

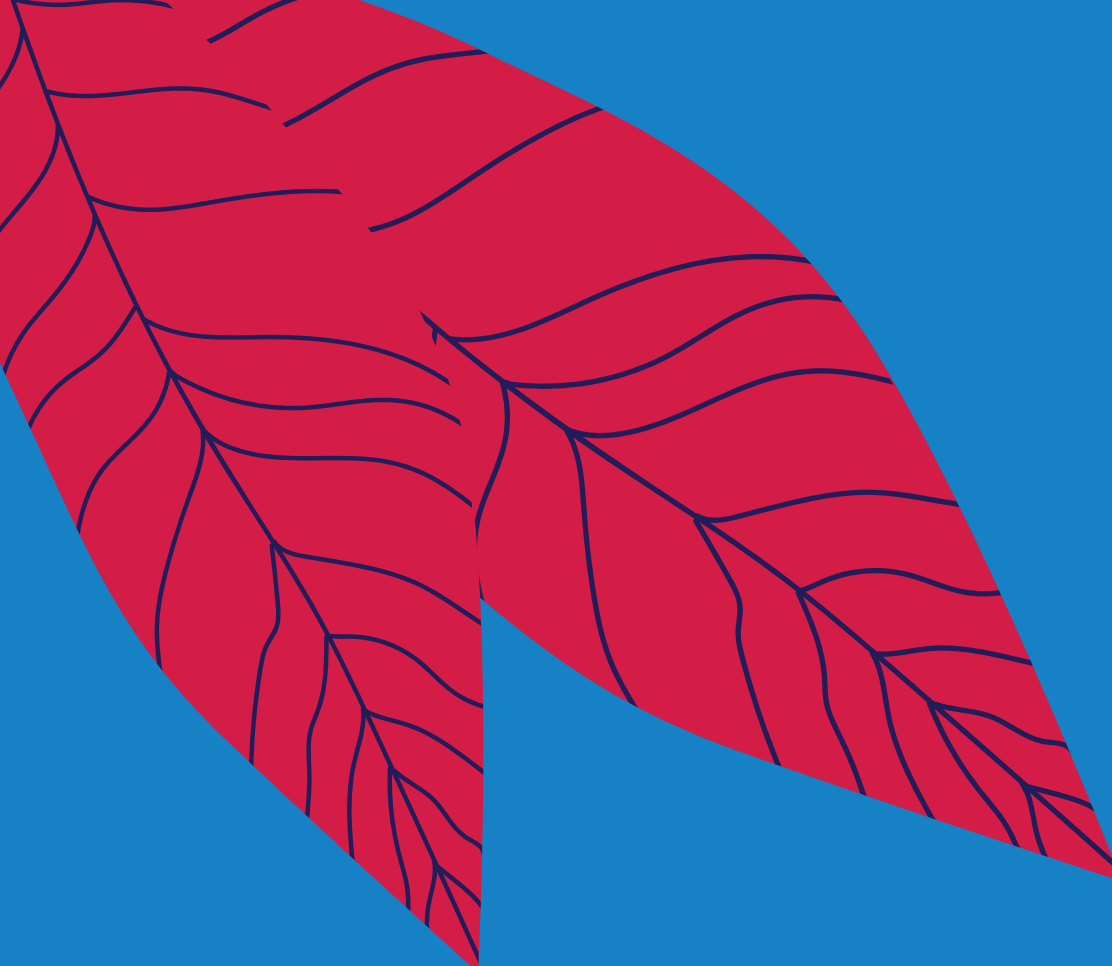
PROJECT SUMMARY

Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Rwanda

IMPLEMENTED BY

UNABU - THE RWANDAN ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES





About this brief: This paper presents a summary of a project implemented by the civil society organization (CSO) Rwandan Organization of Women with Disabilities (UNABU) for three years from 2018 to 2021 through a small grant provided by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund). The summary has been co-created and co-authored by UNABU with the support from an independent, external consultant. It summarizes the results of, and lessons learned from the project, with the aim of contributing knowledge to the evidence base on ending violence against women and girls (VAWG), for use by other practitioners and partners. It also serves as a useful tool to inform the next stage of the project and to raise awareness for the continued investment in UNABU and its efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG and support gender equality in Rwanda.



