



Disabled women in Africa Annual Report 2024-2025



Message from the Chairperson of Board of Trustees



I am deeply honored to have been appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of DIWA in 2025. This moment marks a new chapter in our collective journey to strengthen the governance, sustainability, and continental presence of our movement. The General Assembly reaffirmed the trust and unity among members, laying a strong foundation for inclusive leadership. As Chair, I am committed to upholding transparency, accountability, and solidarity, while ensuring that DIWA continues to be a powerful platform where women with disabilities can shape policies and influence change.

Together with the Board, Executive Council, and Secretariat, I look forward to steering DIWA toward greater visibility, resource mobilization, and impact for women and girls with disabilities across Africa.

Freire Hiwot Tadese
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Message from the Executive Council Chair



It is with great honor that I step into the role of Chair of the Executive Council of DIWA following our landmark General Assembly in 2025. This year has been a testament to the strength and unity of our network, as we collectively advanced the rights of women and girls with disabilities across the continent. The Executive Council remains committed to providing strategic direction, supporting the Secretariat, and ensuring that the voices of our members, from the grassroots to the regional and global stages, are represented and heard.

As we move into the next phase of implementing our five-year strategic plan, our priority will be to foster stronger collaboration among members, mobilize resources to sustain our work, and drive impactful advocacy that addresses the intersectional challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities. Together, we will continue building a vibrant, inclusive, and powerful movement for change.

In unity,

Adelaide Nyigina, Chairperson, Executive Council

Message from the Executive Director



2025 has been a defining year for Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA). We strengthened our governance through a successful General Assembly, adopted a new constitution and five-year strategy, and elected new leadership structures that affirm DIWA as a truly representative movement.

We also amplified the voices of women with disabilities at national, regional, and global levels, from capacity building in Malawi to influencing global commitments at CSW69 and the Global Disability Summit. These milestones demonstrate our growing impact in advancing gender equality and disability rights. As we look ahead, DIWA will continue to build stronger movements, deepen partnerships, and ensure accountability for the rights of women and girls with disabilities across Africa.

In solidarity,

Ruth Mkutumula

Executive Director

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 marked a period of remarkable progress for Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) as the organization advanced its vision of an Africa where women and girls with disabilities enjoy full rights, equality, and opportunities. Key achievements spanned advocacy, institutional strengthening, and movement building, reflecting DIWA's growing influence across national, regional, and global spaces.

In the area of advocacy, DIWA amplified voices at every level. At the national level, a leadership and advocacy training in Malawi and Rwanda equipped 33 women with disabilities advocate, leaders and activists with the tools to engage confidently in the EVAWG movement, deepening their understanding of human rights frameworks and enabling them to develop practical community action plans.

On the global stage, DIWA co-led a historic parallel event at CSW69 in New York, ensuring that the Beijing+30 review incorporated the unique realities of women with disabilities and calling for accelerated action on implementation, funding, and accountability. At the international level, DIWA delivered a powerful keynote address at the launch of the Amman-Berlin Declaration during the Global Disability Summit, cementing its reputation as a leading African voice for inclusive, rights-based advocacy.

Under institutional strengthening, DIWA convened its General Assembly, a milestone that solidified the organization's governance and strategic direction. The Assembly endorsed a new constitution, approved a five-year strategic plan, and ushered in a newly elected Executive Council, regional representatives, and an all-women Board of Trustees, enhancing leadership, accountability, and continental representation.

In terms of movement building, DIWA expanded its engagement in cross-movement spaces to foster collaboration and collective advocacy. Through its participation in the Feminist Convening and the Feminist Funders Dialogue under the UN Women ACT program, DIWA contributed to

advancing the inclusion of women with disabilities within feminist agendas and successfully developed its first-ever Resource Mobilisation Strategy to strengthen organizational sustainability. At the regional level, DIWA played an active role at the African Disability Forum (ADF) Conference in Nairobi, advocating for stronger integration of gender perspectives within the disability rights movement.

These milestones reflect DIWA's commitment to building stronger movements, strengthening governance, and driving transformative advocacy, positioning the organization as a key actor in advancing gender equality and disability inclusion across Africa.

