increased from 32 to 72 percent during the programme period. This is a significant result and is directly linked to the programme impact. Southern partners have been actively working advocating and promoting the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the CRPD with the support of the programme.

In the area of education and learning (Outcome 3.), 1 157 students with different disabilities (34 % female) were supported in their access to formal and non-formal education in 2021. Of these, 137 were students with disabilities (51 % female) who gained access to education institutes as a result of the programme interventions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and Zanzibar. During the programme period, altogether 2 111 students with disabilities (41 % female) were supported in their access to education. The students assisted include deaf students, students with visual impairment, students with intellectual disabilities and students with physical disabilities. The support provided includes for example provision of assistive devices, adaptive materials, and tutoring.

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, many programme activities had to be adjusted in 2020-2021. Travel and face-to-face interaction were restricted, many activities were shifted to the virtual platforms. In some projects, various activities had to be postponed, whereas in a few projects work continued according to plans. Lockdowns and closure of schools that have lasted various months, (the longest lasted 22 months in Uganda) affected programme results in various ways, but especially those related to access to education and livelihood.

Important results were also achieved contributing to the increased awareness on right to education of PWDs on local, regional, and national levels. The Programme reached in total 769 schools and 5 059 teachers (67 % female) in 2018–2021. In addition, over 9 000 families in 858 communities were reached in 10 programme counties.

In the disability mainstreaming work, DPF had an agreement with 8 Finnish development organizations. The main results include, improved reporting linked to disability, awareness on accessibility and willingness to improve accessibility of services in Finland, and more inclusive training capacity in global education when visiting schools in Finland. The DPF has also succeeded well in increasing knowledge on disability, rights of PWDs and the process of mainstreaming both in the North and the South. This has contributed to active and meaningful partnerships with Southern Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Finnish organisations have also learned concrete ways how to promote equality of persons with disabilities.

1. Introduction

This is the Programme Results Report of the development cooperation programme of Disability Partnership Finland (DPF). The report covers the fourth year of the programme period 2018–2021 funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). It also brings together and presents the results achieved during the entire programme period 2018–2021.

Disability Partnership Finland is an **organization of persons with disabilities** (OPD) that as per 31 December 2021 had seven Finnish OPDs as full members committed to promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities and disability and development issues. In addition, the Abilis Foundation was an associate member.

The main modality for the implementation of the Programme are the projects coordinated by the Finnish member organizations and implemented by partner organizations in the Global South. In 2021, **in total 15 projects** were being implemented in 10 countries. Two projects were regional projects implemented in Central Asia and the Balkans. See annex 1 for the full list of projects and partner organizations. For 2020–2021, the DPF was granted additional funding from the MFA, which was directed to complement the ongoing programme work in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, and Zanzibar.

In addition to the projects implemented by programme partners, the DPF was active in developing and implementing disability mainstreaming initiatives with development NGOs. The DPF provided support to eight Finnish NGOs that have cooperation agreement with the DPF.

2. The Programme Approach

The United Nations **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** serves as the normative foundation for all DPF work. Each article of the CRPD is a practical tool for the programme partners in advocating for the human rights of persons with disabilities in both the Global South and North. The DPF development cooperation programme, its expected impact and all outcomes are also directly linked to a specific CRPD article.

The Programme is also guided by the **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)**. Human rights standards, principles and goals as laid out in the international human rights system guide the programming and its processes. The Programme addresses the capacities of both rights-holders and duty-bearers and promotes accountability and dialogue between stakeholders. Participation of persons with disabilities in all decision-making is highlighted and promoted. Local ownership and

meaningful participation are central to the Programme and PWDs design and implement the projects themselves. In addition, the principle of “**Leave No One Behind**” of the **Agenda 2030** is actively promoted and put in practice in the Programme.

According to the DPF strategy 2019–2023, the vision of Disability Partnership Finland is a world where the human rights of persons with disabilities have been realised and where persons with disabilities work to develop their own communities at the local, national and international levels. Our mission is to make the human rights of persons with disabilities a reality. Member organisations carry out development co-operation projects with disability-specific and other partnerships where the human rights situation of PWDs is weakest. The work is also done through advocacy, mainstreaming, communications, and global education.

According to our theory of change, the expected impact of the Programme can be achieved by work towards **the following five outcomes**:

- 1) Able Organizations
- 2) Advocacy for Inclusion
- 3) Education and Learning
- 4) Work and Livelihood
- 5) Gender equality (crosscutting outcome)

The programme approach highlights that in addition to sharing common overall objectives and interests, each disability group has different key areas that are crucial for the fulfilment of the rights of that group. These form the basis for the development cooperation strategies and prioritizations of the member organizations and reflect the diversity of and within different groups of PWDs. The added value of the Programme is generated by sharing the expertise of the Finnish OPDs and providing peer support to their sister organizations in the Global South, as well as through partnering in the disability mainstreaming work with other development actors.

3. Programme Results of 2021 and 2018–2021

In total 15 projects were being implemented in the Programme in 2021. **Annex 1** provides an overview of the projects’ contribution to the programme outcomes and outputs. **Annex 2** provides detailed reporting on the results achieved in 2021 and during the programme period 2018–2021.

This chapter presents **the main results and the progress achieved** in each programme result area. This is done against the target levels established for the programme period. The focus is on

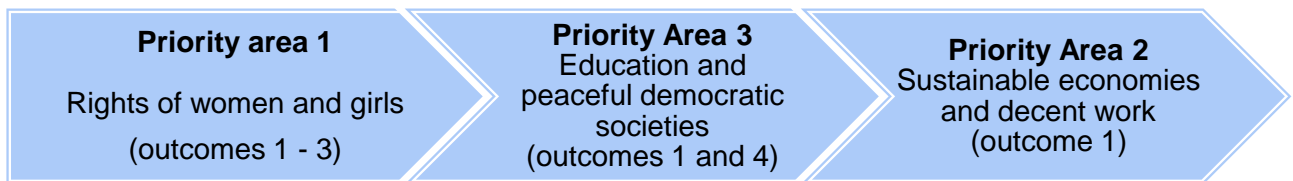
the main outcome level results achieved in 2021 and during 2018–2021. The output level results, more detailed information and the indicator values are given in Annex 2.

The DPF Programme and the results achieved in 2018–2021 have contributed to achieving the following **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:



More specifically, the Programme has contributed to the following SDG targets: 4.5 and 4.A (Outcome 3); 8.5. (Outcome 4) and 10.2. (All outcomes). Results achieved under Outcome 5 have contributed to the SDG 5 in general. The core of the Programme is to ensure that the social, economic and political rights of PWDs are fulfilled. Overall, the Programme actively promotes and contributes to the overarching principle of the Agenda 2030: Leave No One Behind.

The Programme and the results achieved in 2018–2021 have also contributed to **the Finnish development policy** and especially the following priority areas and outcomes defined in 2020.



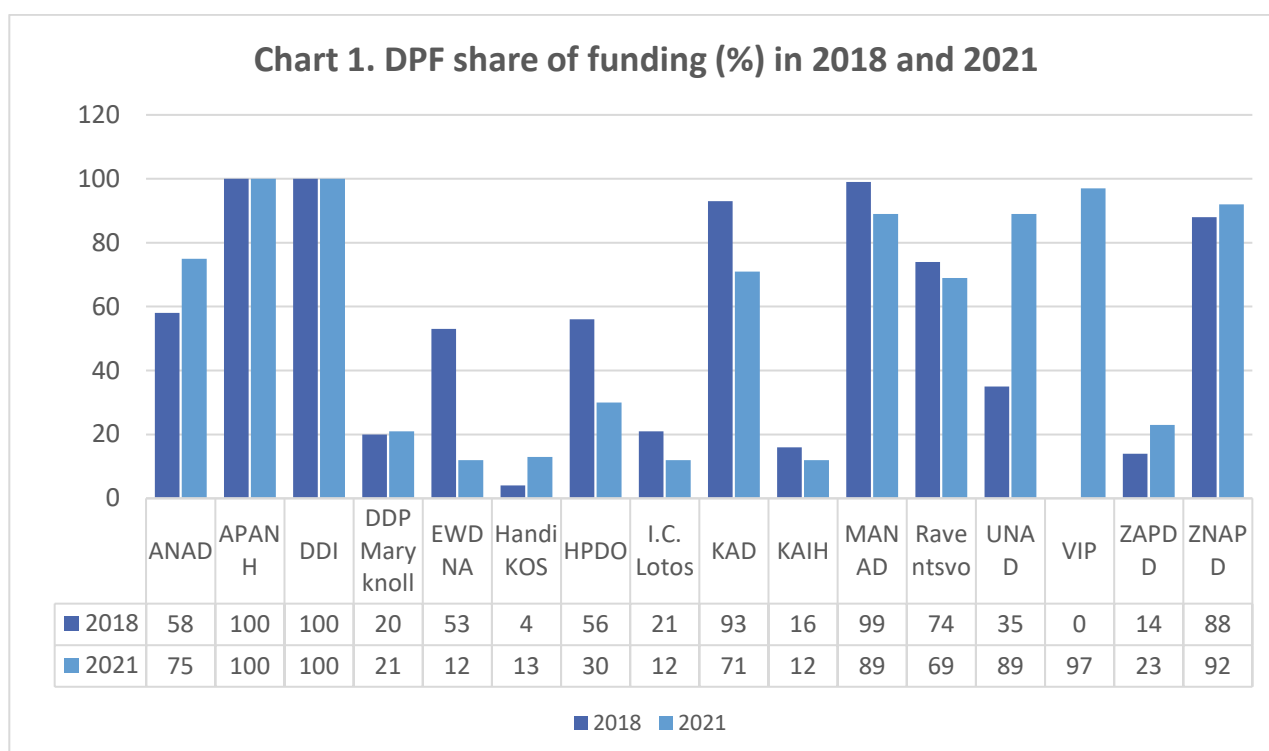
The contribution has been significant to the following outcomes: 1) the rights of PWDs are protected, 2) improved access to education of girls and PWDs, and 3) improved capacity of the civil society and persons in vulnerable position to influence and participate in decision-making. Overall, the Programme has contributed to a stronger and more diverse civil society and inclusive development (for more see chapter 4.1).

