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\(^1\) RGB: Rwanda Governance Board
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**List of Abbreviation**

AFUB : African Union of the Blind
AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
C&YWD: Children and Youth With Disability
CBID: Community Based Inclusive Development
CBM: Christoffel Blind Mission
CEV: Community Education Volunteers
CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CWD: Children With Disability
CWVI: Children With Visual Impairment
DAB: Dansk Blindesamfund
DDMO : District Disability Mainstreaming Officer
DFID: Department for International Development
DPOD: Disabled people’s organizations of Denmark
DPOD: United States Agency for International Development
DRPI: Disability Rights Promotion International
EDPRS: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
ENT: Ear Nose and Throat
GMO: Gender Monitoring Office
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDPD: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency
MIDIMAR: Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees
MIGEPROF: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINALOC: Ministry of local Government
MINEDUC: Ministry of Education
MO: Member Organization
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
NCPD: National Council of Persons with Disabilities
NEC: National Electoral Commission
NST: National Strategy for Transformation
NUDOR: National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda
PO: Partner Organization
PRM: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
PWD: Persons With Disability
PWVI: Person With Visual Impairment
SACCO: Saving and Credit Cooperative
SBM: Sector Business Mentor
SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
SG: Saving Group
SPWG: National Social Protection Working Group
TIC: Tiberias initiative for Children
TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR: United Nations’ Refugee Agency
UPHLS: Umbrella of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV and AIDS and in Health Promotion
UR/CE: University of Rwanda College of Education
USAID : United States Agency for International Development
VSLA: Village Savings and Loan Association
VSLG: Village Savings and Loan Group
VSO: Voluntary service overseas
VUP: Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme
WBU: World Blind Union
WHO: World Health Organization
Foreword

The National Union of Disability Organizations of Rwanda “NUDOR” congratulates itself for a successful year of 2017. Since its creation, NUDOR envisage a society where People with Disabilities enjoy equal human rights, opportunities and full participation as other citizens, with mission is to serve as a voice for organizations of people with disabilities to share their experience and express their views and to support them in strengthening their capacities and achievements. Our vision and mission served as a roadmap of all our interventions during this year.

Persons with disabilities are entitled to equal access to education and employment, equal rights to parenthood, property ownership, political rights, and legal representation. However, they continuously battle exclusion and restriction to their full participation in society, facing discrimination, abuse, and poverty. NUDOR, its members and partners are committed towards advancing the cause.

NUDOR congratulates itself to have partnered with Chemonics International’s Soma Umenye activity, a 5 year USAID funded project which aims at reaching 1,000,000 P1-P3 children in order to improve their Kinyarwanda reading skills. NUDOR a situational analysis in order to broaden the project’s understanding of the scope of disabilities affecting Kinyarwanda learning and reading capacity in P1-P3 children, as well as what screening and inclusion tools already exist; to determine how best to structure its interventions and assistance going forward. The final report is promising about disability mainstreaming in the project and future collaboration with Chemonics.

However, despite the progress and success, we still have a long way to go. NUDOR will continue to break down barriers to different areas especially education, health and poverty reduction and make Rwanda, a country where all persons with disability enjoy the same human rights, opportunities and full participation as other citizens.

NUDOR takes this opportunity to thank all our partners, member organizations, staff, individuals and decision makers who have supported to contribute to the promotion, respect and realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Challenges are inevitable but our union is our strength.

Together we stand!

BIZIMANA Dominique
President
Introduction

Who we are

The National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda (NUDOR) is a civil society organisation established in 2010 by eight organizations of persons with disabilities aiming to advocate for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. NUDOR is registered in the Rwanda Governance Board under No 72/2014 according to the law No 04/2012 of 17/02/2012 and has its Head Offices in Kigali City, KG 625 St, Kimihurura, Gasabo District, Kigali Rwanda. Today, the organization has grown to reach 12 member organizations and willing and supportive to other organizations willing to join effort to advance the advocacy work for persons with disabilities.

Our Vision

NUDOR's vision is a society where People with Disabilities enjoy equal human rights, opportunities and full participation as other citizens.

Our Mission

NUDOR's mission is to serve as a voice for organizations of people with disabilities to share their experience and express their views and to support them in strengthening their capacities and achievements.

Our Values:

Our organization is founded on the following values of high standards.

- Good Governance
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Diversity
- Commitment
- Determination
Our Members:

The current 122 members organizations of NUDOR are:

- Association Générale des Handicapés du Rwanda (AGHR)
- Collectif Tubakunde
- National Organisation of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (NOUSPR)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Organisation pour l'Integration et la Promotion des Personnes atteintes d’Albinisme (OIPPA)
- Rwanda Ex-Combatant and other Persons with Disabilities Organisation (RECOPIDO)
- Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women (RNADW)
- Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD)
- Rwandan Union of the Blind (RUB)
- Troupes des Personnes Handicapées Twuzuzanye (THT)
- Umuryango Nyarwanda w’Abagore bafite Ubumuga (UNABU)
- Uwezo Youth Empowerment

Area of Intervention:

- Education
- Health
- Poverty reduction

Our strategy

The updated strategic plan of NUDOR covers the period 2015 – 2020 and comprises three main strategic aims.

1. Representation and accountability: NUDOR will be accountable to and effectively represent members’ interests through the delivery of projects and priorities agreed by member organizations, and by facilitating joint working amongst members.

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2 The Rwanda Union of the Little People (RULP) is not included in the list. The organization is willing to join NUDOR but has not yet complied with all requirements among others, registration in the Rwanda Governance Board. The organization is being support in capacity development.
2. **Capacity building and resource mobilization:** NUDOR and its member organizations are strengthened to fulfill its mandates by developing its technical skills, research and insight, sustainability and outreach.

3. **Advocacy and influencing:** NUDOR will work to ensure that the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities are recognized by all, mainstreamed in laws and policies at all levels of government, and in programmes of other institutions focusing on areas of education, health and poverty reduction.

These aims focus on establishing internal systems to ensure the priorities of member organizations are better reflected in NUDOR programmes; help NUDOR and its members to become stronger so that they can bring about change for persons with disabilities; and focus NUDOR’s advocacy efforts on the most pressing issues faced by persons with disabilities.
Executive Summary

This report presents the achievements of NUDOR secretariat and member organizations towards the fulfillment of our mandate. The part one presents the realizations of NUDOR secretariat are grouped in 3 areas which are Education, Poverty reduction and Rights of PWDs.

Projects on Education

1. Advocating for the rights and dignity of PWD in Rwanda. The project is funded by MyRight and DPOD. With objective to Advocate for the rights education and dignity of PWD in Rwanda.

2. Education for All project supported by DPOD and Danish Guides and scout with aim of Promoting inclusion of CWDs in schools by bridging the existing challenges faced by CWDs.

Projects on Poverty reduction

3. DLI/RBC project supported by Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International) in order to promote local inclusive and community based rehabilitation.

4. CBR Programme funded by Liliane Foundation. The programme support C&YWDS aged 0-25 years old in all area of the CBR matrix: Heath, Education, Social, Livelihood and empowerment.

5. Promoting the livelihood of PWDs in Rwanda funded by CBM Germany. The project promotes Village Saving and Credits Groups

Projects on Rights of PWDs

6. Public Policy Information, Monitoring and Advocacy (PPIMA) funded by Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA). The project seeks to advocate for Government policies, laws, programmes, plans and services delivery are improved in order to benefit persons with disabilities.

7. Civic Participation for All, supported by Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International). The project sought to identify voting barriers faced by PWDs and advocate for possible solutions for accessible voting and civic participation of PWDs and marginalized people.
8. Inclusive Rwanda for Persons with Disabilities (IRPWD). The project is funded by the Palladium Group through VSO. The project supports NUDOR and NCPD to work together to influence inclusive policies and programs which promote social inclusion of PWDs

9. Parallel report development funded by DRF. The project seeks to produce, submit the parallel report on CRPD implementation in and monitor its implementation.

10. Strengthening Inclusion and access to services for persons with special needs and with mental health, supported by Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International). The project sought to strengthen inclusion of PWDs in 6 refugees camps and urban areas of Rwanda.

The part 2 of the report presents a summary of realizations of member organizations. The following members provided their report: Rwanda Union of the Blind, Collectif Tubakunde, Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women UMUCYO, National Paralympic Committee, Troupe des Personnes Handicapées Twuzuzanye, Organisation for integration and promotion of people with albinisme, and Rwanda Ex-combatants and Other People with Disability Organization, Rwanda National Union of the deaf and Rwanda National Union of the Little People.

We extend our thanks to everyone who supported our mission, thus making 2017 a wonderful year. Our drive is the same: a society where PWDs enjoy their rights as any other citizen of Rwanda. We look for achieving more together.

NSENGIYUMVA Jean Damascene
Executive Secretary
Part1: Projects implemented by NUDOR

Projects on Education

1. Advocating for the rights and dignity for persons with disabilities in Rwanda Project

The project which advocates for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities focusing on education sector, different activities were conducted at national level, district level and grassroots level for the year 2017 thanks to the fundings from MyRight and DPOD. The project is a second phase of the project (2015-2017) which started in 2014 and operates in 5 districts: Ngororero, Nyaruguru, Gasabo Gatsibo and Gakenke districts.

The project seek to advocate for a society where PWDs enjoy their rights as other citizens, promoting health service delivery and education for CWDs.

Key achievements in 2017

✓ Organize and conduct a 3 days Training session on cooperatives management in which 15 persons participated. (11 males, 4 females, 14 persons with impairment and 1 person without impairment)

✓ Conduct the internal final project evaluation in which 95 persons participated. (48 males, 47 females, 70 persons with impairment and 25 person without impairment)

✓ Conduct lobbying meetings with 10 districts hospitals and 2 referral hospitals in which 21 persons participated. (13 males, 8 females, 8 persons with impairment and 13 persons without impairment)

✓ Organize an annual advocacy meeting for provision of SEN for CWDs enrolled in both special and inclusive schools in which 30 persons participated. (22 males, 8 females, 18 persons with impairment and 22 persons without impairment)

✓ Produce position papers on needs of all C/YWDs to access to education in which 5 persons participated. (3 males, 2 females, 3 persons with impairment and 2 persons without impairment)
Organize 3 days training of health professionals on services delivery to PWDs (rights to privacy of PWDs and Disability Equality training) in which 30 persons participated. (12 males, 18 females, 5 persons with impairment and 25 persons without impairment)

Advocate for at least one model accessible school for CWDs within district in which 38 persons participated. (20 males, 18 females, 13 persons with impairment and 25 persons without impairment).

