



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

2015 - 2018 World Federation of the Deaf Report



**International Day
of Sign Languages**

Human rights for deaf people including recognition of sign language in all aspects of life



WFD was established in Rome, Italy in 1951 and is an international non-governmental organisation with membership comprising 135 Ordinary Members as of 31 December 2018 in addition to Individual Members, Associate Members and International Members.

The WFD also has eight (8) Regional Secretariats and one (1) Regional Cooperating Member. The WFD has established formal cooperation partnerships with eleven (11) organisations around the world. The WFD's office is located in Helsinki, Finland.

Address

Physical

Light House, Ilkantie 4, Helsinki, Finland

Postal

P.O. Box 65, FIN-00401, Helsinki, Finland

Email Address

info@wfd.fi

For general information and enquiries

memberships@wfd.fi

For people wanting to join as a member

info@wfd.fi

For people ordering WFD merchandise

Donation

In order to support WFD's human rights work, donations can be made at www.wfdeaf.org/donate

Table of Contents

About the World Federation of the Deaf	4
Message from the President	7
WFD Board	11
WFD Secretariat	17
Current Members of WFD	18
WFD Global Impact	23
Achieving Our Objectives	24
WFD Expert Groups	37
WFD Regional Secretariats	40
World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section	44
WFD Finances	45

The WFD acknowledges and thanks all its members, partners, supporters, and staff members featured in the photos in this Report. Special thanks to Mr Braam Jordaan, GCOB for designing the WFD Board meeting montage on the back cover of this report with the images used featuring in WFD's social media prior to each board meeting.



About the World Federation of the Deaf

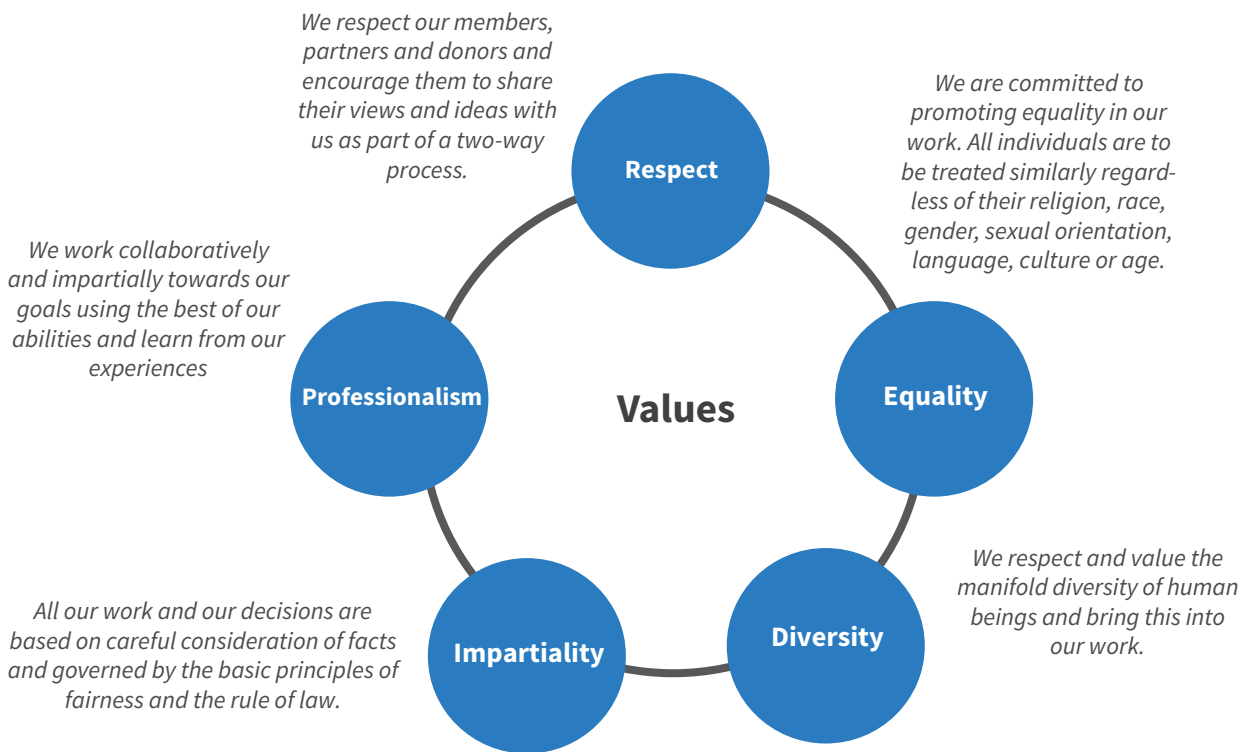
WFD Vision

Human rights for deaf people including recognition of sign language in all aspects of life

WFD Mission

The WFD works for the realisation of deaf people’s human rights in partnership with the United Nations and its agencies, national organisations of deaf people, and relevant stakeholders.

Our Values



Our Guiding Principles

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 and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies, the WFD develops its activities towards the goal of equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society for deaf individuals in every country.

Human Rights Based Approach

Respect for Linguistic Diversity

The WFD works tirelessly for the recognition of, respect for and promotion of sign languages as part of human diversity and aims to improve the status of national sign languages.

The WFD considers that no deaf person should be denied quality education in sign language and that parents and providers of education should be informed of the importance of bilingual education. The WFD works for an accessible society with no communication barriers where services and information are available in sign language.

Inclusive and Accessible Society

Leadership of Deaf People

The WFD promotes the principle: “Nothing about us without us”. The WFD believes that the establishment and strengthening of national deaf associations will contribute to the autonomy and determination of the deaf community as well as increase its understanding of the importance of co-operation with various stakeholders.

The WFD needs close co-operation with its member organisations and various other stakeholders such as organisations of persons with disabilities, the United Nations and its agencies and programmes, donors and universities. With this extensive network, the WFD can better succeed in its work.

Trust, Co-operation and Partnership



Aims

The WFD works towards the global achievement of human rights for all deaf people. The WFD:

- a. advocates 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;
- b. promotes the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members; and
- c. ensures that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign language/s and receive support for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities.

Activities

The WFD pursues its objectives by guiding and giving support to the activities of its members, and supporting the establishment of new organisations as may be necessary. Specifically, the WFD:

- a. takes initiatives and makes proposals to improve the status of deaf people and makes statements on issues concerning deaf people;
- b. advocates for the legal recognition of sign language in all countries;
- c. promotes cultural activities of deaf people and accessibility to cultural services in general;
- d. provides information and resources;
- e. increases equal opportunities for full participation for deaf people in society;
- f. advances the establishment and expansion of Sign Language interpreting services in all countries;
- g. promotes usage of the latest technologies by deaf people;
- h. supports the human rights of deaf people;
- i. participates on the international level in cooperation with key stakeholders, e.g., organisations of the deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, and other persons with disabilities, government officials, and other authorities;
- j. disseminates scientific and legal materials on the current needs of deaf people in publications and other media;
- k. distributes and makes UN documents available to all organisations and experts interested in sign language and deaf culture;
- l. administers development co-operation activities; and
- m. carries out other actions serving the objectives of the WFD for the advancement of deaf people worldwide.

Message from the President



Dear Members,

As President of the World Federation of the Deaf, it gives me great pleasure to present this report covering the period 2015 - 2018; in particular, to highlight some of the many achievements realised in line with the four goals outlined in the WFD Action Plan 2016-2019:

1. WFD Activities
2. Co-operation with Partners
3. Finances, Fundraising and Human Resources
4. Information and Communication

Of particular note was the United Nations General Assembly declaring 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages and the organising of the 3rd International Conference of the WFD hosted by the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) in Budapest, Hungary. Other projects and activities that I would like to highlight are as follows:

2015

- Secured funding for a two year project “Building Human Rights Capacity – Including the Voice of People Who Are Deaf in Parallel Reports” and provided intensive training for Ordinary Members in Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and Serbia.
- During the 13th session of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the WFD organised a side-event on deaf education highlighting points of concern in the interpretation and implementation of Article 24 of the CRPD.
- Presented the WFD Opening Statement at the 22nd International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Athens, Greece.
- XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf hosted by the Turkish National Federation of the Deaf, Istanbul, Turkey with 1,312 delegates attending from 97 countries.
- Sourced a small amount of funding to focus on a Community Needs Assessment and Analysis Project on Legal Capacity of Deaf Communities in Latin America with deaf representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- The Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) provided assistance in developing a video campaign for the International Week of the Deaf in 2015 and the revamping of the WFD website in 2016.

2016

- Secured two years funding for a project “WFD Capacity Building project for the Deaf Community in the Maghreb Region” which involved the delivery of a series of training sessions in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.
- Established the WASLI-WFD International Sign interpreters Accreditation System to meet the increasing demand for accredited International Sign interpretation in the international arena such as at meetings of the United Nations. 20 individuals were awarded the status of ‘WFD-WASLI Accredited IS Interpreter’ in

the first round of assessment - this has since increased to 30 people (14 of whom are Deaf Interpreters).

- I was elected as the Chair of the International Disability Alliance, which is an alliance of eight global and six (6) regional organisations of persons with disabilities.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW) and a joint statement with the Sign Language Linguistics Society (SLLS).
- Development and dissemination of the *WFD Position Paper on the Language Rights of Deaf Children*.

2017

- Together with the Presidents from the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) and the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS), I visited the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, the national Disabled Persons' Organisation DPO, which auspices the Deaf Association of Korea in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- During the 10th session of the UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, the WFD hosted a side-event with the theme "Full inclusion in education – possible by 2030?". The side-event was co-sponsored by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, International Disability Alliance and Gallaudet University.
- Launched a three-year social inclusion of the deaf project in the Dominican Republic program with Discovering Deaf Worlds to support the capacity building of the WFD Ordinary Member in the Dominican Republic.
- International Federation of the Hard of Hearing (IFHOH) and WFD developed a global survey on captioning services available at the United Nations and UN agencies: Live event captioning – speech to text captioning (316 responses received to the survey).
- IFHOH and WFD reached consensus on the definitions of "deaf" and "hard of hearing".
- Co-operation agreements were signed with the World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters, Cinésourds and DeafSkills.
- Convened the 3rd WFD Conference in conjunction with the SINOSZ with 698 delegates attending from 83 countries.
- Organised a side-event during the 10th UN Minority Forum in Geneva, Switzerland in late 2017 lead by WFD Vice President Murray along with WFDYS President Berry, a deaf minority sign language user from Spain and a CODA from Norway.
- Secured the sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN which led to UN recognition for the International Day of Sign Languages. UN resolution to adopt the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) co-sponsored by 97 countries of the United Nations Member States.
- Documented policies and drafted submissions addressing the following themes:
 - *Best Practices and Ethics for WFD Development Cooperation Projects.*
 - *WFD Roles in Ordinary Member Conflicts.*
 - *WFD and WASLI Guidelines on Securing and Utilising the Services of Sign Language Interpreters for the United Nations.*
 - *Produced four submissions for consideration by the United Nations highlighting deaf and sign language perspectives.*

- Hosted a side-event at the 77th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Switzerland. The panellists included WFD representatives, a deaf professor and a representative from the WFD Ordinary Member Spain.
- A visual toolkit “Complete the Puzzle: Connecting the Deaf Community with the CRPD and SDGs” was produced and made available on the website for the use of the global Deaf Community without restriction. The objective of the toolkit is to provide support for WFD Ordinary Members and other interested stakeholders in International Sign on how to use both the CRPD and SDGs.
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed with DeafKidz International.
- WFD Secretariat restructured to create the position of WFD Executive Director with Ms Eeva Tupi appointed as the first deaf person in the position.
- Sunday, 23 September, 2018 was a historic day with many members and organisations around the world celebrating the First International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) in line with the theme “*With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!*”. Ordinary Member South Africa hosted an IDSL Day in Cape Town which I attended and Vice President Murray attended the events organised by the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland to celebrate the IDSL.
- Development and dissemination of WFD position papers addressing the following themes:
 - *WFD Position Paper on the Deaf Community as linguistic identity or disability*
 - *WFD Position Paper on Inclusive Education*
 - *WFD and WASLI Statement on Use of Signing Avatars*
 - *WFD Statement on the Adoption and Adaptation of Technologies and Accessibility*
- Funding was received for the “No One Left Behind” project in 2018 (although activities were not implemented until 2019).