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT

UNABU



The UNABU (Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga in Kinyarwanda, the Rwandan Organization of Women with Disabilities in English) is a grass-roots, non-governmental organization, established in 2004 by 14 women living with disabilities with the aim to promote gender equality and advocate for inclusion and rights of women and girls living with disabilities (W/GwDs). The mission of UNABU is to empower women living with disabilities so they can become agents of change, to demand their rights, to reaffirm their dignity, and to actively participate in the country's development. UNABU is a member of the National Union of Disabilities Organizations of Rwanda (NUDOR). Since its creation UNABU implemented advocacy and disability rights projects focusing on Gender Based Violence prevention and response, access to justice for victims, economic empowerment and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and young girls' leadership programs in partnership with various partners including Disability Rights Fund, Ideo.Org, Amplify Change, FCDO, VSO Rwanda, UN Women Rwanda, UN Trust Fund, See You Foundation, African Women Development Fund, Mama Cash etc. As a result of this work, more than 13,000 W/GwDs has organized into 360 self-advocacy groups, across 12 districts of Rwanda.

Project Title: Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls living with Disabilities in Rwanda



FORMS OF VIOLENCE ADDRESSED

- Violence in the family:
 - Intimate partner sexual economic violence
 - Non-partner sexual and economic violence
- Violence in the community:
 - Sexual violence by non-partners



PROJECT BUDGET

UN Trust Fund's contribution:

\$194,194

+

CSAAC's contribution:

\$9,555

=

Total:

\$203,749



PROJECT EXPANSION THROUGH 'SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE'

The Spotlight Initiative³ is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations, with the aim to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was expanded to include activities for adaptation to pandemic situation and it was supported with an additional top-up grant amounting to \$58,394.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aimed to reduce economic and sexual violence against W/GwDs in 5 districts in Rwanda. This goal was to be achieved through empowering women and girls, increasing their awareness of their rights and confidence, and to become active agents in reporting violence and requesting proper protection, while at the same time having at their disposal more appropriate multisectoral services whose providers are equipped with knowledge and skills to properly work with W/GwDs and more supportive communities which do not discriminate or stigmatize W/GwDs and are ready to respond to violence against them. The project has reached 2,783 W/GwDs, and through their participation in self-advocacy groups, succeeded to increase their awareness on sexual and economic violence among W/GwDs, which was evidenced by the higher number of reported cases of violence among project beneficiaries to relevant authorities and more responsive reaction of duty bearers in protection of victims.

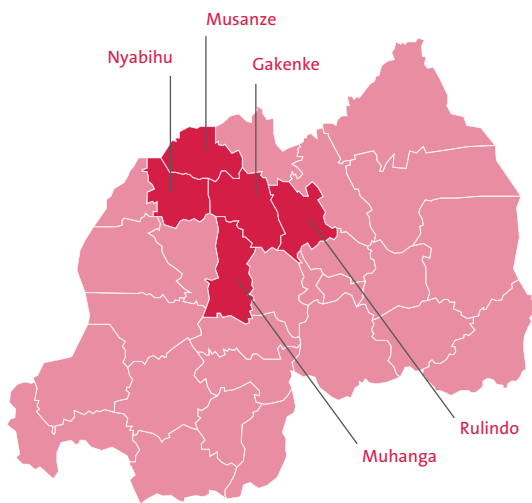


PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

1 Sept 2018–31 Aug 2021
with a no-cost extension until
28 Feb 2022

due to the COVID-19 pandemic

PROJECT LOCATIONS, BENEFICIARIES AND AGENTS OF CHANGE



The project was implemented five districts in three provinces of Rwanda: **Musanze, Gakenke** and **Rulindo** in the Northern Province, **Muhanga** in the Southern Province, and **Nyabihu** in the Western Province.

Primary project beneficiaries/ agents of change:

PLANNED	ACTUAL
2,400 W/GwDs	2,783 W/GwDs

Secondary project beneficiaries/ agents of change:

PLANNED	ACTUAL
4860 people: 20 CSOs 30 health professionals 10 legal officers 4,800 general public	4908 people: 9 CSOs 26 health professionals 13 legal officers 21 Local leaders 4839 general public

Country context

According to the Rwanda Population and Housing Census (2012), around 5 per cent of the total population aged above five (446,453) were persons living with disabilities². Slightly more than half of this population (225,303, or 51 per cent) were women, with most of them living in rural areas. A large proportion (41 per cent) of the persons living with disabilities had no access to education, which makes them vulnerable to diverse social risks, such as unemployment, poverty and discrimination. Violence against women (VAW) is prevalent in Rwanda. The Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2019/2020 (RDHS) show that 37 per cent of women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and 23 per cent have experienced sexual violence. 46 per cent of women reported to have experienced intimate partner violence, an increase from 40 per cent in 2015³.