Raise awareness around education through media and public campaigns in which 3000 persons participated. (2352 males, 648 females, 873 persons with impairment and 2127 persons without impairment).

Monitor enrolment and dropout rate for CWDs in primary, secondary and VTC schools in which 240 persons participated. (130 males, 110 females, 123 persons with impairment and 117 persons without impairment).

Conduct networking session/workshops with key officials to support NUDOR advocacy work in which 90 persons participated. (37 males, 53 females, 32 persons with impairment and 58 persons without impairment).

Bi annual meetings with NCPD and NUDOR to improve working relationships in which 44 persons participated. (29 males, 15 females, 36 persons with impairment and 8 persons without impairment).

Establish close working relationship with MPs representing PWDs in Parliament and EALA in which 10 persons participated. (8 males, 2 females, 9 persons with impairment and 1 person without impairment).

Participate to network sessions with district development partners through District Joint Action development Forum. (JADF) in which 5 persons participated. (3 males, 2 females, 3 persons with impairment and 2 persons without impairment).

Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. 500 persons participated. (350 males, 150 females, 423 persons with impairment and 77 persons without impairment).

Collect best practices on disability mainstreaming in which 80 persons participated. (62 males, 18 females, 51 persons with impairment and 29 persons without impairment).

Establish close links with the National Human Rights Commission (meetings and sharing information) in which 54 persons participated. (38 males, 16 females, 52 persons with impairment and 2 persons without impairment).

Conduct trainings for crosscutting capacity and tools development.
Highlights

At the end of this year, NUDOR has noticed some success stories and achievements. The following are some of them that have been judged more crucial.

- **Training of clubs of Human Rights and Disability:** One of the promising school club ICYEREZO OF GS Saint Dominique Sekera (Nyaruguru district) was trained on disability rights and got funded with livestocks.

- **The current data of C/YWDs is known through the monitoring visits for C/YWDs:** Monitoring visits to schools showed an increase in the number of children enrolled in schools targeted by the district. At G.SRubona, there was 15 C/YWDs (7 boys and 8 Girls), the number increased to 22 (9 boys and 13 Girls) in 2017. At G.S Kavumu 1 there was 19 C/YWDs (9 boys and 10 Girls), the number increased to 20 (10 boys and 10 Girls) in 2016 and reached 22 (12 boys and 10 Girls) in 2017. At G.S Kabuga 1 there was 49 C/YWDs (22 boys and 27 Girls), the number increased to 56 (23 boys and 33 Girls) in 2016 and reached 62 (24 boys and 38 Girls) in 2017.

- **Commitments Munini districts hospital in the lobbying session:** In the discussions with health workers, NUDOR came up on challenges just discussed last year and how they have tried to resolve them. At Munini hospital, the health workers are challenged by lack of skills in signal language, lack of skills in guiding the blind persons and for other side, the PWDs have the same challenges adding with physical barriers.

  Director of Munini hospital accepted his weakness during the last year, he committed to change and to involve the budget for physical accessibilities in this annual budget and action plan. During these discussions hospital professionals commended training on Sign language and in the other technical practices using in the field of healthcare for PWDs.

Challenges and areas for development
The delay of budget approval: Some activities are still in implementation but we expect to finish all with the end of the year.

The local authorities’ expectations which are different from NUDOR ones: districts need to see NUDOR involved in socio-economic activities rather than advocacy ones.

The clubs on disabilities needs to be strengthened in disabilities area and need financial support to go in community.

A the way forward, we are waiting for the donor’s approval and funds disbursement for the next phase of the project (2018-2021) in which some gaps and challenges faced by this first phase will be addressed.
2. Education for All Project

Under DPOD (Disabled people’s organizations of Denmark) and Danish Scout Association financial fund, NUDOR is implementing the four year project (2016-2019) entitled Education for All. The project covers five schools located in different provinces of Rwanda as shown below: Groupe Scolaire Burema in Nyarugenge District, Rukingu Primary School in Rulindo District, Groupe Scolaire Ruhango Catholique in Ruhango District, Groupe Scolaire Rwisirabo in Nyagatare District, Muramba A Primary School in Ngororero District. In collaboration with MINEDUC, a sixth one will be selected and supported for two years (2018-2019.)

The main objective of this project intervention is to promote basic education among children with disabilities in Rwanda by implementing a model of inclusive education with local partners. Its final long term impact is to see children with disability considered as the rights holders to education by the communities and schools.

EFA project activities are focusing on the following three outcomes:

- More accessible schools for children with disability
- Community members who actively support the identification of out of school CWDs and provide them with local solutions
- CWDS are supported to access education

Key achievements in 2017

✔ Creation and training of Community Education Volunteers (CEVs on the rights of PWDs and their role towards community and school inclusion of PWDs) to work on mindset change from negative attitudes towards positive ones through home visits, awareness campaign …

✔ Number of children with different types of disability has increased in school. By end 2016, 176 CWDs are at school, beginning 2017; new cases of CWDs have been identified and enrolled in school. By end 2017, 307 CWDs are retained in school.
55 Children newly identified and enrolled in schools have been equipped with school material and uniform11

Teachers have been technically supported on Education assessment, inclusive model lesson delivery with differentiation of teaching methods, UNESCO Nine golden rules as follow: MURAMBA A PS: 36, GS RuhangoCath: 55, GS Burema: 38, GS Rukingu: 31, GS Rwisirabo: 41

School accessibility improvement (financial support, community work). Schools were provided with accessible toilet, accessible pathway and there were initiation of Sign language Clubs at school (GS Rukingu and Muramba A PS)

Medical assessment and provision of assistive devices, referral to specialized medical personnel: children have been assessed by Starkey for hearing difficulties, 4 have been provided with hearing assistive devices, 3 provided with medicine and 5 have been referred to ENT specialist for in depth

Training on Inclusive sports to 12 teachers in collaboration with NPC on different sports such as Boccia, Athletics, Sitball

Highlights

The project is promising to reach its objective of promoting basic education among children with disabilities in Rwanda. The story of Savio, one of the project beneficiaires is a typical example of how beneficiaires enjoyed their rights to education.

Savio is 8 years old, born in Ruhango District. He is in primary one at GS Ruhangocatholique. Savio was born with clumsy movements due to undeveloped body organs notably arms and legs. he cannot stand still. Before joining a nearby pilot school he had been left home. His parents were desperate, and so was he.

When NUDOR and Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International) started working with GS Ruhango Catholique School; an intensive mobilization was conducted. As a result, Savio’s parents joined a self help group of parents of CWDs in the school and started getting the meaning and importance of inclusive education for children with disabilities and they finally committed themselves
to send his to school. At the first time, teachers were reluctant to receive her because they thought
they could not manage to handle the case. It is in this regard, technical assistance has been offered to
the teachers, many examples were provided and together with parents they managed to respond to
his different needs such as a different chair brought by parents to school, an adapted mat used as
table while writing, a wheelchair to come to school and go back home. Other children are sensitized
to support him as well.

Savio is helped to write using his toes and he is now doing well. He can write all letters and numbers
as peers and teachers are flexible with him and they always think of additional time when it comes to
evaluate school tasks. Subsequently, this is serving as a model and feasibility of inclusive education
where it is supported by the school and the community.

Challenges and areas for development

❖ The project demands at the ground area beyond this project intervention such as educating
children with hearing, visual and mental impairment children and they are therefore not
catered for. We envisage to involve NUDOR’s MOs while implementing, monitoring and
conduct joint advocacy activities to solve this issue

❖ Lack of early intervention to assess children with disability for better educational placement.
We opted for joint screening activities are conducted by Education& Health activities

❖ Lack of finalized project document (LFA, Budget and work plan) during the project
implementation. We are working with the donor to finalize the first phase Project Document
which will help to an effective reporting and finalize the 2nd phase project document which
will guide the next phase activities implementation

❖ Insufficient project staff compared to Surplus of activities, it is being discussing with the
donor to have a second staff on the project.

❖ Lack of skilled personnel who should support others but also a busy school timetable which
does not allow free use of the resource and enough time to respond children’ special
educational needs. We are aiming at liaising with UR/CE to organize in depth training for
teachers who will be supporting their colleagues.

❖ Project activities are not linked to national level (line ministries). We are planning to organize
and conduct advocacy session to national level with local schools based evidence and
experience.
Projects on Poverty reduction

3. DLI/RBC Project

DLI/RBC (Development Local Inclusive/Rehabilitation à Base Communautaire) project started in September 2017 as a second phase of the Appui Aux Associations TweseHamwe project which took an end in November 2016. The project is funded by Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International Rwanda) and is implemented by its partners such as AGHR, THT and NUDOR. The project runs from September 2017 to December 2021. The project seeks to provide persons with disabilities (PWDs) with better access to services (education, employment, sports & leisure)

Key achievements in 2017

✓ Sensitization of communities on disability, capacities of PWDs and their access to services
  • Meeting of editorial committee and focal points of the newslater (URUMURI)
  • Collecting the articles
  • Editing the articles to be put in URUMURI newslater

✓ Organizational enhancement of NUDOR and its members
  • Organizational assessment of Rwanda Union of Little People (RULP)
  • Restitution of the results from RULP assessment
  • Participating and giving Financial support to the general assembly of RULP

✓ Support to national institutions to implement inclusive actions
  • Follow up of actions carried out by at least 5 of institutions trained in the first phase
  • Restitution of the results from the follow up of inclusion plan implementation by public institutions trained in the first phase AAA
Highlights

- Meeting of editorial committee and focal points of URUMURI newsletter: A one day meeting for 15 people (10 male, 5 female, all PWDs) members of editorial committee and focal points of URUMURI newsletter from NUDOR member organizations has been organized. Participants committed themselves to prepare interesting articles to be published in the newsletter. 11 articles out expected 13 articles have been receive by the editorial and are under review for publication by the last week of December.

