



# RESULTS 2022

DPOD'S GLOBAL DISABILITY PROGRAMME

**DPOD**

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS DENMARK

Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (DPOD) is a disability umbrella organisation, representing 35 disability organisations and their 340.000 members. We represent people with all types of disabilities, visible and non-visible; from brain damage and arthritis to ADHD and mental illness.

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**The images in the report** from Rwanda were taken by Signe Daugaard, Great Minority. Other images were submitted by member organizations. The cover image was taken by Signe Daugaard, Great Minority, and depicts women from a self-help group affiliated with NOUSPR, SIND's sister organization in Rwanda.

## Abbreviations and Definitions

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DAB	Danish Association of the Blind
DAD	Danish Association of the Deaf
DAPD	Danish Association of the Physically Disabled
DPOD	Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (disability umbrella organisation).
FFO	Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People
GFD	Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (Ghanaian disability umbrella organisation)
GLAD	<p><b>Global Action on Disability</b></p> <p>The GLAD Network is a coalition of donors and disability umbrella organisations seeking to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation and humanitarian efforts.</p>
IDA	<p><b>International Disability Alliance</b></p> <p>Alliance of 14 global and six regional organisations of persons with disabilities. IDA is the global representative and voice for persons with disabilities, including within the United Nations (UN).</p>
IDDC	<p><b>International Disability and Development Consortium</b></p> <p>IDDC is an international consortium of 35 civil society organisations dedicated to promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>
LEV	LEV – Life with Developmental Disability
MOS	Member organisations
NFDN	National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (Nepalese disability umbrella organisation)
NUDOR	National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda (Rwandan disability umbrella organisation)
SIND	SIND – Danish National Association for Mental Health
SUMH	The Danish Association of Youth with Disabilities
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WGQ	<p><b>Washington Group Question set</b></p> <p>A method to generate reliable and internationally comparable data on persons with disabilities. This effort has led to the creation of a short set of questions that can be used in any household survey. The questions focus on functional limitations rather than specific disabilities.</p>

## Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present the results from the Global Disability Program 2022. The program's overall aim is to create positive changes in the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries. 2022 marked the first year of a new four-year strategic period. This period continues to prioritize partnerships with sister organisations in the South while also focusing on increasing engagement in the Danish disability movement and promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Danish development cooperation and humanitarian efforts.

DPOD's (Disabled Peoples Organisations Denmark) collaboration with disability umbrella organisations in Nepal, Rwanda, and Ghana has focused on strengthening the umbrellas' supporting role in improving the capacity of member organisations, identifying common advocacy agendas, and ensuring broad representation of different types of disabilities. One particular focus in 2022 has been to engage actively in the reporting- and examination processes related to the Disability Convention. For example, in Ghana, the disability movement successfully influenced nine out of ten critical questions raised by the international Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in Nepal and Rwanda, the umbrella organisations have been involved in the implementation of recommendations in their respective countries.

Partnerships with member organisations have yielded a multitude of results, ranging from strengthening democratic and transparent structures in the organisations to establishing new local branches, successful fundraising and advocacy work. Slowly but surely, more of our South partners' members have gained access to social services, local funds, and public poverty reduction programs. Local advocacy efforts with authorities, ombudsman institutions, and other service providers have resulted, among other things, in improved access to education for children and youth, as well as access to epilepsy medication and other health services. In addition, a mosaic of income-generating activities has been established, from snail farms in Ghana to knitting projects in Rwanda and massage clinics in Myanmar.

In 2022, the advocacy work in Denmark included Danish participation in the Global Disability Summit, where both the Danish government and DPOD made commitments to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Danish development cooperation. DPOD also increased its focus on collecting data on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Danish development cooperation and, as the numbers in this report show, there is certainly room for improvement.

DPOD's global network has proven invaluable in supporting DPOD's work, both globally and in Denmark. In 2022, DPOD obtained a vice-chair position in the IDDC - International Disability and Development Consortium, where we focused, among other things, on strengthening local leadership in international development cooperation.

2022 was also characterized by a high demand for funds in the Danish Disability Fund. It is positive that more disability organisations show interest in development cooperation and that the organisations already involved have increased their engagement over time. Unfortunately, there are not enough funds in the pool to accommodate all eligible applications, and DPOD is therefore in ongoing dialogue with the minister, spokespersons, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to explore possibilities for additional funding to meet the many exciting proposals for actions that all contribute to improving rights and living conditions for persons with disabilities in the Global South.

The report is rich in both data and illustrative case stories. Enjoy the read!

Sif Holst, Vice-Chair,

Disabled People's Organisations Denmark

# 1. The Global Disability Program – an introduction

DPOD's Global Disability Program, including the Danish Disability Fund, aims to create positive changes in the living conditions of persons with disabilities in partner countries. The program focuses on strengthening disability movements in the Global South and contributing to the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in local communities and national and international processes. The program is funded through an annual grant of 43.5 million DKK under the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Like in the rest of DPOD's work, the Disability Convention serves as the foundation for promoting rights, inclusion, and equal opportunities. Additionally, the principle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of leaving no one behind is an important lever in international cooperation.

In 2022, DPOD embarked on a new four-year strategic period with three main goals for the Global Disability Program

**Goal 1: Strong and politically engaged disability movements in the Global South.** Collaboration with disability organisations in the South is at the core of international development cooperation, which encompasses DPOD's own partnerships with disability umbrella organisations as well as member organisations' partnerships with sister organisations supported through the Disability Fund.

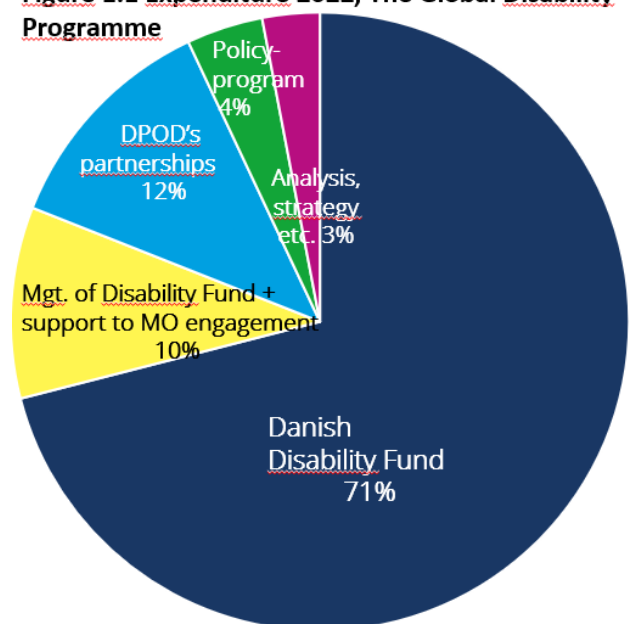
**Goal 2: Increased engagement in international development cooperation** among Danish disability organisations. This includes the management of the Disability Fund, dissemination of interventions and results, as well as DPOD's project advice and training activities related to international development cooperation.

**Goal 3: Promotion of the inclusion of persons with disabilities** across Danish development cooperation and humanitarian efforts.

In addition, DPOD participates in various international networks, ensuring access to new knowledge, tools, and insights into global agendas. These international networks serve as platforms for exchanging experiences and promoting cooperation within the global disability movement and supports us in achieving all three goals. The three overarching goals and DPOD's supporting role are detailed in a results framework (see Annex 1).

This report provides insights into some of the many results achieved through DPOD's and member organisations' development cooperation in 2022. Most of the funds in the Global Disability Program are allocated to member organisations' projects, financed through the Disability Fund. It is through these projects that we reach most target groups and South partners, and achieve numerous results. DPOD plays a supportive role herein managing the Danish Disability Fund, including advice and training, coordinating efforts in partner countries, and facilitating engagement in global processes. DPOD also plays a supportive role through the approximately 16% of the Global Disability Program budget used on DPOD's supportive activities, through DPOD's partners in the Global South and advocacy work in Denmark.

**Figure 1.1 Expenditure 2022, The Global Disability Programme**





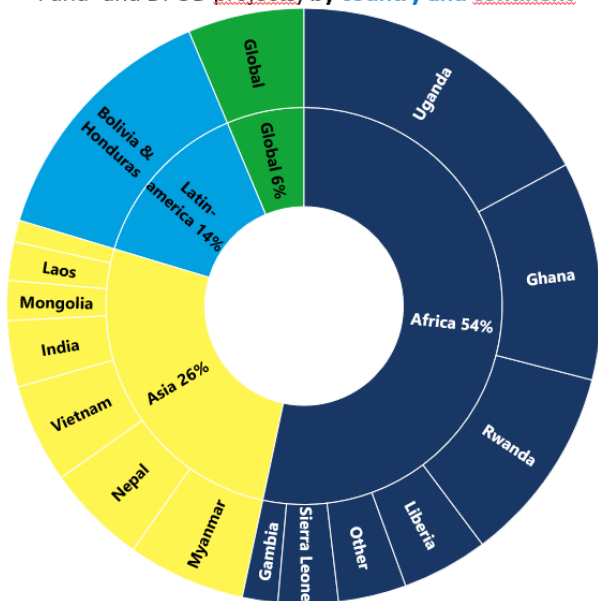
## 2. Whom do we support – The Disability Movement's Partnerships in the Global South

### 2.1 Our partners

The collaboration with our South partners extends widely. In 2022, DPOD and its member organisations had a total of 66 active projects in collaboration with 90 different South partners. Of the 33 million DKK spent on partnerships in 2022, just over half was used for partnerships in Africa (54%), a quarter in Asia (26%), 14% in Latin America, and the remaining 6% went to global initiatives. The highest concentration of projects continues to be in Ghana, Nepal, and Rwanda, where DPOD is also engaged in partnerships with national disability umbrella organisations, as well as in Uganda where DPOD was previously engaged.

