WFD was established in Rome, Italy in 1951, and is an international non-governmental organisation with membership comprising 134 Ordinary Members in addition to Individual Members, Associate Members and International Members. The WFD also has eight (8) Regional Secretariats and one (1) Regional Cooperating Member. WFD’s office is located in Helsinki, Finland.

WFD acknowledges and thanks all our members, partners, supporters and staff featured in the photos in this report with special thanks to Mr Braam Jordaan for designing the WFD Board meeting advertisements.

**LOCATION**

**Physical:**
Light House, 
Ilkantie 4 
Helsinki, Finland

**PO Box:**
P.O. Box 65 
FIN-00401 
Helsinki, Finland

**ENQUIRIES**
WFD Secretariat 
Tel: +358 9 580 3573

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

**Info(at)wfdeaf.org**
For general information and enquiries

**Memberships(at)wfdeaf.org**
For people wanting to join as a member

**info(at)wfdeaf.org**
For people ordering t-shirts and other WFD merchandise
ABOUT THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

VISION
Deaf people have full human rights in an equal world where they and their sign languages are recognised and included as part of human diversity.

MISSION
The WFD promotes and advances the human rights of deaf people through cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies, national organisations of deaf people, and other partners.

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) has consultative status within the United Nations (UN) system. In this role, the WFD works closely with the UN and its various agencies in promoting the human rights of deaf people in accordance with the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies, e.g. the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). WFD also has participatory status within the Council of Europe (COE) and is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA).
AIMS

In accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies, WFD shall develop its activities with the goal of equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society by deaf individuals in every country.

Accordingly, the WFD works towards the global achievement of human rights for all deaf people. These aims include:

- To advocate for full access to society, including education in sign language, by which deaf people can enjoy the same equality and human rights of that of all other peoples,
- To promote the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members,
- To ensure that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign languages and receive support for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities.

ACTIVITIES

WFD pursues its objectives by guiding and supporting the activities of its members, supporting the establishment of new organisations when necessary:

a) developing initiatives and proposals in order to improve the status of deaf people and making statements on issues concerning deaf people;

b) promoting the status of Sign Language on the basis of the constitutions in the respective countries of its members;

c) promoting cultural activities of deaf people and accessibility to cultural services in general;

d) providing information and resources;

e) increasing equal opportunities for full participation for deaf people in society;

f) promoting the establishment and expansion of Sign Language interpreting services in all countries;

g) implementing initiatives so that deaf people have the necessary equipment to control their lives by making use of modern technology;

h) supporting the human rights of deaf people;

i) participating on an international level in cooperation with other organisations of deaf, hard of hearing and other disabled people and authorities;

j) dissemination of scientific and legal materials on the current needs of deaf people in publications and other media;

k) distribution of and ensuring the availability of UN documents to organisations and experts interested in deafness;

l) administering development cooperation activities; and

m) taking other action which serves the objectives of the WFD and the improvement of the status of deaf people worldwide.
Dear Members,

As President of the World Federation of the Deaf, it gives me great pleasure to present this report covering the period 2011 - 2014; in particular, to highlight some of the many achievements effected in line with the four goals from the WFD Action Plan 2011-2015:

1. International Human Rights Advocacy
2. Human Rights Training Activities
3. Expanding Information Distribution and External Communications
4. Strengthening the WFD

During the last four years, the WFD has experienced a number of highlights. Of particular note was the United Nations Human Rights Award presented to WFD Honorary President Dr Liisa Kauppinen and the organising of the 2nd International Conference of the WFD - hosted by the Deaf Society of New South Wales in my home city of Sydney, Australia. Other projects and activities that I would like to include:

2011

- XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf hosted by the Deaf Federation of South Africa, Durban, South Africa with 2,100 delegates attending from 125 countries.
- WFD Regional Secretariat of the Western and Central Africa was established in July 2011.
- WFD celebrated its 60th birthday in 2011 as one of the oldest organisations of persons with disabilities.
- Organisational Team Building: WFD Board, WFDYS Board and WFD Staff Members received two days training from the previous WFD President Markku Jokinen and developed a list of activities and key performance indicators in line with the four year action plan.

2012

- WFD became the official employer of WFD staff members.
- WFD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD).
- WFD and European Union of the Deaf (EUD) renewed their cooperation agreement.
- WFD Honorary President Markku Jokinen received his honorary doctorate from Gallaudet University. This accomplishment recognises his dedication to and leadership of the deaf community and the prominent role he played in the CRPD Ad Hoc negotiations.

2013

- WFD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Deaf Emergency (IDE), International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing (IFHOH).
- WFD received project funding to implement Human Rights Training in Azerbaijan and El Salvador and Peru and employed a Human Rights Officer.
- 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in Sydney, Australia was organised with 660 delegates from 67 countries.
WFD Honorary President Dr Liisa Kauppinen was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in December 2013.

Ms Hend Al-Showaier, a deaf woman from Saudi Arabia, was appointed as a Regional Director for the Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region.

WFD obtained funding support of 50,000€ from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (a total of 200,000€ in 2011-2014) which was directly included in the Finnish government budget in the first phase of budget legislation.

The Human Rights Group Chair, Dr Joseph Murray and Human Rights Officer Eeva Tupi conducted a preparatory mission to Tunisia, funded by the Finnish Foreign Ministry, as part of a planning project for the Maghreb Region.

WFD created the new position of Development Officer with a focus on fundraising with the aim of ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the WFD.

I would like to invite you to read this report that captures the most important moments of this term 2011-2014. None of the achievements would have been realised without the support of our members, partners, donors and volunteers. The WFD Board would especially like to acknowledge our WFD Secretariat Team members – current and past – and thank them for their positive contributions, dedication and commitment: Phillipa Sandholm, Eeva Tupi, Laura Pajunen, Heidi-Maria Helenius, Torun Eklund, Peggy Prosser and Nafisah Rantasalmi, and especially Meri Hýrské-Fischer who manages, mentors and leads the team – MERC!

Lastly, I gratefully acknowledge and recognise all the Board Members for their contribution to the governance and oversight of the WFD throughout the period and all the members of the WFD Expert Groups for their valuable input arising from their specialist knowledge.

On a final note, I wish to acknowledge the support from our Board Members’ country National Associations of the Deaf for their ongoing support in covering Board Member’s travel expenses to attend Board meetings over the four-year period.

1. Deaf Australia and Australian Federation of the Deaf Societies
2. Deaf Federation of South Africa
3. Finnish Association of the Deaf
4. Norwegian Association of the Deaf
5. National Association of the Deaf (USA)
6. British Deaf Association
7. All-Russian Society of the Deaf
8. Mexican Federation of the Deaf
9. Nepal Deaf Federation
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
11. Turkish National Federation of the Deaf

The WFD Board and Secretariat look forward to continuing to work tirelessly during the next period (2016 – 2019) on behalf of the Deaf Community to facilitate the realisation of deaf individual’s human rights worldwide. With your support, as an organisation that is truly representative of our members, we can ensure that we continue to make great strides towards equality for deaf people.

I hope you enjoy reading this report!

Mr Colin Allen
WFD President
The new WFD Board was elected at the XVIII General Assembly in Durban, South Africa, in July 2011, with seven (7) newly elected Board Members joining four (4) existing members. Mr Colin Allen from Australia was elected President and Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen from South Africa was confirmed as the Vice-President. Other Board Members come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

1 The previous WFD Board (July 2007-July 2011): Mr Markku Jokinen (President), Mr Feliciano Sola Limia (Vice-President), Mr Colin Allen, Ms Hanne Berge Kvitvær, Mr Tomas Hedberg, Dr Joseph Murray, Mr Valery Rukhledev, Mr Johan Wesemann, Mr Bikash Dangol, Ms Deborah Oyuu Iyute, and Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen.
Each Board Member has been involved with at least one internal working group dealing with specific topics and items of current interest. Working groups have met prior to each Board meeting in order to prepare matters of relevance to their scope of work. The WFD Secretariat assists with the coordination and preparation of working group issues in the interim.

INTERNAL WFD WORKING GROUPS

**WFD LEGAL COMMISSION**
The purpose of the Legal Commission is to coordinate and monitor all legal policies with regard to the WFD Statutes and all other legal documents pertaining to the Internal Rules, Codes of Conduct and the WFD Board members’ handbook, and any other legal aspects of its work.

**WFD FINANCE COMMITTEE**
The Finance Committee supports the Board and the Secretariat in the administration of the WFD finances and human resources.

**WFD FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP**
The Fundraising Working Group oversees and advises the WFD Board and the WFD Secretariat on fundraising related issues.

**WFD EXPERT COORDINATION GROUP**
The WFD Expert Coordination Group facilitates the planning and establishing of a new WFD Expert Structure. The Group Coordinator also assists the Secretariat in coordinating requests for assistance from WFD members.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (MARC)**
The MARC concentrates on verifying new applications for membership from both Ordinary Members and Associate Members; advises the WFD Board on the establishment of new WFD Regional Secretariats and undertakes situational analyses for Ordinary Members that confront challenging situations in their countries.

**WFD HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP**

**WFD MEDIA WORKING GROUP**
The Media Working Group coordinates and monitors all media policies and requests with regard to WFD Events, Conferences and Congresses to ensure effective and efficient co-operation between the WFD and media agencies.

**WFD CONGRESS WORKING GROUP/WFD CONFERENCE LIAISON OFFICER**
The WFD Congress Working Group and WFD Conference Liaison officer has been vital in ensuring compliance with the WFD’s policies and standards in all World Congress and WFD Conference planning and preparations, and ensuring that all enquiries and requests from delegates are responded to appropriately by the event organiser.
Since January 2011, the WFD Board has met 10 times; the 96th (in Costa Rica) and the 97th (in South Africa) meetings were convened with the Board whose mandate ended at the XVIII General Assembly in July 2011. The current Board has met 8 times (July 2011-December 2014): in South Africa, Norway, USA, Switzerland, Reunion, Australia, Russia and China. The following table highlights the attendance by Board Members at meetings between July 2011 and December 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFD BOARD JULY 2011 - DECEMBER 2014</th>
<th>98th South Africa</th>
<th>99th Norway</th>
<th>100th USA</th>
<th>101st Switzerland</th>
<th>102nd Reunion</th>
<th>103rd Australia</th>
<th>104th Russian Federation</th>
<th>105th China</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Colin Allen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Kaisa Alanne</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Hasan Dikyuva</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Hanne Berge Kvitvaer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ramesh Lal Shrestha</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Joseph Murray</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dmitry Rebrov</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Terry Riley, OBE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jose Gaspar Ramos Sanabria</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Nebjosa Vavra</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance totals:

- 98th South Africa: 11/11
- 99th Norway: 11/11
- 100th USA: 11/11
- 101st Switzerland: 10/11
- 102nd Reunion: 7/11
- 103rd Australia: 9/11
- 104th Russian Federation: 8/11
- 105th China: 7/11
As a result of the WFD neither being registered as an employer nor having the necessary structure to assume responsibility for the human resources function, the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) auspiced and employed WFD Secretariat members until December 2011. The WFD was registered by the Finnish Patents and Registration Office in December 2008 and were provided with a business code in July 2009: essential steps to enhancing the independence of the Secretariat which were critical when the last step, becoming an employer, was realised effective January 2012.

