Participation and Relationships

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INTRODUCTION

Topics

- Active participation in networks
- Representation
- International cooperation
- Disability groups
- Local / regional affiliates

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OBJECTIVES

To highlight the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving disability inclusive development for the effective implementation of their goals or objectives

The module also considers how to form and successfully operate and participate in such partnerships.

DEFINITIONS

- *Cooperation refers to collaboration between two or more organizations aimed at creating synergies as well as partnerships for mutual assistance and reciprocity in reaching their intended goals or objectives*

- *Transfer of resources for development means cooperation of multiple nations on economic, social, cultural, humanitarian, technological issues and differences*

- *An advisory group is a collection of individuals who bring unique knowledge and skills which complement the knowledge and skills of the formal board members*

- *An Advisory Board is composed of people with a genuine interest in the work and a desire to see it do well. The Advisory Board members serve as a sounding board, offering ideas and expertise and giving honest advice. They listen, advise and contribute to organization's well-being*

- *A stakeholder is any person, group or organization that has an interest or concern in an organization*

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ORGANISATIONAL LEGITIMACY

1. INTERACT WITH TARGET GROUPS

2. HAVE GREAT COOPERATION AND ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH TARGET GROUPS

3. MAINTAIN INTERACTION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT NETWORKS

4. INTERACT WITH WORKING ENVIRONMENT

5. RECEIVE SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE FROM TARGET GROUPS

RESULT:
INCREASES THE VALIDITY OF THE ORGANISATION

AFFECTS THE ORGANISATION'S STRENGTH AND OUTPUT

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LEGIMACITY OF THE ORGANISATION

- It is good if people refer to your organisation for questions and ask for advice
- You should have a good relation with your target group, the deaf community
- The deaf community should recognise and accept your organisation and your work as a national association representing the deaf community.

HOW?

- Participate in networks locally, nationally and internationally
- Work actively to enter new partnerships and networks

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WHAT IS NETWORKING?

✓ **An investment in relationships** will pay off in the future in different ways.

✓ **Connections** with people or groups through friendship, family, common interest, financial exchange, dislike, beliefs, knowledge or status.

✓ **Creating and strengthening** relationships with the government, NGOs, disability groups, etc. to work together toward improving our lives.

✓ **Information sharing** to help find more resources and opportunities.

✓ **Starting dialogue** with different people to create goals for the future.

✓ **New partnerships** that may benefit you.