<b>66</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33,3</b>
<b>Interventions – including 48 projects</b>	<b>South partners</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>mill. DKK spent</b>
<b>8 pre-studies, 6 learning-, 4 communication interventions</b>			

**Figure 2.1: Expenditure 2022** (payment on Disability Fund- and DPOD projects) **by country and continent**

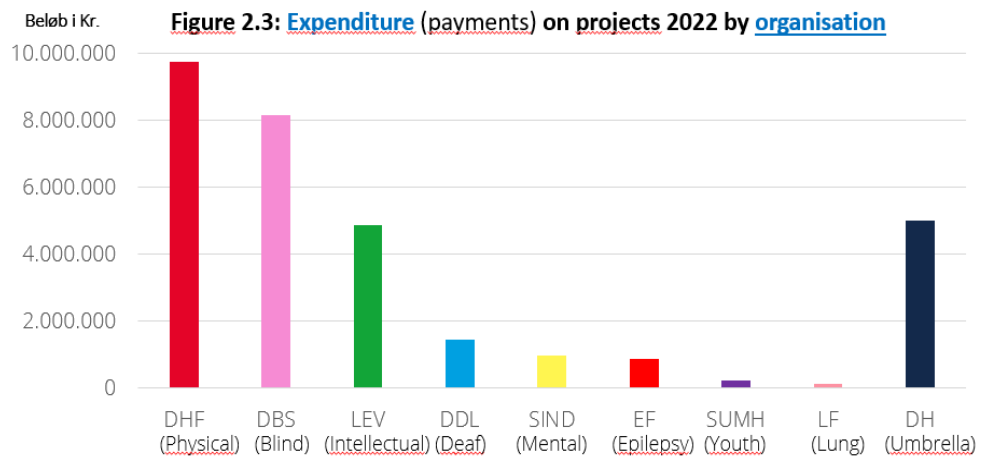


**Figure 2.2: Expenditure 2022** (payments on Disability Fund and DPOD projects) **by OECD DAC income category**



The Danish disability movement's development cooperation ranges from member organisations with a single partner to organisations with multiple partners across several continents. This is reflected in this year's disbursements, which range from 125,000 DKK to 9.8 million DKK for a single organisation.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 2.3: Expenditure** (payments) **on projects 2022 by organisation**



<sup>1</sup> Figure 2.3: To obtain comparable figures, DPOD data also include Danish manhours and administration related to projects.

## 2.2 New Grants in 2022

2022 was a year with intense competition for funds from the Danish Disability Fund, and it was the first year DPOD has had to reject projects that were eligible for funding. DPOD received 29 applications, out of which eight were declined – four of those due to insufficient funds in the pool. In total, **30.1 million DKK was granted** across 21 grants. See Annex 3 for a full list of grants allocated in 2022, categorized by countries, organisations, and types of funding.

The promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave no one behind is the foundation for all the initiatives supported through the Danish Disability Fund. The purpose of the fund, to strengthen disability organisations and break down barriers for persons with disabilities, is

**Figure 3.4: Sustainable development goals addressed in 12 new project grants**



clearly reflected in the SDGs addressed by projects. Goal 17 on partnerships is included in all 12 new projects, as they all include organisational development and strengthened collaboration. Nine other SDGs are also addressed. As in previous years, Goal 10 on reduced inequalities continues to be the most frequently addressed SDG, appearing in nine out of the 12 grants, followed by Goal 1 (poverty), Goal 4 (education), and Goal 5 (gender equality), each of which is included in six of the 12 new project grants.

## 2.3 Target Groups reached in the South in 2022

<b>90</b> South partners Disability umbrellas, disability organisations, and networks have strengthened their capacity	<b>412</b> local branches 33 new branches were established, and 279 existing branches have had their capacity strengthened.	<b>3056</b> volunteers Have participated in courses and capacity-building programs.
<b>34,441</b> persons with disabilities Have gained access to services, skills, income, knowledge, social interactions and self confidence.	<b>Gender:</b> 43% women / 45% men 12% unknown <b>Age:</b> 29% children and youth, 45% adults 26% unknown	<b>8142</b> families of persons with disabilities Have been strengthened in their supporting role.
<b>Thousands</b> of local and national authorities Have collaborated on inclusion.	<b>Thousands</b> of citizens Have gained a greater understanding of and support for persons with disabilities.	<b>Hundreds of thousands</b> have been reached through targeted information in radio, TV, newspapers, social media, etc.



Many different target groups benefit from the collaboration. It is not sufficient to focus on how many persons with disabilities and families are affected, as that is only part of the story. The matrix above speaks for itself.

In the next sections, we delve into specific results from 2022. In Chapter 3, we zoom in on DPOD's partnerships and supporting role in the South, and in Chapter 4, we focus on the member organisations' partnerships and select outcomes.

**Target Groups Reached:** The figures are based on 35 ongoing projects under the Global Disability Program (excluding small and newly initiated projects) that reported on their activities in 2022.

**Outcomes:** The data is derived from 13 projects that were completed in 2022, as well as partial results from ongoing projects.

### 3. Goal 1 - DPOD's partnerships in Ghana, Rwanda, and Nepal and supporting role

DPOD collaborates with disability umbrellas in Nepal, Rwanda, and Ghana. The partnership with NUDOR - the umbrella organisation in Rwanda - was the last to be formulated and defined in line with DPOD's partnership strategy

<p><b>National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN)</b></p> <p><b>Number of member organisations:</b> +400</p> <p><b>Partnership</b> since 2009</p> <p><b>Project budget:</b> 3,048,373 DKK</p> <p><b>Project period:</b> 2021-2024</p> <p><b>Focus areas in the partnership:</b>  <b>Organisational development:</b> Strengthen NFDN's provincial offices and member organisations. Enhance coordination in the disability movement.</p> <p><b>Advocacy work:</b> Strengthening NFDN's capacity to influence national and provincial governments, and empowering member organisations' advocacy work at the municipal level.</p> <p><b>Data:</b> Influence government collection and use of statistics on disability.</p> <p><b>Danish member organisations active in Nepal:</b> DAB, Lev.</p> <p><b>Other partners working with NFDN:</b> CBM, My Right, Humanity &amp; Inclusion (HI), Light for the World, Ministry of Social Welfare, WHO, UNDP.</p> <p><b>Turnover covered by DPOD:</b> 17% (project: 34% including FFO funding)</p>	<p><b>National Union of Disability Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR):</b></p> <p><b>Number of member organisations:</b> 15</p> <p><b>Partnership</b> since 2011</p> <p><b>Project budget:</b> 3,720,000 DKK</p> <p><b>Project period:</b> 2022-2025</p> <p><b>Focus areas in the partnership:</b>  <b>Organisational development:</b> Support NUDOR's transition from a project- to a program-oriented organisation. Capacity building for member organisations with low capacity.</p> <p><b>Advocacy work:</b> Develop strategies for NUDOR's member involvement in advocacy work and project implementation.</p> <p><b>Data:</b> Focus on the government's ability to generate robust data on disability.</p> <p><b>Danish member organisations active in Rwanda:</b> DAB, Lev, DAD, SIND, and LF.</p> <p><b>Other partners working with NUDOR:</b> CBM, Liliane Foundation, MyRight, Humanity &amp; Inclusion (HI), DRF, BMZ, and UNDP.</p> <p><b>Turnover covered by DPOD:</b> 5%</p>	<p><b>Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD):</b></p> <p><b>Number of member organisations:</b> 9</p> <p><b>Partnership</b> since 2012</p> <p><b>Project budget:</b> 4,000,000 DKK</p> <p><b>Project period:</b> 2021-2024</p> <p><b>Focus areas in the partnership:</b>  <b>Organisational development:</b> Support GFD strengthen member organisations with membership data and databases.</p> <p><b>Advocacy work:</b> Strengthen GFD's collaboration with member organisations regarding priorities and joint advocacy efforts.</p> <p><b>Data:</b> Collect reliable data based on the national census and ensure analysis and use of data. Data collection at community level for CRPD monitoring.</p> <p><b>Danish member organisations active in Ghana:</b> Lev, DAD, and SUMH.</p> <p><b>Other partners working with GFD:</b> Sightsavers, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, DRF, IDA, and the World Bank.</p> <p><b>Turnover covered by DPOD:</b> 45%</p>
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All three partnerships now focus on strengthening the umbrella organisation's role both in improving the capacity of member organisations, promoting a

broad representation of different disabilities, and ensuring coordination and collaboration within the disability movement, as well as enhancing advocacy efforts for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Even though DPOD now has a unified approach to collaboration with disability umbrella organisations in the Global South, there are significant differences in the context, and therefore, in how interventions to strengthen the disability movement and advocacy is implemented in the three partnerships. Results and progress in 2022 are described for six areas in the results framework that are relevant to DPOD's partnerships, including organisational development and strengthening of the disability movement, as well as advocacy.

### 3.1 Strong disability umbrella organisations



Election of **new boards** in all three partner countries, now with better representation of women and younger members.

**Effective handling** of challenging issues related to the election of chairpersons and one case of misconduct.

**Organisational development** is a fundamental element in the collaboration. It is not just a means to achieve other goals - a strong disability movement is a goal in itself. Organisational development does not only focus on strengthening administrative and financial systems or other project management capacity, although that is also important. The purpose is broader - to contribute to well-functioning, legitimate, democratic, representative, and collaborative disability organisations with the capacity to conduct effective membership and advocacy work. This applies to both DPOD's and the member organisations' partnerships.

**By the end of 2022, all three partners have elected new boards.** It is an essential aspect of the umbrella organisations' democratic functioning to ensure a regular renewal of energy, ideas, and perspectives - a process that DPOD has supported for many years. However, since the entire boards of all three partners are up for election at the same time, and there have been significant changes in all three boards this time, it is also a process associated with the loss of institutional memory, capacity, and relationships that now need to be rebuilt. The secretariats play an important supporting role for the boards, especially for the new chairpersons.

**The change in power in the board was not without problems in Rwanda.** The former chairperson of NUDOR challenged the organisation's constitution (which only allowed for two consecutive terms) by attempting to mobilize a majority to change the organisation's statutes. The same chairperson also faced a conflict-of-interest case in connection with consultancy work during 2022. DPOD assisted the secretariat in mobilizing other partners to stand united against initiatives that appeared to be motivated by self-interest. However, NUDOR demonstrated resilience by handling these issues through its designated bodies - a conflict resolution body and an extraordinary general assembly - so that the organisation's own policies and statutes guided the handling of the situation. The chairperson "lost" both cases, and in 2022, a new chairperson was elected at the planned general assembly.

	NFDN	NUDOR	GFD
Board Members	39	8	7
- <b>New</b> members	34	7	4
- <b>Women</b>	18	4	4
- <b>Youth</b> under 35 yrs	12	3	0
- <b>MOs</b> represented	39	8	3

In Nepal, **NFDN also faced** challenges when they received reports in 2022 about unwanted sexual attention in one of their other projects. DPOD was pleased to observe that the matter was handled correctly, and NFDN subsequently revised relevant policies in line with the experiences gained.

## 3.2 Strengthening capacity, collaboration, and coordination in the disability movement



**Rwanda:** NUDOR has developed a new strategy and development plan and initiated its transition process from a project- to a program-based organization

**Nepal:** NFDN provincial offices support effective fundraising among member organisations.

Previously, DPOD's partners focused heavily on political advocacy. However, as local political structures gain more power, and as the number of member organisations increases (and the aim is to grow stronger together), it is important that the disability umbrella organisation establishes their role as a unifying and capacity-building entity.