2. INTRODUCTION

Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) is a regional network organization dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities throughout the African continent. Founded in 2002, the membership of DIWA is constituted of the national and Regional Federations of Women's with Disabilities in Africa, i.e. DIWA- Central Africa; DIWA-East Africa; DIWA-North Africa, DIWA- Southern Africa and DIWA – West Africa that are representing the women with disabilities in these regions; and in addition to national organizations of Women with Disabilities in Africa.

Among the members are: Disabled Women in Development (DIWODE) Malawi, Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities (NEGWDM) Malawi, Associação Moçambicana de Mulheres Portadoras de Deficiência (Mozambique), South African Deaf Women Association, Disabled Women Support Organization, Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Women with Disabilities in Africa (ZWIDE), Zimbabwe Downs Syndrome Association, Women and Girls Disability Rights of Zambia, Réseau National des Femmes Handicapées de Madagascar (RNFH/MADA), Association Burundaise pour la Promotion des Droits des Femmes Handicapées (ABPDFH-URUUMU), Association pour l'Auto-Développement des Femmes Sourdes du Burundi (ADFSB), Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network, Triumph Uganda Mental Health Support and Recovery Program (TRIUMPH), Disabled Women in Development, Uganda, National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU), Lira District Disabled Women Association

(LIDDWA), Rwanda Organization of Women with Disabilities, Women with Disabilities of Mauritius, Rwanda Network of Women with Disabilities, Mubende Women with Disabilities Association (MUDIWA), Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association, Songambele Initiative Organization, Guinean Network of Women with Disabilities, Liberia Deaf Women in Action, Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI), Réseau Des Associations et Groupements des Femmes Handicapées du Tchad (RAGFHT).

DIWA is made up of and led by women and girls with disabilities; a population that is marginalized and faces intersectional discrimination and abuse by virtue of being both women and people with disabilities. DIWA focuses its work on women and girls with disabilities because it is a group of people that are found to experience greater discrimination than men with disabilities and non-disabled women, arising from the dual effect of their gender and disability. DIWA is headquartered in Malawi and has currently one office, however, projects are implemented in other countries through its members as well.

2.1.Objectives

- To ensure that women with disabilities in Africa are empowered to exercise their rights
- and positively influence their life situation and to promote effective communication and
- networking between women with disabilities in Africa and internationally in order to share information and knowledge on how to improve the lives of women with disabilities.
- Lobby and advocate for legislation, policies and practices that promote the interests and inclusion of women with disabilities in Africa and advance Disability Mainstreaming in all socio-economic, political and cultural spheres.
- To provide a forum for full, deliberative debate on the needs and aspirations of women with disabilities in Africa, to lobby and advocate for legislation, policies and practices that promote the interests and inclusion of women with disabilities in Africa;
- To promote gender mainstreaming in Disabled People's Organizations in Africa and to spearhead the inclusion of women with disabilities in the systems, structures, organizations, and in the leadership of the Disability Movement in Africa;
- To advance disability mainstreaming in civil society organizations, particularly women's

organizations, development agencies, service providers, and government programmes and policies. To encourage the full participation of women with disabilities in all socio-economic, political and cultural spheres;

- To encourage the formation and development of structures and organizations of women with disabilities, to strengthen them in regions where they are weak and to promote unity of purpose among women with disabilities and the wider disability movement in order to strengthen their voice.

2.2.Vision

African women and girls with disabilities enjoy their rights, influence their destiny and are free from any gender and disability-based discrimination.

2.3. Mission

To empower African disabilities through research, information sharing and networking, partnership and capacity development for unity in diversity.



Participants during the Capacity building training in leadership for women with disability advocates and leaders

3. HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025

Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) made significant strides in strengthening the leadership of women with disabilities and ensuring their voices were heard at national, regional, and global platforms. Our work this year reflects a deliberate commitment to amplifying advocacy, advancing inclusion, and building cross-movement solidarity for women and girls with disabilities.

3.1. DIWA Launches “Powerful Yet Overlooked Regional Report”: women with disabilities perspectives 30 years after the BEIJING.