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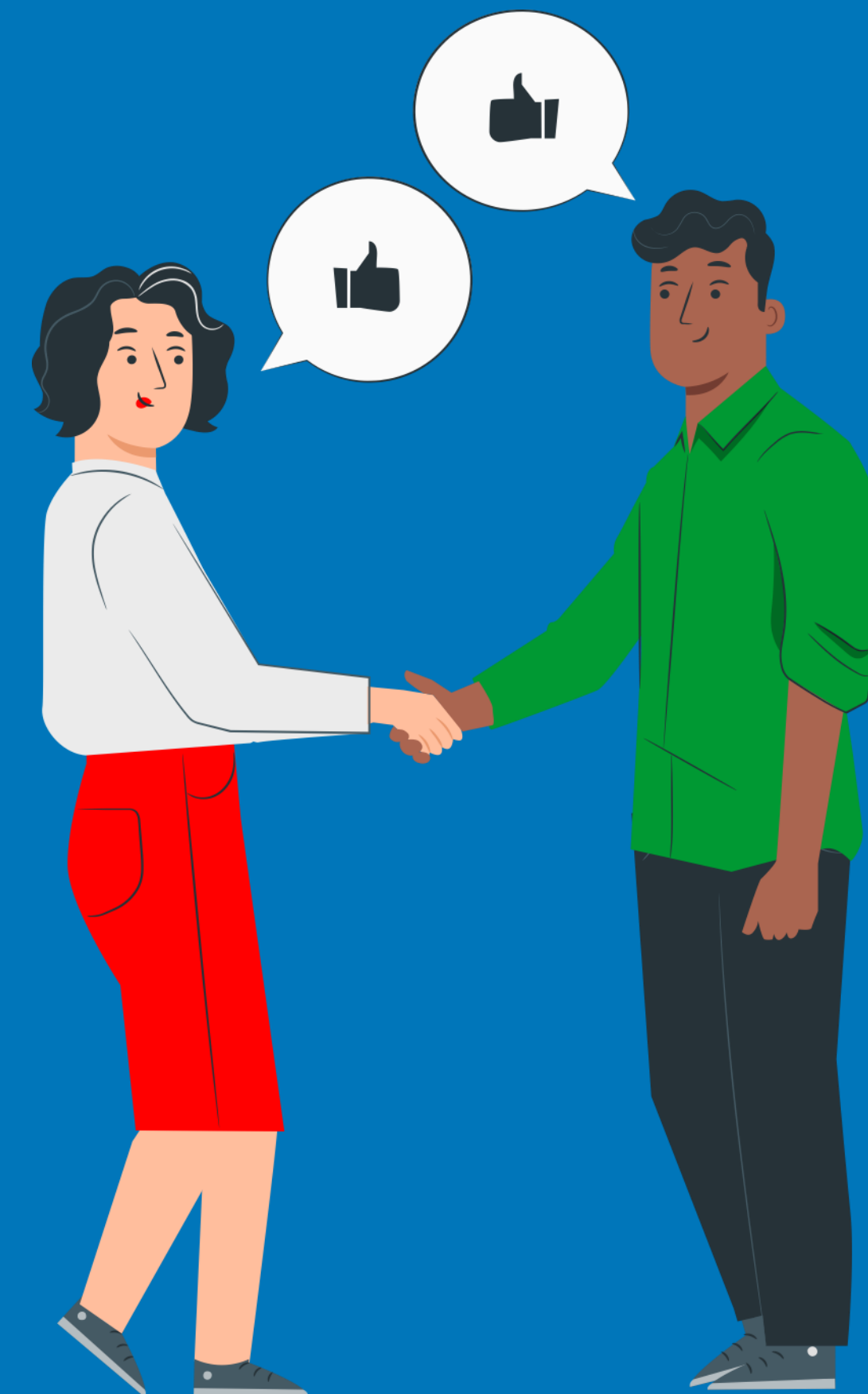
WHY DOES YOUR DEAF ASSOCIATION NEED NETWORKING?
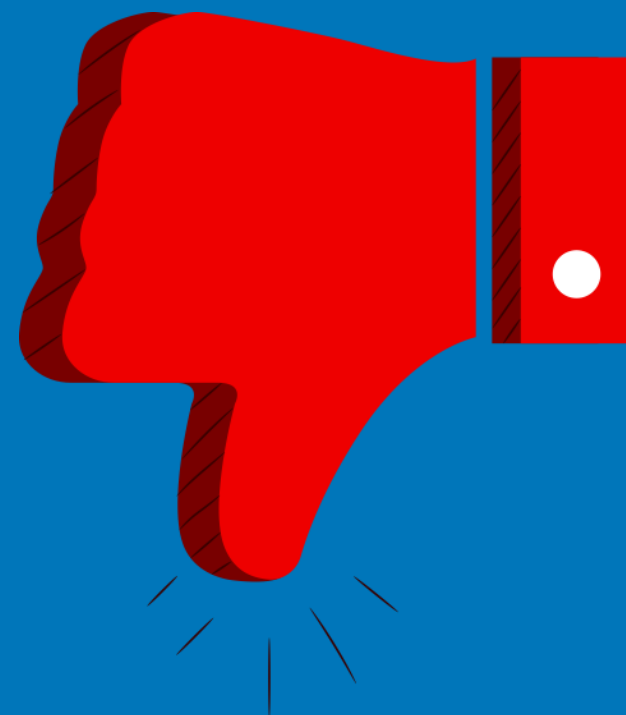
THE MORE NETWORK,
THE STRONGER THE WEB

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ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKS

- The likelihood that the organization will survive and have an impact is strongly related to how it tries to cooperate with others, in both the short and long term. Cooperation can be spontaneous or deliberate / strategic.

- Find out whether there are concrete examples that the organization is part of, and actively participates in, existing networks.

- Does the organization take initiatives for coordination between organizations with similar objectives?

- Are there examples of joint activities, methods work, and regular meetings with networks?