**In Rwanda, NUDOR is in the process of transforming from a project- to a program-based organisation** – a transformation that has significant implications for the division of roles between the umbrella and its member organisations. As part of the preparations for the project, initiated in 2022, DPOD conducted a comprehensive organisational analysis, which mapped NUDOR's challenges in responding to the capacity-building needs of its member organisations and identified the need for a strategy to involve the member organisations in NUDOR's work.

The result was a new organisational strategy, facilitated by DPOD and formulated in consultation with NUDOR's member organisations. In line with the new organisational strategy the disability umbrella organisation should no longer be an organisation implementing projects but should be more program-oriented. This means that member organisations should be involved in designing and implementing future projects, as well as defining strategic priority areas for the umbrella's advocacy work.

It is an ambitious plan that requires support from both NUDOR's secretariat, the political leadership, and NUDOR's partners, who must also contribute to financing NUDOR's new role. DPOD succeeded in getting another of NUDOR's partners – the Dutch NGO Liliane Foundation – to co-finance this 4-year organisational development project. A tripartite cooperation agreement was drafted between NUDOR, DPOD, and Liliane Foundation by the end of 2022.

**In Nepal, the division of roles between the disability umbrella organisation and its member organisations are also being redefined.** When Nepal adopted a new constitution in 2015, creating a federal state and seven provinces with autonomous governments and ministries, the disability movement also had to restructure. NFDN is strengthening its new structures at provincial level and enhancing its member organisations' capacity for advocacy at municipal level.

In 2022, NFDN was particularly successful in supporting its member organisations' fundraising efforts. They received a total of 50 million DKK from local authorities – 7 million DKK more than in 2020, which was the previous record. Each year, local authorities announce the allocation of funds for projects with a disability focus. NFDN informed about this opportunity and supported member organisations in preparing their applications. NFDN also analyzed the challenges presented by member organisations in their applications and presented them at a meeting with local authorities – an effort that NFDN believes contributed to the increased funding. Focus areas in the applications were in particular organisational development, income-generating activities, and educational scholarships.

## 3.3 Representative disability movements in the Global South

DPOD is pushing for disability movements to expand and represent a wider range of disabilities - and things are heading that way. In Rwanda, NUDOR supports four new, small disability organisations and three groups that are not yet established as disability organisations, and in Ghana, GFD supports five small new organisations.



Focus on representation of persons with developmental disabilities.

Increasing emphasis on inviting underrepresented groups to meetings, training sessions, and activities supported through DPOD's projects.

The Nepalese organisation for parents of persons with intellectual disabilities is a strong organisation that has managed (eg. through a position on NFDN's board) to focus on the inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities, both within and outside the disability movement. The same trend is observed in Rwanda and Ghana, where there is also an increased focus on ensuring that persons with intellectual disabilities are not only represented by others but also have their own voice.

In general, both NFDN, NUDOR, and GFD have become more conscious of identifying and inviting underrepresented groups to workshops, courses, meetings, and activities. This includes the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, hemophilia, deaf-blindness, spina bifida, former leprosy patients, stunted persons, and other groups that may not (yet) be represented through a member organization within the disability umbrella but are prioritized due to having a dual disability (such as persons who are deaf-blind or have cerebral palsy) or on the grounds of underrepresentation and lack of recognition. These initiatives span widely, from helping emerging organisations mobilize members, and providing workspace, office materials and meeting facilities, to assisting these organisations run general assemblies, draft statutes, run advocacy training, and ensure official registration with authorities.

### 3.4 Politically strong disability movements with a global perspective



Ministries and provinces are now reaching out to NFDN and inviting NFDN to the table when developing disability legislation.

The support to rehabilitation from the Ministry of Health in Rwanda has changed to now also include prostheses and orthopedic equipment.

In NFDN in Nepal, the advocacy carried out in the seven provinces is particularly prominent in these years. It's a period where a framework for disability legislation is being established – particularly in relation to health and education. In addition, disability councils and municipal contact offices, where persons with disabilities can receive support and guidance, are in the process of being established. In six out of the seven provinces, NFDN collaborates with the Nepalese Human Rights Commission to bring forth cases where rights have been violated.

In Nepal, NFDN and many of the ministries have reached a point in their collaboration where the **ministries are now reaching out to NFDN and directly inviting them to the table** when crafting disability related legislation - both at the federal and provincial levels. According to NFDN's own assessment, the laws being formulated do not incorporate all of NFDN's input, but a satisfactory portion of it. The Nepalese government still lacks the budget for the implementation of these laws, but it demonstrates an impressive and proactive effort from the umbrella organisation in its political advocacy work. In the Koshi Province, the greatest victory in 2022 was the allocation of a budget for free treatment and medication for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

In Rwanda, there was a breakthrough in 2022, following a long period of advocacy by the disability movement, when Rwanda's Ministry of Health changed the rehabilitation services available to citizens. Thanks to a strong collaboration between the disability movement, healthcare professionals, and politicians, assistive devices have now been included by law as part of the publicly accessible health insurance in the country (see case).

# Public health insurance in Rwanda is now gradually starting to cover assistive devices

The right support, assistive devices, and rehabilitation can have a significant impact on whether you can lead a satisfying and equal life, where you can participate and contribute to society.

Until recently, you were at a disadvantage if, for example, you needed a prosthetic leg or a wheelchair in Rwanda. Assistive devices were hard to come by and often too expensive for most people to acquire. A crucial collective effort, fueled by data-driven political advocacy from the disability umbrella organisation NUDOR and its member organisations, has changed this!

Three initiatives have in particular contributed to bringing Rwanda one step closer to greater equity in access to healthcare.

**The use of analysis and data:** NUDOR conducted a survey among assistive device and rehabilitation professionals from the health sector in several African countries, including Rwanda. The survey identified the main challenges that professional service providers and manufacturers face in delivering necessary assistive devices to persons with disabilities. In the report, they also used WHO data, among other sources, to support their messages and their own investigations.

**Involvement of member organisations:** NUDOR's member organisations (including the Rwandan Association of the Blind, the Rwandan Association of the Deaf, and the Mental Health Organisation, among others) have played a significant role in key aspects of the political advocacy. They have served as sources of information and data, and provided cases and statements from members for use in the media and meetings with stakeholders. Prior to this, they participated in a workshop with the Ministry of Health, the board of the health insurance, hospitals, and other stakeholders, which formed the basis for the study..

**Structured political advocacy:** NUDOR has presented the study's recommendations to the Ministry of Health and held meetings with various healthcare and assistive device stakeholders. And the study, along with the political efforts, paid off!

**Since January 2023, three hospitals have actively implemented this change** and now offer assistive devices through the health insurance system - they are also experiencing a significant increase in demand for assistive devices, physiotherapy, and rehabilitation from persons with disabilities. Additionally, in 2023, the Ministry of Health is already in the process of designating prosthetic specialists and orthopedic experts for other district hospitals, so that these hospitals can also join the agreement to provide assistive devices and rehabilitation. The goal is to include 42 district hospitals, thereby reducing the long distances that many have to travel to reach a hospital currently offering these services.

The implementation is still in its early stages, but many have already benefited from it, as shared by 30-year-old Fulgence Hagenimana from Nyanza District in the southern province: *"After receiving a specialized brace from the orthopedic expert and undergoing physiotherapy for rehabilitation, my self-confidence and belief in my abilities have significantly increased. I can now lift heavy boxes and walk without assistance. People have started accepting me in society, and I feel happy, dedicated, motivated, and physically stronger. I no longer need my crutches in my daily activities."*



### 3.5 Use of convention processes, disability summits and the Sustainable Development Goals in advocacy work



NFDN developed a **tool to monitor** government implementation of recommendations from the UNCRPD Committee.

NUDOR coordinated a **midterm evaluation** of the government's implementation of recommendations from the UNCRPD Committee and **integrated disability issues into two other UN convention processes**.

In Ghana, the disability movement's **civil society report made a significant impact** on the list of critical questions from the UNCRPD Committee.

Ghana co-hosted the Global Disability Summit and mobilized broad participation, new partners, and follow-up on the country's commitments.

DPOD has insisted that work on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should be a cornerstone in international partnerships, a decision which has brought considerable change. It is now an integral part of all partnerships, albeit with diverse approaches by respective countries and their governments, requiring the disability movement to adapt their efforts accordingly. This applies when reporting to the International Disability Committee, when monitoring the state's implementation of the Disability Convention, and when engaging in examinations under the UN. In 2022, all three partners have worked to embed their priorities within the work of the international Disability Committee (UNCRPD committee) and use the convention processes as leverage in their own advocacy efforts.

**In Nepal, during 2022, NFDN focused on developing a tool** to monitor the government's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at both the provincial and federal levels. The tool is based on the recommendations made by the UN Disability Committee to the government during the latest session in 2018. Now, it is set to be tested in one of the provinces as well as at the local level. The data collected will be used in various aspects of advocacy work - partly to inform dialogues with provincial governments, contribute to a comprehensive report for the federal government, and ultimately feed into the upcoming civil society report to the UN Disability Committee.

In Rwanda, DPOD's partner has chosen a different approach. With NUDOR as the initiator and coordinating body, **Rwanda's disability movement conducted a midterm evaluation in 2022 on the government's implementation of recommendations made by the UN Disability Committee in 2019**. The evaluation revealed that approximately 50% of the 48 recommendations from the Disability Committee have been implemented, 13 are partially implemented, three are in progress, while eight remain outstanding. The report is an impressive piece of work that also served as a base for the disability movement's reporting on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and on the economic, social, and cultural rights in relation to the situation of persons with disabilities. Rwanda was examined under both conventions in 2022, and NUDOR succeeded in integrating disability issues into these other human rights convention processes based on their up-to-date data. Rwanda is due for examination under the UNCRPD in 2023 but with the evaluation, the groundwork for the civil society report is already done.

**In Ghana, GFD** has also been very proactive regarding the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. GFD **coordinated the preparation of the civil society report for the UN Disability Committee** in 2021 and participated in the preliminary session in 2022, making an impressive impact on the list of critical issues (see case).

GFD was also active in connection with the **Global Disability Summit in February 2022, which Ghana co-hosted** alongside Norway. As the Summit took place in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic it was predominantly virtual, and didn't offer the extensive civil society forum one might have hoped for. However, GFD managed to make the most



of the opportunities available. They gathered input from significant portions of Ghana's civil society to build momentum ahead of the Disability Summit and mobilized participation from persons with disabilities across Ghana, including establishing physical meeting spaces with virtual access to the summit. GFD also coordinated a collaboration between Ghana's disability movement and the National Council on Persons with Disabilities, among others, to develop proposals for Ghana's commitments. The government's commitments were presented by Ghana's President during the summit. GFD has subsequently worked with governmental bodies, including the National Council on Persons with Disabilities, to create an action plan for monitoring these commitments. The summit also served as a valuable platform for GFD to network and make its presence felt among key partners such as the UN and international NGOs, leading to collaboration with UNDP and dialogue with UNICEF.