Upon the WFD Secretariat becoming an employer, a minor restructure took place with a re-distribution of work duties and the post of the Team Leader being established. The WFD would like to extend its deep appreciation to the staff of the Finnish Association of the Deaf for assisting the WFD Secretariat during the transition period and the FAD Board for their continuous support.

The total number of staff members during the reporting period has ranged between two and four personnel; the current number being four (4) with a Team Leader, Administrative Secretary, Development Officer and Human Rights Officer.

Team Leader:
Ms Meri Hyske-Fischer (Jan 2012-Sep 2012; Feb 2014 - current)
Ms Torun Ekdun (Oct 2012 - Jan 2014)

Administrative Secretary:
Ms Phillipa Sandholm (2001 - current)

Liaison Officer:
Ms Peggy Prosser (June - Dec, 2013)
Ms Heidi-Maria Helenius (Feb 2010 - Sept 2012)

Development Officer:
Ms Nafisah Rantasalmi (Aug 2014 - current)
Ms Meri Hyske-Fischer (May 2011-Dec 2011)
Ms Laura Pajunen (until May 2011)

Human Rights Officer:
Ms Eeva Tupi (Mar 2013 - current)

The WFD has also had the privilege to work with the following young talented people who have held internship positions at the WFD during the period under review.

WFD Interns
Ms Hyo-Min Kim South Korea (Jan - Mar 2014)
Ms Noppawan Thamsiriboon Thailand (Jan - Mar 2013)
Ms Helga McGilp Scotland (Sep - Oct, 2012)
Ms Noel King USA (May - July, 2011)
CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD

ORDINARY MEMBERS
Between 2011 – 2014, two new national deaf associations (Qatar and Mauritania) joined the WFD. Currently, the WFD has 134 Ordinary Members, namely national deaf associations with legal status in their country and recognition from the government to represent the deaf community. Not all countries have national deaf associations established as yet.
CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD

ARAB REGION (10)
1. National Federation of the Deaf of Algeria
2. Kuwait Club for the Deaf
3. Libyan General Federation of Deaf Societies
4. Mauritanian Association for Deaf People Promotion
5. Moroccan Association of the Deaf
6. The Qatari Center of Social Cultural for the Deaf
7. Sudanese National Society for the Deaf
8. Syrian Federation of Societies for the Welfare of the Deaf
9. Association of the Deaf of Tunisia
10. Association of the Deaf Mutes of Lebanon

WESTERN & CENTRAL AFRICA (17)
1. National Association of the Deaf of Benin
2. National Association of the Hearing Impaired of Burkina Faso
3. National Association of the Deaf Côte d’Ivoire
4. National Association of the Deaf of Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
5. Gambia Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
6. Ghana National Association of the Deaf
7. Guinean Association of the Deaf
8. Liberia National Association of the Deaf
9. Association of the Deaf of Niger
10. Nigeria National Association of the Deaf
11. National Association of the Deaf of Cameroon
12. Chadian National Association of the Hearing Impaired
14. Mali Association of the Deaf
15. National Association of the Deaf of Senegal
16. Serra Leone Association of the Deaf
17. Association des Sourds du Togo

EASTERN & SOUTH AFRICA (18)
1. Botswana National Association of the Deaf
2. National Association of the Deaf of Burundi
3. National Deaf Association of Eritrea
4. Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf
5. Kenya National Association of the Deaf
6. National Association of the Deaf of Lesotho
7. Federation of the Deaf in Madagascar
8. Malawi National Association of the Deaf
9. Association of the Deaf in Mozambique
10. Namibian National Association of the Deaf
11. Rwanda National Association of the Deaf
12. Somali National Association of the Deaf
13. Deaf Federation of South Africa
14. Swaziland National Association of the Deaf
15. Tanzania Association of the Deaf
16. Uganda National Association of the Deaf
17. Zimbabwe National Association of the Deaf
18. Zambia National Association of the Deaf
CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD

1. Albanian National Association of the Deaf
2. Austrian Association of the Deaf
3. British Deaf Association
4. Belgian Federation of Flemish Deaf Organisations & Federation of the French Deaf Organisation
5. Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. Union of the Deaf in Bulgaria
7. Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
8. Cyprus Deaf Federation
9. Union of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic
10. Danish Deaf Association
11. Estonian Association of the Deaf
12. Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD)
13. National Federation of the Deaf of France
14. German Association of the Deaf
15. Hellenic Federation of the Deaf (Greece)
16. Hungarian National Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
17. Icelandic Association of the Deaf
18. Irish Deaf Society
19. The Association of the Deaf in Israel
20. Italian Association of the Deaf
21. Latvian Association of the Deaf
22. Lithuanian Deaf Association
23. Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Macedonia
24. Deaf People Association (Malta)
25. Norwegian Association of the Deaf
26. Polish Association of the Deaf
27. Portuguese Federation Associations of the Deaf
28. National Association of the Deaf of Romania
29. Serbian & Montenegro Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
30. Slovak Association of the Deaf
31. The Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Slovenia
32. Spanish National Association of the Deaf
33. Swedish National Association of the Deaf
34. Swiss Federation of the Deaf
35. National Association of the Deaf of the Netherlands
36. Turkish National Federation of the Deaf
CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD

EASTERN EUROPE & MIDDLE ASIA (10)
1. All-Russian Society of the Deaf
2. Azerbaijan Deaf Public Union
3. Byelorussian Society of the Deaf
4. Kazakhstan Society of the Deaf
5. Armenian Deaf Society
6. Union of the Deaf of Georgia
7. Association of the Deaf of Republic Moldova
8. Ukrainian Society of the Deaf
9. Uzbek Society of the Deaf
10. Tajik Society of the Deaf

ASIA (18)
1. Afghanistan National Association of the Deaf
2. Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf
3. China Association of the Deaf
4. Hong Kong Association of the Deaf
5. All India Federation of the Deaf
6. Indonesian Association for the Welfare of the Deaf
7. Iranian National Center of the Deaf
8. Japanese Federation of the Deaf
9. Korea Association of the Deaf
10. Macau Deaf Association
11. Malaysian Federation of the Deaf
12. Mongolian National Association of the Deaf
13. Nepal Deaf Federation
14. Pakistan Association of the Deaf
15. Philippine Federation of the Deaf, Inc
16. The Singapore Association for the Deaf
17. Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf
18. National Association of the Deaf in Thailand
CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD

OCEANIA
1. Deaf Australia
2. Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand
3. Fiji Association of the Deaf

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1. Canadian Association of the Deaf

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN (10)
1. National Association of the Deaf of Costa Rica
2. National Association of the Deaf of Cuba
3. National Association of the Deaf of Dominican Republic
4. Mexican Federation of the Deaf
5. National Association of the Deaf of Panamá
6. Association of the Deaf of El Salvador
7. Association of the Deaf of Guatemala
8. National Association of the Deaf of Honduras
9. National Association of the Deaf of Nicaragua
10. Belize National Association of the Deaf

SOUTH AMERICA (10)
1. Confederation of the Deaf Mutes of Argentina
2. National Federation of Education and Integration of Deaf People of Brazil
3. Association of the Deaf of Chile
4. National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia
5. National Federation of the Deaf of Ecuador
6. Association of the Deaf of Peru
7. Association of the Deaf of Uruguay
8. Confederation of the Deaf of Venezuela
9. Bolivian Federation of the Deaf
10. Central of the Deaf of Paraguay
**CURRENT MEMBERS OF WFD**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

The WFD currently has 22 Associate Members. Associate Membership can be granted to any national or regional organisation which does not meet the criteria to become an Ordinary Member, or cannot become an Ordinary Member because there already exists one in the country. In the period from 2011 – 2014, nine (9) new members joined the WFD, while four (4) resigned, due to financial difficulties. Moreover, the status of the association in Qatar was changed from Associate to Ordinary Membership. These are the current WFD Associate Members:

| 1. The Deaf Society of New South Wales | Australia |
| 2. H3 Network Media Alliance | Canada |
| 3. Cåstberggård High School | Denmark |
| 4. Center for Døve | Denmark |
| 5. Kuurojen Palvelusäätiö | Finland |
| 6. Tyst Teater / Riksteatetm | Sweden |
| 7. Deafway | United Kingdom |
| 8. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf | United States of America |
| 9. Le Geste | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| 10. Zimbabwe Deaf Trust | Zimbabwe |
| 11. Bahrain Deaf Society | Kingdom of Bahrain |
| 12. The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf | Hong Kong, ROC |
| 13. Association of the Deaf Persons of the Reunion Island | Reunion Island (France) |
| 14. Gallaudet University Alumni Association | United States of America |
| 15. Deaf Association of Guyana | Guyana |
| 16. Association of People with Hearing Impairment | Seychelles |
| 17. ASDAA - Association for Serving the Hearing Impaired | Egypt |
| 18. Kosovar Association of the Deaf (KAD) | Kosovo |
| 19. The Learning Center for the Deaf | Lebanon |
| 20. Union Malienne des Femmes Sourd (UMFS) | Republic of Mali |
| 21. Palestinian Development Foundation of the Deaf | Palestine |
| 22. Palestinian Union of the Deaf | Palestine |
It was decided at the XVIII General Assembly of the WFD in 2011 that a new membership category – International members – would be established. Organisations, having legal capacity, exclusively international objectives and readiness to promote the goals and objectives of the WFD, are eligible for this status. Discovering Deaf Worlds joined the WFD as an International Member in 2013 with CBM and IDE becoming members in 2015. Gallaudet University, the Office of the President and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf which were previously Associate Members became International Members in 2014 in line with the new membership category.

Currently the WFD has five (5) International Members:
1. CBM
2. Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW)
3. Gallaudet University, Office of the President
4. International Deaf Emergency (IDE)
5. National Technical Institute for the Deaf

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
Since 2011, the WFD has slowly increased its Individual membership base: In 2011 the WFD had 98 paid individual members whereas the figure at the end of the year 2014 was 169. The absence of a Development Officer responsible for fundraising until August 2014 meant that until that time, there were insufficient resources to launch major membership campaigns and hence attract more income.
WFD GLOBAL IMPACT

79 COUNTRIES

42 PRESENTATIONS

23 WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

21 HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING DELIVERED

136 WFD ATTENDANCE*

7 CRPD COMMITTEE SESSIONS ATTENDED

3 HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS

*INCLUDES ATTENDANCE OF WFD BOARD, REGIONAL SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES AND EXPERT GROUP MEMBERS AT CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, SOCIAL EVENTS, AND MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS.
GOAL 1: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The WFD promotes human rights of deaf people by working in close cooperation with the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms.

