



**Empowering people for sustainable
regenerative communities**



**HIHD Annual Report,
2020**

ABOUT HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT (HIHD)

BACKGROUND

HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT is a non-profit organisation managed by following dispositions of the law N° 20/2000 of 26th July 2000 related to non-profit organization and registered in Rwanda as a local organization with legal personality N° 440/RGB/NGO/LP/03/2019. HIHD is a social and economic development organization dedicated to promote the living conditions of vulnerable and marginalized people as well as protecting and defending their rights. HIHD was founded in 2012 by good-hearted people motivated by the disarray and precarious situations through which people lived especially those orphans, widows, people living with albinism, girls heads of households as a result from the hard times and civil wars that Rwanda passed through before and after colonization period. These led to excessive unemployment youth and severe conditions for marginalized groups; therefore, there was strong need to reintegrate them socially and economically in developing vocational skills; providing training and awareness campaigns on peace building , human rights and ensuring education and innovation in job creation.

The operational area of HIHD extends on all territory of Rwanda especially northern and western regions. Its duration is unspecified.

The head office of the organization is established in Umuganda cell, GISENYI Sector, RUBAVU District, WESTERN Province.



Why we intervene

About one person in three Africans lives below the global poverty line; they represent more than 70% of the world's poorest people; and more than 80% of diseases around the world are from unsafe water; especially in Africa. In Rwanda, these numbers are still significant where around 39% of the population are below the poverty line while more than 2 in 5 people don't have access to clean water and 1 in 3 don't have decent toilet.

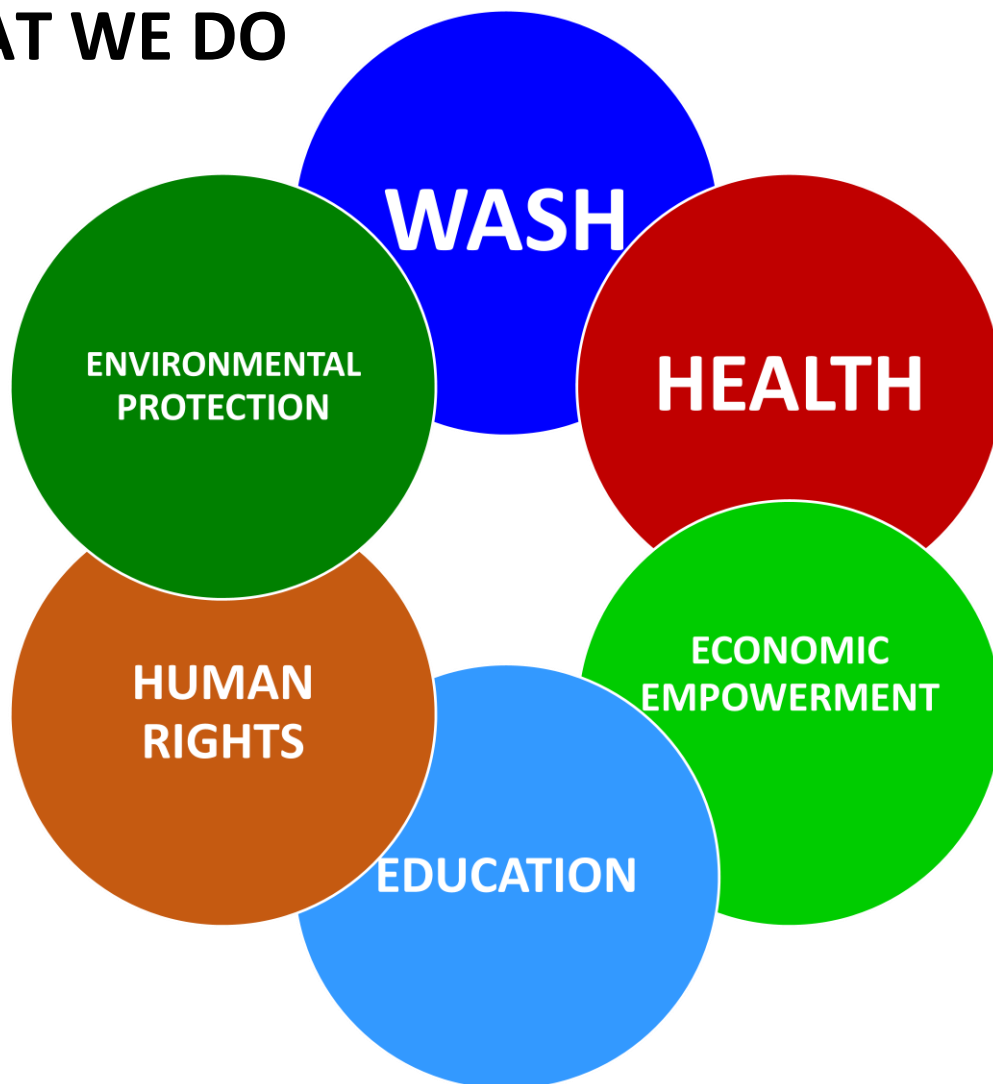
HIHD MISSION

Our mission is to promote the wellbeing of the population in general, especially communities living in economically difficult situation, orphans, unemployed youth, women and girls, widows and the disabled unable to take care of themselves.