The DPF plays an important role in **promoting the realization of the rights of PWDS within the Finnish development cooperation**. During 2018–2021, it has actively advocated and supported mainstreaming of disability inclusion in the work of various development cooperation actors.

The work and results presented in this report are funded by the MFA and the principle of attribution is applied in it. However, most partners receive funding also from other sources. In some outcome areas, such as organizational capacity development and advocacy work, it is challenging to establish clear attribution lines between the given support and achieved results. DPF programme funding is also directed to the core functions of the partner OPDs. Therefore, it is more meaningful

to demonstrate contribution, rather than attribution to the results achieved especially at outcome level. At output level, it is more justified to talk about attribution in achieving the results (outputs).

Although many programme partners receive funding from various sources, the share of the DPF funding is still considerable for many. The figure below demonstrates development in the share of the DPF funding for each programme partner from the beginning (2018) to the end of the programme period (2021). These are analysed in more detail in chapter 3.2.



To conclude, The Programme has done relatively well in achieving the expected results and the target levels of the programme period. Three target levels at outcome and impact level were fully achieved. Other seven were not fully achieved. Still the level to what target levels were achieved varies between 50 and 74 percent. On output level, the Programme achieved 11 out of 19 target levels. These are good results considering the high target setting together with the complex operating environment especially for the last 2 years of the programme implementation.

The table below summarizes the extent to which the programme achieved the targeted impact and outcome level results. These are analysed into more detail in chapters 3.1. – 3.6.

Chart 2. Programme performance on impact and outcome level.

| Expected Result | Programme performance |
|----------------------------|---|
| Programme Impact | Not fully achieved. 63 % of the set target level achieved (10/16). |
| Programme Outcome 1 | Able Organizations. |
| Outcome indicator 1.1. | Target 1: Not fully achieved. 63 % of the set target level (10/16). Target 2: Not fully achieved. 50 % of the set target level (8/16). |
| Outcome indicator 1.2 | Target achieved. However, the local deaf association not yet in place in Cambodia. |
| Programme Outcome 2 | Advocacy for Inclusion. |
| Outcome indicator 2.1. | Target not fully achieved. 72 % of the set target level (13/18) |
| Outcome indicator 2.2. | Target achieved. |
| Outcome indicator 2.3. | Target achieved. |
| Programme Outcome 3 | Access to Education. |
| Outcome indicator 3.1. | Not fully achieved. 69 % of the set target level. |
| Programme Outcome 4 | Improved Livelihoods. |
| Outcome indicator 4.1. | Target not fully achieved. 74 % of the set target level. |
| Programme Outcome 5 | Gender Equality. |
| Outcome indicator 5.1. | Not fully achieved. 64 % of the set target level (9/14). |

3.1 Impact

Directly derived from the vision of the DPF, the expected impact of the programme is:

A world where the human rights of persons with disabilities are fulfilled and where PWDs work themselves to develop their own communities at local, national, and international levels.

The expected impact emphasizes the country level efforts to implement the CRPD through an established national action plan and / or implementation mechanism with participation of OPDs. The progress towards the expected impact is presented in the table below.

Chart 3. Programme Impact: A world where the human rights of PWDs are fulfilled and PWDs work themselves to develop their own communities at local, national and international levels. Measured by **impact indicator 1*** Number of programme countries with UNCRPD action plan / implementation mechanism including participation of DPOs (UNCRPD article 33).

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|--|---|---|
| 8 programme countries: Albania, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia. Kosovo is not a member of the UN, but a national action plan is there. | + 0 programme countries compared to 2020. In total 10 programme countries (out of 16) have CRPD action plan / implementation mechanism including participation of OPDs: | + 2 programme countries: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (2019). 10 programme countries (out of 16) have CRPD action plan / implementation mechanism incl. participation of OPDs: Albania, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Uganda and Zambia. | Target 1: All programme countries. |

Ten programme countries have a CRPD action plan and / or implementation mechanism with participation of OPDs in place. The situation has remained since 2019 when Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan joined the programme countries with either one in place.

The programme did not achieve its target regarding the expected impact. Countries that have neither CRPD action plan nor implementation mechanism with participation of OPDs in place include Bosnia & Herzegovina, Malawi and Tajikistan. Kosovo has not signed the CRPD since it's not a member of the UN, but policies regarding PWDs are based on the CRPD. Further, the situation in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is uncertain. Uzbekistan ratified the CRPD in 2021 ([UNTC](#); Accessed on 21.6.2022). The Central Asian project has been mainly active in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. Considering this and the challenging conditions for civil society action, no major impact related to CRPD implementation was expected in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Southern partners have been actively advocating and promoting the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the CRPD with the support of the programme. Yet change takes time and partners have limited possibilities to influence the situation. Partners have also reported of challenges in the implementation mechanisms and in achieving meaningful participation of OPDs.

Overall, in times of complex global challenges aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is pivotal to have strong and able organizations advocating for the protection and full realization of the rights of

Persons with Disabilities. The programme continued to support the empowerment of PWDs and capacity building of their organizations, which is central in improving the opportunities to participate in local, national and international processes.

All programme outcomes and achieved results contribute to achieving the expected impact of the Programme. Although the Programme did not reach the target level, many positive developments in the CRPD implementation towards which partners have been advocating for have taken place.

The main results achieved in 2021 include the following:

- ✓ **Kosovo:** The National Council for Persons with Disabilities was re-functionalized and the National Plan of Action for 2021–2023 was approved by the government. Year 2022 was declared as the Year of Persons with Disabilities and activity plan for joint implementation between the ministries and OPDs was approved.
- ✓ **Albania:** The National Action Plan for Disability 2021-2025 and the Accessibility Plan were approved by the Council of Ministers.
- ✓ **Zambia:** Involvement of government policymakers, key informants from OPDs, women and girls with disabilities in core trainings for disability has led to enhanced and informed participation in the ongoing revisions of the following policy documents: Education Policy 2022–2026; Disability Policy 2022–2026 and National Development Plan 2022–2026.



Picture 1. Ukei Murtaliyeva, the coordinator of the Central Asia project in Ravenssvo office in Bishek in February 2022.

The Programme has contributed to many positive developments during the 2018–2021 period. One of the most significant results to be highlighted is the following:

Strengthening of the disability organizations lead to CRPD ratification in Kyrgyzstan

DPF has supported the Central Asian Network of Women with disabilities (CAN) since 2015. In 2018 – 2021, the focus has been on strengthening the organizational capacities and empowerment of women with disabilities. In Kyrgyzstan, Ravenstvo (CAN coordinator) has networked with other disability organizations and led systematic advocacy to promote accessibility and ratification of the CRPD. In 2019, One goal was achieved when the Kyrgyz state finally ratified the convention. Work continues in the implementation of the convention. In 2020, initial report on CRPD implementation was published and the council on affairs of persons with disabilities was formed.

The project supporting the Central Asian Network of Women with Disabilities has significantly contributed **to the empowerment of women with disabilities** and inclusion of disability and rights of PWDs at various levels not only in Kyrgyzstan but in other Central Asian countries as well. **Disability inclusion and rights of PWDs have been mainstreamed** into strategic national policies and legislation. In addition, the Central Asian programme partners have become part of various high-level working groups and platforms on disability issues on various levels, such as the UN, national parliaments, and inter-ministerial working groups.

3.2 Programme Outcome 1: Southern partner organizations have increased organizational capacity

The DPF programme aims to build strong organizations of persons with disabilities (OPD) with solid management practices and governance structure. Support to the organizational capacity focuses on project management skills, as well as democratic and good governance of the partner OPDs. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of partners to implement quality projects and programmes, as well as broaden their funding portfolio.

In total **16 programme partners** were implementing a project within the Programme in 2021. In 2018 there were altogether 19 partners, but cooperation with ENAD, ENADB and FENACIEBO ended in 2018–2019. Below the progress and results in increased capacity of partner organizations are presented as measured by the outcome indicators.

Chart 4. Programme Outcome 1: Southern partner organizations have increased organizational capacity measured by **outcome indicator 1.1*** Number of Southern partner organizations with increased donor base.

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|---|---|---|
| The donor portfolio has been monitored since 2015. | <p>+ 1 new donor compared to 2020: ANAD, VIP.</p> <p>+ 2 new donors compared to 2020: Handikos, I.C. Lotos.</p> <p>+ 3 new donors compared to 2020: MANAD, ZAPDD.</p> <p>1 partner developed exit strategy: Handikos.</p> | <p>10 partners with increased donor base: ANAD, EWDNA, Handikos, HPD-O, I.C. Lotos, KAD, KAIH, MANAD, Ravensvo, ZAPDD.</p> <p>7 partners developed exit strategy: APANH, KAD, ANAD, Handikos, IC Lotos, UNAD and HPD-O.</p> | <p>Target 1: All programme partners have increased donor base in 2021.</p> <p>Target 2: All programme partners have developed a long-term exit strategy for DPF projects.</p> |

62 % of the programme partners (10/16) succeeded in increasing their donor base since the beginning of the programme period. This is a remarkable result, indicating that the Programme has contributed positively towards the strengthened capacity of the partner OPDs. Despite this achievement, the Programme did not reach the target set for 2021.

The set target (Target 1: all partners with increased donor base) is high and difficult to reach. The funding of many partners varies considerably from year to year. Although many partners succeeded in accessing short-term project funding, they have not been able to secure more long-term funding. Overall, programme partners have little power to influence funding decisions and some contexts are more challenging for OPDs to access funding opportunities. The Covid-19 pandemic brought additional challenges to the fundraising efforts. Some partners were able to secure emergency funding but were not able to find new funding to their existing work due to this.

There are considerable differences between different programme partners. Some succeeded well in increasing their donor base and total amount of funding (EWDNA, HPD-O and I.C. Lotos). Some have increased the number of donors, but their overall funding has decreased (ANAD, KAD and ZAPDD). Some have equal number of donors but faced significant decrease in the overall funding (Handikos). For some the donor base has not changed almost at all (APANH, ZNAPD, DDI).

The share of DPF funding is still considerable for many partners (see Chart 1 on p. 8). From 2018 to 2021, the DPF share of funding decreased for 47 % of partners, remains the same for 13 % and increased for 40 %. This is relatively good result, as the share of DPF funding decreased only for 25 percent of partners from 2019 to 2020. Still for 56 % of partners more than half of their funding came from DPF in 2021.