The baseline survey conducted by UNABU in 2019⁴ revealed a higher prevalence of violence among W/GwDs, which is the trend found globally⁵ in various studies⁶. According to the survey, 67 per cent of women living with disabilities experienced SGBV and Sexual

abuse, 47 per cent experienced economic violence, 33 per cent experienced physical violence, and 18 per cent have psychological trauma, and 48 per cent demonstrated lack of knowledge on available support. Negative attitudes towards disability, lack of technical skills and lack of an inclusive approach of service providers create an unfavorable environment for the protection of W/GwDs from GBV, undermining their overall quality of life.

Women living with disabilities often face social isolation, stigmatization, and inadequate access to support in their communities. Women living with disabilities are at higher risk of violence than non-disabled adults and those living with intellectual disabilities are more vulnerable to violence⁷. Due to social isolation these women are not informed about available forms of support, and they rarely report violence. There is a need for programmes addressing the issue of violence against women, to recognize the specific needs of women living with disabilities, as few specialized programmes exist.

Project background

Since its foundation in 2004, UNABU has been dedicated to advocacy and empowerment of W/GwDs, through the creation of and support to grass-root community advocacy groups made up of W/GwDs. Prior to the UN Trust Fund funded project, UNABU supported the creation of 33 groups with over 800 women and enhanced their capacities in advocating for better statuses and rights of W/GwDs. Through previous initiatives, UNABU learned that women living with disabilities are the best advocates of their own

Theory of change

The project goal was to improve safety and protection of W/GwDs from sexual and economic violence in the five targeted districts. Originally the project was designed to achieve three outcomes, but with the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, it was expanded with support of the Spotlight Initiative to incorporate an additional outcome that was focused on increased resilience of the organization and ability to adapt to the pandemic situation and deliver project results.

The **first outcome** planned by the project was to create a more inclusive and non-discriminatory environment in targeted communities, where the local population has a better understanding of the intersection between disability and violence, where prejudices and discrimination against women living with disabilities are removed, or at least reduced, and where people feel more responsible to take action to protect W/GwDs from violence. Starting from a very unfavorable context marked by a high prevalence of sexual and economic violence against women, widespread prejudices and stigmatization, and social exclusion of W/GwDs, the project intended to stimulate changes through interventions designed to raise awareness among community members, change their attitudes and to mobilize them for a more responsible role in prevention and protection.

rights. However, for a greater impact it was found important to build alliances between them and other stakeholders, such as duty bearers, and community representatives. The UN Trust Fund small grant scheme was recognized as an opportunity to further expand the grass-roots network of W/GwDs and to empower them to address risks of violence more effectively, to expand partnerships with service providers and creating supportive community for W/GwDs.

The **second outcome** started from the challenges that women living with disabilities face in protection from sexual and economic violence due to the social exclusion, stigmatization, and discrimination, the project intended to empower them to practice more effective self-protection, to increase their self-confidence and to encourage them to report violence and request inclusive services. For that purpose, an intervention strategy was designed, mainly in the form of providing various types of support to women in self-advocacy grassroots groups.

Third project outcome was to increase capacities of stakeholders such as professionals in support services and local authorities to become more sensitive to the needs of W/GwDs, and to provide more inclusive approaches in service provision. For that purpose, the implementing organization planned to increase the capacities of 30 health professionals and 10 legal officers to be able to deliver inclusive and adequate services for women and girls living with disabilities, and to develop a mechanism in targeted communities – i.e., disability inclusion focal points whom will be selected among different professionals and trained to further mainstream disability in service provision, particularly in their inclusion action plans and reporting tools.