## A united Ghanaian disability movement made a significant impact on the list of critical issues to the Ghanaian government by the UN Disability Committee

It is crucial to be familiar with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how to actively utilize it in one's work. The disability movement in Ghana has fully demonstrated this.

The combination of extensive and inclusive data collection and their strong political craftsmanship yielded significant impact when Ghana's government was examined by the UN Disability Committee in 2022. Specifically, a remarkable nine out of ten questions on the committee's list of critical issues to Ghana's government were derived from the disability movement. This influence took place through a so-called shadow report, which the disability umbrella organisation 'Ghana Federation of the Disabled' (GFD) had developed in collaboration with the rest of the disability movement – a report developed with the support of DPOD.



*Representatives from the Ghanaian disability movement have a virtual meeting with the international disability committee.*


Based on the report, GFD had a virtual audience with the committee in March 2022, where they highlighted examples of serious violations of rights for persons with disabilities.

For example, how a child with a disability was buried alive by the family due to prejudices and superstitions associated with having a disabled child – and how that the family has not yet been prosecuted. Or how persons with mental health issues were chained and forced into institution-like "prayer camps" for treatment and were subjected to forced medication.

The report also revealed that Ghanaian legal texts still use derogatory language such as "unsound mind," "handicapped," "imbecilic," "mental derangement," and "female idiots" to refer to persons with disabilities.

In addition to being a prime example of robust advocacy, the shadow report also serves as a model of inclusive umbrella work. GFD established a committee tasked with facilitating data collection in the country's seven zones, analyzing the data, and drafting the report. The committee included representatives from national and international NGOs. GFD's committee developed a data collection tool and oversaw a process that ensured data from persons with disabilities in even the remotest areas and from disability groups not represented within GFD were included.

### 3.6 The disability movement sheds light on the collection, analysis and use of disability data



**Disappointment within the disability movement over the figures from the new population census.**

<b>Results from the most recent census:</b>	Nepal	Rwanda	Ghana
Men with disabilities	2.5 %	3.1 %	6.7 %
Women with disabilities	2 %	3.6 %	8.8 %
Entire population with disabilities	2.2 %	3.4 %	7,8 %

DPOD supports its partners in focusing on the collection, analysis, and utilization of data on persons with disabilities, both in their organisational work and in advocacy efforts towards the government and others stakeholders. The three partner countries have all conducted national population censuses within the past two years – a comprehensive and costly undertaking that typically occurs every ten years, also providing a unique opportunity to collect data on persons with disabilities.

In both Rwanda and Ghana, the 'Washington Group' set of questions was used – a tool developed by the United Nations Statistical Division that can identify persons with disabilities using only a few questions asking about functional limitations. However, the same approach was not adopted by the statistical bureau in Nepal. Instead, the disability movement launched a significant effort, including training all census takers and conducting extensive campaigns to ensure persons with disabilities were counted and not hidden away when census takers came knocking on doors. As such, **the expectations were high in all three countries to now obtain more accurate figures on persons with disabilities, but the results did not live up to the expectations.**

In Rwanda, there was already skepticism before the population census began. While it appeared to be a significant victory when the National Institute of Statistics (NISR) decided to make use of the Washington Group set of questions in the census, several factors reduced its impact. Firstly, only the short version of the questionset was used (six questions compared to the longer version of 12 questions), which means that people with mental challenges or conditions like anxiety or depression are not identified, and it does not apply to children. NUDOR also suggested additional work on the translation of the questions, as a pilot test had shown poor results. Additionally, NUDOR had offered to collaborate with NISR on training the census takers to ensure a certain level of disability awareness. However, all these proposals were rejected, leaving the disability movement skeptical of the official figures.

**The proportion of the population identified as having a disability according to the census remains far below the 16% of a population** estimated by the WHO to be living with a visible or invisible disability. Furthermore, the data has not been adequately analysed. Typically, calculations are only made regarding the proportion of the population with a disability, without comparing the situation of persons with and persons without disabilities on issues such as their education, employment, health, and family situations, as is done when comparing rural and urban areas, wealthy and poor individuals, people with high versus low education levels, and so forth.

On one hand, it is **a significant advancement for the disability movements that there is now much more focus on disability data** in population censuses and other household surveys than before. This agenda is driven by many stakeholders, with the role of disability movements primarily ensuring that the focus is maintained. On the other hand, the results of the three population censuses indicate that the effort to ensure the collection and use of reliable data on persons with disabilities is an ongoing process that **still requires intense advocacy work.**

### 3.7 Other ways DPOD supports its partners in the Global South

In countries where DPOD has its own partnerships, it has a much better opportunity to support the partnerships of its member organisations. DPOD does not have country offices but rather two local employees in Nepal and Rwanda. Additionally, DPOD's country focal points play a supportive and coordinating role.

In 2022, DPOD continued its collaboration with the Swedish organisation MyRight in Rwanda on sharing office space and employing a financial controller, with the aim of strengthening the administrative and financial capacity of the Danish-supported partners. However, when MyRight closed its country office in mid-2022, DPOD hired the controller full-time and expanded his responsibilities to cover Uganda as well. A total of 14 partners in the two countries benefited from this arrangement in 2022, with the controller conducting financial monitoring visits to five partners in Rwanda and nine in Uganda. In Rwanda, he also organised joint trainings on financial administration and bookkeeping.

However, the greatest value lies in his bilateral assistance to organisations challenged with establishing robust administrative policies and practices. For example, in Rwanda, he assisted SIND's partner NOUSPR in rebuilding the organisation administratively after a corruption case, introducing new policies, procedures, job descriptions for procurement, approvals, signatures, and more. With SUMH's partner UWEZO in Rwanda, he helped finalize project accounts. In Uganda, after a financial monitoring visit, he provided a week-long peer-to-peer training for two of the partners. Testimonials from the Ugandan epilepsy association, ESAU, highlighting their improved financial systems as one of the key achievements of the year underscore the significance of his support.

*During 2022 ESAU was able to change its financial systems and practises by reducing cheque payments, start using online banking, introduce codes and up-date/separate its financial manual and procurement manuals. As a result of the changes ESAU was able to put her books right and complete the 2022 audit in a record two weeks' time. (Epilepsy Association of Uganda)*

In Nepal, a local employee has for many years supported DPOD and its member organisations with practical and administrative matters, has organised joint courses and kept the Danish partners informed with weekly briefings about the context in Nepal. Leading up to the 2022 elections, she also shared the expectations and hopes that the Nepaleese disability movement had for the elections. Unlike before, the current two Danish organisations and their partners are stronger and require less assistance. For this reason, in consultation with the member organisations, it has been decided that the employee will work part-time in 2023, after which the position will be phased out.

## 4. Goal 1 - The Danish Disability Fund

The work of DPOD's member organisations in the Global South covers various types of initiatives and target groups, which can be categorized into three broad areas - organisational development, empowerment, and advocacy.

### 4.1 Organisational development - stronger disability movements, networks, and organisations

As previously mentioned, strengthening South partners is not only a means to an end but an important goal in itself. There are a wide range of approaches to organisational development, from the national to the local level, from interventions with a single organisation to projects involving entire disability movements, and from building small, new, fragile partners to concluding efforts focused on sustainability in well-functioning organisations. Below is a selection of results achieved in 2022 which demonstrate the breadth of support for organisational development funded through the Danish Disability Fund.

## Capacity building among board members, volunteers and employees



In 2022, a total of 3,056 volunteers and employees in boards, secretariats, and local chapters had their capacity strengthened.

The leadership systems of the South partners have been enhanced, including general assemblies, statutes, and effective boards.

Effective fundraising and examples of social enterprises.

A total of 412 local chapters supported through the projects. 33 new chapters emerged in 2022 in Uganda (16), Liberia (7), Honduras (5), Nepal (4), and Vietnam (1).

Local chapters empowered in planning and prioritization efforts.

Virtually all projects supported through the Danish Disability Fund include a component of organisational development. Capacity building of partner organisations is typically developed through training sessions where participants gain new knowledge and skills, as well as workshops where they collaboratively develop new strategies, manuals, and formats. In 2022, a total of 3,056 individuals – board members, employees, and local leaders – benefited from this type of capacity building. Topics typically cover issues of leadership, fundraising, advocacy work, and management, including financial management, reporting, and communication. At the local chapter level, it also includes more member-oriented training on rights, personal disabilities, training of volunteer trainers, gender equality, etc.



## Strengthening democratic and memberbased organisations

An important aspect of developing memberbased and democratic organisations is to hold **regular general assemblies**. A good example comes from Guatemala, where the Association of the Blind, APENOVIJUT, successfully ousted a long-standing autocratic chairman and elected a new board in 2022. This change occurred after members of the organisation participated in joint meetings and training sessions with the other 14 organisations in the project, where they learned about organisational development, exchanged experiences, and had the opportunity to reflect on their own practices. When new leaders learn from others, acquire knowledge, and gain personal empowerment, they start questioning undemocratic practices within their organisation and aspire to bring about change.



Images of joint training courses consisting of modules on personal development, organisational development, and gender equality. Participants are from various organisations and disability sectors in Guatemala, where 15 organisations are involved.



To ensure that general assemblies are not merely superficial processes, DAPD's partners in Vietnam have developed a 'democracy index' – a way to set goals for partner organisations' democratic practices and measure progress, including how general assemblies are conducted. This can contribute with positive effects as illustrated by the example from Nam Dinh's Women's Club with Disabilities.

*The second general assembly of Nam Dinh's Women's Club with Disabilities in 2022 was conducted in such a way that it fulfils many of the democracy index criteria's, including revising by-laws, number of candidates proposed for election is 20 percent higher than the number of elected board members, voting by secret ballot, and control committee elected independent of board members. (DAPD Vietnam office)*

General assemblies can be costly to organise, especially in organisations that have experienced growth in the number of local chapters. Several South partners are currently working to amend their statutes to make them less cost-intensive and more sustainable. An example is the Epilepsy Association in Uganda, which has removed the lowest level of their organisation (sub-county) from their statutes, so that only the 20 local chapters at the district level, and not the 125 sub-groups beneath them, hold general assemblies and send representatives to the national general assembly.

For other partners, the work of developing the initial **set of proper statutes** is just beginning. This is the case for three self-help groups for parents of children with intellectual disabilities in Myanmar. A new law in Myanmar, the "Registration of Associations Law," which was introduced in October 2022, imposes more requirements on NGOs and makes it illegal to operate without statutes. Fortunately, preparations were made, and due to the project collaboration with LEV, a process to develop statutes had already been initiated in the autumn of 2021.