In October 2024, DIWA, in partnership with Humanity & Inclusion (HI), the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), proudly launched the



landmark regional report, “Powerful Yet Overlooked: African Women with Disabilities and the Ongoing Struggle for Inclusion, 30 Years After Beijing.”

This groundbreaking report was informed by a continental survey titled “My Voice from Africa”, which received 244 responses from women with disabilities across 23 African countries.

Crossroads roads Hotel, DIWA hybrid launching of the report

The report captured the lived experiences, challenges, and aspirations of African women and girls with disabilities, highlighting persistent gaps in gender equality despite the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action and other frameworks such as the CRPD, CEDAW, and the Maputo Protocol.

The report was officially launched during simultaneous events in Lilongwe, Malawi, Senegal, and online, bringing together diverse stakeholders, including feminist organizations, disability rights groups, government representatives, and development partners. The launch amplified the call for

meaningful inclusion, investment, and accountability to advance the rights of African women with disabilities.

Key voices at the launch, including representatives from UNECA, UN Women, African Disability Forum, and feminist networks, emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration between feminist movements and organizations of persons with disabilities to drive transformative change.

This milestone positioned DIWA as a regional leader in evidence-based advocacy, providing powerful data and narratives to influence policy spaces, including the Addis Ababa consultations and the upcoming CSW69 global dialogues.

3.2. “Empowering Women with Disabilities to Speak, Act, and Lead”: DIWA builds capacity for women with disabilities at national level in Rwanda and Malawi

At the national level, DIWA convened a two-day capacity-building workshop in Blantyre, Malawi,



and in Kigali, Rwanda bringing together 32 women with diverse disabilities from across the two countries. The training focused on equipping participants with leadership and advocacy skills to effectively engage in the movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG). Through interactive discussions, participants examined disability as a human rights issue, explored the barriers that perpetuate violence, and developed action plans to drive change within their communities. One participant reflected:

“Before this training, I felt like my disability excluded me from leadership. Now I understand that my voice is powerful, and I am ready to speak for myself and other women in my community.”

Participant in the workshop speaks up

The workshop not only enhanced knowledge on frameworks such as CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG),

but also built participants' confidence to take up space in advocacy processes. Importantly, the creation of a WhatsApp network ensured that the peer learning and solidarity built during the sessions would be sustained beyond the workshop.

3.2.1 Associação Moçambicana de Mulheres Portadoras de Deficiência (AMMUD) builds capacity of women with disabilities in Mozambique.

The Associação Moçambicana de Mulheres Portadoras de Deficiência (AMMUD) has



significantly advanced capacity-building efforts by benefiting from various training programs facilitated by partner organizations. Leveraging the knowledge and skills gained, AMMUD has trained and mentored groups of young women with disabilities across Mozambique, empowering them with leadership, advocacy, and rights-based skills.

Group photo of Participants at the workshop

These trainings have equipped young women to engage more confidently in decision-making processes, advocate for inclusion, and actively contribute to social change within their communities.

3.2.2. Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) is Building Capacity and Advocating for Change in Nigeria.



In 2024, the Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) made remarkable strides through national and regional engagements that amplified the voices of women and girls with disabilities in both policy and community spaces. At the national level, AWWDI implemented the

Advocacy for Gender and Disability-Inclusive Climate Change Policies Project with support from the Disability Rights Fund. Through engagements with the National Assembly Committee on Disability Matters, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), and the National Council on Climate Change, the initiative secured a signed MOU with NiMet and documented commitments from policymakers to integrate gender and disability perspectives into climate policies. More than 3,000 individuals were reached through awareness campaigns, while 43 self-help group leaders and 52 women and girls with disabilities were equipped with advocacy and leadership skills, laying the groundwork for inclusive representation at COP29.



Regionally, through the WeLead Project and the Visibility and Voice Initiative supported by ActionAid and Global Affairs Canada, AWWDI advanced the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) agenda for women and girls with disabilities across Lagos, Bauchi, Plateau, Nasarawa States,

and the FCT. Over 860 participants, including duty bearers, healthcare providers, and self-help group leaders took part in trainings, dialogues, and advocacy sessions that strengthened referral pathways, built community awareness, and influenced policy discussions. A key milestone was the Nasarawa State Ministry of Health's commitment to domesticate the National SRHR Policy for Persons with Disabilities, ensuring inclusive healthcare access.