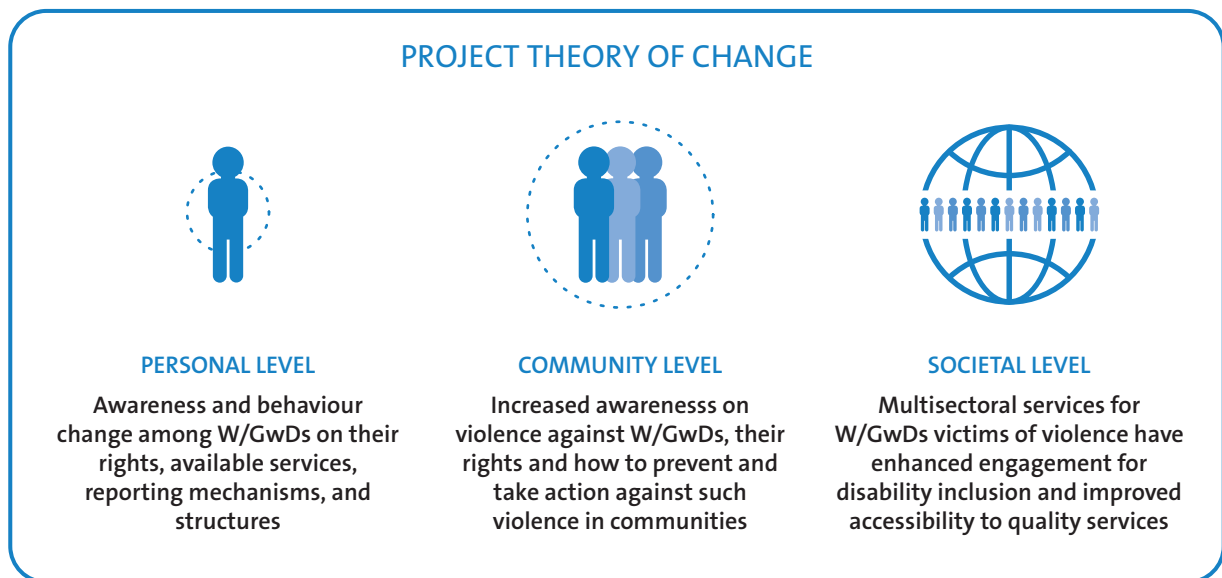
The **last outcome** aimed to increase resilience of UNABU through providing equipment and raising capacities for remote and online work, and adjusted project intervention represented timely response to the COVID crisis which enabled implementation of activities in new contexts and progress towards key objectives.



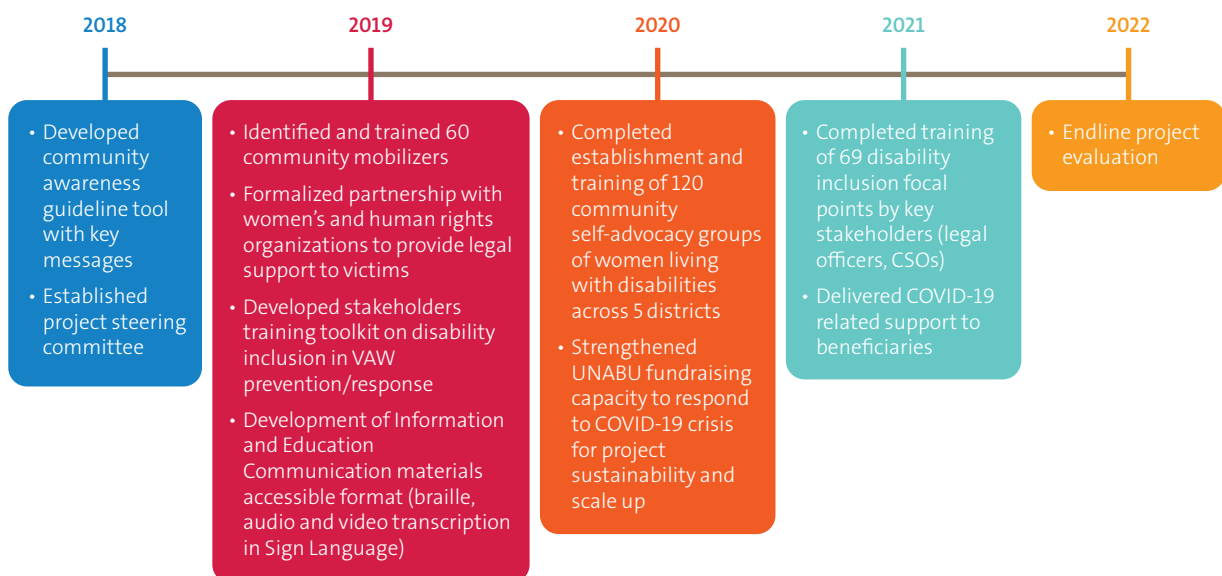
Project theory of change

The project's theory of change was that, if W/GwDs have an increased confidence and awareness of their rights and available services, reporting mechanisms and structures, **and if** community members have increased understanding of violence against W/GwDs, their rights

and how to prevent violence, **and if** service providers have increased capacities to provide safe and adequate response and care to W/GwD victims of violence, **then** W/GwDs will have improved safety and protection from sexual and economic violence.