- The organizational assessment of Rwanda Union of Little People: Rwanda Union of Little People is a young support organization for the Little People which is being supported by NUDOR to build its capacity and gain full membership of NUDOR. The organizational assessment of has been organized and attended by 12 participants (4 men and 8 women), all were persons with disabilities from the organization. The assessment was conducted by NUDOR and H.I after this activity, there has been a session for restitution of the results as well as capacity building plan for the organization in order to address the weakness revealed by the assessment. This has led to the financial support of the organization in order to organize its general assembly.
4. Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme

The CBR program aims at contributing to open the world for a child with disability in developing countries thanks to funding from the Liliane Foundation. The program is implemented through our established network of 28 partner organizations (PO) who reach out to children and youth with disability (0-25 years old). PO undertakes different initiatives such as direct support of beneficiaries and enabling environment projects. The program intervention area are 5 components of the CBR matrix as adopted by WHO: health, education, social, livelihood and empowerment.

The programme clients / beneficiaries come from all the 30 districts of the country. Even if we don’t have PO in all the districts but all are served in one way or another and that is why for example some children from Kirehe & Kayonza are assisted by AGHR whereas those from Nyabihu are supported by APAX and Caritas Ruhengeri, etc.

Key achievements in 2017

- Elaboration and signing partnership agreements with all 28 current implementing partners;
- Support POs to produce annual plan,
- Transfer of 263 children from 9 outgoing POs to continuing PO
- Disbursement of the annual grant to 28 POs
- PO’s capacity building and Technical support of 28 POs: exchanges via emails, telephone calls, 2 annual meetings, field visits (each PO visited at least once.
- Training of POs’ CBR 54 facilitators,
- Updates the pluriform portal according to the donor requirements,
- Participation and financial support to the National CBID Committee activities;
- Block grant management: Meeting with 8 preselected PO to discuss their transport and communication projects 6 POs attend the meeting and committed themselves and submit 8 projects
Follow up of various additional projects (transport, equipments, etc) - PO capacity building projects; MIVA vehicle projects: 1 PO (Soeurs Bernardines) in June this year whereas 3 projects are promising to get vehicle funding: Caritas Byumba, TIC and Fraternité Chrétienne des Malades et Personnes Handicapés au Rwanda (FCMP)

Implementation of EmployAble project Phase II in partnership with UPHLS which is targeting to reach 300 youth to study vocational training and access to the labor market in 3 years in (2017-2019) in Rulindo, Muhanga, Musanze Rubavu and Gasabo. The project is strategic vis à vis the CBR donor since it is a complement to it and falls under on CBR domain and is a solution for youth who leaves the programme at 25yrs old without having had an opportunity to learn a technical skills which may allow them to get access to employment market.

**Highlights**

- This year has been amazing. We reached 1812 sur 2000 soit 91% Children and young with disabilities have accessed to health services, inclusive and/or special education services and among these numbers 200 have accessed to vocational training.
- NUDOR is also proud to have been chosen by Liliane Foundation to host a meeting of all Strategic Partner Organization (SPO) in Africa on network building and M&E in April 2017. The meeting took place at Umubano Hotel in March-April. From the resolutions of the meeting, NUDOR was chosen to chair the French section of African SPOs Network and to host a media mission in May 2017.
- One of of the program beneficiaries is NIYIGENA Adelphine has a story worth sharing: Adelphine was born in 2000 in Rutsiro district, Mushubati Sector. She was born with physical disability. Her parents MUKANKUBITO Marthe and HABANABAKIZE Thomas have separated from the insults and humiliation suffered by her mother who was considered as bad luck to the family and that she is worth nothing up to the point of buying clothes to other children and leave out Adelphine, because of her handicap. Her mother left her in their demolished.

He went to live with her grandmother who was very old. Afterwards, her grandmother went to her daughter who lives in Huye for staying there given that she was very old, then the family selected a
cousin of her father to come and live with Adelphine while living in her grandmother’s house and she is the one exploiting the land.

Adelphine is currently studying in Komera Center thank to the program which pays for her fees. She is happy and appreciates the way she is treated seeing as this is the center for Children with disabilities when there she feels comfortable. At school she is ever the first due to the support from teachers who knows her deeply in that by the time of exams she is added on 30 minutes because she writes slowly. She was taken to Rilima Hospital for treatment and the doctor said that she can’t be operated because veins that are bend are connected directly to the brain so they gave her shoes that will help in her motion.

Her wish is to continue studying until she finishes but begs kindly to the donor to keep her in the program which will support her education up to the satisfactory level. Adelphine was elected as the leader of Children with disability in the sector, when she happens to attend the meeting she is given transport fees which helps her to buy some school materials, nevertheless she wonders how she will be in future given that her grandmother is very old she might die at any time and her uncles and aunt can chase he out with the other cousin of her father, so she suggests who else can support her to build a house in land of her father that is located in the center so that she looks for someone to hire it and the money from this could help her to survive.

Her vision is to become a leader or someone a bureaucrat since she can’t do manual work due to her disability. She doesn’t have health insurance because she is still written in her family’s category yet it abandoned her. Last but not least she is heartfelt to the support received for NUDOR-CBR programme to have supported her up to now.

**Challenges and areas for development**

- Delay in receiving the first installment from the donor: we advised POs to negotiate with service providers and inform them to pay as soon as they get the money from NUDOR. It
was more difficult for POs having CwDs in Education rather than for those in health / medical.

- Delay in getting quality reports from some POs: this is mainly due to lack of skills to do it. During this year we organized a series of reporting mini workshop, gathering between 1 and 3 POs’ representative in order to make them at easy of asking questions but also to make sure they understand our reporting system. We are optimistic to get better results in the future!!

- Delay in signing the MoU between NUDOR and UPHLS on the implementation of EmployAble project: Since funding for NUDOR side are part of the CBR annual plan, after getting advice from NUDOR Executive Secretary, we started implementing the project. It became more difficult when we had to finalize the contracts between TVETs, UPHLS and NUDOR in order to be able to make payments of school fees. Till now we are waiting to NUDOR Board to sign the MoU (including negotiating it with UPHLS) in order to allow the Executive Secretary to sign the contracts.
5. Livelihood Project

The Livelihood Project is an initiative aiming at promoting Village the livelihood of PWDs in Rwanda saving and credits groups (VSLAs). Currently the project is being implemented in Gasabo District with the financial support of CBM Germany. The project is backed by Sector Business Mentors (SBM) which have been trained and well equipped to initiate VSLGs and provide them with continuous and regular support. VSLGs are encouraged and supported to start their group activities such as regular savings, identification of viable businesses that can be done in their communities.

Key achievements in 2017

✓ 4 New Sector Business Mentors recruited, trained with others during the refresher training and equipped with VSLGs methodology, skills on the identification of viable business and financial linkages;

✓ The collaboration with Service Provider Institutions has been strengthened in order to support the group members on different employment opportunities especially on income generating activities;

✓ The formed VSLGs in the old sectors were supported to manage their loans disturbance and have increased their regular savings which increase their chance of having a big capital to continue running their own small business;

✓ The Village Savings and Loan Groups have been given the VSLG Kits to help them to start regular savings with respect to their own constitutions.

✓ All Sector Business Mentors are well trained and equipped with relevant skills on VSLGs methodology and Financial Linkages;

✓ Sector Business Mentors have been supported by local leaders to mobilize Persons with disabilities to join and form village new savings and Loan Groups;

✓ The new formed Village Savings and Loan Groups have been given the VSLG Kits to help them to start regular savings with respect to their own constitutions.

✓ All sector have learn from CARE supported groups experiences and ready to us it in their formed saving groups;
New saving groups among sitting volleyball players have been initiated (men and women) and the group members are interested and committed to continue the group activities and way of improving their life;

The group members among players have been trained to start their own small business depending on what is needed in their communities.

The community members especially persons with disabilities have been mobilized to join the formed Village Saving and Loan Groups by the group members together Sector Business Mentors; the number of formed Village and Saving Groups is 93 and the number persons with disabilities reached is 2353.

The formed VSLGs in the old sectors of Gasabo District were supported and strengthened to move from supervised to self managed;

The VSLA kits (booklets, boxes, Cash Boxes, bags, padlocks, registers, etc) have been distributed to newly formed and trained groups and some of them have started their regular savings and loan are being used by the group members;

NUDOR organized a one day study visit of the group’s leaders and Sector Business Mentors to CARE VSLAs to learn from them and explore feasibility of PWDs to join the existing VSLA across the Districts;

NUDOR organized quarterly joint oversight learning visit in Jabana Sector to livelihood project VSLAs with key stakeholders;

NUDOR has initiated saving groups among players of the women district sitting volleyball team in all 6 selected districts and now they have started their regular savings;

NUDOR organized training on income generating activities to district women sitting volleyball teams but now including men.
Highlights

The Local Authorities have appreciated the project and supported us to mobilize PWDs to form the VSLAs.

PWDs are interested to form the savings groups because most of the PWDs we met at the first meeting they came in the second meeting and agreed to form to groups. But they also shared some bad experiences in cooperatives where they said they are some PWDs who are not serious because they have eaten our money and disappeared. They really emphasized on PWDs who will be in their savings groups should be the persons who are serious and ready to work with others.

The culture of saving among the persons with disabilities was increased as they highlighted themselves through individual participation in all activities done in groups.

Children with physical disabilities have been given wheelchairs to be used in their mobility. The group’s members were encourage to start loaning so that they can start new business other continue doing their business, as result of this 27% members are using loans from groups while it was 7.1% in April 2017.

Some of the formed groups in Nduba Sector were visited by the local leaders where they have a dialogue with the members concerning the public activities such Election, Gira inka, VUP. Some groups’ members highlighted their issues of being left out on these programs. The local leaders represented by SEDO ensured the group’ members are benefitting in the phase of the programs in the community. They encourage PWDs to participate in public activities like Umuganda, Umugoroba w’abayeyi and others to make sure that they get full information on all programs.

32 % of the total group members have benefited from the government called Gira Ubucuruzi program through SACCO and used the loan from the program for capital increase in their running business.

The culture of saving among persons with disabilities has improved as they highlighted themselves through individual testimonies NUDOR have formed the saving groups among women district sitting volleyball in all 6 districts and started their regular savings.

NUDOR sector business mentors supported the formed VSLGs for the first 6 sectors and managed to end their second cycle and they have started their third cycle with all the group members.
In collaboration with NPC Rwanda, NUDOR organized a local competitions of all 6 district women sitting volleyball teams and all the teams have shown the big improvement in terms of playing because for example Bugesera has got the award of the tournament as the best performer and last year was the third.

