

Empowering people for Sustainable Regenerative Communities



HIHD Annual Report, 2022

ABOUT HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT (HIHD)



About Hand in Hand for Development (HIHD).

Hand in Hand for Development (HIHD) 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 **No 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.

To attain those goals, HIHD embarked on a mission of effectively empowering PWDs/PWA and vulnerable women through capacity building, economic empowerment, education and community engagement. This mission has evolved over time and has included other districts. HIHD works towards achieving this mission through;

1. **Education:** Assisting in educating children from poor, vulnerable families and children with albinism disability so as to increase their school attendance and reduce their school dropout rates due lack of inclusive education.
2. **Health:** Assisting people from poor, vulnerable families and people with albinism disability to have access to health services as well as improving their health conditions. All in a bid to Prevent of skin cancer among PWA, improved nutritional status in communities; provide palliative care and reproductive health services; provide medical assistance to PWA.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** Building, equipping and strengthening capacities for youth, women, young mothers and PWA groups for entrepreneurial and vocational skills through provision of toolkits to run and boost their IGAs and livelihoods.
4. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Construction of rainwater catchment systems so as to increase access to clean water in communities of historically marginalized people more still reduce unsafe water related illnesses in the community thereby improving overall hygiene and sanitation in the community.
5. **Human Rights:** Establishing and strengthening advocacy platforms for PWDs/PWA, vulnerable women and teen mothers through human rights and access to justice especially legal aid. This is ensured through awareness campaigns such as celebrating albinism international awareness day, conducting albinism awareness campaigns so as to enable PWA have access to education and other potential opportunities available in the community.
6. **Environmental Protection: Contributing to climate change through** raising awareness of an emerging factor "Climate Change" that is affecting our environments at a greater extent. This is done through designing activities that will contribute to reduction of its effects on the environment e.g through awareness campaigns on environmental protection and social mobilization on climate change.

THE MESSAGE FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is such a joy writing the introduction of our annual report. As the National 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.

We have been in existence for barely one year and much work has been done within the period. Looking back at the year 2019-2021, I can boldly say we have achieved more than we bargained for, we have grown rapidly and we have established for ourselves a respected name in our field through our works in the communities especially the rural communities in Rwanda in general especially in Western province .We have expanded in our reach as our initial target was to reach out one at a time to needy children but we quickly had to adapt to the changes around us as more and more children become vulnerable each day. Casting my mind back to the days, I have grown very proud of our team who through their tireless efforts helped to make all our projects a success. With little time, few resources and great demand they managed to put in so much in order to reach our goals. In our campaigns Human rights, WASH, Economic empowerment, education and good health, we went through a lot reaching out to rural communities with no official vehicle, and we walked miles to research in order to get accurate presentations to work with. Our projects made great impact in the selected communities especially vulnerable women, People with Albinism (PWA), Historically Marginalized community (HMC), young mothers, teen mothers and other marginalized community. The projects we undertook were WASH, Human Rights, Economic Empowerment, Health and Education. All these were done within the 12 months of operations in 2022.



Most of our projects were funded by international Organizations, little support from some friends of HIHD and self- funded from different income generating activities of the organization. This brings me to some of the major challenges we faced within the period. One of our major challenge was lack of financial support as we have we have the high demand than the supports received. We are currently looking at how we can establish a permanent funding line for project and running of the office.

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. Finally, it was a joy when we were awarded best performing NGO within the district level. I say bravo to every one of staff and volunteers for the great work done .In all I can say we have done very well and 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. Please find below briefings on our various projects.

NIYITEGEKA Patient
EXECUTIVE Director at HAND IN HAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Niyitegeka'.

Sector	Activity	Achievement
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WASH

- Construction of rainwater harvesting systems in communities;
- Installation of water filters in communities;
- Construction of adequate latrines in communities.

- 70 rainwater harvesting ferrocement tanks have been constructed and are operational;
- 120 water filters have been installed and are operational;
- 50 micro-flush latrines have been constructed and are operational.

AGRO-ECOLOGY & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Assisting businesses of groups of youth, young mothers and vulnerable women;
- Education of farmers on vermicompost fertilizer production;
- Increasing women employment through agriculture.