Timeline with key milestones



PROJECT INTERVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Organizing and empowering W/GwDs through community activism

This project component included a set of activities focused on empowerment of W/GwDs:

- Identification and training of 69 community mobilizers with focus on topics such as disability, disability rights, gender equality, violence against women and increasing their facilitation skills.
- Establishment of 69 community self-advocacy groups made up of 2,783 women living with disabilities across 5 districts and delivered trainings on relations between gender equality and violence against women, gender equality and disability, disability and women's rights, prevention, and protection.
- Home visits to W/GwDs by community volunteers in order to ensure that W/GwDs' families have well understood the intersectionality of disability and violence and rights of W/GwDs which was promoted through trainings and community awareness activities.
- Supervising changes in relationship towards W/GwDs by the family members and the community in general by community volunteers through home visits or phone contacts with project beneficiaries.



Caption: Group of 385 community members from Nyabihu District, talking about gender-based violence against girls and women living with disabilities.

Credit: Neema Icyishatse/UNABU

Training of women participating in self-advocacy groups covered a wide range of topics, including understanding of disability concepts, disability rights, gender equality, gender-based violence and interaction of gender and disability, advocacy, and follows up coaching and support to their continued activities. This was a 12-week programme facilitated by community mobilization volunteers selected among girls and women living with disabilities. They were organized at cell level and trained as facilitators to train their peers of women

living with disabilities a combination of training methodologies including presentations, role plays, drawing, plenary discussions to provide a wide range of learning opportunities. This training methodology was proved effective to enhance girls and women living with disabilities self-confidence and inspiring their agency as they better understood specific position of women living with disabilities and their experiences of gender-based violence.

Strategies in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the project implementation. Due to the lockdowns and movement restrictions during the first half of 2020, project activities were interrupted. The project team did not have the equipment or skills to immediately switch to an online format and to remotely implement activities. At the same time, the project primary beneficiaries – W/GwDs, faced the problems of very limited access to essential goods and services, including food, sanitation materials, but also to support services in cases of violence.

With the assistance of the UN Trust Fund and support from the Spotlight Initiative, as well as the UN Women Rwanda Country Office, UNABU has successfully adjusted to this new context using digital technologies for coordination of project activities and keeping project activities in the field through engagement of local volunteers/mobilizers.

The UNABU conducted a rapid impact assessment of COVID-19 on W/GwDs, using a phone survey. The results indicated that W/GwDs are under stronger impact of the pandemic due to their economic dependence on others in provision of food and other basic supplies. The situation highly increased their socio-economic vulnerability and dependence and the risk of violence. With the additional support from Spotlight Initiative, UNABU was able to deliver food and other basic supplies to 700 W/GwDs. Community mobilization volunteers were provided with smartphones and trained on the basic use that has enabled UNABU to stay connected with the community even during the lockdown, timely disseminate accurate COVID-19 information, introduce Google forms and facilitate online coaching

for volunteers. With the support of UN Women Rwanda Country Office, who funded a short-term project to promote employability opportunities for W/GwDs, UNABU delivered vocational training and startup kits to 30 W/GwDs, trainings in financial literacy and business development for 276 W/GwDs and provided seed capital to 10 self-advocacy groups for investments in income generating activities.

Digital means of communication enabled continuation of project activities in remote forms. Community volunteers, whose role remained crucial during the restrictive measures in response to the pandemic, were equipped with smart phones and the team managed to successfully organize daily management of activities through online communication. Equipped with mobile phones, UNABU established the toll-free SOS line for W/GwDs victims of violence, so they were able to access counseling and legal advice free of charge. The connection between the implementation team and participating communities was continued even during the lockdowns due to strengthened digital capacities. Although the discussions planned to take place every 6 months could not be regularly held, the flow of information on achievements, gaps and needed adjustments was not interrupted.

The flexible core and self-care funding dedicated by UN Trust Fund for Small Women's Organizations increased the UNABU project team's capacity and resilience, through clinical supervision support on stress management, safeguarding trainings and by securing reliable health insurance for staff and their dependents.



MONITORING & EVALUATION (M&E) PROJECT FRAMEWORK INCLUDED:

- 4 days M&E workshop for refinement of M&E framework with support of experts.
- Monitoring framework included several types of records:
 - Records from community mobilizers and community mobilization officer.
 - Records on economic and sexual violence cases addressed in communities and by project stakeholders' organizations and institutions.
 - Records of W/GwDs self-advocacy groups' activities.
- Baseline study conducted by UNABU in cooperation with Humanity and inclusion and Center of Gender Studies.
- Every six months Focus Groups discussions and interviews with project beneficiaries, including W/GwDs, community members and service providers, was held.
- Monthly monitoring visits to randomly selected groups of beneficiaries by MEAL Officer and Executive Director.
- Quarterly monitoring sessions with community mobilizations volunteers to reflect on the achievements and to strengthen their learning and capacities to respond to emerging challenges including cases managements.
- Endline survey was conducted towards the end of the project to measure project results.