HIHD VISION

We envision a future where all citizens have the same value and a standard living condition.

WHAT WE DO



HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT (HIHD) collaborates with partner organizations, local government and donors to improve the living conditions of vulnerable and marginalized people, people with albinism disability as well as protecting and defending their rights.

Around the country HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT (HIHD) works with different communities, vulnerable families, groups of youth, women, young mothers and people with albinism to find sustainable solutions on eradicating poverty, water scarcity, malnutrition as well as promoting human rights and building an active, contributing and resilient society. Towards our goal, through its different programs HIHD provides to its beneficiaries different services including capacity building, economic empowerment, financial support, children's education, self-employment through entrepreneurship, water supplies, hygiene and sanitation, etc.

OUR APPROACH

To achieve our success, we initiate our projects at community level; they become community driven projects. They are community members who are benefiting from the project at the same time changing living conditions in their community and contributing to its development. Our goal is not just to get a change, but to make sure it's a long-lasting community driven change with a great foundation.

OUR SPECIFIC AIMS

- Fighting the prevention of HIV/AIDS scourge, STD as well as delinquency within both schooled youth and non-schooled youths of Rwanda,
- Promoting, in favour of children and youths positive values: honour, reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, hope, tolerance, mutual aid and a sense of family,
- Promote entrepreneurship of youth, women, young mothers, vulnerable families and people with albinism,
- To fight against illness cause by water born with distribution of bio sand water filters,
- Promote rainwater catchment system through ferrocement tanks construction,
- Fight against endemic illnesses,
- Establish adequate sanitation through micro flush toilet promotion,
- To promote and protect the rights of people with albinism as well as changing mindset about albinism,
- Raise income and employment of youth, women, young mothers, marginalized families and people with albinism through sustainable businesses development,
- Improve living conditions of vulnerable and poorest families,
- Help communities to increase their chances to access to loan, etc.

THE MESSAGE FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is such a joy writing the introduction of our annual report. As the Executive Director, it is my duty to brief you on all our activities for the year, progresses made and the challenges faced by the Organization.

The year 2020-2021 has been unprecedented for almost every industry due to Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic which has ravaged economies. HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT (HIHD) continued to provide innovative solutions for improved health and economic status of the communities through entering into agreements with like-minded partners. Two major community scale solarized innovative social-economic projects were successfully completed and beneficiaries accessing self-esteem. In terms of well-being and economic upgrading where 85 women, young mothers adolescent girls and youth have been grouped into cooperatives and got seed capital for reinforcing their businesses and 102 people with albinism have been supported socio-economically, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Management in household scaled up in 8 villages. In addition, HIHD invested in Environmental protection where 300 historically marginalized community got cooking stoves, and fruits trees in order to reduce risks caused destroy ecosystem in education HIHD provided solar lamps, school materials, school uniforms for the kids from marginalized families to prevent dropout and to facilitate them to follow lessons. HIHD continued to directly implement public health programs, emergency response to PWA. HIHD has continued to embrace partnership and signed Memorandum of understandings, Pre Teaming and Teaming agreements with local and international organizations operating in western in Rwanda.



To this end, we began the production of organic fertilizer using worms to protect soil and cooking stoves specifically to protect the frontline health (women and girls).

We incurred a lot of transportation costs as our aim is to reach out to the rural communities. Such a challenge could be lessened if we had a vehicle or bus to make our journeys to the rural areas less expensive. In all I can say we have done very well even the pandemic stake us in some activities but we hope to achieve more in the coming year. We are very grateful to all who have been of great support in cash and kind to help us achieve our targets.

I take this opportunity to thank also our Board of Directors, staffs and all partners for the commitment, dedication and support you diligently provided to realize enormous achievements. I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2021. Please find below briefings on our various programs

NIYITEGEKA Patient


EXECUTIVE Director at HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In year of 2020, all people of the world faced unprecedented challenges in their efforts to achieve sustainable development; the COVID-19 pandemic has threatened lives, livelihoods, and entire economies, erasing decades of economic progress, poverty reduction, and gains in human development. Even if HIHD and its partners had made great strides in improving living conditions of different communities in recent years and that this progress was disrupted by the outbreak of COVID-19, during this hard time HIHD kept working closely with communities providing assistance where it was needed most, supporting families to deal with effects of the pandemic and maintaining our achievements stable. The outbreak of COVID-19 required HIHD to apply more additional efforts and new strategies to overcoming challenges and reaching our goals; we are sincerely thankful to everyone who contributed for us to walk through this year and make our work possible.