Significant results were achieved also in 2018–2021. The Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA) succeeded extremely well in increasing the total amount of funding, which is 10-fold compared to the 2018 level. Help for Persons with Disabilities Organisation (HPD-O) funding has also increased remarkably and is 5-fold compared to the 2018 level.

The Target 2. (All partners have long-term exit strategy for DPF projects) was not achieved, as only 44 % of the programme partners developed an exit strategy for DPF projects. Developing exit strategies is considered important and the situation will be closely monitored also during the new programme period. A common template for developing exit strategy was finalised in January 2022 and all projects need to have exit strategy by the end of 2022.

The Programme also supports the strengthening of the capacity of partner OPDs to reach and represent an increased number of persons of disabilities in wider geographic regions. Important results have been achieved both in 2021 and during the programme period.

Chart 5. Programme Outcome 1: Southern partner organizations have increased organizational capacity measured by **outcome indicator 1.2*** Number of Southern partner organizations with active branches (active branch defined by each partner in their respective context).

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|---|---|---|
| 10 partners with active branches: EWDNA, ENAD, Handikos, KAD, KAIH, MANAD, Ravenssvo, UNAD, ZAPDD, ZNAPD. | 14 new branches established in 2021 by 4 partners (EWDNA, KAIH, VIP and ZNAPD). The local deaf association not yet established in Cambodia. | In total 36 new branches were established by 5 partners (EWDNA, KAIH, UNAD, VIP and ZNAPD). Altogether 9 partners (out of 16) have active branches: EWDNA, Handikos, KAD, KAIH, MANAD, UNAD, VIP, ZAPDD and ZNAPD. | At least 5 partners have new branches (ANAD, UNAD, MANAD, EWDNA and KAIH). Cambodia has a local deaf association in place. Strengthening of existing branches. |

14 new branches were established by different partners in 2021. The Programme target was achieved as 5 different partners have established in total **36 new branches between 2018–2021**.

The Covid-19 situation and related restrictions affected the other two targets. The Albania National Association of the Deaf (ANAD) could not conduct the planned capacity building trainings in 2020. They were organized in 2021, but ANAD could not register branches yet. The target of having local deaf association in place in Cambodia was not achieved either. Maryknoll Deaf Development Programme (DDP) could continue training the potential deaf leaders only in late 2021.

In Zambia, Vilole Images Productions (VIP) formed 5 new women's branches in 2021. Women and girls are more active in self-advocacy, skills building and information sharing on disability and inclusive development. Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH) launched two new branches. One was launched in collaboration with the county government and the department of social development. Six new parents' support groups were registered in this collaboration and 240 group members (160 F/80 M) registered as KAIH members.

The strengthening of existing branches also continued in 2021. Zambia National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities (ZNAPD) focused on building the capacity of youth and women with disabilities. Women and youth are taking more active roles and are increasingly participating in ZNAPD and local communities.



Picture 2. ZNAPD youth leader George Kamuchonka in Rufunsa, Zambia.

The programme evaluation conducted in 2020 also concluded that collaboration between the DPF member organisations and their Southern partners has clearly strengthened the partner organisations' capacities. Especially the organisational capacities (project management, leadership and decision-making processes, and to some extent also financial management practises) as well as capacities for advocacy work have been strengthened through the programme support.

Support to capacity building of partner OPDs has focused on the capacity gaps and capacity development needs. The support is implemented according to a tailored plan drafted in cooperation with each partner. However, monitoring of the capacity development plans has not been systematic and annual reports have included limited information on achieved results. The annual report template for 2021 and the programme period 2018–2021 was adjusted to address these shortcomings. Template for capacity development plan was also revised. All partners will draft capacity development plans for the new programme period 2022–2025 and will report on progress and needs to adjust the plans within the new template.

As each programme partner has specific capacity development needs, the capacity building results also differ. **The results achieved in 2018–2021** can be highlighted with the following two cases.

Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA)

During 2018 – 2021 EWDNA's organizational capacity has improved and has resulted in EWDNA being stronger than ever.

The number of staff increased from 11 to 36 and the number of branches increased from 6 to 9. Seven branches now have 2 staff members each. Earlier there were no staff members in branches.

Number of members increased from 3 100 to 10 555. Donor base widened from 2 to 9.

EWDNA has become a recognized expert especially on topics related to gender and disability.

Its Recognition has increased which was evidenced through high-level participation in the 20th Anniversary of EWDNA and EWDNA conducting regular trainings in the UN Women Platform.

The DPF programme has contributed to this success in a very significant way and the cooperation with DPF is the most valued and successful cooperation in EWDNA's history. The status of the organization is built on the long-term partnership with DPF.

Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD)

Organizational capacity building has been integral part of the project from the start of cooperation with MANAD. In 2020–2021, the focus shifted to grassroots level to execute the democratic principles and practice also on branch level.

MANAD has organized all the statutory general assemblies, annual general and board meetings as planned. Principles of good governance are followed and the participation of grassroots level members has been exceptional. Each year, almost all branches have actively participated with 2 representatives (male and female) in the general assembly and annual general meetings.

MANAD now has a clear division of duties and responsibilities between the staff and the board. New board members are trained to have the needed knowledge and skills to monitor the organization's activities. The financial and human resources management is built to ensure compliance with national legislation and regulations.

MANAD has almost doubled its membership since 2018. With over 12 000 registered members and 28 branches it genuinely represents nationwide deaf community of Malawi. It has helped a significant part of deaf community to overcome social isolation and get access to Deaf culture and Sign Language. To ensure flexible shift of responsibilities to younger generation, a special effort has been put on development of youth work both on national (youth committee) and on local level (training of youth activist in branches and formation of youth clubs on branch level) from 2020 onwards.

In addition, the partner OPDs have been growing their membership base steadily during the programme period. In 2021, they had **in total 96 961 registered members**. The membership increased by 3 % in 2021 (8 % in 2020) with the proportion of female members remaining in 54 %.

In addition to their members, partners reach a wide number of family members of PWDs, duty-bearers and other community members. **The Programme reached over 33 000 direct beneficiaries in year 2021**, of which almost 23 000 were rights-holders (60 % female) and over 10 000 duty-bearers (64 % female).

The Programme Outcome 1 directly contributes to the strengthening of civil society and the disability movement in the programme countries. Support to the development of the organizational capacity of partner OPDs is an added value of the Programme, made possible through support to the core functions and technical support provided by the Finnish sister organizations.

3.3 Programme Outcome 2: Disability inclusion and rights of PWDs are promoted in cooperation between OPDs, decision-makers and stakeholders

The CRPD calls for cooperation between nations and OPDs to realize the rights of PWDs, stating that PWDs must benefit and meaningfully participate in international development programmes. The Programme contributes to this by supporting the advocacy work of its partner organizations and advocating on national and international platforms. The results related to the Programme Outcome 2 are presented in the charts 5–7 below.

Chart 6. Programme Outcome 2. Disability inclusion and rights of PWDs are promoted in cooperation between OPDs, decision-makers and stakeholders (CRPD Article 4) measured by **outcome indicator 2.1*** Number of Southern partner organizations participating in national monitoring committees and/ or in parallel reporting of CRPD.

| Baseline (2017) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|---|---|--|--|
| 6 partners participated either in the national monitoring committee or parallel reporting. | + 2 partners (compared to 2020): DDI and HPD-O became members of the National CRPD Committee through their membership in the Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD). | +7 partners compared to the baseline. 13 partner organizations participate in national monitoring committees and/or parallel reporting of CRPD: ANAD, DDI, EWDNA, HPD-O, I.C. Lotos, KAIH, MANAD, Ravensvo, Shyrak, UNAD, VIP, ZAPDD and ZNAPD. | All partners (in line with the impact indicator). |

72 % of programme partners (13/18; includes all members of CAN) have participated in national monitoring committees and/or parallel reporting of CRPD. The target (all partners) was not reached, but target setting was again very high. Two of the five partners that have not participated in monitoring committees or in parallel reporting are from Kosovo and thus cannot participate.

The result is remarkable, as **the participation in CRPD monitoring committees and parallel reporting has increased from 32 to 72 percent** during the programme period. Partners are increasingly participating in monitoring of the CRPD implementation, but there are also remarkable differences between the programme countries in the functioning of the monitoring committees and

the role of OPDs in those. Partners have continuously reported of various challenges and significant barriers remain for their equal and effective engagement.

Chart 7. Programme Outcome 2. Disability inclusion and rights of PWDs are promoted in cooperation between OPDs, decision-makers and stakeholders (CRPD Article 4) measured by **outcome indicator 2.2*** Number of Southern partner organizations that report that they have conducted & followed up successful advocacy.

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>All 14 partners that responded in the baseline survey (except KAIH, ENADB, Fenaciebo youth committee) conduct advocacy work in one way or another.</p> <p>KAIH did not respond but is a prominent disability rights advocate at national and international levels.</p> | <p>All 16 partners conduct and follow up successful advocacy.</p> | <p>+2 partners compared to the baseline.</p> <p>All 16 partners conduct and follow up successful advocacy.</p> | <p>All partners report against their advocacy plans.</p> |

All programme partners conduct advocacy work and follow up on successful advocacy. The target 2021 was achieved. Also, as can be observed below, all partners are represented in disability relevant working groups and public institutions at various levels. The target was achieved, and the proportion of **partners represented in disability relevant working groups increased from 52 % to 100 %** in 2018 – 2021. However, there is no data available to demonstrate increase in representation in working groups and public institutions per partner, as the baseline data is insufficient.

Chart 8. Programme Outcome 2. Disability inclusion and rights of PWDs are promoted in cooperation between OPDs, decision-makers and stakeholders (CRPD Article 4) measured by **outcome indicator 2.3*** Number of Southern partner organizations represented in disability relevant working groups and public institutions at local, national and international levels.