In collaboration with CBM Rwanda and CBM UK, the submitted SAVEABILITY Project has been successful with 1,464,556 EURO. The project will be implemented in 4 districts (Nyanza, Ruhango, Rusizi and Rutsiro) over the next 4.5 years.

NUDOR Savings groups enabled persons with disabilities to accumulate savings and have easier access to loans, smoothing their cash flow to allow them to acquire more and better food, improved shelter and meet education expenses for their children.

The project has ensured a greater level of inclusion of persons with disabilities in society since they have become more active as entrepreneurs who have earned the respect of community members and are no longer being viewed as dependants on charity.

The group leaders in the new sectors have got an opportunity to learn from CARE supported VSLGs during the study visit in Gakenke Visit and they have agreed to improve understanding towards changing mindset of persons with disabilities on importance of joining others in the VSLGs as persons with disabilities.

Different Project Stakeholders such as Umutanguha, Urwego Opportunity, COPEDU, IMF Unguka (microfinance Institutions), 15 Sector Social Affairs and NCPD Gasabo District Coordinator have had a quarterly meeting to discuss on the impact of project brought to persons with disabilities. They have got time to visit the NUDOR VSLGs in Jabana Sector to see what NUDOR has presented to them as achievements and they really appreciated the improvement of their life.

In collaboration with NPC Rwanda, NUDOR organized a training Camp for the national women sitting volleyball Team that was preparing for the Africa Championships qualifying two teams to World Championships that will held in Hollande in July next year 2018. The women national team qualified to World Sitting Volleyball Championships after winning all games as well as final match against Egypt.

**Challenges and areas for development**
The local authorities have other commitments which lead to postponing our meetings with them.

Delay of Fund transfer to NUDOR in the Quarter One lead to late distributions of the VSLAs Kits and Sector Business Mentors were not able to work hard due to lack transport and meals (allowances). We had discussions with NUDOR suppliers to supply the VSLAs Kits to NUDOR in order to be distributed to the formed VSLAs and NUDOR will pay once the fund transfer from CBM is made.

We have written the letter to NCPD requesting meeting with them to discuss on collaboration in implementing the livelihood project but they told us this time they have so many things to be done (meetings) but they will inform us. The planed meetings have been postponed due to other commitment of NCPD Executive Secretary but we all agreed that we can’t wait until E.S is available. Through phone call, we have discussion with the NCPD Executive Secretary, we requested to meet with Director of Economic Empowerment Unit Mr. Oswald together with Ms. Christine in Charge of Training and Skills Development at NCPD so that we can have more discussion on partnership and they will discuss internally with E.S and come up with clear plan.

Some of the persons with disabilities have negative mindset towards saving groups. Our SBM carried door to door visit to mobilize them to join the formed VSLGs.

Some of the group members who need crutches but do not have money it themselves. We managed to lobby different stakeholders and some of them started getting crutches;

We spent one month working on Scottish Government SG Project Proposal which delay to implement all activities as planned in this quarter, We managed to work in the weekend and holidays to makes sure all activities are implemented as planned without delay.

Communication difficulties with group members with hearing impairment

Lack of Access to Different stakeholders data on inclusion of persons with disabilities in their VSLGs program such as CARE because we don’t have a formal MoU with them. Clear discussion on future collaboration and development of MoUS with different stakeholders.
Projects on Rights of PWDs

6. Public Policy Information Monitoring and Advocacy, PPIMA III

The Public Policy Information, Monitoring and Advocacy (PPIMA) Programme is a civil society support project aimed at promoting an active interest among Rwandan Civil Society organizations and citizens in Public policy affairs and helping them to self-organize and acquire the skills they need to engage effectively in national and local level processes of policy formulation, implementation and management. PPIMA was initiated by the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) with its partners of Civil Society organizations after considering that: primo, there is a positive correlation of good governance, poverty alleviation and active participation of the citizens. Secundo, Rwandan Civil Society and Citizens are not interested, well informed and skilled enough and / or organized enough to engage actively and effectively in public policy dialogue and in monitoring the use of public resources allocated to economic development and poverty alleviation.

In order to get the above objective, there are a number of activities undertaken and among them the fight for the rights of the less empowered, giving a space to participate in decision made at every level of the country and benefiting to the development as other citizens. Fight and advocate for the rights of the marginalized people should be effective only if all citizens including Persons with disabilities, are informed about and actively engaged in that struggle.

NUDOR as a partner in the PPIMA Project was and still engaged to interest and engaging citizens to actively influence the decision making and delivery of public services.

Rwanda legal framework is well done even if still has some gaps. The level of understanding of the content of these laws and policies is still low so that the implementation is facing challenges. PWDs are yet among most of marginalized people in the society. Access to information and full participation as well as access to services delivery still a big challenge. The local authorities who are supposed to serve all citizens equally are not yet open to disability. Even if disability is now one of the cross-cutting issues, the community is not aware and do not have enough skills and knowledge on their rights. The UNCRPD and UNCRC are not yet disseminated at a large scare to give information to the community.
on how these rights should be respected, protected and promoted. This project is being implemented in 8 Districts: Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Burera, Nyabihu.

**Key achievements in 2017**

- NUDOR has conducted the training on disability rights and inclusion, this has brought together the training that brought together 39 participants from its member organizations in Nyaruguru with 8 participants, Ngororero with 9 participants, Gatsibo with 12 participants and Gakenke with 10 participants.

- To have tools of to be used during the awareness campaigns, 1000 booklets on UNCRPD were produced, 1000 posters giving message on participation of PWDs to VUP program were produced and continue to be disseminated.

- To raise the awareness of the community and local leaders on disability rights and inclusion, 2255 people have participated to the four campaigns in Nyagatare, Burera, Nyamagabe and Nyabihu. These include: 30 District authorities, 40 NCPD District and Sector, 2030 persons without disability and 155 persons with disabilities. During the campaigns, the following issues were raised:
  
  - Poverty among PWDs and limited access to basic services such as health, education, rehabilitation materials: prosthesis, orthosis, white cane, since the community health insurance does not cover them etc.
  
  - PWDs that missed the categorization exercise organized by NCPD and where the exercise was completed the cards haven’t distributed yet while they are supposed to use as tool to allow access to services and support depending on the category of every and any PWD.
  
  - Inaccessible infrastructures where public services are offered.
  
  - Negative mindset of the community on the rights and ability of PWDs.

- The campaigns through sport competition were organized in Ngororero; in Gakenke, 25; in Gatsibo; in Nyaruguru and in Nyabihu: 5570 people participated to the campaigns where among them 181 are PWDs. To discuss deeply on issues affecting PWDs in public policy, the community debates were conducted in all 8 PPIMA Districts: Gatsibo, Gakenke, Burera, Nyabihu, Ngororero, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe. In total 500 people participated to the campaigns whereby 145 are District, Sector, Cells and Villages leaders and 355 being PWDs.

- Eight sit ball teams were from Ngororero, Gakenke, Nyaruguru and Gatsibo were awarded
the amount of 1,000,000 frs, 250,000 in each District.

✓ Nyabihu sit ball team was given sport equipment.

✓ NUDOR conducted a lobbying meeting with the representatives from Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and Gender Monitoring Office (GMO). This activity aimed at meeting two institutions to discuss and seek advice on how there can be an institution to monitor disability as GMO does for gender. The issue of having mechanism to monitor how disability is mainstreamed in different sectors is very crucial since it not clear on at which level disability is currently mainstreamed.

✓ This meeting was an opportunity to: remind the NUDOR mandate on advocating for the rights of PWDs, motivate NUDOR interest in having a public institution having the mandate of monitoring disability at national level, discuss the modalities of initiating the process of advocating for having an institution to monitor disability in all spheres of life. NUDOR was advised to assess EDPRS 2 and submit views while the process of initiating EDPRS 3 is ongoing.

✓ NUDOR has conducted radio talk show at district and national levels that have focused on inclusion of PWDs in community development programs such as VUP, girinka, ubudehe, umuganda to mention a few.

✓ A desk review on inclusion of PWDs in VUP has been conducted where the following were the main identified gaps: no link between VUP Direct Support Guidelines and the Ministerial order N° 20/18 of 27 July 2009 determining modalities to classify other Persons with Disabilities into categories according to their degree of disability, Inconsistent eligibility criterion for persons with disabilities: VUP direct support versus medical care, Inexistence of quota schemes, Low level of participation in VUP Public Works by persons with disabilities, Lack of statistics on tangible impact of participation in Public Works by persons with disability or household head of person with a disability, Lack of data on Persons with disabilities whose livelihood was improved by VUP Financial Services.

**Highlights**

The Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator in NUDOR presented the key activities to be implemented by NUDOR under PPIMA Program.
THT performed a drama giving message on the same programs (short summary is developed below). PWDs were given opportunity to share testimonies on the struggle they went through to realize their rights. The participants were given time to ask some clarifications leading to the improvement of service delivery and involvement of PWDs in society.

MUSENGIMANA Epiphanie as physical disability. She resides in Mukama Sector in Nyagatare District and was trained by NUDOR on disability rights and inclusion. He is in charge of economy in District NCPD Committee. After being denied the access to secondary education, she used to be a street beggar and she ended by giving up

SEKAREMA Jean Paul; he was born with 6 children and he was born with impairment of two arms. He was called SEKAREMA because he was born with impairment, as his name means someone with disabilities. After he was born, his parents considered him as unable to do anything because and he was taken to the orphanage

The Radio talk shows were a space for PWDs to interact with their leaders and representatives. The radio call-in were broadcast on Community Radios of Rwanda Broadcast Agency RBA, with an important coverage and the audience who was able to call and ask some questions on inclusion of PWDs.

Challenges and areas for development

- The season not favoring the organizations of campaigns and community debates: NUDOR had to pay meeting rooms where District shouldn’t avail some.
- Availability of District authorities in different activities: Working closely with NCPD organs and DDMO to follow up on regular basis.
7. Civic Participation for All Project

The project started in January 2017 to end in June 2018. It is implemented by NUDOR in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion (former Handicap International Rwanda) in Gasabo and Nyamasheke thanks to the funds from European Commission. The project seeks to identify voting barriers faced by PWDs and advocate for possible solutions for accessible voting and civic participation of PWDs and marginalized people.