Complementing these advocacy wins, AWWDI implemented a UNFPA-supported Capacity Building and Skill Acquisition Project in the Federal Capital Territory. Young women and girls with disabilities were trained in vocational skills such as tailoring, hairdressing, and cosmetology. Among the most inspiring outcomes, participants like Jamila and Aisha Abdullahi mastered the art of sewing reusable sanitary pads. Today, they independently produce these pads, creating sustainable income while promoting menstrual health management for women with disabilities. This achievement highlights the link between economic empowerment, dignity, and self-reliance.

3.3. DIWA participates in the African Disability Conference – held in Nairobi, Kenya

In partnership with the African Disability Forum (ADF), DIWA participated in the Regional Disability Conference held in Nairobi. This convening brought together organizations of persons



with disabilities (OPDs), development partners, and policymakers to reflect on progress towards implementing the African Disability Protocol and broader disability rights frameworks. DIWA used this platform to advocate for the meaningful participation of women with disabilities in continental policy

DIWA on panel presenting gender lens

spaces, stressing the importance of addressing gender-specific barriers within the disability rights agenda. The conference also provided opportunities for peer learning and regional solidarity-building across Africa's disability movement.

3.4. DIWA Joins the Feminist funders dialogue -advancing resources for inclusion, (South Africa).



DIWA Program Manager presenting project progress

Under the UN Women ACT Program, DIWA participated in the Feminist Funders Dialogue, a unique platform that brought together funders and women's rights organizations to explore new approaches to financing movements.

This space allowed DIWA to engage directly with donors, presenting the realities of resourcing disability-inclusive feminist advocacy. Importantly, the dialogue inspired DIWA to develop its first-ever Resource Mobilisation Strategy, which now guides efforts to secure sustainable funding.

A participant summarized the experience, saying: *“This dialogue opened our eyes to what is possible, it showed us that funders are willing to listen, but we must also be bold in articulating our needs as women with disabilities.”*

3.5.DIWA Joins the Feminist Convening -strengthening Alliances-Nairobi, Kenya



DIWA took part in a continental feminist convening, where women’s rights organizations, feminist activists, and movements came together to strategize on advancing gender equality in Africa.

DIWA (Ruth Mkutumula, Executive Director far left) on panel sharing its experiences on convening

DIWA ensured that the perspectives of women with disabilities were at the center of feminist discussions, highlighting the need for inclusive approaches and genuine intersectionality. As one feminist ally shared during the session: *“Feminism in Africa cannot be complete without the voices and leadership of women with disabilities.”*

This engagement reinforced DIWA’s role as a bridge-builder between feminist and disability rights movements.

3.6.MUDIWA launches its report on echoes of Hope in Uganda.

The *MUDIWA Echoes of Hope* report (May 2025) documents the lived experiences of 60 women with psychosocial disabilities in Kassanda District, Uganda. It highlights the severe discrimination, stigma, and violence these women face, including restrictions on movement, exclusion from family life, sexual violence, and forced contraception or abortion. Barriers to healthcare are widespread due to long distances, lack of medication, limited skills among health workers, and reliance on traditional healers. Many live in deplorable conditions marked by poor housing, food insecurity, lack of land ownership, and exploitation at work. Despite these challenges, the women demonstrate resilience, participating in income-generating activities, advocating for their rights, and building

support networks. The report underscores the urgent need for inclusive policies, improved healthcare access, protection of rights, and community support to ensure dignity and equal participation for women with psychosocial disabilities <https://bit.ly/MUDIWAEchoesOfHope>

3.7. Leading Conversations in Global Gender and Disability Spaces

3.7.1. DIWA Leads Disability-Inclusive Advocacy at CSW69 in New York, USA



Photo taken by DIWA: DIWA with IDA and UDPK at CSW69, New York, USA

At the global stage, DIWA had the privilege of playing a historic role at the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York, marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. For the first time, DIWA co-led a parallel event alongside COVAW and Humanity & Inclusion, titled *“Powerful Yet Overlooked: Women with*