SUMMARY RESULTS



	Domain	Activity	Achievement
	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting in education children from poor, vulnerable families and children with albinism disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children received school supplies and uniforms. Children were paid school fee and charges. PWA children accessed optical services. Increased school attendance.
	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting people from poor, vulnerable families and people with albinism disability to have access to health services as well as improving their health conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of skin cancer among PWA. Improved nutritional status in communities. Food assistance and prevention of COVID 19 in communities. Provision of medical assistance to PWA.
	Economic Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of groups of youth, women and young mothers and PWA Provide entrepreneurship skills and financial support to groups of youth, women, young mothers and PWA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 youth, women and young mothers are running their own businesses. 58 farming businesses created for PWA. 12 PWA were equipped with vocational skills and provided toolkits to run IGAs.
	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of rainwater catchment systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access to water in the community of historically marginalized people of Rugerero. Reduction of unsafe water related illnesses in the community. Improved hygiene and sanitation in the community.
	Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating albinism international awareness day. Conducting albinism awareness campaigns. Enabling PWA to have access to education and other potential opportunities available in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have a bit understanding of albinism disability. PWA are integrated in their communities. PWA are contributing citizens, respected and share same opportunities in the community.
	Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaigns on environmental protection Social mobilization on climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are aware of the environmental challenges and climate change issues they are facing Warm farming facilities were established to reduce the usage of chemical fertilizers Clean cooking among communities is adopted

EDUCATION

Every child goes to school



Every child has the right to go to school and learn, regardless of who he/she is, his/her living conditions, or his/her family status.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Rwanda is one of the top-performing countries in education; but, despite its reputation and the government's efforts and measures to improve the education sector including the construction of modern infrastructures, improve the quality of education in the country, discontinue automatic student promotion practice in primary and secondary schools, strengthening vocational education in the country and make it more accessible and affordable, etc.; the education sector in Rwanda is still facing numerous challenges including the decrease of school attendance, drop outs, poor performance of public schools and all related to poverty, food insecurity, school feeding program that is not practical for all, high performing public schools or private that are expensive, school charges in nine and twelve basic education that are not affordable for many parents, etc.. The lack of ability for parents to pay schools for their children has led to a dramatic increase of the number of working children and a greater prevalence was in rural areas where there has always been less participation compared to urban areas; this has also been exacerbated by the advent of COVID-19 that suspended schools for a year where after the resumption of schooling, the number of working children has increased to a higher level due to the fact that during the lockdown children had to work to helping their families survive many children had already learnt to make money.



A young boy working in charcoal production after school drop out

GAHENE Sadi, 10 years old and student in P4 dropped out due to poverty related issues and help his family to look after livestock.



HIHD is committed to support in education Rwandan children from poor and marginalized families so that they are not deprived of their right to education due to the status, living conditions or vulnerability of their families

Successes

To respond to major challenges that children were facing in their education and contribute to the reduction of school drop outs as well as increasing the school attendance for children in primary and secondary schools, HIHD assisted children from poor, vulnerable, marginalized families and children with albinism disability by providing them school materials and school uniforms. For children who were not attending schools due to lack of financial means, HIHD provided to these children the required school fee and school charges and around 250 children from RUBAVU, BURERA and RUTSIRO districts were served in this academic year.

In 2019/2020 academic year, HIHD also supported children with albinism to access optical services with the aim to improve their vision and school performance; through this support, two children with albinism including one in primary and another in secondary schools received eye glasses and other 40 students with albinism disability were provided sunglasses, hats and protective clothing.

For consideration

Even if most of the students with albinism were provided sunglasses to improve their vision during the daytime, most of them are also facing vision problems especially during class time and many efforts are required to be applied to prevent poor performance or drop outs of children with albinism disability.

Distribution of school materials and supplies to students from vulnerable, marginalized and poor families in Mudende Sector, district of RUBAVU



Distributions of solar lamps to students with albinism from families without electricity to facilitate them revise their studies at home; Nyamabuye cell, BURERA district.



Top achievements

249 students received school materials

58 students received school uniforms

48 students were paid school fee and school charges

13 children returned to school

HEALTH



Better health to everyone

Everyone has the rights to dignity and a decent life; but with the persisting poverty in Rwanda, more efforts are still required to eradicate hunger, achieve food security, achieve improved nutrition, ensuring healthy lives and promote the well-being especially for the most poorer.

Aspiring to reach Middle Income Country (MIC) status by 2035 and High-Income Country (HIC) status by 2050, around 43% of the Rwandan population lives under the line of poverty; a great portion of the population in this category is found in the rural areas of the country and includes families of small scale farmers, casual workers and even most of the families of people living with albinism disability, women living with HIV/AIDS and those of historically marginalized people. The living conditions for these families are often very difficult since they are dominated by various social problems such as lack of daily meal, lack of ability to solve their basic needs, poor hygiene and sanitation, malnutrition, high rate of stunting among their children, lack of access to health services and as result they are exposed to different health issues including diseases, premature death, isolation, extreme poverty, etc.