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|--|---|--|
| 10 partners report participation in working groups: ANAD, Handikos, HPD-O, EWDNA, KAD, KAIH, I.C. Lotos, MANAD, Ravensvo, ZNAPD (local level). | All partners are represented in disability relevant working groups. | + 6 partners compared to the baseline. All partners are represented in disability relevant working groups. | All programme partners' representation in working groups and public institutions has increased. |

The results of successful advocacy work and cooperation with different stakeholders by the DPF partners that were achieved **in 2021** include the following:

- ✓ In July 2021, the Albanian Parliament approved the law “For official translation and the profession of official translator” granting deaf people the right to use sign language interpreters in criminal court proceedings within justice institutions. This law officially acknowledges for the first-time sign language interpreter as profession and determines it to be included into the official electronic database of legal interpreters and translators within the Ministry of Justice.
- ✓ Sign language interpreting during Government (Prime Minister and ministers) press conferences started to be provided in Kosovo. This enables deaf people to have direct access to public information.
- ✓ Re-functionalization of the National Council for Disability in Kosovo.
- ✓ Approval of the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2023 in Kosovo.
- ✓ Increased participation of persons with disabilities in community activities as well as in the political arena. 89 ZNAPD members participated in the 2021 general elections as election monitors. Three members participated as candidates, out of which one was selected to be a ward councillor. This has set a future trend that persons with disabilities are not just mere spectators in the political field but can also participate in a form of their choice.

Results achieved in 2018 – 2021 include:

- ✓ ANAD in collaboration with FAD adviser and a local VET professor, the latter funded by the Ministry of Finance and Economy, finalised formulating the VET curriculum for official approval

by authorities in **Albania**. The 8-month intensive VET program for training of deaf Sign Language Instructors with 5 students finally started in October 2021 with co-funding for part of the student costs from Swiss Agency.

- ✓ Developing and compiling together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology a National Guideline to Inclusive Education, Bilingualism and Sign Language for Children with hearing impairment. This guideline explains how duty-bearers can provide deaf learners instruction in sign language and of sign language. The guideline offers a framework for improving the deaf education in **Kosovo**.
- ✓ Five deaf professionals trained by the Kosovar Association of the Deaf (KAD) were employed at the Resource Centre in Prizren. Having 2 deaf sign language instructors and 3 deaf class assistant is significant improvement to support the learning outcomes of the deaf students.
- ✓ Improved understanding and practice towards disability by government actors. “Disability Directorate” under MOLSA was established and the development of a comprehensive disability act is on progress. The development process of the disability act is also encouraging being very participatory where DPOS including EWDNA have taken part in all stages.
- ✓ Increased participation and meaningful involvement of KAIH self-advocates (persons with intellectual disabilities) in local, national, regional and international forums. They have been very instrumental in creating awareness on intellectual disability and how support and accommodations should be designed for PWDs to participate in forums.

Overall, opportunities for the programme partners to be involved in decision-making processes have been increasing throughout the programme period. This is an indication of both increased political will for inclusion of PWDs and their organizations among state actors. It is also a sign of impact of the strengthened capacity of partner OPDs to take part in different decision making and collaborate with different stakeholders. Foremost, it is a result of persistent advocacy for inclusive development and the “Nothing about us without us” principle carried out by DPF and its Southern partners. The Programme has contributed to achieving these in different ways through capacity building, support to advocacy work, as well as technical support to the OPDs in their cooperation with national decisionmakers and authorities.



Picture 3. Young disability activists Adna Memić, Emina Hatemić and Šefica Mujić participating in advocacy training organized by Threshold local partner I.C. Lotos in Tuzla in October 2021.

3.3.1. Disability Mainstreaming: Increasing knowledge on the rights of persons with disabilities and promotion of inclusion

The Programme Outcome 2 also focuses on achieving disability inclusion and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of mainstream development actors (Output 2.2.). In 2021, DPF had an agreement with eight Finnish mainstream development organizations and organized tailored trainings for six of them. DPF provided also support and guidance in project reporting and planning from disability inclusion perspective. DPF facilitated peer learning group with seven Finnish development NGOs.

The main results that have taken place in the projects and programmes of the Finnish partners in 2021 include:

- 1) improved reporting linked to disability,
- 2) strengthened focus on including persons with disability in projects and programmes,
- 3) OPDs are listened to,
- 4) awareness on accessibility and willingness to improve accessibility of services in Finland,
- 5) more inclusive training capacity for global education when visiting Finnish schools.

Since 2019, DPF has also been monitoring the number of partnerships with OPDs in the projects and programmes of the Finnish development NGOs that DPF supports through partnering in disability mainstreaming. In 2021, there were in total 48 OPD partnerships reported by 7 Finnish partner organizations and their Southern partners (2020: 29 / 8). Partnering with OPDS has increased significantly during the programme period.

The disability mainstreaming services were valued positively by seven long-term partners in 2021. All rated them either excellent (3), good (1) or satisfactory (3). **The peer learning group facilitated by the DPF** was also appreciated by the participating organisations and it has provided support for the disability mainstreaming.

Altogether **six trainings on disability for Finnish development organizations were organized**, mainly online due to the Covid-19. Online trainings increase the possibilities to train more people in different countries. It also provides a channel for bringing participants from different countries together to share experiences and learn from each other's. DPF also continued to provide support and guidance upon request as part of its disability mainstreaming work. This included, for example, an open session on disability mainstreaming hosted by Fingo, sharing contacts and various information via Fingo email list, and responding individual requests from various persons and organisations.

In 2021 DPF developed new training module on special education. Through the training participants get knowledge and skills on how to support learners with special needs. The module was piloted with Operation a Day's Work global education school visitors.



Picture 4: DPF facilitated a training to global education school visitors in October 2021.

During 2018 – 2021, DPF started to develop co-training model in disability mainstreaming trainings. In practice this means that DPF programme advisor works together with trainer who has personal experience of disability. The trainings are planned and facilitated together and through this model trainers can learn from each other. DPF has got lot of positive feedback about this model and will continue developing it further.

In addition, DPF has encouraged and supported local OPDs in developing countries to facilitate disability mainstreaming trainings. For example, Turning Point Foundation (TPF) trained the Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission project staff in Bangladesh in 2021. TPF trainers were coached and mentored by DPF programme advisor.

Through its disability mainstreaming work, DPF has succeeded in increasing knowledge on disability, disability rights and on the process of mainstreaming both in the North and the South during the programme period. This has contributed to **active and meaningful partnerships with Southern OPDs**. Finnish organisations have also learned concrete ways to promote equality of persons with disabilities significantly.

3.3.2 Disability Partnership Finland advocacy work

The DPF strategy defines the goal of advocacy work as follows: Improving the status of persons with disabilities remains a goal of Finland's development policy, and funding towards this goal is increasing. The action plan to reach this goal is an active dialogue with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and advocacy work to promote the rights of PWDs in the whole development cooperation sector both in Finland and internationally.

In Finland, important cooperation forums for advocacy and information exchange are the coordination group on international disability policy convening under the Human Rights Unit of the MFA, and Fingo and Fingo's working groups. Due to the pandemic, advocacy work was low-key but the DPF participated in online events organized by the MFA and commented on policy papers dealing with development questions.

In international cooperation the main forum is the International Disability and Development Consortium, IDDC, a network bringing together civil society organizations working towards disability inclusion in international development work. Within IDDC, the role of the DPF and its Nordic sister organizations has been promotion of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations as most members of IDDC, and all big members, are organizations for PWDs, not of PWDs.

Regular contacts with the Nordic counterparts of the DPF continued. In 2021, Norway was preparing to organize the second Global Disability Summit in February 2022, and Atlas Alliance was responsible for the Civil Society Forum preceding it. The DPF participated in discussions on the purpose and content of the Civil society Forum.

Results 2018-2021:

Until 2018, the DPF advocacy work largely depended on our long-time chairman Kalle Könkkölä. Since he passed away advocacy work has been on a smaller scale and implemented by the Secretariat.

Good results have been achieved in promoting disability inclusion in the work of mainstream organizations (see 3.3.1 above). Since the mainstreaming work started, the DPF has cooperated with more than 40 mainstream organizations, including development NGOs, private companies, and education institutions. Advocacy for accessibility has been an emerging theme during 2018-2021. Accessibility is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights of PWDs. Without accessibility the full participation of PWDs in their societies is impossible. Trainings on different aspects of accessibility were given as part of mainstreaming partnerships in Finland, and in Nepal and Tanzania in 2019.

The Nordic cooperation has shown that Finland's commitment to promoting the rights of PWDs in development policy has been stronger and more consistent than in other Nordic countries. The DPF sees this partly as a result of the long-term fruitful cooperation between the MFA and the Finnish organizations of persons with disabilities.

3.4 Programme Outcome 3: Access to formal and non-formal education by children, youth and adults with disabilities has improved

Work related to the right to education and learning of children, youth and adults with disabilities is diverse within the Programme. Access to formal and non-formal education is improved through awareness raising and support to communities, schools and education authorities in their capacity related to inclusive education. Various training opportunities are also provided and access to information and education in sign language is widely promoted. Table below present the progress and results related to the Programme Outcome 3.

Chart 9. Programme Outcome 3. Access to formal and non-formal education by children, youth and adults with disabilities has improved (CRPD article 24) measured by **outcome indicator 3.1**

Number of enrolled students with disabilities in general education and non-formal education institutes.

| Baseline (2017) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 473 (gender disaggregation not available for all projects). | <p>In total 1 157 students with disabilities (396 F /761 M) supported in their access to education.</p> <p>The total number includes 137 students with disabilities (70 F/67 M) who gained access to formal or non-formal education institutes.</p> | <p>In total 2 111 students with disabilities (866 F /1 245 M) supported in their access to education.</p> <p>In total 403 persons with disabilities (198 F/205 M) gained access to formal or non-formal education institutes.</p> | 1 568 additional students (741 female) with different disabilities |

In 2021, the programme supported **the access to education of 1 157 students with disabilities** (34 % female). Of these, 137 were students with disabilities (51 % female) who gained access to education institutes as a result of the programme interventions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and Zanzibar.

During the programme period 2018–2021, in total **2 111 students with disabilities** (41 % female) were supported in their access to education. Altogether **403 persons with disabilities** (49 % female) gained access to formal or non-formal education institutes. The students assisted include deaf students, students with visual impairment, students with intellectual disabilities and students with physical disabilities. The support provided includes for example provision of assistive devices, adaptive materials, and tutoring.

The Programme target has not been fully achieved, but the Programme succeeded in supporting the access to education for 69 % of the set target (1 568 additional students and the 1 473 students identified in the baseline, in total 3 041 students). This result is relatively good, especially considering the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic brought to access to education of children. The pandemic forced partners to adjust many programme activities and ways of work, and this has affected achieving the targeted results. The number of students with disabilities supported in access to education decreased by third from 2019 to 2020.