The WFD has continued to represent the global Deaf Community internationally and advocate for deaf people’s human rights in a number of ways. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006) has been a significant tool for the WFD; not only have the CRPD articles been highlighted in all WFD support efforts to its national members but, in addition, the WFD has provided comments, issued statements and actively participated in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) and Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP).

SERVING AS THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ORGANISATION ON DEAF PEOPLE’S RIGHTS

As a result of separate project funding, the WFD was able to employ a Human Rights Officer in March 2013 whose role focused on advocacy work in Geneva, Switzerland, where the CRPD Committee holds its bi-annual sessions. To assist the Human Rights Officer, a Steering Committee, the “WFD Human Rights Working Group”, was established.

Part of the Human Rights Officer’s work has been to monitor the countries whose reports are reviewed by the CRPD Committee and contact WFD Ordinary Members in advance, in order to provide support in the CRPD parallel reporting process.

There have been an increasing number of deaf people included in delegations representing various national organisations of persons with disabilities (DPO) attending CRPD Committee sessions. They have been involved in discussions with members of the Committee about CRPD implementation at the national level and observed interactive dialogues between their governments and the Committee. By being regularly present in Geneva during the sessions, WFD has been able to support deaf representatives who are part of the DPO delegation in addition to providing assistance via e-mail correspondence and Skype video meetings. The WFD has also highlighted in its communication with Ordinary Members that it is vital to co-operate and work in cooperation with the whole national disability movement in monitoring the implementation of the CRPD.

During the reporting period, the Conference of States Parties elected new members for the CRPD Committee, both in 2012 and 2014. Despite the efforts of WFD to encourage its Ordinary Members to lobby nationally for the inclusion of a deaf expert member who uses sign language as their primary language, the CRPD Committee still remains without such a member. Notwithstanding, the WFD has regularly met with the CRPD Committee members and provided information in relation to specific topics that need to be taken into account in fulfilling deaf people’s human rights, such as the importance of deaf organisations being led by deaf people and ensuring the quality of sign language interpretation in all areas of life.

The WFD has actively highlighted the deaf perspective in a number of submissions that it has issued: In March 2012, the WFD completed a paper to respond to the call for...
papers on Article 9 of the CRPD (Accessibility) as well as preparing and submitting WFD’s comments in 2014 on the draft general comments in relation to Articles 9 and 12 of the CRPD (Equal recognition before the law), which were adopted by the CRPD Committee. The WFD also delivered statements at the opening of the 10th (WFD issued a statement on behalf of the International Disability Alliance), 11th and 12th sessions of the CRPD Committee.

The WFD has also been represented in all four Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP) during the reporting period: President Allen and Dr Jokinen took part in the 4th COSP in 2011; President Allen, WFDYS President Jenny Nilsson, Dr Joseph Murray and WASLI President Dr Debra Russell in the 5th COSP; President Allen, Vice-President, Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen, Honorary President, Dr Markku Jokinen and WFD Youth Section Representative, Braam Jordaan represented the WFD at the 6th COSP in 2013; and finally Mr Jordaan gave a statement at the panel on Youth with Disabilities during the 7th COSP in 2014.

WFD’s input into the endeavours of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been dynamic. In response to an OHCHR enquiry, the WFD sent a submission contributing to the OHCHR thematic study on the right of persons with disabilities to education. Moreover, the WFD provided comment on the International Disability Alliance’s (IDA) submission to the OHCHR on CRPD Article 19 (Living independently and being included in the community).
One of the fundamental issues for deaf people when meeting hearing people is how well accessibility is taken into consideration. Even within the United Nations, there is a significant lack of awareness on how to ensure accessibility in the most appropriate way. Therefore the WFD has drafted documents, in cooperation with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), with the purpose of explaining the types of arrangements an event organiser needs to take into consideration when booking sign language interpreters for high-level events. Moreover, the WFD has delivered assistance to the United Nations Office in Geneva in identifying national sign language interpreters for the CRPD Committee sessions; this service is provided by the United Nations when an official language of a respective country aligns with one of UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish), and has provided comments on the quality of sign language interpretation at CRPD Committee sessions. As is evident, the WFD has continuously lobbied for better accessibility for deaf people in terms of qualified and experienced international sign interpreters at the United Nations events in both Geneva and New York.

Related to accessibility, the WFD has also been working co-operatively with the World Health Organisation (WHO) which launched the “World Report on Disability” in 2012. The WFD produced a summary and translated the document into International Sign together with the WHO.

Although the WFD has strongly focused its advocacy efforts on the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD, the organisation has also directed its efforts to providing input in relation to other human rights instruments. On occasions, other treaty bodies have requested submissions from civil society when drafting general comments. When issues concerned deaf people, the WFD took the opportunity to provide input, such as to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Human Rights Officer also shared information on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with its Ordinary Members in countries that were reviewed, and provided feedback with consideration to the deaf perspective to the Human Rights Council Task Force on Accessibility in preparing the “Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities”.
22. Number of national deaf associations contacted prior to the CRPD Committee sessions.

7. Number of CRPD Committee sessions attended by the WFD: 7 out of 8 sessions (in two of these sessions the EUD represented the WFD).

3. WFD wrote 3 submissions to other treaty bodies and the OHCHR:
   1. Submission for the CEDAW Committee on the Draft General Comment on Article 14 (September 2013)
   2. Submission for the OHCHR study on the right to education of persons with disabilities (September 2013)

6. WFD issued 6 submissions to the CRPD Committee:
   1. Submission on the Draft guidelines on the participation of Disabled Persons Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders in the work of the Committee (March 2014)
   2. Joint submission with the WASLI on the Draft General Comment No. 2 on Article 9 (February 2014)
   3. Submission for concluding observations on Azerbaijan in the 11th session (February 2014)
   4. Submission on the Draft General Comment No. 1 on Article 12 (February 2014)
   5. Submission for concluding observations on El Salvador in the 10th session (July 2013)
   6. Submission for list of issues on Azerbaijan in the 10th session (July 2013)

6. WFD issued 6 statements related to deaf people’s human rights:
   1. WFD Statement on the Adoption and Adaptation of Technologies and Accessibility (October 2014)
   2. WFD Statement at the opening of the 12th session of the CRPD Committee (September 2014)
   4. WFD Statement on Standardized Sign Language (May 2014)
   5. WFD Statement at the opening of the 11th Session of the CRPD Committee (March 2014)
   6. WFD Statement on Sign Language Work (February 2014)

2. WFD and WASLI have issued the following guidelines on interpreting arrangements:
   1. International Sign Fee Guidelines for UN Events (May 2014)
   2. Securing and utilising the Services Of Sign Language Interpreters for The United Nations (April 2012)
WFD - ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY MOVEMENT

The WFD works in close collaboration with the International Disability Alliance (IDA). As one of its founding members, the WFD ensures that the deaf viewpoint receives due consideration in IDA’s work. In concrete terms, this means commenting on statements addressed to various UN bodies, representing the WFD at IDA Board meetings and influencing international development and disability agendas. From time to time, the WFD also represents the IDA in its own right as was done at the opening of the 10th CRPD session in Geneva, when the WFD President delivered an opening statement on behalf of IDA member organisations. The United Nations High Level Meeting on Disability and Development, organised in September 2013 in New York, was a very important event for the disability constituency: It was the first time in UN history that the rights of persons with disabilities were discussed within the framework of the UN political agenda. The WFD was represented at this historical event by our President, Mr Colin Allen. He was also appointed as the 2nd Vice Chair of the IDA in July 2013 for a one-year term and then as the 1st Vice-Chair from July 2014 until June 2016.

The WFD Human Rights Officer has facilitated IDA workshops on the parallel reporting process addressed to organisations of persons with disabilities in Azerbaijan, the Dominican Republic and Mongolia and represented IDA in a workshop organised by the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). In addition, the WFD has worked closely with the IDA in ensuring that deaf representatives are invited to attend IDA workshops targeted to the whole disability community.

In recent years, IDA has produced advocacy material and guidance documents in different languages. As a result, the WFD proposed to IDA that an International Sign translation of the “Guidance Document – Effective Use of International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (2011) also be provided. The translation project was executed by the WFD and funded by the IDA.

During the 4th Conference of States Parties in 2011, a meeting of the Panel of Experts to the Special Rapporteur on Disability was held with the WFD President also participating. No further meetings were organised during the reporting period. However, the Special Rapporteur Mr Shuaib Chalklen addressed the audience at the opening of the XVI World Congress of the WFD in Durban, South Africa and the WFD representatives have also had the opportunity to meet with him on a few occasions in the intervening period.
SUPPORTING WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS

One of the core tasks that the WFD performs is to support its Ordinary Members (national deaf associations) in their national advocacy work. The process starts when a member makes contact with the WFD and asks for assistance in relation to a particular topic: reminding governments and authorities of their duties to respect and promote the use of sign language; guaranteeing bilingual education settings; establishing sign language interpreting services; providing advice on sign language research; insisting on the importance of governments consulting national associations of the deaf and numerous other issues. Usually a letter of support or a video message is provided to the member for its perusal and use. Between 2011-2014, the WFD issued a total of 34 support letters to its members.

Another way of supporting Ordinary members entails information sharing: WFD has produced various statements (6) and guidelines (2) that are sent to its members for application in their national advocacy work.

Extensive capacity support has been given to Ordinary Members from El Salvador, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic and Mongolia as part of the WFD Human Rights Project and training in human rights issues has been provided by the WFD Human Rights Officer. A preparatory mission to Tunisia to meet deaf people from the Maghreb region in May 2014 was also a good opportunity to deliver training to representatives from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Moreover, the WFD Board Members have shared their expertise in many ways when meeting deaf people worldwide. They have taken part in local activities and increased the grassroots deaf community’s knowledge on the CRPD and also presented at seminars in Norway, Reunion, Australia, Russia and China contemporaneously with the WFD Board meetings. In situations in which the WFD President, Board Members or experts have not been able to attend an event, the WFD has sent a video message as a tangible means of providing validation to the organisation which has issued the invitation and the event.

WFD AS A CONDUIT BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ORDINARY MEMBERS

Thanks to its widespread network of international organisations and national associations, the WFD has been able to facilitate information sharing between these bodies and Ordinary Members. Based on the results of a WFD survey of Ordinary Members conducted in March 2014, the most relevant information platforms are the WFD website and WFD Newsletters. During the reporting period, the WFD has distributed information to its Ordinary Members via these channels and Facebook including promoting possibilities to apply for project funding from the Disability Rights Fund, CBM and Abilis Foundation. Furthermore, the WFD Human Rights Officer has distributed project application manuals to project target countries during her trips internationally.
GOAL 2: HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The WFD Board and the Secretariat have been assiduously working to identify opportunities to conduct human rights training activities.