Key achievements in 2017

✓ Refresher training on UNCRPD, citizenship and electoral process in Rwanda for 101 participants, 67 male and 34 female, 28 with disability and 73 without disability

✓ A one day workshop on Electoral Communication support adaptation for NEC and creation of specific mementos to facilitate persons with disabilities and vulnerable persons in electoral process for 20 participants, 12 male and 8 female, 17 with disability and 3 without disability

✓ A 3 days workshop for reflection on intellectual and psycho-social disability, civic participation & self-advocacy for 22 participants, 14 male and 8 female, 18 with disability and 4 without disability

✓ A national round-table of 42 participants (25 men, and 17 women with 22 PWDs among others 9 decision makers, 5 local authorities, 2 NEC representatives and 4 NCPD representatives Gasabo and Nyamasheke, 11 NUDOR members 1 from NUDOR administration and 10 journalists from local level.

✓ A 6 month sign language training for 38 participants (14 men, 24 women with 3 persons with hearing impairment) attended in both sectors: Nduba and Kimironko

✓ A sensitization of 20 civil society Organizations in charge of human rights in 2 districts GASABO and NYAMASHEKE with the objective of involving civil society’s organizations in PWDs participation in electoral process
25 journalists (21 men and 4 women) and 2 journalists with disabilities 25 chosen media houses in Kigali city have been trained on human rights, UNCRPD, and the participation of PWDs in the electoral process.

Observation of the presidential electoral process to monitor inclusion and facilitation of persons with different types of disabilities in presidential elections of August 2017 in both Gasabo and Nyamasheke.

Evaluation of the Round Table sessions held in Nyamasheke, Gasabo and the national level held at Kigali.

Quarterly Planning Meetings.

Partnership meeting between NUDOR and HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (now Humanity and Inclusion).

Midi term evaluation of the PARCIPO with the HI consultant.

Collection of testimonies.

Update of NUDOR website.

**Highlights**

UGIRIWABO KAMANA Julienne, a visually impaired person aged 34, is Coordinator of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in Kimironko Sector. She heard about the project "Political and Citizen Participation for All" for the first time in March 2016 during the Advocacy Training and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that NUDOR had organized for NCPD committees in the same Sector. She has participated in various project activities including round tables, a national level meeting and training.

Speaking of the changes that result from the project's interventions, Julienne says: "Before the beginning of the project, I knew little about disability, but now I have acquired knowledge that allowed me to advocate on schooling and health insurance for people with disabilities. In the same way, I asked them for a temporary job of volunteers during the past presidential elections. I learned Braille which facilitated me to use "Imboneza y 'Itora', a tool that facilitated me to elect freely while before someone..."
was nominated by someone else to elect for me, and finally I learned love and devotion for People with Disabilities”.

For more positive change, Julienne proposes that the project be extended to other administrative areas, that all NCPD representatives be trained on disability and the rights of people with disabilities and that NEC representatives are trained on the use of Imboneza y’itora so that they can explain it to people with visual disabilities. "

**Challenges and areas for development**

- The replacement and removal of trained local authorities
- The insufficiency attendance of trainees in Sign language course because of loss of transport facilitation fees
- Improper use of Imboneza y’itora in some districts: Explanations on the use of Imboneza y’itora were done on the day of elections. Some blind who don’t know how to use Imboneza y’itora were voted by children aged between 14 and 16 as before.
- The election observation was only conducted in 4 districts because of insufficient means.
8. **Inclusive Rwanda for Persons with Disability Project Part of Ikiraro Program**

The Inclusive Rwanda for Persons with Disability Project (IRPWD) is a one-year project (January – December 2017) funded by the Ikiraro program (a multi-donor program aimed at promoting collaborative working between civil society and government). The partners in this project are VSO, NUDOR and NCPD.

The overall impact of IRPWD is to contribute to seeing that ‘Rwandan disability movement of civil society (NUDOR) and government agencies (NCPD) work together to influence inclusive policies and programs which promote social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The expected outcome of the project is ‘increased policy engagement by the disability movement’. Two broad outputs of the project are:

1. Increased capacity in the disability movement at national and local level for representation and evidence generation, and

2. Increased use of research and evidence by the disability movement for policy engagement.

The Project is governed by a Steering Committee (comprising NUDOR, NCD, VSO and the Ikiraro program team) and supported a technical team comprising NUDOR Project Officer, NCPD project focal point, VSO Program Manager, VSO Social Inclusion and Govern Technical Advisor, and VSO Volunteer Technical Advisor. The working area is Musanze and Nyanza District.

**Key achievements in 2017**

- Training on Social Inclusion for 86 participants: 8 NUDOR staff, 30 NUDOR Steering Committee Members, 18 NUDOR District Platform Members, 10 NCPD staff, 22 NCPD local committee members and 2 DDMOs in two Districts

- Workshop on evidence-generation for advocacy and influencing for 40 participants out of a target of 48 attended such as 8 NCPD Staff, 8 NUDOR Staff and 28 NUDOR steering Committee members

- Research design workshop for individuals directly involved in the research: 5 staff from NUDOR, 3 staff from NCPD, 15 members of NUDOR Steering Committees, 2
representatives of local NCPD committees, 2 representatives of NUDOR District Platforms, 2 DDMOs, 2 VSO staff and 1 VSO volunteer.

Training of 11 facilitators of Participatory Action Research people from Musanze and Nyanza districts (DMO, NCPD coordinator, NUDOR steering committee, NUDOR staff, VSO, NCPD in 1st batch and 25 participants in the second batch.

Research to assess the inclusion and participation of PWDs in VUP services in MUSANZE District for 261 sampled 240 PWDs living in 6 cells of 3 sectors

Second assessment on inclusion of PWDs in VUP in MUSANZE District targeting 85 persons including PWDs and local authorities

Assessment on inclusion of PWDs in VUP in 3 sectors of Nyanza District targeting in total 148 persons was contacted including PWDs and local authorities

Workshop on Social Inclusion and Disability for local government stakeholders in the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP). The targeted number of participants are 30 authorities (15 from Nyanza District and other 15 from Musanze District

Consultation meetings with 4 members of Social Protection Working group as a high council of social protection at national level.

Joint planning session for the activities of: 1. Preparing to consult VUP decision/policy-makers AND 2) Preparing to deliver Social Inclusion and Disability training at central and local level

Internal validation meeting of the assessment report on inclusion of PWDs in VUP. The draft report was presented and many recommendations were formulated to improve it.

National validation meeting of the assessment report on inclusion of PWDs in VUP. Participants are from Local decision makers, NCPD and NUDOR representatives and staff, Some SPWG members, VSO staffs, MINALOC, DFID.
Second assessment of participation of PWDS in VUP services in Gasabo, Gatsibo and Rubavu Districts. Information based evidences relating to inclusion of PWDS in VUP 261 were collected in 12 cells of 6 sectors selected through 311 PWDS and local authorities sampled.

Field visit to project/research areas of national decision makers in order to engage SPWG members in research findings for common advocacy and influencing

**Highlights**

- During the assessment of inclusion of PWDS in VUP, it has been found that many of the PWDS have been issued in the wrong ubudehe categories and this has been a cause of non-eligibility to the VUP services. Again, the extra cost of PWDS living still the cause of poverty of their family.

- During the same activity, we have learnt that the community (including PWDS themselves) has a misunderstanding on VUP policy and this is the reason of no full participation of PWDS in the implementation.

**Challenges and areas for development**

The assessment shed light on the community (including PWDS) misunderstanding on VUP policy and this is the reason of no full participation of PWDS in the implementation. An extension of the project would be helpful in strengthening awareness of the entire community.

The Disability Rights Funds funded project is implemented by NUDOR with objective to produce and submit the alternative report on CRPD implementation in Rwanda, monitoring the rights of PWD’s as well as monitoring its implementation. The 2017 activities built on the previous with involved data collection, data entry and data analysis. During this year, we also considered individual report, media and systemic monitoring reports which were compiled as source of information as evidence based for the parallel report drafting and used for advocacy purposes. It is unfortunate that the final report has not yet been submitted to Geneva for the review as it was planned for the beginning of this year, we are still waiting for feedback and comments from the team of experts working closely with the donor of this project. We expect that, the final report is planned to be submitted not later than March 2018 because it is scheduled on CRPD Calendar of 2018, that Rwanda will be reviewed as you know that the State report has been submitted 2015.

Key achievements in 2017

✓ Data entry coded and scripted; Data analysis activity using INVIVO Software; Training of Monitors on Societal attitude (Media analysis)

✓ Training on Media and Analysis using DRPI tools to Monitors

✓ Workshop to disseminate the Parallel report recommendations(Individual report) to MO’s & districts and Media

✓ Assessment of the gaps on inclusion of PWDs’s in NST1,NAP, and as “Disability & Social Inclusion” is the one of the Cross-Cutting Issue of the NST1

✓ Organize awareness raising to the communities in six districts where the data have been collected.

✓ Establish the General Assembly composed by NUDOR MO’s at district level who elect the Committee
✓ Establishment of the NUDOR Platforms at district level

✓ 2 days workshop of all elected committees of NUDOR Platforms for having the basic skills which will help in their role and responsibilities such as Advocacy process and Strategy, basic laws guaranteeing rights of PWD’s, NUDOR Background objectives, etc…

✓ Meeting with government and district officials in particular to introduce the road-map of the parallel report recommendations (Individual report recommendations and hot issues) and their role and responsibilities during the implementation including media.

✓ Two days training of Mo’s and stakeholders on advocacy and SDG’s implementation in reflection with UNCRPD recommendations in accordance with Article 33 of UNCRPD including media.

✓ Follow up the issues raised during the data collection and developing messages for advocacy at local level (six districts).

Highlights

During the individual interview in Musanze district among the 40 interviewees supposed to be interviewed, one of the interviewee has called the who was sat in front her a God. She said “My son as you see that am old enough with more than 50 years with my disability, it is the first time in my eyes to see another person with same disability approaching and ask me the challenges which have and currently affecting my daily life, in my sight you my God” This quote means that she met more serious issues due to her disability but none has intervened to help to come out of these issues for a long time ago.