Strict Covid-19 restrictions have **heavily affected the learning opportunities** in the programme countries. The proportion of the female students supported in access to education decreased from 50 % (2019) to 43 % (2020), and to 31 % in 2021, even though the total number exceeded the pre-

Covid-19 numbers. Although it is not possible to make general conclusions based on the limited data collected within the Programme, the Covid-19 has hit especially hard on the education of girls with disabilities.

The DPF Programme contributes to improved access to education of PWDs also through its disability mainstreaming work. In addition, in terms of effectiveness of the Programme, the results achieved at output level are most likely contributing to the improved access to education of a larger number of students with disabilities than the data on the outcome indicator suggests. Awareness of teachers, school directors, education authorities and family members on the right to education of PWDs, as well as the capacity to enhance inclusive education and deaf bilingual education (output 3.1) is crucial in increasing the access to education of persons with disabilities.

Important results were achieved in each of these areas of work also in 2021. **Over 1 800 teachers** (66 % female) in 92 schools were provided **knowledge on inclusive education** in 2021. This includes principles and practices of inclusive education, as well as adapting the teaching methods and other ways to better support students with different disabilities, such as the hard of hearing, visually impaired, physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and deaf persons.

The Programme reached **in total 769 schools and 5 059 teachers** (67 % female) **in 2018–2021**, exceeding the target set for the programme period. This was made possible by taking some of the trainings online after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Important results related to **the attitudes of the families** regarding **the right to education of PWDs** were also achieved. Over **9 000 families** in 858 communities in 10 programme counties were reached. And dialogue to promote inclusive education was conducted with 240 education authorities during 2018 – 2021.

The highlights for the programme period 2018–2021 include the following:

More inclusive schools and skilled teachers in Ethiopia

In 2021, Help for Persons with Disabilities Organisation (HPD-O) continued to support the capacity in inclusive education with emphasis on regular and special needs teachers, education experts from zonal and Woreda levels, education supervisors and school management.

In total 134 (49 % female) regular and special needs teachers, 380 education experts, supervisors and school directors (52 % female) from 18 private and 47 public primary and secondary schools received training on inclusive education, adaptive skills and human rights instruments promoting access to education. Through trainings special needs education teachers succeeded in updating their knowledge on adaptive skills such as braille reading and writing and adaptive ICT. This gives the foundation for students with visual impairment to get better opportunity for learning in special needs education units.

The training also provided the regular teachers and other relevant personnel with skills to promote inclusive education. This contributes to creating a more inclusive learning environment in the regular school system that accommodates the special needs of children with disabilities.

The lack of adaptive educational materials in Ethiopia also underlines the importance in supporting the access to education of the rightsholders with visual and other impairments. In 2021, HPD-O distributed and produced various adaptive educational materials and devices, such as Braille paper, slate and stylus, digital recorders, audio books, orbit readers, white canes and learning materials prepared in tactile format. This contributed to the effective integration of students with visual impairment in inclusive class setting and helped them to attend their study and facilitated the independent mobility of students to and from schools and elsewhere.

The longer-term results and impact of the work is bringing about attitudinal change in teachers and school management in the project area. This is manifested in the progressive collaborative engagement of the stakeholders in facilitating the enrolment of children with disabilities in regular school system. Some schools have started to allocate budget for the procurement of adaptive educational materials using the income generated by schools.

In addition to training teachers, Disability Development Initiative (DDI) has organized accessibility trainings. Following a successful training provided by accessibility experts from FPD in 2017 and the launching a collaboration, DDI has successfully capacitated the Institute of Architecture and Engineering of the University of Addis Ababa. Nearly 450 architect students (26 % female) have been trained in accessibility design and auditing. The 2021 accessibility training was the first one to employ only local trainers on disability awareness, accessibility auditing and universal design. Especially the accessibility part was more practical, which was appreciated by the participants. Additional pool of trainers on accessibility advocacy helps to disseminate information on accessibility and accessibility related issues towards authorities and key stakeholders.

Vocational training opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities in Zanzibar

The cooperation with Zanzibar Association of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ZAPDD) was a forerunner in introducing a formalized vocational training for persons with intellectual disabilities in the professional field in Zanzibar. This marked the beginning of a considerable shift in the mindset within the authorities in the education sector and general public towards education and training of PWIDs, who have endured decades of marginalization in accessing quality education and training that suit their needs and interests.

For the first time Zanzibar society witnessed a PWID graduating and being formally awarded an academic certificate, marking the recognition of her skills and potentials. Trainees participating in the programme were placed for industrial attachment in 4-star hotels and in the inclusive environment, which was also a tilting point in changing the society's mindset and promote inclusion. Trainees were entrusted with formal duties and responsibilities, engaging in the formal roles in departments and sections.

The cooperation laid down the foundation for sustainability by facilitating the development of the vocational training curriculum for learners with intellectual disabilities in Zanzibar. Furthermore, 56 % of the graduates from the first group of students have secured jobs in for example hotels and local laundries. They are now able to meet some basic needs and promote their quest for living independently. The result is closely linked to the programme outcome 4.

In addition, altogether **3 746 persons with disabilities** (64 % female) **received non-formal life skills training** (Output 3.2.) provided by the Programme in 2018 – 2021. Topics of the life skills trainings in 2021 included: CRPD and human rights, SRHR, literacy, self-awareness, decision making, interpersonal skills, career guidance, Covid-19 prevention and housekeeping. Life skills training and peer support lead to important results such as increased self-esteem and social relationships of especially women with disabilities.



Picture 5. Self-advocate support person and field worker Lilian Amukoa teaching home economics in KAIH headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

3.4.1 Deaf people have increased access to information and education in their own language

Sign language research work within the DPF Programme is carried out in Albania, Kosovo, and Malawi. The long experience of working with Deaf communities evolved into a **Balkan model of sign language work** that has been experimented and applied in Malawi.

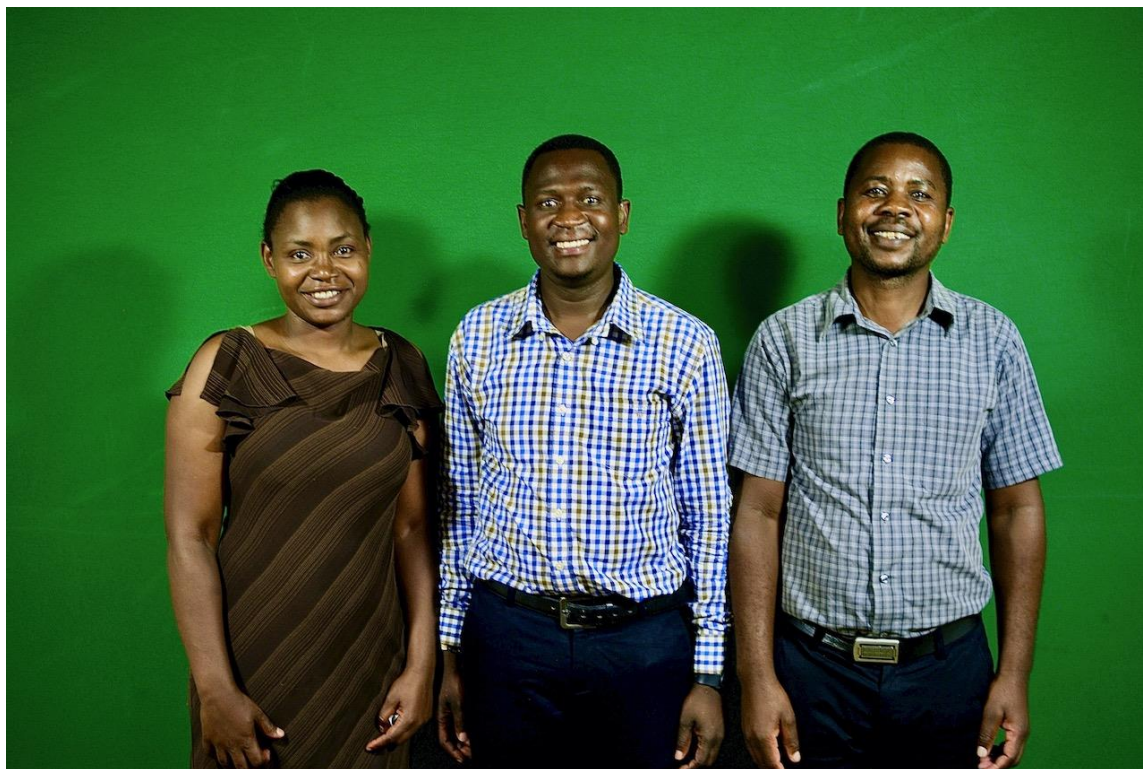
Sign language research and documentation has been the major focus of the cooperation with the Malawi Association of the Deaf (MANAD) since 2018. The first edition of deaf led sign language dictionary was to be published by the end of 2021. The printing and publication of the dictionary was shifted to 2022 mainly due to delays caused by Covid-19. All the sign data of the dictionary with 486 sign entries and 107 sign example sentences was ready by the end of 2021.

Dictionary work has greatly helped MANAD to focus and strengthen its linguistic and human rights advocacy alongside. Various positive processes have improved the access to sign language services and deaf education. For example, TV stations have hired interpreters and a fluent signer is employed as a lecturer in the Catholic University of Malawi, assisting also deaf students in sign language interpreting. Extensive lobbying is still needed especially for development of sign language interpreter services funded by the government.

In **Kosovo** sign language research has continued and the following results were reached in 2021: 613 new signs filmed, analysed and annotated; 212 new sign entries with equivalents compiled; 250 sign sentences filmed and translated, and 4 grammar articles recorded. [KAD web dictionary](#) launched in 2020 is the second dictionary of Kosovar Sign Language and serves both deaf and hearing users. It is a much-needed elementary resource in educational settings, and accessible to all interested in the Kosovar Sign Language.

In **Albania**, **ANAD developed** teaching materials for sign language interpreter training. Also, **89 new sentences** were filmed in Albanian sign language for the articles of the Web dictionary, translated into written Albanian and published.