Within the four-year timeframe (2011-2014), the WFD Board and the Secretariat have been assiduously working to identify opportunities to conduct human rights training activities. The WFD managed to raise its profile not only as an advocacy organisation but also as a provider of direct support and concrete hands-on activities to deaf associations’ leaders, staff members and the local deaf communities. This complements the other fields of work in which WFD is engaged.

IMPLEMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROJECTS

A three-year regional training project with the aim of building the capacity of 19 deaf associations in Western and Central Africa (WCAR) was completed in 2012. The project was conducted in co-operation with the Swedish Deaf Association (SDR) and funded by SHIA (Sweden). A tangible result of this project was the organisation of the inaugural meeting of the WCAR Regional Secretariat in July 2011. Although the project has now been finalised and has ceased, from the perspective of the WFD, it is pleasing that the WCAR Regional Secretariat has managed to secure new project funding and continues in its quest for further empowerment.

Following the completion of the WCAR-project, the WFD concentrated on identifying a new region which it was felt would most benefit from human rights training. Based on the report “Deaf People and Human Rights” (Haualand & Allen, 2009), the Arab region was targeted as an area in which the human rights situation for deaf people was considered extremely worrisome. The focus was further narrowed to the Maghreb region; as not all Arab countries fall under the scope of the development cooperation project funding.

An application for a preparatory mission was written and a grant was received from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The aim of the May 2014 preparatory mission, conducted by WFD Human Rights Officer Ms Eeva Tupil and the Chair of the Human Rights Group, Dr Joseph Murray, was to meet with the leaders of each of the deaf associations and examine the needs of deaf communities in preparation for the project implementation phase. At the time of writing, the WFD is awaiting a reply in regard to its grant application for a regional capacity building project with the purpose of advancing the Human Rights of deaf people in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. If funding is secured, it is envisaged that the project will strengthen national associations of the deaf and increase society’s awareness on deaf issues and human rights.

One of the most significant achievements of the period relates to WFD successfully securing funding for a project, initially of one year’s duration, with the aim of ensuring that the human rights of deaf people are taken into account in the international human rights agenda through strengthening of the WFD’s global advocacy work towards the United Nations (UN) and within the International Disability Alliance (IDA); as well as strengthening the capacity of national associations of the deaf in Azerbaijan, El Salvador and Peru with a focus on CRPD parallel reporting. The WFD was able to employ a WFD Human Rights Officer who has been integral to executing the first HRO 1-project (2013) and then the HRO 2-project...
The HRO 2 project concentrated on providing training to WFD Ordinary Members in the Dominican Republic and Mongolia and WFD is thrilled to have recently learned that it has managed to secure funding for a two-year HRO 3-project (2015-2016) to train four other WFD Ordinary Members.

In 2014, the WFD Secretariat also set in motion another regional project initiative, namely a capacity building and training project that aims to advance the legal capacity of deaf people in Latin America. This project is presently in the planning phase: the first draft of the project plan has been written and funding is currently being sought for a pre-planning project, in co-operation with Ordinary Member Dominican Republic (ANSORDO), which would ensure standardised community assessment and analysis being prepared by the project target countries.

Some WFD Regional Secretariats have also worked on project proposals in order to obtain regional capacity building: Mr Druchen, the Director of DeafSA, has been the focal point for the Regional Secretariat of Eastern and Southern Africa in his role as the Interim Director. The Western and Central African Regional Secretariat have also applied for various smaller grants. The WFD has supported these initiatives upon request.

MEETING DEAF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

In addition to the human rights projects' activities funded from other than traditional funding sources, WFD Board Members have conducted workshops and seminars in

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Workshops/Seminars organised alongside WFD Board meetings: Norway, USA, Reunion, Australia, Russia and China

(2014). The feedback received from the participants has demonstrated that this practice is worth continuing in the next four-year period (2016-2019). These workshops or seminars not only benefit the local and/or national deaf community but they are also an ideal forum to exchange information between the WFD Board and the grassroots deaf community. The WFD Board Members have also given presentations and taken part in their own country’s events.

One of the objectives of the Action Plan 2011-2015 was to take advantage of the synergy of holding a WFD Board meeting at the same time as a WFD Regional Secretariat gathering. Unfortunately, this didn’t happen as a result of logistical issues; however, the WFD President or a Board Member attended Regional Secretariat executive committee or representatives’ meetings by invitation for most of the regions at least once during the
period. The 2nd International Conference of the WFD organised in 2013 in Sydney, Australia, also provided a valuable opportunity to meet with the directors of regional secretariats to exchange ideas.

The WFD Secretariat, based in Finland, received regular visits from individuals and groups who were presented with information about the WFD, its work and deaf people’s human rights. The Secretariat was especially happy to host a deaf delegation from North Korea, initiated by Mr Robert Grund, WFD Liaison Officer in Pyongyang, and various Japanese groups. Likewise, being able to plant even a small seed of a deaf role model to young deaf people enrolled in the Frontrunners training program (Denmark) was considered to have real merit and provided tremendous joy for the WFD Secretariat deaf staff members involved.

CONDUCT OF THE WFD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORLD CONGRESS

The WFD co-operated extensively with the Deaf Society of New South Wales in organising the 2nd International Conference of the WFD. The WFD Conference, with the theme “Equality for Deaf People”, took place in Sydney, Australia, in October 2013 with approximately 600 participants from 67 different countries attending. The conference comprised a total of 21 presentations complementing the themes of: Equality in Linguistics and Language; Equality in the Community; Advocating for Equality; and Equality in Youth and Education. The keynote addresses were presented by Mr Raghav Bir Joshi from Nepal and Ms Rosemary Kayess from Australia.

The XVI World Congress of the WFD in 2011 gathered more than 2,100 people from 125 countries to participate in an exciting Congress program with the theme of “Global Deaf Renaissance”. In a similar vein, the WFD celebrated its 60th birthday, with the three WFD Honorary Presidents present: Dr Yerker Andersson, Dr Liisa Kauppinen, and Dr Markku Jokinen. The WFD extends its whole-hearted congratulations and appreciation to both organisations: The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA) and the Deaf Society of New South Wales, for their efforts in hosting these two outstanding events.
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GOAL 3: EXPANDING INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:

The WFD aims to streamline its communications with its members and interested parties by enhancing the capacity of its website and by increasing the use of other communication channels such as YouTube to respond more comprehensively to information requests.

Thanks to advances in technology and the increasingly ubiquitous nature of the Internet, there are now more ways to keep in touch and provide information to members than were previously available. In addition to email, communication channels have evolved to include video message and Skype. The WFD has also extended its reach to members and other interested partners and individuals via regular news posts on Facebook and its website.

DEVELOPING THE WEBSITE AND ENHANCING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The WFD website attracted over 1,374,000 unique visitors since it was updated in July 2011. The high number of visits provides evidence that it is widely consulted and thus it is important that the WFD continues to improve the content, further enhance the easy-to-use features and accessibility. Despite best endeavours, the WFD didn’t fully realise its goals in this area because it failed to produce general information on deaf people’s human rights on the website due to lack of resources. Nevertheless, regular news updates either in English or International Sign were added to the website in addition to new WFD Statements, Guidelines and Submissions to the UN. As a result, individuals seeking up-to-date information had their needs met as they were able to access the most recently released guidance documents produced by the WFD via the website.

In 2011, the WFD President established a Twitter account; at this stage, the WFD doesn’t have its own Twitter engagement strategy because it was decided that the focus should be on providing information via the WFD Facebook page. To date, the Facebook page has generated more than 47,000 “likes” with the most “liking” people coming from the USA, India and Brazil. There has been a tremendous growth since August 2011 when there were only a little more than 1,000 people who had liked the WFD Facebook page compared to December 2014 when the number was 41,700.

MORE INFORMATION IN INTERNATIONAL SIGN

The hiring of the Human Rights Officer and the active input from the WFD President to film information in International Sign greatly improved the accessibility of the WFD website particularly for those sign language users who don’t know English but understand International Sign. Many of the news updates are now not only available in English but also in International Sign. The more extensive use of Skype and YouTube has diversified the communication channels between the WFD Secretariat and its members and partners with
the use of sign language greatly increasing during the past four years.


**NEWSLETTER: KEEPING OUR MEMBERS INFORMED**

Between January 2011 to the end of 2014, the WFD revamped the layout of its Newsletter twice to make it more appealing and easier for readers to comprehend. The WFD Newsletter was sent six times a year to all of WFD’s members fulfilling the goal of regular distribution of the newsletter. Again, the limited resources of the WFD Secretariat and lack of a media officer hindered further promotional development which potentially could have included written translations from the newsletter into languages other than English, and/or producing parts of the Newsletter in International Sign.

**SEEKING OUT PARTNERSHIPS FOR SURVEYS AND REPORTS**

The XVIII WFD General Assembly in July, 2011 decided that the WFD should evaluate the status of deaf education and implement a survey on the topic. A further motion from this General Assembly was a request from the Ordinary Members to examine the life situation and status of deaf people with multiple disabilities. Accordingly, in line with the first decision, the WFD drafted an application for a project focusing on deaf education which also involved contacting a range of stakeholders including universities, donors and possible partners. Unfortunately however, the survey on deaf people with multiple disabilities was not able to be pursued during the period. The efforts therefore in planning and implementation were focused on one major survey-project instead of two. Securing a grant for the deaf education project is still a work in progress but promising exchanges have occurred with the hope that the project will be realised in the future.
GOAL 4: STRENGTHENING THE WFD

In order to fully implement the objectives of this Action Plan, the WFD will continue to seek partners and funding in line with its longstanding goals.

EXPANDING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK THROUGH PROJECT GRANTS

It should come as no surprise that running an international organisation focused on the human rights of a relatively small minority community is difficult from a financial perspective. While project funding is comparatively easy to acquire, securing long term funding to ensure the sustainability and ongoing viability of the Secretariat presents a considerable challenge. For a short period in 2013 and again from August 2014 onwards, the WFD has been able to capitalise on its fundraising capability. The employment of a Development Officer has meant that the organisation has had a dedicated resource who has been able to focus on applying for a fundraising licence in Finland where the WFD is based. At the time of writing, the WFD has been advised that it has been successful in securing the permit which will facilitate the conduct of appeals targeted towards the global deaf and hearing communities with the intention of raising funds. The availability of this personnel has meant that the planning and executing of fundraising activities has become more structured.

During the period under review, the WFD successfully applied for grants to conduct a human rights project (HRO 1 and HRO 2) focusing on CRPD parallel reporting with the organisation currently seeking funds to disseminate a Deaf Education Survey. Pre-planning project in the Maghreb countries in 2014 was also achieved via a project grant. Without these project grants, the WFD would have exerted less influence and been less successful in its human rights advocacy work directed to the United Nations and the capacity building of its members.

The WFD was also able to secure a grant from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. This non earmarked funding has been essential for the effective functioning of the WFD Secretariat and is evidence of the effective lobbying directed at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Parliament undertaken by WFD.