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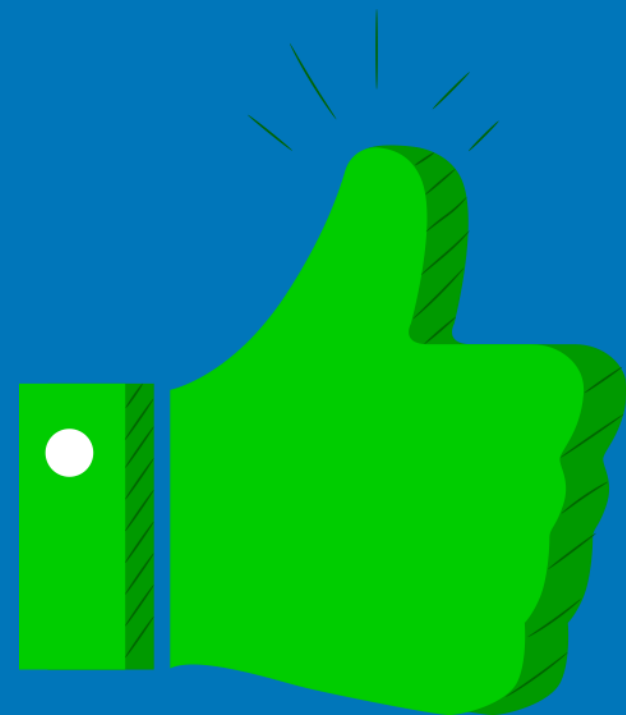
You should participate actively in existing and functioning networks and build new relevant networks and strategic alliances

You should not compete with all other NGOs

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BUILDING NETWORKS

Academic and
Research Institutions

NGOs

Government
Institutions

Disability
Community

Deaf
Community

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DEAF COMMUNITY

- Target group
- For deaf members & community (i.e. better accessibility to sign language interpreters)
- Deaf members will benefit from the activities
- Maximizing the skills of deaf members (i.e. main actors in the advocacy and lobbying process)
- Stronger and clear understanding of accessibility to basic human rights

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DISABILITY COMMUNITY

- Wider target group in the country (i.e. National Federation for Disabled Persons)
- Similar need for recognition and attention to their access to basic human rights
- Higher percentage of empathy and willingness to collaborate
- Often are linked to bigger disability community network on local, national and international level
- Stronger advocacy if you advocate together
- Experience on how to lobby and advocate with government

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GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

- Main provider of programs and services in the country
- Can revise, uphold, implement and enforce appropriate policies and procedures to promote basic human rights
- Can link current institutions with better and quality accessibility (i.e. teachers of the deaf with required sign language certification)
- Can permanently fund programs and service