In addition to the WFD Position Papers, research data has been used to inform WFD statements and submissions. WFD Expert Groups include representatives from academia who contributed their expertise by sharing up-to-date research to enhance WFD’s work. In total, the WFD prepared 21 submissions to the United Nations during 2015-2018.

Annually, two (2) WFD Board meetings have taken place in different parts of the world. In conjunction with these meetings, seminars or other events have been conducted to provide the opportunity for local Deaf Community members to meet the WFD Board and learn about WFD’s work. Board meetings held in conjunction with seminar or training workshops took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Rwanda and the United Kingdom.



On a final note, I was thrilled to be appointed a Member of the Order (AM) in the Australian honours system on 11 June 2018. The Order of Australia confers the highest recognition for outstanding achievement and service. I received this prestigious Award in recognition of the voluntary services I have invested over the past 40 years at a local, national and global level on behalf of deaf people and persons with a disability. As I said at the time, whilst on an individual level I was honoured to receive this Award, for me, it belongs to the Deaf Community globally.

I invite you to read this Report which captures the most important moments of this term 2015-2018. None of the achievements would have been possible 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, Paul Scott, Kasper Bergmann, the late Elena Down, Megan Youngs, Daniel Ocampo Arias, Nafisah Rantasalmi and Meri Hyske-Fischer. Meri was with the WFD Secretariat for more than 10 years prior to her departure. At that time, the WFD Board approved a restructure of the WFD Secretariat which led to the creation of the position of Executive Director. Eeva Tupi has occupied this position since September 2018.

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 based on their specialist knowledge.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all stakeholders including national associations of the deaf and sponsors which provided financial support for board members' travel expenses to attend board meetings and other events over the four year period.

It is with some sadness that I write this message as this will be my last report as President of WFD. As I reflect on the last 16 years involved with the Board and particularly my time as President since 2011, I feel very fortunate to have followed in the footsteps of the leaders who occupied the role before me. It was their legacy which created a strong foundation for me to be able to continue the critical work of the organisation. During my term as President I am particularly proud that WFD has been able to strengthen its engagement with external organisations and partners in a range of spheres which impact on the Deaf Community. I have also been lucky to have had a strong team assisting me, often working diligently behind the scenes - you know who you are and I am eternally grateful for your unwavering support. I feel that I am leaving the organisation in a strong position and look forward to watching from the sidelines as WFD continues to grow from strength to strength to the benefit of deaf people globally.

Warmly



Mr Colin Allen AM
WFD President



WFD Board

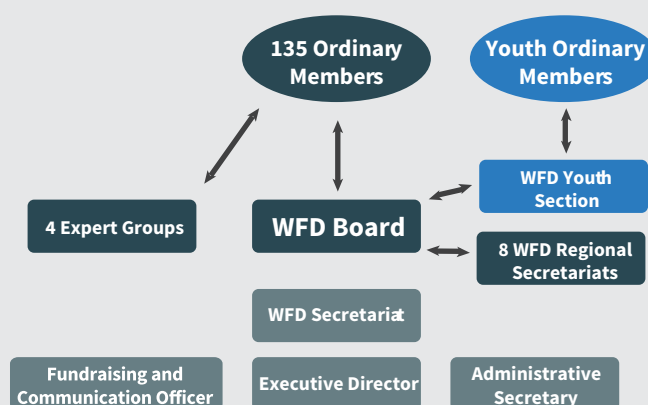


The new WFD Board was elected at the XIX General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2015, with five (5) newly elected Board Members joining five (5) existing members. Mr Colin Allen AM from Australia was re-elected President and Dr Joseph Murray from the United States of America was confirmed as the Vice-President. Other Board Members come from Albania, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Mongolia, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. One Board Member from Sudan commenced his term on January 2017.

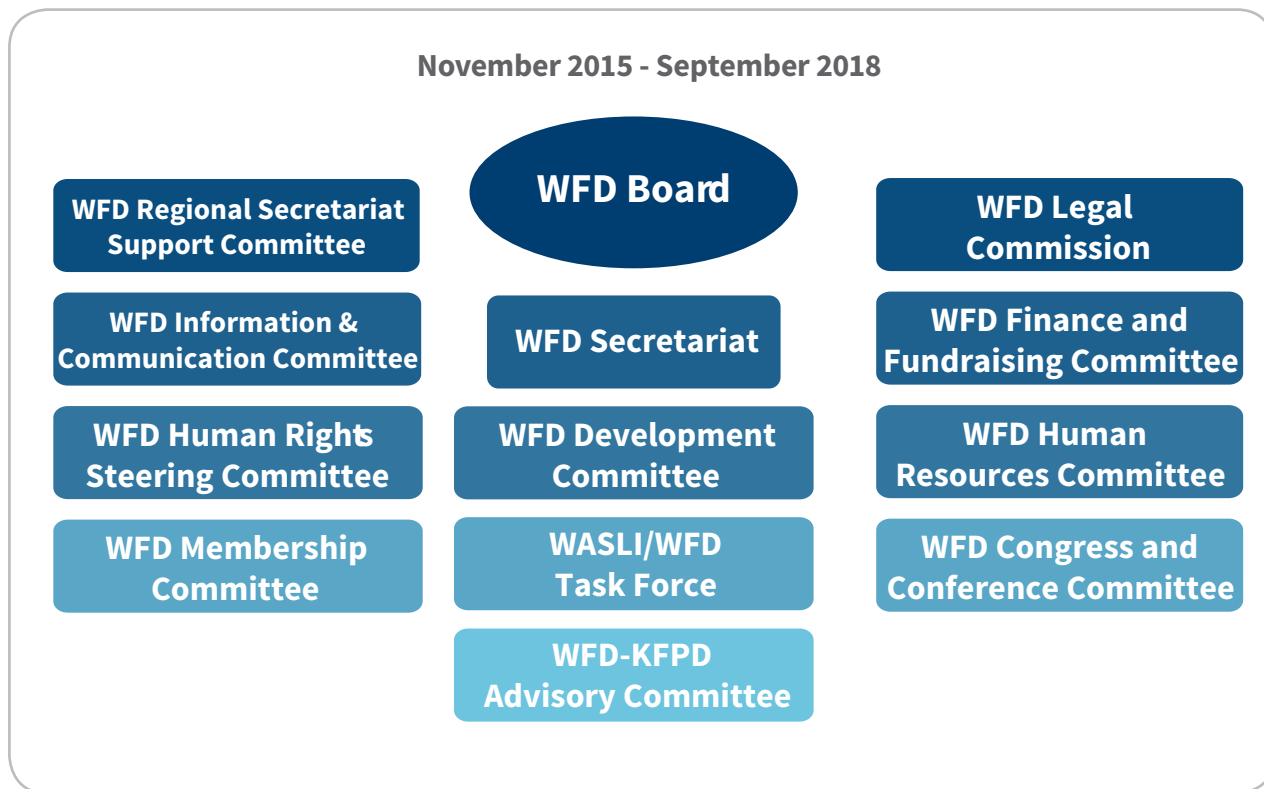
The previous WFD Board (July 2011-July 2015) consisted of: Mr Colin Allen (President), Dr Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen (Vice-President), Ms Kaisa Alanne, Ms Hanne Berge Kvitv er, Dr Joseph Murray, Dr Terry Riley OBE, Mr Hasan Dikyuva, Mr Ramesh Lal Shrestha, Mr Dmitry Rebrov, Mr Jos  Gaspar Ramos Sanabria and Mr Nebjosa Vavra.

WFD Organisational Structure

WFD Organisational Chart (December 2018)



WFD Board Internal Structure



Internal WFD Committees

Each Board Member has been involved with at least one internal committee dealing with specific topics and items of current interest. All internal committees had their own terms of reference.

Internal committees had meetings in advance of Board meetings in order to prepare matters of relevance to their scope of work and to prepare proposals for the Board's consideration. Work has been done also via email correspondence and video meetings between Board meetings. Staff members of the WFD Secretariat have co-ordinated and implemented internal committees' work plans.

After recruiting the WFD Executive Director and evaluating the work of internal committees, the Board decided to reduce the number of committees in September 2018.

1. WFD Legal Committee

Chair: Mr Kasper Bergmann

The WFD Legal Committee oversees and advises the WFD Board, the WFDYS Board and the WFD Secretariat with the aim of expanding WFD capacity and adherence to WFD legal standards, policies and procedures.

At the 111th WFD Board meeting, Mr Brett Casey from Australia and Mr Howard Rosenblum from the USA were appointed as WFD Legal Advisors until the end of the current Board's term.

2. WFD Finance and Fundraising Committee

Chair: Ms Kaisa Alanne

The Finance Committee supports the Board and the Secretariat in the administration of the WFD finances and human resources. The Committee oversees and advises the WFD Board and the WFD Secretariat with the aim of expanding WFD capacity on fundraising-related matters.

3. WFD Development Committee

Chair: Dr Joseph Murray

The Development Committee oversees project application related matters with the aim of broadening the outreach and deepening the impact of the WFD. The Committee strives to develop an annual project application plan that is aligned with the goals of the WFD as identified in the Action Plan.



4. WFD Membership Committee

Chair: Ms Kaisa Alanne and Mr Kasper Bergmann

The WFD Membership Committee concentrates on verifying new applications for membership from both Ordinary Members and Associate Members.

5. WFD Human Resources Committee

Chair: Mr Colin Allen AM

The WFD Human Resources Committee oversees and advises the WFD Board and the WFD Secretariat with the aim of extending WFD's capacity on human resources-related matters.

6. WFD Human Rights Steering Committee

Chair: Dr Joseph Murray

The Human Rights Steering Committee co-ordinates and monitors activities focused on the realisation of the WFD Action Plan 2016 - 2019 goals that relate to International Human Rights Advocacy and Human Rights Training Activities (goals 1 and 2). The Committee oversees and advises the WFD Board, the WFD Youth Section Board and the WFD Secretariat with the aim of enhancing WFD's capacity on human rights-related matters.