Even though that the hard living condition of these families come from the lack of ability or resources to boost them to sustainable development, sometimes the root causes for some of their problems are also based on the lack of knowledge to adequate nutrition; thus finding that once they are educated some of the most pressing issues can be addressed such as the issue of stunting for children, malnutrition and food insecurity.



Children from a poor family in NYARUSUKU village facing malnutrition issue

A young mother with albinism disability having skin cancer; Kanzenze sector, District of RUBAVU



For a future with standard living condition for all, HIHD supports families living in extreme poverty including those of marginalized people, vulnerable, people living with HIV/AIDS and people with albinism disability to improving their living conditions and having self-esteem.

Successes

To improve health and living conditions of families living in extreme poverty, this year HIHD assisted families of women living with HIV/AIDS, historically marginalized people, people living with albinism disability and other poorer families in RUBAVU district by improving their nutrition and eradicate malnutrition through introduction of permagarden and fruits trees planting; through this approach around 135 families located in different sectors of RUBAVU district have been constructed permagarden kitchen gardens within different types of vegetables and around 1200 fruits trees were planted. To preventing skin cancer among people with albinism, HIHD also distributed 350 bottles of sun screen lotion to people with albinism from BURERA, RUTSIRO and RUBAVU districts and provided medical care assistance to one single young mother with albinism attempted by a skin cancer. To respond to the effects of COVID-19 and reduce the risks of contamination among communities, during the lockdown period HIHD assisted most poorer, vulnerable and marginalized families with provision of food assistance and hygiene and sanitation supplies.

For consideration

Even though most the activities were resumed in Rwanda, the cross border trade that was mainly practiced by majority of medium and low classes of the population of RUBAVU district importing exporting different goods to GOMA is still prohibited; many people who had also to earn their daily livings from this city are also not allowed to cross the border. The closure of these main activities has resulted the loss of jobs for many people of the district and combined with other effects of COVID-19 including the increase of taxes, closed businesses and reduced working hours the poverty rate is increasing and health conditions for many families are being more disrupted.

A mother harvesting vegetables from a permagarden kitchen garden; KANEMBWE village of historically marginalized people, Cyanzarwe Sector, District of RUBAVU



Family members from RUGERERO village of historically marginalized people planting fruits tree; Rugerero sector, district of RUBAVU



Top achievements

- 135 permagardens were made**
- 1200 fruits trees were planted**
- 108 PWA were assisted to prevent skin cancer**
- 1 young mother with albinism was provided medical care assistance**
- 75 poorer families were provided food and hygiene and sanitation supplies during the lockdown**

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Jobs for all and improved living standards

In Rwanda, youth and women make the largest segment of the population; and unfortunately this segment is the one with a higher unemployment.

With an economy overwhelmingly rural and heavily depending on agriculture, Rwanda is among the fastest growing economies in Africa. Despite its fastest growing economy, the agriculture in Rwanda is still the major economic sector employing about 70% of the population in Rwanda and being the main driver of growth and poverty reduction, pulling 1.7 million people above the poverty line in only five years and contributing about 35% to the national GDP. With contributions from other leading sectors including energy, agriculture, trade and hospitality, financial services, services sector particularly construction and tourism, etc. Rwanda has shown a good improvement in economic growth. But, despite the government's efforts to improve the country's economy, living conditions of the population and poverty eradication, challenges to agriculture sector including low levels of productivity for both crops and livestock due to low input use, poor production techniques, inefficient farming practices and soil degradation are persisting drivers to poverty especially in rural areas; in addition to these last, a higher unemployment rate among women and youth was also noticed among persisting drivers to poverty; according to NISR in 2019 at 17.1 per cent, the unemployment rate was still higher among women than in men where it is 13.5 per cent and the jobless rate was more rampant among the youth where it is 18.7 per cent. Women accounted for close to 44.8 per cent of the labor force, mostly engaged as crop farm laborers, domestic cleaners and helpers, stall and market salespersons, and shopkeepers; among employed persons with managerial positions, 34.1 per cent were women, the survey showed. Furthermore unemployment was higher in urban areas than in the rural areas.



A woman working in field for others to make daily live; NYARUSUKU village, RUTSIRO district

A jobless young mother staying home and looking after her children



For the Rwandan communities towards self-reliance and sustainable development; at HIHD we need to ensure the largest segment of the Rwanda population is active, equipped with skills need at job market so that they become productive, self-reliant and have self-esteem.