At the end of the interview which took like 2.5 hours, she gave the Monitor a big sac of 100kg of Irish potatoes just to thank her because that dialogue helped her to say out all issues she had inside herself. This case has reported to the NCPD Coordinator at district level and Officer in charge of disability in the district for following up.
Another success story is that during, in same district of Musanze, during the meeting with district officials with NUDOR officials who were in charge of supervising and monitoring the individual interviews process and quality, during this meeting (evening session) the NUDOR Executive secretary briefly summarized the UNCRPD key articles and how the officials violate laws in different ways. After well explained, the Inspector of police in that district raised the issues that how can a person with deaf impairment can hold a driving permit while she/he is deaf? From this point the ES intervened immediately with concrete examples by also adding that in other East African Community countries this permit is absolutely allowed to this category of people while in Rwanda Police is not allow this people to get it while Rwanda ratified the law, this has also approved the violation of laws. After well understand the concept of disability and UNCRPD and other laws says, he get convinced and apologize for the negative mindset he had upon them, and agreed to allow the deaf people for the driving permit once in case. All district officials were present well understand how sometimes discriminate, exclude, and violate PWDs due to misunderstanding.

Challenges and areas for development

- Highlighted hot issues which need to be addressed: For this challenge, we established the Platforms with main objective of making follow up for these issues to be addressed especially at district level in all 6 districts where data collected.

- Reporting of the Platforms was somehow different depending on the issue: To handle this, they were given a similar format for reporting to all of them. In order to avoid unnecessary or useless reports

- Platform committees raised the issue of low skills and knowledge in their daily work: To handle this issue, we organized the consecutive training on Advocacy, UNCRPD, and other laws in relations to disability.
10. Strengthening inclusion and access to services for PWDs in Refugees camps in Rwanda

This project has been implemented in partnership with MIDIMAR, PRM, UNHCR and Humanity and Inclusion, Handicap International. NUDOR conducted the activities disability awareness meetings and community mobilization campaigns to raise awareness of implementing partners and community members on the need to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities and elderly in Gihembe, Mahama, Nyabiheke, Mugombwa, Kigeme and Kiziba refugee camps as well as in Huye and Kigali Cities. In addition, it organized inclusive recreational activities in the same refugee camps from February to June 2017. Lastly, NUDOR participated in the cerebration of World Day for Refugees and has contributed to the support of livelihood for persons with disabilities in Kiziba refugee camp.

Key achievements in 2017

✔ Organized 6 community mobilization campaigns on the theme entitled 'Inclusive education is a pillar of development' in 5 refugee camps (Mahama, Nyabiheke, Mugombwa, Kiziba, Gihembe and Kigeme)

✔ Organize a community mobilization campaign for refugees living in Kigali and Huye Cities on the right to employment, education and health. Issues were identified and solutions proposed for refugees. Introduce inclusive recreational activities: Organize sit ball friendly matches in 5 camps and participate in International Taekwondo. Two taekwondo players from Mahama with disabilities participated in International tournament of Taekwondo.
✔ Conduct self-advocacy and disability awareness raising meetings in Mahama, Mugombwa, Nyabiheke, Gihembe, Kigeme and Kiziba refugee camps. Measures to promote inclusive education are proposed.

✔ Participate in the World Day for Refugees. Persons with disabilities and elderly are supported to deliver messages on their rights through sport and theatre play.

✔ Support livelihood for persons with disabilities in Kiziba refugee camp. A field of mushrooms in Kiziba refugee camp is extended.

Highlights

BUTARI Munyarugero, 72 years old is a refugee with disability living in Nyabiheke refugee camp. He has a left leg with disability. He has known NUDOR in 2016 during a training on Sit ball. Then, he participated in the competition on cultural inclusive recreational activities wherein he got the first price in weeding ceremonies speeches (imisango).

Talking about changes resulted from the training which was organized by NUDOR, Butari said: “Before NUDOR training, I was not practicing any sport. NUDOR trained us on sit ball, sport gives me more forces that is why I practice it mostly.”

Challenges and area for development

Sit ball matches were not played in Kigeme refugee camp because the playground is damaged. We advocated to UNHCR to rehabilitate sit ball playgrounds.

A Taekwondo player from Mahama who had been coached was not allowed to compete during the tournament because he had not required standards.
Part 2: Summary of Realizations of Member Organizations

1. Rwanda Union of the Blind

Rwanda Union of the Blind is a local non-governmental organization legally operating in Rwanda since 1995 with as vision: A situation where blind people access all rights as all other citizens, receive rehabilitation and education and can be employed as all other citizens and mission: To work towards the improvement of the situation of blind people through education and rehabilitation to facilitate meaningful equality and integration.

RUB is a member of both NUDOR and Umbrella of Organizations of People with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV and AIDS and in Health promotion (UPHLS). It is also affiliated to the African Union of the Blind (AFUB) and the World Blind Union (WBU). Over the time, RUB strengthens and extends the scope of its activities by establishing branches in almost all districts of the country. Currently, RUB has 57 well-established branches in 27 out of 30 districts with its headquarter in Kigali City, Nyarugenge District.

RUB envisages a situation where all necessary services for people with visual impairment are provided as a right of the individual and hope to see education, employment opportunities as well as other welfare services being as available to the visually impaired as they are to all other citizens.

Key achievements

A. Capacity building of RUB members/Branches

✔ 15 people with visual impairment from 5 RUB branches received training in entrepreneurship and management of small income generation project. For now those who have been trained are contributing fully in branch’s activities.
45 trainees received the rehabilitation training at Masaka Resource Centre for the Blind (MRCB) and these are now participating in livelihood activities.

Though the financial support of RUB donors (DAB/DPOD), 16 persons with visual impairment were trained on technical and vocational skills (knitting program) and all of them received the start kits of knitting machines after completing their training.

RUB members from the branches were mobilized to apply for loan in RIM through RUB and giving them the necessary information regarding the preparation of project proposals. In regard to the RIM loan program which was started in RUB, 5 RUB and 1 individual member have applied for RIM loan and received

40 branch committee leaders from 10 branches received training on leadership.

28 persons with visual impairment from two RUB branches (Nyarubuye&Mushubati) received training on activities of daily living (ADL): Mobility & Orientation, washing clothes, folding and ironing clothes, cleaning the house, personal hygiene, different styles of cooking, washing up, preparing porridge, etc.

130 Persons with Deafblindness from different Districts of Rwanda have been identified and registered.

Through training on tactile sign language, RUB facilitated 15 Persons With Deafblindness to come out of isolation and became more confident and able to communicate, to be able to follow the meetings and be ready to support the establishment of their own organization.

To enable RUB to influence change through effective advocacy so that issues of visually impaired people are mainstreamed in all programs, activities and services aimed for the general public, 32 executive committee members from 4 newly established branches (two branches from Rutsiro and two branches from Kirehe) increased skills on advocacy and lobbying.

B. Education
During the year 2017, RUB intervened in promotion of education of Children with visual impairment and adults through the dialogue with the government and other partners in development. RUB increased the partnership with schools and centres admitting persons with visual impairment.

- RUB met 24 CWVI in 5 districts who are in school together with their parents in order to monitor the progress of children with visual impairment in school and encourage the parents to be involved in the education of their children.

- During the period of 2017, through the education fund RUB has been able to supported 40 children with visual impairment with school fees, health insurance, transport from home to schools and back, hair cut and uniforms.

C. Advocacy and Awareness

RUB considers advocacy work as instrumental in ensuring that the views, wishes and feelings of visually impaired people in Rwanda are heard when decisions are made about their lives. The advocacy role comes into representation, support and protection of blind people’s rights in Rwanda.

- Conducted 4 press conferences to tell the media on the projects activities and achievements, radio talk –shows, articles published and RUB appeared in national and private media (print and online, broadcasting media as televisions and radios). RUB was mentioned more than 10 times in different media houses during the period of the year 2017.

- RUB women members joined other Rwandans for the celebration of the International Women’s Day on 8th March 2017, at Shyira sector in Nyabihu District-Western province.

- Preparation and celebration of the International White cane day celebrated in October at Kirehe District-Eastern province. More than 150 PWVI attended this and the event.

- Joined other PWDs for the IDPD celebration held at Kayonza district-Eastern Province on 3rd December 2017.

- Conducted a baseline survey on gender equality in 5 districts of the country (Gisagara, Karongi, Nyamagabe, Rubavu and Ruhango).

Highlights

IGIKUNDIRO Sada is a 32 year old woman from Musanze District in Northern province of the country. She was born with healing disability. She lost her sight 6 years ago and became deafblind.
The young lady was identified during the project implementation and was visited at home. The team who made a visit discussed with her mother who used to help her in daily life. Sada’s mother explained that the situation of her daughter was worse before being reached by the project activities and that she was unable to try any activity of daily living.

By the time after identification, Sada participated in different project activities such as family member workshops, International Deaf blindness Day celebration, meetings with stakeholders and press conferences, where she met other persons with Deafblindness and got different trainings, her situation changed.

As testified by her mother, currently, Sada got out of isolation and became more confident and participate in household activities. She says that the communication with her daughter “Sada” was not easy before because she never attended school and even her mother was not aware of the tactile sign language. Sada’s mother said that she and her daughter had formally used an improvised form of tactile sign language between them which was not easy. They both testify that they now use the tactile sign language which they learnt through the project and they can communicate with other family members.

Sada on her part testifies to have learnt much more about the world that she had not been aware of. Through the project meetings and seminars she was able to meet other deaf and deafblind people including Sauda who is a deaf woman on the committee of the Rwanda national association of Deaf women. Sada says that through Sauda she learnt about her religion the fact that her and her family are mausoleums. She learnt that there are many more people beyond her immediate family and she was able to make friends. During the practice of electing a committee of Deafblind association she was surprised that her colleagues nominated her to be on the committee.

Sada now testifies to feel more capable to be one of committee of new Organization of Persons with Deaf blindness and is committed to give her contribution.

**Challenges and areas for development**

Even though RUB has achieved many in the year 2017, also some challenges were faced and here are the identifiable challenges:
• Limited funding: The fund which was available in the year 2017 could not sufficient to cover all necessary services needed by Rwandan Blind and visually impaired people. Despite the support from mentioned donors all branches were not reached while there was a need to do so. RUB received more persons with visual impairment applying for a rehabilitation training at MRCB but the fund available would not support all applicants. The year 2017 left many branches who were established on the initiative of already established branches or individual members who still need to be reached by RUB services, more people identified who need to join vocational training Centres, many applying for white canes etc that the available fund would not be able to fund. RUB needs more permanent structures and more funding to deal with all these situations.