In addition, to improve the access to quality education for deaf persons, access to information and education in sign language must be strengthened. Important part of this work are the **sign language and interpreter trainings** provided within the Programme: altogether **1 750 persons** (61 % female) participated in sign language trainings in Albania, Cambodia, Kosovo and Uganda during 2018 – 2021.



Picture 6. MANAD staff members Meria Khwalala, Levi Pingu and Nelson Sambanya working on sign language dictionary.

3.5 Programme Outcome 4: Persons with disabilities are better able to financially support themselves and their families

Economic empowerment of persons with disabilities is the key to independent living and social inclusion. It is promoted within the Programme through peer support, training opportunities, and advocating for the inclusion of PWDs in mainstream services and programmes. Table below present the progress and results related to the Programme Outcome 4.

Chart 9. Programme Outcome 4: Persons with disabilities are better able to financially support themselves and their families (CRPD article 27) measured by **outcome indicator 4.1**. Number of persons with disabilities that report improved livelihoods in the project areas.

| Baseline (2018) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>605 PWDs have improved their livelihoods in 2018.</p> <p>At least 40 % (242) are women. Gender disaggregation not available for all projects.</p> | <p>In total 98 persons with disabilities (74 F/24 M) report having improved livelihoods.</p> <p>76 % are women with disabilities.</p> | <p>In total 863 persons with disabilities (443 F/420 M) have improved their livelihood in 2018 – 2021.</p> <p>51 % are women with disabilities.</p> | <p>555 additional PWDs (at least 50 % women).</p> |

In 2021, **98 persons with disabilities** (76 % female) have improved their livelihoods with the programme support. During 2018 – 2021, in total **863 persons with disabilities** (51 % female) succeeded in improving their livelihood. The target was not fully achieved, but the Programme succeeded in supporting the livelihoods for 74 % of the set target (555 additional PWDs together with the 605 of the baseline; in total 1 160 PWDs). The targeted gender distribution was reached.

The result is good, considering that the Covid-19 pandemic has hit especially hard on livelihood opportunities of PWDs. It has also affected the already limited opportunities PWDs and particularly women with disabilities have, to learn livelihood skills and access vocational training.

The DPF Programme provides short, even tailor-made courses and trainings, which are often crucial in accessing livelihood or self-employment opportunities (Output 4.1). During 2018 – 2021, altogether **455 PWDs** (53 % female) participated in business skills development organized by the programme partners. **Collaboration with 165 public and private sector employers and employment authorities** was also carried out during 2018 – 2021, demonstrating that different authorities and actors in the public and private sector are interested in collaborating with OPDs.

Some results achieved in 2021 include the following. **KAIH** succeeded in establishing a **partnership with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)**, a government run mainstream vocational institute. In 2021, 4 youths with intellectual disabilities (1 F/3 M) underwent vocational training in floor tile, mechanics and beauty therapy and graduated at certificate level and were placed on job internship on an apprenticeship. Another 4 youths with intellectual disability (2 F/2 M) were admitted in NITA for a 6-month certificate level training on beauty therapy and floor tiling.

A training on 'supported employment' was organized in early 2021 in Zanzibar, introducing a new concept in the disability world in Zanzibar. FAIDD expert joined virtually the training in which key stakeholders in the field of vocational training participated. The training was an eye opener and an important milestone towards full application of the concept in Zanzibar context. The introduction of the concept may further influence policy changes in education, employment and disability, as supported employment is expected to facilitate the training and employment of PWIDs in Zanzibar.

During 2018 – 2021, the programme has been most successful in improving the livelihood of persons with disabilities through its collaboration with ZNAPD.

In Zambia, 248 ZNAPD members (42 % female) have improved livelihood and are increasingly independent from family support. During this period ZNAPD has been providing trainings in goat rearing, agriculture business, mushroom production, cooking oil production, pig production, tailoring, carpentry and watch and shoe repairing. Furthermore, collaboration with employers has resulted in 24 women with disabilities securing employment in Pick and Pay stores and one man in the National Milling Company.

Economic empowerment is very important as it not only changes the perception of community towards the abilities of persons with disabilities, but also encourages other PWDs to pursue more independent lives. The work of ZNAPD has been extensively fostering mainstreaming disability in most communities and has built a strong sense of self-reliance and self-confidence among persons with disabilities. As a result, in some areas PWDs are leaders in various community activities.

In addition, the increased participation has resulted in by-laws being enacted to favour PWDs by setting aside 10 percent of residential stands and market stalls for persons with disabilities in some district councils.



Picture 7. MANAD members Gloria Kokosowa, Ruth Mkando and Missie Chipata in restaurant business.

3.6 Programme Outcome 5: Programme partner organizations promote the full and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities in all their operations

All programme partners are committed to promoting the full and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities in their operations. Their capacity to do this is supported through capacity building, ensuring that sufficient tools are in place, and strengthening networking with women's organizations. Table below present the results related to the Programme Outcome 5.

Chart 10. Programme Outcome 5: Gender Equality: Programme partner organizations promote the full and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities in all their operations (CRPD, Preamble (q), Article 3 (g), Article 6, Article 16 point 5) measured by **outcome indicator 5.1*** Number of Southern partner organizations with gender parity in their board.

| Baseline (2017) | Results 2021 | Results 2018 – 2021 | Target 2021 |
|--|--|--|--|
| 4 partners: ANAD, I.C. Lotos, UNAD, ZNAPD. (out of 14, excl. 2 women's organizations and 2 partners from which data not obtained; 16 partners in total). | + 2 partners achieved gender parity in board: ZAPDD and Handikos. | + 5 partners achieved gender parity in board: Handikos, KAD, KAIH, VIP, ZAPDD. 9 partners (out of 14, excl. 2 women's organizations): ANAD, I.C. Lotos, Handikos, KAD, KAIH, UNAD, VIP, ZAPDD and ZNAPD). | The board of each partner organization follows 40/60 % composition, i.e. neither gender can have more than 60 % of the positions. Excl. organization of WwDs. KAD statutes require minimum 2/6 board members are women. |

64 % of the programme partners (9/14) have achieved gender parity in their board. **2 partners** (ZAPDD and Handikos) achieved gender parity in 2021. During 2018 – 2021, altogether **5 partners** achieved gender parity in their boards. **The proportion of partners with gender parity in board rose from 29 % to 64 %** during the programme period. Despite this achievement, the programme target was not reached. The target set for 2021 was high and even though the programme has increasingly promoted gender equality, changes need time to take place.

The gender composition of 5 partners does not follow the targeted composition in which neither gender has more than 60 % of representation in the board. The partners and their gender composition are the following: APANH (100 % female) and DDP/Maryknoll (70 % female) have predominantly female boards, while the boards of HPD-O (29 % female), DDI (20 % female) and MANAD (20 % female) are predominantly male.

The outputs 5.1. and 5.2. highlight the importance of building organizational capacity and developing and strengthening tools and mechanisms to promote gender equality and participation of women and girls with disabilities. Significant output level results have been achieved both in 2021 and during the programme period.

In 2020 – 2021, the Programme has focused especially on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH). By the end of the programme period 94 % of partners (15/16) had gender policy or gender sensitive policy in place (42 % in 2018). All partners, except for APANH, have a policy in place that includes prevention of sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

DPF has been actively addressing the needs related to **PSEAH** and **safeguarding issues** within the Programme also in 2021. Various trainings were organized and the DPF Board and Steering Group were trained in June. Two PSEAH trainings for the Southern partner organizations were also organized. Altogether 45 persons from 12 Southern partner organizations participated in these trainings together with the project coordinators from the DPF member organizations and the DPF Secretariat staff. Recording of the training was shared for those partners that for some reason could not participate. In addition, information on further learning opportunities and materials related to PSEAH have been continuously shared to partners.

A systematic review of the safeguarding mechanisms to identify strengths and gaps within the programme partners will continue in 2022. The next steps include mapping out the Southern partners have related to building up reporting mechanisms, as well as sharing the lessons learnt and best practices related to PSEAH.

In 2020 – 2021, Disability Partnership Finland also developed a document on the prevention of SEAH within the Programme. The document summarises current practises and policies linked to PSEAH. In addition, Code of Conduct was approved by the board in 2021.

4. Main Lessons Learnt in the Programme in 2021 and 2018 – 2021

This chapter presents the main lessons learnt identified during the 2021 and the programme period. First, the need **to enforce the sharing of experiences, good practices and mutual learning within the Programme** is among the most important lessons learnt.

Although, cooperation between different actors has been increasing in the current programme period, the need to strengthen the cooperation is still highly relevant. Year 2021 saw some of the first attempts. In June, the first ever Joint Learning and Experience Sharing meeting was organised in Zoom. In autumn, DPF organized a training on Results Based Management and PSEAH trainings for the programme partners

There is still a need to further explore and promote different platforms and processes to promote mutual learning and sharing of experience. It is particularly important to find ways to increasingly involve Southern partners in the peer learning processes.

Secondly, the need to strengthen the programmatic approach of the DPF was pointed out by the programme evaluation carried out in 2020. In 2020 – 2021 special emphasis has been put on strengthening the programmatic approach and the key processes and tools of the programme. The new theory of change and results framework for 2022 – 2025 are concrete steps towards a stronger programmatic approach. The work continued throughout year 2021 and will continue.

Thirdly, the need to develop and **strengthen the risk management** within the Programme is an important lesson learnt identified in 2020. The DPF Secretariat started its development in early 2021 and continued its launching throughout 2021 (See more in chapter 6.2.).

Finally, programme partners have highlighted that besides the challenges Covid-19 pandemic has brought to their work, it has also brought important lessons learnt. These include the importance of having contingency plans and disaster preparedness strategies in place. OPDs need to be flexible and have the skills to review plans and find creative and often low-cost solutions to adapt their work to the changing circumstances. It became evident that not all OPDs have resources to adapt. This calls for strong support to capacity building of OPDs.

4.1. Programme contribution to strengthening the civil society

The Programme has a strong focus on strengthening the civil society. The expected outcomes directly contribute to strengthening the civil society, and the operating conditions of civil society organizations. This is especially evident for the Outcomes 1 and 2.