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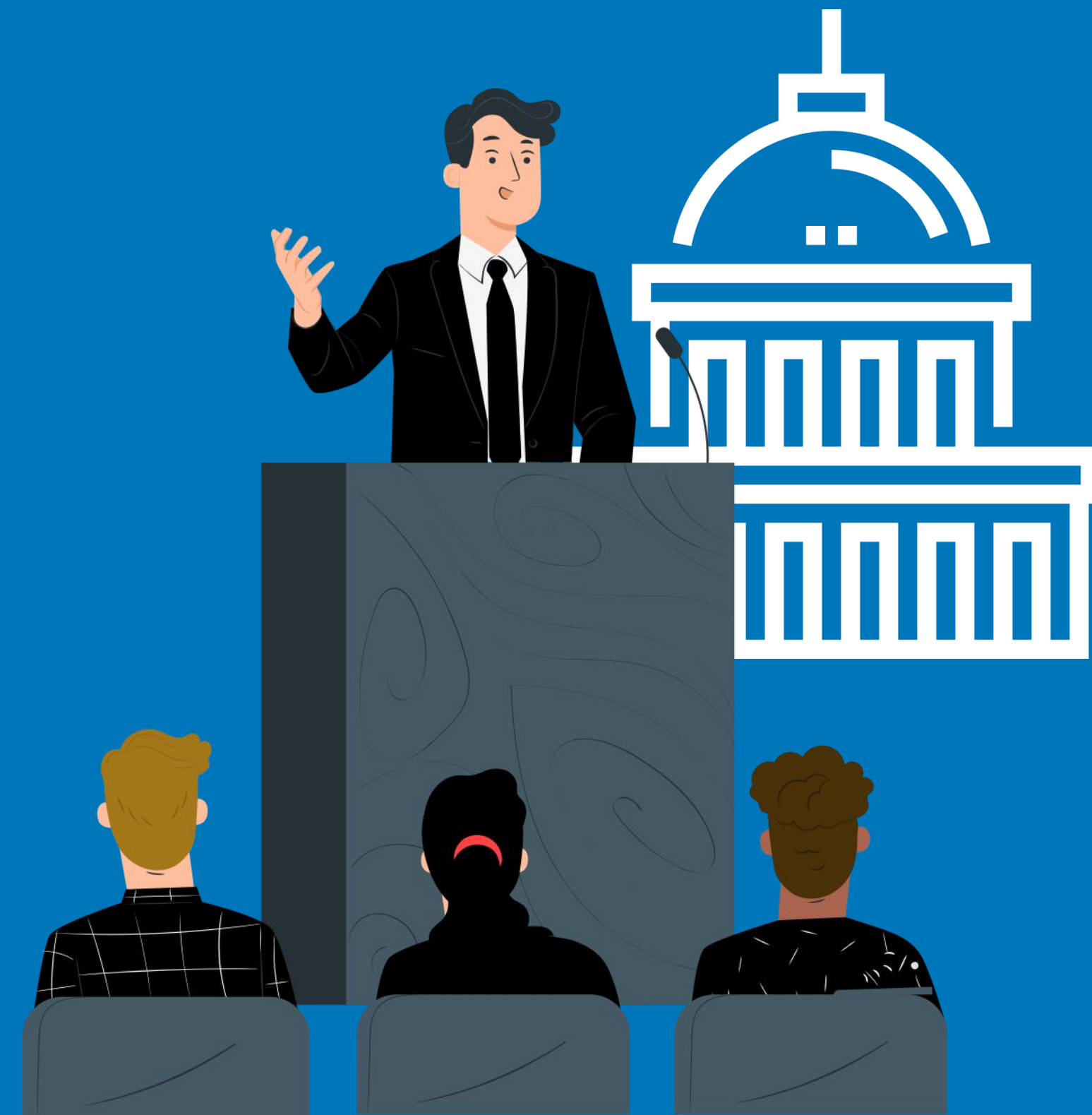
NGOs

- Alternative provider of programs and services in the country
- Can provide funds for initiation of new programs and services (i.e. provide funding for capacity building training)
- Can focus on specific needs and multiple solutions
- Can bring/link deaf experts from other countries (i.e. sign language research)

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ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- Brings new information to assist in the advocacy and lobbying of the association
- Meets the country's research/information needs (i.e. sign language research)
- Provides appropriate recognition of higher and quality education/training (i.e. sign language interpreting program)
- Can be at local, national and/or international levels

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Participation in networks (lobbying)

- Government
- Parents
- Teachers
- Community workers
- Disability groups
- Disability Persons Organizations (DPO)

Networking / collaboration (external relations)

- International cooperation
- Government
- DPOs
- NGOs

Deaf organizations and DPOs are usually called as advisory - on a needed basis and no say in final decisions, etc. Instead need to be representation and have a formal permanent seat where they help with decision making.