*Development of statutes in Hantharwaddy self help group in Bago. Training of trainers in the UNCRPD in Mandalay, Myanmar*

It is an ongoing challenge to ensure that board members are well-prepared for their tasks. This was evident to the Danish Association of the Deaf in relation to their West African partners in Ivory Coast, Mali, Togo, and Niger, where in practice, it was the 'president' who took on nearly all roles. This created bottlenecks and conflicts and was not sustainable in the long run. After leadership training for board members focusing on the division of roles and responsibilities, followed by mentoring sessions, there is now a clear division of roles, especially between the president, treasurer, and secretary, as well as a good understanding of the responsibilities of the board versus the secretariat.

### **Fundraising and financial sustainability**

A focus area that is prominent in many partnerships at both the national and local levels is **fundraising** and efforts towards greater financial sustainability. In three projects in Honduras, Mongolia, and Uganda, all of which are in their exit phase, there have been positive developments. In Honduras, the five partner organisations and some local branches have succeeded in attracting funding for a total of 16 projects from foreign NGOs and donors. In Mongolia, the organisation of the blind has been granted support for five applications. And in Uganda, the Epilepsy Association

has managed to attract a range of international donors, including funding to cover certain fixed expenses associated with the organisation's operations.

In all three cases, these achievements are the result of significant efforts to increase capacity in identifying and building relationships with relevant donors, formulating applications, and meeting various donor requirements. Although the ability to attract new donors has significantly improved, it is a real challenge to reach a funding level that can match the Danish support, as many grants are small and short-term. Additionally, the constant pursuit of funding requires significant resources and makes it difficult for organisations to work consistently on their own strategic priorities.



*Members of the blind organisation have been trained as baristas and now work in MNFB's new café.*

There is therefore significant pressure to try and find other supplementary sources of income for the organisations. In Mongolia the blind organisation has over the years, established a range of social enterprises that provide employment opportunities for their members, raise awareness about blindness issues, and generate income for the organisation. This includes massage clinics, felt products, a kindergarten, and more. The latest addition is the establishment of a café in 2022 within the Mongolian equivalent of Denmark's Radio – a successful collaboration that is now expanding to include a massage clinic and awareness campaigns on national TV.

## Local engagement

Local chapters play an important role in the work of partner organisation. This is where the members live, and where legislation, programs, budget allocations, and access to services must be implemented in real life. Local branches can bring together persons with disabilities, elect legitimate representatives, offer member activities, and enhance members' knowledge of their rights and opportunities - they serve as a link between members and their 'mother' organisations. In addition to that, local organisation is also often a prerequisite for accessing local resources.

**412**  
Local structures  
supported in 2022  
of which **33** were new

A total of 412 local structures were supported through the projects of the Danish Disability Fund in 2022. In addition to training, mentoring, and monitoring of the local chapters' work, there are also other initiatives to strengthen the capacity and engagement of the local chapters, as illustrated in two recently completed projects.

The Danish Association of the Blind (DAB) initiated its collaboration with the Ethiopian Blind Association in 2020. Through the project, four local chapters are now capable of planning, implementing, and reporting on activities. An assessment of the local chapters' capacity in February 2022 revealed significant challenges in their planning; they were not holding regular meetings and lacked a system to help manage and develop their chapters. The solution was to create individual development plans in collaboration with each chapter, develop training materials, and train several staff members and volunteers at headquarters who then provided training to local chapters on topics such as rehabilitation, rights, and engaging key stakeholders in the community. This effort proved successful. Since then, all four chapters have organised training sessions on using the white cane, reading braille, and conducted awareness workshops for families of the blind and the local community, with minimal support from the headquarters.

In Sierra Leone, the organisation of the blind is also working to strengthen the local structures.

DAB has been supporting the Sierra Leone Association of the Blind since 2018. The focus has been on getting members back into local chapters to rebuild a strong nationwide structure after an Ebola outbreak halted all activities



a few years ago. This goal has been achieved. In 2022, six out of the 16 local chapters were assessed as self-sustained. This was achieved by enhancing the skills of local leaders through training, a mentorship program, and raising awareness – also among the members – about their rights, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Sierra Leone's disability law. A system of trainers in rights and mobility training has been developed, capable of training other trainers and thereby spreading the knowledge to more members. While members in local chapters used to receive support for transportation costs and activities, the network and social cohesion have become so strong that members can now continue without assistance.

As the next chapters will demonstrate, there are many good examples of member activities, fundraising, and local advocacy work carried out by local chapters.

## 4.2. Empowerment – stronger members



Increased mobility and independence for 921 blind and visually impaired individuals in six countries through training in the use of the white cane.

Combating stigma through role models and self-advocacy.

More persons with disabilities gaining access to social services.

Numerous examples of income-generating activities – from knitting courses to agricultural cooperatives.

Focus on increasing the representation of **women and youth** in boards – and engaging them in the organisations' work and member activities.

Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families is often a prerequisite for persons with disabilities to play an active role in the development of their organisations and the surrounding community. In 2022, the Danish Disability Fund reached a total of approximately 34,441 persons with disabilities – nearly equal numbers of men and women – as well as 8,142 families in efforts to promote rights fulfillment and improved living conditions. These figures encompass a wide range of different initiatives.

### Combating stigma and isolation

The first step in strengthening the capacity of persons with disabilities and their families is to help them overcome isolation and combat the stigma they often live under. Initiatives to break isolation vary. For the blind organisations, training in the use of **the white cane** is of crucial importance. It not only increases the independence and mobility of blind and visually impaired individuals in the local communities but also enhances their self-esteem and social interaction with others. Furthermore, it contributes to increasing the visibility and understanding about persons with visual impairments. In 2022, a total of 921 individuals received training and distribution of white canes across six partner countries.

Organisations representing persons with intellectual disabilities are often run by family members, as persons with intellectual disabilities may find it challenging to advocate for themselves. However, this is not for the case for all. LEV is increasingly supporting its South partners in the work with so-called 'self advocates' - groups of the most capable young persons with intellectual disabilities. Through training, participation in activities, and interactions with peers, these self advocates strengthen their self-confidence, become more willing to engage in the local community, and develop the ability to speak up for themselves. In Rwanda, one group of self advocates has already been initiated, and another is in the process. Additionally, LEV's partner, Collectif Tubakunde, has trained local leaders on how to include

persons with intellectual disabilities and gather their perspectives on matters relevant to their situation. Since June, persons with intellectual disabilities have been able to participate in meetings where they discuss topics such as education and well-being.

### Access to income and social services

Many countries in the Global South have social services and local budgets targeted at vulnerable groups or specifically aimed at persons with disabilities. However, access to these services is not automatic. It requires knowledge of one's rights and opportunities, and the ability to write applications, or engage in dialogue with local authorities. Experience from Bolivia illustrate the range of services and support that persons with disabilities can access, as well as the significance of the project in making this happen.

*To learn what works and what doesn't, what support is good and what is harmful, and how they can best decide in their own lives – a self-advocacy basis is needed. Besides, all knowledge in the field of advocacy and influencing shows that self-advocacy has much more impact. (Collectif Tubakunde, 2022)*

DAPD has been working in Bolivia since 2011 and currently collaborates with five organisations representing people with various disabilities. 2022 experienced a culmination of efforts to secure support from Bolivia's authorities for partner organisations and their members. A total of 76 applications resulted in 46 grants – in comparison, only two were approved in 2016. The grants include funds, scholarships, employment opportunities, food assistance, and courses, as well as land, housing, and the construction of a local branch office. Additionally, the blind organisation successfully increased the pensions of all blind individuals by 1,000 DKK. DAPD and the partner organisations estimate that the total value of grants in 2022 amounted to 14.2 million kroner – nine million locally and five million for nationwide efforts. The actual numbers are higher, as DAPD only collects data from approximately 40% of the 76 local branches annually. DAPD's approach to capacity building of organisations and their local branches combines training, practical experience, and knowledge sharing, including a small fund where organisations can apply for funding for small initiatives. This functions as a protected workshop where partners can practice, improve, and collectively strengthen their ability to approach authorities and formulate applications, despite limited schooling.

Many local branches work systematically to ensure member access to services and local resources.

#### Rwanda

186 blind and visually impaired individuals across 10 local branches have gained access to government programs such as health insurance, animal husbandry, and financial assistance. A significant increase.

#### Vietnam

16 out of 24 local branches representing persons with physical disabilities now make use of data in their membership database to identify members who could benefit from government programs targeting impoverished households, persons with severe disabilities, and members seeking employment.

#### India

281 blind and visually impaired individuals have gained access to public services such as pensions, ration cards, train tickets, bank accounts, loans, etc. in two districts.

Family members with disabilities often incur higher expenses due to medication and assistive devices, while also experiencing lower income due to limited education and job opportunities. Furthermore, it can be challenging for relatives to balance employment with the significant caregiving responsibilities that can be associated with being a guardian for a person with a disability. Income-generating activities that can be combined with caregiving tasks can therefore be crucial for improving the financial situation of members.

Thus, the need for income is substantial, and income-generating activities are integrated into many of DAB's and LEV's projects, including activities such as basket weaving in Nepal, kiosks in India, massage clinics in Laos, Myanmar, and Mongolia, soap production in Uganda, knitting projects in Rwanda, and livestock farming in various locations.



*Basket weaving among members of the blind organisation in Nepal, and persons with mentally health issues in Rwanda, as well as a kiosk run by a blind woman in India.*

In many places local branches have also been successful in obtaining public support for income-generating projects. In Ghana's Dormaa Central district, for example, the local social welfare authorities have agreed to provide financial support for the establishment of a snail farm, which is intended to serve as an income-generating activity for people with intellectual disabilities and their parents. The authorities have organised training in snail farming and have constructed a building for this purpose.

In Rwanda, much of the public assistance to the local communities is channeled through support for cooperatives, which can receive capital for income-generating activities. Several partners have benefited from this, including LEV's partner Collectif Tubakunde, where 178 out of 250 parents of children with intellectual disabilities are organised into three collectives that generate income through crafts, agriculture, and pig farming. Among members of the blind organisation, three cooperatives have also been formed, and other members have joined cooperatives in their local communities.



*Blind and visually impaired persons being taught agriculture at the Masaka Center in Rwanda.*

### **Peer to peer support**

Several organisations make use of volunteers to share knowledge about their own disabilities and provide assistance with managing the challenges faced by their peers. This includes SIND's partner NOUSPR in Rwanda, which has a network of 34 volunteer leaders, known as "patient experts," who have personal experience with mental health issues. They have been trained to handle difficult situations and are the ones in contact with NOUSPR's members. The patient experts engage members in self-help groups that meet weekly for therapy work and the production of items for sale.