ORGANISING SMALL SCALE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The aim of taking advantage of the International Week of the Deaf as an opportunity to attract donations and new members for the WFD, and hence financial stability, was partly realised: In 2012 the WFD organised a campaign on Facebook and in 2014 an effective Individual Member campaign was launched via email and Facebook to attract new members and encourage lapsed members to re-new their membership. Moreover, the WFD provided its members with a theme and “food for thought” on how to advocate for the improvement of the human rights of deaf people during their International Week of the Deaf campaigns. The themes between 2011-2014 were as follows:

2011: Accessibility to Information and Communications
2012: Sign Bilingualism is a Human Right!
2013: Equality for Deaf People
2014: Strengthening Human Diversity

In November 2014, the Development Officer sent an appeal letter to all WFD Members to participate in year-end fundraising through the:

1) Give-it-up or Match-the-euro campaign
Achieving Our Objectives

2) Fundraising through year end events and/or
3) Via a Donation Gift. As a result of the campaign, the WFD received additional donations of more than 4,000€!

In conjunction with the 2nd WFD Conference in 2013 in Sydney, Australia, a small fundraising campaign took place at the residence of WFD President Allen and the planning of fundraising during at the upcoming XVII World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey commenced in 2014.

The National Association of the Deaf (USA) organised a fundraising event in Maryland, USA in April 2012 to support WFD's work. This fundraising event raised approximately USD $1,700. WFD Vice President Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen was present there at the fundraising event leading the discussion and answering questions from the guests and President Allen joined the event via Skype. The WFD wishes to thank the NAD Board of Directors for its support for a good cause then and also for their co-operation in organising an auction during the 51st Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference in Louisville, USA in July 2012.

WFD Board Members are often invited to events as presenters. Such events are ideal opportunities for promoting the work of the WFD and are also used as a platform for fundraising. One of the most successful such fundraising events was initiated by a WFD Board Member Ms Hanne Kvitvaer in October 2014 when the local deaf community attended a workshop on CRPD in Stavanger, Norway. The amount raised from registration fees, sales of handicrafts and donations amounted to 3,954.23€. In addition to Ms Kvitvaer, the WFD President fundraised for the WFD in 2012 when he celebrated his 50th birthday and asked people to donate to the WFD instead of giving personal gifts. That campaign was likewise a major triumph with 5,397.28€ collected.

Bringing in More Financial Partners

The WFD appealed to its members for additional income in 2011 as a strategy to ensure the continued employment of staff members into 2012. This was necessary due to the uncertainty associated with the ability to acquire additional government funding. Fortunately, as noted above, financial support was forthcoming from the Finnish Parliament in December 2011 that complemented this income generation strategy. Ordinary Members from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland replied affirmatively to the request with their generosity being a tangible demonstration of the solidarity of the global deaf community. The monies raised were used in part to subsidise the project targeted to the Western and Central African deaf associations. The WFD would like to thank the aforementioned OMs for their contributions.

The evolution of the membership base - Ordinary membership figures increased from 132 to 134 during the period; the number of Associate Members grew by 18%; Individual
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members by 42% and the approval of five International members also enhanced WFD finances and enabled more international visibility and concrete results to be achieved.

BUILDING ON CO-OPERATION

The WFD has a wide network of partners with whom it collaborates on a regular basis. One of these much appreciated and valued partners is the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI). In 2011-2014, WASLI and the WFD established interim working groups to work on guidelines covering the employment of International Sign interpreters at the United Nations as well as other international events. Co-operation also commenced in relation to an interim accreditation process that will lead to the United Nations using formally accredited International Sign interpreters at their events. Co-operation also commenced in relation to an interim accreditation process that will lead to the United Nations using formally accredited International Sign interpreters at their events. Likewise, both organisations worked together on reflecting upon how deaf people’s accessibility should be taken into consideration in situations of risk such as natural disasters. The WFD and WASLI also prepared a joint submission on the Draft General Comment No. 2 on Article 9 in 2014.

Contact between the Presidents of WASLI and the WFD has been frequent and they have also met on various occasions when presenting to deaf communities.

The WFD Youth Section, WFDYS, have participated in the WFD Board meetings at least once a year and they have also been represented in the Human Rights Group, Legal Commission, World Congress Working Group and Media Working Group. WFDYS has nominated suitable young deaf persons to take part in international events, such as the Conference of States Parties meeting in New York in September 2012 and the “Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN CRPD in Africa” - conference, organised in Kenya in March 2014. The WFD Board has received regular activity reports from the WFDYS and the Secretariat has taken care of the youth section finances, as a subsection of the WFD.

International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and the WFD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013 although actual evidence of co-operative activities between the two bodies is yet to be realised. The WFD regularly shares information with global organisations of persons with disabilities thanks to its membership of the International Disability Alliance.

The WFD is grateful to its Expert Groups for their work from 2011-2014. Following the election of the new WFD Board in July 2011, it immediately started work on revising the
expert structure, inviting individuals to become WFD Experts and forming groups, as well as nominating a coordinator for each group. The Experts work on a voluntary basis and consequently their level of commitment has varied due to competing priorities and the challenges presented by not being able to meet face to face. Nevertheless, many have been of significant assistance in contributing to the work of WFD either by commenting on statement drafts, representing the WFD in their fields of expertise or giving guidance on how to tackle a particular human rights issue. The following Expert Groups have been in force in 2011-2014:

1. Deaf Education
2. Sign Language and Deaf Studies
3. Developing Countries
4. Human Rights
5. Accessibility and Technology
6. Children and Women
7. Bioethics
8. Health

Ad Hoc Group

1. DeafBlind
2. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
3. CODAs
4. Senior Citizens

OTHER DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Board and the Secretariat have worked tirelessly to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Action Plan 2011-2015. These aims and how they have been accomplished have been regularly discussed and evaluated prior to each Board meeting. A Key Performance Indicator system was established to streamline the evaluation process.

In the absence of an Executive Director, the President and Team Leader assumed primary responsibility for monitoring and reporting of the mid-term evaluation of WFD’s goals to the Board. The fact that the role of employer and the legal seat is in Finland required that the Secretariat take on full responsibility for human resources and financial management, such as compiling the annual budget and following it up as well as salary administration, previously managed by the Finnish Association of the Deaf. The WFD is bound by Finnish law (labour, associations’ act and accounting) so it is critical that there is compliance with all regulatory requirements.

The Secretariat prepared Board meeting materials and took part in the Board internal working groups. The presence of at least two staff members at each Board meeting ensured that the Secretariat which is responsible for implementation was fully updated on Board decisions. The Team Leader was the minute-taker for meetings.
WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH:
The focus areas of the Expert Group on Health are based on the global survey conducted between 2010 and 2011, with emphasis on three components namely Health Problems, Access to Health Care, and Sign Language Support. 40 national associations of the deaf responded with opinions regarding the burden of disease and access to health care. Based on the results gathered from these associations, further steps in health promotion were initiated, including the following:

- **Pool of Good Practice:** Information on health matters, efficient projects and (web-based) services were shared through short video clips made by deaf persons.
- **Deaf Paraprofessionals:** One way to increase health education and improve access to health is to empower deaf people to serve as health professionals for the deaf population. This includes expanding their opportunity to enrol in health educational and employment institutes. Through attendance at events, the Expert Group on Health has taken the opportunity to gather contact details and exchange ideas with the intention of initiating training for deaf people to become health workers among the deaf community.
- **Improved Medical Interpreting through Training:** Manuals and workshops were delivered in the USA to promote best practice in regard to video remote interpreting relative to on-site interpreting. The aim was to call for improved standards of medical interpreting for deaf people.
- **National workgroups as Monitoring Body:** Michael McKee is a member of a national working group in the USA, led by Steve Hamerdinger. It was formed as an avenue to address mental health issues and ensure that the overall mental healthcare environment is linguistically and culturally appropriate for deaf people.

During this period, The Expert Group on Health represented WFD in three events across three countries (Ireland, Austria and Spain) including the following events:

**The 6th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness** was organised by the European Society on Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD) and co-hosted by Queen’s University Belfast. The congress was held in September 2014 in Belfast Northern Ireland, and featured a specific theme that focused on the relationship between human rights and the mental health of deaf people. Using a poster presentation, Dr Johannes Fellinger revealed the results and action plans from the aforementioned WFD global health survey. In addition, Dr Johannes Fellinger was involved in presentations on the following topics:

- Keynote Speaker on ‘Addressing the mental health problems in Primary Health Care. Access to adequate Health Care – a basic right of Deaf People’ (together with Professor Sir David Goldberg).
- Presentation on ‘Family health - What a co-creative parents-professional workshop can contribute’

**The World Psychiatric Association International Congress in October 2013** was held in Vienna, Austria. The title of the plenary presentation was “Mental Health of Deaf People”.

**The International Symposium “Diagnosis and treatment in mental health and deafness: The needs of facilities for deaf people”** was also organised by ESMHD. It was held in May 2013 in Madrid, Spain. Dr Johannes Fellinger made a plenary presentation about “Mental Health of Deaf People - scientific background and best practice”.

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**WFD EXPERT GROUP**

**WFD EXPERT GROUP – HEALTH**

**COORDINATOR:**
Dr Johannes Fellinger (Austria)

**MEMBERS:**
Dr Michael McKee (USA)
Dr Andrew Comes (UK)
Ms Carolyn Stern (USA)
WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EDUCATION

Bilingual education in sign language(s) and the local written language(s) remains a major priority of the WFD. Members of the Expert Group on Education have played a pivotal role in their respective countries through involvement in government-level discussion to propose specific education policies for the deaf.

During the period under review, the centrepiece of the Expert Group on Education was to secure inclusion of bilingual education in linguistic policies. Accomplishments and ongoing efforts relating to this included:

- Publication of an official document by the Brazilian Ministry of Education with the inclusion of a new policy for bilingual education. Following this, between November 2013 and February 2014, Dr Marianne Rossi Stumpf actively participated in technical meetings with the directors of the Special Education Policy within the Ministry of Education to review the Brazilian Linguistic Policy and of ProLibras (Proficiency in Brazilian Sign Language).
- The South African Sign Language Curriculum (SASL), of which Lucas Magongwa is a member of the Management Team, will be introduced in schools for the deaf in 2015.
- Dr Roz Rosen is involved in a national effort to get legislation passed to ensure that deaf babies are able to enter kindergarten.
- As a member of the working group of the National Association of the Deaf and the Ministry of Education, Anna Komarova advocates for changes in the national deaf schools’ curriculum with emphasis on sign language in Russia.

The call for Bilingual Education was also actively lobbied for by Anna Komarova at various fora namely the International Conference on Linguistic Rights of the Deaf 2014 held in Moscow, as well as the International Week of the Deaf (IWD) 2014 in Moscow. At the IWD 2014 in September, Anna Komarova presented on Russian Sign Language before an audience of around 2000 people. The same month, together with Victor Palenny, a booklet on Deafness and deaf people was prepared for parents of deaf children.