7. WFD Information and Communication Committee

Chair: Mr Kasper Bergmann

The Information and Communication Committee strives to improve engagement with the global Deaf Community with the aim of targeted advocacy and empowerment through the provision of accessible information and communication.

8. WFD Conference and WFD Congress Committee

Chairs: Ms Kaisa Alanne and Mr Colin Allen AM

The WFD Congress and WFD Conference Committee ensures compliance with the WFD's policies and standards in all World Congress and WFD Conference planning and preparation and ensures that all enquiries and requests from delegates are responded to appropriately by the event organiser.

9. WFD Regional Secretariat Support Committee

Chair: Dr Joseph Murray

The WFD Regional Secretariat Support Committee advises the WFD Board on the establishment of new WFD Regional Secretariats and undertakes situational analyses for Ordinary Members to facilitate responses to challenging situations within countries in addition to providing support to WFD Regional Secretariats as required.



WFD Board



Mr Colin Allen AM
(Australia)
President



Dr Joseph Murray
(United States of America)
Vice President



Ms Kaisa Alanne
(Finland)
Board Member



Mr Kasper Bergmann
(Denmark)
Board Member



Ms Hanne Berge Kvitvaer
(Norway)
Board Member



Ms Dulamsuren Jigjid
(Mongolia)
Board Member



Mr Nikolay Chaushyan
(Russian Federation)
Board Member



Mr Florjan Rojba
(Albania)
Board Member



Dr Terry Riley OBE
(United Kingdom)
Board Member



Ms Ana Regina e
Souza Campello
(Brazil)
Board Member



Mr Bierma Aburas
(Sudan)
Board Member
(2017-2018)

Board Meetings

Since January 2015, the WFD Board has met ten (10) times in total; the 106th (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the 107th (in Turkey) meetings were convened with the Board whose mandate ended at the XIX General Assembly in July 2015. The current Board has met eight (8) times (July 2015-December 2018): in Turkey, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Nepal, Japan, Hungary, Ghana and Rwanda. The following table highlights the attendance by Board Members at meetings between July 2015 and December 2018:



	108 th Turkey	109 th United Kingdom	110 th New Zealand	111 th Nepal	112 th Japan	113 th Hungary	114 th Ghana	115 th Rwanda	Total
Mr Colin Allen AM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8/8
Dr Joseph Murray	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8/8
Ms Kaisa Alanne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	6/8
Mr Kasper Bergmann*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/7
Ms Hanne Berge Kvitvaer	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	2/8
Ms Dulamsuren Jigjid	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	7/8
Mr Nikolay Chaushyan	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6/8
Mr Florjan Rojba	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	5/8
Dr Terry Riley OBE**	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		6/6
Dr Ana Regina e Souza Campello	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	4/8
Mr Bierma Aburas***					✓	✗	✗	✗	1/4
	8/10	7/10	7/9	8/10	9/10	10/11	6/11	5/10	

* Mr Kasper Bergmann was on leave of absence during the 110th WFD Board meeting.

** Dr Terry Riley OBE was on leave of absence during the 112th and 115th WFD Board meetings.

*** Mr Bierma Aburas' term on the WFD Board commenced on 1 January 2017.

WFD Secretariat

The total number of staff members during the reporting period has ranged between two and six personnel; the number being three (3) as of 31 December 2018 with an Executive Director, Administrative Secretary and Fundraising and Communications Officer.



Executive Director:

Ms Eeva Tupi (Sep 2018-current)

Team Leader:

Ms Eeva Tupi (Apr 2018-Jun 2018)

Ms Meri Hyske-Fischer (until Mar 2018)

Administrative Secretary:

Ms Phillipa Sandholm (2001 -current)

Fundraising and Communications Officer:

Ms Nafisah Rantasalmi (Jan 2018 – current)

Development Officer:

Ms Nafisah Rantasalmi (Aug 2014 – Dec 2017)

Human Rights Officer:

Ms Eeva Tupi (Mar 2013 – Dec 2015; Oct 2016 - Mar 2018)

Mr Kasper Bergmann (Dec 2015 – Oct 2016)

Ms Elena Down (Jan – Dec 2016)

Project Officer for the Maghreb Region:

Mr Paul Scott (Mar 2016 – Sept 2017)

Ms Megan Youngs (Sept 2017 – Feb 2018)

WFD-IDA Fellow:

Mr Daniel Ocampo Arias (Apr 2017 – Apr 2018)

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 Claire Labry (May – August 2015)

Ms Noora Saukkonen (July – Sept 2016)

Ms Stephanie DeMeyer (March - May 2018)



Current Members of WFD



Ordinary Members (135)

Between 2015 - 2018, three new national deaf associations (Haiti, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates) joined the WFD. As of 31 December 2018, the **WFD had 135 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.

- Afghanistan National Association of the Deaf
- Albanian National Association of the Deaf
- All India Federation of the Deaf
- All-Russian Society of the Deaf
- Armenian Deaf Society
- Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Macedonia
- Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Slovenia
- Association of the Deaf in Israel
- Association of the Deaf in Mozambique
- Association of the Deaf of Chile
- Association of the Deaf of El Salvador
- Association of the Deaf of Guatemala
- Association of the Deaf of Niger
- Association of the Deaf of Peru
- Association of the Deaf of Republic Moldova
- Association of the Deaf of Uruguay
- Association of Voices for the Deaf in Tunisia
- Austrian Association of the Deaf
- Azerbaijan Deaf Public Union
- Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf
- Belarusian Society of the Deaf
- Belgian Federation of Flemish Deaf Organisations & Belgian-French Deaf Federation
- Bolivian Federation of the Deaf
- Botswana National Association of the Deaf
- British Deaf Association
- Canadian Association of the Deaf
- Centre of the Deaf of Paraguay
- Chadian National Association of the Hearing Impaired
- China Association of the Deaf
- Confederation of the Deaf of Argentina
- Confederation of the Deaf of Venezuela
- Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Cyprus Deaf Federation

- Danish Deaf Association
- Deaf Aotearoa, New Zealand
- Deaf Association of Togo
- Deaf Australia
- Deaf Federation of Madagascar
- Deaf Federation of South Africa
- Deaf People’s Association, Malta
- Estonian Association of the Deaf
- Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf
- Fiji Association of the Deaf
- Finnish Association of the Deaf
- Gambia Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- German Association of the Deaf
- Ghana National Association of the Deaf
- Guinean Association of the Deaf
- Hellenic Federation of the Deaf
- Hong Kong Association of the Deaf
- Hungarian National Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Icelandic Association of the Deaf
- Indonesian Association for the Welfare of the Deaf
- Iranian National Center of the Deaf
- Irish Deaf Society
- Italian Association of the Deaf
- Japanese Federation of the Deaf
- Kazakhstan Society of the Deaf
- Kenya National Association of the Deaf
- Korea Association of the Deaf
- Kuwait Club for the Deaf
- Latvian Association of the Deaf
- Lebanese Federation of the Deaf
- Liberia National Association of the Deaf
- Libyan General Federation of Deaf Societies
- Lithuanian Deaf Association
- Macau Deaf Association
- Malawi National Association of the Deaf
- Malaysian Federation of the Deaf
- Mali Association of the Deaf
- Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of the Deaf (AMPS)
- Mexican Federation of the Deaf
- Mongolian National Association of the Deaf*
- Moroccan National Federation of the Deaf (Morocco)**
- Namibian National Association of the Deaf
- National Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Congo
- National Association of the Deaf Côte d’Ivoire
- National Association of the Deaf –Dovenschap
- National Association of the Deaf, Eswatini
- National Association of the Deaf in Thailand
- National Association of the Deaf Lesotho
- National Association of the Deaf of Benin
- National Association of the Deaf of Burundi
- National Association of the Deaf of Cameroon
- National Association of the Deaf of Congo
- National Association of the Deaf of Costa Rica
- National Association of the Deaf of Cuba
- National Association of the Deaf of Dominican Republic
- National Association of the Deaf of Honduras
- National Association of the Deaf of Nicaragua
- National Association of the Deaf of Panama
- National Association of the Deaf of Romania
- National Association of the Deaf of Senegal
- National Association of the Deaf, USA
- National Association of the Hearing Impaired of Burkina Faso
- National Deaf Association of Eritrea
- National Federation of the Deaf in Haiti
- National Federation of the Deaf - Nepal
- National Federation of the Deaf of Algeria
- National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia
- National Federation of the Deaf of Ecuador
- National Federation of the Deaf of France
- National Federation of Education and Integration of Deaf People of Brazil
- Nigeria National Association of the Deaf
- Norwegian Association of the Deaf
- Pakistan Association of the Deaf
- Philippine Federation of the Deaf
- Polish Association of the Deaf
- Portuguese Federation of Associations of the Deaf
- The Qatari Center of Social Cultural for the Deaf
- Rwanda National Union of the Deaf
- Serbian & Montenegro Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Sierra Leone Association of the Deaf
- Singapore Association for the Deaf
- Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf
- Slovak Association of the Deaf

- Somali National Association of the Deaf
- Spanish Confederation Association of the Deaf
- Sudanese National Society for the Deaf
- Syrian Federation of Societies for the Welfare of the Deaf
- Swedish National Association of the Deaf
- Swiss Federation of the Deaf
- Tajik Society of the Deaf
- Tanzania Association of the Deaf
- Turkish National Federation of the Deaf
- Uganda National Association of the Deaf
- Ukrainian Society of the Deaf
- Union of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic
- Union of the Deaf in Bulgaria
- Union of the Deaf of Georgia
- United Arab Emirates Deaf Association
- Uzbek Society of the Deaf
- Zambia National Association of the Deaf
- Zimbabwe National Association of the Deaf

**Mongolia had two national associations of the deaf and they merged into one organisation in 2017.*

***Morocco had two national associations of the deaf and they merged into one organisation in 2018.*



Associate Members

The WFD currently has 29 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 2015 – 2018, fifteen (15) new members joined the WFD, while eleven (11) members have resigned.

