



Rwanda



MANDATE

Handicap International's goal is to promote and support the policies and initiatives of the public authorities and civil society in Rwanda in order to advance the rights of vulnerable people, particularly people with disabilities.

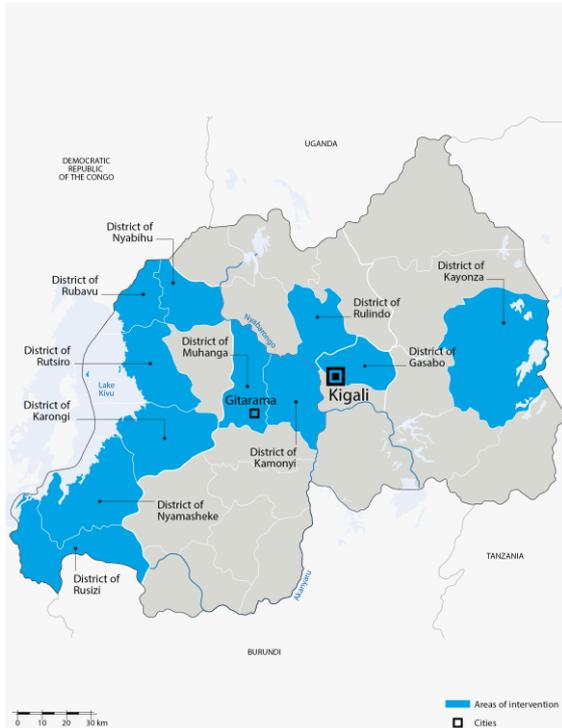
SITUATION

Handicap International launched its operations in Rwanda (under the name Action Nord Sud) following the genocide of 1994. In 2016, the organisation continues to provide response in Rwanda for various reasons:

- Although the government is willing to include disability issues in its policies, it lacks the financial and technical resources to implement them;
- Civil society is still weak, despite the emergence of a community network;
- The population includes a very large number of vulnerable people, both in economic and psycho-social terms, who play a very limited role in society, despite the country's strong economic growth and the development of basic services¹ over the last few years;
- The success of inclusive development projects (that is, projects which take disabled people's needs into account) run by Handicap International in other countries, including inclusive education and mental health. Few or no development operators possess this expertise in Rwanda.

INITIAL ACTIONS

From 1994 to 1996, Handicap International intervened alongside numerous other NGO's to provide emergency relief to a population in extreme distress following the 1994 genocide that killed more than 800,000 people in 100 days.² From 1996 to 2000, a period marked by the return to relative social, political and administrative stability, Handicap International decided to refocus on long-term activities and provide vulnerable people – and people affected by HIV/AIDS, with support to improve their living conditions. Since 2001, the organisation has been working to support the development of Rwanda and conducts violence prevention activities through community-based approaches, education for all, community-based rehabilitation, training of occupational therapists, reduction of sexual violence – especially in relation to children with disabilities, and cares for people with epilepsy.



STAFF

- National staff members: 68
- Expatriate staff members: 3

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI)*	163/188 classified countries
Life expectancy*	64.2
Gross National Income per capita* (\$PPA)	1,458 US \$ per annum
Population***	12.6 million inhabitants
Surface area**	26,340 sq.km.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified: 15/12/2008
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	Ratified: 08/09/2011
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	Ratified: 11/09/2002

* UNDP: Human Development Report 2015

** UNSD 2015

¹ Basic services include: education, health care, rehabilitation services, housing, transport, information.

² Source: Outreach program on the Rwanda Genocide and the United-Nations, www.un.org April 2013

Current projects 2016



Promoting access to care for epileptic patients and their community inclusion in the Western Province of Rwanda

GOAL

Guaranteeing integrated and quality medical care for people with epilepsy; promoting the inclusion of epilepsy in mother and child health policies; the social participation of people with epilepsy in the community.

METHOD

The organisation promotes mother and child health by helping improve the case-management and prevention of epilepsy based on institutional support to the Ministry for Health, developing the skills of health professionals and community operators, supplying anti-epileptic drugs and supporting the Rwandan Epilepsy League.

BENEFICIARIES

- Patients and patient organisations including the Rwanda Epilepsy League.
- Health professionals in Gihundwe provincial hospital, as well as health professionals working in primary healthcare facilities in Western Province (district hospitals and health centres)
- Most influential community resource persons (including religious leaders and school head teachers)
- The “Mental Health” division of the Rwanda Biomedical Center (Ministry of Health) and the Mother and Child Health Unit;
- 7,000 people with epilepsy will benefit directly from the programme:
 - 55% women and 45% men
 - 60% adults and 40% minors - including 20% aged under 5
- 35,000 members of families of people with epilepsy
- 18,860 potential beneficiaries

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health
- Rwanda Epilepsy League (REL)

LOCATION

Western Province: Districts of Karongi, Rustiro, Rubavu and Nyabihu



Implementing basic occupational therapy training in Rwanda

GOAL

Officially introduce occupational therapy into Rwanda as a functional rehabilitation profession.

METHOD

Handicap International's main role is to provide technical and financial support to the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS) in order to implement training and traineeships for students: HI promotes contact between the College of Medicine and Health Sciences and universities and/or referral bodies in the field of occupational therapy in order to advance the development of an educational programme that meets the needs of the profession in Rwanda. HI will also help set up and build the capacities of an organisation of occupational therapy professionals, who will take over from our teams during the lifetime of the project in order to promote and advance recognition of this profession. In addition, HI will analyse the need for occupational therapy and equipment in this country by running a pilot service. The main methodology includes capacity-building for the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, help setting up a professional organisation, and the conducting of advocacy actions targeted at the Ministry of Health to promote the recognition and inclusion of the professional within the national system.

BENEFICIARIES

- College of Medicine and Health Sciences (formerly the Kigali Health Institute)
- Functional rehabilitation and health service staff
- 15 occupational therapy students recruited in each graduate year
- Occupational therapy professionals
- All people who need occupational therapy, including people with disabilities

PARTNERS

- College of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Ministry of Health.
- Gand University (Belgium)

LOCATION

Kigali capital and Eastern Province (district Kayonza)



Political and community involvement for all

GOAL

Build the capacity of marginalised people, including people with disabilities and illiterate people to take part in decision-making and to influence decisions affecting them at national level and in two pilot districts in Rwanda.

METHOD

Making people with disabilities and vulnerable people aware of local decision-making processes, building the capacities of elected officials representing people with disabilities (NCPD), working with local authorities to strengthen community involvement mechanisms, working with the NCPD and NEC to improve access to the electoral system for people with disabilities and vulnerable people.

BENEFICIARIES

- 240 people with disabilities and vulnerable people will be trained.
- 175 elected representatives of the National Council of People with Disabilities will be trained.
- 76 volunteers from the National Electoral Commission will be trained.
- At least 10 public institutions will have their awareness raised.

PARTNERS

- National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda (NUDOR).

LOCATION

District of Nyamasheke and Gasabo.



Promoting an inclusive socio-educational approach to meet the specific needs of disabled students

GOAL

The organisation helps the Ministry of Education develop the flexibility and inclusiveness of its education system to provide all children with a suitable learning environment, and enhances the inclusion of vulnerable children, particularly children with disabilities, in mainstream schools. Handicap International aims at applying national norms and standards to the new curriculum in order to ensure it is adapted to children with disabilities.

METHOD

Handicap International works with key education actors to ensure the education system is accessible to all children, including children with disabilities. To achieve this, Handicap International helps train public authorities and teachers, raises public awareness and conducts advocacy targeted at decision-makers.

BENEFICIARIES

- 2,771 schools including five model schools, 13 “children’s friends” schools and 25 cluster schools
- 8,958 children with disabilities
- More than 3,800 teachers and other actors in the education sector
- 540 parent members of school psycho-educational committees

PARTNERS

- College of Education
- Rwanda Education Board
- 13 local authorities: Ruhango, Nyarugenge, Ngororero, Kayonza, Rulindo, Bugesera, Gasabo, Nyamasheke, Rusizi, Rubavu, Rwamagana, Burera and Kamonyi

LOCATION

- 13 districts: Ruhango, Nyarugenge, Ngororero, Kayonza, Rulindo, Bugesera, Gasabo, Nyamasheke, Rusizi, Rubavu, Rwamagana, Burera and Kamonyi



Building the capacities of disabled people's organisations to promote the civil, social and economic involvement of their members

GOAL

Helping disabled people's organisations and their local and national networks to promote the rights of people with disabilities, their full involvement in society, and their access to basic services.

METHOD

Technical and financial support to:

- National Union of Disability Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR) to enhance its advocacy actions targeted at the public authorities and other operators in order to promote the rights of people with disabilities (including the application of legislation and the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the inclusion of disability issues in sector-specific policies and plans, and capacity-building for disabled people's organisations and their network);
- General organisation of people with disabilities in Rwanda (AGHR) to promote the community, social and economic involvement of people with disabilities and strengthen ties between six local DPOs and national DPOs, members of NUDOR.
- Six selected local DPOs (one for each administrative sector) to help them organise their activities, to promote a democratic system within their organisations and to play an active role in decision-making, to offer a range of inclusive services to their respective members, to encourage the mainstreaming of disability among local operators, and the implementation of inclusive initiatives.

BENEFICIARIES

- NUDOR, AGHR and six DPOs
- 561 people, including managers, staff and members of NUDOR and AGHR, local leaders, local elected representatives of the National Council for People with Disabilities (NCPD)
- 4 national public institutions,
- Managers and professionals working for local public services and providers of essential services
- 120 members of six inclusive cooperatives
- 1,500 relatives of 300 NCPD members
- Everyone living in six target sectors (Gihango, Murunda, Mushubati, Manihira, Mukura and Rusebeya)

PARTNERS

- NUDOR
- AGHR

LOCATION

Capital Kigali and Western Province, Rutsiro district (Gihango, Murunda, Mushubati Manihira, Mukura and Rusebeya sectors)



Promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities through an inclusive and community-based rehabilitation approach

GOAL

Advancing the rights of people with disabilities and their families, promoting their involvement, and ensuring their needs are taken into account by the community and basic services in three sectors of Kayonza district.

METHOD

Handicap International intends to implement a Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) approach by mobilising community resources and improving the skills of community health officers and certain people with disabilities. The organisation will enhance disability awareness by providing support to local partners, including the General Disabled People's Organisation of Rwanda (AGHR) and Action for Inclusive Education Development in Rwanda (AIEDR), which will implement the community-based rehabilitation approach. The organisation also provides support to providers of education, health and employment services in order to promote practices inclusive of people with disabilities. It will help secure the sustainability of the CBR approach in Rwanda by providing support to the Ministry of Health and local authorities by implementing coordination mechanisms.

BENEFICIARIES

- 1,291 people (leaders and members of 6 DPOs, leaders and members of community groups, health professionals and community health officers, educators, managers and members of cooperatives)
- Managers of nine loan institutions, banks and training centres
- 102,182 inhabitants of three sectors
- 9,196 people with disabilities (9% of the total population of the three sectors) and 18,392 members of their own families
- Potential beneficiaries: 45,980 members of families of people with disabilities

PARTNERS

- Gahini centre
- Action for Inclusive Education Development in Rwanda (AIEDR)
- General Disabled People's Organisation of Rwanda (AGHR)

LOCATION

Eastern Province, Kayonza District (Gahini sectors Rukara and Murundi)



Prevention and case-management of age-disability-gender-based violence through a community-based approach to mental health

GOAL

Reduce violence based on gender, age and disability through a community-based approach, providing support to people suffering psychological disorders and including them in discussion groups.

METHOD

Local and national advocacy to add mental health and sexual violence issues to the political agenda. Strengthening partner organisations, training professionals and community volunteers to identify at-risk populations or people suffering psychological distress. Handicap International also organises local age-disability-gender-based violence risk-reduction initiatives for victims and assists age-disability-gender-based violence victims.

BENEFICIARIES

- 7,220 people at risk or in situations of psychosocial distress;
- The mental health division of the Ministry of Health;
- Communities, local partner organisations, local committees and community facilitators

PARTNERS

- The mental health division of the Ministry of Health
- Ministry for Gender and Family Promotion.
- 3 local organisations.

LOCATION

Gasabo, Kamony, Rubavu and Rutsiro districts.



Ubuntu Care: protection of children with disabilities from sexual violence, including girls and boys with disabilities (Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya)

GOAL

Enhancing child protection mechanisms in Rwanda and encouraging the participation of children with disabilities in these mechanisms.

METHOD

This project is conducted in Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya. Handicap International conducts studies and advocacy actions to build the capacities of children in their social environment and their involvement in project activities. We also enhance the professional skills of youth support services to improve the case-management of at-risk young people and victims of sexual violence. Handicap International makes available prevention, case-management, support and referral centres to this population.

BENEFICIARIES

- 6,000 children exposed to the risk of sexual violence
- 400 child survivors of sexual violence and/or isolated children with disabilities, 250 child survivors of sexual violence and 150 children with disabilities
- 1,600 members of families of child survivors of sexual violence or children with disabilities.
- All children and adults in the country's target zones will benefit from the improvement and effective implementation of policies in the field of child protection from sexual violence

PARTNERS

- Association for the safeguarding of child orphans and other vulnerable children in Kivumu (APESEK)
- Specialised centre for children with disabilities KOMERA
- NGO RWAMREC

LOCATION

Rutsiro district and activities at national level



Strengthening inclusion and access to services for people with special needs in refugee camps in Rwanda

GOAL

Improve access to services for people with special needs (people with disabilities and older people) in refugee camps in Rwanda and for urban refugees.

METHOD

Identifying in each refugee camp the most vulnerable people and their specific needs in order to meet those needs more effectively (orthopaedic-fitting for people with disabilities, for example).

The project will also work with all actors to train them and support them to take into account the specific needs of these people in their actions (for example, in the fields of health, construction of latrines, etc.)

BENEFICIARIES

- 6,153 people with special needs
- Actors in camps (ARC, Save the Children, Plan, ADRA, etc.).

PARTNERS

- NUDOR
- UNHCR
- MIDIMAR

LOCATION

Camps for Congolese and Burundian refugees and urban refugees (Kigali and Huye).

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>European Union</p> 	<p>Belgian Development Cooperation</p> 	<p>Canton of Geneva</p> 
<p>Direction of Development and Cooperation, Switzerland</p>  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC</p>	<p>UNIFOR</p> 	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg</p>  <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p>
<p>UNHCR</p> 	<p>OAK Foundation</p> 	<p>French Development Agency</p> 
<p>UNICEF</p> 		