• Inadequate start kits for members who completed vocations and rehabilitation training: Actually each trained person at MRCB need start kit in order to start life while joining the mainstream society but all 45 PWVI who completed their training did not receive start kits and those who completed vocations received strt kits through the branch not individual in order to also satisfy the needs of those who were trained in previous years who lacked the way to put into practice what they learnt.

• Lack of white canes for members: The white cane is the only way for a blind person to orient herself/himself, but they are not available in Rwanda and the price is high such that blind people cannot afford them. This result to having many members who don’t have white canes while they are highly needed and important tools.

• Mindset of the community: Despite the work done, the reports from branches show that there is still discrimination in the society towards PWVI and some families do not give freedom for working what they have learnt during training. There is also lack of respect of rights of PWVI in implementation of government programs since some local authorities have limited knowledge on the ability of PWVI and laws protecting PWVI.
2. Collectif Tubakunde

Collectif TUBAKUNDE was created on 20th December 2005. It is an umbrella made of 23 member organizations (local NGOs) serving more than 2732 children and youths with intellectual disabilities and operating in 23 districts over 30 districts of Rwanda (Mapping done in 2012 in partnership with PHOS, cfr Leon Peters). Currently, we are estimating an approximate number beyond 3000 CWID. Collectif TUBAKUNDE was legally registered by the Rwanda Governance Board in 2014.

Tubakunde envision that all forms of discrimination toward children/youth with intellectual disability in Rwanda are eradicated, its mission is to advocate for the promotion of legal, political and social status of children with intellectual disabilities and to build capacity of its members.

**Key achievements in 2017**

- 209 children with intellectual disabilities have been identified in 4 pilot centres
- 205 children with intellectual disabilities have been assessed and oriented according to their respective groups (Mild, Moderate, severe and profound) but 4 were not assessed because they were sick.
- 12 teachers and 1 Board member were trained on assessment
- 14 teachers/educators are trained four pilot centres on special methodology of children/youth with intellectual disabilities
- 22 teachers/educators are trained from four pilot centres on making and use teaching material
- 20 parents of children/youth with intellectual disabilities have been refreshed on intellectual disabilities and on UNCRPD-CRC
- 12 local authorities from four districts were trained on intellectual disabilities and on UNCRPD-CRC
- 10 C/YWIDs were further trained in drama, sketch and public speech in order to conduct their self advocacy
Highlights

The story of Wellars has a lot to say about change of attitudes:

I am called NSABIMANA Wellars, parent of three children with intellectual disability UMWANA NK’ABANDI special center. Before the training, I and my family were discouraged because of discrimination toward CWID. Then on my behalf I did not accept my children with intellectual disabilities because of shame but After visiting HRD special center at MUHANGA District where we met different groups of CWID, I have changed my negative attitude and accepted and love my children with intellectual disability,

After the training on UNCRPD/CRC and on Intellectual disabilities, coming back to my village, I have begun to speak out for CWID during the weekly general meeting of my village telling them about the rights of CWID, the community changed their mindset about discrimination of CWID.

This was observed when one of my three CWID get lost one day in the bush, a mother from my village saw him and brought him back to my house and I was very happy for this action because before she could not do that.

Challenges and areas for development

COLLECTIF TUBAKUNDE is lacking an Executive Secretariat for planning and coordinating services as well as specific objectives of COLLECTIF TUBAKUNDE
3. **Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women (RNADW) UMUCYO**

The Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women was established as a civil society organization on 24th April 2005 by a group of 27 deaf women. Through its activities, RNADW aims to ensure that the practical needs of deaf and deaf blind women and institutional levels are fully addressed with an emphasis on empowerment.

RNADW vision is a society where deaf women enjoy the same human rights and opportunities as other citizens. RNADW mission is to serve as a platform for deaf women, to share their experience, to express their views and to support them in strength ending their capacities and achievements. RNADW advocates for the rights and needs of deaf women.

To reach this goal, RNADW implemented a project to advocate for the rights of deaf women concerning certain social protection programs of VUP, Girinka, Ubudehe and medical insurance in the District of Kamonyi as well as Ruhango thanks to the support from DRF.

**Key achievements in 2017**

- Mapping of members organizations of social protection platform and commission at National and local level
- Conducting situational analysis on the access to three main social protection programs (community health insurance VUP and Ubudehe) implementation by PWDs in general with specific attention to deaf and deaf blind women
- Organized a one day dissemination workshop of the key findings of the situational analysis
- Mobilized deaf and deaf blind women on their rights as provided in Art 25&28 of the UNCRPD, their role and responsibilities to access social protection program implementation and other services delivery in their community
- Organized monthly project coordination steering committee meeting
- Participation in the social protection platform meetings at national and district levels
**Highlights**

The year 2018 has been amazing. As a result of the project to advocate for the rights of deaf women concerning certain social protection programs of VUP, Girinka, Ubudehe and medical insurance in Kamonyi and Ruhango, RNADW became known to the JADF officer o in both districts.

As a result of the project members became aware of their rights to social protection program. RNDAW came to know different NGOs existing in both Districts, attended the open day for the first time and is involved in the group whatsaap of Ruhango so that we can also have access to information regarding District meetings. As a result, one of the board member who had no job has so far obtained one as a result of communication through group whatsaap of board and staff.

**Challenges and areas for development**

As a result of the project, RNADW came to recruit and have only one staff who is the project manager but also helps where necessary as the director. It is not easy for one person to work on the project while she serves as the director.

Another challenge is the long distances to reach out our individuals members in the sectors of Kamonyi District which coste d us more time and money than had expected. This required much work and resilience.
4. National Paralympic Committee (NPC)

The National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Rwanda is a non-profit making sports organization under the law N°05/1987 from February 18th 1987 with sports and recreation as its mandate. It is currently based at the Amahoro National Stadium in Kigali. The NPC was founded on November 1st 2001 and has 37 members regrouping sport clubs for people with disabilities. NPC Rwanda is an umbrella organization for persons with a disability, co-ordinating national sports associations representing all types of disabilities. We also centrally coordinate clubs and associations in all districts in the respective provinces. For the past 15 years, the NPC has promoted and coordinated sports for PWDs in more than 10 sports of which 3 sports have been represented in the Paralympic Games.

Our vision is society in which athletes with impairment participate in sport with the same opportunities as other Rwandese. Whereas our mission is to use sport as a means of achieving personal well-being, social integration, economic development for persons with disabilities in Rwanda as well as support their sporting aspirations in the local and international sports arena.

In order to reach the its vision, NPC uses the following strategies

- Sports Participation and Performance by persons with disabilities
- Organizational and professional capabilities development
- Strategic partnership management
- Resource management

- Project of Development of sport and Right for people with disabilities financed by Laureus
- Project of strengthen inclusive sports and recreational activities in both Congolese and Burundian refugee camps in Rwanda
- Project of empowering women sport financed by CBM through NUDOR

Key achievements in 2017

✓ Organization of national championships in sit ball, sitting volleyball, athletics, goal ball, boccia, amputee football. More than 500 athletes with disabilities from all 30 districts took part to these competitions
✓ Organization of coaching training course in sitting volleyball: 12 participants
✓ Organization of paravolley Africa championship where Egypt, Kenya, DRC and Rwanda participated in women while Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Kenya, DRC, South Africa and Rwanda participated. Rwanda was champion in women and 2nd in men.

✓ Organization of the 1st boccian international training course for coaches, referees and classifiers in Africa.

✓ Participation to world Para powerlifting championship held at Mexico. 1 athlete with his coach participated.

✓ Participation to Africa goalball championship held at Sharm El sheikh in Egypt where Rwanda finished 4th after Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco.

✓ Signature of a partnership agreement with Handicap International.

✓ Election of a new NPC Rwanda board for 4 years.

✓ Starting a wheelchair tennis as a new sport in collaboration with Rwanda Tennis Federation.

✓ Installation of a modern accessible court at Gicumbi district thanks to CBM support through NUDOR.

NUDOR

Highlights

From the partnership agreement with Handicap International, we benefited from a project of strengthening Inclusive sports and recreational activities in both congolese and burundian refugee camps in Rwanda.

Thanks to the NPC Advocay, CBM through NUDOR project supported us by equipped us with a modern accessible and inclusive court where all sports for people with disabilities can be played.

Challenges and areas for development

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of enough accessible courts for people with disabilities
- Lack of enough skilled permanent staff
- District Paralympic committee not yet developed and not well structured
5. Troupe des Personnes Handicapées Twuzuzanye (THT)

The Troupe des Personnes Handicapées Twuzuzanye (THT) was created in 2004 by persons with disabilities and registered in 2009 with the Rwanda Governance Board. THT is the only organization in Rwanda using cultural activities including drama, music and traditional dance to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. It’s vision is a society where persons with disabilities are recognized as talented, capable and equal and where no Rwandan sees disability as inability while it’s mission is using theatre and the power of culture to advocate for the realization of the rights and social inclusion of persons with disability.

Currently, it has 2 project: advocating for inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disability in Rwanda which in Ngororero, Musanze and Kicukiro which is supported by Amplify Change and Développment Locale Inclusive et Réadaptation a Base Communautaire (DLI/RBC) in Rutsiro and Kayonza which is supported by Humanity and Inclusion.

Key achievements in 2017

Under the DLI/RBC project:

☑ Technical support to THT for setting up awareness and advocacy groups for better access to services.
☑ Production and adaptation of IEC materials on access to services.
☑ Sensitization of the population via meetings organized by the local authorities IDPD, Open day, Umuganda, parents' evening, etc.).

Under advocating for inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disability in Rwanda Project:

☑ Training of 10 official within the MoH focused on inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disability
☑ Development of key messages on reproductive health to advocate through theater within in Kicukiro, Musanze and Ngororero District and mobilizing the target groups
Running the campaign with theme: “Campaign of Fighting again myths, stigma, discrimination, Gender balance and facts about sexual risk among People with Disabilities and community in Kicukiro, Musanze and Ngororero District”

**Highlights**

The awareness campaigns conducted by THT have been found to be successful with big turn ups. Participants to the awareness campaign which was held in Ngororero brought together different participants include different community members such as: district disability officer and local Leaders, community without disability and PWDs, 13THT actors 2000 community members without disability was identified and invited to the advocacy campaigns (theatre performances) +50 with different type of Disability (a total of 2000 participants per this performance)

**Challenges and areas for development**

Although well known and well regarded THT is not yet capitalizing on its niche, which is advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities using cultural activities including drama, music and traditional dance, THT is often invited to perform at sensitization events and the performances help to draw people to community events but usually only receives a contribution towards costs for performances but does not make any income from performances performed at events organized by other institutions. The organization intends to work harder to increase funding opportunities to develop its successful model.
6. Organisation for integration and promotion of people with albinism (OIPPA)

Organization for integration and promotion of people with albinism (OIPPA) was established as a civil society organization in July 2013 after more discussion with its members on challenges faced by people with albinism in their daily life. There is lack of social protection, a very low education level, discrimination in community, stigma which result poverty among people with albinism, illiteracy, skin cancer and many other challenges; this is further exacerbated by prevailing social stigma and cultural attitudes. OIPPA advocates on behalf of its members for equal rights of person with albinism.