Successes

To respond to persisting drivers of poverty in different communities especially in RUBAVU, RUTSIRO and BURERA districts, HIHD provided capacity building trainings on business management, saving education, leadership and good governance to groups of youth, women and young mothers and provided financial them support and startup capital with the aim of improving the social -economic wellbeing, income generation, production and employment of beneficial groups. To improve the living conditions of people with albinism disability and ensuring their integration in communities HIHD helped people with albinism to access better healthcare and autonomy of their families via provision of health insurances, saving and loan groups and income generating activities; youth with albinism from these families were provided vocational skills and startup toolkits based on the career of their choice so that they start running their own income generating activities and contribute to the economic development of their families. HIHD provided also financial support to adult people within these families for they run businesses of their choice where they got engaged in different small scale income generating activities including agribusiness, handcrafting, trade, etc. HIHD helped also poor, vulnerable and marginalized families including those of people with albinism and people living with HIV/AIDS to have access to health services through provision of health insurances.

For consideration

Despite the HIHD achievements, government's efforts and participation of different partners toward sustainable development through jobs creation, improvement of living condition and other different strategies, more efforts, assistances and contributions are still required to uproot millions of women and youth isolation and poverty and transform them into entrepreneurs, jobs providers and contributing citizens. Toward this goal, HIHD intends to reach to much more communities for capacity building, supports, assistances, follow-ups and other possible strategies and insists to everyone's consideration and contribution for success.

A group of women engaged in agribusiness and running a VSLA; MUDENDE sector, RUBAVU district



Young girls engaged in tailoring and weaving after pursuing vocational skills and receiving financial support from HIHD; Gisenyi sector, RUBAVU district



Top achievements

- 85 youth and women were provided startup capital for running small income generating activities
- 58 were provided sheep for farming
- 12 youth with albinism disability were provided skills and toolkits
- 30 women living with HIV/AIDS received financial assistance to strengthen their businesses

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION



Increase access to water, clean drinking water and sanitation

Even if Rwanda is considered to be a country with abundant water resources, the country still suffers from lack of access to water, insufficient distribution of drinking water and a low rate of access to drinking water.

Like other countries of Africa especially those of the sub-Saharan region, Rwanda is also found in countries with an abundant water; since the access to safe and clean water plays a vital role in social and economic development, poverty reduction and public health; access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services were prioritized in Rwanda and the government is still investing more efforts to extending water supply and sanitation coverage. Despite the efforts applied by the government and partners to increase access to water, the country is still suffering from water shortage issue mainly resulting from the rapid population growth, poverty, climate change and few water supply systems. Beside these last, the available water supply systems are also and inadequately distributed especially to communities situated in rural and hilly areas; in most of these areas, communities have no access to improved water and it is often very hard to find any nearby source of water for most of them; sometime these communities have only access to ground water, rivers, lakes and rarely rainwater which is available during the rainy season. The lack of water and usage of unsafe water among these communities are resulting a higher prevalence of illnesses related to unsafe water among these communities, poor hygiene and sanitation, drop outs for children, poor nutrition, health issues, transmission of different diseases, etc. and these are consequences are highly remarked among to families in middle and low classes.



Children fetching water from SEBEYA river due lack of water in their community; Rugerero sector, district of RUBAVU

Children seeking water in KANEMBWE village, Cyanzarwe sector, district of RUBAVU



To increase access to water, HIHD conducts awareness campaigns on rainwater harvesting system and trains youth groups on ferrocement tanks construction so that they help their communities to have access to water through construction of rainwater catchment tanks.

Successes

To respond to persisting drivers of poverty in different communities of Rwanda especially those most in need, this HIHD supported the community of historically marginalized people of Rugerero sector is composed of families of historically marginalized people (Ex TWA); due to the history that marked the community of indigenous people in previous years including the fact of not being considered in different communities of Rwanda, being stigmatized, discriminated, harassed, ignored, uneducated, etc. these families are immersed in deep poverty and their living conditions are highly worse. Earning the lives mainly from pottery which doesn't also enough revenues to cover their basic needs, the community has capacity to afford drinking water from the nearby water kiosks due their prices and this makes community members use water from SEBEYA river which purely dirty due to different kinds of wastes that pour in from various places of its course. To improve the living conditions of this community and fighting against diseases from unsafe water and poor hygiene and sanitation in the community as well as reducing risks related to fetching water from the river, HIHD constructed a rainwater harvesting system in the community; since community members were already provided bio sand water filter to access clean water, these filter were also maintained with other five existing ferrocement tanks.

For consideration

Despite the efforts applied to provide water and safe drinking water to this community, the number of available water infrastructures is still low comparing the growing number of community members; and the same issue is also hitting more communities of the region especially those in rural areas. To deal with this issue and improve the living conditions of more communities, HIHD intends to invest more efforts in promoting rainwater harvesting approach and strategies since this last is also seen as contributing agent to prevention of environmental destruction and climate change; and much more efforts, strength and supports are required to achieve our goal.

