About Us

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

- **CRPD** - Article 13; first international human rights instrument enshrining explicit right to access to justice
  - *Equal and effective participation in justice system*
  - *Equal recognition before the law*

- **SDGs** – Goal 16 promotes rule of law and ensures equal access to justice for all, including persons with disabilities
To address access to justice, must address barriers

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

- Examples of projects funded across different countries follow
Conclusion

What works?

• **Partnerships between DPOs and legal aid service providers** or police, judges, human rights organizations, etc. so DPOs get practical/technical support to access justice; human rights actors are informed on rights and needs of PWDs

• **Training members of the judiciary** to build understanding on the rights of PWDs to access justice on an equal basis with others (understanding discrimination & reasonable accommodations, dispelling myths)

• **Documenting human rights violations** to have evidence of high rates of violations to draw attention to the need for action and state accountability

Thank you!