- 85 youth, young mothers and vulnerable women received increment capital to strengthen their businesses;
- 2 cooperatives of farmers have been capacitated on vermicompost fertilizer production;
- 1 vegetables greenhouse has been constructed and is operational.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Capacitating communities on albinism disability and the rights of persons with disability;
- Doing advocacy for persons with disabilities;
- Support children from vulnerable families and those with disability to have access to education.

- Trainings on CRPD have been conducted in in Rubavu and Rutsiro Distrcts;
- Community dialogues and awareness campaigns on albinism and rights of persons with disability have been conducted in Rubavu and Rutsiro Distrcts;
- 200 children have been assisted in education.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

- Mobilizing communities on climate change mittigation;
- Supporting communities to adopting climate resilient practices;
- Environmental sustainability and greening.

- 50 eco-friendly cooking stoves have been distributed;
- 10 permagardens were installed in communities;
- Vermicomposting technology has been introduced in the community;
- 4,000 edible fruits trees have been planted in communities.

WASH

Increase access to water, clean drinking water and sanitation

Access to water



With the water issue that continues to persist in Rwandan communities especially those in rural, hilly and volcanic regions; this year, HIHD supported KANEMBWE and BIHUNGWE communities of historically marginalized people located in RUBAVU District to have access to water through construction of rainwater harvesting systems. From this support, a total of 70 rainwater ferrocements tanks of 5 m³ each has been constructed where 40 of them have been constructed in KANEMBWE community and the other 30 water tanks have been constructed in BIHUNGWE community.

Volcanic characteristics of the Northern region of Rwanda is among the major factors contributing to the lack of access to water and clean water in the region. Due to more effort required to prepare drinking water most of the communities' members prefer to drink unsafe water that contribute to poor health conditions and frequent water borne diseases and other related consequences especially impacting children, girls and women. To contribute on overcoming these challenges, this year HIHD supported 120 households from CYANZARWE, MUDENDE, BUSASAMANA and BIHUNGWE sectors of RUBAVU District to have access to clean water through distribution of water filters

Access to clean water



Access to sanitation



For years, communities located in volcanic regions have demonstrated a higher rate of open defecation practice and its related consequences due lack of deep soil which facilitate in digging pit latrines that are commonly found countrywide. To contributing to reduction of open defecation and its related diseases, HIHD availed adequate latrines to KANEMBWE and BIHUNGWE communities of historically marginalized people. From this support, 50 micro-flush toilets have constructed where 20 latrines have been constructed in KANEMBWE community and 30 latrines in BIHUNGWE community; all latrines have been handed over to communities with hygienic materials for each and communities members committed to ensure their proper usage.

Look forward

Considering water and sanitation facilities scarcity in our operational area and their related challenges and consequences to communities, HIHD is willing to keep investing more effort to spreading WASH infrastructures in communities. HIHD calls everyone with new technology, approach or any kind of support that may help in strengthening our communities to bring out this/her expertise and be part of the movement.

Achievements

- ✓ **70 rainwater-harvesting tanks constructed;**
- ✓ **120 water filters distributed;**
- ✓ **50 adequate latrines constructed.**

AGRO-ECOLOGY & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Climate resilient agricultural practices and standard living conditions for all

For a decade, through various projects and approaches HIHD has been working with groups of youth, young mothers and women to ensure their self-reliance and participation in decision-making toward sustainable development. It is in this regards that this year HIHD continued to assist these groups through capacity strengthening and access to finance. HIHD provided to groups trainings on financial literacy, leadership and management and assisted them on getting access to business capitals and bank services. HIHD facilitated 85 members of 2 cooperatives and 4 companies to run and strengthen their businesses through its rotate loan approach and linked them to Micro-finance Institutions to grow their business career.

Access to finance



Capacity strengthening and climate resilient agriculture



To dealing with insufficient agricultural yield issue, for years, the Rwandan population invested more effort to increase agricultural production using chemical fertilizers; this is leading to excessive land degradation and poor productivity, which are resulting in poverty, food insecurity, climate change and various consequences related to these last. To contribute to responding to these challenges, HIHD supported cooperatives of farmers in MUDENDE and BUSASAMANA sectors to developing skills on practicing agro-ecology agriculture; 60 farmers have been trained on crop rotation technic, production and application of organic fertilizer toward food security and climate resilient communities.