A young girl from the community of historically marginalized people of Rugerero fetching water from a newly constructed water tank in the community



A young girl from the community of historically marginalized people of Rugerero fetching drinking water from a bio sand water filter

Children fetching water from a ferrocement tanks in MBYO village, BUGESERA district



Top achievements

- 1 rainwater harvesting system was constructed
- 5 rainwater harvesting systems were rehabilitated

HUMAN RIGHTS

Equal opportunities



People with albinism are often mistaken for white in Africa; due to lack of knowledge on albinism, they face various challenges which sometimes endanger their lives.

In most of the different parts of Africa albinism is not yet well known or considered like other disabilities; even governments, civil societies and some individuals are still investing more efforts for changing poor mindsets that people had on albinism, in different parts of the world especially in Africa lives of people with albinism are still endangered; witchcrafts and sorcery that have developed much in most of the African countries are endanger lives of these people. Children and women are the most at high risk because of their physical status and stereotypes that wicked people have towards them. People living with albinism are confronted with persecution which is based on the belief that certain body parts of people with albinism can transmit magical powers and such superstition is also present in some parts of the African Great Lakes region; as a result, people with albinism are persecuted, killed and dismembered, and their graves dug up and desecrated. At the same time, people with albinism are also ostracized and even killed for exactly the opposite reason, because they are presumed to be cursed and bring bad luck. The misconceptions of albinism and the lack of knowledge about it affect the social integration of people with albinism in Africa society and the rights of people are not fully respected especially for children since people prefer hiding them far away, considering them as curses and those who attempt to go to school sometimes are discriminated, not liked by others, feared, isolated, etc. which often result their drop out.



Jean d'Amour and his brother were born with albinism disability in a family of 10 children; they were deprived their rights to education because they were not considered like others.

In 2018 Fiona suffered a kidnapping from people who wanted to sell her in the DRC; but, these last did not succeed because his parents intervened after the kidnapers had just dug and reached her bed.



For human rights, HIHD implement activities aiming to promote their rights, ensuring their integration as well preventing discrimination and creating free and safe place for them to live so that they become considered, active and contributing citizens.

Successes

For the well-being of people with albinism disability, this year HIHD contributed in protection of their rights, improvement of their living conditions and ensuring their integration in communities through capacity building, job creation and opportunities of access to education for children and youth living with albinism. This contribution was made through different activities including awareness campaigns from which HIHD celebrated albinism awareness day and conducted radio emissions aiming to explain in depth albinism disability toward behavior, attitude and knowledge positive change on albinism among communities. HIHD helped also youth and children with albinism to exploit potential opportunities like others by supporting children with albinism in education, building capacity and creating jobs for youth with albinism through provision of financial support and skills needed to the job market. In addition to these last, from attending schools children with albinism became engaged in different common activities with other children such as school activities, school clubs, etc. from which their participation at home as well as in the community in general was increased and their isolation is remarkably reducing; on another hand, the engagement of adults and youth with albinism in different jobs reduced their isolation, discrimination and developed their self-esteem since they are considered in their communities as contributing citizens.

For consideration

Efforts that are being invested in promoting the rights of people with albinism are promising a great behavior change on albinism and clear understanding of albinism disability in the near future especially in urban areas. Despite the promising future, there still a lot of work to do to ensure that the rights of people with albinism are fully respected and that people with albinism are fully integrated, considered and share with others the same opportunities in their communities especial in rural areas.

To speed up the rate of progress, HIHD intends to reach more communities in its activities on human rights and to strengthen activities led by people with albinism and those they are engaged in as well as those activities responding to their needs and rights; HIHD also calls for everyone's engagement and contribution for a sustainable success.

Celebrating albinism awareness day on 13th June 2019; Rugerero sector, district of RUBAVU.



A young man with albinism disability running tailoring business to contribute to his family's development as well responding to needs of his community



Top achievements

- Albinism awareness day was celebrated
- Awareness campaigns were conducted through radio emissions
- Some people have now a knowledge on albinism disability
- PWA share the same opportunities with other in their communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Combat Climate Change

Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilization. The effects are already visible and will be catastrophic unless we act now. Through education, innovation and adherence to our climate commitments, we can make the necessary changes to protect the planet.

Even if Rwanda has, for more than a decade, taken a proactive approach to improve environment and climate change issues in all of the country's policies, programs and plans, like most of the countries worldwide, the country is also facing numerous climate change effects. Being a faster developing country with a faster growing population on a small land of 26,338 sq. km, the country is facing a higher demand of infrastructures such as roads, hospitals, schools, etc. and new construction permits are everyday being offered in all districts of Rwanda to public or private institutions, industries or companies, mining companies, individuals and many others activities requiring land use are increasingly being undertaken countrywide; in addition to these last, the country is still far away to adopting clean energy in different activities; most of the communities especially those in rural areas, food processing companies, tea plants, etc. are still using fuel wood and charcoals as source of energy. As results, the effects from these challenges are contribution to environmental destruction and source of different disasters that are hitting the country especially during the rainy season including landslides, erosion and floods. Beside these, the country is also facing an increasing number of imported used vehicles powered by fuel or gasoil, electric cars that are expensive and not common in the country and excessive usage of chemical fertilizers in agriculture motivated by harvesting more from small lands which are contributing to global warming.