They also follow up with individual members in case of breakdowns or illnesses, providing assistance with medication or hospitalization when needed.

In Uganda, a similar approach is taken, where three small disability organisations for spinal cord injury, arthritis, and persons with disabilities living with HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis have applied for and received funds from the project's shared fund to train others to become trainers. This gives existing members the capacity to train new members in managing their own disabilities. In the case of spinal cord injury, this knowledge is absolutely essential for survival, and it is knowledge that typically cannot be acquired from other sources.



A patient expert meets a NOUSPR member.

### Increasing engagement of women and youth

Several member organisations and their South partners are actively seeking to increase the involvement of women and youth in the work. In Uganda, as part of the revision of its bylaws, the epilepsy association has now ensured that young persons with epilepsy are appointed at all three levels of the organisation. In Vietnam, the deaf association HAD is experiencing a higher number of active young board members – both vice-chairs are 22 years old. In Bolivia, the partners are strategically working to build strong social communities, enabling members – especially women and youth – to gain greater self-esteem and become more engaged in activities within the local community. In Honduras, it is now women who are leading the disability movement. Four out of five partner organisations are led by women, 71% of the national leaders are women, and 45% of the local leaders are women. Most partners have also applied for and received projects to work on issues such as preventing violence against women, and many are in the process of formulating a code of conduct. In Ghana, the deaf association has seen many more women running for board positions in 2022, and seven new women have taken on leadership roles at the national, regional, and district levels. The epilepsy association in Uganda has established eight women's groups at the district level with a total of 175 members – providing a safe space to discuss epilepsy from a women's perspective.

### 4.3 Advocacy – a stronger voice



In 2022 three out of four South partners engaged in advocacy work with ministries, 40% with government agencies and other government institutions, and one out of three collaborated with the national disability council. Examples range from the Ombudsman in Indonesia to the National Bank in Ethiopia and the National Road Safety Authority in Ghana. At the local level, there is widespread collaboration with service providers from schools to health clinics, plus efforts to secure access to local resources

A **core task for disability movements is to hold decision-makers accountable** for ensuring and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. This includes efforts to influence legislation at the national level as well as advocacy work to ensure that laws and regulations are implemented at the local level. This work is aimed at various stakeholders – politicians, authorities, service providers, private businesses, as well as other organisations. Advocacy is a crucial component of the work carried out by most South partners, initially often focused at the local level, but later, as organisations develop, also at the national level. In 2022, there was also an example of a global initiative. The examples of advocacy work below provide insight into the many different agendas being pursued, and how disability organisations approach the task and manage to secure influence.

### **Advocacy work at the global level**

In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Danish Association of the Deaf (DAD) initiated a process with five South partners on three continents, as well as the Global Deaf Federation, to develop a toolkit for safeguarding the rights of the deaf during a pandemic. There were many instances where deaf and other persons with disabilities were denied access to treatment, information, etc., or were given lower priority when strained healthcare systems had to choose whom to treat. As a result, there was concern about how far back, the deaf population would be placed, in the queue for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 toolbox is built on three pillars: 1. Access to information, 2. Right to treatment, and 3. The social aspect. The toolbox contains valuable advice and examples of best practices in advocacy work. For instance, it outlines how to translate principles from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals into practical arguments, how to engage with authorities, form alliances with other (disability) organisations, and the pros and cons of different communication channels and platforms. Lastly, it offers guidance on the social aspect of the deaf organisations' work, such as how to organise "COVID-safe" events both physically and online, ensuring that deaf people are not isolated from their regular social encounters within their organisations.

The toolbox has been tested in five countries, translated into five languages and international sign language, shared globally through six webinars, and launched on the website of the Global Federation of the Deaf. It serves as a prime example of a global deaf movement collaborating towards a common goal.

### **Advocacy at the national level**

At the national level, in 2022, three out of four South partners engaged in advocacy work with ministries, government agencies, and other types of government institutions, while every third partner collaborated with the national disability council. At the top of the list are efforts to influence the Ministries of Education, Social, and to some extent, Ministries of Health, aiming to ensure equal access and opportunities for persons with disabilities. Below are a few examples of how various South partners have successfully exerted their influence.

In Ghana, **the deaf community has now gained access to obtaining driver's licenses**. This achievement has required a long and persistent effort. Despite disability legislation in Ghana affirming that deaf persons also have the right to obtain a driver's license, the National Road Safety Authority of Ghana disagreed. The Ghana National Association of the Deaf (GNAD) had been advocating for this since 2014, but it was only in 2019 that the National Road Safety Authority relented and asked GNAD to draft a policy. Later GNAD's draft was expanded to include other types of disabilities. The National Disability Council then took the lead in validating the policy within the disability movement. Finally, in 2022, the policy was signed by the Ministries of Transport and of Social Affairs, and it was launched in March 2023. A ten-year struggle has come to an end, and the drive can now begin.

In Uganda, organisations working with disability sports have influenced the sports policy of the Ministry of Education and Sports. Their footprint includes proposals for inclusive sports in schools, procurement of equipment for disability sports, accessible sports facilities, promotion of disability sports in local communities, and exemption from value added tax (VAT) on disability sports equipment. When UNAPD, the organisation for people with physical disabilities, learned that the ministry was revising its sports policy, they took a bold step and invited the ministry to join their Disability Sports Caucus (a lobbygroup) and requested an update on the policy work. This proved a good idea, providing direct access to the 'engine room.' The ministry appointed a representative to participate in the group, acting as an intermediary and spokesperson between the two parties and ensuring caucus involvement in relevant meetings.

In Ethiopia, the National Bank has drafted a banking directive regarding accessible banking services for people with visual impairments. This is a significant step as, when adopted, it will impact all banks in the country. Currently, persons with visual impairments have very limited access to banking services and are required to bring a sighted person as a witness and co-signer when accessing their own account. Although there have been positive examples of private banks introducing digital banking services and ATMs that can be operated through voice, these have been voluntary arrangements limited to a few. This is largely an issue that the Ethiopian blind movement has put on the agenda through documenting the challenges, developing a policy paper based on practices from other countries, and more.

In Indonesia, the initiative did not originate from the disability movement but from the Ombudsman Institution that wanted to make their services more accessible. It became the first co-funded project in the history of the Danish Disability Fund, where the Danish Embassy in Jakarta funded the collaboration between the Indonesian and Danish ombudsmen, while a grant to DAPD ensured the involvement of two Indonesian disability organisations, training on what it means to have a disability, and ensured a strong disability perspective when developing a detailed manual with illustrations on how to make the ombudsman institutions' services more accessible.

### **Advocacy with service providers and local authorities**

2022 also provided many good examples of collaboration at the local level with service providers – public and private – as well as with local authorities to make their services more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

In Uganda, the Epilepsy Support Association of Uganda (ESAU) established a collaboration with 26 faith-based health clinics in four of the country's five regions to ensure access to epilepsy medication during the COVID-19 crisis. The crisis led to a prolonged and widespread lockdown of Ugandan society. The healthcare sector was under extreme pressure, and the hospital units typically used by people with epilepsy were reallocated to the treatment and isolation of COVID-19 patients. Additionally, the supply of epilepsy medication was disrupted and difficult to access at public health clinics. As a response, ESAU began identifying private faith-based health clinics that could take on the task. They involved the public healthcare system in training and monitoring the clinics, and established "medication banks" at the clinics where medication was sold at a nominal cost, which could be used to purchase new epilepsy medication. In the third quarter of 2022, 717 persons with epilepsy received their medication through this approach across 16 clinics.

In Ghana, Inclusion Ghana (IG), succeeded in convincing one of the local welfare authorities to recognize persons with intellectual disabilities and their families as eligible recipients of funds from Ghana's 'District Assembly Common Fund'. DACF is a pool of money distributed at the district level with 3% earmarked for persons with disabilities. However, people with intellectual disabilities are often overlooked, either because they are not seen as deserving recipients or because authorities misinterpret the rules, preventing parents/guardians from applying on behalf of a person with an intellectual disability. IG has held meetings with social welfare authorities in all the districts where they work, and in the KEEA district, a new responsible official has acknowledged that the district's previous practices were incorrect and has promised to rectify the situation. A small, yet important step in the right direction.



## Collaboration with authorities ensures better interventions for persons with psychosocial disabilities in Uganda

In Uganda, SIND and Mental Health Uganda (MHU) have been working to improve conditions for homeless women with psychosocial disabilities in and around Kampala since 2017. MHU has been working to enhance access to the established psychiatric system for women on the streets, reintegrate homeless women who have received treatment back into their families and local communities, and implement preventive measures to ensure that psychosocial disabilities do not lead to homelessness.

SIND and MHU's approach has been to involve public authorities in all aspects of their work for women with psychosocial disabilities, in order to embed new solutions within the existing healthcare system and thereby increase sustainability. They have achieved significant success with this approach.

Kampala's city council has granted MHU permission to establish three drop-in centers for homeless women and others facing psychosocial challenges on land adjacent to public health clinics. With this strategic placement, the drop-in centers have been able to easily refer individuals in need of treatment into the healthcare system. These centers have served as an entry point into the healthcare system for homeless women who were previously excluded in practice. In addition to psychosocial support, women have been able to access amenities such as showers, clean clothing, and sanitary products to enhance their dignity before continuing their journey within the healthcare system.



This location has also facilitated close collaboration with healthcare personnel, especially psychiatric nurses, with whom they share experiences related to outreach and the treatment of women. In total, 393 women with psychosocial challenges have received assistance at the drop-in centers. Out of these, 347 have been referred for further treatment within the public healthcare system.

Collaboration with the so-called 'Village Health Teams' (VHT) has yielded exceptionally positive results in both preventive interventions and the rehabilitation of formerly homeless women. VHTs are the most decentralized units within Uganda's healthcare system, aiming to connect communities with the healthcare system. MHU has provided training to VHTs from all five districts of Kampala on how to screen and refer persons with psychosocial challenges to the healthcare system (or to MHU's drop-in centers), as well as how to support the reintegration of formerly homeless individuals. The response from VHTs has exceeded expectations, and they now play an active role in identifying people with mental health challenges and referring them to appropriate treatment options. Additionally, they work to destigmatize psychosocial challenges through awareness campaigns and contribute to the rehabilitation of formerly homeless women.

As a result of these efforts, 39 women have been reunited with their families and have participated in rehabilitation activities, including peer-to-peer support groups or training in income-generating activities such as soap production.

Furthermore, Kampala's police department's 'Family and Child Protection' unit has received training on the rights of homeless people and tools for engaging specifically with homeless women in their work. This includes receiving reports from the women and assisting them in accessing relevant services for example within the healthcare system.