SPECIAL THANKS: Thanks to the WFD for enabling our efforts to be recognised by government officials. Through our capacity as a member of the Expert Group on Education, we were able to provide consultations and contribute to our respective countries’ deaf education policies in a very practical way. Being in this expert group has also enabled us to contribute and participate in our countries’ deaf associations and achieve respect within the deaf community.

WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESSIBILITY

A core function of the Expert Group on Technology & Accessibility is to advocate and promote technological accessibility for the deaf community. The main aim is to ensure that deaf persons can participate equally in the information society. Advances in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) have increased interaction opportunities for the deaf community. At the same time, it is
important to realise that new technologies do not only create new opportunities, but also can lead to barriers. Thus, it is also the main responsibility of the Expert Group on Technology and Accessibility to constantly monitor what is eventuating in this space by keeping abreast of trends and emerging technologies.

The vision of the Expert group on Technology & Accessibility is that by 2020, provided CRPD obligations are implemented by government and service providers across the world, deaf people will increasingly experience significantly improved and barrier-free access to communications, benefit from accessible information and fuller interaction with society through the acceptance of universal design within emergent information technologies. This vision, however, can become a reality only if deaf people are given the opportunity to collaborate and participate actively in ensuring that technologies are accessible and that they effectively meet the needs of deaf people.

During this period, the Expert Group on Technology & Accessibility provided support to the WFD through publication of three newsletter articles, response to ongoing enquiries from members, as well as attendance at five major international conferences. It is at the following fora that the Expert Group on Technology and Accessibility promoted the work of the WFD and addressed access issues:

- Belgium Conference on Accessibility (Antwerp, Belgium, September 2012)
- Google Accessibility Summit (San Francisco, USA, August 2013)
- Accessible Americas Conference (Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 2014)
- DAISY India Forum (New Delhi, India, November 2014)
- Bilisim Conference (Ankara, Turkey, November 2014)

Such involvement has helped WFD to gain symbolic relationships with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ICT), and Google. The Expert Group on Technology and Accessibility’s cooperatives extend to other agencies including the International Federation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (IFHOH), in which it was involved in the Task Force of IFHOH’s event Speech-to-Texting/Captioning.

Furthermore, in 2014, extensive assistance was given to develop a detailed working document on the Adoption and Adaptation on Accessibility and Technology. The document includes reference to ground rules in relation to technology development, service provision and accessibility, and more importantly comprises a table that highlights relevant CRPD articles with corresponding examples of accessible ICTs for deaf people.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the IFHOH and the World Federation of the Deaf on October 18th, 2013 in Sydney, Australia. This agreement marks a new milestone in the cooperation of the two organisations. The Agreement covers Terminology, Areas of Co-operation (e.g. captioning), Consultation and Exchange of Information, and Representation.

**WFD EXPERT GROUP – CHILDREN & WOMEN**

**COORDINATOR:**
Dr Donalda Ammons (USA)

**MEMBERS:**
Professor Martha Lucia Osorno Posada (Colombia)
Ms Susan Kagwiria Kirima (Kenya)
Ms Lucy Erima Upah (Nigeria)
Ms Barbara Earth (USA)

**WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

- Promoted the inclusion of women with disabilities
- Facilitated greater access to disability data in relation to women and children in the U.S

In January 2013, established Women Sport International for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women. The purpose of this task force is to determine and assess the needs of deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport and advocate on their behalf. Following Women Sport International’s mission, we seek “to encourage increased opportunities and positive changes” for deaf and hard of
hearing females at all involvement of sport. Donalda Ammons is the co-chair of the Taskforce.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1. Promoted inclusion opportunities for women with disabilities in Myanmar with a well-attended women’s conference in which 34 interpreters were present.
2. Greater access to disability data that includes a chartbook with 7 sections on women & children and disabilities in the U.S.
3. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reviewed the UN’s Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and considered including a section on women’s and girls’ access to physical activity and sport.
4. Establishment of the Task Force on deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport by Women Sport International
5. Assistance with the drafting of a WFD position paper on Cochlear Implants for children

SPECIAL THANKS: Gratitude is extended to Ms Jenny Nilsson and Ms Kaisa Alanne for their continued interest in this group’s work

WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS
The aim of the Expert Group on Human Rights is to provide advice on matters relating to the human rights of deaf people in various areas. In line with WFD’s mission, the Expert Group on Human Rights has played a significant role in developing WFD’s publications including statements, policies, submissions to the UN and other resources.

- Advice to WFD on their draft cochlear policy
- Provided comments on the WHO draft disability action plan
- Assisted with a statement on standardisation of sign languages
- Provided comments regarding a new Sign Language Act in Sri Lanka

WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON SIGN LANGUAGE AND DEAF STUDIES
The main responsibility of the Expert Group on Sign Language and Deaf Studies is to serve as an advisory body on matters relating to Deaf Culture, Sign language, Sign Language Work, Interpreting, and International Sign. In tandem with the primary component of WFD’s vision, the expert group has provided support to the WFD including the following:

- Letter to OMs on International Day of Sign Languages (2012)
- Response for interview with The Economist (2013)
- Text for the WFD website about Sign language, Deaf culture, Deaf education, Interpreting, and International Sign

In addition, the Expert Group on Sign Language and Deaf Studies also represented WFD in the following events:

- Sign 5 conference, Ankara, Turkey, 21-23 October 2011
- 2nd International Conference on Linguistic Rights of the Deaf, organised by the All-Russian Society for the Deaf, 22nd May 2014 in Moscow, Russian Federation. Dr Robert Adam attended the event and launched a statement on the Standardisation of Sign Languages prepared by the expert group.
- The 4th International Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation held in Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia from 19 to 21 October 2014. Dr Robert Adam presented a paper on Language planning and standardisation in the Deaf community: what are the human rights implications?

**SPECIAL THANKS:** I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the members of the Expert Group for their diligent and enthusiastic participation. This group represents skills and knowledge from across the world, although in the long term it would always be good to have more representation from experts in regions that are not currently represented in this Expert Group.

I have always been grateful for the experience, knowledge and wisdom that members of this group have given when dealing with WFD work. Requests to the Expert Group for information or advice from the WFD President or the WFD Office were always dealt with promptly by individual members.

Finally, I would also like to thank the WFD President, the WFD Board and the WFD Office for their trust in us and continued cooperation. I look forward to the continuance of the work done by the Expert Group on Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

The WFD also has expert groups on Bioethics, Developing Countries, LGBT, Deafblind, CODAs and Senior citizens.
REGIONAL SECRETARIATS’ (RS) REPORTS

WFD REGIONAL SECRETARIAT IN ASIA - RSA

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Mr Ichiro Miyamoto

HEADQUARTERS
Tokyo, Japan

MEMBER COUNTRIES
1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. China
4. Hong Kong
5. Indonesia
6. India
7. Iran
8. Japan
9. Rep. of Korea
10. Mongolia
11. Macau
12. Malaysia
13. Pakistan
14. Philippines
15. Singapore
16. Sri Lanka
17. Thailand
18. Nepal

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETINGS
2011    Durban, South Africa      12 countries
2012    Hong Kong, China          14 countries
2013    Sydney, Australia             9 countries
2014    Macau, China                 14 countries

WORK OF RSA
Since 2011, RSA has actively involved itself in numerous Asia-Pacific developments through consultation, conferences, training and workshops, meetings, and surveys with other civil societies (CSOs), organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), intergovernmental organisations, UN systems, and the regional deaf community. For instance, WFD-RSA has played a significant role in the conclusion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and the implementation of the Incheon strategy for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2012-2022.

To keep up with developments within the region, WFD-RSA has also organised Deaf Dialogue, with the RSA Director as the chairperson, with the aim of providing a platform for deaf leaders in Asia to interact and engage in meaningful dialogue based on a central theme - ‘Building a Better Asia’ for Asian deaf communities.

The RSA has kept abreast of Disaster Risk Reduction matters through involvement in the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

For this period, the RSA has represented WFD in 16 events across 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, including 2014 Asian Pacific Disability Forum Conference and the 1st ESCAP-Sasakawa Award for Disability-Inclusive Business in Asia and the Pacific.
Ms Hend Al-Showaier was appointed as the new Regional Director for RSAR, replacing Dr Ghassan Shahrour, to whom WFD and RSAR are indebted for his many years of commitment as past Director. The member associations of the RSAR will meet during the XVII World Congress of the WFD in Istanbul, Turkey, to confirm their 2016-2019 work-plan for the Arab region. During this reporting period, the RSAR has represented WFD in four events across four countries in the Arab Region, including the following events:

The 2nd International Conference: Hear My Voice – Empowering Deaf People was organized by the Kalimati Speech & Communication Center and in collaboration with the UAE Deaf Association. It was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 16 to 17 April 2014, and was held under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development. The conference aimed to promote Emirati Sign Language and raise awareness about overcoming prejudice against any type of disability including deafness.

‘The Reality and Challenges facing the Deaf Community in the Arab World: Gaza as a Model’ was organized by Aljazeera TV Network, in partnership with Qatar Charity in conjunction with International Week of the Deaf 2014. The forum raised awareness on the difficulties and challenges that deaf people encounter in the Arab world. It showcased interesting projects and future initiatives aimed at the deaf community in the Arab World, especially those in Gaza struggling to cope in the aftermath of the recent war.

Workshop on Inclusive Education was organized by CBM in Amman, Jordan from November 24 - 26, 2014, to discuss regional priorities of providing inclusive education for learners who are deaf or deafblind. WFD-RSAR presented on “Addressing Education and Opportunities in Inclusive Environments”. The main aim was to deliberate on possibilities with an opportunity to develop a comprehensive strategy in order to enhance practices in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

SPECIAL THANKS: WFD-RSAR would like to acknowledge support from Ms Bedour Al-Reqhani, Founder and CEO of Kalimati Speech and Communication Center, for her enthusiasm and hard work to improve the lives of deaf people in UAE and the Arab Countries. Special thanks also to CBM Regional Office Eastern Mediterranean Region Team, WFD and WASLI.
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT IN OCEANIA - RSO

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Mr Lachlan Keating
Auckland, New Zealand

HEADQUARTERS
Ordinary Members
1. Australia
2. Fiji
3. New Zealand

Associate Members
Solomon Islands
Samoa Deaf Club
WASLI Oceania

MEMBER COUNTRIES

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Sydney, Australia</td>
<td>3 countries, 6 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Suva, Fiji</td>
<td>3 countries, 3 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WORK OF RSO

The successful establishment of RSO saw many great achievements in the region. The 2014 National Disability Award, a gala event held at the Parliament House in Canberra, resulted in a great outcome for the Australian Deaf community. The awards were monopolised by deafness with a deaf person, Jordanna Smith, winning the Emerging Leaders award in Disability, and two organisations that provide Deaf-accessible information services namely VicDeaf and Emergency Management Services Victoria. The same year also witnessed the first Fiji Sign Language Week carried out by the Fiji Association of the Deaf, which aimed to create awareness about sign language and to highlight its importance to stakeholders, the Government of Fiji and the public at large. The RSO was also instrumental in the establishment of Solomon Islands Deaf Association as a legal entity.