A woman was cooking using old clothes in Kanembwe community of historically marginalized people; Cyanzarwe sector, district of RUBAVU

Property destroyed by floods in Gishwati
Source: REMA



To contribute on the fight against environmental challenges and climate change issues that Rwanda is facing, HIHD helped different communities to be aware of some global threats, possible rapid actions to be taken and take a closer look at everyone's role in protecting our planet.

Successes

To responding to the environmental challenges and climate change issues that the country is facing, in this year HIHD carried out awareness campaigns on environmental protection in different communities of Rwanda especially in RUTSIRO, RUBAVU and BURERA districts; through this activity, different environmental challenges including soil degradation and soil erosion, deforestation, land scarcity, climate change, water pollution and access, loss of biodiversity, natural resource depletion, etc. were discussed on and communities were mobilized to trees plantation, forests restoration, rainwater harvesting and different approaches and technics to combat climate change were shared. On the fight against land degradation, HIHD also supported communities engaged in agriculture domain from BUSASAMANA and CYANZARWE sectors to adopt farming strategies that contribute to soil resilience and improve soil productivity by using fertilizers that can compensate the loss of nutrients caused by soil loss; on this approach, HIHD introduced to members of these communities vermiculture technology and provided them essential tools including tiger worms, worm beds, worm farming fields, containers, etc. so that they start practicing this technology and share it to other communities. Beside these, this year HIHD engaged different communities in the fight against deforestation, soil erosion and climate change through promotion of eco-friendly, fuel-efficient and economical cook stoves, and more than 300 families from NYARUSUKU and KANEMBWE villages of historically marginalized communities were provided these stoves.

Way forward

To keep contribute to the fight against environmental destruction and climate change issues, HIHD intends to raise more awareness campaigns on environmental protection in different communities and invest in promoting sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, the use of alternative fuels and organic fertilizers and promoting the water manage and protect water catchments as well promoting and educating communities available and new approaches and technologies responding to environmental challenges and climate change; to reach our goals, HIHD also calls for everyone's engagement and contribution for a sustainable success.

Community members feeding tiger worms in Mudende sector, district of RUBAVU



A woman sitting next her eco-friendly cook stove in Kanembwe community of historically marginalized people; Cynzarwe



Top achievements

- Awareness campaigns on environmental protection were conducted
- More than 300 cook stoves were distributed
- 2 worm farming facilities were established

INCOMES & PARTNERSHIP

INCOMES



HIHD's incomes come from its donors and partners; our work is only possible because of many supporters are part of our movement. Their financial assistance comes in many forms such as regular monthly donations,

organizing and taking part in events of fundraising, leaving us gifts and so on.

To go along this way and realize our activities in this year required much more efforts; and our partners worked hard for us to succeed and make positive changes families and communities most in need.

HOW AND WHERE HIHD RAISES FUNDS

HIHD's partners raise money in public fundraising and our royal donors respond to several emergency appeals helping to save lives. HIHD is deeply grateful for the continued and generous support of all of our donors. Their commitment and passion is an inspiration.

PARTNERSHIP



Our partners are independent organizations and independent persons.

Partners

LEMONAID⁺
ChariTea[•]

The Lemonaid & ChariTea Foundation is a charitable organization founded in 2010 in the bohemian St. Pauli area of Hamburg. We've made it our goal that every persona has access to independent, self-determined and sustainable livelihoods.

We support entrepreneurial and income generating initiatives in regions currently excluded from fair access to the global economic system. We partner with local organizations who implement projects within their communities to create positive change and strengthen economic independence.

The focus of our work is therefore on strengthening their resources. For this reason, we primarily promote entrepreneurship and educational institutions that aim to create sustainable sources of income.

Our organization is funded primarily from the sale of Lemonaid & ChariTea drinks, but [donations](#) and [active participation](#) in our work are more than welcome. The projects we support lie in ingredients home countries of the beverages and teas.

