



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

2020 - 2030 WFD Strategic Direction

WFD VISION

Sign Language Rights for all deaf people

The right to Sign Language as a principle needs to be recognised in international treaties, policies, and programmes and translated into tangible action at national, regional and local levels.

WFD MISSION

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

STRATEGIC FOCUS

- Legal recognition of sign languages
- Policies implementing sign language rights
- Increased data on deaf people and sign languages
- Deaf people's right to use sign language is respected and promoted in all areas of life

STRATEGIC FOCUS

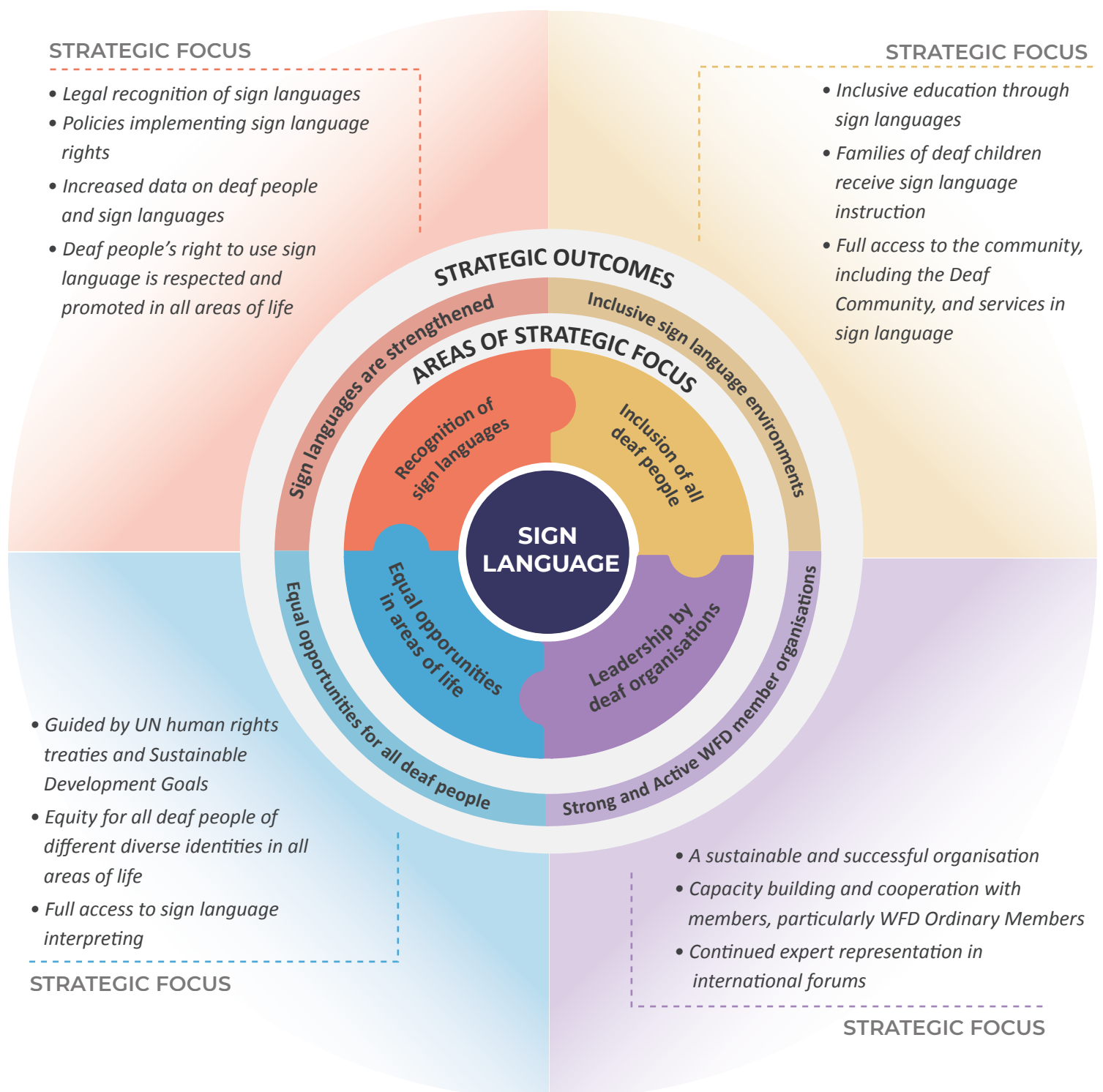
- Inclusive education through sign languages
- Families of deaf children receive sign language instruction
- Full access to the community, including the Deaf Community, and services in sign language

- Guided by UN human rights treaties and Sustainable Development Goals
- Equity for all deaf people of different diverse identities in all areas of life
- Full access to sign language interpreting

STRATEGIC FOCUS

- A sustainable and successful organisation
- Capacity building and cooperation with members, particularly WFD Ordinary Members
- Continued expert representation in international forums

STRATEGIC FOCUS



WFD BELIEFS

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| EQUALITY and DIVERSITY | We are committed to promoting equality in our work. All individuals are to be treated equally and be included in our work regardless of their religion, race, gender, identity, sexual orientation, education, language, culture, age or disability. |
| RESPECT and EMPOWERMENT | We will consult and work collaboratively with our members, partners and donors in achieving our goals. |
| SIGN LANGUAGE and COMMUNITY | Language rights are essential for deaf people's human rights, thus sign languages and Deaf Communities must be legally recognised and promoted. |
| LEADERSHIP of DEAF PEOPLE | Deaf organisations must be led by deaf people and decisions which affect deaf people need to be made by deaf people. |

WFD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

| | |
|---|---|
| HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 guide WFD's work.• The WFD operates in line with the philosophy of "<i>Leave No One Behind</i>", meaning equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society for deaf people in every country. |
| RESPECT FOR LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The WFD works on an ongoing basis for the recognition of sign languages as part of linguistic diversity and aims to improve the status of national sign languages. |
| INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SOCIETY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The WFD believes no deaf person should be denied quality education in their national sign language(s) and that parents and providers of education should implement bilingual education for deaf children.• The WFD works for an accessible society with no barriers where services and information are available in sign languages. |
| LEADERSHIP OF DEAF PEOPLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The WFD promotes the principle: "<i>Nothing about us without us</i>".• The WFD believes that the establishment and strengthening of national deaf associations will contribute to the autonomy, expertise and self-determination of deaf communities. |
| CO-OPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The WFD engages with its member organisations and other stakeholders such as organisations of persons with disabilities, the UN and its agencies and programmes, donors, and universities to successfully undertake its work. |