Disabilities 30 Years After Beijing.” This milestone moment amplified the realities of women with disabilities, highlighting both progress and persistent gaps in inclusion. DIWA’s Executive Director, Ruth Mkutumula, delivered a powerful keynote address, declaring: *“The fight for the rights of African women with disabilities is not a demand for special treatment, but a fight for true inclusion and equality. Nothing about us, without us.”* DIWA also reminded the global community that while women with disabilities are breaking barriers in leadership, advocacy, and economic empowerment, they remain disproportionately affected by poverty, exclusion, and violence—with 83% having experienced sexual violence. A participant at the event reinforced this call to action, saying: *“Women with disabilities are the solution, not the problem. We must be at the center of decision-making processes.”* The event also deepened DIWA’s partnerships with feminist allies, ensuring that disability inclusion is recognized as central to gender justice.



DIWA supported Gaudence from Rwanda and collaborated with Robinah Alambuya of Triumph Uganda, DIWA members and Ruth Mkutumula (Executive Director) and Virginia Mzunzu (Program manager), to participate in CSW69.

3.7.2. *The Global Disability Summit: DIWA's Voice at the Launch of the Amman-Berlin Declaration*

Equally significant was DIWA's participation in the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025 in Berlin, the world's leading platform for advancing disability rights. DIWA's leadership was recognized through an invitation to deliver the keynote address at the launch of the Amman-Berlin

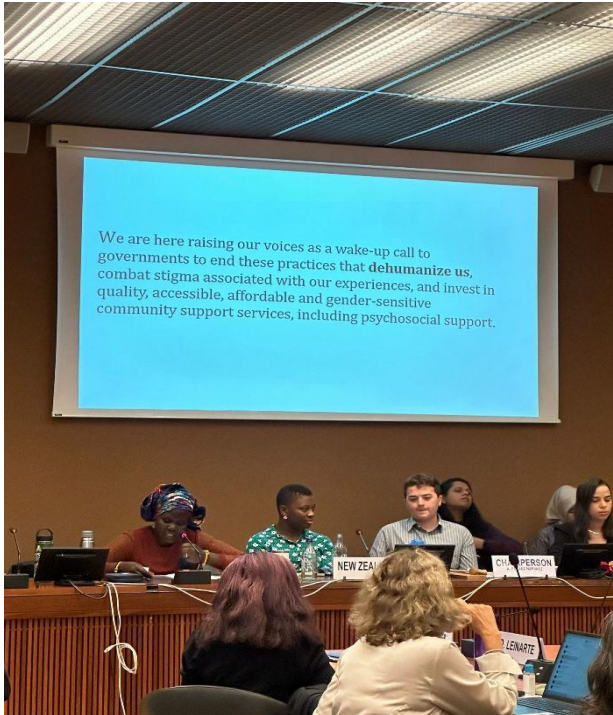


Declaration, a new global framework on disability inclusion. In her address, Ruth Mkutumula stressed: *"We must move from symbolic gestures to real, resourced, and rights-based inclusion that changes lives for women with disabilities at the grassroots level."* Beyond the keynote, DIWA engaged in feminist-led side events, strategic donor meetings, and cross-movement dialogues, forging new alliances and strengthening existing partnerships. These engagements

enhanced DIWA's visibility, positioned the organization as a key African voice in global disability rights advocacy, and provided tools to leverage the Amman-Berlin Declaration as a framework for influencing African governments and regional bodies. One young African feminist at the Summit noted, *"Hearing DIWA speak made me realize how critical it is that African women with disabilities are shaping the global agenda, not as tokens, but as leaders."*

Together, these highlights demonstrate how 2025 was a year of visibility, leadership, and influence for DIWA. From empowering grassroots advocates in Malawi, to shaping policy discussions in New York, and amplifying African perspectives in Berlin, DIWA has remained steadfast in its mission to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not only included but are leading in the fight for equality and justice.