The capacity building of partner OPDs (Outcome 1) is directly linked to strengthening the civil society in the countries the DPF operates in. Stronger and able OPDs strengthen the civil societies through their increased ability to collaborate and establish networks with diverse actors and other CSOs. Thus, the capacity building contributes not only to stronger OPDs but also to **a stronger and more inclusive civil society in which OPDs are active contributors.**

DPF programme partners play an important role in the civil society of their respective countries and are part of various OPD and CSO networks, contributing to strengthening the voice and inclusiveness of the civil society more broadly. Many partners are members of national disability federations or other umbrella organizations bringing different OPDs together. Or engage in civil

society consortiums and other fora addressing intersectionality. Many have evidenced that CSOs have an interest in supporting disability inclusion advocacy in collaboration with OPDs.

Programme partners have supported building the capacity and the leadership of various local OPDs and CSOs through engaging them in different trainings, dialogue and workshops. Having the opportunity to participate in such events, has increased their understanding and skills related to accessibility, disability rights and inclusive development.

The capacity building of partner organizations and especially their local branches, brings about transformative change in the grassroots level. Investing in the skills and participation of women and youth with disabilities is central in building more inclusive and stronger civil society. Many partners work hand in hand with other OPDs and CSOs in promoting and advocating democratic values and participation of all the citizens, and especially of those whose voice isn't heard.

The programme support to advocacy for disability inclusion and human rights (Outcome 2.) also contributes to strengthening of the civil society. Under this outcome, the Programme raises awareness and knowledge and skills of the duty-bearers related to disability rights, inclusion, and accessibility. Partner OPDs collaborate closely with duty-bearers from different levels and promote disability inclusion and rights in policy making processes and legislation.

In this collaboration many partners act as an expert of its own area, which contributes positively to the operating conditions of the civil society organizations more widely. It also highlights the significance of CSOs in supporting public sector to deliver services, along with reminding the public sector of its key role in delivering and ensuring equitable access to services among the most vulnerable and often isolated groups. This especially is seen as strengthening the legitimacy of CSOs operations in the country.

Finally, **the disability mainstreaming work of the DPF** is also highly significant in contributing to a more diverse, inclusive, and strong civil society in Finland and in the Global South. DPF collaborates with various Finnish development NGOs and other actors to increase their knowledge and skills related to disability & development issues and disability mainstreaming. Cooperation with Southern OPDs is one of the key elements in the disability mainstreaming work, enforcing networking between OPDs and mainstream organizations. Additionally, it provides opportunities for OPDs to build their capacity and engage with development projects and arenas priorly closed to them. Thus, contributing to the inclusiveness and diversity of the civil society in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

4.2 Sustainability, Ownership and Accountability of the Programme

The sustainability of the Programme results and impact builds strongly on **the Human Rights Based Approach** to development. Targeting both rights-holders and duty-bearers is important, as well as contributing to the empowerment and increased capacity of different actors.

The ownership of the Programme lies in the rights-holders, the partner OPDs that represent them, and their expertise and networks. This is critical for the effectiveness of the Programme. People with disabilities and their organizations are the ones who plan, implement, and monitor the projects. This way, the Programme draws on **the local knowledge, experiences, and skills**, and builds on **the existing local structures, partnerships, as well as other resources**. This together with the selected programme strategies aim at achieving greater sustainability of the results.

Rights-holders are socially and economically **empowered**. Earlier experience has shown that this is sustainable and activities contribution to empowerment have long-term effects. Especially the results of social empowerment are long-lasting and most PWDs continue to participate in different spheres of life after the programme intervention. Many are not only empowered but grow into being real role models and committed changemakers in their communities.

The fact that communities are strongly involved in the implementation of the Programme is one way to ensure **social** and **cultural sustainability** of the achieved results. Investing in increased capacity of the partner OPDs to meaningfully engage with key duty-bearers and other CSOs supports the achievement of socially and institutionally sustainable results.

In addition, the foundations for **technical** and **institutional sustainability** builds on long-term collaboration between partner organizations, local authorities, and national governments. An important element of all work is to build constructive relationships with the authorities at central, regional and local levels. This **strengthens the ownership of the duty-bearers** of the programme results and is an important starting point for sustainability.

The systematic approach to increase the awareness and sensitize duty-bearers on the human rights of PWDs is also central in the programme. Close collaboration with duty-bearers serves as an opportunity to increase their capacity to fulfil their formal obligations. Enhancing this through collaborative partnerships increases the sustainability of the achieved results. Increased knowledge and skills will gradually lead to improved implementation of disability inclusive legislation and the CRPD. **Increased commitment of local duty-bearers** is demonstrated in implementing programme activities in collaboration with the government and providing material resources to the use of programme partners.

With the programme support, partners can increasingly influence how new policies are designed and develop the existing ones to be disability inclusive. **Aiming at structural change** in the programme countries **increases the sustainability** of the programme results.

In addition, the increased capacity provides the partner OPDs with necessary skills to fulfil their accountability towards their members, the rights-holders and the agencies funding their work. The solid financial management, democratic and good governance (Programme Output 1.2.) contribute to **ensuring the accountability and transparency of partners**.

In terms of **financial sustainability**, the major challenge for many partner OPDs still is to find ways to ensure long-term funding and resources to cover the core funding of the partner organizations. In 2018 – 2021 partners have made great efforts in diversifying their funding sources and strengthening the financial sustainability of their work.

5. Communications

By strategic choice, **the main target group** for awareness raising about disability and development issues are persons with disabilities in Finland. Finnish PWDs as a target group is not well reached by mainstream development communications efforts. Therefore, the comparative advantage for the DPF is that its member organizations can reach the target group directly with appropriate means and channels. Appropriate means refers to adaptation of material to the needs of visually impaired, deaf people and persons with intellectual disabilities; and appropriate channels the magazines and social media channels of each member organization, which their individual members follow.

The DPF Secretariat and the Communications Working Group jointly coordinate the development communications efforts of the Programme. The Working Group members are communications professionals of the DPF member organizations. The Secretariat staff's job descriptions also include communications work. In practice, at the Secretariat communications is mainly done through social media channels.

In 2021, the traveling restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic were partly lifted, and the DPF Secretariat was able to implement a communications project. A professional photographer/videographer with extensive experience from working in the Global South was hired to collect material from three programme countries, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia. As a result, the DPF now has a collection of photographs and videos from the three countries showing PWDs in our programme activities and telling individual stories of living with a disability.



Picture 8. KAIH self-advocates participating a cooking training in Nairobi. The text on a participant's shirt showing awareness of important issues. Photo: Veera Lehto-Michaud.

The material will be used in programme level communications on social media and on the DPF's new website. Work on the new website started in 2021 and will be completed in 2022. Special emphasis is given to full accessibility of the site.

The DPF did not participate in the World Village Festival in 2021, which was organized online. However, during the festival the member organizations and the Secretariat did a social media campaign on the human rights of girls and women with disabilities. The campaign was repeated on the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.

More details and the results of the communications work of the member organizations and the Secretariat are reported in Annex 3.

Results 2018-22:

In 2017, the DPF carried out a baseline survey among the individual members of the DPF member organizations for the programme period 2018-22. The purpose was to find out how much Finnish people with disabilities know about the situation of their peers living in the Global South, and whether they feel solidarity with their peers. The same survey with the same questions was

repeated in 2022. The results show that solidarity has increased among Finnish PWDs (from 58 % to 89 %) but on the other hand more respondents admitted that they do not know anything about the rights situation of their peers (from 16 % to 35 %). Now 100 % of respondents consider development aid important (in 2017 95 %). The sources of information given in the replies were social media channels and websites of the DPF member organizations but also members' magazines were mentioned.

6. Results Based Management and quality assurance within the Programme

The Programme is led by **the Board of the DPF**. Seven member organizations were represented in the board and nine board meetings were organized in 2020. In addition, workshops to launch the new Risk Management system were held with member organizations and the secretariat.

The DPF Secretariat coordinates and monitors work at the programme level. The staff comprised of four permanent staff members (one of them half-time).

The Steering Group is the programme development team and it held 10 meetings in 2021. In addition, workshop meetings were organized to support the planning of the new Programme 2022 – 2025. The project coordinators of the member organizations are members of the Steering Group. The informal group for sharing of information and experience, as well as developments in Ethiopia continued in 2020.

The Programme Result framework is the main tool for the Results Based Management (RBM) of the Programme. It was updated following the MFA decision on additional funding in 2020. The results framework and its indicators were also finetuned based on the gained experience in the RBM and data collection (more details in the MFA electronic reporting format).

The member organizations coordinate, administer, and monitor their project portfolios and implement projects together with the partner organizations. They are also responsible of the Results Based Management at project level together with their partners. In addition, technical support in form of expert services and peer support is ongoing and significant.

DPF has been improving the RBM at programme and project levels especially in 2020 – 2021. The Programme Evaluation in 2020 also provided important recommendations to this work (see chapter 6.1.1. for more information). Overall, special emphasis has been put on strengthening the programmatic approach of the DPF Programme based on the findings and recommendations of the programme evaluation, as well as the lessons learnt identified.

6.1 Monitoring and evaluation

The progress and results under the programme outcomes are monitored and assessed throughout the Programme, together with monitoring the project level results and outputs. All projects have project level results framework, but partners monitor and report against the programme level results framework as well.

Project reports are received at quarterly basis from the partner organizations, while annual reports compile the whole year of project implementation and provide more in-depth analysis on results, effectiveness, challenges and lessons learnt, as well as changes in the operating context and risk mitigation. The project output and outcome level results are aggregated to programme level for data analysis during the annual reporting process by the Secretariat.

Collecting project monitoring data requires skills and human resources, and some partners face challenges in collecting the data or presenting it in the established formats. Lack of systematically collected data that is comparable from year to year, has affected especially the data on results related to the Outcome 3 and Outcome 4. This has made assessing the progress towards the programme target rather difficult. Further, target setting for some indicators was done only in late 2019 (while project planning for the latter half of the programme period took place), which also challenged the Results Based Management of the programme.

Another challenge was the poor level of understanding of the programme indicators. Therefore, careful effort was put in defining the programme indicators, designing the data collection tool and organising a training on the baseline collection for project coordinators and partner organizations alike. Planning a solid programme for the 2022 – 2025 period was emphasized before the planning of individual projects, strengthening the link between the project and programme levels.