These are the current WFD Associate Members:

1. The Deaf Society (NSW)	Australia
2. Mouth Association of the African Deaf	Cameroon
3. H3 Network Media Alliance	Canada
4. The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	Hong Kong, China
5. Silence Limited	Hong Kong, China
6. National Association of the Deaf, Taiwan	China
7. Congolese Intercommunity Centre for People with Disabilities	Democratic Republic of Congo
8. The Gesture	Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Czech-Moravian Union of the Deaf	Czech Republic
10. Deaf Hope	Czech Republic
11. Center for Deaf	Denmark
12. Deaf Service Foundation	Finland
13. Deaf Association of Guyana	Guyana
14. National Association of the Deaf, India	India
15. National Network of Iranian Deaf NGOs	Iran
16. Kosovar Association of the Deaf (KAD)	Kosovo
17. MVS Radio Foundation	Mexico
18. Union Nacional de Sordos de Mexico	Mexico
19. Deaf Women Association of Nigeria	Nigeria
20. Palestinian Union for the Deaf	Palestine
21. Association of People with Hearing Impairment	Seychelles
22. Puntland Deaf Care Development Agency	Somalia
23. South African National Deaf Association	South Africa
24. Quiet Theatre	Sweden
25. Tanzania Empowerment for Persons with Disability and Gender Health Organization (TEPDGHO)	Tanzania
26. Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Hearing Impaired	Trinidad & Tobago
27. Gallaudet University Alumni Association	United States of America
28. Mill Neck Foundation	United States of America
29. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf	United States of America

International Members

Currently **the WFD has five (5) International Members:**

1. Christian Blind Mission e.V. - CBM (Germany)
2. Discovering Deaf Worlds - DDW (United States of America)
3. Gallaudet University (United States of America)
4. International Deaf Emergency - IDE (United States of America)
5. National Technical Institute for the Deaf – NTID (United States of America)

Individual Members

Since 2015, the WFD has expanded its Individual membership base: In 2014, the WFD had 169 individual members. The number of individual members has increased in recent years as follows:



WFD Global Impact

68 WFD representation*

50 presentations/
workshops delivered

37 human rights
training delivered

22 UN meetings attended

4 WFD Side Events
conducted during UN Events
including Conferences of
States Parties to the CRPD,
Stakeholders' Meeting for the
WHO Programme on Prevention
of Deafness and Hearing Loss,
the High Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development
and other UN Events

181 Events attended on
behalf of WFD

4 WFD Human Rights Projects
conducted between 2015-2018

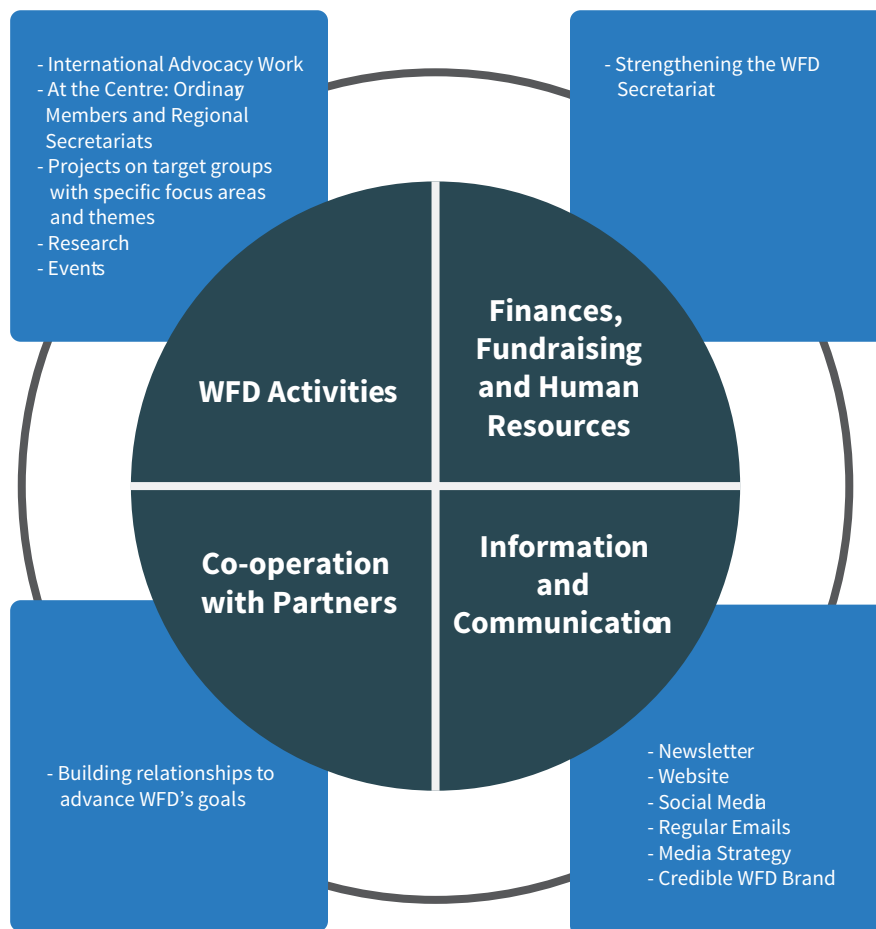
**Includes attendance of WFD Board,
WFD Regional Secretariat and WFD
Expert Group representatives at
congresses, conferences, seminars,
meetings with stakeholders and IDA
Board meetings.*



60 Countries visited on behalf of WFD

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Albania | 32. Mongolia |
| 2. Algeria | 33. Morocco |
| 3. Armenia | 34. Myanmar |
| 4. Australia | 35. Nepal |
| 5. Austria | 36. New Zealand |
| 6. Bahrain | 37. Democratic
People's
Republic of Korea |
| 7. Belarus | 38. Norway |
| 8. Belgium | 39. Panama |
| 9. Bosnia &
Herzegovina | 40. Papua New Guinea |
| 10. Brazil | 41. Republic of China |
| 11. Colombia | 42. Russian Federation |
| 12. Denmark | 43. Rwanda |
| 13. Ecuador | 44. Saudi Arabia |
| 14. Ethiopia | 45. Serbia |
| 15. Egypt | 46. Singapore |
| 16. Finland | 47. South Africa |
| 17. France | 48. Republic of Korea |
| 18. Germany | 49. Spain |
| 19. Ghana | 50. Sweden |
| 20. Greece | 51. Switzerland |
| 21. Hungary | 52. Thailand |
| 22. India | 53. The Netherlands |
| 23. Iran | 54. Tunisia |
| 24. Italy | 55. Turkey |
| 25. Japan | 56. Ukraine |
| 26. Kosovo | 57. United Arab
Emirates |
| 27. Lebanon | 58. United Kingdom |
| 28. Lithuania | 59. USA |
| 29. Macau | 60. Vietnam |
| 30. Malta | |
| 31. Mexico | |

Achieving Our Objectives



Focus Area 1: WFD Activities

Goal 1: Advocate for and protect the human rights of deaf people within the United Nations (UN) framework and its agencies as well as other international environments

With project funding, it was possible for the WFD to employ a human rights officer until 2018. The Human Rights Officer, supported by the Human Rights Steering Committee, led WFD's human rights work. The highlight of the period was the adoption of the UN Resolution on the International Day of Sign Languages which was adopted in December 2017 by the UN General Assembly to be celebrated annually on 23 September starting in 2018.

21 submissions were sent to the UN framework during the period which outlined WFD's views on deaf people's human rights and sign language issues. These documents were sent to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

One of the significant achievements in terms of WFD's submissions sent to UN stakeholders was the successful incorporation of WFD's recommendation in paragraph 65 of the general comment no. 6 of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on Article 5: Equality and Non-discrimination clarifying that deaf students are discriminated against if a sign language environment is not provided in educational settings.

WFD delegates including the President, Vice-President, Board members and Human Rights Officer attended 22 meetings of the UN including the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, sessions of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Social Forum, Minority Forum and High-level Political Forum. WFD representatives presented statements during official sessions and were panelists at side-events.

The WFD organised four (4) side-events to raise awareness on sign language issues. In April 2015, during the 13th session of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the WFD organised a side-event on deaf education highlighting points of concern in the interpretation and implementation of Article 24 of the CRPD.

During the 10th session of the UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, the WFD hosted a side-event with the theme "Full inclusion in education – possible by 2030?". The side-event was co-sponsored by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, International Disability Alliance and Gallaudet University. The side-event took place at the UN headquarters in New York, USA on 13 June 2017. On site, the room was full and there were more than 10,000 observers via WFD Facebook live streaming. The panel was composed of five grassroots-level activists from Global South countries, deaf academics, a UNESCO representative and a WFD board member. At the side-event, the WFD introduced the idea of a UN resolution on the International Day of Sign Languages, which later became a reality in December 2017.



The WFD had an opportunity to organise a side-event for the first time during the 10th UN Minority Forum in Geneva, Switzerland in late 2017. At the side-event, different perspectives were presented about sign languages being minority languages. WFD representatives acted as panelists and delivered impactful opening statements. A deaf minority sign language user from Spain and a CODA from Norway were other panelists at this side-event. The WFD presence at the Minority Forum was important to address misconceptions about sign languages not being minority. During the Minority Forum, the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Dr Fernand de Varennes declared that sign languages are a part of his mandate and highlighted his commitment to work closely with deaf people to promote sign languages as minority languages. Support from the Ål folkehøyskole og kurscenter for døve and Castbergaard Folkehøjskole made it possible for the WFD to attend the Minority Forum and also host a side-event.



In conjunction with the 77th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the WFD hosted a side-event on January 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The panelists included WFD representatives, a deaf professor and a representative from the WFD Ordinary Member in Spain. The panelists were able to answer a variety of questions presented by members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, spanning topics such as best practice for deaf and hearing concurrent education, communication barriers at home for deaf children, and sign languages and their diversity. The presentations covered topics like how learning sign language affects cognitive development of deaf children, what kind of information and support should be provided to families to ensure that deaf children have access to sign language in early childhood, how a sign language environment should be ensured in educational settings and an overview about deaf children in Spain.

The UN resolution (A/C.3/72/L.36/Rev.1) on the International Day of Sign Languages was proposed, or sponsored, through the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, following a request by the WFD. The WFD worked with its country members to garner support from their respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations who have the power at the United Nations General Assembly to vote for adoption of the resolution as co-sponsors. The resolution was co-sponsored by 97 United Nations Member States and adopted by consensus at the 72nd UN General Assembly in December 2017. The process was led by the WFD Human Rights Officer who contacted a number of permanent missions to the UN seeking their support for WFD's idea of having a resolution on the International Day of Sign Languages. The WFD also presented the draft text to the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda which was later slightly amended before being approved by the UN General Assembly.



Through support from the WFD Ordinary Member in Denmark, it has been possible for the WFD to have a Board member participate in meetings of the World Health Organization (WHO) focusing on deafness. Through the WFD representation at the meetings of the WHO, more awareness has been raised among the WHO and other stakeholders with the outcome being the adoption of a more positive picture on sign languages instead of the traditional focus on hearing and speech development.

In addition to the aforementioned events and meetings, WFD representatives have had bilateral meetings with several UN stakeholders and permanent missions to raise awareness on deaf and sign language issues.

The WFD is one of the founding members of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). WFD President Colin Allen AM served as the IDA Chair from July 2016 until June 2018. By having a deaf signing person as the IDA Chair, sign language issues have had greater visibility in the international arena. The WFD has had a designated Board member to represent the organisation at the IDA Board. WFD's representatives have been involved in IDA's work such as the Program Committee, Flagship on Education and Flagship on Women with disabilities. In order to respond to the need of the UN to ensure that International Sign interpretation is of high quality, the WFD-WASLI International Sign Interpreter Accreditation system was established in 2015 and calls for applications have been sought on an annual basis. At the end of 2018, 30 International Sign interpreters were accredited in this system. Information about the interpreters with contact details are available on the WFD website to allow international stakeholders to identify and contract them for international events.

Collaboration with the UN Office in Geneva has continued to seek recommendations from WFD member organisations for national sign language interpreters whom the UN could recruit to interpret at meetings of the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. After several years of advocacy work in partnership with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), a relationship with staff of the UN Office at Geneva has been established with a focus on improving sign language accessibility. Input from WFD and WASLI have been sought when the UN planned to re-design a meeting room to ensure that sign language interpreter arrangements could be accommodated.