SPECIAL THANKS:
- Venasio Tamainai
- Tuliana Waibuta
- Kim Robinson
- Phillip Waters
- Hemi Hema
- Rachel Noble
- Gael Seru

Jordanna Smith

VicDeaf and Emergency Management Services Victoria

Fijian Sign Language Week 2014
**EASTERN EUROPE AND MIDDLE ASIA REGIONAL SECRETARIAT - EEMARS**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
Dr Valery Rukhledev

**HEADQUARTERS**
Moscow, Russian Federation

**MEMBER COUNTRIES**
1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Belarus
4. Georgia
5. Kazakhstan
6. Moldova
7. Russian Federation
8. Tajikistan
9. Ukraine
10. Uzbekistan

**REGIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETINGS**
2011 Moscow, Russia  Election of Director and Secretary
2012 Yerevan, Armenia  75th Anniversary of OM Armenia

**WORK OF EEMARS**

WFD-EEMARS has played an important role in strengthening collaborative relationships with regional members. The last four years represented a season of celebration for several of its member countries. WFD-EEMARS commemorated Belarus 70th Anniversary (2011), All-Russian Society of the Deaf 85th Anniversary (2011), Kazakhstan 75th Anniversary (2012), and Ukraine 80th Anniversary (2013). The existence of long established national deaf organisations is important for the continued pursuit of human rights for deaf individuals in the region.

During this period, representative from EEMARS participated in the following regional events:
- 24th Extraordinary Congress of All-Russian Society of the Deaf (2011)
- 18th Congress of Ukrainian Society of the Deaf (2011)
- 6th All-Ukrainian Open Competition Games of Patriots of Ukrainian Deaf Society (2013)
- VI International Festival-Contest of Sign Songs “Constellation” (2013)
- EEMARS has been involved at the 19th and 22nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council. In 2012, All-Russian Society of the Deaf representatives participated in a thematic discussion concerning the rights of Persons with Disabilities at the 19th Session of UN Human Rights Council. Following that, Dr Valery Rukhledev also presented information in an interactive debate on the work and employment of Persons with Disabilities at the 22nd Session UN Human Rights Council in 2013.

The EEMARS has also provided support to Armenia for the preparation of a book titled ‘History of the Armenian Deaf Society’.
WORK OF WCARS

The establishment of WCARS in July 2011 was followed by the successful legal registration of its office in Gambia. Since then, the WCARS has been active in mobilizing its member countries through survey (to collect information and draft an activity plan of the national associations of the deaf in the region), Board meetings and training, advocacy and networking with stakeholders, and participation at conferences. Such activities reflect WCARS’ priorities of ensuring that the region has access to capacity building, organizational development, and collaborating and interacting with national associations of deaf on the human rights of deaf people. Beyond the region, in 2013, a representative of WCARS had the chance to attend the 1st International Deaf Muslim Forum, organised by the Qatari Center of Social Cultural for Deaf. The three-day forum was held in Qatar, in co-operation with the Global Deaf Muslim, and shed light on various issues related to deaf people.

SPECIAL THANKS: WCARS would like to extend its thanks to friends, supporters, stakeholders as well as the following organisations: WFD, SDR, SHIA for establishment of WCARS

Danish Deaf Organisation and Disabled People Organisation of Denmark for supporting project planning.

Abilis Foundation (Finland) for their generous sponsorship for WCARS Board.
### EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF - EUD

**Regional Director**  
Mr Mark Wheatley  
Brussels, Belgium

**Headquarters**  
Brussels, Belgium

**Member Countries**

1. Austria  
2. Belgium  
3. Bulgaria  
4. Croatia  
5. Cyprus  
6. Czech Republic  
7. Denmark  
8. Estonia  
9. Finland  
10. France  
11. Germany  
12. Greece  
13. Hungary  
14. Iceland  
15. Ireland  
16. Italy  
17. Latvia  
18. Lithuania  
19. Luxembourg  
20. Malta  
21. The Netherlands  
22. Norway  
23. Poland  
24. Portugal  
25. Romania  
26. Slovak Republic  
27. Slovenia  
28. Spain  
29. Sweden  
30. Switzerland  
31. United Kingdom

**Affiliated Members**

- Bosnia and Herzegovina  
- Israel  
- Macedonia  
- Serbia  
- Turkey

**Regional Secretariat**

- 2011 Budapest, Hungary  
- 2012 Copenhagen, Denmark  
- 2013 Dublin, Ireland  
- 2014 Athens, Greece

### Meetings

- 2011 Budapest, Hungary  
- 2012 Copenhagen, Denmark  
- 2013 Dublin, Ireland  
- 2014 Athens, Greece

### Cooperation

- Cooperation Agreement signed with the WFD in 2012  
- International Disability Alliance (IDA)  
- CRPD Committee and the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
- European Parliament’s Disability Intergroup and the European Commission’s unit for Persons with Disabilities  
- European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblindness (EPDHDB). The purpose of the EPDHDB is to exchange knowledge, experience and good practice of shared interest in regard to EU policy related to human rights, disability policy and also the implementation of the UNCRPD. Other partners of the EPDHDB include the European Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU), European Deafblind Network (EDbN), European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH), European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA), European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY).

### Work of EUD

Over the last four years, the EUD has had two successful campaigns namely **Written Declaration 112** on accessible emergency services, and EUD Election Manifesto. ‘**Written Declaration 112**’ outlines the Rules of Procedure on the need for accessible 112 emergency services. Through this campaign, EUD managed to break a record by having 483 signatures, and managed to network and secure the interest of several Members of the 2009-2014 European Parliament.

Prior to the European Parliament election in May 2014, the EUD advocated for an accessible election through the ‘**EUD Election Manifesto**’. The campaign calls for the Members of the European Parliament to ensure that deaf sign language users are able to make informed decision and subsequently take part in the full political process within Europe. For this campaign, the EUD managed to secure close to 100 signatures of the Members of European Parliament.

Since 2011, the staff strength of EUD has expanded to support the increase in its members. As the only supranational organisation, **EUD has 28 EU Member States**, representing over 1 million deaf sign language users at the European Union level.
The EUD is also a full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF), and through this capacity, it provide replies and consultations. In 2014, through the EDF, EUD actively contributed in the writing of the EU parallel report of the UNCRPD. Further to this, the EUD initiated a UNCRPD survey in 2011 and 2012 that was targeted to National Associations of the Deaf (NADs), deaf individuals from all EUD member countries, and European-level organisations and deaf individuals with European-wide experience. The aim of the survey was to gather information about the relevant areas of the UNCRPD, and analyse the implementation at EU level. Responses received were collated into a ‘EUD 2013 UNCRPD Report’. The aim of the report is to call for its members to have a realistic overview of the implementation of the UNCRPD in its respective countries, and use the report as a tool to further advocate for desired effects in practice.

Following the release of the report, the EUD has also launched the UNCRPD Publication series, with two published themes namely ‘Article 27: Work and Employment’, and ‘Article 29: Participation in Political and Public Life’. Each contribution in the series will explore a specific UNCRPD article, from both an academic and best practice perspective, at all levels, from European to regional. These series aim to contribute to, and provide possible interpretations of the implementation of the UNCRPD.

The EUD reached another milestone with the ‘Insign Project’, a pilot project that looks at how to support European Institutions like the European Union, the European Commission, and the European Court of Human Rights to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing European citizens. The Insign Project aims to provide callers with a number of ways to contact each other such as through a sign language interpreting service and/or captioning service, with availability of different language options. The project strives to empower, promote and build equal communication. Two demonstrations have taken place in April and September 2014 at the European Commission and the European Parliament. The platform has been available to the public since December 2014.

There are also WFD regional secretariats for South America, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and Eastern and Southern Africa. Reports from these secretariats have not been received.
WFD FINANCES

In 2011, the WFD received financial support of almost 63,000€ from the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) however this was reduced to 30,000€ in 2013 and 2014 (total contribution in 2011-2014 was 163,100.37€). WFD has been very fortunate to be subsidised by FAD since 1987 when Dr Liisa Kauppinen became General Secretary and from both a financial and moral perspective, this support has been invaluable. The WFD remains grateful to FAD for their ongoing support.

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs has also granted 50,000€ per year to the WFD on an ongoing basis. Despite this much needed support, although the WFD is based and registered in Finland, its international status has meant that difficulties have been experienced in attracting base funding from the country in which it is situated.

The income received from membership fees has varied from 47,000€ to 72,000€ during the period. Whilst many deaf associations appear willing to pay their annual membership fees, their financial position often hinders them doing so.

In addition to the significant variance experienced in relation to membership fees secured, donations have also varied considerably between years (6,000€ in 2013 compared to 21,000€ in 2012). Project grants however are the area in which the most extreme difference has been experienced. This is exemplified by the WCAR-project being operational in both 2011 and 2012 but the HRO 1 and HRO 2 only being implemented in 2013 and 2014. Co-organising of the XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and the 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf generated substantial income in early 2012 and 2014.

As may be expected, staff members’ salaries account for the greatest item of budgetary expenditure. The HRO 1 and HRO 2 project grants made possible the hiring of a fourth staff member which increased personnel costs in 2013 and 2014. Following the receipt of HRO project income, expenses were attributed to the project in 2013 and continued in 2014. Information and Communication costs were higher in 2011 because of the redesign of the website and the production of a DVD. Until 2011, rent was included as part of office costs as an expense within the WFD accounts. Under the terms of the current contract between WFD and FAD, the office rent is now directly paid by FAD and is no longer reflected in the WFD accounts, significantly reducing the office costs line item within the WFD budget. The World Congress conducted in 2011 also meant that additional phone and copying costs were incurred in that year which didn’t occur in subsequent years.

Throughout the period under review, the organisation has been managed in a financially responsible manner: the relatively large deficit in 2011 of (52,412.46€) occurred mainly as a result of the write off of debts incurred by the 2007 World Congress; however in 2012, the first WFD “owned” budget was in surplus. The overall surplus for the period 2011-2014 was 40,139.37€ which will provide reserves upon which the organisation can draw in the future if necessary.