Achieved results

- The outreach of community volunteers and mobilization of W/GwDs into self-advocacy groups have been helpful approaches to build relationships, mutual support and solidarity among W/GwDs. Testimonies show that the outreach of community volunteers to W/GwDs have helped W/GwDs to join self-advocacy groups, to gain support and increased confidence.
- In total 2,783 women out of 2400 targeted were reached by the project intervention through participation in self-advocacy groups. Their understanding of intersectionality of disability and violence has significantly improved, as well as self-confidence and they showed increased willingness to report violence, according to a questionnaire survey. Out of 406 W/GwDs interviewed during the project end line evaluation, 87 per cent reported to have the confidence to report violence to the authorities. In addition, they were empowered to advocate for their rights for protection from stigma, discrimination, and violence and their feeling of safety has significantly in proved.
- An added value and unexpected result in the targeted communities was noted, for the first time, more W/GwDs were elected to leadership roles in the local government election in November 2021. The statistics from UNABU database shows that 179 W/GwDs beneficiaries of this project were elected across the 5 districts, and 73 per cent of these girls and women living with disabilities was elected for their first time. The project contributed to this result through their participation in self-advocacy groups and by distributing smartphones that helped to keep them informed about the election process. In addition, girls and women volunteers living with disabilities were accessing encouraging daily messages from UNABU leadership to compete for elections.
- Instead of the planned 60 disability focal points, due to the high interest of stakeholders in targeted communities, 69 stakeholders were trained for more inclusive service provision that considers the needs of W/GwDs. Among them, 80 per cent reported having taken at least one action related to protection of W/GwDs such as to report to the police or other authorities. Out of 81 cases of violence against W/GwDs reported throughout the implementation, 48 per cent were prosecuted in the judicial system and effectively closed, while remaining cases are still investigated. Some challenged remain in terms of evidence in rape cases, that occurred before the

project implementation. There are examples of improved relation of stakeholders with W/GwDs. During the campaign '16 days of activism', the management team of Rutongo District Hospital along with trained stakeholders from Rulindo district were engaged in mobile legal clinic to self-advocacy groups of W/GwDs and more cases were supported.

- UNABU established partnerships with women's organizations and increased their capacity to provide support to victims of violence. This ensured that W/GwDs had access to legal support. UNABU established partnership with Haguruka NGO and Legal Aid Forum to ensure that W/GwDs have access to affordable legal aid support in cases of GBV.
- Community members in the 5 targeted districts in Rwanda have shown, during monitoring FGDs, an improved understanding of the intersectionality of

disability and violence and took actions to protect W/GwDs and show increased willingness to report violence when it takes place. Awareness sessions with 4839 out of 4800 targeted community members have made community members, local leaders and other local supportive structures get new insights and knowledge around disability rights, gender equality and violence against W/GwDs as well.

- The COVID-19 pandemic increased W/GwDs socio-economic vulnerability, dependence, and risk of violence. The project distributed food and hygienic materials to 886 girls and women living with disabilities affected by COVID-19. This has helped to mitigate the socio-economic impacts on W/GwDs, given new hope to W/GwDs participating in the project and attracted new members to join the self-advocacy groups.



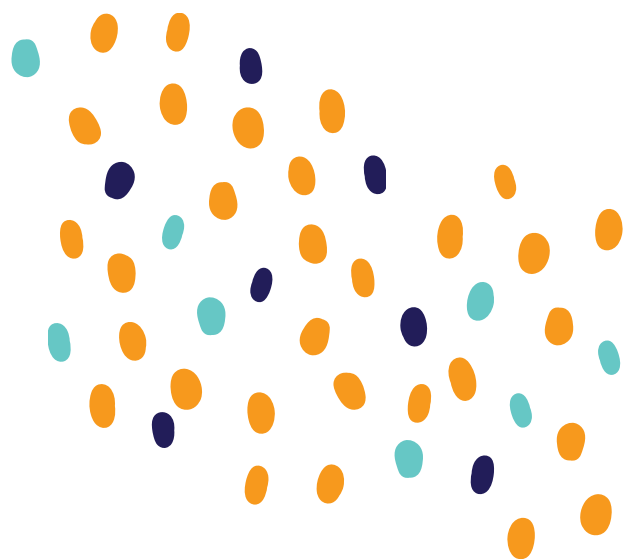
Caption: Kananga Andrews, Executive Director of Legal Aid Forum; Ninette Umurerwa, National Executive Secretary of Haguruka; and Mushimiyimana Gaudence, Executive Director of UNABU, exchange signed partnership agreement.