## 5. Goal 2 - Engagement, counseling, and training activities

DPOD works in various ways to increase engagement and integration of development initiatives within the Danish disability movement. This includes spreading knowledge about international development cooperation, providing guidance and training to engaged disability organisations and their partners, and enhancing communication about results and interventions to members and supporters of the disability movement.



15 disability organisations are involved in development cooperation through the Danish Disability Fund - 8 with their own grants and 7 as co-applicants

In 2022, a total of 15 disability organisations (in addition to DPOD) have been involved in development cooperation. Eight organisations have their own grants, while 7 are co-applicants and involved as part of larger projects.

### 5.1 Engagement in partnerships in the Global South

Several disability organisations have started involving other organisations in their work. The Danish Association of the Physically Disabled has been engaging other disability organisations in their projects for several years. They have, among other things, involved Parasport Denmark, who contributes to the development of a disability sports movement in Bolivia and Uganda, and involved Cerebral Palsy Denmark, the Brain Injury Association, and Arthritis Association, who contribute to capacity building of their sister organisations in Uganda. Now, two other Danish disability organisations have started doing the same. LEV has initiated a project in Rwanda in collaboration with 'ULF - National Association of People with Intellectual Disabilities' as well as with 'Autism Denmark'. In 2022, two 'new' organisations, 'Danish Lung Association' and 'Danish Diabetes Association', have come together to explore opportunities for establishing a new lung association in Rwanda, improve the capacity of the existing diabetes association, and strengthen collaboration between the two.

#### 8 organisations with their own grants

Danish Association of the Blind  
Danish Association of the Deaf  
Danish Association of the Physically Disabled  
Epilepsy Association  
Lung Association  
LEV – Life with Intellectual Disability  
SIND – Danish Mental Health Association  
SUMH – Association of Youth with Disabilities

**Examples of the benefits of collaborative projects:** "LEV is a family member organisation, while ULF is an organisation represented by persons with intellectual disabilities, and therefore, we can learn a lot by having ULF involved in our projects. ULF doesn't expect to carry out development projects on their own. Hence, LEV can handle the administrative work, and ULF can contribute with their knowledge and skills. The Danish Autism Association may want to conduct development projects on their own in the future, and their participation allows them to try it out without taking full responsibility" (Project Manager, Pernille Tind Simmons).

#### 7 co-applicants

Autism Association  
Cerebral Palsy Denmark  
Diabetes Association  
Arthritis Association  
Brain Injury Association  
Parasport Denmark  
ULF – National Association of People with Intellectual Disabilities

DPOD initiated the development of an engagement strategy in 2022, with the aim of enhancing the depth and scope of the disability movement's engagement in international development cooperation. The strategy is expected to be completed in the first half of 2023.

## 5.2 Communication about development cooperation



**Vigtige resultater**

**Communication** has been boosted

Opinion pieces in four newsservices - Altinget Udvikling, Altinget Verdensmål, Kristeligt Dagblad, and interviews with Verdens Bedste Nyheder

11 **newsletters**, 14 **articles** on the website, and dissemination on social media

2 awareness campaigns funded through the **Information Fund**.

### DPOD's Information activities

In order to ensure greater integration and better synergy between DPOD's national and international communication activities, DPOD has developed a communication plan for its international work and established a position as a communication consultant shared between the two departments. In addition, DPOD's Vice Chair, Sif Holst, has been appointed as the spokesperson for DPOD's development policy collaboration.

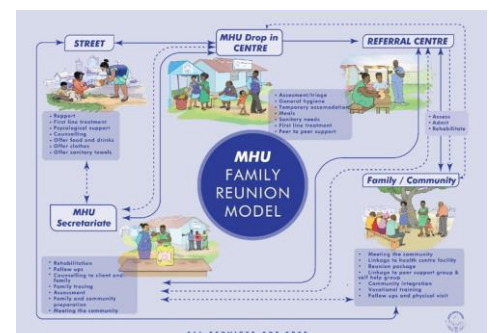
Throughout 2022, led by Sif Holst, DPOD played a significant role in various development policy agendas, including the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the Global Disability Summit, in relation to the commitments pledged by the Danish government. Furthermore, DPOD provided continuous information to its stakeholders through newsletters, website articles, and social media posts. In 2022, DPOD's newsletter "Internationalt Nyt" experienced a steady increase of 117 new subscribers, reaching a total of 680 by the end of the year. The newsletter is published monthly. In 2023, DPOD will initiate a survey of its target audience to provide as relevant content as possible to its recipients.

Visit by the **former Minister for Development** Flemming Møller Mortensen in April 2022 is a good example of a successful event created in close collaboration with member organisations. A robust program with presentations, activities, and gifts from the South partners to the minister symbolized some of the significant achievements realized through the collaboration. The minister's visit was widely communicated through images and videos. [Learn more about the visit and watch a video where the minister explains the importance of the Global Disability Program here.](#)



### Member organisations' information activities

In 2022, several organisations have conducted information activities in Denmark related to their international development cooperation. SIND (Danish National Association of Mental Health) produced an article documenting their approach to working with homeless women on the streets in Uganda. <https://sind.dk/om-sind/sinds-organisation/udvalg-og-arbejdsgrupper/sind-mental-health>.





The Danish Association of the Deaf has developed its communication approach in the international arena, starting with an upgrade of information on their website and their social media <https://ddl.dk/international/>.



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DPOD's Information Fund provides the opportunity to apply for funding for more comprehensive awareness initiatives that cut across projects and partners. It is a popular option that has been widely used over the years. In 2022, two information grants were finalised by the Danish Association of the Deaf (DAD) and the Danish Association of Youth with Disabilities (SUMH).

DAD aimed to inform the Danish population about the conditions of the deaf in developing countries and the impact of DAD's work. The campaign drew on examples from DAD's partnership with the Ghana National Association of the Deaf (GNAD). A total of 4 videos and articles were produced. It was launched with a press release, and DAD worked intensively to gain exposure in various national media. Unfortunately, the launch coincided with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and DAD was not able to achieve the planned attention. Instead, the material was shared in DAD's membership magazine, in DPOD's Newsletter, and on various social media platforms. Particularly exposure on Facebook yielded good results with a total of 891 minutes viewed, 200 shares, and higher engagement than previous posts.

SUMH aimed to inform youth between the ages of 15 and 25 about SUMH's work and the living conditions of young persons with disabilities in Uganda, Rwanda, and Denmark. SUMH developed a workshop based on the Sustainable Development Goals and the principle of "leave no one behind," also making use of previously developed materials such as podcasts and videos. The workshop was planned to be held at various educational institutions, education fairs, the People's Meeting (*Folkemødet*), and the Youth People's Meeting (*Ungdommens Folkemøde*) – all in 2020. Due to Covid-19 lockdowns, many planned activities became impossible, and SUMH had to come up with new solutions. Ultimately, however, it was possible to visit a number of educational institutions and hold activities at both the People's Meeting and the Youth People's Meeting. Approximately 375 young people were reached through the activities. Refer to Annex 4 for an overview of PRO funds granted and completed in 2022.

### 5.3 Capacity development in the context of development cooperation



New initiative with **online courses** targeting both Danish and South partners. Two outcome harvesting workshops and two monitoring, evaluation, learning courses. Both processes involving 7 Danish and 20 South partners.

**3 afterwork meetings** on exit strategies, 'fair share', and PSHEA.

Establishment of the FABO **learning platform**.

Increasing demand for **advisory services**.

## From capacity building of Danish disability organisations to capacity building of partnerships

A new major initiative was launched in 2022. It involved four online courses/workshops, each lasting a week. While DPOD's capacity building efforts had previously been aimed at Danish member organisations and a few joint workshops in DPOD's partner countries, it was now put to the test whether, in a post-corona era, the new online possibilities could be used to create larger learning experiences across North- and South partners. The results exceeded all expectations. A total of 20 South partners and 7 Danish disability organisations participated in workshops on the outcome harvesting method in March and a course on monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems in November. Especially the 'Outcome Harvesting' workshop showed that it is possible to conduct diverse, engaging, and educational online sessions. This is a highly cost-effective way to involve South partners in capacity building, and an approach that allows us to reach partners beyond DPOD's own partner countries, which would otherwise be challenging to cover.

All projects with a budget exceeding 1 million DKK are required to do an evaluation, which yields valuable project-specific learning. To further enhance cross-cutting learning across interventions in the Global South, a cross-cutting thematic learning review was initiated at the end of 2022, focusing on the use of small local grants in projects.

## New learning hub

Another important learning initiative in 2022 was the development of a Learning Hub on the Fabo learning platform. See: <https://fabo.org/dpod/hub>. The majority of the material is in English and targeted both Danish disability organisations and their South partners. The idea is to gather all learning materials developed by DPOD and links to relevant materials developed by others. This includes materials from courses and after-work meetings, as well as information and learning pages on specific topics.



## Project advice and courses

DPOD's **project related advice** continues to play a key role in the capacity building offered by DPOD. There has been a high and increasing demand for project advice in 2022 due to the growing competition for funds in the Danish Disability Fund. This applies to both new applications, eligible applications that have not been granted, and rejected applications, which led to further advisory support in relation to re-applications.

DPOD's **controller** also plays an important role in advising member organisations' controllers and accounting personnel involved in international development cooperation. For instance, by assisting with project accounts and financial monitoring visits.

In 2022, three **after-work meetings** were held. One focused on **exit strategies**, where three organisations shared their experiences with sustainability and phasing out long-standing partnerships. Another meeting covered **fair share budgeting**, where DPOD shared its own approach to the fair share concept and received input from member organisations on their approaches and challenges, which has since been used in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Finally, there was an after-hours meeting addressing the **prevention and handling of sexual harassment**, where DPOD's draft strategy was presented as inspiration for similar work that member organisations will undertake in 2023.

Additionally, two meetings were held in the **Development Network**, where DPOD's Executive Committee and member organisations discussed topics of strategic importance. The focus was on the strategic objectives and budget of the Global Disability Program, the scoring system introduced as a result of the increased competition for funds in the Disability Fund, and the upcoming engagement strategy.

## 6. Goal 3 - Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Danish Development Cooperation

Goal 3 of DPOD's Global Disability Program focuses on exerting influence on the development policy agenda in Denmark. The work involves promoting inclusion in international development cooperation among Danish development actors and influencing the framework for Danish development assistance.

	<p>DPOD has developed a new Policy Program for 2022-25.</p> <p>Denmark has submitted four commitments in connection with the Global Disability Summit.</p> <p>Data for Denmark's first reporting on the OECD-DAC Disability Marker were published - the data covers 2020.</p>
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### New Policy Program

DPOD's advocacy in relation to the international development work in 2022 was less prominent than intended, as the first half of the year was marked by reorganisation and vacant positions within the department, and the latter half was dominated by elections and subsequent government negotiations. This situation led to advocacy efforts being put on hold, awaiting the appointment of a minister and spokespersons. Nevertheless, 2022 has brought important strides in the efforts to promote greater inclusion in Danish development cooperation.