The WFD has two funds managed from within the US: the “Yerker Andersson” and the “WFD Endowment” Fund. The WFD Endowment Fund also incorporates a smaller fund, the “Donalda Ammons Leadership Fund” which represents 9.59% of the capital of its mother fund. The WFD Board has recently begun investigating the potential of utilising the funds’ capital in the near future however the organisation is mindful that the “Yerker Andersson” Fund has terms of reference which don’t permit that possibility until the capital has reached a specific benchmark. A policy designed to guide the use of funds of the WFD Endowment Fund is currently being drafted.
## WFD Finances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Statements 2011-2014 in EUR - Comparison Profit and Loss</th>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>General funding Finnish MFA</td>
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<td>Membership fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordinary Members (OM)</td>
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<td>Associate Members (AM)</td>
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<td>International Members (INTM)</td>
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<td>Individual Members (IM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership fees (AM &amp; IM) previous years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnish Deaf Association support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Donations associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations individuals</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising without license</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congress/Conference Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRO project funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRO 2 project funding</td>
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<td>Maghreb region preplanning project Finnish MFA</td>
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<td>WCAR project</td>
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<td>DVD production</td>
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<td>Product Sales</td>
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<td>WFDYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
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<td><strong>INCOME TOTAL</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>EXPENSES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits TL, AS, DO, HRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obligatory expenses related to salaries TL, AS, DO, HRO</td>
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<td>Travel Staff</td>
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<td>Travel Other</td>
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<td>HRO project expenses (excl HRO salary &amp; benefits)</td>
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<td>Maghreb region preplanning project Finnish MFA</td>
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<td>WCAR project</td>
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<td>Fundraising costs</td>
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<td>Website (WFD)</td>
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<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
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<td>DVD Production</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office costs</strong></td>
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<td>Rent &amp; office upkeep</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Congress Durban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFDYS (incl website)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of tangible assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debts written off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year TOTAL 2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year TOTAL 2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year TOTAL 2011-2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## WFD Finances

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2011-2014 IN EUR - COMPARISON

#### BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Luottokunta</td>
<td>84.09</td>
<td>84.09</td>
<td>84.09</td>
<td>84.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDF Reserve Fund</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,476.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>4,758.60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees 2004-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19,250.00</td>
<td>34,773.80</td>
<td>31,755.00</td>
<td>28,979.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,500.00</td>
<td>14,500.00</td>
<td>620.10</td>
<td>83.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty cash</td>
<td>780.38</td>
<td>394.38</td>
<td>781.31</td>
<td>233.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank account</td>
<td>57,894.44</td>
<td>198,401.66</td>
<td>164,291.78</td>
<td>189,796.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFDYS account</td>
<td>8,614.11</td>
<td>8,704.33</td>
<td>10,604.85</td>
<td>10,214.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR account</td>
<td>18,501.66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>125,383.28</td>
<td>257,858.26</td>
<td>209,138.57</td>
<td>232,868.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

| Equity | | | | |
| Retained earning surplus/deficit | 136,491.08 | 82,078.62 | 159,996.76 | 151,169.39 |
| Profit for the financial year | -54,412.46 | 77,918.14 | -8,827.37 | 23,461.06 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Accounts payable | - | 1,639.51 | 3,831.90 | 4,634.99 |
| Other liabilities | - | - | - | 3,026.85 |
| Reserved for project (NAD) | 17,163.00 | 17,163.00 | 17,163.00 | 17,163.00 |
| Membership fee prepayments | 4,440.00 | 2,635.00 | 3,643.19 | 6,822.34 |
| HRO funding | - | 76,387.99 | 16,387.99 | 11,993.95 |
| Other | 21,701.66 | 36.00 | 16,943.10 | 14,596.88 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | 125,383.28 | 257,858.26 | 209,138.57 | 232,868.46 |

### FUNDS 2011-2014 IN USD - COMPARISON

#### WFD ENDOWMENT FUND – USD*

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Capital 1/1 | 62,418.92 | 62,748.10 | 67,007.66 | 69,464.58 |
| Dividends/Interest (net) | 479.18 | 4,408.56 | 2,606.92 | 1,787.98 |
| Bank fees | -150.00 | -150.00 | -150.00 | -150.00 |
| Capital 31/12 * | 62,748.10 | 67,006.66 | 69,464.58 | 71,102.56 |

* Includes Donalda Armonos – 9.59% of the capital

#### Yerker Andersson Endowment Fund – USD

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Capital 1/1 | 21,731.19 | 21,252.77 | 24,343.68 | 24,580.01 |
| Dividends/Interest (net) | 337.15 | 3,155.91 | 301.33 | 2,070.18 |
| Bank fees | -108.21 | -65.00 | -65.00 | -65.00 |
| Capital 31/12 | 21,252.77 | 24,343.68 | 24,580.01 | 26,585.19 |
**WFD Finances**

**Income 2011 - 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Income</th>
<th>Basic Funding</th>
<th>WFDYS</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>120,686.29</td>
<td>193,079.57</td>
<td>59.25</td>
<td>7,010.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20,835.05</td>
<td>181,074.54</td>
<td>419.00</td>
<td>31,704.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>60,011.46</td>
<td>132,851.75</td>
<td>3,241.09</td>
<td>4,294.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>78,776.81</td>
<td>169,602.04</td>
<td>923.05</td>
<td>8,640.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income 2011 - 2014 (Breakdown)**

**Basic Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership Fees</th>
<th>Finnish Deaf Association</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>61,680.00</td>
<td>62,935.32</td>
<td>18,464.25</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>70,364.98</td>
<td>40,165.05</td>
<td>20,544.51</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>46,770.81</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>6,080.94</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>72,316.25</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>17,285.79</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Income 2011 - 2014 (Breakdown)

**Project Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCAR project</td>
<td>120,686.29</td>
<td>20,835.05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maghreb region preplanning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,419.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnish MFA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,419.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRO 2 project funding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59,969.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRO project funding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60,011.46</td>
<td>16,387.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Membership Fees 2011 - 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees (AM &amp; IM) previous years</td>
<td>1,550.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>1,695.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Members (IM)</td>
<td>4,530.00</td>
<td>7,623.68</td>
<td>6,680.00</td>
<td>8,131.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Members (INTM)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members (AM)</td>
<td>5,800.00</td>
<td>3,891.30</td>
<td>5,502.14</td>
<td>5,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Members (OM)</td>
<td>49,800.00</td>
<td>58,850.00</td>
<td>33,588.67</td>
<td>56,789.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Donations 2011 - 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donations earmarked</th>
<th>Donations individuals</th>
<th>Donations associations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>4,241.22</td>
<td>12,223.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,499.29</td>
<td>13,045.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>323.44</td>
<td>5,757.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,834.21</td>
<td>3,118.74</td>
<td>12,332.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses 2011 - 2014 (Breakdown)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>WFDYS</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Office Costs</th>
<th>Information and Communication</th>
<th>Staff Travel Expenses</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>115,406.29</td>
<td>1,858.03</td>
<td>76,314.84</td>
<td>32,903.48</td>
<td>16,587.23</td>
<td>11,516.33</td>
<td>118,661.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>19,408.05</td>
<td>242.08</td>
<td>7,742.58</td>
<td>7,264.19</td>
<td>2,174.55</td>
<td>6,236.02</td>
<td>113,047.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>27,049.37</td>
<td>1,364.55</td>
<td>11,866.10</td>
<td>6,048.32</td>
<td>2,357.92</td>
<td>11,537.34</td>
<td>149,002.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>47,071.53</td>
<td>978.71</td>
<td>8,292.77</td>
<td>7,499.80</td>
<td>4,290.98</td>
<td>6,731.04</td>
<td>159,616.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRATITUDE

€5,000
Finnish Association of the Deaf (Finland)

€500 - €4,999
1. British Deaf Association
2. Danske Doves Landsforbund (Denmark)
3. David Wolfe (USA)
4. Deaf Queer Men Only (Sweden)
5. Deaf View 3 Committee (New Zealand)
6. Dovefonden (Denmark)
7. Fédération Suisse des Sourds (Switzerland)
8. German Deaf Association
9. Interfonden (Denmark)
10. Jonas Carlsson & Anna Hein (Sweden)
11. Kasper Bergman (Denmark)
12. Knud Sondergaard (Denmark)
13. Norges Døveforbund (Norway)
14. Norges Døveforbund - Stavanger (Norway)
15. Oslo Døvforening (Norway)
16. Pierre J. Honore (Denmark)
17. Roland Hermann (Switzerland)
18. Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ)
19. Swedish National Association of the Deaf
20. Viparo (Finland)

We would also like to offer our sincere gratitude to the 101 donors who have contributed amounts from €1 to €499.

Services in Kind
1. Alastair Mc Ewin (Australia)
2. Anja Hurtamo (Finland)
3. Dr Liisa Kauppinen (Finland)
4. Helga Mc Gilp (UK)
5. Hyo-Min Kim (Korea)
6. Julia Allen (Australia)
7. June Stathis (Australia)
8. Knud Søndergaard (Denmark)
9. Makiko Yamamoto (Japan)
10. Michelle Maguire (Australia)
11. Nancy J. Bloch (USA)
12. Noel King (USA)
13. Noppawan Thamsiriboon (Thailand)
14. Rebecca Ladd (Australia)
15. Robert Adam (Australia)
16. Satu Worseck (Finland/Germany)
17. Sheena Walters (Australia)
18. Susannah Macready (Australia)
19. Tony Clews (Australia)

Hosts for Board Meetings
The WFD Board wishes to acknowledge the support from our Board Members' country National Associations of the Deaf for their continuous support (sponsorship, venue, host) that have contributed to the success of WFD Board Meetings. Special thanks to the following WFD Ordinary and Associate Members:
1. Asociación Nacional de Sordos de Costa Rica
2. Deaf Federation of South Africa, South Africa
3. Ål Folkehoyskole and Norwegian Association of the Deaf, Norway
4. National Association of the Deaf, USA
5. Swiss Deaf Association, Switzerland
6. Association of the Deaf People of the Reunion Island, Reunion Island
7. The Deaf Society of New South Wales, Australia
8. All-Russian Society of the Deaf, Russian Federation
9. China Association of the Deaf, China
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

THE LESSONS OF YESTERDAY WILL INFLUENCE THE WORK OF TOMORROW...

Over the next four years (2016-2019), the key result areas identified in the WFD Action Plan upon which the organisation plans to focus are as follows:

• Support for Ordinary Members and Regional Secretariats of the WFD
• International Advocacy Work in the United Nations (UN), its Special Agencies and in the International Disability Alliance (IDA)
• Production and sharing of accessible information
• Administration, Co-ordination and Management
• Fundraising

It is envisaged that the above priorities will be accomplished through:

• Effective communication between Ordinary Members and WFD
• Expanding the number of training programs targeted at the Deaf Community
• Implementation of a Global Education Survey
• Appointment of at least one deaf person who uses sign language as member on the CRPD Committee
• Participating in international cross-disability organisations, forums, and events
• Expansion in the number of national sign languages recognised by national governments
• Conduct of a successful 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf
• Convening the XVIII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf
• Establishing a new fund in honour of Dr Liisa Kauppinen
• Securing ongoing financial support for the WFD Secretariat Team
• Increasing the number of WFD Secretariat Staff

And finally but very significantly, continuation of the work and strengthening of the relationship between the WFD Board and WFDYS Board by implementing the Action Plan to enhance the visibility of both organisations with regard to Deaf youth and more widely the Deaf Community.

THE FUTURE FOR WFD LOOKS PROMISING AND WE FEEL IT IS IN CAPABLE HANDS...

Colin Allen
WFD President