Goal 2: Provide direct, systematic support and strengthen the capacity of Ordinary Members and Regional Secretariats of the WFD

As Ordinary Members, national associations of the deaf can request letters of support from the WFD for their advocacy work. Between 2015-2018, the WFD Secretariat wrote 73 letters of support for its members. Topics ranged from human rights issues including the right to receive quality inclusive education in sign language and the right to drive to organisational support such as supporting members’ funding applications seeking financial support for their organisation and attendance at WFD events.

Year	Numbers of letters of support for WFD members
2015	18
2016	15
2017	16
2018	24



The WFD Human Rights Officer contacted Ordinary Members in countries that were due to be reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or Voluntary National Review at the High-level Political Forum. With some Ordinary Members, physical meetings took place e.g. during the XVII World Congress of the WFD in Istanbul, Turkey in 2015. In addition to email correspondence, deaf leaders had the opportunity to discuss matters with the WFD Human Rights Officer in International Sign through video calls. The Ordinary Members were encouraged to co-operate with national umbrella organisations of persons with disabilities and to make contribution to reports. Some deaf leaders attended sessions of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or the High-level Political Forum with their national sign language interpreters to highlight concerns about deaf and sign language issues in their countries.

In 2018, a visual toolkit “Complete the Puzzle: Connecting the Deaf Community with the CRPD and SDGs” was produced and made available at www.wfdeaf.org/crpdsgstoolkit for the use of the global deaf community without restriction. The objective of the toolkit was to provide support for WFD Ordinary Members and other interested stakeholders in International Sign on how to use both the CRPD and SDGs. The toolkit has been used at e.g. WFD’s and IDA’s BRIDGE training workshops.

WFD representatives attended the following meetings of Regional Secretariats and Regional Cooperating Members:

- WFD Regional Secretariat for the Arab region in Turkey (2015)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Southern Africa and WFD Regional Secretariat for Western and Central Africa in Turkey (2015)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for South America meeting in Colombia (2015)
- Eastern Europe and Middle Asia Regional Secretariat of the WFD meeting in Armenia (2017) and Belarus (2018)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia meetings in Singapore (2016) and Thailand (2018)
- European Union of the Deaf in Belgium (2015), the Netherlands (2016) and Malta (2017))
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Western and Central Africa in Cote d’Ivoire (2018)



Goal 3: Undertake projects with focus on the CRPD, deaf education, organisational capacity building, legal capacity and deaf women’s human rights.

Project funding: “Building Human Rights Capacity – Including the Voice of People Who Are Deaf in Parallel Reports” from 2015 until 2017 focused on strengthening organisational capacity of national associations of the deaf to advance the human rights of deaf people in their countries and to contribute to the drafting of parallel reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The second goal of this project was to strengthen WFD’s international human rights advocacy work. Two training sessions were provided to each national association of the deaf in Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and Serbia. Parallel reports were submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from all countries except for Ethiopia. The participation of deaf representatives in the parallel reporting process resulted in deaf issues and sign language being mentioned in the concluding observations for all the countries mentioned, which was a significant outcome.

In 2017, as per the funder's requirements, the one-year WFD human rights project focused on international advocacy work which meant that no training workshops were provided. Through the project "Deaf Inclusion in International Human Rights Standards", three side-events were organised at the UN to raise awareness on deaf people's and sign language issues. In the side-events, there was representation from both grassroots deaf activists and academia. There was extensive advocacy which resulted in a successful outcome with the UN General Assembly adopting a resolution in December 2017 on the International Day of Sign Languages and inclusion of WFD's recommendations in UN documents.



The WFD Capacity Building project for the Deaf Community in the Maghreb region took place from 2016-2018. The project was funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and had two goals: strengthening national associations of the deaf in Maghreb countries and increasing the awareness of society on deaf issues and human rights. The WFD employed a project officer to coordinate project activities and deaf experts were recruited for training workshops. Training took place twice a year – in 2016 in Morocco and Tunisia and in 2017 in Tunisia and Algeria. Gender balance was emphasised in the selection of training participants. Impacts of the project included deaf youth taking more initiative in organising human rights training in their home countries, increased organisational capacity of national deaf associations to make more informed decisions, networking of deaf leaders across the Maghreb region, project applications being prepared by national associations of the deaf and contribution to a parallel report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Through the International Disability Alliance, the Department for International Development (DFID) funded a fellowship project in 2018 which focused on the drafting of the toolkit “Complete the Puzzle: Connecting the Deaf Community with the CRPD and SDGs”. Through the same stakeholder, funding was received for the “No One Left Behind” project in 2018 although activities were not implemented until 2019.

After securing human rights project funding from a donor for five (5) consecutive years, the funding ended in 2018. As a result, extra efforts were required to seek alternative funding to continue WFD’s human rights work by being able to employ a Human Rights Officer, to support Ordinary Members’ human rights work and organise human rights’ training. At the end of 2018, funding was secured for at least one additional year to enable recruitment of a Human Rights Officer starting in 2019.



Significant human resources of the WFD Secretariat have been used in endeavours to seek financial support for projects and WFD’s operational costs to expand WFD’s human rights work. The WFD was hoping to receive funding for a number of projects including a global deaf education survey project, legal capacity project in Latin America and regional capacity building projects. In this regard, a small amount of funding has been secured from the Abilis foundation to focus on a Community Needs Assessment and Analysis Project – on Legal Capacity of Deaf Communities in Latin America to collect information on the challenges and needs. During the XVII World Congress of the WFD, representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay gathered together. Funding is still required to broaden the scope to enable a more extensive regional project.



Goal 4: Strengthen the advocacy work of the WFD and its members by taking advantage of the most up-to-date research in its work

The WFD published three (3) position papers with the intention of addressing misunderstandings about sign language and education issues. In 2016, the WFD Position Paper on the Language Rights of Deaf Children was published to emphasise the importance of early acquisition of sign language. Two documents were published in 2018. In the WFD Position Paper on Inclusive Education, information was provided on how education through the medium of sign language should not be considered as segregated education but as part of an inclusive education system. The WFD Position Paper: “Complementary or diametrically opposed: Situating Deaf Communities within ‘disability’ vs ‘cultural and linguistic minority’ constructs” explains how deaf people are considered both as members of a linguistic minority and the disability movement. In addition to the WFD Position Papers, research data has been used to inform WFD statements and submissions. WFD Expert Groups include representatives from academia who contributed their expertise by sharing up-to-date research to enhance WFD’s work. In total, the WFD prepared 21 submissions to the United Nations during 2015-2018.



Goal 5: Contribute to the establishment and success of WFD events

Annually, two (2) WFD Board meetings have taken place in different parts of the world. In conjunction with these meetings, seminars or other events have been conducted to provide the opportunity for local Deaf Community members to meet the WFD Board and learn about WFD's work. Board meetings with seminar or training workshops took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Rwanda and the United Kingdom.

The XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf took place in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2015 and the 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf was held in Budapest, Hungary in November 2017. Both events attracted a high number of participants.

The International Week of the Deaf has been traditionally celebrated in September. The event has been expanded with the first-ever International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September 2018. The WFD provided material for its members and attended events organised by the UN and WFD Ordinary Members.

Year	Theme of International Week of the Deaf
2015	With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can!
2016	With Sign Language, I am Equal
2017	Full Inclusion with Sign Language!
2018	With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!



Focus Area 2: Finances, Fundraising and Human Resources

Goal 6: Improve the financial situation and intensify the fundraising efforts of the WFD leading to a stronger WFD Secretariat

A Money Collection Licence, in line with Finnish legislation was granted to the WFD for the first time in 2015. Licences are valid for 1-2 years at a time and as a result, the WFD Secretariat has been required to provide reports to the Finnish Police Authority on fundraising and the use of monies collected. The Money Collection Licence made it possible for the WFD to appeal for donations through approved methods outside of Finland such as via the WFD website.

A donation database was developed to allow the WFD to have oversight of the development of individual and organisational donations. Through the WFD website, it is now possible to make donations at one time, monthly, quarterly or annually. While the number of individual donors has been increasing, donation amounts have been relatively small.

A number of fundraising campaigns have taken place during 2015-2018. The biggest campaign has been the Fighting Fund to seek donations to support the WFD to continue its human rights work to defend the rights of deaf people around the world. The campaign was launched at the 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in Budapest, Hungary in 2017.

Fundraising events have taken place in conjunction with the WFD World Congress, WFD International Conference, WFD Board meetings and WFD presentations. During the International Week of the Deaf and International Women's Day, appeals were published to seek financial support for the WFD. Social media has been an efficient channel as a number of individuals have started fundraising campaigns on their birthdays to support WFD's work.

The following box gives an overview on how much the WFD has fundraised:

Year	Total Income
2015	17,057.43 €
2016	7,693.21 €
2017	22,994.28 €
2018	14,316.71 €

Despite efforts, the financial situation of the WFD has not improved sufficiently to maintain full time staff members to support the human rights of deaf people and to apply for project funding to expand the WFD.



Focus Area 3: Co-operation with Partners

Goal 7: Maintain good relationships with partners and co-operate with them in realising common goals

At the end of 2018, the WFD had co-operation agreements with ten (10) organisations that share common goals.

In 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW) and a joint statement agreed with the Sign Language Linguistics Society. In the following year, co-operation agreements were signed with Cinésourds and DeafSkills. Most recently, in 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with DeafKidz International.

The WFD and DDW launched a three-year social inclusion of the deaf project in the Dominican Republic in 2017 to support the capacity building of the WFD Ordinary Member in the Dominican Republic.

With the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), joint statements were published and joint presentations took place in different parts of the world to emphasise the importance of co-operation between deaf leaders and interpreters to advocate for the human rights of deaf people.

In addition to official partnership agreements, the WFD has been co-operating with a number of stakeholders through meetings over the period and implementation of activities.

The Abilis Foundation supported the WFD to organise a Latin American community needs assessment and analysis project in 2015 which brought deaf Latin American leaders together during the XVII WFD World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. The WFD has shared information about small project funding opportunities provided by the Abilis Foundation. As a result, a number of Ordinary Members successfully applied for project funding to implement activities at the national level. Some of these funding opportunities facilitated participation in the XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf.

The Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) provided assistance in developing a video campaign for the International Week of the Deaf in 2015 and revamping the WFD website in 2016.



Focus Area 4: Information and Communication



Goal 8: Use different WFD-owned communication channels to publicise WFD's human rights work on relevant issues related to the global deaf community in an accessible and effective manner

Goal 9: Develop a media strategy to further the WFD's advocacy and fundraising goals.

Goal 10: Expand the visibility of the WFD within and external to its membership, continue its work outside the Deaf Community and raise the organisation's profile



The WFD website was updated in 2016 and since this time, there has been more information including in International Sign on the website. The WFD Facebook Page had almost 100,000 followers at the end of 2018. International Sign videos are published using a Vimeo account which is linked to the WFD website. Since 2015, it has been possible to make donations through the WFD's website and also through WFD's Facebook Page.

Traditional WFD Newsletters were published until 2016. From 2017 onwards, the WFD had to review the use of limited Secretariat resources and for this reason, thematic messages replaced the traditional newsletters sent out to members, partners and subscribers.