In 2022, DPOD developed a new policy program that sets the foundation for a more systematic approach from 2023 onwards. The policy program draws on lessons from the latest policy program and focuses on:

- Strengthening the integration of policy work through collaboration with member organisations
- Prioritizing a more systematic approach to development policy advocacy
- Establishing more partnerships with Danish development actors regarding inclusion
- Incorporating voices from South partners into policy work..

### The Disability Summit

The most important milestone of the year was the Global Disability Summit in February with Norway as the host, Ghana as co-host, and organised in close collaboration with the global disability umbrella organisation - IDA. It was only the second time for a Disability Summit to take place – an event that brings together governments, donors, the private sector, UN agencies, foundations, civil society organisations, and organisations of persons with disabilities, with the aim of accelerating the inclusion of persons with disabilities by committing to concrete actions.

Denmark actively participated with a speech from the Minister for Development Cooperation and four pledged Danish commitments related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Danish development cooperation and humanitarian efforts. As a result of one of these commitments, Denmark has become a member of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network, which brings together a wide range of donors with a common interest in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. For DPOD, monitoring the Danish

#### Four commitments by Denmark at the Global Disability Summit

1. Denmark will participate in the GLAD network.
2. Denmark will work to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in efforts to combat gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts.
3. Denmark will facilitate a strategic dialogue between DPOD and Danish organisations with a strategic partnership agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
4. Denmark will give a voice to people with disabilities and strengthen local leadership in the Global South, including through organisations with a strategic partnership.



implementation of the commitments implies an ongoing dialogue between DPOD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This includes the commitment to facilitate a dialogue between DPOD and Danish organisations with a strategic partnership agreement with the Ministry, as well as the acknowledgement of the role that disability organisations in the Global South should play as a central part of the so-called 'localization' agenda.

## Disability Marker

Another important step is the publication of the initial data on the OECD DAC Disability Marker, which Denmark decided to report on back in 2018, when the marker was adopted. The Disability Marker is one of 12 markers in the OECD DAC's covering all development assistance provided by OECD member countries. With the Disability Marker, there is now data on the proportion of Danish development assistance allocated to interventions that have the inclusion of persons with disabilities as either the primary- or as a significant goal. In 2022, data from Denmark was made available in the database for the first time, with figures for the year 2020. According to the OECD DAC criteria approximately 10 billion Danish kroner of the funding allocated for development assistance in 2020 can be assessed using the disability marker. Of these 10 billion DKK, 4.5% was designated as having the inclusion of persons with disabilities as either the primary or a significant goal. Thus, the marker enables tracking whether new Danish initiatives and commitments result in an increase in the proportion of allocations aimed at including persons with disabilities in the coming years.

### Other initiatives in the collaboration and dialogue between DPOD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2022:

Introduction to the global disability umbrella organisation International Disability Alliance (IDA) through a meeting between IDA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

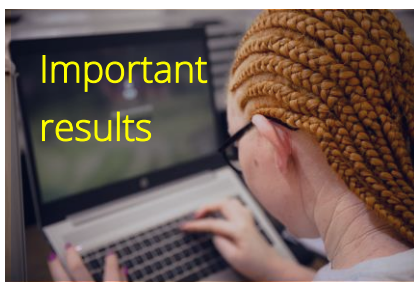
Discussions regarding inclusion in relation to the Danish humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Ukraine.

## Other Initiatives

Throughout the year, DPOD has **engaged with various Danish stakeholders**. In June, DPOD hosted a workshop for a group of Ugandan 'Sustainable Development Goals ambassadors' on the 'Leave No One Behind' principle as a central element in achieving the SDGs. This was done in collaboration with the organisation 2030Beyond. DPOD also met with the **Danish Institute for Human Rights** to explore potential collaboration on international development agendas. In 2022, DPOD concluded a partnership with Oxfam Denmark in Ghana on support to a youth education project.

Within the disability movement, advocacy efforts are still coordinated through a 'policy working group', which includes five of DPOD's member organisations. The group meets quarterly to coordinate, exchange information, and has the participation of DPOD's Vice Chairman, who serves as the spokesperson for development policies.

## 7. Participation in global networks



Contribution to the Disability Summit.

DPOD representative elected as Vice Chair of IDDC.

Multi-year agreement on support to the global disability umbrella IDA.

Participation in a study on the use of the disability marker.

The global networks play an increasingly significant role in DPOD's international engagement, a trend that continued in 2022. DPOD – and a number of DPOD's member organisations are active players in both formal and informal international networks related to development and disability – networks which support DPOD's international development work. DPOD contributes with knowledge and experience from its own

partnerships in the global South and seeks to influence and collaborate with other international organisations on joint agendas – thus becoming part of a stronger voice internationally. At the same time DPOD benefits from gaining more knowledge about global movements and initiatives, which are central to our own international engagement.

DPOD actively participated in the **Global Disability Summit**, partly by making two commitments related to our international development cooperation and partly by being part of a group of civil society organisations contributing to the planning of the Summit's first day. Sif Holst, DPOD's Vice Chair, spoke during the session "Creating Synergies and Partnerships" about how organisations of persons with disabilities should be involved as partners in development.

In addition, DPOD participated in the European Regional Disability Summit hosted by the European Disability Forum, a week before the Global Summit. During this event, DPOD's chairman, Thorkild Olesen, spoke about DPOD's and our member organisations' experience with empowerment and promoting the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities.

**DPOD commitments:**

Promote the inclusion of underrepresented groups in our own interventions and partnerships.

Encourage Danish organisations and institutions to take concrete measures to include persons with disabilities in their programs and in their organisations.

See <https://handicap.dk/nyheder/DPOD-melder-sig-paa-banen-med-forpligtelser-til-globalt-handicaptopmoede>



DPOD's engagement in the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) remains significant. At the general assembly in May 2022, DPOD's representative was elected as the Vice Chairperson. Through this role, DPOD gains influence on the ongoing activities and collaboration within IDDC, coordinating with IDDC's working groups and the rest of the board. In 2022, DPOD also increased its involvement in IDDC's OPD (Organisations of Persons with Disabilities) Partnership Task Group, where we contribute with our experiences.



The engagement in IDDC has also led to DPOD's participation in the annual GLAD-network meeting in 2022, representing IDDC. The GLAD meeting provides an opportunity to engage with all major stakeholders on the global agenda for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development. Additionally, DPOD's Danish membership makes it particularly relevant for DPOD to participate in this meeting.



In the first half of 2022, DPOD was engaged in the campaign for DPOD's Vice-Chair, Sif Holst, as a candidate for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The campaign was coordinated with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' UN mission in New York and the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Elderly. Unfortunately, the campaign did not lead to Sif's election. However, DPOD gained increased insight into the work of the Danish UN mission regarding UN processes.



In 2022, DPOD continued its support to IDA – the global disability umbrella, and entered into a multi-year agreement which brings together various smaller DPOD contributions to IDAs work into one consolidated agreement. One of these initiatives is the 'Bridge' training program, which focuses on understanding and utilizing the Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals in the advocacy work. DPOD supported sessions in Bolivia, benefiting a handful of South partners funded through the Danish Disability Fund. Furthermore, DPOD participated in a workshop held in October, aimed at validating training materials and approaches.

DPOD also initiated a collaboration with CBM Global Disability Inclusion to conduct a study on the experiences of using the disability marker across selected donor and recipient countries. The study is set to be completed in 2023.

## 8. Organisation, strategy and the administration of development cooperation

### Changes in the Department for International Cooperation



A new team structure and three new faces in the Department for International Cooperation.

New measures put in place to handle an increased demand for support from the Danish Disability Fund.

Strengthening of the controller function in East Africa

Preparations for the review by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2022, there were several changes in personnel within DPOD's Department for International Cooperation, and a team structure was established to reduce vulnerability and enhance collaboration, knowledge sharing, and efficiency.

### Handling the increase in demand for grants from the Danish Disability Fund

2022 saw a significant increase in applications to the Danish Disability Fund. DPOD received 27 applications totaling around 44 million DKK and 4 re-applications amounting to approximately 9 million DKK. The high demand was anticipated, and as a result, DPOD implemented several measures to manage the pressure on the Disability Fund, including:

- **Reducing** the cap for individual grants from 18 million DKK to 6 million DKK, with the possibility to apply for 8 million DKK if multiple member organisations apply together;
- Applications below 500,000 DKK are **exempt** from competition, ensuring that all applications deemed worthy of support by the Grant Committee receive funding. This is done to ensure diversity in the fund and provide a working and learning space for smaller/new organisations;
- Introduced a **scoring system** for applications over 500,000 DKK based on the "LEADS" approach - a system where scores between 1 and 5 are assigned to several sub-criteria based on the Disability Fund's guidelines;
- Developed **principles for prioritizing** among the eligible projects, see [DPOD's homepage](#).
- **Reduced the number of annual application rounds** from 3-4 rounds per year to 2 annual application windows.

At the end of 2022, DPOD initiated a review of the guidelines for the Danish Disability Fund to ensure that they reflect the changes and remain accurate and relevant.

### Implementation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' updated guidelines

In 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs updated the Guidelines for Funding Schemes and Networks. The process of implementing the changes to comply with the updated requirements began in 2022. The new guidelines also introduced updated requirements regarding PSHEA (Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment), as well as new requirements related to anti-child labor, anti-terrorism, and conflict of interest prevention. The work to ensure compliance with these requirements will be completed in 2023.

### Preparation for the review process

The last few months of 2022 were spent preparing for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' review of DPOD's management of the Global Disability Program, including the collection of relevant documents, coordination regarding the selection of countries to be visited by the review team, and ongoing dialogue with the consultant team, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member organisations, and South partners regarding the planning of country visits, surveys, interviews, meetings, etc.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1: Resultsframe 2022-25, Status for 2022**

**Appendix 2: Open Aid indicators**

**Appendix 3: New grants in the Danish Disability Fund 2022**

**Appendix 4: Project-related information in the Danish Disability Fund 2022**

**Appendix 5a: DPOD Annual financial statements 2022**

**Appendix 5b: DPOD audit protocol 2022**

**Appendix 6a: Danish Disability Fund Financial Statements 2022**

**Appendix 6b: Danish Disability Fund audit reporting 2022**

Appendix 1-4 can be found in Danish at the DPOD website <https://handicap.dk/internationalt-samarbejde/dhs-globale-handicaprogram/resultater>, and Appendix 6a at <https://handicap.dk/internationalt-samarbejde/dhs-globale-handicaprogram/resultater/regnskab>.