To reach its vision, OIPPA has been organizing various trainings to its members in different ways for empowering them for future self advocacy as its vision is a society where people with albinism enjoy same human rights, opportunities and a dignified life. OIPPA’s mission is To promote the integration and socio-economic participation of people with albinism by the reinforcing their capacities and building their autonomy.

The organization is active in four districts: MUSANZE, GASABO, KICUKIRO and NYARUGENGE where we focus on discussing on the right of people with albinism and this last year 2017, we have implemented the project on education for children with albinism to access primary education.

**Key achievements in 2017**

- We have organized 2 board meetings per year to review project and discuss the progress of organization
- We have Organized workshop of OIPPA staff and board to review Rwanda education policy in relation to inclusion.
- We have Organized 2 branch meetings of OIPPA members per district per year
- We have Organized discussions with children with albinism and their parents to identify the barriers to education for children with albinism
- We have Organized discussions with teachers and school leaders to identify the barriers to education for children with albinism.
√ We have Create and print a report containing information on the barriers identified during discussions.

√ We have Hold a meeting to present report of challenges to Sector and District Director of Educations and agree action plan to support children with albinism

√ We have Train branch leaders on rights of people with albinism to access education as protected by CRPD and Rwandan laws/policies and identified barriers (from report).

√ We have also Facilitate branch members/leaders to organize 1 community meetings in their districts to sensitize other community members on albinism and the right of children with albinism to attend school.

**Highlights**

A case study of a child with albinism who left a school in Musanze.

When I was seven years old, I went to school like other students it was too hard for me to look on the blackboard. My teacher was not concerned and when he gave test or improved quiz I failed because I have not seen what is written on the black board. This happened most of time and they thought I have weakness in studies. I studied two years in P1 then they promoted me but I used to fail in other classes. My classmates also used to insult me at school, removing my hat and touching on my body to test if I am colored. In P3, I was older than my young classmate. This affected me because I got no special help from my teacher – like having my own book in reading session, sitting in front or having enough time to finish the teacher’s work until by P5 I was not good in reading and it is hard to spell some words and I decided to leave school.

The information got from discussion helped us to print a report with all barriers and suggestion which helped to make advocacy from family level. We shared the suggestion from children with albinism and their parents to teachers and vice versa. The report printed was shared to local officials and they agree the action plan.
After the discussion the children with albinism testify the changes in their school activities. now they sit in the middle, at the front, near the blackboard (‘I love to sit in the middle but sometimes the seats are filled with other pupils). The children are getting their own book even there is a shortage and if possible, they are allowed to copy from book if possible. In classes, children with albinism are allowed to wear hat and glasses but not yet to achieve this in all schools and teachers provided enough time to compete tasks like exams.

The parents have started to love the child with albinism like any other one in the family. and they encourage the child to go to school. Some parents keep in touch with the teachers on the issues surrounding the child and at home, assist with the problems they have at school. Another change we have seen is that parents share their experience of having a child with albinism to help new parents of children with albinism to cope.

**Challenges and areas for development**

The challenges we face is in school community where most of teachers and head teachers said that there were not considered students with albinism as people who are disabled and they didn’t know the challenges they face and they said how to support the children with albinism in classes sometimes requires expensive equipment and extra time but we tried to convince them how they should facilitate them by simple support and we will go on to talk to them in next project.

Other challenge was appeared in discussion with children with albinism and their parents where we have seen that even parents sometimes contribute to discriminate their children from others with no albinism by providing school materials but they don’t do for children with albinism. We have told the parents how they have responsibility to support all children as children with albinism have equal right to education.

We are planning to use the printed report on the barriers of children with albinism to access primary education to advocate up to national level where we plan to meet Rwanda education board and share experience and request them to set rules to support our members to access to education and enjoy equal right to education.
We will organize community meeting to increase their knowledge on the right of people with albinism to access education and how and see how far they are in sending their children to school, how they support them and help to overcome family challenges.

We plan to organize group meeting in four districts for discussing with people with albinism how they are advocating for the rights of children with albinism to access education and share the changes happened. We will visit schools and discuss with school community how they should support children with albinism by using low cost accommodation.
7. Rwanda Ex-combatants and Other People with Disability Organization (RECOPDO)

Rwanda Ex-combatants and Other People with Disability Organization (RECOPDO), was born out of life and work experience of some disabled personnel of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) projects that supported Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) from 2005-2014. The JICA projects implemented skills training for ex-combatants and other People with Disabilities (PWD), trained 2,654 disabled ex-combatants and other persons with disabilities and supported them to obtain jobs.

The success in skills acquiring, cooperative formation and independent life recorded at the end of the two JICA projects prompted the Rwandan staff to believe these achievements needed to be sustained and supported.

RECOPDO is a registered civil society organization that has been mandated to follow up the activities of the JICA skills training projects and has benefited from the continued expertise of the JICA project staff, who are themselves disabled. It has its head office at the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) building. It is composed mainly of PWDs.

Our Vision is a society where Ex-combatants and other people with disabilities live socioeconomically independent while our mission is to support independent living for ex-combatants and other people with disabilities through trainings and the delivery of starter tools. We are currently operational in 5 districts: Nyanza, Huye, Gasabo, Musanze and Rubavu.

Key achievements in 2017

✔ Impact Evaluation Survey was conducted by RECOPDO and JICA in Nyanza, Huye, Gasabo, Musanze and Rubavu Districts in order to see how lives of 20 ex-combatants and other persons with disabilities have changed after attending vocational training from JICA Projects.

✔ A Crisis committee was created to coordinate daily activities, manage conflicts and organize legal elections.
The members of RECOPDO organs namely Executive Committee, Internal Audit Committee and Conflict resolution committee were elected to ensure the good governance and management of RECOPDO

**Highlights**

In 2017, the first members of RECOPDO organs were legally elected among whom 91% are persons with disabilities. More than 80% are ex-combatants

**Challenges and areas for development**

In 2017, RECOPDO organs were not running properly. That is why elections were organized. Conflicts related to management occurred between former RECOPDO President and Vice-President who were managing its office. A Crisis Committee was established to resolve the problems and organize elections.

Projects that were applied to donors were unsuccessful.
8. Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD)

Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD) is a registered National Non-governmental Organization established in 1989 by Deaf persons themselves aimed at bringing together all categories of Deaf persons including those with multiple disabilities e.g. Deaf blind person. RNUD’s primary task is to look after the interests of the Deaf, their human rights promoted and respected. RNUD works in Twelve (12) districts of Rwanda and hoping to expand further to other districts.

The VISION of RNUD is ensure that Deaf persons exercise their human rights at all levels of the Rwandan society, while its mission is to promote the human rights of the Deaf, make quality services, education, and health accessible and build the capacity of the Union of the Deaf to serve Deaf Communities at the National level and grassroots level.

Key achievements in 2017

- Training in basic Sign Language: 150 people, 100 teachers, 30 Health Workers, 20 Sign Language Instructors recruited & trained
- Trained 15 Deaf Women in leadership skills from Muhanga, Muzanze and Kigali. 5 women from each district
- Presented issues for action during IWD 2017
- Held 02 Radio and TV Advocacy Programmes
- Participated in the development of the Disability Inclusion Policy organized by NCPD, MINALOC and UNICEF
- Continued Lobby for the legal recognition of the Rwandan Sign Language
- Elected the new governing board for the next mandate of five years 2018 – 2023
- Start-up capital were given to 34 Deaf women. 45 Deaf women were also trained in Business Management skills.
Challenges and areas for development

- Inadequate resources to undertake some planned as well as unplanned but essential activities
- Inadequate staffing at the Secretariat such as the Advocacy department among others
- Bureaucracy and Red tape is still a challenge in our advocacy work
- Lack of an M&E Plan affected the effective monitoring of activity/project/programme progress
- Resource mobilization and Sustainability Strategy not yet in place
- Lack of baseline and research base information on issues affecting Deaf people in Rwanda
9. Rwanda Union of Little People (RULP)

Rwanda Union of Little People (RULP) was established as a civil society organization in 2015 by 16 members who lived only in Kigali city. Since then, members have been increasing. Currently, we have 75 members from different districts of Rwanda. This has been achieved after doing advocacy in Government and different campaigns, this campaign were achieved by working with improving on the inclusion of little people in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

RULP’s vision is a society where Little People enjoy the same human rights, opportunities and a dignified life. RULP’s mission is to work towards enabling little people to live independently and actively participate in the society through skills development, capacity building and social integration. Beneficiaries are little people from two districts: Musanze and Gasabo District.

Key achievements in 2017

- Organize training RULP members on poverty reduction programmes. 27 participants got knowledge on poverty reduction programs.
- Organize 1 radio talk to discuss on inclusion of little people in the poverty reduction programmes (VUP, GIRINKA, HANGA UMURIMO). 30 participants participated in the show.
- Organise two board and committee meetings to monitor project activities. 13 participants understood the project activities implementation and shared their inputs and comments to better implementation of the project.

Key achievements in 2017

The meeting of RULP Members where they talk about participation of little people in public works and attending Government program of poverty reduction.
One of the members who called Cesar NIYONGABO, where he talked about how he intended and take apart in VUP(Vision Umurenge Program), even he was struggled to work but he achieved on his purpose. He faced with challenges of being despised by those who work with him who are able to work without challenges and put on boot was a pig problem.

**Challenges and areas for development**

We approached official leaders to be well informed about Government programs of poverty reduction, and they said that everyone have to take apart in them, without discrimination, but as Little people we saw that there are many challenges to work those activities depend on how are built, are organized.

The second challenges are like how little people think set in their minds that nothing they can do. To change their minds it took us along time to mobilize and to show them that there are some things they can do, inability is not disability.