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1 — BILATERAL

2 — MULTILATERAL
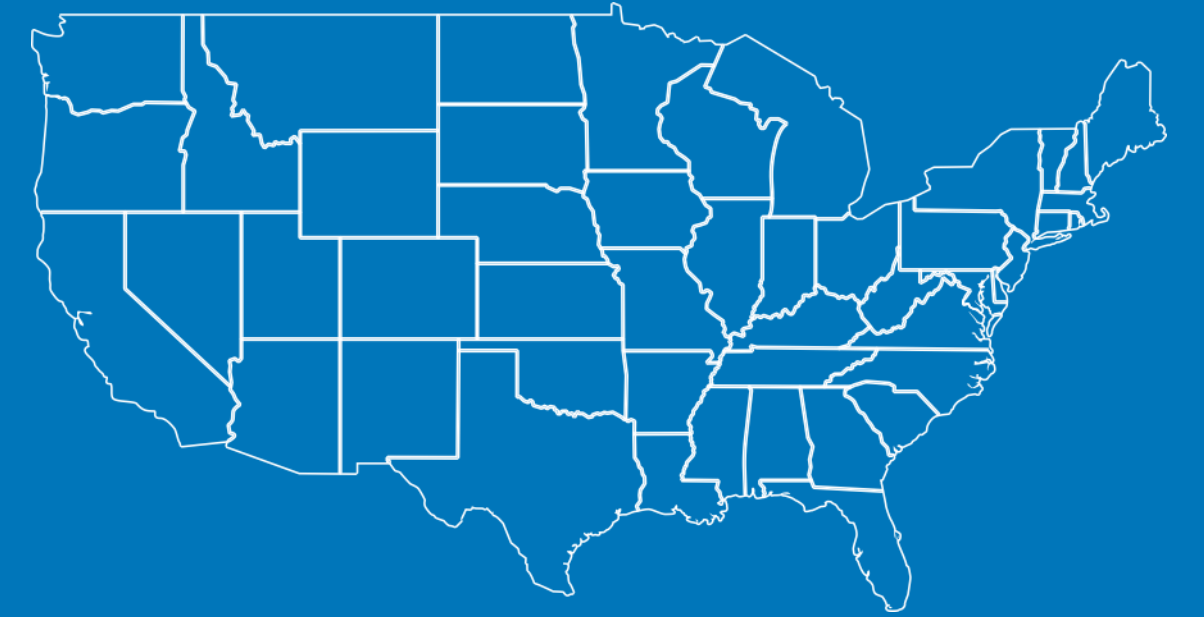
3 — REGIONAL

4 — GLOBAL

WASLI
World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters

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BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

| NETWORK | SOLVE PROBLEMS | SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES | SHARE LESSONS LEARNT IN OTHER COUNTRIES |

EXAMPLE: WFD MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- VOTING RIGHTS AT WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- DIRECT SUPPORT FROM LOCAL ADVOCACY (EG. LETTER OF SUPPORT)
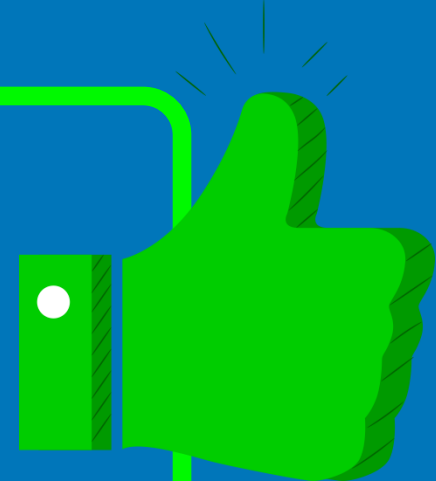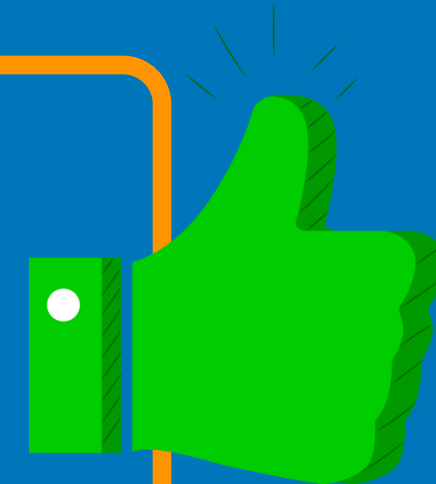- RECEIVE CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT DEAF ISSUES

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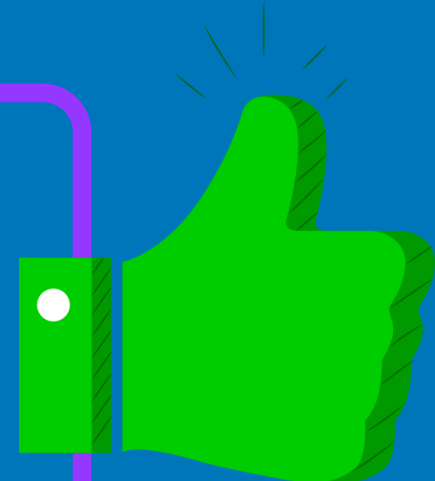# ADVANTAGES OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COOPERATION