Credit: Jeanne Nyiramatama/UNABU

The narratives of W/GwDs clearly demonstrate the benefits from the participation in self-advocacy groups:

'Before this project we were silent about violence. It was no easy for us to report sexual or economic violence, especially when perpetrators were our husbands or our family members. Things started to change after joining self-advocacy groups. Silence has been broken and most of us have overcome the fear. Even local authorities started to positively respond to [i.e. help victims in] violence cases

(UNABU, Progress report, Feb 2021).



'Joining self-advocacy group has contributed to improve my livelihood. I learned how to save and borrow money. I got from the self-advocacy group one rabbit, I grew it and now I have bought piglet and I want to step ahead'

(UNABU, Progress report, Feb 2021).



'I have seven years old girl with multiple disabilities. I had been blamed to give birth to a child with disability and my child has been victim of threats. I had not showed love and sympathy to her till I joined self-advocacy group and learned about disability rights. I am aware that she has [the same] rights as other children without disabilities. I love her even if I cannot provide all she needs to live a happier life.'

(UNABU, Progress report, Feb 2021).



LESSONS LEARNED

- Three original outcomes covered different levels of intended change across socio-ecological framework of violence: individual, community and societal. Focusing simultaneously on different levels made project design quite complex and demanding, particularly for small grant project, as it required engagement with diverse stakeholders, employing different methodologies and more resources.
- Introducing digital means of communication after the COVID-19 outbreak showed that activities could be expanded at modest costs, which opened new opportunities for connecting stakeholders, general communication, and monitoring. Community mobilizing volunteers managed to continue to work with W/GwDs self-advocacy groups using smart phones. They were able to use online reporting tools which enabled continuous monitoring of activities. The types of reporting tools they applied included WhatsApp message, telephone calls, short message (SMS), and sending phone scanned documents by WhatsApp. These tools proved useful and cost-efficient as they saved time and transport means and UNABU could easily stay in touch with the beneficiaries.
- Self-advocacy groups have been instrumental in connecting, empowering, and improving the economic status of W/GwDs, to overcome economic dependence which had previously kept them in unfavorable positions and at high risk of violence. UNABU collaborated with district-level local leaders to mobilize these groups, thereby creating an efficient communication network down to the village level. Local leaders supported UNABU in identifying and inviting W/GwDs to an initial meeting where community mobilisers were elected and trained intensively by UNABU. These mobilisers used the training to educate their respective groups. They also facilitated the election of committee members responsible for daily group management. These groups now operate from cell administrative offices, backed by the executive secretary, the committees, community mobilisers, service providers, and local leaders. To promote economic empowerment, these groups created a savings and loan scheme. Each member contributes to the scheme at every meeting, with the amount decided by the group. The saved money is then loaned to members at a 5% interest rate, which further enhances their economic self-reliance.
- The involvement of service providers in the project yielded significant results. Initial evaluations revealed that they lacked understanding about disability inclusion in gender mainstreaming, unaware of the double discrimination W/GwDs face, the heightened severity of GBV against them compared to non-disabled peers, the barriers they encounter accessing services, and protective actions required for W/GwDs. Post-training, these service providers demonstrated an improved understanding of the importance of disability inclusion in GBV mainstreaming, committing to implement protective actions for W/GwDs. Follow-up assessments showed that 65 per cent of the 49 stakeholders surveyed had fulfilled at least one action to protect W/GwDs. These ranged from advocating for diversified services access, enhancing service delivery to W/GwDs, to even providing direct financial assistance to those in need.
- UNABU was agile in adjusting to the COVID-19 situation and was proactive in using new funding opportunities to implement humanitarian activities that strengthened other activities related to better protection of W/GwDs from violence. For example, UNABU managed to secure \$ 15,000 for one of the self-advocacy groups affected by COVID-19, along with a two-years partnership secured with See You Foundation. Flexible funding permitted UNABU to invest in their organizational resilience, including the development of their new 5-years strategic plan.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Establishing and training self-advocacy groups for W/GwDs:** UNABU will continue to establish and train new self-advocacy groups as proven strategy to empower girls and women living with disabilities: UNABU will prioritize communities, like Muhanga District, that have expressed interest in establishing such groups with UNABU's assistance. Focus will be placed on strengthening the economic initiatives started by these groups, including saving and loan activities. Trainings in financial literacy, business skills, and access to other financial opportunities will be provided after the foundational trainings are completed.
- **Utilizing technology to support girls and women living with disabilities:** UNABU will continue providing support to existing self-advocacy groups through recorded topics and knowledge sharing on violence prevention and response. Community volunteers equipped with smartphones will play a key role in engaging and supporting these groups. The toll-free helpline will remain available for providing legal advice to cases involving girls and women with disabilities.
- **Engaging district stakeholders:** UNABU will collaborate with service providers and communities to promote fair treatment and non-discrimination of girls and women living with disabilities, leveraging on existing communication channels and participating in district partners' networks for advocacy and promoting inclusivity.
- **UNABU's supervisory and advocacy role:** UNABU will continue to provide supervision, mentorship, advice, and advocacy to self-advocacy groups. Direct communication with community mobilizers will be maintained to monitor and support the activities of these groups with an emphasis on empowering the groups economically, building on their previous work in gender-based violence advocacy.
- **Geographical areas:** UNABU found that the administrative sectors covered so far do not fully include all new W/GwDs. In response, the organization has committed to maintaining the current geographical areas while striving to reach out to each W/GwD. This objective will be accomplished through the establishment and support of self-advocacy groups, comprised of individuals who have experienced personal growth and empowerment who will actively engage and encourage their peers to join, fostering a community of self-empowerment among W/GwDs.