Campaign material for the International Week of the Deaf was developed for the first time in 2015 for free use by members to advocate at the national level. Since then, campaign material has been published on an annual basis. In 2018, the International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated for the first time which was also included in the campaign material.

In 2018, a visual toolkit on the use of the CRPD and SDGs was launched on WFD's website. The material is available both in International Sign and written English.

A media strategy was drafted but could not be prioritised with the reduced resources at the WFD Secretariat due to the declining financial situation. Guidelines on the use of the WFD logo have also been drafted but have not yet been approved.

As the WFD is registered in an EU country, Finland, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (which became effective as of May 2018) has imposed extra work on the WFD Secretariat to ensure that the WFD website and WFD's administration are compliant with the regulation. For example, the WFD privacy policy and donor register were developed.

Year	Number of news items posted on the WFD website
2015	30
2016	27
2017	40
2018	35

WFD Expert Groups



The role of the WFD Expert Groups is to serve as an expert advisory body for the WFD Board and its Working Committees, WFDYS Board and WFD Secretariat and to contribute to the fulfilment of the WFD goals defined in the WFD Action Plan 2016-2019.

The purpose of the WFD Expert Groups is to provide advice and guidance about their area of expertise in line with the WFD Vision and Mission, WFD Action Plan, WFD Congress Resolutions, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), other UN Treaties and Agenda 2030.

The advice and guidance may take the form of:

- Revision of existing WFD guidelines, statements or policies;
- Involvement in a process resulting in a WFD Statement, submission, comment or policy;
- Writing of a letter of support;
- Contributing to WFD-owned media platforms; or
- Any other task, as requested.

The members of the WFD Expert Group are individuals with evidence of substantial and in-depth knowledge about the topic/s relevant to their group such as academic publications, leadership expertise in campaigns or lobbying, previous/current employment history within a deaf organisation or possess legal, scientific or other professional backgrounds. Hence, the members of the Expert Groups are expected to contribute their knowledge to the best of their ability and actively contribute to the WFD work.

The Expert Group members are expected to include the viewpoints of deaf youth, seniors, deaf persons with disabilities, women, sexual minorities and deaf individuals living in developing countries in all their work.

The co-ordinators and members of the expert groups serve as volunteers and thus are not be paid or reimbursed for any expenses during their term.



WFD Expert Group - Deaf Education

Coordinator:

Dr Kristin Snoddon (Canada)

Members:

Professor Marta Vinardell Maristany (Spain)

Dr Roslyn Rosen (USA)

Dr Yoko Kobayashi (Japan)

Ms Tawny Holmes Esq (USA)

Ms Shreen Hussein (Jordan)

Dr Gabrielle Jones (USA)

The WFD Expert Group on Deaf Education was involved in drafting a small-scale WFD Survey on deaf education to seek information from WFD Ordinary Members prior to the 3rd WFD International Conference.

The Expert Group had a face to face meeting during the 3rd WFD International Conference. Other contributions of the Expert Group include the development of the WFD Position Paper on Inclusive Education and WFD Position Paper on the Language Rights of Deaf Children.

WFD Expert Group - Accessibility (Technology & Sign Language Interpretation)

Coordinator:

Dr Phil Harper (Australia)

Members:

Dr Masayuki Inoue (Japan)

Mr Beat Kleeb (Switzerland)

Dr Matjaz Debevc (Slovenia)

Ms Alexis Kashar (USA)

Ms Melissa Malzkuhn (USA)

Mr Ambrose Murangira (Uganda)

Ms Suzy Singleton (USA)

Dr Christian Vogler (USA)

Professor Jemina Napier (United Kingdom)

Ms Maya de Wit (Netherlands)

Members of the WFD Expert Group on Accessibility (Technology & Sign Language Interpretation) participated actively in several Information and Communications Technology events such as the Google Accessibility Summit, International Congress of the International Federation of Translators and Interpreters and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific expert meeting. The Expert Group provided input into a number of WFD documents such as the WFD and WASLI Statement on the use of Signing Avatars and the WFD Position Paper on Accessibility: Sign Language Interpreting and Translation and Technological Developments. Members of the Expert Group had a face to face meeting during the 3rd WFD International Conference in Budapest, Hungary.

WFD Expert Group - Human Rights

Coordinator:

Ms Nora Duggan (Ireland) since November 2018
 Ms Helena Gade (Denmark) May 2017 – August 2018
 Ms Elena Down (Australia) until March 2017

Members:

Mr Adrian Bailey (UK)
 Ms Michelle Carroll (USA)
 Mr Emmanuel Jacq (France)
 Professor Johannes Fellingner (Austria)
 Ms Joyce Phiri (South Africa)
 Mr German Parra Gallego (Colombia)
 Mr Davin Searls (USA)
 Mr Hiroshi Tamon (Japan)

The WFD Expert Group on Human Rights supported the work of the WFD Human Rights Officer by providing feedback on draft WFD statements and submissions. The WFD Expert Group also contributed to the WFD Position Paper on the Language Rights of Deaf Children.

WFD Expert Group - Sign Language & Deaf Studies

Coordinator:

Dr Robert Adam (Australia/UK)

Members:

Dr John Bosco Conama (Ireland)
 Mr Ichiro Miyamoto (Japan)
 Dr Nick Palfreyman (United Kingdom)
 Mr Christian Ramirez (Costa Rica)
 Dr Marianne Strump (Brazil)
 Professor Myriam Vermeerbergen (Belgium)

The WFD Expert Group on Sign Language and Deaf Studies contributed to drafting the WFD Position Paper “Complementary or diametrically opposed: Situating Deaf Communities within ‘disability’ vs ‘cultural and linguistic minority’ constructs”, the WFD Position Paper on the Language Rights of Deaf Children and UNESCO Atlas of sign languages.



WFD Regional Secretariats

WFD Regional Secretariat for South America (RSSA)

Regional Director: Mr Henry Meja Royet, Colombia



Ordinary Members in the region:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confederation of the Deaf 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Centre of the Deaf of Paraguay |
|--|---|



Regional meetings and events in 2015-2018:

- 4th South American Conference in conjunction with the Regional Secretariat meeting in October 2015 in Colombia
- 5th South American Conference in conjunction with the Regional Secretariat meeting in October 2016 in Chile
- 1st South American Deaf Youth meeting in March 2016 in Bolivia
- 7th Latin American meeting of the deaf in October/November 2018 in Panama

Significant achievements between 2015-2018:

- The establishment of the WFDYS Youth Regional Secretariat in South America
- Raised awareness on the CRPD in South America
- Increased cooperation with the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of People with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS)

WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia (RSA)

Regional Director: Mr Yasunori Shimamoto, Japan

Deputy Regional Director: Ms Clarissa U Ka Weng, Macau



Website: <http://www.wfdeafsa.org>

Ordinary Members in the region:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Macau Deaf Association 11. Malaysian Federation of the Deaf 12. Mongolian National Association of the Deaf 13. National Federation of the Deaf - Nepal 14. Pakistan Association of the Deaf 15. Philippine Federation of the Deaf 16. Singapore Association for the Deaf 17. Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf 18. National Association of the Deaf in Thailand |
|--|--|

Regional meetings and events between 2015-2018:

- Annual regional meetings in Turkey (2015), Singapore (2016), Hungary (2017) and Thailand (2018)
- International Sign interpreter training in 2018 in Macau
- Side-event during the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 in China

Significant achievements between 2015-2018:

- Advocacy work directed toward the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to provide International Sign interpreters at its meetings
- Organised the International Day of Sign Languages celebration in Tokyo, Japan in 2018
- Organised International Sign interpreter training in Asia in cooperation with the WASLI



WFD Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region (RSAR)

Regional Director: Ms Hend Al-Showaier, Saudi Arabia



Ordinary Members in the region:

1. National Federation of the Deaf of Algeria
2. Kuwait Club for the Deaf
3. Lebanese Federation of the Deaf
4. Libyan General Federation of Deaf Societies
5. Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of the Deaf
6. Moroccan National Federation of the Deaf
7. The Qatari Center of Social Cultural for the Deaf
8. Sudanese National Society for the Deaf
9. Syrian Federation of Societies for the Welfare of the Deaf
10. Association of Voices for the Deaf in Tunisia
11. United Arab Emirates Deaf Association



Regional meetings and events between 2015-2018:

- The first regional meeting took place in Turkey in 2015
- Maghreb region organisational capacity and human rights project from 2016-2018
- 1st Regional Forum for Arab Sign Language Interpreters in Jordan in 2016

Significant achievements between 2015-2018:

- Deaf people in the Arab region who participated in WFD training were selected to participate in the IDA BRIDGE CRPD – SDGs training in the MENA region in 2018
- Efforts to eradicate the use of unified Arab sign language by encouraging interpreters in the region to use national sign languages
- A deaf woman became the Regional Director

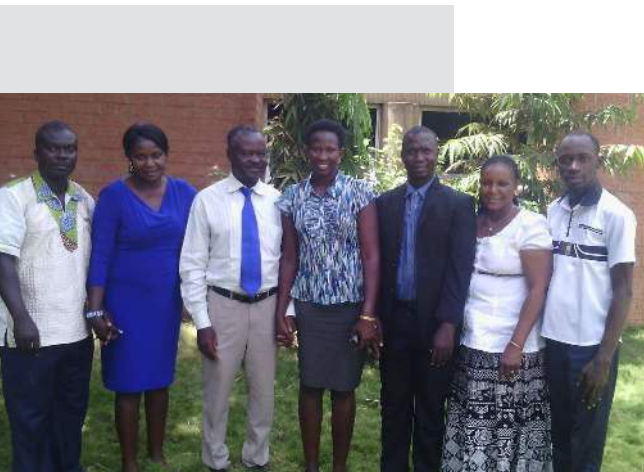
WFD Regional Secretariat for Western and Central Africa (WCAR)

Regional Director: Mr Lamin M Ceeseay, Gambia



Ordinary Members in the region:

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
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
13. National Association of the Deaf & Hearing Impaired of Congo
14. Mali Association of the Deaf
15. National Association of the Deaf of Senegal
16. Sierra Leone Association of the Deaf
17. Deaf Association of Togo



Regional meetings and events between 2015-2018:

- Support from the Danish Deaf Association made it possible for the Regional Secretariat to organise annual meetings and forums
- Meetings took place in Mali (2015), Burkina Faso (2017) and Cote d'Ivoire (2018)

Significant achievements between 2015-2018:

- Transnational Development Project in Togo, Niger, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire
- Ghana became the first West African country to host the WFD Board meeting in 2018
- Secured project funding to implement activities in the region and to build the capacity of leaders in the region through attendance at the XVII WFD World Congress and 3rd WFD International Conference

Eastern Europe and Middle Asia Regional Secretariat of WFD (EEMARS)

Regional Director: Mr Ruslan Lopatiuc, Republic of Moldova

Website: <http://eemars.org>

Ordinary Members in the region:

1. Azerbaijan Deaf Public Union
2. Belarusian Society of the Deaf
3. Kazakhstan Society of the Deaf
4. Armenian Deaf Society
5. Union of the Deaf of Georgia
6. Association of the Deaf of Republic Moldova
7. All-Russian Society of the Deaf
8. Ukrainian Society of the Deaf
9. Uzbek Society of the Deaf
10. Tajik Society of the Deaf

Regional meetings and events between 2015-2018:

- Regional meeting in Armenia in 2017
- Regional meeting in Belarus in 2018

Significant achievements between 2015-2018:

- Developed a website for the Regional Secretariat
- Prepared a project proposal to conduct a regional conference on implementation of the CRPD
- Cooperation with the DeafSkills organisation

Reports have not been received from the following Regional Secretariats:

- WFD Regional Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (MCAC)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Southern Africa (RSESA)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Oceania (RSO)

or from our Regional Co-operating Partner, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD).