3.7.3. UN CEDAW Committee Engagement – 10 October 2024 (Triumph Uganda).



On World Mental Health Day 2024, Robinah Alambuya, Executive Director, had the honor of addressing the UN CEDAW Committee in Geneva. In her intervention, Robinah highlighted the lived realities of women with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, emphasizing the urgent need to address gender stereotypes and systemic discrimination. She underscored how these barriers continue to exclude women from meaningful participation in their communities on an equal basis with other women. Her powerful contribution

reminded the Committee that advancing women's rights must go hand-in-hand with ensuring mental health inclusion, dignity, and equality for women with disabilities.

Robinah Alambuya, Director (Triumph Uganda)

3.8. DIWA General Assembly 2025-renewing Leadership and Governance

In May and June 2025, DIWA held its General Assembly, a historic milestone that strengthened governance, unity, and strategic direction for the network. Delegates from across Africa gathered to adopt a new constitution, receive progress and financial reports, and approve DIWA's five-year Strategic Plan focused on movement-building, advocacy, and sustainability. The Assembly marked a leadership transition, with elections and appointments that renewed DIWA's structures:

Executive Council (Elected):

- Chairperson: Adelaide Nyigina (ABPDFH, Burundi)
- Vice Chairperson: Winfred Namukwaya (MUDIWA, Uganda)
- Treasurer: Esther Mbite (NEGWEDM, Malawi).

Regional Chapter Representatives (Co-opted):

- East Africa: Robinah Alambuya (Uganda)
- West Africa: Patience Ogoro Dickson (Nigeria)
- Central Africa: Cyndbless Foundation for Girls with Disabilities (Cameroon)
- Southern Africa: Razaka Ralphine (Madagascar).
- North Africa: (To be confirmed)

Board of Trustees (Appointed, all women and majority women with disabilities):

- East Africa: Firehiwot Tadese (Ethiopia)
- West Africa: Ndifreke Etiowo Andrew-Essien (Nigeria)
- Southern Africa: Chifundo Duster (Malawi)
- Southern Africa: Philadelphia Caroline Motladiile-Kenneth (Botswana)
- North Africa: Savia Juan Jackson Loudiong (South Sudan)

This Assembly not only renewed DIWA’s leadership but also symbolized resilience and solidarity in carrying forward the legacy of the late founder, Madam Rachel Kachaje. Members described it as *“a moment of unity and renewal for African women with disabilities.”*

4. CHALLENGES

While 2025 marked a year of growth and achievement, DIWA also encountered significant challenges that tested its resilience, adaptability, and strategic focus. These challenges spanned funding, operations, and external contexts, and highlighted the urgent need for sustainable solutions to ensure the continuity and impact of DIWA’s work.

1. Funding Cuts and Resource Constraints

Global aid cuts and donor realignments severely impacted resource flows to grassroots and regional organizations, including DIWA. This funding contraction led to:

- Delays in implementation of key activities, particularly multi-country initiatives under the EVAWG and advocacy programs.

- Reduced flexibility in scaling innovative activities to reach more women and girls with disabilities at the community level.
- Increased competition for limited donor funding, placing additional pressure on DIWA to secure diverse and sustainable revenue sources.

2. Limited Institutional Resources

Despite efforts in institutional strengthening, the organization continued to operate with lean staffing and operational support, making it challenging to keep pace with the growing demand for technical expertise in program design, research, advocacy, and regional coordination.

3. External and Political Challenges

The year also saw socio-political shifts in several countries where DIWA operates, impacting the pace and scope of advocacy interventions.

- In some contexts, policy implementation around gender equality and disability rights was slow or inconsistent, limiting progress in influencing national frameworks.
- Limited inclusive data remained a barrier to evidence-based advocacy, especially in countries where disaggregated statistics on disability, gender, and violence are either scarce or non-existent.

4. Visibility and Representation Gaps

Although DIWA made notable strides in global and regional spaces, there remains a gap in visibility and representation of grassroots voices within broader feminist and disability movements. More resources and platforms are needed to amplify the diverse realities of women with disabilities across rural and marginalized communities.

5. Capacity for Scale and Sustainability

As DIWA expanded its footprint, the need for capacity building within its membership became more apparent. Challenges included:

- Ensuring consistent capacity support for national chapters and member organizations.

- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to effectively track impact and communicate results to stakeholders.

Despite these obstacles, DIWA demonstrated remarkable resilience, adapting its programming, leveraging partnerships, and prioritizing the development of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy to address long-term sustainability.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATES

The year 2025 marked a period of financial growth and strengthened partnerships for DIWA. This growth was driven by strategic program expansion and the successful acquisition of new grants that aligned with DIWA's mission of advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

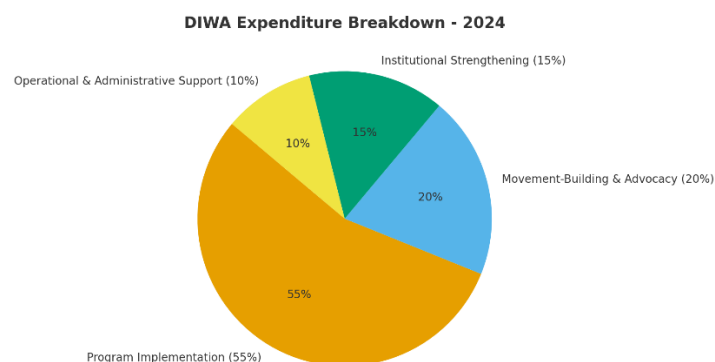
Significantly, DIWA secured additional funding from the UN Trust Fund to implement a multi-country project focused on movement-building and advocacy to end violence against women and girls with disabilities across Malawi, Rwanda, and Kenya, a project implemented in partnership with COVAW in Kenya. This funding allowed DIWA to scale interventions, enhance capacity-building activities, and deepen its advocacy in regional and global platforms.

In addition, a new partnership with Sonke Gender Justice contributed to the organization's technical and financial capacity to engage in intersectional gender equality work, particularly in strengthening linkages between the disability movement and broader feminist and human rights movements.

This financial growth not only enhanced DIWA's ability to deliver on its core programs but also highlighted the importance of resource diversification. It positioned the organization to respond proactively to emerging advocacy opportunities and to invest in institutional strengthening and governance reforms, including the adoption of a new constitution and the development of DIWA's first-ever Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

5.1.Key Expenditure Areas

Investments during the year focused on strengthening both programmatic impact and institutional systems. Major expenditure areas included:



Program Implementation (55%) – delivery of advocacy campaigns, leadership training, and capacity-building workshops in Malawi, Rwanda, and Kenya. Movement-Building and Advocacy (20%) – participation in regional and global forums such as CSW69, the African Disability Forum Conference, and feminist convenings.

Institutional Strengthening (15%) – governance reforms, strategic planning, and the development of DIWA’s five-year strategic plan and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. Operational and Administrative Support (10%) – to sustain efficient organizational management and coordination across multiple countries.

6. APPRECIATION TO DONORS

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Executive Council, and the entire DIWA family, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and stakeholders for your unwavering support throughout 2025.

Your investments, collaboration, and belief in our vision have enabled DIWA to advance the rights, voices, and leadership of women and girls with disabilities across Africa. From empowering grassroots leaders in communities to amplifying advocacy at regional and global platforms, your partnership has been instrumental in transforming ideas into impact.

Special appreciation goes to our key partners and funders, including the UN Trust Fund, Sonke Gender Justice, SIDA through ADF and all organizations and allies that stood with us in driving a more inclusive agenda. Your support allowed us not only to expand our programs but also to

strengthen our institutional capacity and nurture a growing movement that speaks with one voice for equality, dignity, and justice.

We remain committed to sustaining accountability, transparency, and impact in all that we do, working together towards an Africa where every woman and girl with a disability enjoys her full rights and opportunities.

7. CONCLUSION

In 2025, DIWA demonstrated resilience and growth, advancing the rights and leadership of women and girls with disabilities despite financial and resource challenges. Through strategic advocacy, strengthened partnerships, and expanded programs, we amplified voices at national, regional, and global platforms.

Looking ahead, DIWA remains committed to scaling impact, deepening movement-building, and ensuring that women and girls with disabilities across Africa continue to lead and shape the inclusion agenda.