SHARING RESOURCES

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE ORGANISATION
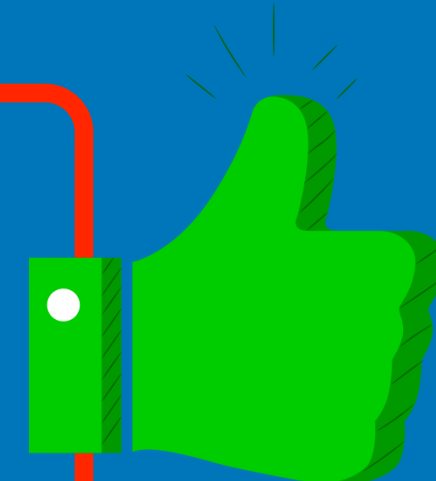
MORE GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MAKE USE OF COMPATIBLE SKILLS AND ABILITIES

SAVING COSTS THROUGH SHARING ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

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DISABILITY GROUPS

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) sets out both general obligations and specific measures required for its implementation. Many skills and competences are required to carry out these necessary steps, which include various activities such:
  - ‣ Legislative and policy reform
  - ‣ Development of new and affordable technologies
  - ‣ Development of outreach in accessible formats
  - ‣ Conduct of training, including for professionals working in specific sectors
  - ‣ Provision of international cooperation

- No one can work alone and implement the CPRD or achieve disability-inclusive development

- Partnerships between different stakeholders, which draw on the resources and varying competences of each, are critical for the advancement of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships are collaborative relationships between various parties, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits.

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MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaboration between different actors, both State and non-State

- Non-State includes:
  - Civil society, particularly Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs)
  - The private sector
  - The media
  - Academic institutions
  - Other stakeholders
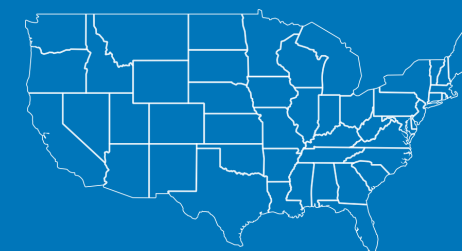 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships can work at different levels

= All who have come together to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

REGIONAL LEVEL

NATIONA L LEVEL

COMMUNITY LEVEL

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STEPS TO FORM A MULTI STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP

STEP 1: Clearly identify your desired outcome or goal

Specific goals may differ, although all actors seek to advance realization of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. For example:

All who have come together to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities

Focus on implementation of specific right or thematic area at local level

• Right to education
• Right to an adequate standard of living

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STEPS TO FORM A MULTI STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP

STEP 2: Map the measures necessary for its achievement.

- How can the desired change be achieved? For example, is there a need for legislative or policy change?

- Is there a need for research, data and statistics?

- Is there a need for awareness-raising or advocacy?

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STEPS TO FORM A MULTI STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP

Step 3: Find the actor suitable for your partnership

- Which actors have the power to shape and adopt policy?

- Which actors can provide funding to support the goal? Which actors are most knowledgeable regarding the situation of persons with disabilities?

- Which actors have the technical expertise required to address specific issues for example accessible Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)?

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THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTCOME OR GOAL REQUIRES

LOCAL

REGIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

The involvement of various actors

Operating at different levels

There are many levels where policies are developed, decisions taken, budgets given and implementation carried out

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LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFLIATES: BECOME A MEMBER ORGANISATION

1. World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)

Any recognised or registered national organisation of the deaf with legal status and majority of deaf members, and have similar vision and goals like WFD, can apply for Ordinary Member status. Ordinary Membership status is limited to one national deaf organisation in each country.