World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section



The World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS) Board was selected at the Youth General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey in 2015.

The board composition changed over the four year period with representation from the following members:

- Ms Cecilia Hanhikoski, Finland (President) until September 2017
- Mr Mark Berry, New Zealand (Vice-President until September 2017 and thereafter President)
- Mr Laith Fathulla, Sweden (Secretary) until April 2017
- Ms Shirley Liu, Australia (Board Member until April 2017 and thereafter Secretary)
- Ms Alejandra Galione, Uruguay (Board Member until September 2017 and thereafter Vice-President)
- The late Mr Benjamin Bekoe, Ghana (Board Member)
- Mr Simon Herdman, the United Kingdom (Board Member until August 2017)
- Ms Yoorang Seo, the Republic of Korea (Board Member) since November 2017
- Ms Laura Caporali, Italy (Board Member) since November 2017

Between 2015 and 2018, WFDYS Board meetings took place in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Hungary, Jordan, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

Any recognised or registered national youth organisation of the deaf with legal status and members within the age range of 18 to 30, whose vision and aims are similar to those of the WFD and has the support of the national WFD Ordinary Member may apply for Youth Ordinary Member (YOM) status. At the end of 2018, the number of Youth Ordinary Members was 34.

The WFDYS co-operated with Youth Regional Secretariats in Asia, Central America (established in 2018), Europe and South America (established in 2017).

130 deaf people from 58 countries participated in the WFDYS Youth Camp in Turkey in 2015.

62 juniors from 25 countries participated in the WFDYS Junior Camp in Australia in 2017.

46 children from 15 countries participated in the WFDYS Children Camp in Argentina in 2018.

More information is available in the WFDYS 2015-2018 report.

WFD Finances

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015-2018 IN EURO - COMPARISON				
PROFIT AND LOSS				
INCOME	2015	2016	2017	2018
General funding Finnish MFA	50,000.00	43,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Membership fees				
Ordinary Members (OM)	62,540.11	50,436.40	51,905.26	49,627.26
Associate Members (AM)	4,300.00	4,500.00	4,000.00	6,131.64
International Members (INTM)	1,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Individual Members (IM)	12,958.55	8,942.25	8,020.00	9,448.70
Membership fees (AM & IM) previous years	1,000.00	1,350.00	375.00	1,090.00
Finnish Deaf Association support	20,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Donations				
Donations from associations	7,651.98	-	-	-
Donations from individuals	1,878.90	-	-	-
Earmarked donations	400.00	-	-	-
Fundraising with licence	6,206.06	1,837.52	4,024.94	12,109.40
Fundraising events	920.49	5,855.69	18,969.34	2,207.31
Congress/Conference income	1,596.00	-	13,087.00	13,223.10
HRO2 project funding	11,993.95	-	-	-
HOR3 project funding	58,087.30	96,759.51	23,787.84	-
HR04 project funding	-	-	47,487.07	43,950.63
Maghreb project funding	-	116,903.76	146,839.03	13,079.21
ABILIS project funding	7,593.00	2,531.00	-	-
Website project funding	-	11,744.20	-	-
Product sales	3,663.12	420.60	547.34	308.93
WFDYS	358.29	1,283.40	725.00	4,311.19
Interest received	0.12	0.46	570.37	0.29
International Sign Interpreter Accreditation Fees	5,700.00	2,750.00	4,000.00	2,350.00
INCOME TOTAL	258,347.87	360,814.90	375,338.19	209,337.66

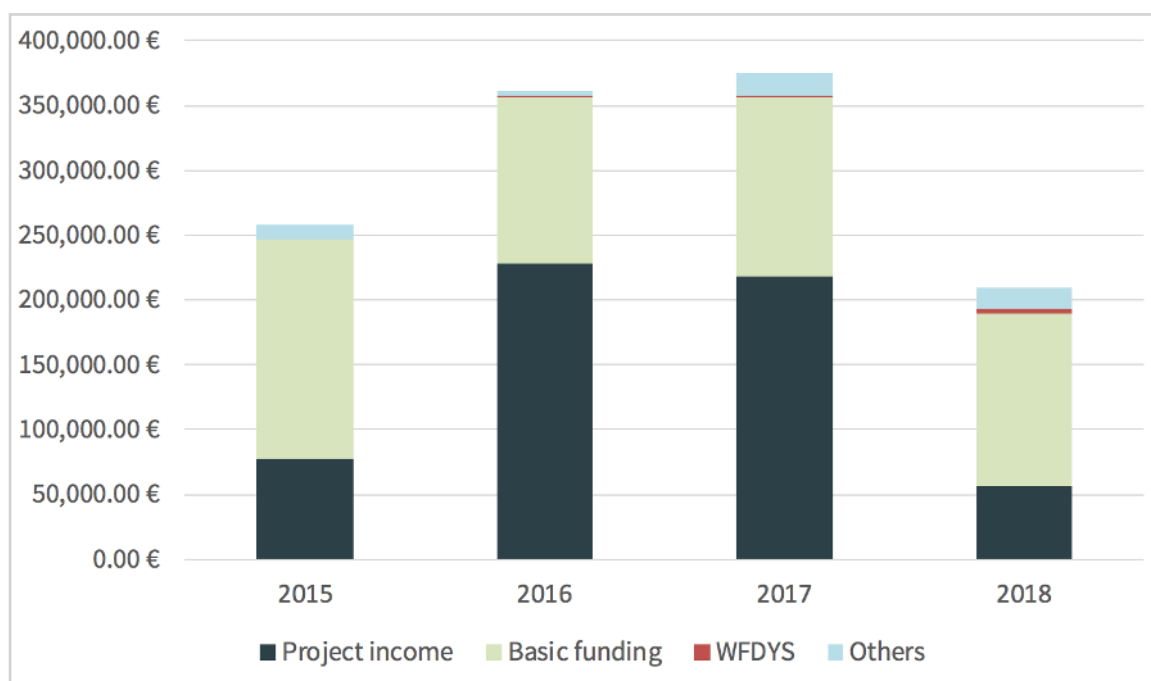
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015-2018 IN EURO - COMPARISON				
PROFIT AND LOSS				
EXPENSES	2015	2016	2017	2018
Personnel (3 staff, members, including travel expenses)	137,104.09	150,906.05	157,285.37	140,586.89
HRO2 project expenses	9,282.01	-	-	-
HRO3 project expenses	58,087.30	96,759.51	23,763.15	-
HRO4 project expenses	-	-	44,515.07	43,432.04
Maghreb project expenses	-	116,903.76	146,833.59	14,040.02
ABILIS project expenses	8,635.51	-	-	-
Website project expenses	-	11,744.20	-	-
Outsourced services	-	-	-	5,680.67
Fundraising costs	290.56	921.05	8,861.70	806.83
Information and communication costs	3,554.66	5,827.10	5,172.63	5,141.18
Publication costs	3,714.83	-	-	-
Office costs	2,039.80	1,945.64	1,158.30	1,709.55
Telephone	792.49	580.70	395.87	526.77
Postage	563.66	381.17	-	223.20
ICT & equipment	4,897.04	5,242.06	3,705.40	5,079.37
Administration (accounting and auditing)	5,724.80	2,534.71	2,528.53	2,198.31
Bank fees/exchange rate differences	2,474.71	2,534.71	2,528.53	2,198.31
Membership fees	240.00	-	250.00	325.00
Product sales	3,748.98	-	-	-
International Sign Interpreter accreditation expenses	236.57	-	150.00	60.00
WFDYS	5.24	901.84	5,026.20	2,260.19
Depreciation of tangible assets	619.01	464.25	348.19	261.14
EXPENSES TOTAL	242,011.26	400,870.12	404,811.63	227,946.16
INCOME TOTAL	258,347.87	360,814.90	375,338.19	209,337.66
EXPENSES TOTAL	242,011.26	400,870.12	404,811.63	227,946.16
Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year	16,336.61	-40,055.33	-29,473.44	-18,608.50
Surplus/Deficit of the Financial Year - TOTAL 2015-2018				-71,800.66

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015-2018 IN EURO - COMPARISON				
BALANCE SHEET				
ASSET	2015	2016	2017	2018
Non-current assets				
Machinery and equipment	1,857.01	1,392.76	1,044.57	783.43
Investments	84.09	84.09	84.09	84.09
Total of non-current assets	1,941.10	1,476.85	1,128.66	867.52
Current assets				
Long term				
Other long-term receivables	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Short-term				
Other receivables	1.78	2.24	2.61	2.90
Accrued income	29,531.59	30,207.67	31,396.20	24,247.75
Cash and bank accounts	233,147.59	205,312.84	184,319.18	98,872.47
Total of current assets	263,680.96	236,522.75	216,717.99	124,123.12
TOTAL ASSETS	265,622.06	237,999.60	217,846.65	124,990.64
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Equity				
Retained earning surplus/deficit	174,630.45	190,967.06	150,911.73	121,438.29
Profit for the financial year	16,336.61	-40,807.33	-29,473.44	-18,608.50
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	2,061.47	10,139.80	15,223.10	1,959.81
Other liabilities	3,330.04	3,808.08	-	-
Other current liabilities	69,263.49	-	81,185.26	20,201.04
Total liabilities	74,655.00	87,839.87	96,408.36	22,160.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	265,622.06	237,999.60	217,846.65	124,990.64