FURTHER INFORMATION

This brief was co-authored by **Marija Babovic**, an independent, external consultant, in collaboration with Madam **Gaudence Mushimiyimana**, the Executive Director of UNABU, **Mukabalisa Sim bi Dative**, Projects Manager.

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About the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women: The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, managed by UN Women on behalf of the United Nations system, is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. Since its establishment in 1996 by United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 50/166](#), the UN Trust Fund has awarded \$198 million to 609 initiatives in 140 countries and territories. For more information, visit the [UN Trust Fund website](#) or [Learning Hub](#). To give feedback on this product, please contact the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women at untf-evaw@unwomen.org.

About the UN Trust Fund small grants modality

Small grants are currently provided to organizations managing annual operational budgets below \$200,000 and eligible for a UN Trust Fund grant of up to \$150,000. This modality was introduced in 2014 to build the capacity of small organizations, with a specific focus on small women's organizations. The current proportion of the UN Trust Fund portfolio allocated through small grants is 7 per cent. Small grants include a higher proportion of flexible funding (for core costs) and a dedicated budget for self-care, which sets the modality apart from the general grant allocation. The [UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) makes a commitment to focusing grant selection on women's rights organizations, women and girl-led organizations, and organizations with local and community reach. The small grants modality is a key mechanism for achieving this. Organizations receiving small grants are eligible for support in producing a final, external evaluation and/or (from 2021) support to co-create and produce a knowledge product summarizing the results and lessons of the project. The methodology for co-creation includes FGDs and interviews with the organizations involved, desk reviews of project documents, baseline and endline surveys and monitoring reports, and co-drafting and co-editing the brief.



ENDNOTES

- 1 More information on the Spotlight Initiative can be found at: <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/#:~:text=The%20Spotlight%20Initiative%20is%20a,violations%20in%20our%20world%20today>.
- 2 National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), *the Fourth Population and Housing Census in Rwanda* 2012. Kigali, Rwanda
- 3 National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) [Rwanda], Ministry of Health (MOH) [Rwanda], and ICF. 2021. Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20 Final Report. Kigali, Rwanda, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NISR and ICF. Available at: <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR370-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>
- 4 Mukabera, J. & Umutoni, J. (2019). *Eliminating Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities in Rwanda* A Case of Rulindo, Musanze, Gakenke, Nyabihu and Muhanga. A Study Conducted by the Rwandan Organization of Women with Disability (UNABU) through the Support of UN Trust Fund (May 27th to June 6th 2019), Kigali.
- 5 For example, Ortoleva and Lewis (2012) report on two times higher likelihood of experiencing GBV among women with disabilities.
- 6 Ortoleva, S, Lewis, H. *Forgotten Sisters - A Report on Violence Against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequences* (August 21, 2012). *Northeastern University School of Law Research Paper No. 104-2012*, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2133332>
- 7 Hughes, K, et al. Prevalence and risk of violence against adults with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies (February 28, 2012). *The Lancet*. Vol 379, issue 8926, P1621-1629. Available at *The Lancet*: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)61851-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)61851-5/fulltext)