Developing the monitoring tools and processes has been constant during the 2018 – 2021. The formats for annual reporting were revised and a new tool for programme level indicator data was designed in 2020. New project document template, template and instructions for human rights assessment and stakeholder analysis and operating environment analysis were drafted in collaboration between the Secretariat and the Steering Group in 2021. The project appraisal format was also revised for the peer appraisal process of all projects to be included in the Programme 2022 – 2025. Furthermore, to support the Results Based Management, a template for project annual work plan was developed for the planning of projects for the new programme period.

The capacity assessment and capacity development templates were also renewed during the end of 2021 - early 2022. The revised templates integrate new organizational capacity areas, such as

PSEAH and risk management in the assessment process and strengthen the regular assessment and adjusting of the plans.

The developments have improved the reporting of gender disaggregated data from projects, the aggregation of data from project level to programme level, as well as collecting age disaggregated data of the programme beneficiaries.

The Programme includes a **budget line for planning, monitoring and evaluation reserved for developing the quality of the operations**. Funds can be applied for project appraisals, feasibility studies, baselines, facilitated self-evaluations or external evaluations. **Self-assessments** are also an important quality tool of the Programme and partners are highly recommended to assess their work regularly.

An external evaluation of the project “Advance the human rights, participation in the society and the independent living conditions of the People with Disabilities in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Western Balkans Region” (BAL4018) was carried out in 2021. The recommendations included strengthening the South-South cooperation and expertise sharing between partners, as well as continue supporting the capacity building and advocacy work of OPDs. They provided important input to the planning of the new project in cooperation with I.C. Lotos and in developing the exit strategies for both Handikos and I.C. Lotos. Expertise sharing and South-South cooperation will be strengthened in 2022 and exchange and learning visits between Threshold partners will be organized.

Most project monitoring visits were not carried out due to travel restrictions and changing Covid-19 situation. Only the projects in the Balkan region were visited in 2021. Communication has been constant and virtual meetings and training sessions were organized. At times weak network connections challenge the communication and the lack of monitoring visits has to some extent affected the support to capacity building of partners.

6.1.1. Implementation of the management response to the recommendations of the programme evaluation

The DPF Programme was evaluated in 2020, covering the period 2016 – 2019. **The main recommendations** and their implementation as per the management response include the following (all recommendations and more details in Annex 7).

1) Achieving clear agreement on the programme approach and possible ways **to promote and strengthen the DPF programmatic approach** (e.g. identification of synergies and joint work areas).

All the activities identified in the management response have been implemented. There have been also additional strategic discussions with both the Board and the Steering Group on different programmatic topics. Planning of the new Programme 2022 – 2025 has concretely shown that DPF has found its specific programmatic approach to which all members and partners are committed. This has been documented in the Programme Document 2022 – 2025 submitted to the MFA in May 2021 (adjusted after the funding decision in February 2022). Additional document describing the key processes of the programme, was also prepared. It will support further strengthening of the programme approach and processes.

2) Various recommendations for the further **development of the theory of change and the results framework** were provided.

All recommendations have been considered by the Steering Group and the Secretariat in the programme planning process and especially in drafting the new theory of change and results framework for the Programme 2022 – 2025. Linking the results frameworks in different levels more closely and emphasizing the programme outcomes in project planning has been ongoing and aims at streamlining the Results Based Management and reporting within the Programme.

3) **Revising the planning and reporting formats** to be clearer, more understandable, and user-friendly. It is important to **review also the guidelines given** in these formats.

New project planning tools and formats were designed, and the old ones were reviewed in 2021 as per this recommendation to make them clearer and more user-friendly. The guidelines for carrying out human rights assessment and stakeholder analysis were renewed to strengthen the application of the HRBA throughout the Programme. In addition to this, new template for analysing the operating environments as part of the project planning process in 2021 was designed.

6.2 Risk management

DPF started to develop and strengthen its risk management system and tools in 2020. Planning of the process started in 2020 but was carried out mostly in 2021 with the support of an external expert. The risk management system and processes were renewed in March – April 2021. New risk management matrix was already used in the planning of the new programme period. In the

second half of 2021, internal auditing group was established and a risk management training for the Board, Steering Group and the Secretariat was organised. Due to competing priorities and insufficient human resources, the operationalization has been somewhat slower than planned. The operationalization of the new risk management system to the project level continues in 2022.

In addition, measures **to ensure the Do No Harm principle and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment** within the Programme were implemented. More details on these are reported under Outcome 5 in chapter 3.6. The focus is to ensure PSEAH is systematically and adequately addressed in all policies and practises by every organisation engaged in the Programme. Further, risk analyses and risk mitigation from SEAH perspective were strengthened during the planning of the new programme period. All project concept notes were also scanned to raise and address any safeguarding concerns.

Covid-19 continued to affect the programme implementation. Its impact to the implementation in 2021 varied greatly from country to country according to the emerging of the new waves and the restrictive measures taken. In some countries, such as Bolivia, Cambodia and Zambia, it had wide effects as schools remained closed for long periods and movement to communities was restricted. Due to Covid-19, all programme partners have been forced to adapt their ways of working and project activities in some way. This has led to limiting the number of face-to-face meetings, postponing activities, and lower number of participants in trainings for example. At times when implementation of planned activities was not possible, partners focused on preparing training materials, resource mobilization and improving visibility among other things.

After the outbreak of the pandemic, it became evident that one of the biggest challenges was the lack of accessible information on the pandemic, the changing restrictions and prevention of Covid-19. Many partners have addressed this gap and produced information videos about Covid-19 for the deaf community, as well as easy-to-read materials for persons with intellectual disabilities.

It also became clear that **girls and women with disabilities** were especially vulnerable and lacked protection during the pandemic. Partner organizations of women with disabilities reported of increase in violence against women. Families became even more overprotective, resulting in low participation of women and girls with intellectual disabilities. In Kenya, KAIH started to intensify trainings and community dialogues on sexual and gender-based violence in collaboration with the local administration, police, women and youth movements. The increase in gender-based violence has been increasingly addressed also in many other projects.

Other risks that materialized during 2021 include for example political instability which affected work in many programme countries. In Kyrgyzstan, Government increased control over NGOs and passed a controversial bill to introduce tighter control. In general, political instability and elections often mean candidates appeal to the lowest common commitments, which do not normally include disability rights.

In Ethiopia, the political instability triggered by the conflict undertaken in the Northern part of Ethiopia affected the implementation of the programme activities. The state of emergency was the major factor affecting the general civic space. Even though it affected activities for only a short time, it made travel unsafe and caused displacement of people.

As part of risk management, the internal and external processes and systems, have been assessed and findings on 2020 are reported in annex 4.

7. Finances

Year 2021 was the fourth and last year of the four-year financial period 2018 – 21. In 2021, the programme-based support from MFA to the DPF was 1 670 970 € which included the extra-funding 340 970 € decided by MFA in 2020.

Moreover, the DPF had 422 111 € of withdrawn transferring funds from year 2020. In total there was 2 093 081 € of MFA funds available for 2021. The finance report (Annex 5) contains the detailed breakdown of the Programme finances in 2021.

The total expenditure of the development cooperation programme of the DPF in 2021 was 1 760 512 €. Of these expenses 1 667 554 € were funded by the MFA support and the remaining 92 958 € by self-financing, which is 5,28 per cent of the total costs.

Unused support at the end of 2021 totalled 328 946 €. Of this, 378 399 € was unused and to be transferred to 2022 for the project work; 23 166 € was at the shared planning and evaluation funds, 23 962 € at the Secretariat, and 96 581 € be refunded back to MFA.

Administration costs totalled about 4,12 per cent of total programme costs. In the Programme, administration costs are only incurred at the Secretariat. Annually, a part of the Secretariat's personnel, office and operating expenses are registered and reported as programme administration costs. In 2021, these expenses included:

- allocation of the Secretariat employees' salaries including social security contributions based on working time records;
- other personnel costs such as employee health service, meal and exercise vouchers, and professional guidance;
- office rent, maintenance, electricity, cleaning and lounge service;
- procurements, office supplies and property insurance;
- operational expenses such as ICT, printing and copying, meetings, bookkeeping, audits, and banking expenses.

The support channelled to member organizations and through them to the Southern partners is considered in its entirety as project costs that can originate either in Finland or in the programme countries in the Global South. Part of these costs are budgeted and reported as operation and maintenance costs, which can amount to a maximum of 7 per cent of the costs of a project. For the operation and maintenance costs, a flat rate model without a need to categorize the costs in detail is being used. In the member organizations' operations in Finland, these costs include ICT and banking costs as well as the personnel costs of their finance departments as allocated to work related to the DPF.

The operation and maintenance costs of the partner organizations include rent, water, electricity, cleaning, office maintenance, phone, mail, banking, printing, and stationery. Additionally, insurances and car maintenance costs can be allocated as operation and maintenance costs. If the flat rate model is not used and operation and maintenance costs are categorized, they can amount to the maximum of 10 per cent of annual project costs.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic the MFA halved self-financing in the year 2021 to 3,75%. The exact **self-financing share** of the DPF programme in 2021 **was 5,28 per cent**.

Based on the joint agreement, each member organization is responsible to cover the self-financing share of their project portfolio (total self-funding in 2021 was 92 958 €) and the self-financing share of the planning and evaluation funds that they used during the year (1878 €). The self-financing share of the DPF Secretariat was 10 199 €.

Explanations to the budgetary deviations over 15 %:

MAL3003, ETI1003, BOL900118, KEN6001:

Project expenses were less than budgeted because some of the activities were not carried out due to the covid-19 pandemic.

ZAM1002: Project expenses exceeded the budget because the FPD decided to support the project by increasing the self-finance share above 7,5% (27,18%).

ALB3006, KOS3007, ZAM4019, ETI4017: Project expenses exceeded the budget because the use of transferred support from 2020.

UGA3004: The project was previously completed according to an exit plan approved by the Ministry.

The unspecified budget sum in Kynnys ry, budget was split down to 12 400 €, of which 11 470 € state support, allocated to a communications project implemented by the DPF Secretariat, and the remaining 44 030 € of state support refunded to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Communications and global education: expenses were less than budgeted because of lack of resources and personnel in communications work.

Of the unused support available at the DPF, we have corrected down by 0.10€ to get the balance with accounting.

Helsinki 31.8.2022

Kaisa Alanne
Chairperson of the Board

Anja Malm
Executive Director