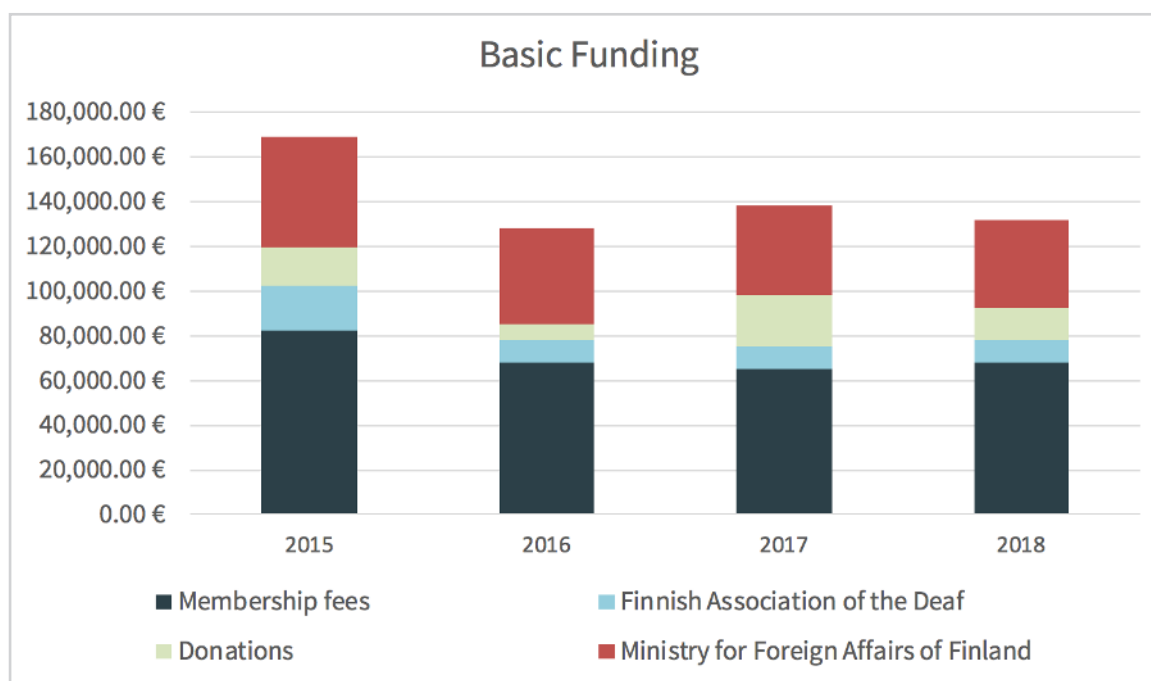
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015-2018 IN USD - COMPARISON				
WFD Endowment Fund - USD*				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Capital 1/1	71,102.56	66,381.98	70,792.44	81,955.02
Dividends/interest (net)	4,097.34	2,097.29	6,168.08	4,586.47
Bank fees	150.00	150.00	161.03	150.00
*Includes Donalds Ammons - 9,59 % of the capital	66,381.98	70,729.44	81,955.02	79,054.29
Verker Andersson Endowment Fund - USD				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Capital 1/1	26,585.19	25,387.43	34,271.06	38,691.16
Dividends/interest (net)	1,074.35	855.19	1,592.10	1,719.66
Bank fees	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00
Capital 31/12	25,387.43	34,271.06	38,691.16	35,853.27



Income 2015-2018

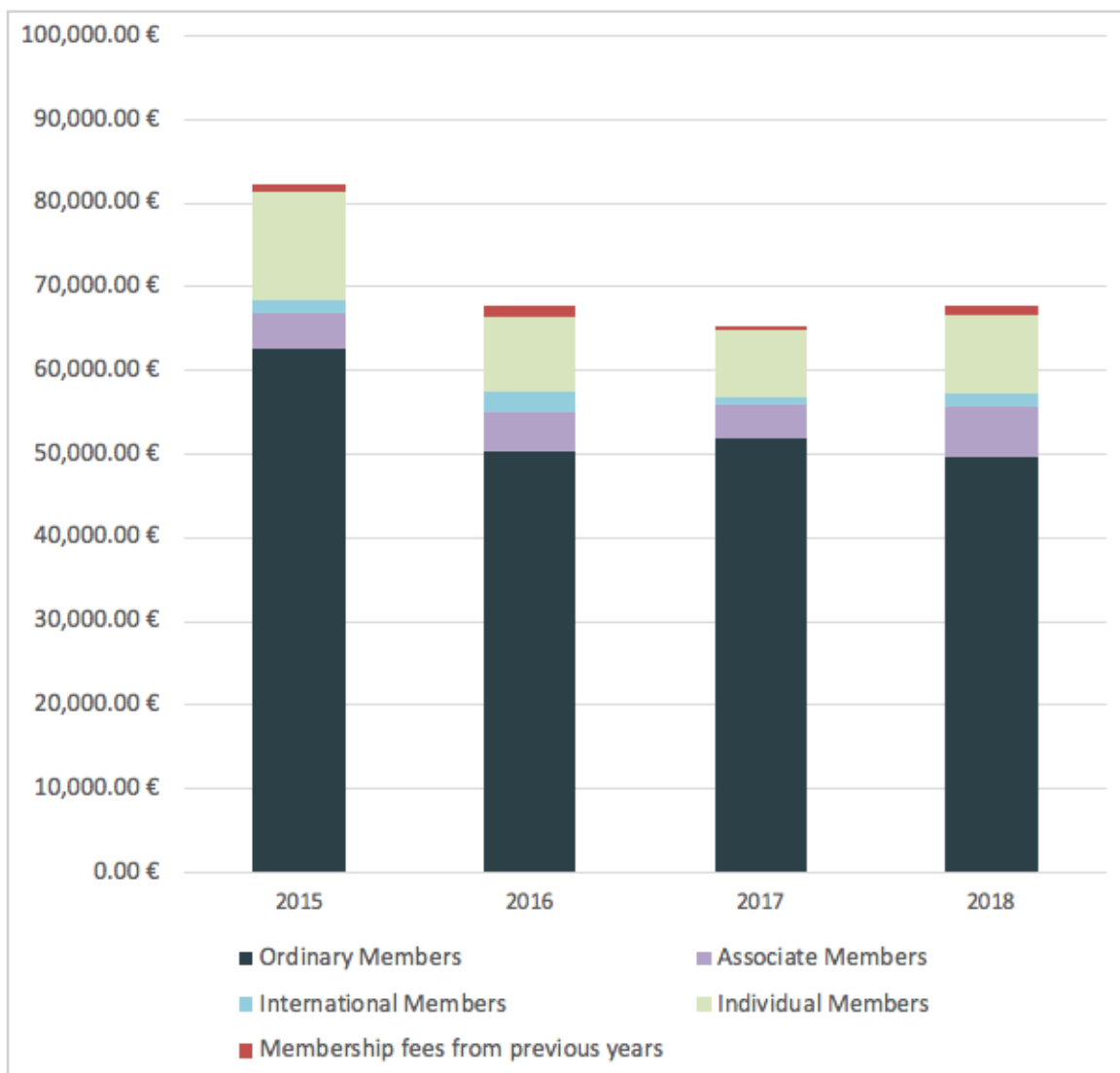


Income 2015-2018 (Breakdown)

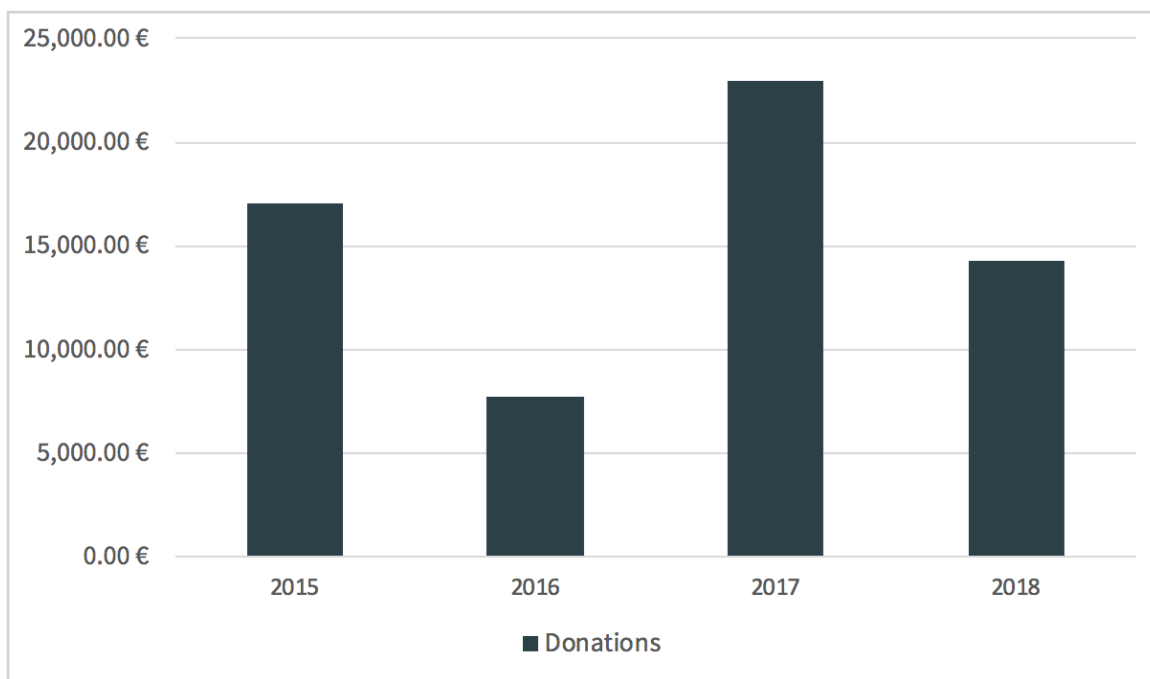




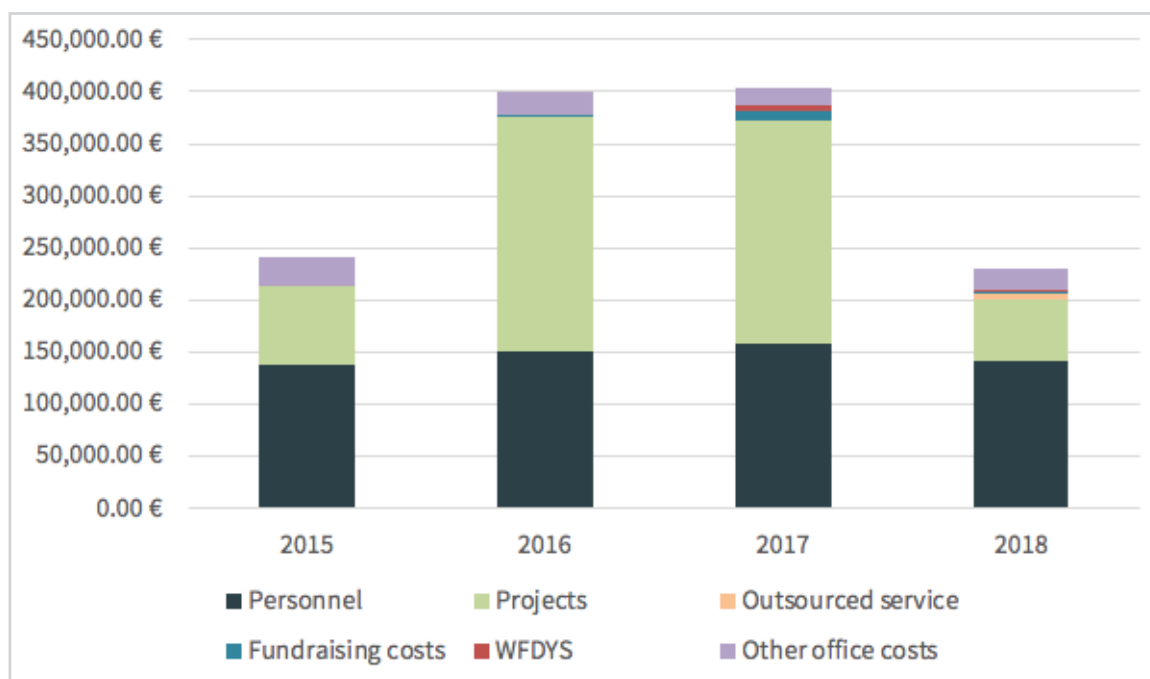
Membership fees 2015-2018



Donations 2015-2018



Expenses 2015-2018





WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF