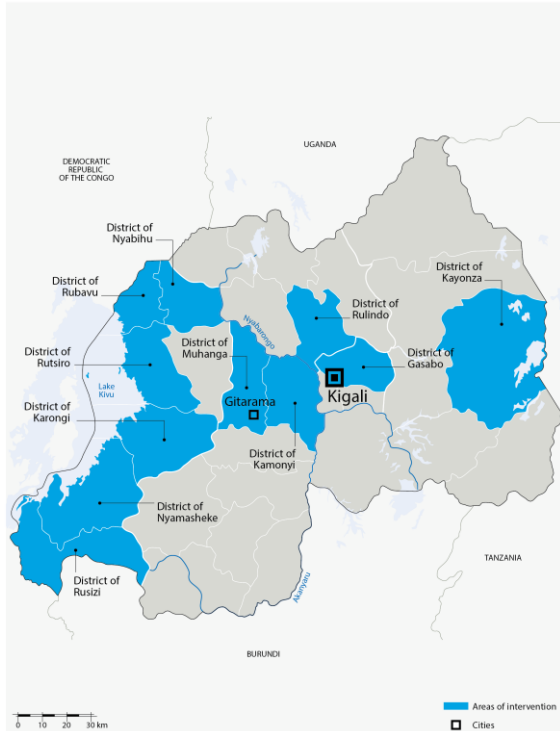




Rwanda



MANDATE

Handicap International's goal is to promote and support the policies and initiatives of the public authorities and civil society in Rwanda 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. The organisation's support is still required because:

- 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 persons 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 improving their living conditions. Since 2001, the organisation has been working to support the development of Rwanda and conducts activities of prevention of violence through community-based approaches, education for all, community-based rehabilitation, formation of occupational therapists, reduction of sexual violence – and especially children with disabilities, and cares for people with epilepsy.

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI)*	151 /187
Life expectancy*	64,1
GNI per capita * (\$PPA)	1403 \$ per annum
Population***	10.5 million inhabitants
Surface area**	26.340 sq.km

* UNDP: Human Development Report 2014

** World Bank 2013

*** Rwanda 4th Population and Housing Census, 2012 (NISR)

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

STAFF

- Local staff members: 73
- Expatriate staff members: 3

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



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

GOAL

This project aims to reduce violence based on gender, age and disability through a community based approach, providing a support to people suffering of psychological troubles 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 victims risk reduction initiatives and assists age-disability-gender-based violence victims.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations		Through partners		
Service or care : yes	Distribution : no	Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support :yes

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
- 5 local organisations

LOCATION

Districts de Gasabo, Kamony, Rulindo, Rubavu, Rutsiro

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2017
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes



Promoting the civic, social and economic inclusion of vulnerable people

GOAL

Promoting the involvement of vulnerable people in the district of Nyamasheke in civic decision-making and ensuring their access to basic services³.

METHOD

Raising the awareness of local authorities and the local population and explaining the impact of national policies. Handicap International set up a "Vulnerability Focal Point" to build the capacities and knowledge of vulnerable people. Funding self-help initiatives for vulnerable people and strengthening vulnerable people's organisations and their managers by supporting advocacy with a short- to medium-term impact. Handicap International supports inclusive cooperatives (whose members include people with and without disabilities) and teacher training in inclusive education practices.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations		Through partners		
Service or care : yes	Distribution : no	Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support :yes

BENEFICIARIES

- 355,000 inhabitants of the district of Nyamasheke, including 7,200 vulnerable people
- 415 local authorities, 10 managers and 40 professionals in the district
- 600 community focal points
- 80 managers of vulnerable people's organisations and 32 members of inclusive cooperative committees
- 75 school managers, 45 managers of health facilities and 40 managers of other public and private services

PARTNERS

- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- StriveFoundation Rwanda

LOCATION

³ These services include education, health, rehabilitation, social support, housing, transport and information.

District of Nyamasheke.

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2015
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes



Ubuntu Care: protection of children with disabilities from sexual violence (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 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.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations	
Service or care : yes	Distribution : no

Through partners		
Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : yes	Financial support : yes

BENEFICIARIES

- 50,000 children, girls and boys, including at least 1,000 children with disabilities
- 5 local organisations
- 100 service professionals (legal, education, health, justice) and professionals working in specialist centres

PARTNERS

- Association pour l'encadrement sûr des enfants orphelins et autres enfants vulnérables de Kivumu (APESEK)
- KOMERA Centre
- Ministry of Gender and Women Promotion / National Council for Children

LOCATION

Rutsiro district and activities at national level

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2015
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	No



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. This programme also aims to define norms and develop educational tools to facilitate the education of Rwandan children with specific needs related to their disability and to test these tools.

METHOD

Handicap International works with key operators in the education system to promote inclusion by developing intervention models adapted to Rwanda, training public authorities and teachers, raising public awareness and conducting advocacy with decision-makers. The organisation also identifies the most isolated children to include them in the school system by providing them with specific assistance. Lastly, Handicap International ensures the physical accessibility of buildings and sets up psycho-educational groups for parents.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations	
Service or care : yes	Distribution : no

Through partners		
Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : yes	Financial support : yes

BENEFICIARIES

- Vulnerable children.

- Teacher Training Centres and their students in Rusizi and Karongi.
- 40 model schools and their teaching staff.
- The Task Force for the Development of Inclusive Education in Rwanda (TFDEIR), the Kigali Institute of Education and 8 district education departments.
- The Ministry for Education and the Rwanda Education Board.
- Education inspectors from the Ministry of Education
- Six specialist centres.

PARTNERS

- Kigali institute of education
- Rwanda Education Board
- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- ADRA Rwanda
- L'association Jya Mubandi Mwana de GASABO
- La congrégation des Sœurs Bernardines / CEFAPEK à Kamonyi
- Le Collectif TUBAKUNDE, le diocèse de Nyundo / Centre Komera à Rutsiro
- Ubwme Community Center de Rubavu
- Le district de MUHANGA
- Autorités locales de Gasabo, Kamony, Muhanga, Rutsiso, Rusizi, Rubavu and Karongi

LOCATION

Districts of Gasabo, Kamony, Muhanga, Rutsiro, Rubavu, Rusizi, Nyamasheke et Karongi

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	05/2017
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	/



Promoting access to care for epileptic patients and their community inclusion in 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 by providing 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.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations		Through partners		
Service or care : yes	Distribution : no	Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support :yes

BÉNÉFICIAIRES

- 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

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2016
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes



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 authorities and other operators in order to promote the rights of people with disabilities (including the application of legislation and the internationale 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 build its capacities to implement an inclusive local development (ILD) approach in order to promote the civil, social and economic involvement of people with disabilities, and to strengthen the links between six local 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.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations		Through partners		
Service or care : no	Distribution : no	Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support : yes

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 members of families of 300 members of the NCPD
- Everyone living in six target sectors (Gihango, Murunda, Mushubati, Manihira, Mukura and Rusebeya)

PARTNERS

- NUDOR
- AGHR

LOCATION

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

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2016
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes



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.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations	
Service or care : no	Distribution : no

Through partners		
Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support : yes

BENEFICIARIES

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

PARTNERS

- College of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Ministry of Health.

LOCATION

Kigali capital and Eastern Province (district Kayonza)

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2016
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes



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 the Action for inclusive education development in Rwanda (AIEDR), which will implement the CBR 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.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Directly with populations	
Service or care : no	Distribution : no

Through partners		
Technical support : yes	Donation of equipment : no	Financial support : yes

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)

FUNDING

Financing secured until :	31/12/2016
Extension (subject to funding) for another year at least :	Yes

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>European Union</p> 	<p>Belgian Development Cooperation</p> 	<p>UNICEF</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>Ministry of Education of Rwanda</p> 	<p>OAK Foundation</p> 	<p>French Development Agency</p> 
<p>Canton of Geneva</p> 		