Benefits: Voting rights at the General Assembly, get direct support for your local advocacy (example: letter of support from WFD), receive current information about deaf issues and events, discounts on WFD events

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LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFLIATES: BECOME A MEMBER ORGANISATION

2. Disabled Peoples' Organisation (DPO)

Often are linked to bigger disability community network on local, national and international levels

Benefits: Similar need for recognition and attention to their access to basic human rights, higher percentage of empathy and willingness to collaborate, stronger advocacy if you advocate together, experience on how to lobby and advocate with government

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CASE STUDY: RWANDA NATIONAL UNION OF THE DEAF

- Ordinary member of the WFD
- Member of the National Union of Disabilities Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR)
- Has partnerships with United Nations Development Program (UNPD), Disability Rights Fund (DRF), Danish Deaf Association (DDL), USAID, Education Development Center (EDC), Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), National Council of Persons with Disabilities of Rwanda, The Umbrella of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities against HIV & AIDS and for Health Promotion (UPHLS)
- Network with government: National Council of Persons with Disabilities of Rwanda (NCDC)

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RWANDA NATIONAL UNION OF THE DEAF, RNUD
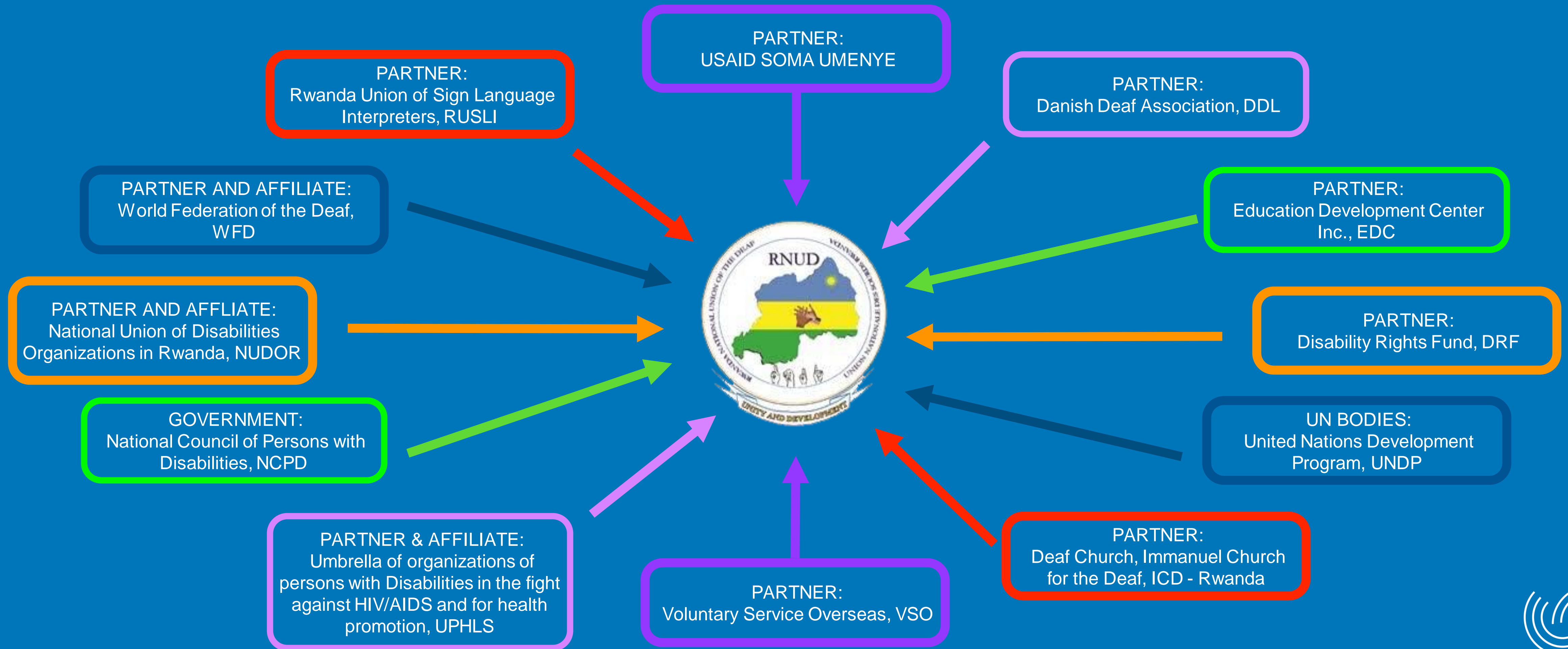
CASE STUDY: WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

- Aims to promote the human rights of deaf people worldwide by working closely with the United Nations and various UN agencies such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Has 11 official partnerships with local, national and international organisations
- Affiliated Member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- Has partnerships with European Union of the Deaf (EUD), the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (ICSD), the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)

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