Much effort is being invested countrywide to increase women's participation in decision-making and country's development; but, despite this enormous invested effort, due to different factors men's employment is still higher than women's and this has always been resulting poor participation of women, family violence, conflicts, involvement in illegal trades, poverty and other numerous negative impacts. To contribute on raising women's voice, participation, employment and respect of their rights, HIHD empowered 1 group of 40 women through business creation; the group has been constructed a vegetable greenhouse and provided with all agricultural inputs with greenhouse management and maintenance

Women employment



Look forward

Toward our vision of "Better living condition for all" and sustainable development of our communities, HIHD working closely with communities to initiate projects targeting vulnerable groups so that members of these may be empowered and become contributing citizens to country's development like others; and HIHD calls to everyone's consideration, participation and contribution for success.

Achievements

- ✓ 85 youth, young mothers and women received financial support to strengthen their businesses;
- ✓ 2 cooperatives of farmers received skills on agro-ecology technics;
- ✓ 40 women were created vegetables growing business.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Equal Opportunities

Capacity building on albinism and human rights



Despite strong political will and a robust legal framework, in Rwanda, persons with disabilities still face numerous challenges rooting from the no respect of their rights; often they do not share the same opportunities like others in communities and those who try to consider their rights do it as favor offering. To promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in Rwanda, this year HIHD conducted training sessions in RUBAVU and RUTSIRO Districts on albinism disability and the convention on the rights of persons with disability (CRPD). In these sessions, local government personnel at district and sector levels, community health workers and different civil society stakeholders have been capacitated so that they contribute in raising awareness and support communities to understand and recognize the rights of persons with disabilities

Advocacy and awareness raising

Albinism disability and the rights of persons with disabilities are not understood the same way in Rwandan communities; some persons still consider some types of disabilities as a curse and others do not understand that persons with disabilities have the same rights like those without disabilities. To contribute on the increasing the understanding of albinism disability and the rights of persons with disabilities in Rwanda, this year, HIHD conducted public awareness campaigns, radio talks, community dialogues and advocacy meetings in different sectors of RUBAVU and RUTSIRO Districts and all focused on education of albinism disability, the rights of persons with disabilities, their particular challenges and everyone's role in social integration of persons with disabilities.



Right to Education



In Rwanda, important progress has been made towards ensuring the right to education for all children; despite the invested effort, there still a big number of children who are still being out of class as a result of vulnerability and marginalization of their family including lack of school needs such as school materials, school feeding and other charges. To contribute on responding these challenges, this year, HIHD supported children from vulnerable and marginalized families by provision of uniforms and school materials. Through this support, 200 children in primary and secondary school were provided assistance.

Look forward

Much effort is being applied to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and people from marginalized communities; but, despite this last, there still a lot to do to ensure human rights are full understood and respected equally in full to all citizens. Toward these last, HIHD intends to invest more effort in human rights education, promotion, advocacy and calls for everyone's engagement and contribution for a sustainable success.

Achievements

- ✓ **5 training sessions on albinism and CRPD were conducted in Rubavu and Rutsiro districts;**
- ✓ **10 awareness and communities education activities on albinism and CRPD were conducted in Rubavu and Rutsiro districts;**
- ✓ **200 children were assisted in education.**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Combat Climate Change

Over 2.8 billion people across the world still use traditional cooking fuels including charcoal and firewood which contribute to carbon emissions, and result in devastating effects to the environment and climate change. Like most of the countries in Africa, Rwanda is among countries with segments of the population using traditional cooking fuels where 79.9% of its population depends on charcoal and wood as a source of cooking fuels and among the rural populations those using wood is over 90%. To contribute to mitigation of the effects from inadequate cooking fuels, this year, HIHD supported communities to have access to eco-friendly cooking stoves. From this support 50 eco-friendly cooking stoves have been distributed in CYANZARWE sector and awareness campaigns on climate change mitigation have been conducted in communities.

Community Mobilization



Adoption of Climate resilient practices



With 70% of the population practicing agriculture, the agricultural practices used in Rwanda for decades to increase agricultural production resulted in devastating effects to the environment and climate change. The overuse of chemical fertilizers led to soil fertility degradation, pollution and numerous effects so that resilient approaches are needed in emergency to make the soil revive. To mitigate climate change agricultural challenges and contribute to adoption of climate resilient agriculture, HIHD conducted awareness campaigns on climate resilient agriculture in communities of MUDENDE, CYANZARWE and BUSASAMANA Sectors; HIHD provided also to farmers skills on organic fertilizer production and the permagarden approach (an agricultural approach to maximize production on a small amount of land through sustainable practices that increase biodiversity, to create a highly productive garden using a small amount of land). From this activity, 1 vermicomposting production center and 10 permagardens were installed.

Due to climate change and deforestation, Rwanda has been facing severe environmental consequences especially in the mountainous regions. Numerous landslides and floods are noticed countrywide especially during the rainy season and weather change that is heavily affecting the agricultural seasons in the country. To contribute on overcoming these consequences, this year HIHD awareness campaigns on reforestation and distributed edible fruits seedlings in CYANZARWE, RUBAVU, RUGERERO and GISENYI sectors. From this activity, 4,000 edible fruits trees were planted in communities.

Look forward

In the race to combating climate change and its impacts, more efforts are still needed; in this battle, HIHD intends to raise more awareness campaigns on environmental protection in different communities, invest in promoting sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, the use of eco-friendly fuels and organic fertilizers, promotion and education of communities on existing and new approaches and technologies responding to environmental challenges and climate change. HIHD also calls for everyone's engagement and contribution for a sustainable success.

Greening



Achievements

- ✓ 50 eco-friendly cooking stoves distributed;
- ✓ 10 permagardens installed;
- ✓ 1 vermicomposting production center installed;
- ✓ 4,000 edible fruits trees planted.

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^o

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/>



Hoffnungszeichen | Sign of Hope e.V. works to protect the rights of people in distress and to meet their needs for assistance. The organisation is headquartered in Konstanz, Germany. Our work is informed by spiritual beliefs, yet not affiliated with any denomination.

Our work

Everyone has the right to live a healthy and safe life. Sign of Hope strives to ensure that this right is satisfied. To that end, we focus on providing food and water, medical treatment and knowledge transfer to the people urgently in need for these basic necessities.

Our efforts express the compassion and solidarity forming the core beliefs of Christianity, as expressed in the following verse from the New Testament:

'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew (25,40)

Our assistance provides humanitarian relief, including immediate aid after natural disasters, as well as sustainable

development work helping people to build capacities on a lasting basis.

One further aim is putting an end to the violations of threats to human rights and especially including the right to pursue religious or other spiritual beliefs.

To accomplish our aims, Sign of Hope implements programmes and projects directly and also provides possible benefit to local people. For the latter, we often forge partnerships with groups comprised of the communities or other organisations working closely with the beneficiaries. Such partnerships ensure that our resources and efforts are employed in the most effective and efficient ways – at the individual, grassroots level.

Visit Sign of Hope:

<https://www.hoffnungszeichen.de/>



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 <https://www.cooperriis.org/> CooperRiis:



The Marie-Schlei-Verein provides information in seminars, conferences and information stands about the situation of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America with the aim of promoting international understanding and solidarity. The focus is on economic and ecological relationships, global challenges, the active participation of women in state development funding programs and the opportunities for women to take advantage of globalization.

The association is entered in the register of associations of the district court of Hamburg under VR 17487 and most recently by the tax assessment of July 26th, 2021, tax office Hamburg-Nord, tax no. 17/420/14114, recognized as a non-profit organization.

The association has around 500 members a year who are involved in regional groups as well as at the national level.

Goals and tasks

Our cooperation is based on partnership, in which the partners determine which development path is chosen. The groups/women's associations and trainers decide together with the project women which project activity is chosen. Before starting the project, you have to find out what employment opportunities the training offers. Only helping people to help themselves as a principle can combine respectful cooperation and success-oriented offers. We are committed to combating increasing inequality, for more justice, gender

equality and sustainable development. We are in solidarity. Join us!

Visit Marie Schlei Verein:

<https://www.marie-schlei-verein.de/ueber-uns/>



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/>

Individual Donors

1. Nancy Strachan
2. Lisebeth Riis Cooper
3. Kate McGloughlin
4. Kathy Carey
5. Family Eric Clour
6. Ron storey
7. Debbie Bartlett
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