Visit Lemonaid: <https://lemonaid-charitea-ev.org/en/>



RWANDA

What We Do

Rwanda is among eight pilot countries selected in January 2007 to implement the One UN Reform, which enables the UN System to provide a more effective and coherent response to the needs of the Government of Rwanda and its Development Partners. As part of the UN Country Team, UNDP works with other sister agencies to implement the “One UN – Delivering as One” process. UNDP-Rwanda’s programmes and activities respond to the challenges facing the country to achieve its own short and long term goals such as EDPRS (Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, vision2020...) as well as global goals such as the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

Visit UNDP RWANDA:
<https://www.rw.undp.org/>



About RGB

The Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) is a public institution established by law N°56/2016 of 16/12/2016, generally mandated to promote good governance principles and monitor service delivery across public and private sector institutions as well as Civil Society Organizations. RGB is independent and doesn't receive instructions from any other institution in exercising its mission. RGB submits its Annual Report and Action Plan to the President of the Republic and to the Parliament, Both Chambers, with a Copy to the President of the Supreme Court and Prime Minister.

Visit RGB: <https://www.rgb.rw/>



About Little Sun

Little Sun started as a simple idea to create a small, portable, solar lamp for people living without electricity in Ethiopia. We began as a social enterprise, selling solar devices around the world with the aim of raising funds to make solar lights and chargers available in energy-impooverished rural communities in Africa at affordable prices, where they could also provide a clean alternative to toxic and expensive fuel-based lighting. The organization was founded in 2012 by the contemporary artist Olafur Eliasson, and Frederik Ottesen, an engineer – an artist and a problem solver who look at the world from different perspectives. This spirit of searching for new and unconventional paradigms, of challenging old belief systems to find new solutions to intractable problems, is baked into our DNA. We believe that every person has the power to change the world with their passion, creativity, and ingenuity, and that everyone has a role to play in changing the world for the better.

Visit Little Sun: <https://littlesun.org/>



About CooperRiis

Set in the mountains of Western North Carolina, our healing community offers a unique approach to recovery with a balance of evidence-based clinical therapies, purposeful work, community service, education, and holistic health and wellness practices. From the start, the CooperRiis experience is grounded in hope and guided by a personal Dream Statement to empower residents in their recovery. We believe recovery from mental illness is possible and best achieved when individuals and their families are active participants on the journey ahead.

Mission

Our healing mission is to improve the lives of individuals struggling with mental illness or other mental health challenges by helping them work towards achieving their highest levels of functioning and fulfillment.

Visit [CooperRiis: https://www.cooperriis.org/](https://www.cooperriis.org/)



About RSF

The mission of Rwandan Sustainable Families (RSF) is to help Rwandan families in starting small, sustainable businesses and to support education for their children as a means of ending the cycle of poverty. Founded in 2010, RSF currently operates in the community of Murara, Gisenyi in the Rubavu District of Rwanda.

RSF provides micro-finance loans to families in need and promotes sustainable income generation through the establishment and support of Fair Trade Artisan Cooperatives. The average family loan is \$125 which includes a year of education for a child and health insurance for all family members.

Our current and long-range goal is to assist the families and communities we serve in creating sustainable businesses that will help them to feed and send their children to school, and lead healthier lives.

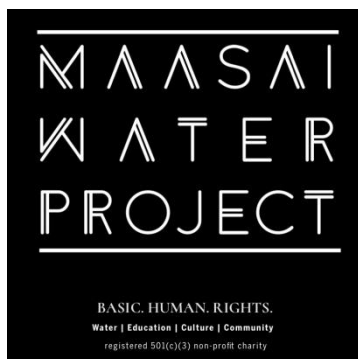


About Rwanda Hugs

Rwandan HUGS, a non-profit established to embrace and empower the people of Rwanda. Rwandan HUGS (Help Us Get Started) partners with existing Rwandan faith-based and civic organizations to provide support for agriculture, education, and entrepreneurship.

Visit Rwandan Hugs:

<http://www.rwandanhugs.com/>



About Maasai Water Project

Maasai Water Project works to protect the basic human rights to Health, Education, Culture & Community. We improve access to sustainable safe

water, food security, healthcare, economic opportunity and education while carefully protecting and preserving the culture of our communities.

Visit Maasai Water Project:

<https://maasaiwaterproject.org/>

Individual Donors

KATE McGloughlin
Eric clour & Kaci Lou
Nancy Strachan
Kathy carey
Lisbeth Riis Cooper
Maureen Oldenwald
Mackenzie Abramson
Shawn Lady
Ruth Rich
Debbie Kindschuh
Darlene Beesmer Griffin
Victoria Ramos
Dust Watson-Stack
Mary Jaeger-Gale
Susan Quinn
Ron Storey family

Dear Partners,

Thank you for your generous contribution to our work; we are thrilled to have your support. Through your support we have been able to accomplish higher valuable tasks, to make remarkable positive changes among our communities and continue working towards their wellbeing and a future where all citizens have the same value and a standard living condition. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!



Growing Together Everyday

Published by HIHD
Umuganda street
Gisenyi - Rubavu
Rwanda

E-mail:

handinhandfordevelopment@gmail.com

P.O Box: 232 Gisenyi/Rwanda,

Contact: (+250) 788506964

www.handinhandfordev.org